

PART B GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

INTRODUCTION

The Goals and Objectives contained in this Plan are in part Oakville's response to and implementation of Regional Goals and Objectives. It is recognized in the Regional Plan that the Oakville Official Plan will deal with local matters in a more comprehensive manner, and that the Regional Plan is directed towards broad strategic matters primarily of Regional concern.

1 MUNICIPAL STRUCTURE

Goals

- To preserve the identity, character, and environment of Oakville.
- To adopt an ecosystem approach to urban and rural land use.

Objectives

- To protect the natural environment and to promote a visual appearance in the built environment in sympathy with the natural landscape.
- To protect rural areas from premature urbanization and safeguard their farming capability.
- To preserve the identity and character of Oakville's family of existing and new communities.
- To enhance the adequate interaction between communities and business centres within the Town by overcoming the natural barriers and the man-made barriers.
- To maintain the viability of the Central Business District and allow for new opportunities for business growth by the establishment of a new Uptown Business Core.
- To develop centres of retail, service, social, and educational facilities as a focus for each community.
- To provide for the physical interaction between communities and the interconnection of employment, shopping, and cultural facilities.
- To maintain distinctive and clearly defined municipal boundaries.

- To encourage land use development practices which result in efficient, economically viable, sustainable and environmentally sound land use settlement patterns.
- To implement an ecosystem approach to planning and development which minimizes the disruption of natural resources while ensuring the long-term health of the natural, social and economic systems which meets the needs of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

2 POPULATION AND HOUSING

Goal

- To continue to support the provision of a full range of housing in Oakville that is consistent with the existing community character and the demands of future demographic trends and individual accommodation preferences.

Objectives

- To provide for housing that is affordable to the households of Oakville.
- To provide access to housing for traditional households as well as special needs households.
- To establish and monitor an overall housing mix for the Town.
- To ensure that a full range of housing types, lot sizes, and types of tenure are available to meet anticipated housing demands.
- To facilitate the provision of private and public housing which qualifies for financial assistance from other levels of government, where considered advantageous to the Town of Oakville.
- To ensure that the existing housing stock is maintained at an acceptable level of quality.
- To ensure that new residential development is generally compatible with adjacent existing development patterns and designed to maximize its compatibility with other land uses.

3 EMPLOYMENT

Goal

- To provide a balance of job opportunities for the existing and future resident labour force of Oakville.

Objectives

- To encourage a diversification of employment opportunities.
- To encourage an expansion of equal employment opportunities for the resident labour force.
- To plan for the adequate provision of properly located serviced land for the Town's employment needs.
- To work with the Region of Halton in promoting the business opportunities in Oakville to potential investors.
- To ensure that the impact of the new industrial/office park development on adjacent residential development is minimized.

4 PHASING

Goal

- To phase development thereby creating a compact, orderly, urban form.

Objectives

- To encourage growth in industrial and commercial assessment so as to maintain a desirable ratio of such assessment to residential assessment, and so as to maintain an acceptable tax burden for the citizens of Oakville.
- To ensure that new communities are developed with regard to timing of development, logical geographical sequence, and land use balance.
- To minimize the time that each individual community is only partially supplied with a full range of urban services.
- To provide an urban form that is consistent with energy and resource conservation.

- To avoid indiscriminate rural residential development.
- To provide for the efficient and economic use of the existing urban infrastructure.

5 FINANCE

Goal

- To ensure that the costs of new development are equitably distributed.

Objectives

- To control the rate and mix of growth so that municipal costs are maintained within acceptable limits.
- To coordinate planning and budgeting of capital works.
- To generally ensure that the costs of facilities required for new development do not unfairly burden existing residents.
- To locate new development with a view to minimizing servicing costs.
- To strive for an assessment ratio of 60% residential and 40% commercial/industrial.

6 URBAN AESTHETICS

Goal

- To encourage excellence in building and landscape design in sympathy with the distinct character of existing communities and with the natural features of the landscape.

Objectives

- To exercise development control to achieve a consistently high standard of building design, siting, massing, and landscaping.
- To control and regulate building and site design so as to avoid conflicts with adjoining uses.
- To provide a policy guide for the Town's Site Plan Control process.

7 HERITAGE RESOURCE CONSERVATION

Goal

- To preserve the heritage of such resources as archaeological sites, buildings, and structures of historic and/or architectural significance, value, or interest.

Objectives

- To encourage growth and development patterns which promote the protection and sympathetic treatment and use of heritage resources.
- To ensure that all avenues for the conservation of a heritage resource be explored.
- To integrate structures of historic and/or architectural significance into development proposals where appropriate.

