



THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
FINAL AGENDA

PEDC 11-2019

Wednesday, November 6, 2019

1:00 p.m.

Council Chamber

Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West

1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON

	Pages
1. <u>CALL TO ORDER</u>	
2. <u>DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST</u>	
3. <u>PRESENTATIONS</u>	
3.1 <u>Natural Environment Work Program (Agenda Item 6.1)</u> Sean Norman, Senior Planner	3 - 16
3.2 <u>Analysis on Niagara Region's Role in Tourism (Agenda Item 5.1)</u> Valerie Kuhns, Acting Director, Economic Development and Kelly Provost, Economic Development Officer	17 - 24
3.3 <u>Public Realm Investment Program Summary and Achievements (Agenda Item 6.3)</u> Vanessa Aykroyd, Landscape Architect	25 - 55
4. <u>DELEGATIONS</u>	
5. <u>ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION</u>	
5.1 <u>ED 12-2019</u> Analysis of Niagara Region's Role in Tourism	56 - 64

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------|
| 6.1 | <u>PDS 32-2019</u>
Natural Environment Work Program - Phases 2 & 3: Mapping and
Watershed Planning Discussion Papers and Comprehensive Background
Study | 65 - 75 |
| 6.2 | <u>PDS 37-2019</u>
Growth Scenario Analysis Related to the Regional Housing Strategy | 76 - 99 |
| 6.3 | <u>PDS 40-2019</u>
Public Realm Investment Program Summary and Achievements | 100 - 139 |

7. OTHER BUSINESS

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Regional Headquarters.

9. ADJOURNMENT

If you require any accommodations for a disability in order to attend or participate in meetings or events, please contact the Accessibility Advisor at 905-980-6000 ext. 3252 (office), 289-929-8376 (cellphone) or accessibility@niagararegion.ca (email).



making our mark

NIAGARA

OFFICIAL PLAN

PDS 32-2019

Natural Environment Work Program – Phases 2 & 3: Mapping and Watershed Planning Discussion Papers and Comprehensive Background Study

**November 6, 2019 – Presentation to Planning and
Economic Development Committee**



Project Overview – Natural Environment

Project Phase	Activities
1	Project Initiation and Procurement
2	Background Study and Discussion Papers for Mapping and Watershed Planning Priority Areas
3	1 st Point of Engagement: Inform on Background Study
4	Develop and Evaluate Options for Natural System(s)
5	2 nd Point of Engagement: Consultation on Options for the Natural System(s)
6	Develop Regional Natural System(s)
7	Develop OP Policies & Finalize Mapping
8	3 rd Point of Engagement: Draft OP Policies and Schedules
9	Other Implementation Tools



Background Study and Discussion Papers



- Mapping Discussion Paper
- Watershed Planning Discussion Paper
- Natural Environment Background Study
- Consultation Summary Report – 1st Point of Engagement



Mapping Discussion Paper

- Identified as a key and high-priority topic during the scoping of the project
- The discussion paper:
 - Provides a review the age, quality, and accuracy of current sources of information
 - Makes recommendations for additional sources of data
 - Discusses and make recommendations for ground-truthing and field-verification
 - Consider approaches and best practices for the continual updating of mapping
- As a high-priority next step – an update to the woodland layer is required. This will included a field-verification component



Watershed Planning Discussion Paper

The discussion paper provides direction in three key areas:

1. Watershed planning that is required to 'inform' the new Niagara Official Plan
2. Policies for watershed planning that should be included in the new Niagara Official Plan
3. A suggested framework for watershed planning in Niagara moving forward



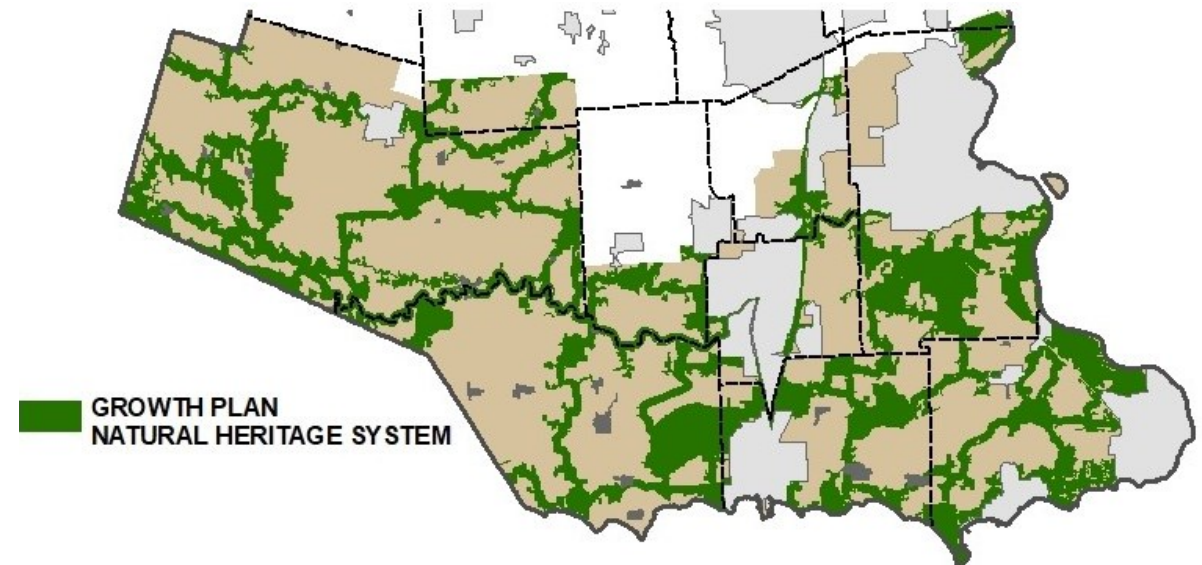
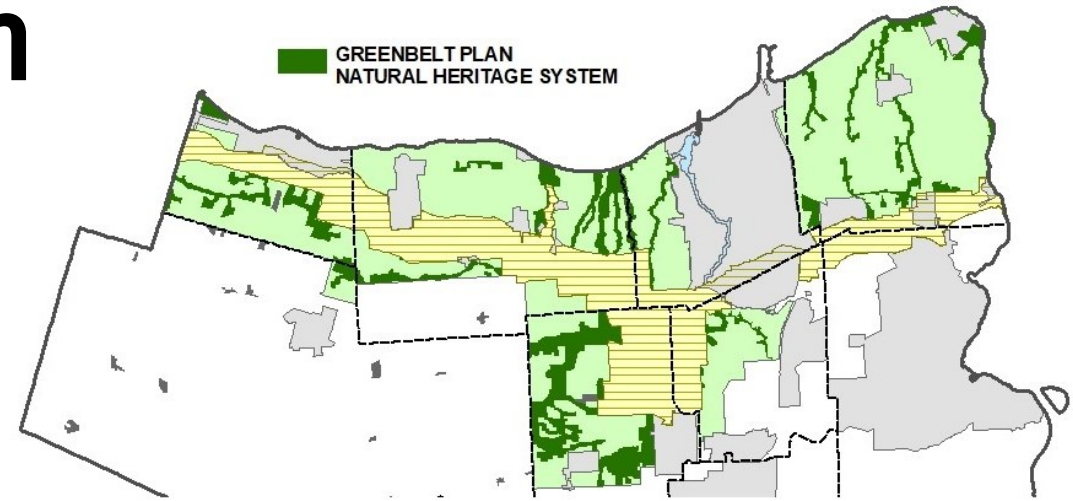
Natural Environment Background Study – Key Topics

- Provincial Direction and Guidelines
- Relationship with Agriculture
- Endangered Species
- Climate Change
- Invasive Species
- Natural Hazards
- Offsetting and Compensation
- Woodlands
- Fish Habitat
- Linkages and Enhancement Areas
- Setbacks, Buffers, and Riparian Vegetation
- Mapping of Watercourses and other Water Resources
- Direction on OP Framework
- Preliminary Criteria for Evaluation of Options



Provincial Direction

- Provincial direction starts with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS, 2014)
- Greenbelt and Growth Plan Natural Heritage Systems to be implemented by Municipalities
- A new requirement for the identification of a water resource system



Climate Change & Invasive Species

- Two of the most significant threats to the natural environment
- Natural environment systems are an important tool to reduce risk and mitigate the impacts of climate change
- Many invasive species in Niagara including Emerald Ash Borer. Additional tools beyond the scope of the Official Plan policies will be required



Emerald Ash Borer
(*Agrilus planipennis*)



Consultation and Engagement Summary

1st point of engagement is complete focusing on education and the sharing of information:

- Public
- Agricultural and Environmental Stakeholder Groups
- Development Community
- Environmental and Planning Consultants
- Indigenous Groups
- Local and NPCA Planning Staff
- Technical Advisory Group (TAG)
- Local Councils
- Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)
- Agricultural Policy and Action Committee (APAC)
- NPCA Board



What did we hear?



1. Consistent Policies and Clear Roles and Responsibilities
2. Take a Systems Approach to Natural Environment Planning
3. Recognize the Uniqueness of Niagara's Geography, Natural Environment, and Agriculture
4. Accurately Map the Natural Environment



What did we hear? Cont...

5. Monitor Federal Legislation and Provincial Policy Direction
6. Protect the Natural Environment
7. Explore Challenging Issues in Natural Environment Planning
8. Forward Thinking Natural Environment Policies and Official Plan
9. Building Trust Through Continued Engagement, Collaboration, and Education



Next Steps



1. Identify and evaluate options
2. Present preliminary preferred option to PEDC
3. Initiate 2nd Point of Engagement with public, stakeholders, and Indigenous groups
4. Report back to PEDC with recommendation for preferred option





Upcoming Public Information Centres

Wednesday, November 6, 2019 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell East Foyer 1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold	Wednesday, November 13, 2019 4:30 to 7 p.m. Livingston Activity Centre, Auditorium 18 Livingston Ave., Grimsby
Thursday, November 7, 2019 4:30 to 7 p.m. Gale Centre Arena, Memorial Community Room 5152 Thorold Stone Rd., Niagara Falls	Thursday, November 14, 2019 4:30 to 7 p.m. Leisureplex, Banquet Hall 3 Municipal Centre Dr., Fort Erie

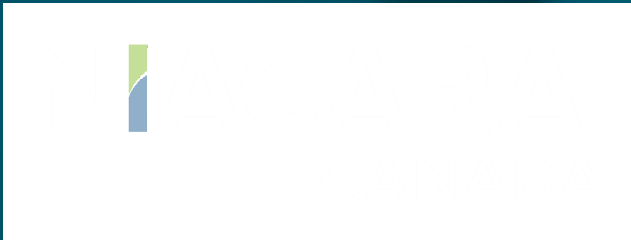


Analysis on Niagara Region's Role in Tourism

VALERIE KUHNS, (A) DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

KELLY PROVOST, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

PEDC – November 6, 2019



Timeline

Prior to 2010

- Niagara Economic Development Corporation had a budget of \$500,000, five (5) staff and additional Gateway staff

2010

- Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) formed, called Tourism Partnership of Niagara (TPN)

March 2012

- Economic Development became a division and no longer has a mandate in tourism, at Council's direction

Feb 2015

- Council ends the Gateway contract and allocated \$50,000 to a study on tourism priorities and the Region's future role

Nov 12, 2015

- The report ED 4-2015 was presented outlining 7 priorities (gaps) in tourism that the Region could advance

Timeline continued

April 28, 2016

- Council received report ED 5-2016 to approve the tourism business case of 7 priorities to initiate the funding of \$100,000, and approve cancellation of the Gateway Centre contract as of Jan 2017

April 19, 2017

- PEDC was presented a tourism report ED 4-2017 to approve the proposed role of Economic Development in tourism

June 2017

- Council approved a motion for Economic Development to allocate \$15,000 annually for lease of the Gateway kiosk

2017-2019

- Annual budget for tourism priorities decreases from \$100,000 to \$15,000 due to budget pressures. Advances on additional tourism priorities as budget and staffing allows.

The approved mandate in tourism

Based on ED 4-2017, the mandate approved through PEDC and Council in April 2017 is as follows:

“to ensure tourism is part of the Region’s Economic Development Strategy by facilitating discussions on transportation access initiatives, developing a Regional Wayfinding plan, promoting five scenic routes and supporting event bids; to advocate on behalf of industry stakeholders; and to undertake investment attraction initiatives which contribute to tourism outcomes for Niagara.”

7 tourism priorities identified

The following tourism priorities were identified:

1. Transportation/Access Infrastructure
2. Wayfinding Signage
3. Economic Development Strategy
4. Facilitation/Coordination
5. Planning and Policies
6. Special Event Bid Fund
7. Marketing as required

How they are being advanced

- Economic Development's ability to advance these 7 priorities is limited by budget allocations and staffing resources.
- The Economic Development Officer position has a 20% time allotment to assist in advancing economic initiatives in support of the Tourism sector.
- Activities funded by Economic Development in addition to the Gateway lease are evaluated based on the potential economic impact of the project and available budget.

Recommendations

- To date, Economic Development has been able to advance this mandate and these priorities without the need for additional budget.
- The exemption is Priority 6 – Special Event Bid Fund. Requests for sport tourism event bids are currently considered by Council on a case-by-case basis.
- As a result of recent discussions on Sport Tourism and the recently completed Brock Centre for Sport Capacity report on the Region's future role in tourism, it is Staff's recommendation that Council consider funding for a Special Event Bid Fund **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2020 budget process.



Thank you and Questions



WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES



Niagara Region Public Realm Investment Program Program Summary and Achievements

PDS-40-2019



Program Overview

- Established in 2016
- Offered to all Local Area Municipalities (LAMs)
- Allows the Region to partner with LAMs on capital projects in urban and core areas



“Cities have the capability for providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

- JANE JACOBS



Program Purpose

- The purpose of the program is to encourage investment in the urban and core area public realms along Regional roads by providing matching funding to local municipal partners for upgrades to existing capital projects.
- This contributes to great public spaces that enrich and enliven Niagara's communities by:
 - ~Creating a sense of place~
 - ~Leveraging Regional and Municipal capital funding~
 - ~Responding to unique challenges with innovative solutions~
 - ~Supporting resilient design~
 - ~Prioritizing universal accessibility~

Program Funding

- The Public Realm Investment Program provides matching funding for eligible municipal projects, up to \$100,000.
- Partnerships with local groups are encouraged, but only the municipal contribution can be matched.



“Great cities know streets are places to linger & enjoy, not just move through.”

