

Report To:	Regional Chair and Members of Regional Council
From:	Mark G. Meneray, Commissioner, Legislative and Planning Services and Corporate Counsel
Date:	February 26, 2014
Report No. - Re:	LPS23-14 - Growing the Greenbelt - Town of Oakville

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Regional Municipality of Halton support the request by the Town of Oakville to grow the Greenbelt and that Report No. LPS23-14 re: “Growing the Greenbelt – Town of Oakville” be endorsed by Regional Council.
2. THAT the Region formally request the Province to include the lands shown on Attachment “2” to this Report within the Greenbelt.
3. THAT the Regional Clerk forward a copy of Report No. LPS23-14 to the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the City of Burlington, the Towns of Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville and Conservation Halton for their information.

REPORT

Executive Summary

- The Town and the Region completed a Grow the Greenbelt exercise in 2012. The conclusion at that time was that in order to grow the Greenbelt in an urban context, the creation of an urban Greenbelt policy by the Province was necessary.
- In 2013, the Province introduced Amendment 1 to the Greenbelt Plan, and through this amendment, an urban river valley policy framework now exists. The amendment also brought the Glenorchy area into the Greenbelt Plan.
- Town of Oakville Council has endorsed a resolution on February 10th requesting Halton Region’s support to grow the Greenbelt on public lands in the 14 Mile Creek area, in accordance with the Greenbelt urban river valley policy and corresponding with the Region’s Natural Heritage System.

Background

The Town of Oakville and the Region completed a study in 2012, which considered growing the Greenbelt within the Urban Area. The conclusion of that study indicated that the Greenbelt plan lacked policies with the urban area which staff believe are required to provide the necessary level of policy direction that already exists within the Regional and Local Official Plans.

In 2013, the Province through Amendment 1 to the Greenbelt Plan introduced a new Urban River Valley policy framework. This new policy framework provides criteria for the designation, goals and policies of the Greenbelt within the urban area and gives recognition to the environmental objectives of the Regional and Local Official Plans. As Council is aware, the Regional Official Plan has now received approval and has established the Regional Natural Heritage System as an integral component of the Urban Area.

Discussion

The Town of Oakville has requested that the Region (Attachment #1) endorse the addition of publicly-owned lands with an Urban River Valley designation to the Greenbelt Plan, being comprised of Natural Heritage lands, as well as publicly-owned Valley Lands and Town parks (Attachment #2), located south of Upper Middle Road to the QEW. The Town has also requested that the Region formally request the Province to include these lands within the Greenbelt Plan. If necessary, and in order to ensure the full protection of the lands to be designated Urban River Valley, the Province will also be requested to remove the Parkway Belt Plan from these public lands.

The request by the Town of Oakville is in keeping with the goals and objectives of the Natural Heritage System established in the Regional Official Plan and the policies related to the Urban River Valley designation in the Greenbelt Plan.

FINANCIAL/PROGRAM IMPLICATIONS

No financial implications.

RELATIONSHIP TO HALTON REGION'S 2011-2014 ACTION PLAN

Key Action

Develop a program to maintain and enhance the Natural Heritage System.

Key Initiative

Use a systems approach to map and monitor the Region's Natural Heritage features and functions.

Priority Area

Defining and Preserving Natural Heritage.

Respectfully submitted,



Ron Glenn
Director, Planning Services and
Planning Official



Mark G. Meneray
Commissioner, Legislative & Planning
Services and Corporate Counsel

Approved by



Jane MacCaskill
Chief Administrative Officer

If you have any questions on the content of this report,
please contact:

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Attachments: #1 – Disposition – Oakville Special Council
#2 – Map - Proposed Greenbelt