8 GREENLANDS

Goals

- To create a greenlands system of parkland, open spaces and natural areas which preserves the integrity of the natural environment, enhances urban form, improves the quality of life and provides for a diversity of recreational opportunities while minimizing disruption of natural features.
- To provide opportunities for a diversity of active and passive recreational pursuits that acknowledge a diversity of ages, cultures and abilities.
- To facilitate access to publicly-owned parks and recreational facilities for individuals of varying ages and recreational abilities.
- To improve the quality of the natural environment by taking proactive measures to protect and enhance the quality and integrity of ecosystems, and natural processes including air, water, land, and biota; and, where quality and integrity have been diminished, to promote the restoration or remediation to healthy conditions where appropriate.

- To promote ecosystem health which requires the protection, maintenance, restoration and enhancement of natural ecological processes, native species, significant natural features, biological diversity, wildlife habitat and protection of irreplaceable natural resources.
- To identify areas of constraints to development such as flooding and slope instability.
- To adopt the principles of clean, green, usable, diverse, open, accessible, connected, affordable and attractive with respect to development along the Oakville Waterfront as identified by the Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront (Final Report, 1992).
- To recognize the waterfront as a valuable public asset.

Objectives

Parkland

- To create a system of municipal parks and open spaces that provides a continuous network of lands to link, as much as practical, natural areas, regional and provincial open space systems and the waterfront.
- To provide for the establishment of a comprehensive trails and cycleways system.
- To establish a hierarchy of parks which provide a range of uses and facilities appropriate for each park category.
- To promote the development of integrated sports complexes such as sport fields, arenas, gyms, community centres, and pools located close to shopping, transit and other suitable areas that may form community centres or activity nodes.
- To provide for passive as well as active recreational opportunities.

Natural Areas

- To identify and protect areas that have a high natural value; perform important ecological functions; have high biological value; contribute to ecosystem linkages; provide significant wildlife habitat; or represent the range of natural landscape types that characterize the Town of Oakville.
- To reduce or eliminate adverse impacts to existing natural features due to day-to-day human activities where appropriate.

- To rehabilitate natural features that have become degraded by urban influences in order to sustain a diversity of native plant and wildlife species.
- To identify opportunities for restoration of natural conditions in areas that have not been maintained in a natural condition such as valleylands, parkland adjacent to natural features and natural corridors and greenways, and to encourage the naturalization of these areas.
- To identify appropriate land use controls, including prohibition of new development, and effective mitigating measures as a requirement for development within areas prone to flooding and erosion.
- To recognize the policies and guidelines of regional, provincial and federal agencies with respect to natural features including provincially and regionally significant wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI), regionally significant Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA), woodlands, natural corridors, wildlife habitat, Flood Plains, and hazard lands.
- To protect the long-term ecological integrity of wetlands, Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, wildlife habitat, ravines, woodlands and watercourses and other natural areas from adjoining incompatible uses.
- To identify and assess the value of natural area linkages taking into account their inter-dependency with natural areas; the ecological function and role they perform in providing wildlife habitat and species diversity; and their potential role in a greenways system.
- To develop policies for the acquisition of significant natural features.
- To promote opportunities for scientific, recreational and educational use of natural features in a manner that does not diminish or impair ecological integrity.

Waterfront

- To increase recreational opportunities at the Lake Ontario waterfront.
- To increase public access to and views of the lake.
- To maintain and enhance the natural character of the shoreline.
- To maintain the long-term integrity of shorelines through the preservation and restoration of natural shoreline features and shoreline processes and enhance fish and wildlife habitat along the waterfront.

- To continue to acquire waterfront parkland.

9 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Goals

- To promote an attitude of environmental responsibility and leadership of environmental protection within the Town of Oakville.
- To reduce the risk associated with the contamination of water and land through its role as a development approval agency.
- To develop mechanisms to prevent, minimize or mitigate adverse effects of development on the environment by promoting energy conservation, stormwater management, carbon dioxide emission control, other hazardous gaseous emissions control, and waste management.
- To promote energy conservation and efficiency in the Town through built form, urban design and building standards.
- To identify various constraints to development such as noise and to identify effective mitigating measures as a requirement for development.
- To preserve and enhance the level and quality of tree cover within developed areas of the Town and optimize the use of native species in order to develop a healthy urban forest.
- To maintain the natural drainage system in Oakville, the natural base flow of major watercourses and the quality of ground and surface water systems.
- To meet or exceed the Province's waste diversion/reduction targets.
- To support the concept of water conservation.

Objectives

Environmental Stewardship

- During development, ensure that opportunity is taken to maintain the quality of air, land, water, and biota; maintain the biodiversity

compatible with indigenous natural systems; and maintain the integrity of ecosystem linkages.

- To provide a role model to business and individuals in Oakville by adopting and promoting environmentally responsible practices in all municipal departments.
- To encourage private stewardship of natural features by private individuals and landowners.
- To implement sustainable environmental management practices for municipal operations.