- BRENT TODERIAN

Hardscaping



Complete Streets



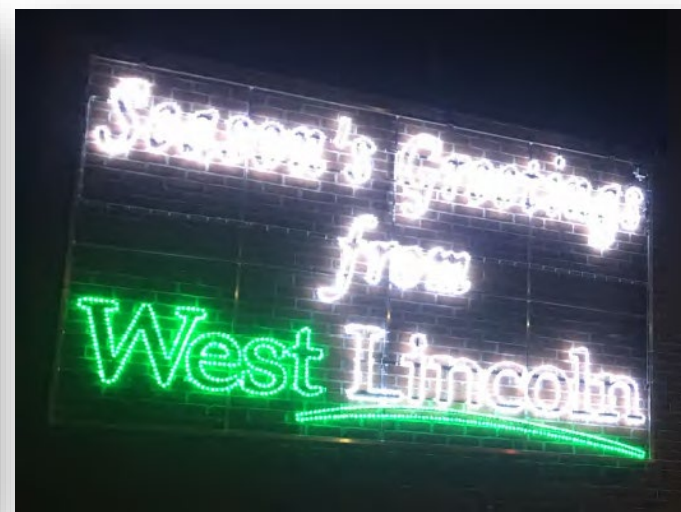
Landscapes



Site Furniture



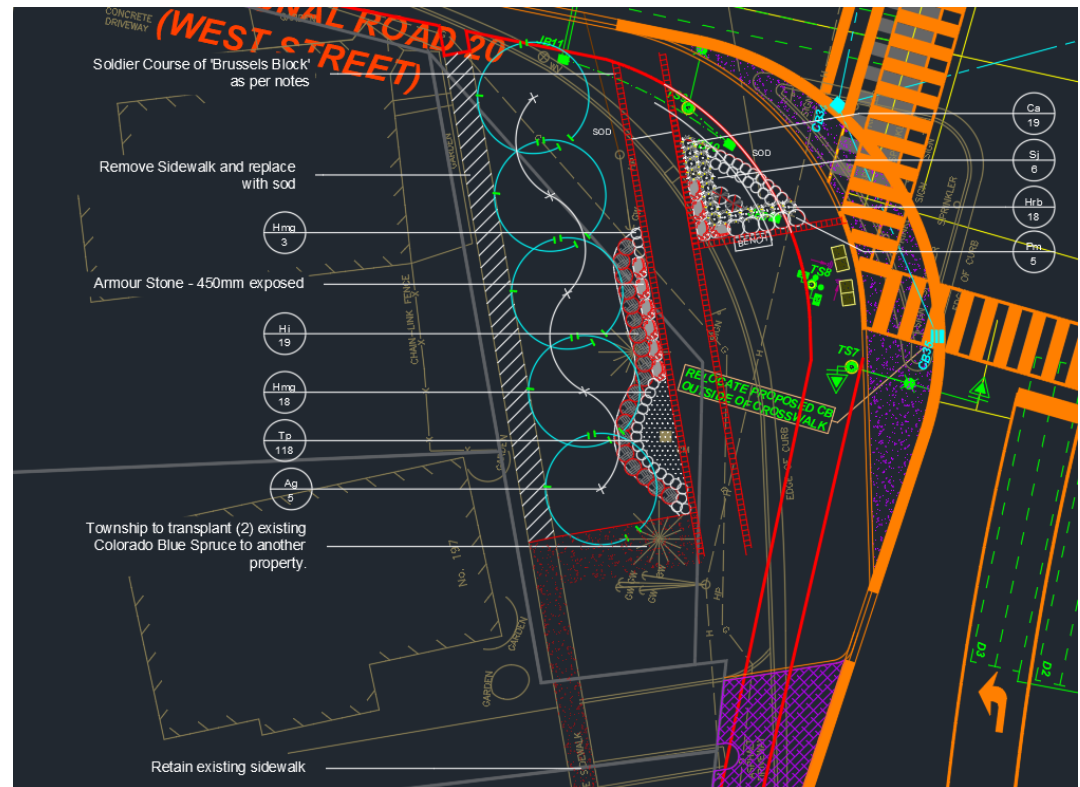
Community Identity



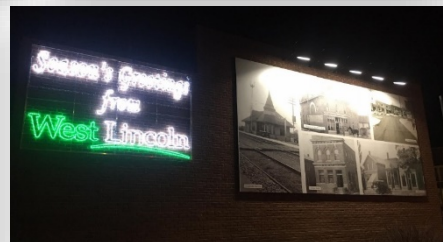
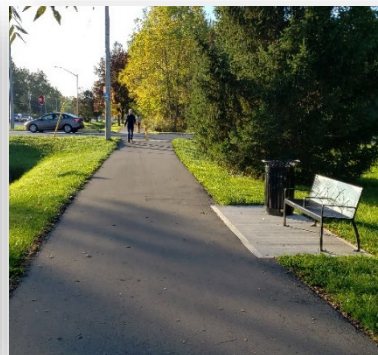
Public Art



Design Assistance



Completed Projects



Completed Projects - Welland



Completed Projects - Welland



Completed Projects - Welland



Completed Projects – Niagara Falls



BEFORE


Completed Projects – Niagara Falls



Completed Projects – Niagara Falls



Completed Projects – Niagara Falls



“Great workmanship and attention to detail. Very professionally done”

“[W]hen I got the project, it just felt like a perfect opportunity to celebrate our differences... I really believe that part of being Canadian is our differences and what we each bring to the table.”
– Project Artist, Sandra Wilkinson

“Living in the Lundy's Lane area, these have quickly become delightful additions to the monotony of mundane road and hydro infrastructure”

“[T]hey have tourists, locals and motorists talking about them in a playful and positive way.”

Completed Projects – West Lincoln



Completed Projects – West Lincoln



Completed Projects – West Lincoln



Completed Projects - Lincoln



Completed Projects - Lincoln



AFTER

Completed Projects - Lincoln



Completed Projects - Lincoln



Positive Reach

Public realm improvements could 'result in something amazing' along regional roads

Region financial incentives part of pilot project to make more complete streets

NEWS Oct 11, 2016 by Paul Forsyth Niagara This Week - St. Catharines



Lundy's Lane utility boxes get a colourful makeover

NEWS Oct 11, 2019 by John Law The Niagara Falls Review



Niagara Falls artist Sonia Wilkinson has covered 11 utility boxes along Lundy's Lane with her designs. - Kyra Torstar

They aren't in a gallery. They aren't protected from the elements. Anyone can touch them.

And Niagara Falls artist Sonia Wilkinson doesn't mind at all. For at least the next five years, her artwork will be featured on Lundy's Lane's utility boxes stretching from Garner Road to

Council backs Lundy's Lane improvements

NEWS Nov 22, 2016 Niagara Falls Review



LOCAL ARTWORK NOW FEATURED ON NIAGARA FALLS BOXES

News Home More from Local News

Thursday, October 10th, 2019 2:26pm

By Marcie Culbert

Steve Bauer Trail reconstruction in Welland nearing completion

NEWS Jul 10, 2018 by The Welland Tribune St. Catharines Standard



John D'Onofrio and his granddaughter Hannah going for a ride along the Steve Bauer Trail in Welland on Monday. - Kait Dubé, The Welland Tribune

A major overhaul of a recreational artery that runs through Welland is nearing completion.

A section of the Steve Bauer Trail, a six-kilometre path that runs into Fonthill, is being transformed

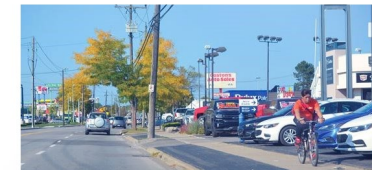
West Lincoln history on display

Posted: December 24th 2018 Category: Featured, News



EDITORIAL: Little things make a difference

OPINION Oct 12, 2016 Niagara This Week - St. Catharines



Heritage committee to unveil plaque for 'Scenes of Smithville' mural

Heritage committee hopes this will be the first of many historical murals displayed in West Lincoln

NEWS Dec 09, 2018 by Beth Audet Grimsby Lincoln News



The Scenes of Smithville mural is displayed on the wall of the Murgatroyd Parkette on the corner of St. Catharines Street and Griffin Street, in Smithville. - Beth Audet/Metroland

The West Lincoln heritage committee will unveil a plaque describing the significance of the Scenes of Smithville mural and its five photos: Smithville Station, Murgatroyd Block Building, Union Bank, Griffin Street and St. Catharines Street.

Projects in Progress – West Lincoln



Current

Projects in Progress – West Lincoln



Projects in Progress – West Lincoln



Questions?



Subject: Analysis of Niagara Region's Role in Tourism

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Recommendations

1. That Report ED 12-2019 Analysis of Niagara Region's Role in Tourism **BE RECEIVED** by the Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC).
2. That Staff's recommendation to fund a Special Event Bid Fund **BE REFERRED** for consideration as part of the 2020 budget process.

Key Facts

- The Region's Economic Development division's role in tourism was crafted at the 2016 Tourism Summit and adopted through PEDC on April 19, 2017 and by Council on April 27, 2017, as follows: "to ensure tourism is part of the Region's Economic Development Strategy by facilitating discussions on transportation access initiatives, developing a Regional Wayfinding plan, promoting five scenic routes and supporting event bids; to advocate on behalf of industry stakeholders; and to undertake investment attraction initiatives which contribute to tourism outcomes for Niagara."
- Prior to 2010, the Region had a budget of approximately \$500,000 with an average of 5 staff, plus additional staff for the Niagara Gateway Information Centre kiosk operations, dedicated to tourism initiatives including the Tourism Niagara website (www.tourismniagara.com), the operations of the Niagara Gateway Information Centre, producing marketing materials, and supporting tourism economic and product development.
- With the formation of the Regional Tourism Organization for the Niagara region (RTO 2), known as the Tourism Partnership of Niagara (TPN), in 2010, Niagara Region Economic Development Corporation's (NEDC) role declined. The new regional economic development division formed in March 2012 had no tourism mandate, at the direction of Regional Council.
- The TPN is an independent, industry-led, not-for-profit organization responsible for working with tourism partners to enhance and grow Niagara's tourism products and marketing activities.
- This report is in response to a request by PEDC to look at gaps in tourism and areas where Niagara Economic Development could be involved, along with the associated resource implications.

Financial Considerations

As part of the 2016 budget process, \$100,000 was identified to be included in the Region's Economic Development division's budget for tourism initiatives. The budget of \$100,000 was to action the identified priorities, named in ED 5-2016 Tourism Strategy Business Case and Budget Initiation, subject to the submission of a formal business case.

The base budget amount dedicated to tourism was reduced to mitigate budget pressures through the 2017 and 2018 budget processes. Currently the base tourism budget includes \$15,000 for the annual lease of the Niagara Gateway Information Centre. The lease started in 2018 will expire in 2022.

Since 2012, Economic Development has not had a line item in their budget, over and above the Gateway lease, specifically dedicated to advancing tourism activities.

Activities funded by Economic Development in addition to the Gateway lease are evaluated based on the potential economic impact of the project.

For each priority activity identified below, the subsequent staffing and budgetary implications are noted.

The only unfunded gap between the approved mandate and current activities is a Special Event Bid Fund. Through this report, staff recommends that a request to establish an annual Sport Event Bid Fund for the amount of \$300,000 be referred for consideration in the 2020 budget process.

The potential financial implication should be considered in context of the new budget commitments previously endorsed by Council and new budget pressures outlined by staff, as summarized in the following table presented to Budget Review Committee to illustrate the potential levy impact estimated for the 2020 budget.

	Council Report	Levy Amount (M\$)	Levy Increase %
Previously identified reports			
Suicide Prevention Initiative	PHD 8-2019	0.200	0.05%
Waterfront Investment Program – Base funding	CSD 40-2019	1.000	0.27%
Smarter Niagara Incentive Program – Base funding	CSD 40-2019	0.600	0.16%
Brock LINC request for funding	ED 9-2019	1.500	0.41%
Niagara Regional Transit - phase in cost	PW 56-2019	4.754	1.30%
NRPS 2019 position hiring deferral	BRC-C 7-2019	0.706	0.19%
Long-Term Care Home Redevelopment capital funding	CSD 53-2019	5.620	1.54%
GO Project - Station Operations	CSD 17-2019	1.410	0.39%
Canadian Coalition for Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination	CAO 14-2019	0.142	0.04%
EMS Central Hub capital funding	CSD 40-2019	0.390	0.11%
Potential request to-date		\$16.323	4.46%

Analysis

It was agreed by Regional Council on February 26, 2015 to allocate up to \$50,000 for a study on the Niagara tourism industry. A report came back to Council on November 12, 2015 (ED 4-2015 Tourism Industry Analysis and Options Study) on the analysis, outreach and identified priorities for future roles for the Region of Niagara in tourism.

In this report, the analysis which was done by PKF Consulting Inc, a CBRE company, noted that stakeholders agreed that the “Region should play a role in Niagara’s tourism sector however there were variances as to how to the Region would be the most effective without duplicating the work of other stakeholders”.

It was accepted through a resolution of Regional Council at the April 27, 2017 meeting that the Economic Development division’s role in tourism be approved as follows:

“To ensure tourism is part of the Region’s Economic Development Strategy by facilitating discussions on transportation access initiatives, developing a Regional Wayfinding plan, promoting five scenic routes and supporting event bids; to advocate on behalf of industry stakeholders; and to undertake investment attraction initiatives which contribute to tourism outcomes for Niagara.”

The top seven tourism priorities were identified in Report ED 4-2015 as:

1. Transportation/Access infrastructure
2. Wayfinding Signage

3. Economic Development Strategy
4. Facilitation/Coordination
5. Planning and Policies
6. Special Event Bid Fund
7. Marketing as required

The 2015 report recommends that the Region take a lead role in transportation/access infrastructure, wayfinding signage, economic development strategy, facilitation/coordination, policy and planning and a supportive role in a special event bid fund and marketing.

Economic Development's ability to advance these seven priorities is limited by budget allocations and staffing resources. The Economic Development Officer position has a 20% time allotment to assist in advancing economic initiatives in support of the tourism sector.

1. Transportation/Access Infrastructure

The report recognizes a need for a "Regional champion" to drive transportation and access initiatives. The following are examples of initiatives where Economic Development has acted in a champion role:

- Airports - marketing and development support at the Niagara District Airport;
- Airports – funded and managing RFP for the future business model feasibility study;
- Metrolinx GO initiatives – promo partners meeting in 2017, GO and AGCO initiative advancement in 2019;
- Coordination of the Southern Ontario Airports Network (SOAN) meeting forum with industry stakeholders in spring 2019;
- Managing the lease negotiations and annual business planning of the Niagara Gateway Information Centre.

Budget required to advance: Can be accommodated within the current Council approved base budget and supported through the current role of Economic Development Officer.

2. Wayfinding Signage

Limited and inconsistent wayfinding and signage across the region was identified by the stakeholders as a significant issue for Niagara's tourism sector, and it was identified that the Region could provide a key role in its co-ordination and implementation.

It was suggested that the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) through Public Works provides a platform to address both the transportation/access and wayfinding/signage issues identified. Wayfinding is currently included as a priority in the TMP work plan with associated budget requests to action.

Budget required to advance: Initiatives supported by Public Works and the Transportation Master Plan workplan. Any additional funding required will be submitted for Council approval through future budget requests.

3. Economic Development Strategy

It was recommended that the Region's Economic Development Strategy be coordinated with the tourism stakeholders to "brand" Niagara as a place to visit, live and invest. As part of the development of the Economic Development Strategy in 2018, two (2) tourism stakeholder roundtables, as well as a number of one-to-one interviews, were conducted.

The following action items which impact the tourism sector are included in the Strategy:

- Tourism is identified as a priority sector, alongside manufacturing and agri-business;
- Supporting creation of a business case for expanded services in Niagara with Metrolinx;
- Research into the impact of development charges on economic development, including impact to the Tourism sector;
- Supporting advocacy efforts for development of a fully integrated intra-regional transit system.

Budget required to advance: Can be accommodated within the current Council approved base budget. A Long Term Master Plan will be developed in 2020 as one of Regional Council's Strategic Priorities.

4. Facilitation and Coordination/Planning and Policy

It was identified in the 2015 report that there is a need to improve the facilitation of economic efforts/awareness of tourism across the region and within the industry. The following are activities the Economic Development division is engaged in now, or in the recent past, to improve tourism coordination across the stakeholders.

- Hosted the Niagara Tourism Summit in 2016;
- Invested in the development of the PKF Consulting Inc. report on Tourism Trends and Opportunities 2015;
- Participate as a member of the Tourism Partnership of Niagara's Sub Regional Partners committee;
- On-going Hamilton-Niagara partnership activities. This investment marketing partnership was developed as a result of collaboration during the 2015 Pan Am Games;
- Engaging in investment attraction initiatives that would benefit the tourism sector;
- Managing the promotion of the Niagara 2021 Canada Summer Games business development opportunities and cultural programming;
- Preparing the Niagara Tourism Profile 2019 research paper and promoting it through outreach to tourism stakeholders;

- Liaising with the industry stakeholders and supporting organizations across 12 municipalities.

Budget required to advance: Can be accommodated within the current Council approved base budget and supported currently through the Economic Development Officer and the Manager of Research and Analysis.

5. Special Event Bid Fund

Municipalities in Niagara have seen recent success in the attraction of large events, most with a focus on sport tourism. At this time, no event bid fund exists to support municipalities, venues or sports organizations in pursuing these bids. Any support provided to date has been either through a direct request to Regional Council, or through departmental requests.

The 2015 PKF Consulting report defines this priority as a potential Convention, Sport and Special Event Fund to actively pursue and bid on major events and/or create signature events. The report claims that Meeting and Convention and Sport Tourism events represent the top opportunity areas for driving new visitation to Niagara region that is not primarily leisure driven.

Although the Economic Development division does not have annual funds dedicated to event bid support, the department has been able to support the following activities over past years by repurposing budget which had been allocated to other projects:

- \$50,000 for hosting the Tourism summit in 2016;
- \$20,000 to support Niagara Integrated Film Festival (NIFF) in 2016;
- \$25,000 for hosting of Economic Developers Association of Canada annual conference in 2017;
- \$5,000 to support the U18 Women's Hockey Championships in 2016;
- \$6,000 to support the Scotties Tournament of Hearts in 2017;
- \$185,000 for expenses related to the preparation of the Canada Summer Games bid to the Niagara Sport Commission between 2016 and 2017;
- \$40,000 to support FIBA 2018 in St. Catharines;
- \$225,000 commitment for the 2020 Brier bid in 2018, the process and subsequent expenditures associated with the Brier bid were funded from the economic development operating budget;
- \$20,000 towards the development of the Centre for Sport Capacity's Made-in-Niagara Sport Tourism report in 2019.

The Canada Summer Games investment of \$20 million, for legacy project capital infrastructure, is not included in the above, as it does not flow through the Economic Development budget

Due to Regional Council's focus on sport tourism and the recent Sports Tourism report, this area will focus only on sport event bids. Regional Council approved a proposal to

have Brock's Centre for Sport Capacity undertake an analysis of the current state of sport tourism and advise on best practices for a future role for the Region in sport tourism. Report ED 7-2019 Brock University Centre for Sport Tourism Capacity Report on Sports Tourism contains 6 recommendations on the role the Region should take, with one of them focused on the creation of an event bid fund.

