



## **OFFICIAL PLAN SEPTEMBER 2024 CONSOLIDATION**

This document is an office consolidation of the Township of Wilmot Official Plan as updated by Official Plan Amendment 9 and further amended by Official Plan Amendments 10, 11 and 12.

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## **TOWNSHIP OF WILMOT OFFICIAL PLAN**

The Council of the Township of Wilmot adopted the Township of Wilmot Official Plan on July 21, 2003 by By-law 2003-44.

On July 7, 2004, the Township of Wilmot Official Plan was approved with modifications by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo in accordance with Section 17(34) of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter p. 13, as amended and came into effect on August 5, 2004.

On December 11, 2017 the Council of the Township of Wilmot adopted Official Plan Amendment Number 9 to the Township of Wilmot Official Plan by By-law 2017-54. This amendment included, updated and/or replaced the 2004 approval along with any and all amendments thereto.

On March 29, 2019, Official Plan Amendment Number 9 to the Township of Wilmot Official plan was approved with modifications by the Regional Municipality of Waterloo in accordance with Sections 17, 21 and 26 of the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter p. 13, as amended.

This September 2024 consolidation of the Township Official Plan incorporates:

1. all modifications of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approved on March 29, 2019 and having come into effect on April 19, 2019;
2. Official Plan Amendment 10 approved by the OLT on November 9, 2021 and having come into effect on December 21, 2024;
3. Official Plan Amendment 11 approved by the Region of Waterloo on April 26, 2023 and having come into effect on May 17, 2023; and
4. Official Plan Amendment 12 approved by the Region of Waterloo on April 10, 2024 and having come into effect on May 1, 2024.

As part of its March 29, 2019 decision, the Region of Waterloo deferred certain parts of the Township Official Plan for further consideration. The areas of the Township Official Plan for which no decision has been made are as follows:

**Deferral No. 1:** Policy 3.2.1 (Agricultural System).

**Deferral No. 2:** Policies 7.1.2.2, 7.1.2.3, 7.2.4.1 only insofar as it relates to the words “or to increase the depth of extraction”.

**Deferral No. 3:** Policies 7.2.3, 7.2.5.2, 7.2.5.4, and 7.4.2.

**Deferral No. 4:** Policy 7.2.1 only insofar as it relates to the last sentence and Policy 7.2.4.1 only insofar as it relates to the words “or increase the depth of extraction”.

**Deferral No. 5:** Policy 7.4.1 only insofar as it relates to the words “including the requirement for an amendment to this Plan and the Regional Official Plan in accordance with Policy 7.2.3”.

**Deferral No. 6:** Map 10 as it applies to the Rural Areas Designation.

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## CHAPTER 1: PLAN FRAMEWORK

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Township of Wilmot is one of seven Area Municipalities that comprise the Regional Municipality of Waterloo as shown on Map 1. While predominantly rural in character, the Township's 26,590 hectares also embrace a variety of urban communities, including the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas and twelve Rural Settlement Areas located throughout the surrounding Countryside.

The township also contains an abundance of *environmental features* that form part of a broader Greenlands Network described in the Regional Official Plan. The Greenlands Network, which consists of *woodlands, wetlands*, the Nith River and several other natural areas, provides a range of habitats while supporting the environmental health of the township.

In addition, the township also includes a diverse range of natural resources, including productive farm lands, rich groundwater resources and significant *mineral aggregate resources* that support agriculture, tourism, recreation and aggregate extraction uses. These valuable renewable and non-renewable resources are essential for the long-term economic prosperity and quality of life of the township.

### 1.2 PURPOSE

This document consisting of text and maps constitutes the Official Plan for the Township of Wilmot.

The Official Plan outlines Council's long-term policy direction to guide future development within the Township. This Plan has been prepared and enacted in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Planning Act.