Contaminated Soils

- To ensure that development takes place on sites that are safe from soil contamination.
- To ensure that decommissioning and cleanup of contaminated sites is completed in an environmentally acceptable manner.
- To ensure that the placement of fill or excavated materials on land or in Lake Ontario does not contribute to soil or water contamination.
- To develop municipal operating guidelines for the handling of potentially contaminating substances and to develop contingency measures in case of a spill.

Urban Forests

- To develop an Urban Forestry Green Plan which will promote reforestation and replacement of Oakville's aging urban forest.
- To increase the amount of urban forest on road rights-of-way.
- To promote the use of native plant species on municipal-owned and managed properties and as street plantings.
- To encourage land developers, businesses and individuals to maintain and preserve native tree species.
- To encourage naturalization throughout the Town.

Air Quality

- To enhance air quality in the Town by reducing air pollution.
- To promote and encourage the use of public transit, car pooling and other means of transportation to reduce vehicular emissions of carbon dioxide.

- To promote and encourage the planting of trees as a means of reducing carbon dioxide.
- To cooperate with Halton Region and the Ministry of Environment and Energy in setting targets for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions and other hazardous gaseous emissions.
- To regulate land uses which may produce inappropriate air borne emissions containing particulate or odours that may have a negative effect on adjacent uses.

Water Quality and Quantity

- To preserve, maintain and enhance watercourses in their natural state where appropriate.
- To maintain and protect the quality of ground water.
- To identify ground water recharge and discharge areas.
- To encourage on-site infiltration in order to minimize surface water run-off, to mitigate the reduction in ground water recharge from increased hard surfaces; and to maintain surface water quality within provincial guidelines.
- To continue to cooperate with the Conservation Authorities in developing procedures for watershed and sub-watershed studies.
- To promote household water conservation and promote household initiatives which contribute to water quality in cooperation with Halton Region and the Conservation Authorities.

Waste Management

- To encourage and promote composting by all households.
- To encourage residents, businesses and institutions to increase their reduction, reuse and recycling of waste materials.
- To work with the Region of Halton to develop measures and procedures to reduce organic, construction and hazardous wastes going to the landfill and encourage senior governments to approve legislation on reduced product packaging.

Energy Conservation

- To encourage, where appropriate, building design and orientation to be energy efficient.
- To encourage urban forms and community design which decreases dependence on private automobiles and increases opportunities for

public transit, pedestrian walkways, and cycleways.

- To encourage and support initiatives for increased GO train service and other inter-municipal transportation linkages.
- To promote and encourage the planting of trees for shade to reduce energy consumption.
- To promote and encourage the use of non-auto travel and car pooling.

Noise

- To encourage appropriate industries and other high noise generating uses to locate in non-noise sensitive areas while discouraging residential and other sensitive land uses from locating near such areas.
- Residential development adjacent to provincial highways, arterial roads and railroads shall have regard for noise reduction measures

10 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Goal

- To enhance the quality of life for all residents of Oakville by ensuring that adequate consideration of social needs is an integral part of the planning process.

Objectives

- To ensure that adequate land is available for community service facilities.
- To ensure that planning for community services is given adequate consideration in the growth of Oakville.

11 TRANSPORTATION

Goals

- To develop a transportation system that promotes the safe, efficient, and convenient movement of people and goods.
- To recognize cycling as a viable alternative to other modes of transportation, and to encourage cycling as an alternative means of commuting as well as for leisure and recreational purposes.

Objectives

- To provide accessibility to all major areas of employment, commerce, shopping, recreation, and institutional activity.
- To provide a transportation system which encourages convenience movement within the Town as well as providing external linkages with the overall Regional and Provincial transportation system.
- To provide a transportation system which is compatible with its surrounding man-made and natural environment.
- To provide a transportation system and land use pattern which can be easily and economically serviced by public transit.
- To guide development and transportation services so that energy consumption is held to a minimum.
- To provide an efficient system of pathways for pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles.
- To provide a public transit system with services to special groups.
- To develop a safe, convenient and efficient network of bicycle paths linking all communities of the Town as well as linking neighbouring municipalities.
- To ensure provision is made where appropriate for adequate facilities for bicycle parking in new developments.

12 AGRICULTURE

Goal

- To maintain a permanent reserve of agricultural land in Oakville for the period of this Plan.

Objectives

- To preserve prime agricultural soils.
- To protect farmland from activities and land uses which could limit productivity or efficiency.

- To reduce the fragmentation of agricultural lands especially by non-agricultural uses.

13 COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

Goal

- To encourage improvement and rehabilitation of older areas of the community in a coordinated manner.

Objectives

- To ensure that private investment and public expenditures are considered within the context of an overall improvement plan.
- To coordinate the application of municipal by-laws and planning policies to achieve a comprehensive result.
- To improve the property and business tax base in commercial areas by upgrading the urban infrastructure and stimulating private investment.