



making our mark

**NIAGARA**  
OFFICIAL PLAN

PDS 10–2019

# Update on Natural Environment Work Program

February 20, 2019 – Presentation to Planning and Economic  
Development Committee



# Background

- **PDS 41-2017** outlined the 8 major background studies required to support the New Regional Official Plan
- **PDS 6-2018** was the project initiation report and sought direction for preliminary consultation
- **PDS 18-2018** was the project framework report



# Drivers for Natural Environment Work Program

- Conformity with Provincial requirements
- Need to develop new natural system(s) and policies to address concerns from a range of stakeholders and other users:
  - Feedback has been that existing policies are out-of-date and difficult to use.  
Mapping also requires review and update
- Need to have a system that considers, and is compatible with agriculture and other land uses



# Scope for Natural Environment Work Program

In-Scope	Out-of-Scope*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Natural Heritage Features</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodlands, wetlands, habitat, habitat of endangered and threatened species, fish habitat, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Hydrologic Features</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streams, seepage areas, wetlands, etc.</li> <li>• Region's watercourse identification and mapping project</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Water Resource Systems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groundwater systems</li> <li>• Surface water systems</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Natural Hazards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flooding hazards, erosion hazards, and dynamic beach hazards, etc.</li> <li>• Wildland fires as per Section 3.1.8 of the PPS</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Provincial Natural Heritage Systems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenbelt Natural Heritage System and Urban River Valley designation</li> <li>• Growth Plan Natural Heritage System</li> <li>• Niagara Escarpment Plan as it relates to the municipal planning process</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Watershed Planning &amp; Stormwater Management</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggregates &amp; Petroleum Resources</li> <li>• Source Water Protection</li> </ul>

\*Official Plan policy development for out-of-scope items to be addressed separately



# Project Overview – Natural Environment

Project Phase	Activities
1	Project Initiation and Procurement <i>[Complete]</i>
2	Background Study and Discussion Papers for Mapping and Watershed Planning Priority Areas <i>[Ongoing]</i>
3	1 <sup>st</sup> Point of Engagement: Inform on Background Study
4	Develop Options for Natural System(s)
5	2 <sup>nd</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Point of Engagement: Draft OP Policies and Schedules
9	Other Implementation Tools



# Key Issues to be Addressed

- The scale and methodology that natural environment features and systems are mapped by the Region
- A framework for watershed planning in the Region
- Offsetting, compensation, mitigation, vegetation protection zones, and buffers
- Woodlands, shorelines, invasive species, and climate change





## Progress to Date

- Consulting team has been retained
- Technical Advisory Group (TAG) has been formed and engagement has begun
- Meetings with mapping working group in support of high-priority Mapping Discussion Paper



# Next Steps

- Complete the high-priority Mapping and Watershed Planning Discussion Papers and Comprehensive Background Study
- 1<sup>st</sup> major point of engagement - focusing on education and sharing information:
  - Stakeholders
  - Planning Advisory Committee (PAC)
  - Public
  - Local Councils
  - Planning and Economic Development Committee