On August 7th, 2019 at Planning and Economic Development Committee, staff were directed to circulate this report back to sport tourism stakeholders for feedback on the recommendations. High-level feedback from stakeholders in economic development, tourism and from sport venues suggested the following:

- There is a need for the Region to create an event bid fund.
- There is a need for the Region to provide assistance with bid preparation.
- There were mixed opinions/indifference on whether this support needs to be external to the Region.

If Council would like to advance on the establishment of a formal fund for event bids, it is staff's recommendation that an effective way to venture into this is to start with the formation of an event bid fund with specific criteria and timelines for applying that can be shared with all interested parties.

At this time, it is recommended that economic development staff manage the fund and provide bid assistance to those accessing the fund, as they have been currently.

It is proposed that the bid fund amount to \$300,000 annually. This amount is suggested as good practice from the Brock Centre for Sport Capacity's report when comparing other communities' practices who have seen recent success in sport tourism.

It is recommended that this bid fund's eligibility be specifically evaluated by economic impact potential. National and international bids, which attract tourists from outside of the province, who will stay longer and spend more money, would have the greatest impact.

There is still an identified need for local area municipalities to consider sport grants at a municipal level to incentivize attraction of regional and provincial sport events.

In the future, Regional Council can consider the appetite to fund operational and event bid funding for an arm's length organization (as recommended in Brock's Centre for Sport Capacity Sport Tourism report) dependent upon the reported success of the bid fund over this remaining term of Council.

Budget required to advance: \$300,000 referred to the 2020 budget process for the creation of a dedicated sport event bid fund managed by Economic Development and promoted to stakeholders for the attraction of national and international events. If

approved, criteria for evaluation would be established based on good practice in economic impact in other communities. Economic Development staff would be involved in supporting and monitoring the bids that access this fund.

6. Marketing as required

The PKF Consulting Report suggests that the Region recognize the TPN and various Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) as having the primary “consumer-facing” marketing role, while providing marketing assistance for small municipalities, if required. There is a gap in this suggestion as the DMOs do not cover every municipality in the region.

The Province, through the RTO (Tourism Partnership of Niagara), provides marketing funds to assist marketing efforts across the region. The Tourism Partnership of Niagara works with the five local DMOs covering the region to manage the Niagara “brand” for leisure marketing.

It is staff’s recommendation that the Region does not take an active role in tourism marketing as this would duplicate the mandate of the TPN.

For example: 5 Scenic Trails Mapping – A request came to the Region’s Economic Development division for support in the design and creation of a regional Scenic Drives map. Report ED 10-2019 5 Scenic Trails Mapping Request was brought forward to the Planning and Economic Development Committee on September 11th with a recommendation to refer the request for \$50,000 for the design and implementation of the 5 Scenic Trails map to the 2020 budget process.

This motion was defeated, and as such, the scenic trails mapping will not be moving forward as part of the 2020 budget and work plan for Economic Development.

Budget required to advance: None, as it is staff’s recommendation not to take an active role in tourism marketing as there are many stakeholders locally with the mandate and expertise to execute in this area.

Governmental Partners

The role of the Region in tourism has an impact on the local municipal members of the Team Niagara Economic Development group, the Tourism Partnership of Niagara, and the 5 Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs) across the Region.

The recommendations on the Region’s role in tourism noted above allow for the Region to take an active role in leading and supporting the tourism sector in ways that do not compete with existing stakeholders.

Alternatives Reviewed

The alternative is for Niagara Region not to take an active role in tourism and leave the work to be done by the five Destination Marketing Organizations (DMOs), the Tourism Partnership of Niagara, the sports venues, the local area municipality's Economic Development offices, a private sector tourism group, or other organizations involved in tourism.

Other Pertinent Reports

1. ED-1-2015 - Grimsby Gateway Centre and Future Tourism Opportunities
2. ED-4-2015 - Tourism Industry Analysis and Options Study – Summary
3. ED 5-2016 - Tourism Strategy Business Case and Budget Initiation
4. ED 4-2017 – Niagara Tourism Strategy – Tourism Summit Follow Up Report
5. CAO 20-2018 – Brock Sport Tourism Proposal
6. ED 7-2019 – Brock University Centre for Sport Capacity Report on Sports Tourism
7. ED 10-2019 – 5 Scenic Trails Mapping Request

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Appendices

None

Subject: Natural Environment Work Program – Phases 2 & 3: Mapping and Watershed Planning Discussion Papers and Comprehensive Background Study

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Recommendations

1. That Report PDS 32-2019 **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,
2. That Report PDS 32-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Area Municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA).

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to present the Mapping Discussion Paper, Watershed Planning Discussion Paper, and Natural Environment Background Study for information. These background reports have been completed as part of Phase 2 of the Natural Environment Work Program for the new Niagara Official Plan.
- As recommended by the Mapping Discussion Paper staff will be initiating an update to key environmental mapping layers (including a field-verification component) in support of the ongoing Natural Environment Work Program. This work will be done concurrently and the costs will be accommodated within the budget for the new Niagara Official Plan.
- This report also presents an overview of Phase 3 of the Work Program - “1st Point of Engagement: Inform on Background Study”, including a list of activities undertaken, summary of input received, and a link to the Consultation Summary Report.
- The next step of work program is Phase 4 which is the identification and evaluation of options. This will be followed by the 2nd Point of Engagement – which will include two points of contact with Planning and Economic Development Committee (PEDC).

Financial Considerations

The ongoing costs associated with the Natural Environment Work Program will be accommodated within the Council approved Regional Official Plan project budget.

Analysis

Background

PDS 6-2018 (January 2018) was the project initiation report for the natural environment work program. PDS 18-2018 (April 2018) provided a summary of the early consultation process; framework for the work program moving forward; an outline of the proposed consultation and engagement process; and a schedule for reporting to Committee and Council. PDS 10-2019 (February 2019) provided a status update on Natural Environment Work Program.

The Mapping Discussion Paper, Watershed Planning Discussion Paper, and Natural Environment Background Study are now complete and a brief summary is provided in the following sections. For the complete documents see the web links at the end of this report.

Mapping Discussion Paper

Through the process of scoping the work program with local planning staff and the NPCA - mapping was identified as a key issue in almost all discussions. There were a range of concerns about the Region's existing natural environment mapping - most related to its accuracy and reliability. There were discussions related to the degree in which the Region would be field-verifying mapping as part of the Official Plan process. The need to have reliable mapping to support local planning was stressed, as was a need for the Region to consider a range of mapping options.

Key findings of the Discussion Paper were:

- The Province provides direction on the type of features and areas that should be included in natural heritage and water resource systems. The methodology for mapping varies across municipalities.
- The mapping of natural environment systems requires the use of dozens of sources of data – each with varying ages, degrees of accuracy, and ownership. The Region is responsible for producing and maintaining the data for some features. For other features, the Region is reliant on datasets maintained by others.
- The woodland dataset is one of the most important and extensive datasets/layers. It is the responsibility of the Region to produce and maintain this layer – and an update is required. The discussion paper provided several options for how this could be done, the most practical being to generate a new ELC (Ecological Land Classification) dataset for the Region. This would involve updating the existing data that was produced through the Natural Areas Inventory (NAI) through a combination of aerial image interpretation and field-verification.

Although there is a higher level of effort associated with an update of the ELC dataset, it will have a range of other uses including updates to datasets for other features, a more holistic understanding of the natural environment in the Region, assisting with watershed planning, and supporting site-specific environmental impact studies (EISs). Following the identification of woodlands across the region, criteria are then applied to determine which woodlands are considered 'significant'.

Key mapping next steps:

- Prepare a work plan, and initiate a process for updated ELC dataset based on the recommendations of the discussion paper. Regional staff will consult with NPCA staff as part of preparing the work plan.

Watershed Planning Discussion Paper

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) requires that watersheds be the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning. It is not a new concept. However, recent Provincial changes have reinforced the need for watershed planning to 'inform' municipal land-use planning. The purpose of the Watershed Planning Discussion Paper was to better understand the history, new provincial direction, and the updated process, roles, and responsibilities related to watershed planning in the Region.

Key findings of the discussion paper were:

The Region will now have a lead role in coordinating watershed planning, with the NPCA continuing to provide technical expertise and partnering where appropriate. The discussion paper provides direction in three key areas:

1. Watershed planning that is required to 'inform' the new Niagara Official Plan.
2. Policies for watershed planning that should be included in the new Niagara. Official Plan.
3. A suggested framework for watershed planning in Niagara moving forward.

Key watershed planning next steps:

- Staff to prepare a report and work plan for the implementation of a watershed planning program - based on the direction and recommendations of the discussion paper. This will include a consideration of options, costs, funding, and other resources.

Natural Environment Background Study

The Natural Environment Background Study was designed to be the primary source of information for the project moving forward, and to ensure that policy development will be informed by science and the best available information. The background study covers both general topics, as well as issue and trends that are specific to Niagara. Several key findings are overviewed as follows:

Provincial Direction –

Much of the direction for natural environment planning is provided by the Province. Provincial direction starts with the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). The PPS identifies the types of natural features, areas, functions, and systems that must be identified and protected.

In Niagara, the Region is responsible for implementing the Provincial Greenbelt Natural Heritage System (NHS) and the Provincial Growth Plan NHS. The Greenbelt NHS has been in place since 2005 and is generally reflected in existing Regional Policies. The Growth Plan NHS was introduced in 2017, and is being implemented in Niagara through the new Official Plan for the first time. The implementation of the Growth Plan NHS itself represents a significant shift to natural environment planning in the Region.

A second major shift in provincial direction is the need to identify and protect a ‘water resource system’. Watershed planning in addition to the joint Niagara Region/NPCA ‘contemporary mapping of watercourses’ project will play an important role in the identification and protection of the water resource system.

Fish Habitat -

The PPS and Provincial Plans require the protection of ‘fish habitat’. Fish habitat, is defined by the Federal Fisheries Act, and means: “spawning grounds and any other areas, including nursery, rearing, food supply, and mitigation areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes”. This is a broad definition that includes direct and indirect habitat.

One of the issues to be considered through the new Niagara Official Plan is relationship between fish habitat and agricultural infrastructure – this has been subject to ongoing discussions for at least 15 years – and required a detailed review to ensure the history and nuisances of the issue could be understood. Some of the key facts include:

- Agricultural infrastructure (i.e. drains and irrigation systems) in Niagara includes a combination of natural, altered, and man-made watercourses.

- The definition of fish habitat does not include a specific exemption for man-made or altered watercourses. In fact, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) produced a document 'Guidance for Maintaining and Repairing Municipal Drains in Ontario' which discusses the relationship between fish habitat and municipal drains.
- There is on-going concern that agriculture infrastructure may be identified as fish habitat and could restrict the construction of agricultural buildings and other agricultural infrastructure, and possibly normal farm practices.
- Beyond the PPS, Provincial Plans, and Fisheries Act, there are other pieces of legislation that must be taken into consideration including the Drainage Act, the Conservation Authorities Act and Regulations, and applicable Private Member Bills.

Offsetting -

Offsetting is generally defined as the positive actions that are taken to address the partial or whole loss of environmental features or ecological functions with the goal of achieving an equal (i.e. no net loss) or greater gain (i.e. net gain) in the amount of a natural feature or ecological function.

There is a recent and controversial history related to the concept of offsetting in Niagara. As a direct result of this, during early consultation on the project, Staff were asked many questions on the topic. Stakeholders, including PEDC, requested more information, as well as clarification on its official position in land-use planning in Ontario. Some of our stakeholders simply wanted to know what it was.

To that end, it was identified as a topic for specific inclusion in the background study. Its inclusion in the report does not take a position, rather it is intended to provide a review of the topic to better inform our partners, stakeholders, and the public. Some key facts include:

- Currently, the PPS and Provincial Plans do not address offsetting.
- Offsetting is not considered an approach to be used to meet the test of 'no negative impacts' as required by the PPS.
- There are concerns about the use of offsetting due to poorly written policies, incorrect interpretation/application, and/or lack of enforcement of policies or regulations.
- Not all features can or should be considered for offsetting. The more complex a feature the higher the risk of not achieving a no-net loss or even net gain. The irreplaceability of some types of features must be acknowledged.
- Several Conservation Authorities and Municipalities in Ontario have policies and guidelines which contemplate compensation/offsetting. In general, they were

developed in response to the development approvals system which in some cases allow impacts to natural features.

- The current NPCA policy document in some cases does permit a compensation approach for wetlands which are not considered to be 'provincially-significant'. It is however understood that this policy is currently under review by the NPCA Board and Staff.

Climate Change and Invasive Species –

To date – the two issues which have generated the most discussion have been climate change and invasive species. These are recognized as two of the most significant threats to the natural environment and can often work in conjunction with one another to accelerate the deterioration of our natural areas.

With respect to the relationship between natural environment and climate change, this generally means two things: planning to protect our natural areas from the impacts of climate change, and understanding that natural areas are an important tool for mitigation and resilience.

The natural environment system is vulnerable to a range of changes in the environment and is widely expected to be affected by climate change. However, the full extent of the impact of climate change on natural features and ecological functions is uncertain. As part of a forward-thinking Official Plan, there is a need to consider the potential impacts of climate change as part of natural environment planning in order to better protect the natural environment system and reduce economic costs (e.g., flood damage, effect of drought on crops, etc.). The work on climate change in this work program is being complemented by the stand-alone Climate Change Work Program being undertaken in support of the new Niagara Official Plan.

There are many invasive species that are creating issues in Niagara including Phragmites, Garlic Mustard, European Buckthorn, and Emerald Ash Borer. Directly controlling invasive species is difficult through the land use policies of Official Plans - and is typically better addressed through by-laws and other management tools. It is clear that controlling invasive species will require partnerships and the work of a number of agencies across the Region. The background study provides some approaches and best practices from other jurisdictions on how this could be done.

Phase 3: 1st Point of Engagement – Inform on Background Study

As overviewed in PDS 18-2018, the consultation and engagement program included a range of stakeholders, Indigenous groups, and the public. A variety of engagement techniques were used including workshops, meetings, presentations, and open houses. Engagement activities took place at a variety of locations across the Region. Information was also made available on the new Niagara Official Plan website.

List of Activities Undertaken –

The following activities were undertaken as part of the 1st Point of Engagement:

Date	Activity
February 20, 2019	Presentation to Planning and Economic Development Committee (PDS 10-2019)
February 22, 2019	Presentation to the Agricultural Policy and Action Committee (APAC)
February 22, 2019	Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Meeting
April 23, 2019	Presentation to Fort Erie Council
May 1, 2019	Meeting with Six Nations Elected Council Staff
May 1, 2019	Meeting with Haudenosaunee Confederacy Chiefs Council
May 3, 2019	Workshop – Development Community, Consultants, and Local Planning Staff
May 6, 2019	Presentation to Grimsby Council
May 7, 2019	Meeting with Fort Erie Friendship Centre Staff
May 7, 2019	Presentation to Thorold Council
May 13, 2019	Presentation to Niagara-on-the-Lake Council
May 14, 2019	Presentation to Niagara Falls Council
May 16, 2019	Workshop – Agricultural Community
May 16, 2019	Workshop – Environmental Stakeholder Groups
May 22, 2019	Workshop – Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)
May 27, 2019	Presentation to Port Colborne Council
May 28, 2019	Presentation to Wainfleet Council
May 29, 2019	Meeting with Niagara Region Metis Council
May 30, 2019	Public Information Centre – West Lincoln
June 3, 2019	Presentation to Pelham Council
June 5, 2019	Meeting with Niagara Region Native Centre Staff
June 6, 2019	Meeting with NPCA Senior Staff
June 6, 2019	Public Information Centre - Welland
June 10, 2019	Information Package to St. Catharines Council
June 10, 2019	Presentation to West Lincoln Council
June 11, 2019	Meeting with Mississauga-of-the-Credit Staff
June 11, 2019	Presentation to Welland Council
June 13, 2019	Meeting with NPCA Technical Staff
June 17, 2019	Presentation to Lincoln Council
July 23, 2019	Meeting with NPCA Technical Staff
September 18, 2019	Presentation to NPCA Board

Summary of What We Heard –

The Consultation Summary Report identifies 9 key themes that emerged through the 1st Point of Engagement - as well as the implications for the Natural Environment Work Program moving forward. These findings are summarized in the table below:

Key Theme	Implication for Natural Environment Work Program
1. Consistent Policies and Clear Roles and Responsibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to address roles and jurisdictions - Need for consistent definitions and application of policy
2. Take a Systems Approach to Natural Environment Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to address connection between issues - Need to address connectivity and linkages within natural systems - Need to account for the inter-relationship between natural and built environments
3. Recognize the Uniqueness of Niagara's Geography, Natural Environment and Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for a balanced approach that considers a range of land uses - Need for a specific consideration of the relationship between agriculture and natural environment
4. Accurately Mapping the Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to use the most up-to-date and reliable sources of information - Need to ensure that mapping is updated on a regular basis
5. Monitor Federal Legislation and Provincial Policy Direction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to continue to monitor changes at the provincial and federal level and make changes as required
6. Protect the Natural Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to both protect existing features and restore/enhance others - Need to focus development in the right areas
7. Explore Challenging Issues in Natural Environment Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to continue to explore issues and make policy decisions based on science and a fact-based approach

Key Theme	Implication for Natural Environment Work Program
	- Need for ongoing public education and dialogue
8. Forward Thinking Natural Environment Policies and Official Plan	- Need to take advantage of this opportunity to explore - and potentially implement bold new approaches
9. Build Trust Through Continued Engagement, Collaboration and Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need for ongoing meaningful dialogue, with a goal of building trust, and the best outcomes for Niagara - Need to be forward looking and not weighed down by a rehash of past site-specific outcomes

Next Steps

The next phase of the work program is to develop and evaluate options for the natural systems. This work will be documented the second technical paper: Identification and Evaluation of Options for Regional Natural Environment System(s).