The Plan establishes the direction for development initiated by both the public and private sectors. The land use strategies and policies of this Plan are the tools that allow the Township to manage change towards a desired future. To be effective, it is incumbent on Township Council to ensure that development proceeds in accordance with the objectives of this Plan. It is intended that this Plan will ensure that adequate public services are available for the health, safety and convenience of the residents of the Township and will encourage the development of a desirable community.

Planning a community is an ongoing process. Objectives and policies must be subject to periodic review to make the Plan an effective and meaningful instrument. Consistent with the requirements of the Planning Act, Council shall review and revise this Official Plan as required under the Planning Act to ensure it conforms with the Regional Official Plan and any Provincial Plans, and that it is consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement.

Although the policies adopted are to guide changes in the physical structure of the Township, such changes should be in harmony with social needs, economic needs, municipal financial capabilities, environmental considerations and the management of natural resources. The Official Plan, therefore, contains much more than a set of land use controls.

The main purposes of the Plan are to:

- i) provide a formal statement of the Township's intentions relating to growth management until the year 2031 and beyond;
- ii) establish a policy framework for maintaining and enhancing the township's valuable agricultural, environmental, natural and *cultural heritage resources* while promoting the development of a *liveable* and *sustainable* community with a strong economy;
- iii) provide a legal framework to guide public and private decisions relating to the development and the provision of roads, watermains, sewers, *public service facilities* and other services within the Township;
- iv) reflect local initiatives and circumstances unique to Wilmot Township as a whole and of specific areas within the Township in particular;
- v) provide a policy framework for establishing zoning by-laws to set Township regulations and standards; and
- vi) build on and implement the policies of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and the Province of Ontario, including the Regional Official Plan, the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, and the Provincial Policy Statement.

### 1.3 REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Land use planning in the township is guided and implemented through a hierarchy of Regional, provincial and Township planning documents. Collectively, these documents provide a framework for comprehensive, long-term planning that supports the creation of *sustainable* communities with a high quality of life. The general purpose of each of the documents and how they influence planning in the township are described below:

1. **The Regional Official Plan** – this document is the Official Plan for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo. It was adopted by Regional Council on June 16, 2009 and subsequently approved, with modifications, by the Ontario Municipal Board on June 18, 2015. The Regional Official Plan establishes the overall policy framework for planning within the region and therefore plays a significant role in shaping the township. It allocates future population and employment growth to the township, determines the *reurbanization* target and the density targets for the Designated



Greenfield Areas set out in this Plan, and plays a critical role in coordinating infrastructure investments and other matters while allowing for effective local decision-making. The Regional Official Plan also ensures that provincial interests in planning matters, as expressed in the Provincial Policy Statement and the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, are appropriately addressed. Interpretation of the policies in the Regional Official Plan is the responsibility of Regional Council.

2. **Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan)** – In May 2017, the Ontario government released a new Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (Growth Plan) that came into effect on July 1, 2017. The new Growth Plan provides a long-term framework for where and how municipalities including Wilmot Township will grow to 2041. It seeks to curb sprawl, protect the natural environment and support economic development by ensuring that land is available to accommodate forecasted population and employment growth when needed, now and in the future. The new Growth Plan replaced the former Growth Plan that initially took effect in June 2006.

The Growth Plan is intended to guide decisions on a wide range of matters, such as transportation, infrastructure planning, land use planning, urban form, housing, natural heritage and resource protection, in the interest of better managing growth while promoting economic prosperity. Any planning decision of Township Council must conform to the Growth Plan as implemented through the Regional Official Plan.

