



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



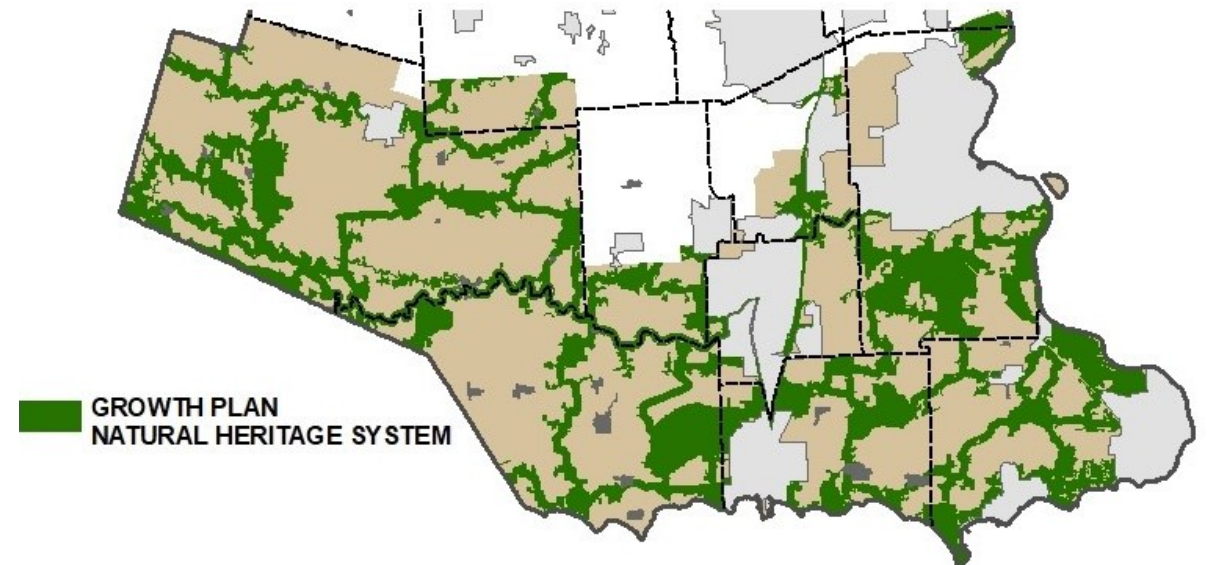
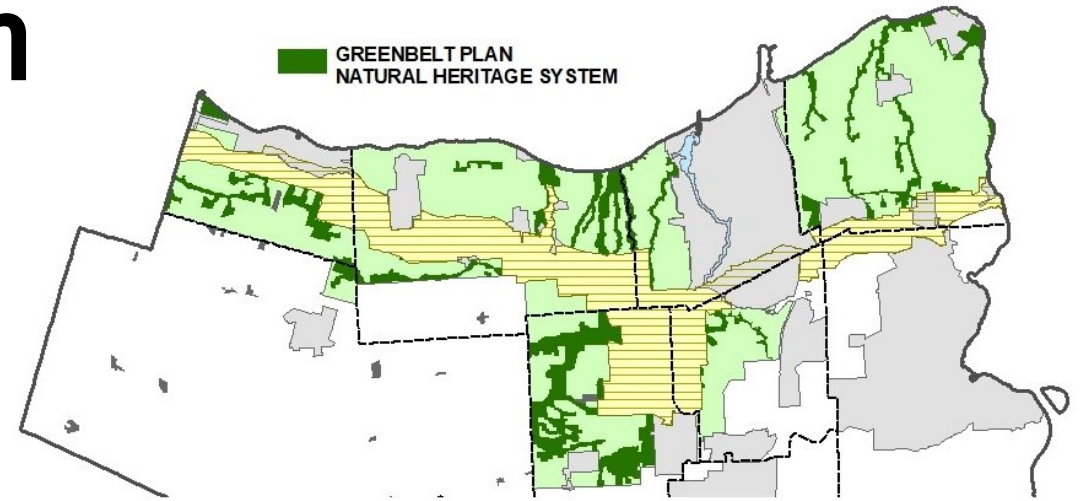
Natural Environment Background Study – Key Topics

- 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