This will be followed by the 2nd Point of Engagement – which will include two points of contact with PEDC. Firstly, the preliminary preferred option will be presented for endorsement; we will then undertake a fulsome consultation program with the full range of stakeholders, the public, and Indigenous groups; finally, based on the input received, the preferred option will then be presented to PEDC for final endorsement.

Alternatives Reviewed

Council could choose not to receive or circulate this report. This is not recommended.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

This report is being brought forward as part of the ongoing reporting on the new Niagara Official Plan. The Natural Environment Work Program aligns with Objective 3.2 Environmental Sustainability and Stewardship:

“A holistic and flexible approach to environmental stewardship and consideration of the natural environment, such as in infrastructure, planning and development, aligned with a renewed Official Plan.”

Other Pertinent Reports

PDS 40-2016 – Regional Official Plan Update
PDS 41-2017 – New Official Plan Structure and Framework
PDS 3-2018 – New Official Plan Update
PDS 6-2018 – Natural Environment Project Initiation Report
PDS 18-2018 – Natural Environment – Project Framework
PDS 9-2019 – New Official Plan Consultation Timeline Framework
PDS 10-2019 – Update on Natural Environment Work Program – New Regional Official Plan
CWCD 122-2019 – Agricultural and Environmental Groups – Draft Stakeholder Lists
CWCD 150-2019 – Update on Official Plan Consultations – Spring 2019
CWCD 179-2019 – Notice of Public Information Centres – Natural Environment Work Program, New Regional Official Plan
CWCD 271-2019 – Update on Consultation for New Official Plan

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Appendices

The reports can be accessed on the new Niagara Official Plan webpage through the following web links:

[Mapping Discussion Paper](#)

[Watershed Planning Discussion Paper](#)

[Natural Environment Background Study](#)

[Consultation Summary Report #1 – 1st Point of Engagement](#)

Subject: Growth Scenario Analysis Related to the Regional Housing Strategy

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Recommendations

1. That Report PDS 37-2019 **BE RECEIVED** for information; and,
2. That a copy of Report PDS 37-2019 **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the completion of the *Niagara Region Growth Scenario Analysis* Final Report (“the Report”).
- Building on the previously prepared *Niagara Region Housing Market Analysis* report (see PDS 27-2019), the Report utilizes housing-related data for the Niagara Region to run a series of growth forecasts that measure the impacts of each scenario on the Region’s population, housing stock, and local economic development.
- The results of the analysis indicate that the Region’s current growth trajectory may result in higher rates of core housing need, increased difficulty for individuals in the sales and service industry to find housing, and fewer households choosing to live in Niagara compared to a targeted growth scenario.
- The findings of the growth scenario analysis were presented by Paul Smetanin, President and CEO of the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA), to the Committee-of-the-Whole on Thursday, September 5, 2019.
- Planning and Development Services staff will continue to work with the Affordable Housing Strategy Steering Committee to use the results of this analysis to inform the creation of a housing strategy for the Niagara Region.

Financial Considerations

The Growth Scenario Analysis was funded through the 2019 Council Approved Operating Budget with contributions from the Planning and Development Services Department and Niagara Regional Housing. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Analysis

Niagara Region Growth Scenario Analysis Report

Following the completion of the Niagara Region Housing Database and the related *Niagara Region Housing Market Analysis* report in June 2019, the Planning and Development Services Department and Niagara Regional Housing prepared a single-source agreement with CANCEA for the continued analysis of the diversity and affordability of Niagara's housing stock.

The objective of the study was to provide forecasts of the Region's future housing stock up to the year 2041 under three different growth scenarios, including (1) status quo growth, which maintains the average construction rates seen in Niagara over the last five years; (2) slow growth, which uses two standard deviations less than the average construction rate of the status quo growth scenario; and (3) target growth, which uses the strategic growth numbers developed as part of the Region's Municipal Comprehensive Review with the assumed split in housing builds:

- 30% single-detached dwellings;
- 40% mid-density dwellings (i.e. 25% semi-detached, 75% row houses); and
- 30% apartment units.

The results of the analysis indicate that the Region's current growth trajectory would fall short of the 2041 population targets of the Municipal Comprehensive Review, which in turn may impact the Region's ability to affordably house its future residents. By maintaining the current growth rate, the Report states that rates of core housing need may increase by up to 26 per cent; that there may be increased difficulty for those in the sales and service industry to find housing, impacting industries such as tourism which rely on minimum-wage labour; and that there may be fewer households choosing to live in Niagara due to the price and types of housing available within the Region. This would indicate that the Region is better served by policy direction and investments that encourage higher-densities and greater housing diversity in our communities over the long-term.

Next Steps

Planning and Development Services staff will continue to work with the inter-Departmental working group known as the Affordable Housing Strategy Steering Committee to develop a Regional Housing Strategy, which will utilize the findings of the Report to provide direction for long-term housing demand and supply.

The Regional Housing Strategy will support a range and mix of housing types and densities in our communities, address the current and future housing needs of Niagara residents, and establish affordable housing targets for ownership and rental housing. The recommendations of the strategy will be implemented through policies in the new Regional Official Plan.

Alternatives Reviewed

N/A

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

The data collected and analyzed as part of the Niagara Region Housing Database and Growth Scenario Analysis projects will inform the development of a Regional Housing Strategy that will support Objective 2.3 (“Addressing Affordable Housing Needs”) of Council’s 2019-2022 Strategic Priorities.

Other Pertinent Reports

PDS 17-2019 Niagara Housing Statement: Affordable Housing Data
PDS 27-2019 Niagara Housing Statement Final Summary Report

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Submitted by:

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This report was prepared in consultation with Doug Giles, Director of Community and Long-Range Planning.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Niagara Region Growth Scenario Analysis, 2018 to 2041

Niagara Region Growth Scenario Analysis, 2018 to 2041

October 2019



CANADIAN CENTRE FOR
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

About the Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis

The Canadian Centre for Economic Analysis (CANCEA) is a socio-economic research and data firm. CANCEA provides objective, independent and evidence-based analysis and is dedicated to a comprehensive, collaborative, and quantitative understanding of the short- and long-term risks and returns behind market changes, policy decisions and economic behaviour.

CANCEA uses modern techniques in data science, including agent-based modelling, for econometric analysis, risk management assessments, demographic forecasts and epidemiology. CANCEA's work includes market analysis, policy evaluation and risk management, business model optimization, cost-effectiveness and rate of return analysis, macroeconomic analysis, insurance risk evaluation, land use and infrastructure planning, logistics, and labour market analysis. CANCEA also provides comprehensive Canadian data services.

At the centre of CANCEA's analytical capabilities is an agent-based platform called Prosperity at Risk® that is an extensive, data-driven model of 56,000 locations across Canada. Given the systems focus behind all of CANCEA's work, CANCEA has a one model approach to its analysis which allows various disciplines and stakeholders to be incorporated into a single analysis.

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About the Report

CANCEA does not accept any research funding or client engagements that require a pre-determined result or policy stance, or otherwise inhibits its independence.

In keeping with CANCEA's guidelines for funded research, the design and method of research, as well as the content of this study, were determined solely by CANCEA.

This information is not intended as specific investment, accounting, legal or tax advice.

Citation: Niagara Region Growth Scenario Analysis. CANCEA. October 2019.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 OBJECTIVES

As a follow-on study to the Niagara Region Housing Market Analysis, this study provides forecasts of Niagara Region's future housing stock up to the year 2041 under different growth scenarios. These scenarios are designed to present the implications of pursuing differing growth trends over the coming two decades for the population, housing stock and local economic development.

Growth scenarios are used to project the characteristics of Niagara Region's population and housing stock up to a defined planning horizon under different construction rates, including a baseline that represents the Region's status quo growth to determine the risks, benefits and potential pressures the Region could face under alternative growth paths. The results are intended to support evidence-based policy-making that considers the consequences of these different paths.

This growth scenario analysis was conducted to quantify the local socio-economic impacts of maintaining the current growth rate ("status quo growth"), growing at a slower pace than the status quo ("slow growth"), or alternatively, at a rate that will lead to the achievement of the population targets generated by the Municipal Comprehensive Review¹ ("target growth"). The findings of this analysis and their implications for Niagara Region are presented in this report.

1.2 METHODOLOGY

The growth scenarios were built on the basis of historical construction rates as measured by CMHC completion rates at the local municipal level². More detail on historical construction rates at the local municipal level can be found in Appendix O. The three scenarios considered are as follows:

- Status Quo Growth – maintains the average construction rates seen in Niagara Region over the last five years.
- Slow Growth – is the average construction rate over the last five years less two standard deviations, with a minimum threshold equal to half the average.
- Target Growth – is the growth required to achieve the number of dwellings needed to house the target population based on the MCR "strategic growth". The split of build types or density mix in new residential construction in Niagara Region as a whole³ under target growth was defined as follows: 30% single-detached houses; 40% middle-density (of which 25% is semi-detached housing and 75% is row housing) and 30% apartments.

¹ A municipal comprehensive review (MCR) is a new official plan or official plan amendment initiated by an upper- or single-tier municipality under section 26 of the Planning Act that comprehensively applies the policies and schedules of the Provincial Growth Plan.

² Completion rates were not available for West Lincoln and were therefore estimated.

³ At the local municipal level, the density mix was allowed to vary in accordance with historical trends, e.g. a larger share of the higher-density buildings in the Region were allocated to the cities of St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Welland.

2.0 GROWTH SCENARIO ANALYSIS

2.1 HOUSING STOCK

Currently, Niagara Region's housing stock primarily consists of low-density dwelling types, with single-detached homes as the most common dwelling type, followed by low-rise apartments and row houses. The composition of Niagara Region's housing stock by dwelling type is presented in Table 1. The number of additional units to be constructed in order to hit target growth by 2041 in 5-year increments (with the exception of the first 2018-2021 period) is given in Table 2.

Table 1 Housing stock by dwelling type, 2016

Dwelling Type	Number of Dwellings	Percentage of Total Stock
Single-detached	126,208	68%
Semi-detached	9,734	5%
Duplex Apartment	6,050	3%
Row house	13,701	7%
Apartment 5 stories or less	19,975	11%
Apartment over 5 stories	9,864	5%
Other	486	0%
Total	186,018	100%

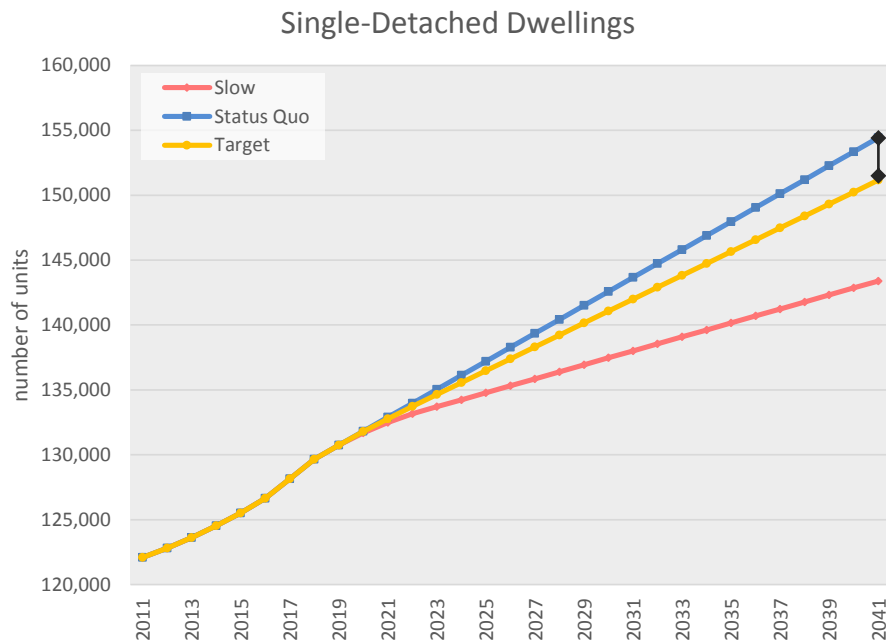
Table 2 Additional units required to reach target growth, 2018-2041

	2018-2021	2022-2026	2027-2031	2032-2036	2037-2041	2018-2041 Total
Single	3,110	4,625	4,584	4,586	4,586	21,491
Semi-Detached	463	1,486	1,535	1,537	1,535	6,556
Row	1,720	4,465	4,578	4,578	4,578	19,919
Apartment	1,162	4,408	4,585	4,584	4,586	19,325
Total	6,455	14,984	15,282	15,285	15,285	67,291

There is a greater share of medium- and higher-density dwellings in the target mix of dwellings defined by Niagara Region compared with the share in the current housing stock. As evidenced by the completion rates of the last decade, the preference for building single-detached housing continues. Figure 1 shows that if trends were to persist, there could be almost 3,200 more single-detached dwellings than would be required to hit target growth by 2041.⁴ However, under a slow growth scenario, there could be almost 7,800 fewer single-detached dwellings than required by the target in 2041.

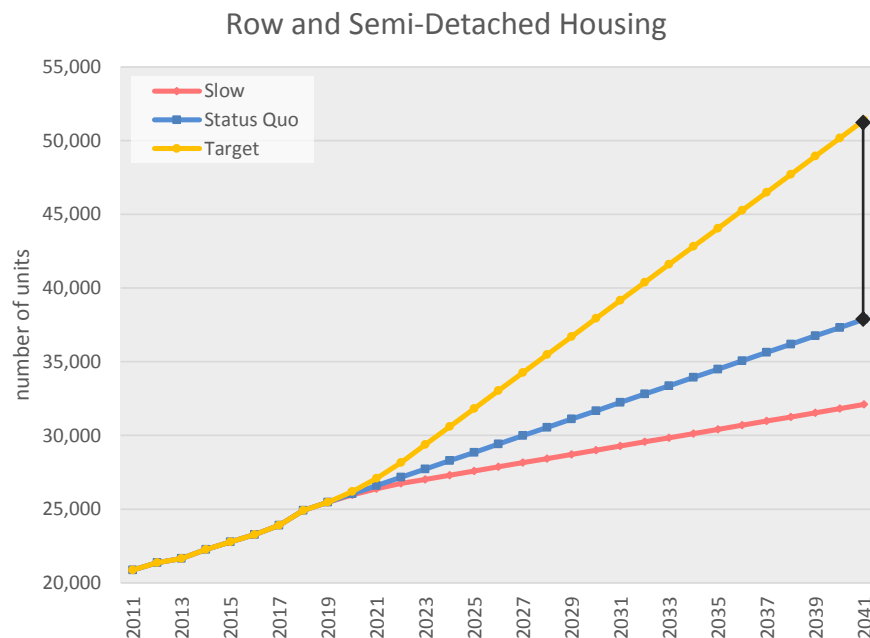
⁴ Under the given set of target assumptions.

Figure 1 Single-detached housing stock, historical and scenario projections



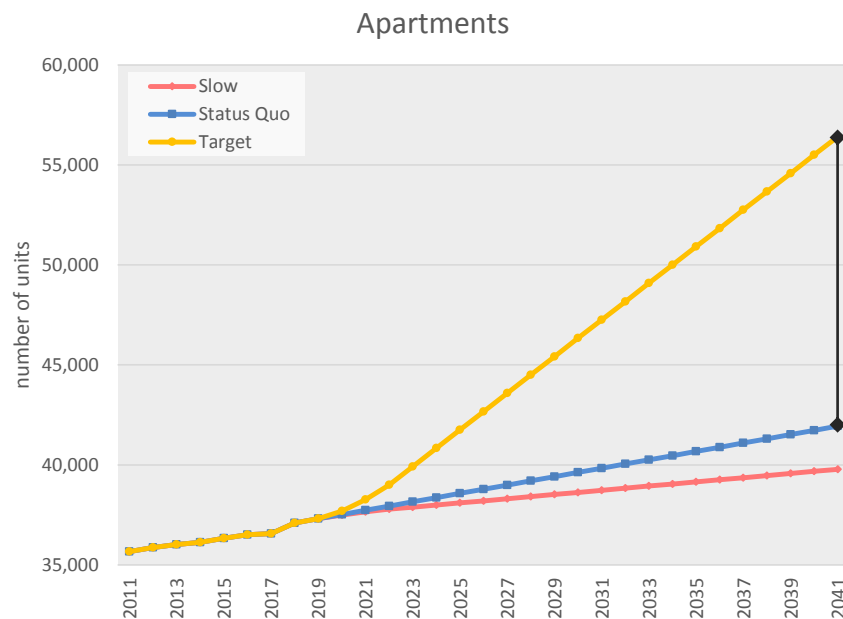
In order to achieve the target number and mix of dwellings, the construction rates for apartments, semi-detached and row housing will have to increase considerably from their historical rates. This can be seen in the size of the gap (represented by a black line segment) between the line representing status quo growth and the one representing target growth in Figure 2 and Figure 3, which represent the stock of medium-density and high-density dwelling, respectively, under each growth scenario.