3. **Provincial Policy Statement** – this document was issued under Section 3 of the Planning Act and came into effect April 30, 2014. It provides overall policy direction on matters of provincial interest related to land use planning and development in Ontario. In particular, it contains a set of policies that support appropriate development while protecting natural resources, public health and safety, and the quality of the natural environment. The policies of the Provincial Policy Statement are to be read in conjunction with the Growth Plan. Under the Planning Act, any planning decision of Township Council must be consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement.
4. **Township of Wilmot Official Plan** - this Plan functions as a link between the policies of the Regional Official Plan, the Growth Plan, the Provincial Policy Statement and the municipal objectives of the Township. This Plan provides policies to guide both development and infrastructure investment within the Township. In accordance with Section 27 of the Planning Act, this Plan must conform with the Regional Official Plan, however, the policies in this Plan may be more restrictive on the same subject, but may not be more permissive than the policy direction established by the Regional Official Plan. Interpretation of the policies in this Plan is the responsibility of Township Council.

5. **Township Zoning By-laws** – Township zoning by-laws are adopted in accordance with Section 34 of the Planning Act. These by-laws are used to implement the policies of this Plan and provide standards for individual developments within the broader planning context. Under the Planning Act, any zoning by-laws adopted by Township Council must conform to the policies of this Plan.

#### 1.4 OTHER STATUTORY APPROVALS

In situations where statutory approvals may be required under provincial legislation other than the Planning Act (e.g., Ontario Water Resources Act, Environmental Protection Act, Conservation Authorities Act, etc.), consultations directly with the responsible Ministry to determine any necessary requirements and/or conditions are encouraged. Compliance with such conditions, however, does not mean acceptance or approval of a land use issue governed by this Official Plan. All applicable policies and/or tests of this Plan must be met.

The Planning Act further provides that where an Official Plan is in effect, no public work shall be undertaken and no by-law passed for any purpose unless it is in conformity with the Official Plan.

The Township will, wherever feasible, fulfill the requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act and other associated Planning Act processes concurrent with the processing of *development applications* to avoid delays in development approvals.

#### 1.5 GENERAL INTERPRETATION

The following section is intended to assist the reader in the general interpretation of this Plan. Chapter 10 sets out the detailed provisions on how the policies of this Plan are to be interpreted and implemented.

This Plan, including the introductory text, goals, policies, definitions and schedules, is intended to be read in its entirety, and all relevant policies are to be applied to each situation. Where the terms “Township” or “Region” are capitalized, they refer to the Corporations of the Township of Wilmot or the Regional Municipality of Waterloo respectively. Where the terms “township” or “region” are used in lowercase letters, they refer to the geographic area comprising the Township of Wilmot or the Regional Municipality of Waterloo respectively.

Policies in this Plan that use the word “will” or “shall” express a mandatory course of action. Where the words “encourage” or “may” are used, it indicates that the Township requires consideration be given to the policy, but not necessarily compliance in all instances. Such policies are intended to provide direction and support for achieving the overall goals of this Plan. Italicized terms in this Plan are defined in the Glossary. Defined terms are intended to capture both the singular and plural of forms of these terms. For undefined terms, the normal meaning of the word applies

## 1.6 GOALS

The Official Plan for the Township of Wilmot is a statement of planning policies intended to guide future physical, social and economic development within the Township. The goals of the Plan are described below.

### I. Agriculture

To preserve and protect a vital rural/agricultural area in the Township of Wilmot not only for the production of food and other products, but also as an important component of the Township's economic base, a source of employment and as a basis for the Township's rural community.

### II. Settlements

To foster the development of compact, vibrant and *complete communities* that provide for a range of accessible and *affordable* housing appropriate to the needs of residents while minimizing the costs of providing the requisite services.

### III. Environment

To maintain, enhance or wherever feasible restore the quality of the environment and the long-term health of the ecosystems represented in the Township while providing for the changing needs of the population. All other goals should attempt to satisfy the requirements of the environmental goal so as to improve the quality of life for residents.

### IV. Transportation

To promote the continued development and coordination of an integrated transportation network that is safe, efficient, environmentally sensitive, and which balances the needs of cyclists, *pedestrians*, motor vehicles and rail users.

### V. Services

To provide and maintain a high level of municipal services for the various areas of the Township in accordance with economic, social, and environmental considerations.