Figure 2 Row and semi-detached housing stock, historical and scenario projections



If the Region is to follow a slow growth trend, the gap between the number of row- and semi-detached dwellings and the target number could widen to 19,300 units in 2041. For apartments, the gap between the number of units in a slow growth scenario by 2041 and the target could reach 16,700. If current trends persist, the size of the semi-detached and row housing gap could be 13,500 units and the apartment gap could be 14,500 units.

Figure 3 Apartment housing stock, historical and scenario projections



To increase today's supply of apartments to the target growth level would require building an additional 19,115 units total or 870 units annually. To put this number in context, this would be equivalent to building, on average:

- Between eight and nine 100-unit apartment buildings a year; or
- Fifteen 60-unit apartment buildings a year; or
- Twenty-five 35-unit buildings a year.

At the local level, some smaller municipalities are already overshooting their growth targets for all housing types combined due to the high level of single-detached housing construction activity. Only one local municipality is building semi-detached and row housing at a rate exceeding that required to hit the target level by 2041, and the rate of apartment construction is well under the target growth rate in all municipalities.

2.2 HOUSED POPULATION

Different housing types can accommodate different household configurations (see Table 3). For example, a single person can comfortably live in a bachelor or one-bedroom apartment, while a couple with children or a lone-parent household will require a dwelling with at least two bedrooms. Housing types tend to

correlate with dwelling size and the number of bedrooms. For instance, although it is technically possible to build a one-bedroom single-detached house, it is much more common for these dwellings to have at least three bedrooms. On the other hand, apartment buildings are generally built to accommodate smaller household sizes. Middle-density type housing, such as semi-detached and row housing, tend to fall somewhere in between and can accommodate a variety of household types. For these reasons, the housing stock that is built in Niagara over the next two decades will influence the type of population that area attracts and retains.

Table 3 Suitable dwelling size by household type

Household Composition	Suitable Housing
Single-Person Households	Bachelor or 1 bedroom
Lone-Parent Households	2 or more bedrooms
Couples without Children*	1 bedroom
Couples with Children	2 or more bedrooms

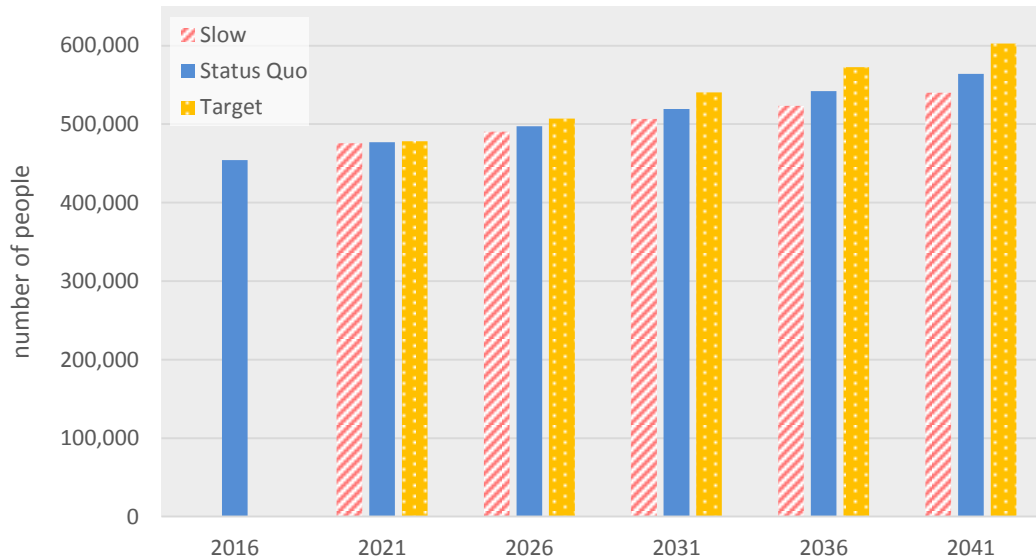
Given that the model used in this analysis takes into account household formation and migration patterns both in and outside of Niagara Region, this analysis can reveal the likely characteristics of households in Niagara Region under different growth scenarios. Using historical demographic data, additional characteristics such as age, occupations and incomes can also be inferred. The converse is also true; scenario analyses can reveal the characteristics of people and households that may not be able to live in Niagara Region in the future, due to the constraints imposed by the number and type of dwellings available.

2.2.1 TOTAL POPULATION

Under the target growth scenario, Niagara Region's population could reach 602,700⁵ by 2041 (which is equal to 256,800 households). The target represents a population growth of 33% over the current population (38% household growth). The total population that can be achieved under different growth scenarios is presented in Figure 4.

⁵ The target scenario reaches the target number of dwellings defined in the MCR for Niagara Region by 2041. Due to different modelling assumptions regarding the rate of household formation and household sizes, the population projection in the target scenario differs slightly from the Growth Plan target projection of 610,000.

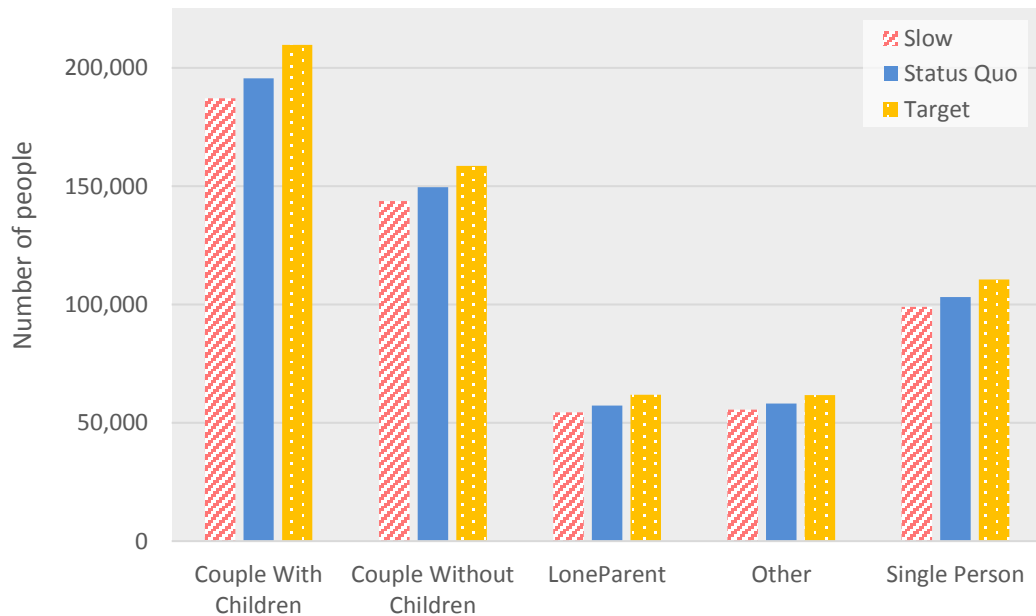
Figure 4 Total population growth, 2016-2041



If Niagara were to follow a slow growth trajectory it would land 62,600 people under the target scenario population. At status quo, would land 38,600 under target, which is slightly larger than the combined population of Port Colborne and Thorold in 2016, for reference.

2.2.2 POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Figure 5 Population by household type, 2041

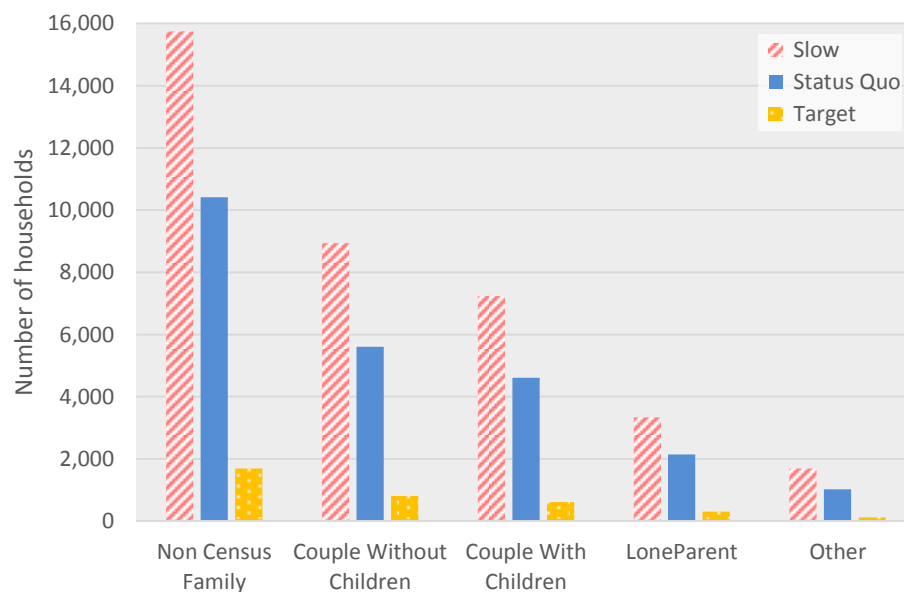


Under slow and status quo growth, there are far fewer single-person households than under target growth. At 17,100 fewer households in 2041 (20% lower than target growth) in the slow growth scenario

than in the target scenario, the difference is the largest for single-person households than for any other type of household. In the status quo scenario, there could be 10,500 fewer single-person households in 2041 than in the target scenario (12% lower). However, in terms of the number of people, the largest difference is in members of couple with children households, since these consist of three or more individuals. In the slow growth scenario, there could be 22,600 fewer people in these household types in 2041 than in the target scenario (11% lower). Comparatively, in the status quo growth scenario, there would be 14,000 fewer household members of this type than in the target (7% lower).

Looking to the future, it is also helpful to consider the demand pressures from outside Niagara Region. Depending on the its future housing stock, Niagara Region may not be able to accommodate all households who would like to live in the Region, which would put pressure on local housing prices and rents. Under all growth scenarios, unmet demand would consist primarily of single-person households, followed by couples without children and couples with children, as shown in Figure 6 (note that couples with and without children make up more people in total than the single-person households). Unmet demand could reach almost 37,000 households under the slow growth scenario or 24,000 households under status quo growth.

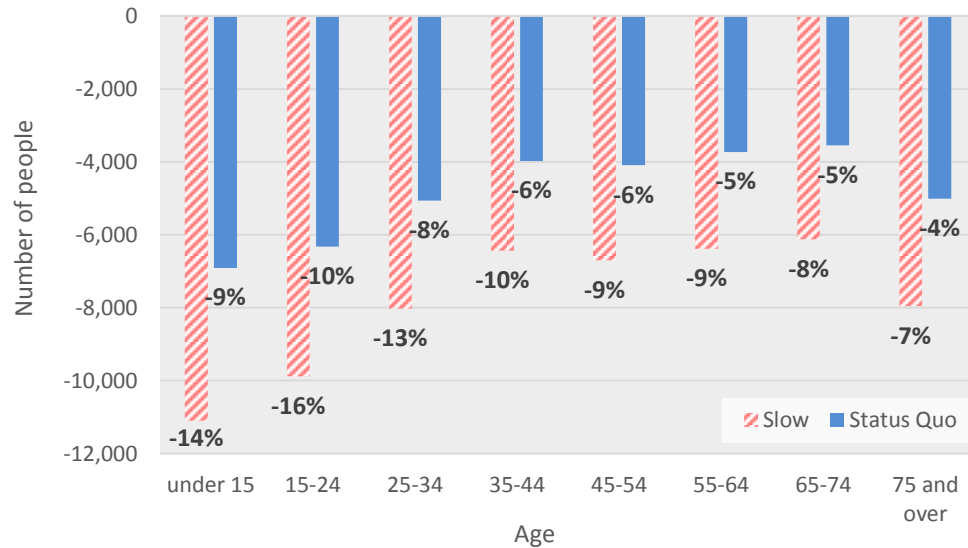
Figure 6 Unmet demand by household type, 2041



Similarly, the rate of growth can affect the future age composition of the population of Niagara Region. Slower growth tends to skew the population older. The difference between the number of people in each age cohort by 2041 in the slow growth and status quo scenarios compared to the target scenario is shown in Figure 7, along with the percentage by which each cohort's size is smaller than the target. This shows that a slower growth rate would precipitate the demographic aging of the population. Under the status quo and slow growth scenarios, there is a greater difference in the number of people fewer in the under 25 age category than in any other age group compared with the target growth scenario. Specifically, under slow growth, there could be 14% fewer people aged 15 and under and 16% fewer people between the

ages of 15 and 24 than in the 2041 target population. Under status quo growth, there could be 9% fewer people aged 15 and under and 10% fewer people aged 15 to 24 than in the target population.

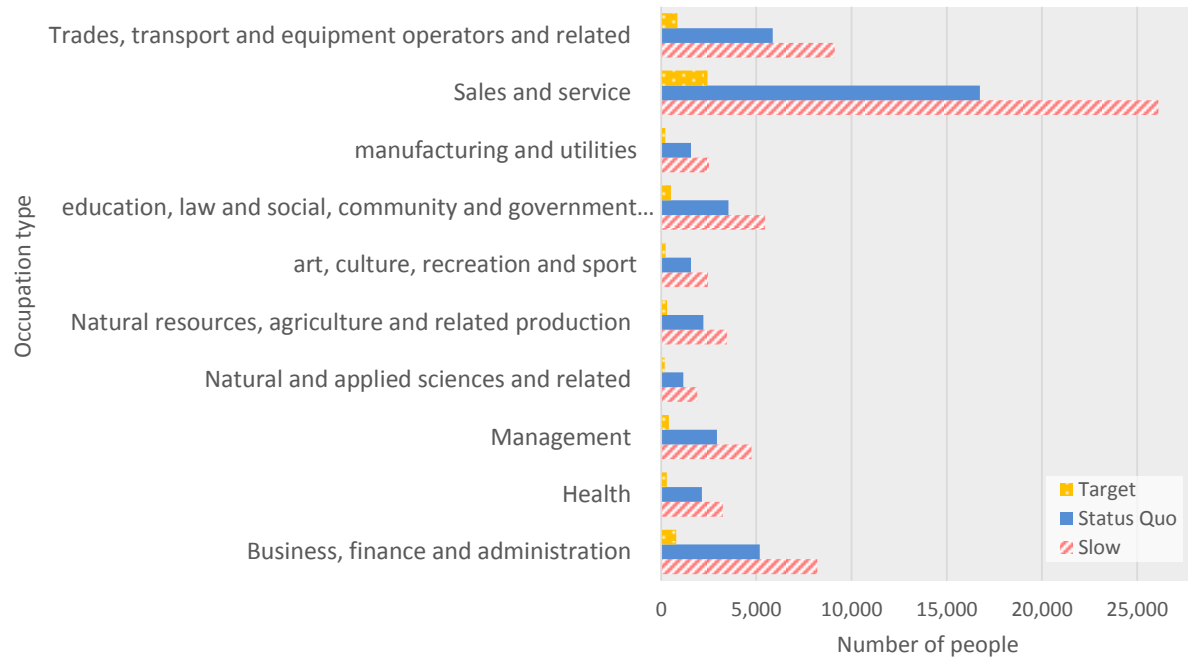
Figure 7 Difference in population compared to target scenario by number and percentage, 2041



2.2.3 INCOMES AND OCCUPATIONS OF THE HOUSED POPULATION

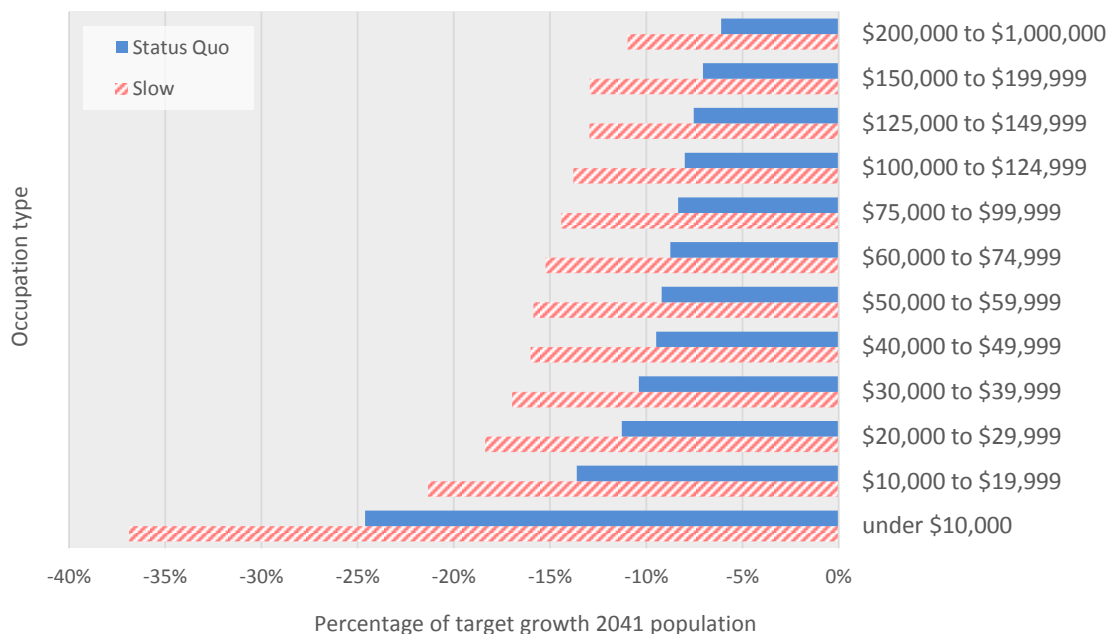
Growth policy can have an impact both on the Region's household income distribution and its labour supply because income, and relatedly, the ability to afford housing, tends to be correlated with occupation type. For instance, many service jobs are paid minimum wage, while occupations in education, law and government tend to be salaried. In the status quo and slow growth scenarios, the largest unmet demand for housing in Niagara Region will come from those in sales and service occupations, as shown in Figure 8. This is because sales and service occupations are generally associated with lower wages in Niagara Region, as presented in the Niagara Region Housing Market Analysis study. Sales and services occupations are the most common occupation type in Niagara Region, and a shortage of these types of labourers could have implications for the Region's tourism-based economy.

Figure 8 Unmet housing demand by occupation type, 2041



Comparing the slow growth and status quo growth scenarios to the target scenario shows that the largest difference is in the number of households whose total income is under \$40,000, and especially those with incomes lower than \$10,000, as can be seen in Figure 9. Households in this income range are primarily single-person households and may include students and young people at the beginning of their professional lives.

Figure 9 Difference in number of households by income compared to target scenario, 2041

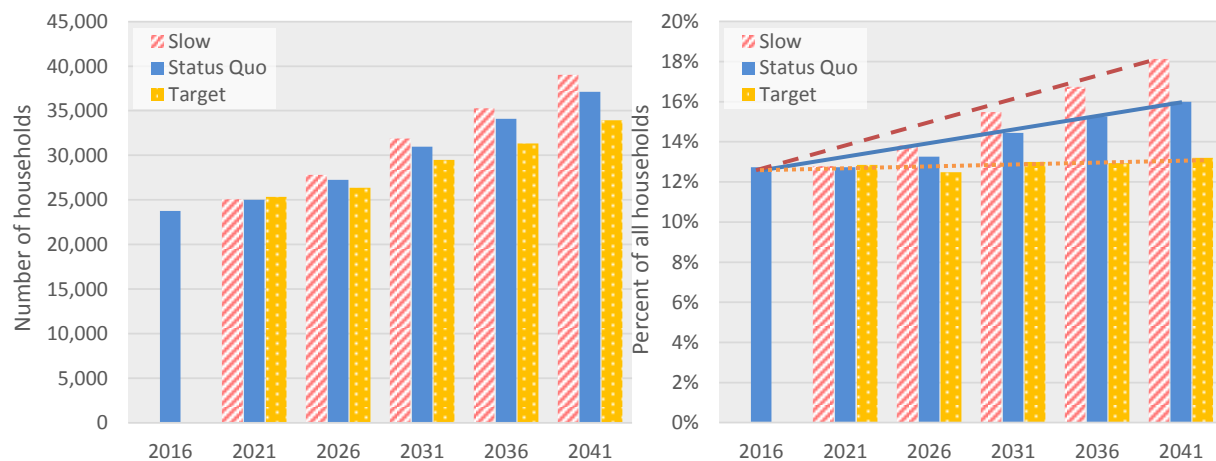


2.3 CORE HOUSING NEED

Core housing need is the standard indicator of housing need in Canada used by CMHC and Statistics Canada. A household is considered to be in core housing need if its dwelling does not acceptably meet its needs, i.e. it is either too small⁶, in a major state of disrepair or too expensive given its budget, and there is no alternative acceptable housing that would cost less than 30% of total household income. Core housing need affected a total of 23,830 of Niagara's households in 2016, of which 84% are single-person households and 14% are lone-parent households.

The number of households in core housing need is expected to increase along with Niagara Region's population. The only scenario in which the rates of core housing need in each local municipality and the Region as a whole remain relatively constant from now up until 2041 is the target growth scenario. The expected number and percentage of households in core housing need in Niagara Region from now until 2041 is shown in Figure 10. This shows that under status quo growth, the Regional rate of core housing need could increase from its current level of 13% to 17% and could even reach 18% under the slow growth scenario.

Figure 10 Number and percentage of households in core housing need



Core housing need varies significantly across local municipalities in Niagara Region. In general, the rate is higher in the larger cities and lower in smaller towns and townships. A main reason for this is that a household that is at risk of being in core housing need is more likely to be priced out entirely of smaller townships that have a more limited and homogenous housing supply than of larger cities that have a

⁶ This is calculated based on the National Occupancy Standard. The number of bedrooms required by a household is derived according to the following (if household members meet more than one criteria, the first conditions listed take precedence over the subsequent): a maximum of two persons per bedroom; household members living as part of a married or common-law couple share a bedroom; lone parents have a separate bedroom; household members aged 18 or over have a separate bedroom; household members under 18 years of the same sex share a bedroom; household members under 5 years of the opposite sex share a bedroom if doing so would reduce the number of required bedrooms. The exception to the above is a household consisting of one person living alone. Such a household would not need a bedroom, i.e. they may live suitably in a bachelor apartment.

Niagara Region Growth Scenario Analysis, 2018 to 2041

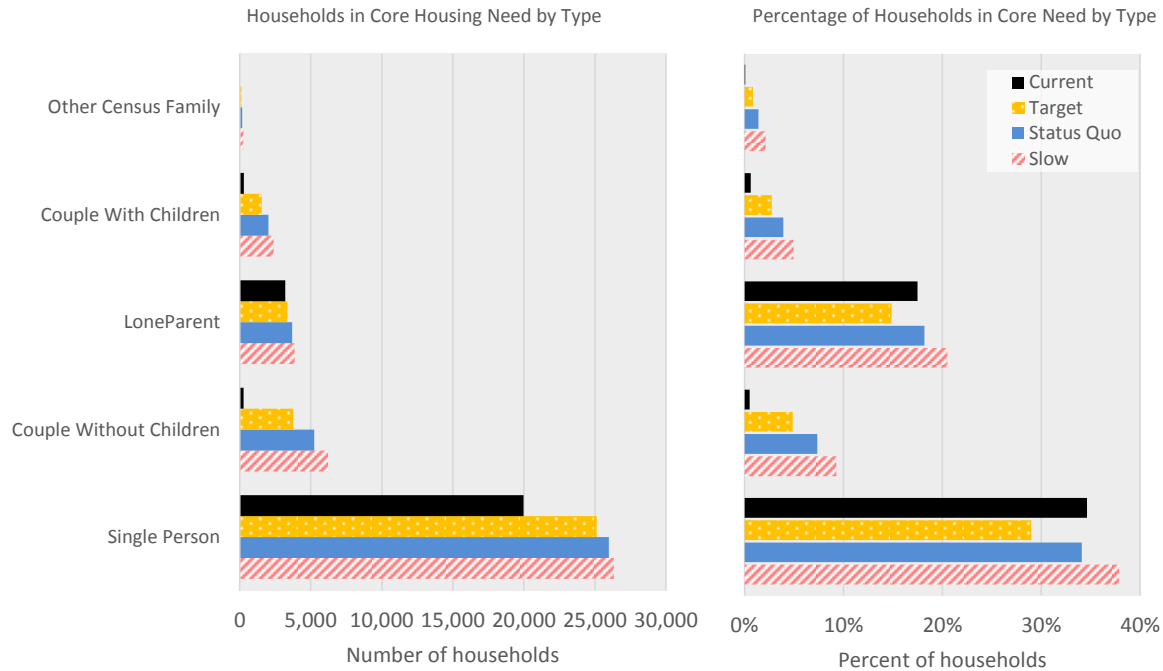
greater variety of housing options available (i.e. more variety in housing prices and housing types). Table 4 lists Niagara Region's local municipalities from largest to smallest percentage of the population currently living in core housing need and shows the expected number and percentage of households in core housing need in 2041 under the different growth scenarios. Under slow growth, five local municipalities could see their core housing need reach or surpass 20% by 2041.

Table 4 Number and percentage of households in core housing need by local municipality

	2016		2041 Target		2041 Status Quo		2041 Slow	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Port Colborne	1,336	18%	1,721	19%	1,826	23%	1,899	24%
Welland	3,540	16%	4,999	18%	5,278	21%	5,523	23%
St. Catharines	8,665	16%	10,788	15%	12,003	19%	12,296	21%
Fort Erie	1,809	14%	2,944	16%	3,345	21%	3,473	24%
Niagara Falls	5,135	14%	7,337	14%	7,840	16%	8,233	19%
Niagara Region	23,747	13%	33,915	13%	37,117	16%	39,047	18%
Thorold	945	12%	1,916	16%	1,997	18%	2,048	20%
Grimsby	727	6%	847	5%	803	5%	1,055	7%
Niagara-on-the-Lake	413	6%	979	9%	986	9%	1,184	12%
Wainfleet	139	5%	224	7%	201	7%	227	8%
Pelham	372	5%	669	6%	776	8%	980	11%
Lincoln	433	4%	844	6%	1,123	9%	1,183	11%
West Lincoln	233	4%	647	5%	939	10%	946	12%

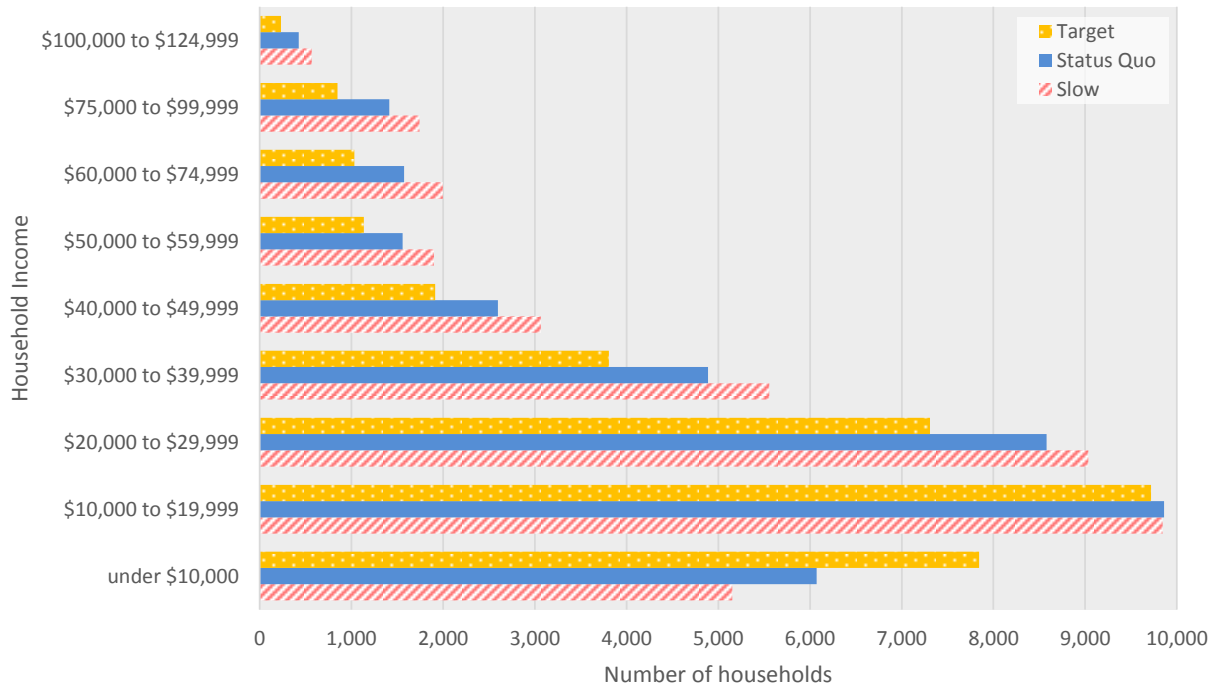
Single-person households will continue to be the household type with the greatest rate of core housing need, followed by lone-parent households in all scenarios, as shown in Figure 11. Under target growth, the rate of housing need of the two household types most vulnerable to core housing need could decrease relative to their current levels. However, under slow growth, the rate of core housing need among these households could increase beyond their current levels to 38% for single-person households and 21% for lone parents.

Figure 11 Number and percentage of households in core housing need by type, 2041



Growth policy can also affect how core housing need affects households of different income levels. In scenarios where the stock of housing is lower, prices tend to increase due to the demand for housing being higher than the supply. This results in households with higher incomes falling into the core housing need category, while lower-income households may be displaced from or unable to move to the Region. This could also increase the risk of low-income households becoming homeless or entering precarious housing arrangements that are not captured in census data or by the homelessness point-in-time count, such as couch surfing, living in cars or residing in low-cost hotel accommodations ill-suited to their needs on a long-term basis. The change in the income level of households in core housing need is shown in Figure 12.

Figure 12 Number of households in core housing need by income bracket, 2041



3.0 CONCLUSIONS

The growth scenario analysis exercise demonstrates that Niagara Region's current growth rate, if maintained over the coming two decades, could result in the Region falling short of the 2041 target population by over 6%. The rate at which Niagara Region builds new housing will not only affect the future population that the Region is able to accommodate, but also the ability of that population to live in dwellings that suit their needs and fit their budgets. If housing supply does not keep pace with the demand for housing in Niagara, housing prices and rents could increase significantly and further exacerbate existing affordability challenges. Consequently, the risk to the Region of continuing on the same trajectory includes a 26% increase in the rate of core housing need.

Results of this analysis also highlight how the features of the local housing market can affect Niagara Region's economic base. Prices and available housing types can affect the Region's ability to attract labour, especially for industries such as tourism that rely upon minimum-wage labour and to retain young people and growing families. If current growth trends are to persist, there will be far fewer households with incomes below \$40,000, which are primarily single-person households and young people at the beginning of their professional lives, and the largest unmet demand for housing would come from individuals in sales and services occupations.

To reach the population growth targets in the Growth Plan and to minimize overall levels of core housing need, Niagara Region can consider adopting policies that incentivize the development of a mix of housing to accommodate the future population, including a variety of housing densities, tenure and affordability levels, as well as right-sizing and maximizing the productivity of Niagara Region's existing housing stock. By providing a wider range of options to households, a more diversified housing stock can help mitigate some of the demographic trends identified in this report and make it easier for people of all ages and income levels to live in Niagara Region.

APPENDIX A. HISTORICAL GROWTH

Figure 13 Historical annual completions by housing type and market, 1990-2018



Figure 14 Cumulative completions by housing type and market, 1990-2018



Subject: Public Realm Investment Program Summary and Achievements

Report to: Planning and Economic Development Committee

Report date: Wednesday, November 6, 2019

Recommendations

1. That the Public Realm Investment Program achievement details **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Key Facts

- The purpose of this report is to provide an overview and update of the Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP) to the Planning and Economic Development Committee.
- Launched in 2016, PRIP is a funding partnership program administered within the Planning and Development Services Department by the Urban Design and Landscape Architecture Section, and receives an annual budget of \$250,000.
- The program provides Local Area Municipalities (LAMs) with funding for individual streetscaping enhancement projects and public spaces along or adjacent to regional roads.
- In four years, PRIP has partnered on 20 projects, awarded almost \$1,000,000 of funding, leveraged \$5,275,282 in capital investment, and assisted in the delivery of impactful and transformative projects across nine municipalities.
- Monitoring the projects implemented through the program provides Council with evidence of the benefits of investment in the public realm.

Financial Considerations

2016

In 2016, the PRIP pilot was launched with a one-time budget of \$250,000. Applications to the program were received from 7 municipalities for 10 projects with a total funding ask of almost \$700,000. Combined, the projects receiving an award had a total value of almost \$1,800,000. In this initial year, the program did not require LAMs to match the Regional commitment. The PRIP pilot verified the need for a focused public realm funding program for spaces along or adjacent to regional roads.

2017

In 2017, PRIP built on the success of the pilot program and received a council approved base budget of \$250,000 through the 2017 budget process. The program included a requirement for matching funding and was expanded to cover a larger suite of

enhancements. As with the 2016 pilot, the 2017 program was oversubscribed with a total funding request of \$504,000 for projects from five LAMs. Combined, the projects receiving an award had a total value of \$817,000.