### VI. Natural Resources

To recognize and optimize the use of the Township's natural resources through management based on sound economic, social and environmental guidelines.

**VII. Cultural Heritage Resources**

To protect, *conserve* or wherever feasible, rehabilitate and/or reuse the *cultural heritage resources* of the township.

**VIII. Community Improvement**

To promote the coordinated implementation of community improvement by way of the maintenance, rehabilitation, and redevelopment of the physical environment in a coordinated and fiscally prudent manner.

**IX. Economic Development & Financial Stability**

To promote the development of the Township’s economic potential by ensuring the continued expansion of economic opportunities and diversification of the economic base, in accordance with the policies of this Plan.

**X. Employment Activities**

To provide for a broad range of commercial and employment activities and services to meet the diverse needs of the township’s residents, businesses and institutions, as well as those from the surrounding areas, and to generate employment opportunities within a strong commercial structure focused on the Township’s Urban Growth Centre, New Hamburg Core Area and other appropriately located *major retail* and industrial areas.

**XI. Parkland, Open Space & Recreation**

To provide for recreation needs by maximizing recreation opportunities on existing and future open space areas and recreational facilities, while planning and implementing for an integrated parkland and trail system to meet the present and future need of the Township's residents.

**XII. Countryside Areas**

To maintain distinct boundaries between the Township’s urban areas and the surrounding Countryside as well as neighbouring municipalities.

**XIII. Housing**

To provide for an appropriate range and mix of housing types, including *affordable housing*, to meet the diverse needs of existing and future residents.

**XIV. Accessibility for Persons with Disabilities**

To improve accessibility for persons with disabilities by identifying, preventing and removing land use barriers which restrict their full participation in society.

**XV. Energy Conservation, Air Quality and Climate Change**

To promote land use and development patterns that support energy conservation and efficiency, and support actions that improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and provide for adaptations to a changing climate, including through increasing resiliency.

**1.7 POPULATION AND EMPLOYMENT**

The Township population and employment forecasts contained in Table 1 of this Plan are taken from Regional forecasts contained in the Regional Official Plan. These population and employment forecasts will be used in all planning, *infrastructure* and *public service facilities*, and other studies undertaken by or for the Township. Longer term forecasts may be used if based on the Regional population and employment Forecast.

**Table 1: Population and Employment Forecast**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2031</b>
<b>Population</b>	17,700	28,500
<b>Employment</b>	6,730	10,000

Notes

1. Population figures in this table show “census-based population plus 4% under coverage.” As such, it does not include university and college students who temporarily reside in the township (either in student residences or other accommodation) to study at post-secondary institutions.
2. All population and employment in this table represent mid-year figures.
3. The above figures are intended to be forecasts. The amount or timing of development of lands within the Baden and New Hamburg Township Urban Areas is not to be restricted on the basis that the forecasts in Table 1 could be exceeded. This statement is not intended to restrict or otherwise prevent the Township from implementing staging/phasing policies for purposes unrelated to the forecasts in Table 1, consistent with the policies of this Plan.

## 1.8 HOUSING STRATEGY

1.8.1 As part of the next *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan, the Township will collaborate with the Region in the development and implementation of a Regional housing strategy that.

- a) supports the achievement of the minimum *reurbanization* and density targets in this Plan, as well as the other policies of this Plan by:
  - i) identifying a diverse range and mix of housing options and densities, including second units and *affordable housing* to meet projected needs of current and future residents; and
  - ii) establishing targets for *affordable housing*;
- b) identifies mechanisms, including the use of land use planning and financial tools, to support the implementation of Policy 1.8.1 a);
- c) aligns with applicable housing and homelessness plans required under the Housing Services Act, 2011; and
- d) will be implemented through this Plan's policies and designations and the Township's Zoning By-law.