2018

In 2018, PRIP continued to build on the success of the previous two years, and received a council approved base budget of \$250,000. The 2018 program was oversubscribed, with a total funding request of \$484,620 for six projects from six local area municipalities. Combined, the projects receiving an award had a total value of \$2,102,412.

2019

In 2019, PRIP received a council approved base budget of \$250,000. The 2019 was oversubscribed, with a total funding request of \$467,500 for six projects from four local area municipalities. Combined, the projects receiving an award had a total value of \$566,000.

Table 1 – PRIP Project Funding Summary by Municipality (2016-2019)

Municipality	Total PRIP Funding	Municipal Investment	Total Project Values	No. of Projects Funded
Fort Erie	\$17,000	\$13,000	\$30,000	1
Grimsby	\$27,000	\$76,000	\$103,000	2
Lincoln	\$75,000	\$35,000	\$110,000	2
Niagara Falls	\$129,310	\$2,632,209	\$2,761,519	2
NOTL*	\$10,000	\$51,000	\$61,000	1
Pelham	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$84,000	2
Port Colborne	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
St Catharines	\$100,000	\$124,000	\$224,000	1
Thorold	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Wainfleet	\$0	\$0	\$0	0
Welland	\$219,190	\$375,453	\$594,763	4
West Lincoln	\$380,500	\$925,500	\$1,306,000	5
Total:	\$1,000,000	\$4,274,162	\$5,274,282	20

*NOTL project withdrawn by municipality in 2017

Each year PRIP has been oversubscribed with demand for partnership funding exceeding the available annual program budget of \$250,000. Demand will continue to grow as LAMs and the Region invest in the quality and design of public realms. The creation and implementation of a Regional Complete Streets Standards Manual in the near future will elevate the design standards of regional roads. PRIP funding will be integral to support the municipal and regional collaboration in building successful public realm spaces and vibrant and complete regional roads. PRIP funding can supplement local municipal funding of projects to leverage exceptional outcomes.

Analysis

On July 9, 2019, staff provided a memo to the Planning and Economic Development Committee outlining the 2019 PRIP funding allocations (PDS-C 13-2019). Staff committed to providing an overview of completed projects to the Planning and Economic Development Committee in the fall of 2019. Monitoring the success of projects implemented through this program provides Council with an understanding of the benefits of investment in public realms.

PRIP has been well received by the LAMs and has been utilized by 9 of the 12 LAMs. The program has been able to leverage available funding to achieve quality design and construction outcomes. This success can also be attributed to the technical and design assistance offered to the LAMs by the Region's Urban Design and Landscape Architecture team. A collaborative approach to design through the program is delivering impactful and transformative projects that promote a positive image of Niagara.

Program Overview

The Public Realm Investment Program was launched in the fall of 2016 and is now in its fourth year of providing funding to local area municipalities for streetscaping enhancement projects along regional roads. The aim of the program has been to partner with LAMs to strategically enhance streetscapes by investing in projects in a way that increases the transformative impact of these works. The program offers LAMs funding for over 40 different enhancements in categories ranging from hardscaping, complete streets infrastructure, road crossing measures, street furniture, landscaping, community identity and wayfinding, and environmental sustainability features.

Award Process

Funding for projects is provided through a competitive process. LAMs are invited to apply. Included in the invitation is a complete application package and the scoring criteria against which projects are evaluated. Completed applications from LAMs are evaluated by a technical team of Regional staff from Planning and Public Works and scored for funding priority based on the evaluation criteria. Barring any technical issues, a letter of funding commitment is provided to the LAM outlining the scope of the funding. The Planning and Economic Development Committee is informed of the funding commitments through a funding award memo.

Awarded Project Status

A total of 20 projects have been assigned funding through PRIP. Nine projects have already been completed successfully. Eight projects are currently either under construction or are in the final planning stages prior to tender. One project was withdrawn from PRIP by the municipality in 2016, and the status of two projects in

Pelham with a total Regional commitment of \$42,000 (\$12,000 in 2017 and \$30,000 in 2019) is pending municipal budget approval at this time.

For a full listing of PRIP funded projects since 2016, please see Appendix 1.

Alternatives Reviewed

None.

Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities

Ongoing support for the Public Realm Investment Program supports a number of Council's strategic initiatives in the following ways:

Supporting Businesses and Economic Growth

- Objective 1.1: Economic Growth and Development
 - PRIP applies a forward thinking approach to economic development in Niagara through public realm investment opportunities which help to transform regional roads into vibrant places that attract people and investment.

Healthy and Vibrant Community

- Objective 2.1: Enhance Community Well-being
 - PRIP helps to foster safe and inclusive neighbourhoods and communities through providing streetscape enhancements along regional roads which focus on increased accessibility, consider Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles, and provide comfortable, enjoyable public space for people to participate physically, socially, and economically in their communities.

Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning

- Objective 3.3: Maintain Existing Infrastructure
 - PRIP supports sound asset management planning to ensure sustainable investments in our infrastructure by partnering with local municipalities and coordinating streetscape design on infrastructure renewal projects to achieve higher quality outcomes for communities, and eliminating the duplication of efforts.
- Objective 3.4: Facilitating the Movement of People and Goods
 - PRIP supports the implementation of Niagara's Transportation Master Plan through the application of Complete Streets in transportation projects, contributing to safe and healthy streets that support active transportation by providing collaborative funding and design support to make the most out of Regional and municipal contributions to projects.

Sustainable and Engaging Government

- Objective 4.1: High Quality, Efficient and Coordinated Core Services
 - PRIP offers the opportunity to achieve cost-efficiencies through coordinated service delivery and collaboration with local area municipalities on public realm enhancement projects.

Other Pertinent Reports

- PDS-C-13-2019 Public Realm Investment Program Funding Commitment Update

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Appendices

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Appendix 1 – PRIP Project Summary Table

Project Name, Location, Description	Regional Funding Commitment	Total Project Value*	STATUS
2016 Pilot Year <i>(Projects were not required to include matching contribution)</i>			
Grimsby: RR81 – Downtown street tree replacement	\$22,000	\$28,000	Complete
Lincoln: RR18/RR81 – Streetscape improvements – planting areas and site furniture	\$60,000	\$80,000	Complete
West Lincoln: RR20 – Downtown Smithville streetscape improvements – paving, site furniture, trees	\$42,250	\$266,000	Complete
Niagara on the Lake: RR55/RR89 – Bus benches and pads	\$10,000	\$51,000	<i>Withdrawn</i>
Welland: RR27/RR68/RR527 – Beautification, wayfinding, pole banners & arms, Market Square streetscaping	\$69,190	\$109,763	Complete
Niagara Falls: RR20 – Benches, bike racks, litter receptacles, utility box wraps	\$29,310	\$1,214,107	Complete
Fort Erie: RR124 – Transit shelters and streetscape improvements	\$17,000	\$30,000	Complete
2016 Total	\$249,750	\$1,778,870	

2017			
West Lincoln: RR20 – Banner arms, seasonal greetings sign, historical mural; streetscaping at new public parking area	\$38,000	\$359,000	Complete
St Catharines: RR46/RR48 – Parkette - streetscape improvements, planting areas, and furniture	\$100,000	\$224,000	In Progress
Pelham: RR20 – Streetscape improvements/Seating area at SWM Pond near Rice Rd	\$12,000	\$24,000	In Progress
Welland: RR54 – Stop 19 Multi-use trail construction	\$100,000	\$210,000	Complete
2017 Total	\$250,000	\$817,000	

Appendix 1 – PRIP Project Summary Table

Project Name, Location, Description	Regional Funding Commitment	Total Project Value*	STATUS
2018			
Grimsby: RR81 – Litter receptacle replacement	\$5,000	\$75,000	Complete
West Lincoln: RR20 – Smithville Square	\$100,000	\$250,000	In Progress
Lincoln: RR18 – Streetscape improvements, planting areas, and signal box wraps	\$15,000	\$30,000	In Progress
Niagara Falls: RR20 – streetscaping, paving, trees, shrubs, lighting, banners, accessible features, gateway	\$100,000	\$1,547,412	In Progress
Welland: RR27 – East Main Improvements associated with the Welland Civic Square	\$30,000	\$200,000	In Progress
2018 Total	\$250,000	\$2,102,412	
2019			
West Lincoln: RR20 – Streetscaping Phase 1 – Decorative lighting and infrastructure burial in Smithville	\$100,000	\$200,000	In Progress
West Lincoln: RR20 – Streetscaping Phase 2 – Station Street parkette, seasonal lighting, roundabout landscaping	\$100,000	\$231,000	In Progress
Pelham: RR54 – Seating/rest area at SWM Facility along multi-use path	\$30,000	\$60,000	In Progress
Welland: RR27 – Hellems Street Parkette @ Main	\$20,000	\$75,000	In Progress
2019 Total	\$250,000	\$566,000	

*Estimated project values at project planning or PRIP application stage. May not reflect actual tendered project value.



Public Realm Investment Program 2019 Application Guide



Urban Design and Landscape Architecture
Planning and Development Services

Niagara  Region

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PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Established in 2016, the Public Realm Investment Program (PRIP) is a value-added program that allows the Region to partner with local municipalities on capital projects that provide public realm enhancements on over 250 kms of Regional Roads in urban and core areas.

Public realm enhancements attract investment and help to create vibrant and enlivened public realms that sustain businesses, improve all modes of transportation, and celebrate community. People seek out and enjoy well-designed places that are inclusive and accessible, where they enjoy personal comfort, safety, happiness and well-being. These attractive and vibrant places offer a higher quality of life to residents and visitors.

To encourage investment in great public places for people, the Region is offering this incentive program to all of our local municipalities. Investing in with local municipal partners to complete our streets with enhanced boulevards, sidewalks, and spaces in the public realm across Niagara helps our region attract new residents, promote tourism, grow the economy, beautify our communities, and is key to building strong and resilient communities in Niagara.



PART A PROGRAM OVERVIEW

“The street is the river of life of the city, the place where we come together, the pathway to the center.”

- WILLIAM H. WHYTE

222 Hennepin St, Minneapolis
Downtown Improvement District
Award Winner – Best Street Tree
Canopy, 2013

(Image courtesy www.mplsddid.com)

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the program is to encourage investment in the urban and core area public realms along Regional roads by providing matching funding to local municipal partners for upgrades to existing capital projects.

This contributes to attractive public realms that enrich and enliven Niagara's communities by:

- Creating a sense of place by integrating architectural features, public art, street furniture, enhanced paving, and generous planting design through the inclusion of enhanced elements in their projects, beyond the standard products and treatments;
- Leveraging regional and municipal capital funding to achieve design excellence and provide a funding option that promotes community pride and contributes to community identity projects;
- Responding to the unique challenges within our local municipalities with innovative and unique design solutions that will address the diverse needs and character of the Region's built environments;
- Supporting treatments and measures along Regional roads that include design for optimal tree health, sustainable storm water management strategies, and resilient and beautiful landscapes; and,
- Prioritizing universal accessibility with a focus on pedestrian comfort and safety by clearly defining sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle lanes and roadways to effectively support walking, cycling, and alternative means of transportation.

“Cities have the capability for providing something for everybody, only because, and only when, they are created by everybody.”

- JANE JACOBS

Mural by Barcelona-based artist Jupiterfab located across from the St Catharines Performing Arts Centre, on Garden Park.



PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

PROGRAM FUNDING

The Public Realm Investment Program provides *matching* funding to *eligible* local municipal projects that are initiated and constructed by either the local municipality or Niagara Region in consultation or collaboration with the local municipality. The maximum Regional funding contribution is limited to an amount of **\$100,000**.

Partnerships with local associations and community groups are encouraged, however the Region will only match the contribution made by the municipality.

Through the PRIP, municipalities may apply for funding that may be applied to a wide variety of streetscape enhancements and upgrades to project standards or typical installations, including (but not limited to):

- **HARDSCAPING:** Sidewalks, decorative boulevard treatments, street furniture (benches, bike racks, litter receptacles), decorative lighting, etc.
- **LANDSCAPING:** Native trees, planting beds, pollinator gardens, rain gardens or bioswales, roundabouts, etc.
- **COMMUNITY IDENTITY:** Gateway features, public art (sculpture, publicly accessible murals, etc), seasonal decoration, as well as basket arms and wayfinding.



“Great cities know streets are places to linger & enjoy, not just move through.”

- BRENT TODERIAN

Forest Hill Village North Gateway,
Toronto, ON

(Image courtesy PLANT Architect)

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

ELIGIBILITY

This program is available to all of Niagara's local municipalities and the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA).

- Projects must be within or directly adjacent to a Regional Road right-of-way.
- Projects must be completed by the end of the year following the award. For example, projects receiving funding in 2019 must be completed prior to the end of 2020.
- Maintenance agreements are required.

Applications for funding will be reviewed by Regional staff using the eligibility criteria listed as (Part C) of this package.

Municipalities are encouraged to submit projects that deliver the greatest value for their communities (i.e. social, economic, and environmental). The Region specifically encourages the submission of projects located: within downtowns, employment areas or community gateways; close to public buildings or public parks; along the Regional bicycle network, transit routes, tourist areas, the wine route, and multi-use paths.

Municipalities must provide at minimum, a matching funding amount equal to the requested Regional contribution. Municipalities are invited to apply by completing the Application Submission Form provided as (Appendix 1) of this package.



Street side rain gardens offer beauty and increased ecological functions.

(Image courtesy Rain Dog Designs, Puget Sound, WA)

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications to the Program will be processed in the following manner:

Step 1 Submission (Deadline: March 29, 2019)

Applications are received by the Region and checked for completeness (additional information may be requested)

Step 2 Submission Evaluation Region Staff (by April 18, 2019)

Complete Applications are evaluated by the Region's Program Selection Team and prioritized.

Step 3 Meetings with Local Municipalities (Week of April 23, 2019)

Meetings with municipalities to formalize scope, scheduling, and funding.

Step 4 Award (May 1, 2019)

Funding awarded to prioritized projects (date is subject to complexity and quantity of applications)

Step 5 Implementation (2019/2020)

Region or local municipality constructs approved works.

Step 6 Completion (Prior to end of 2020)

Project Completion Report submitted with invoice.



PART B APPLICATION OVERVIEW

**SUBMISSION
DEADLINE:**



PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Project submissions must demonstrate the public benefits of the investment for the local municipality and to the Region. Submissions must include a completed application form (Appendix 1), and the following supporting information:

1. Digital photographs showing the current condition of the project site;
2. Detailed itemized costs of the work;
3. Technical drawings of the project such as plans, and details;
4. Key project milestones; and,
5. Maintenance commitment (included on application form).

Municipalities wishing to submit more than one project must make separate submissions. Project submissions will be reviewed to ensure compliance with program requirements and alignment with Regional objectives.

Submit applications to:

Program Coordinator: Vanessa Aykroyd, OALA, CSLA
Email: vanessa.aykroyd@niagararegion.ca
Mail: Public Realm Investment Program
c/o Vanessa Aykroyd, Landscape Architect
Urban Design and Landscape Architecture Section
Planning and Development Services Department
Niagara Regional Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, PO Box 1042
Thorold, Ontario L2V 4TZ

WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION

If a municipality must withdraw from an approved PRIP funding commitment, a letter to that effect must be submitted to Region's PRIP Coordinator as soon as possible via email or regular mail.

Depending on the amount of the forfeited funding commitment, and if a withdrawal occurs before October 1st of the same PRIP year, the funding may be reassigned to another municipality through a new call for PRIP applications. At such time, municipalities, will be informed of the available funding and will be encouraged to submit a PRIP application. Applications will be evaluated and available funding assigned through a process that is similar to that of the initial (PART C) process.

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

EVALUATING THE APPLICATION

All applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the Region to ensure the proposed works align with the objectives of the program.

The evaluation process is divided into 3 steps:

Step 1 Review of the application and supporting documentation for completeness

Step 2 Evaluate the application against the Evaluation Criteria (Pg. 9)

Step 3 Determine Regional funding contribution

APPLICATION and SUPPORTING DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

*ensure this information is included either on the application or is attached

Yes

1.0 Application

Completed PRIP Application (Appendix 1)

Required plans, drawings and images provided for review

Current Condition Photos (.jpg or .tif)

Other required supporting studies/documentation

Functional, operational, safety requirements have been addressed by the local municipality (provide supporting documentation from a P. Eng or other qualified professional where required)

2.0 Aligns and Supports Niagara Region's Policies and Practices

Regional Official Plan

Model Urban Design Guidelines

Complete Streets Model Policies

Relates to an Environmental Assessment (if yes then specify)

Relates to the 10 Year Regional Capital Forecast (if yes, then which project and year)

3.0 Support of Local Area Councils

Local Council Resolution to submit application (If applicable)

Demonstrated compliance with local planning documents or master plans (if applicable)

When all have been addressed, proceed to Step 2:

PART C EVALUATION PROCESS

STEP 1: APPLICATION AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

The complete application requirements listed below are for information purposes and should be consulted when preparing an application. Niagara Region will use this chart to determine the eligibility and completeness of the application.