1.8.2 Notwithstanding Policies 4.11 and 4.1.2 of this Plan, in participating in the development and implementation of the Region of Waterloo's housing strategy in accordance with Policy 1.8.1 of this Plan, the Township will support the achievement of *complete communities* by:

- a) planning to accommodate forecasted growth to the horizon of this Plan;
- b) planning to achieve the minimum *reurbanization* and density targets in this Plan;
- c) considering the range and mix of housing options and densities of the existing housing stock; and
- d) planning to diversify their overall housing stock across the Township.

1.8.3 To support the achievement of *complete communities*, the Township will consider the use of available tools to require that multi-unit residential developments incorporate a mix of unit sizes to accommodate a diverse range of household sizes and incomes.

1.8.4 The Township will maintain at all times where development is to occur, land with servicing capacity sufficient to provide at least a three-year supply of residential units. This supply will include, and may exclusively consist of, lands suitably zoned for *reurbanization* and/or in draft and registered plans.

1.8.5 When a Township Urban Area boundary has been expanded in the Township through a *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan, the Township will plan the new Designated Greenfield Area based on the housing strategy developed in accordance with Policies 1.8.1 and 1.8.2.

## 1.9 EMPLOYMENT STRATEGY

1.9.1 As part of the next *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan, the Township will collaborate with the Region in the development and implementation of a Regional employment strategy that:

- a) establishes a minimum density target for all *employment areas* in the Township, measured in jobs per hectare, that reflects the current and anticipated type and scale of employment that characterizes the *employment areas* and aligns with Policy 2.2.5.1 of the Growth Plan;
- b) identifies opportunities for the *reurbanization of employment areas* on sites in the Township that support active transportation and are served by existing or planned transit; and
- c) will be implemented in the Township and the Region as a whole, including through official plan policies and designations and zoning by-laws.

## **CHAPTER 2: PLANNED TOWNSHIP STRUCTURE**

This Plan supports the development of a Planned Township Structure consisting of three distinct areas as designated on Map 2.1. These areas include: 1) Urban Areas; 2) Rural Settlement Areas; and 3) the Countryside. The following section outlines the general land uses that will be permitted within each of these areas.

To guide the direction of future growth within the township, this Plan also delineates a Countryside Line around the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas as shown on Maps 2.1 and 10. The Countryside Line is intended to serve as a long-term boundary between the existing Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas and the Countryside.

### **2.1 URBAN AREAS**

2.1.1 The Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas are designated on Maps 2.1, 2.2, 4.1 and 4.2 of this Plan. This urban designation, which corresponds with the “Township Urban Areas” designation in the Regional Official Plan, will be planned to accommodate a broad range and mix of land uses and serve as the primary focus for population and employment growth in the Township to the year 2031. Future development within these urban areas will occur within the Designated Greenfield Area and in the *built-up area* through *reurbanization*. Specific policies relating to the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas are outlined in Section 2.5.

### **2.2 RURAL SETTLEMENT AREAS**

2.2.1 Rural Settlement Areas are designated on Maps 2.1 and 5.1 to 5.12 inclusive of this Plan. This urban designation identifies the township’s smaller settlement areas that generally comprise a limited mix of land uses serving primarily the local community. These rural communities are intended to provide opportunities for living and working in the Countryside, and also play a key role in the economic health of the township. Most of the township’s Rural Settlement Areas have historically been developed on private wells and individual wastewater services and will therefore experience limited growth and change in the future. Specific policies for the Rural Settlement Areas are set out in Section 2.6.

### **2.3 THE COUNTRYSIDE**

2.3.1 The Countryside is designated on Maps 2.1 and 10 and includes all of the rural and agricultural lands located outside of the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas and Rural Settlement Areas. This area also includes a broad band of *environmental features* and productive agricultural lands designated as the Protected Countryside. The Protected Countryside designation is intended to permanently protect these valuable areas from future urban development. Specific policies for the Countryside and the Protected Countryside designations are outlined in Chapter 3.



## **2.4 COUNTRYSIDE LINE**

2.4.1 The Countryside Line is designated on Maps 2.1 and 10 of this Plan. The Countryside Line represents the long-term boundary between the existing Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas and the Countryside. Under the Regional Official Plan, where the Countryside Line coincides with the Protected Countryside designation as shown on Maps 2.1 and 10, the Countryside Line will be considered a permanent boundary.

## **2.5 BADEN AND NEW HAMBURG URBAN AREAS**

### **2.5.1 General Policies**

2.5.1.1 The Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas will be the primary focus of future residential, employment and commercial growth within the Township.

2.5.1.2 Development within the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas will provide for a range of residential, commercial, employment, institutional, recreational and open space land uses. Future development within this designation will occur on municipal water and wastewater services in accordance with the policies set out in Section 6.8.

2.5.1.3 In preparing or reviewing planning studies, or in reviewing *development applications* or *site plans*, the Township will ensure that development occurring within the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas is planned and developed in a manner that:

- a) supports the Planned Township Structure described in this Plan;
- b) uses municipal water and wastewater services;
- c) protects the natural environment, and surface water and groundwater resources;
- d) *conserves* the township's *cultural heritage resources* and supports the adaptive reuse of historic buildings;
- e) respects the scale, physical character and context of established neighbourhoods in areas where *reurbanization* is planned to occur;
- f) promotes land uses and development patterns that are *freight-supportive*.
- g) supports the achievement of *complete communities* that:
  - i) feature a diverse mix of land uses, including residential and employment uses, and convenient access to local stores, services, and *public service facilities*;

- ii) improve social equity and overall quality of life, including human health, for people of all ages, abilities, and incomes;
- iii) provide a diverse range and mix of housing options, including second units and *affordable* housing, to accommodate people at all stages of life, and to accommodate the needs of all household sizes and incomes;
- iv) expand convenient access to:
  - a. range of transportation options, including options for the safe, comfortable and convenient use of *active transportation*;
  - b. *public service facilities*, co-located and integrated in community hubs;
  - c. an appropriate supply of safe, publicly-accessible open spaces, parks, trails, and other recreational facilities; and
  - d. healthy, local, and affordable food options, including through urban agriculture;
- h) ensure the development of high quality *compact built form*, an attractive and vibrant *public realm*, including public open spaces, through site design and urban design standards;
- i) mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, build resilience, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and contribute towards the achievement of low-carbon communities; and
- j) integrate *green infrastructure* and *low impact development*.

2.5.1.4 A comprehensive *community planning process* will be required prior to the designation of extensive new areas of development in the Baden and/or New Hamburg Urban Areas.

## **2.5.2 Reurbanization Target**

2.5.2.1 In accordance with the Regional Official Plan, new residential development occurring within the *built-up areas* of Baden and New Hamburg will be counted towards the achievement of the Region's minimum annual residential *reurbanization* target of 45 percent. This target applies to the Region of Waterloo as a whole and will be measured by the Region on average across the entire Built-Up Area designated in the Regional Official Plan.

The Township will contribute to achieving the Region’s minimum annual residential *reurbanization* target by planning to achieve, by 2017 and for each year thereafter, a minimum annual *reurbanization* target of 30 percent within the Township.

- 2.5.2.2 The Township will phase in and achieve the *reurbanization* target of this Plan by:
- a) identifying *strategic growth areas* to support achievement of the *reurbanization* target and recognize them as a key focus for development;
  - b) encouraging *reurbanization* generally to achieve the desired urban structure;
  - c) identify the appropriate type and scale of development and transition of built form to adjacent areas;
  - d) recognizing the Township’s Urban Growth Centre as a focus for social, economic and cultural activities in the township;
  - e) supporting the creation of secondary suites throughout the township in accordance with the housing policies of this Plan;
  - f) ensuring lands are zoned and development is designed in a manner that supports the achievement of *complete communities*;
  - g) prioritizing planning and investment in *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* that will support *reurbanization*;
  - h) developing and implementing urban design and site design guidelines, and other supporting documents that direct the development of a high quality *public realm* and *compact built form*; and
  - i) updating the policies and designations of this Plan, the Township’s Zoning By-law and other supporting documents as required to implement Policies 2.5.2.2 a) to f).