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

STEP 2: EVALUATION CRITERIA

The Evaluation Criteria below is used by the Region to evaluate the merits of the project and prioritize projects requiring a funding contribution by the Region. Projects must score above 80 points to receive funding priority. Criteria are worth multiple points and should be addressed to ensure the benefit of projects is well-presented.

* Points of interest include, but are not limited to tourist destinations, employment areas, transit hubs and stops, public buildings, schools, colleges, universities, parks, other publicly accessible spaces and locations that are culturally and/or naturally significant.

APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA

1.0 Timing	
Construction to commence within current program year (projects may extend into the next program year for completion)	5
2.0 Location	
Within 500m of an urban core area	4
Within 500m of 5 <i>points of interest</i> *	4
Within a Community Improvement Area / Business Improvement Area / Secondary or District Plan Area	4
Along or adjacent to a public transit route	3
Along a bicycle route, multi-use path, or the wine route	3
Within 1km walking distance to a tourism point of interest	3
Within visual proximity to a landmark (gateway, heritage site, public building)	3
3.0 Community Benefit	
Promotes higher use of the Regional Road and connectivity with other networks	5
Incorporates Heritage and Artistic Elements (e.g. Public Art)	5
Promotes Transit and/or Active Transportation	5
Promotes an inclusive streetscape (i.e. all ages and abilities)	3
Attracts people and promotes opportunities for social interaction	3
4.0 Design Goals	
Addresses a prevalent negative condition or issue	5
Recognizes and leverages local character	4
Contributes to planned improvements/developments in the vicinity	4
Durability and attractiveness of the materials/elements	3
5.0 Environmental Resiliency	
Grows the Urban Forest (Tree planting at least at a 3:1 planted:removed ratio)	5
Includes 60% or greater native plant species (no invasive species permitted)	5
Includes Low Impact Development stormwater management infrastructure	5
Includes other innovative materials, products, or practices	4
Includes recycled or sustainable products (e.g. Recycled plastic or FSC Certified wood products)	3
6.0 Community Partnerships	
Partnership with a Local BIA or local community group or organization	5
Partnership with post-secondary institutions for skills training or innovation development	4
Uses finished products manufactured or created in Niagara	3
Greater than 80 Receives Funding Priority	Total 100

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT

PROGRAM

REGIONAL CONTRIBUTION FUNDING LIMITS

1.0 Hardscape Materials and Treatments

Strategic sidewalk connections or sidewalk widening (to a minimum 2.0m)	\$30,000
Decorative concrete paving, banding, and unit paving	
Decorative crosswalks (also refer to Section 3.0)	
Decorative on-road pavement (non-asphalt)	
Off-road trail connection areas connecting to Regional Road or Bikeway	
Off-road multi-use trails and associated treatments	

2.0 Complete Streets Infrastructure

Cycling facilities (funding possible in collaboration with Bicycle Facilities Grants for Regional Bikeways)	\$25,000
Traffic Calming Measures (including curb extensions, bump outs, and medians not associated with pedestrian crossings)*	
Line painting associated with traffic calming and pedestrian crossing facilities	
Burial of overhead utilities (<i>The Regional contribution by this program will be determined on a case-by-case basis with cost estimates prepared by the public utilities.</i>)	

3.0 Road Crossing Facilities

Sidewalk extensions or bump-outs at intersections	\$15,000
Decorative concrete crosswalks	\$20,000
Decorative painted pedestrian crosswalks	\$8,000
Parklets (Reusable sidewalk extensions where on-street parking is located)	\$10,000

4.0 Site Furniture

Benches	\$12,000
Bicycle parking (rings, racks, shelters)	\$10,000
Decorative Bollards	\$5,000
Low seat walls and planters	\$12,000
Pedestrian shade structures	\$10,000
Litter and Recycling Receptacles (funding limit increased for streams that include organics, accompanied by a plan for collection)	\$5,000 - \$10,000
Drinking fountains/Bottle fillers/Pet watering stations	\$5,000
Transit Shelters	\$10,000

5.0 Landscaping

Tree Planting (including irrigation bags)	\$25,000
Innovative planting technologies (e.g. structural soil cells)	\$30,000
Hanging baskets and/or planters (installed cost)	\$15,000
Planting beds	\$10,000
Rain gardens/bioswales* (funding limit increased if features address 5 year storm)	\$20,000 - \$30,000
Plants - Native, drought and salt tolerant species	\$5,000

...continued on Page 12

STEP 3: REGIONAL FUNDING CONTRIBUTION LIMITS

*Traffic calming measures on Regional Roads or installations that affect Regional Infrastructure require coordination and approval by the Regional Commissioner of Public Works.

* LID bioswales and rain gardens must capture and infiltrate the 25ml design storm to qualify for specific funding.

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

STEP 3: REGIONAL FUNDING CONTRIBUTION LIMITS ...continued

6.0 Community Identity Features

Banner arms	\$5,000
Basket arms	\$5,000
Gateway features	\$50,000
Seasonal decorations	\$8,000
Decorative street name blades	\$6,000
Information kiosks	\$15,000
Public art	\$25,000
Interpretive panels/signs	\$7,000
School related Active Transportation initiatives	\$4,000
Wayfinding initiatives	\$10,000
Anti-graffiti wraps and coatings	\$5,000



PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

REGIONAL COORDINATION/APPROVALS

After the project has received an initial funding approval, Municipal and Regional staff will work together to determine construction and installation details as they pertain to Regional infrastructure.

To ensure clarity and continuity for the project and involved staff, the point of contact at the Region for the project will be the PRIP Program Coordinator. The PRIP Program Coordinator will provide collective comments, and approvals from the required Regional staff, and ensure consistency throughout the project.

DESIGN COLLABORATION

Regional staff are pleased to provide assistance and guidance at various stages of the project. The local municipality may not have staff resources that could influence the success of the project. The services of the Regional Landscape Architect and Urban Designer are available as needed.

PROJECT CONSTRUCTION

Once construction and installation details affecting Regional infrastructure are confirmed, a final sign-off from key stakeholders will be communicated through the PRIP Program Coordinator. As construction begins, brief project updates should be shared with the PRIP Program Coordinator at project milestones, or as deemed necessary.

PROJECT COMPLETION

Once the construction and/or installation of the works defined in the submission has been completed, payment can be requested. Municipalities must inform the PRIP Program Coordinator and provide the following:

- Project Completion Report (See Appendix 2)
- Digital photographs of the built condition; and
- Other supporting documents as required

The Project Completion Report requires the municipality to summarize the project, provide important details, and review project successes. The PRIP Program Coordinator will review the Project Completion documents, and advise that an invoice from the municipality can be issued to the Region. A PO# will be provided and the invoice will be paid Net 30.

PART D PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

PART E

GLOSSARY OF STREETSCAPE ELEMENTS

HARDSCAPES

GLOSSARY OF STREETSCAPE ELEMENTS

Standard Surface Treatments

Surfacing can include brushed concrete sidewalks, or asphalt pathway paving.



Upgraded Surface Treatments

Upgraded surfacing can include materials such as stone, concrete unit pavers, coloured concrete, impressed concrete, and exposed aggregate concrete, etc.



PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

PROGRAM

Decorative Surface Treatments

Decorative surfacing can include concrete etching, grinding, sandblasting, acid staining, metallic tinting, decorative stamping, decorative unit paving. .

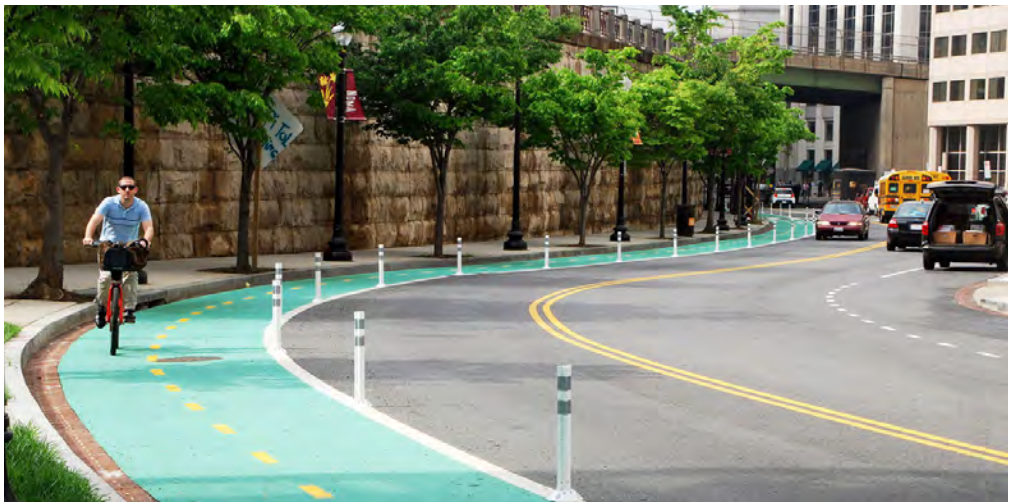


HARDSCAPES

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Cycling Facilities

Cycling facilities and surface treatments may be funded in collaboration with the Bicycle Facilities Grants for Regional Bikeways.



Traffic Calming Measures

Curb extensions, bump outs, and medians provide visual cues to slow traffic.



COMPLETE STREETS

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Sidewalk Extensions and Bump Outs

Used to reduce the pedestrian crossing distances of roads, bump-outs can provide additional room for street enhancements, such as, seating or public art.



Decorative Crosswalks

Limited to high tonal contrast and pavers, decorative crosswalks can be used to visually indicate a crossing to motorists and pedestrians alike.



COMPLETE STREETS

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Pedestrian Crossing Islands

Pedestrian crossing islands provide refuge from traffic in wide crossing situations.



COMPLETE STREETS

Parklets/Pop-Up Patios

These are temporary commercial patios or landscape/park installations located in on-street parking spaces, and range from practical to whimsical.



PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Trees and Installation Infrastructure

Grow the urban forest in a sustainable way by providing opportunities for proper soil volumes, drainage, and irrigation as necessary, using traditional or innovative measures, such as structural soil cells.



LANDSCAPES

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

LANDSCAPES

Hanging Baskets and Planters

Add seasonal colour to the streetscape using hanging baskets and planters.



Planting Beds

Both flush and raised planting beds can add colour and curb appeal to the street.



PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Bioswales and Rain Gardens

Bioswales and rain gardens serve dual purposes - they enhance the aesthetic of the streetscape, while treating quantity and quality of stormwater. This increases the resiliency of the streetscape and relieves pressure on grey infrastructure.



LANDSCAPES

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Seating Options

The style and design of seating should positively contribute to the aesthetic value of the streetscape, and respond appropriately to the installation location and expected user of the seating.



Seating and Retaining Walls

Retaining walls provide valuable functions, but can also serve dual purpose along pedestrian walkways.



SITE FURNITURE

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Litter and Recycling Receptacles

Refuse containers for handling single and multiple streams can include automated systems such as Big Belly Solar Compactors or similar. Three stream (waste, plastic, organics) receptacles are encouraged where possible.



Bicycle Parking

Encouraging active transportation via bicycle requires space to park. Bike racks can be open or covered, and range from purely functional to public art.



SITE FURNITURE

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

SITE FURNITURE

Bollards

Bollards provide protection for pedestrians and can be purely functional, or serve a dual purpose as public art.



Bus Shelters

Encouraging multi-modal transportation entails protecting riders from the elements.



PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Decorative Fencing

When fencing is required, an upgrade to the standard can create a statement.



Drinking Fountains/Bottle Fillers

Classic or whimsical, making clean water readily to pedestrians and their pets available helps to reduce plastic waste from landfills and oceans.



SITE FURNITURE

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Banner Arms

Banner arms are a safe and easy way to create a 'Main Street' identity, and can be tailored year after year to meet the community needs.



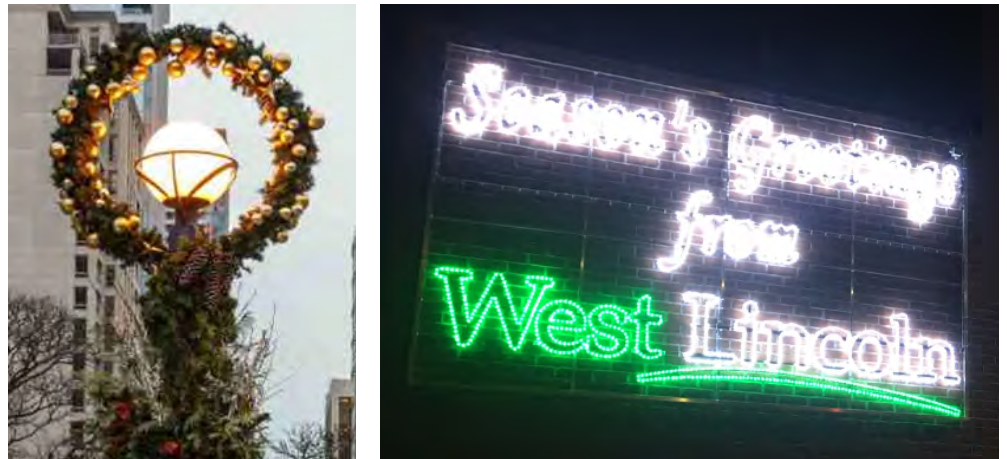
Gateway or Prominent Place Features

These features can help to create community identity, and establish a sense of arrival at a community or landmark.



Seasonal or Festive Decorations

This includes pole mounted wreaths, lights, bows, etc., as well as string lights, accent lighting, or audio and visual projection.



PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Decorative Street Name Blade and Plates

Create community or neighbourhood identity with decorative blades and plates.



Information Kiosks, Wayfinding, and Interpretive Signs

Connect your community with kiosks that allow citizens to stay up to date with activities and events, or share history or information with interpretive signs



COMMUNITY IDENTITY

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

School Active Transportation Initiatives

This includes walking audits, walking promotion, wayfinding, and the addressing of immediate barriers to walking or cycling to and from school.



Anti-Graffiti Wraps and Coatings

Encourage less 'tagging' on municipal infrastructure. Wraps may be used on infrastructure, and coatings can be used to protect surfaces or permitted artwork..



COMMUNITY IDENTITY

PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM

Public Art

Create community or neighbourhood identity with decorative blades and plates.



COMMUNITY
IDENTITY

2019 PUBLIC REALM INVESTMENT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Municipality:		Project Location or Address:	
Project Name:			Submission Date:
Estimated Total Project Value:	Requested Regional Contribution Amount*:	Estimated Construction Start Date:	Estimated Construction Completion Date:

Project Description

*Describe the project, and how it contributes to the enhancement of the public realm.
See Part C - Evaluation Criteria (Step2) to aid in demonstrating the value of this project.*

Application Check List

Attach additional documentation to the application form separately

<input type="checkbox"/> Itemized Cost Breakdown	<input type="checkbox"/> Project Dates and/or Milestones	<input type="checkbox"/> Detailed/Tender Ready Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/> Current Condition Photos (.jpg or .tif)
<input type="checkbox"/> We acknowledge that if this application is approved, the municipality will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the works under the application.			
<input type="checkbox"/> We acknowledge that if this application is approved, the Regional Funding Contribution commitment expires at the end of the year following the approval.			
<input type="checkbox"/> We commit to provide a <u>Project Completion Report</u> which is to include a final project cost, project date of completion, copies of invoices paid with funding of this program, digital photographs of completed work.			

Municipal Project Lead	Municipal Head of Public Works
Name:	Name:
Signature:	Signature:

*Regional Funding Contribution is limited to matching contributions made by the municipality, up to the approved funding amount. Excludes other funding sources or amounts.

2019 PRIP PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Municipality:	Project Location or Address:	
Project Name:		Date Submitted:
Original Project Cost:	Actual Project Cost:	
Regional Funding Contribution*:	Municipal Funding Contribution:	
Identify other Funding Sources and Amounts:		
Project Construction Start Date:	Substantial Completion Date:	

Project Performance:

Describe the final project and items included (refer to Part C - Regional Contribution Funding (Step 3) to aid in completing this section).

Hardscape Materials and Treatments; Facilities that Promote Complete Streets; Road Crossing Facilities; Street Furniture; Landscaping; Community Identity, etc.

Supporting Documentation:

Attach additional documentation to the Project Completion form separately

<input type="checkbox"/> Itemized Cost Breakdown	<input type="checkbox"/> Project Dates and/or Milestones	<input type="checkbox"/> Tender/As Built Drawings	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-Construction Photos (.jpg or .tif)
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Qualitative Feedback from Project Stakeholders (property owners, businesses, visitors, tourists, patrons):

Municipal Project Lead:		Municipal Head of Public Works:	
Name:		Name:	
Signature:		Signature:	

*Regional Funding Contribution is limited to matching contributions made by the municipality, up to the approved funding amount. Excludes other funding sources or amounts.