2.5.2.3 The Township will not approve any *development applications* to reduce the net residential density in areas planned for medium or high density housing, if the reduction in density will significantly impact the ability to achieve the *reurbanization* target and the density target for the Designated Greenfield Areas set out in Sections 2.5.2 and 2.5.3 of this Plan.

2.5.2.4 The Township will encourage the provision of new dwelling units in the *built-up areas* of the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas through infill, conversion where appropriate, *reurbanization* compatible with surrounding uses, except where *infrastructure* is inadequate or there are significant physical constraints.

### **2.5.3 Designated Greenfield Areas**

2.5.3.1 The township's Designated Greenfield Areas are designated on Map 2.2 of this Plan. This designation identifies lands within the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas that are outside the *built boundary*.

2.5.3.2 The Township, in collaboration with the Region, will ensure that development occurring in Wilmot's Designated Greenfield Areas will be planned and developed to:

- a) conform to the policies of Section 2.E of the Regional Official Plan;
- b) provide a development pattern and road network that supports the integration of transit services, where planned to be available in the future; and
- c) support development on municipal water and wastewater services.

2.5.3.3 The Regional Official Plan establishes a region-wide minimum density target of 55 residents and jobs combined per hectare measured over the entire Designated Greenfield Area designated in the Regional Official Plan. The Township will contribute to achieving this density target by ensuring that Wilmot's Designated Greenfield Areas are planned and developed to achieve the following density targets:

- a) areas serving primarily a residential function will meet or exceed a minimum, average density of 45 residents and jobs combined per hectare on lands not subject to a plan of subdivision application as of June 16, 2006; and
- b) areas serving solely an employment function (serviced) will meet or exceed a minimum, average density of 40 jobs per hectare;

The above density targets will be measured in accordance with the methodology established in the Regional Official Plan, which excludes only *provincially constrained environmental areas*.

2.5.3.4 The Township will develop phasing policies in this Plan and other strategies for Designated Greenfield Areas to ensure a logical and orderly progression of development, and, if necessary, stage the development of Designated Greenfield Areas to ensure that growth within the *built-up area* appropriately supports the achievement of the *reurbanization* target of this Plan.

2.5.3.5 The Township may develop and implement urban design guidelines for development within Designated Greenfield Areas.

## **2.5.4 Urban Area Expansions**

2.5.4.1 Future expansions to the boundaries of the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas are only permitted onto lands within the Countryside Line designated on Maps 2.1 and 10 of this Plan, and will be subject to the policies of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and all other applicable policies of the Regional Official Plan.

## **2.5.5 Urban Core Area Designation / Urban Growth Centre Overlay**

2.5.5.1 The Urban Core Area designation shown on Map 4.1 and Map 4.2 will be the primary focal point of the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas. The purpose of the Urban Core Area designation is to provide for a full range of residential, commercial, institutional and other service uses in the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas.

2.5.5.2 The Urban Growth Centre is shown as an overlay designation on Map 4.1. This overlay designation includes the traditional urban core area of Baden, and also identifies lands in Baden that will be the focus for accommodating *reurbanization* and higher-density *mixed-use development* in a more compact urban form. Future development in the Urban Growth Centre will be in accordance with the underlying land use designations shown on Map 4.1, and will be planned and designed to:

- a) accommodate additional population and compatible employment growth consistent with Baden's increasing role as the focus for social, economic and cultural activities in the township;
- b) facilitate and promote *reurbanization* to support the achievement of the minimum *reurbanization* target of this Plan;
- c) provide a diverse and compatible mix of land uses, including residential and employment uses to support a vibrant community;
- d) generally achieve higher densities while ensuring an appropriate transition of built form to adjacent areas
- e) serve as the township's focal point for investment in institutional and local *human services* as well as commercial, recreational, cultural and entertainment land uses; and
- f) provide for development patterns that support the integration of Regional transit services, where planned to be available in the future.

2.5.5.3 Future commercial development in the Township will be encouraged to locate within the Urban Core Area designation and the Urban Growth Centre overlay. Minor service commercial or convenience commercial land uses may be permitted in other land use

designations. In addition, specific commercial uses as noted in Policy 2.5.7.3 of this Plan may be located in the Highway Commercial designation.

2.5.5.4 Expansions to the Urban Core Area designation and the Urban Growth Centre overlay may be permitted through an amendment to this Plan. Any development that proposes to expand the Urban Core Area designation and the Urban Growth Centre overlay will:

- a) be accompanied by a justification analysis which provides the need for the expansion;
- b) be compatible with the surrounding land uses;
- c) minimize or, if feasible, prevent, the impacts on elements of the Greenlands Network and *cultural heritage resources* in accordance with the policies in this Plan; and
- d) be accompanied by detailed environmental and servicing studies as required by the policies of this Plan.

2.5.5.5 Within the Urban Growth Centre overlay designation, the redesignation of a property within an *employment area* to a designation that permits non-employment uses is considered a conversion under the Provincial Growth Plan and may only occur as part of a *municipal comprehensive review* completed in accordance with Policy 2.7.2.

2.5.5.6 The Township Zoning By-law will regulate specific uses in the Urban Core Area designation, and in the Urban Growth Centre overlay designation.

## **2.5.6 Urban Residential Designation**

2.5.6.1 The Urban Residential designation applies to areas within the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas where the predominant use of land is for housing and related land uses. The purpose of the Urban Residential designation is to provide for a range of residential and *accessory uses* in order to accommodate current and future residential demands. A mix of housing types and densities will be encouraged in this designation in accordance with Section 4.2 and 4.3 of this Plan.

2.5.6.2 The Township Zoning By-law will regulate the type and density of residential development and specific accessory uses in the Urban Residential designation.

## **2.5.7 Highway Commercial Designation**

2.5.7.1 The Highway Commercial designation permits commercial uses that primarily serve vehicular traffic and the travelling public and that rely heavily upon such traffic for their economic existence. Highway Commercial uses are to be located within the Township Urban Area.

- 2.5.7.2 The Township Zoning By-law will regulate specific uses in the Highway Commercial designation.
- 2.5.7.3 *Major retail* development or redevelopment, including large space users such as food stores, department, or furniture stores as well as retail uses requiring large enclosed or open storage areas such as, but not limited to, building supplies and warehouse outlets, will require an amendment to this Plan in order to designate additional Highway Commercial areas. The following information will be required to support a *development application* to designate new Highway Commercial area:
- a) identification of the potential impact of the proposed development on the surrounding land uses;
  - b) data indicating market need and whether the proposed development will adversely affect the viability of the associated Urban Core or Urban Growth Centre;
  - c) transportation impact studies, noise impact studies and any other appropriate studies.
- 2.5.7.4 Access points to Highway Commercial areas shall be limited in number and designed in a manner that will minimize the danger to both vehicular and *pedestrian* traffic and may be further restricted by the *Province*, the Township or the Regional Municipality of Waterloo. Shared access with similar adjacent development will be encouraged. No new accesses to a Provincial Highway will be permitted.
- 2.5.7.5 Adequate off-street parking facilities shall be provided for all permitted uses. Payment-in-lieu of parking, as per the Planning Act, shall not be permitted.
- 2.5.7.6 All development on lands designated Highway Commercial shall be fully serviced by municipal water and wastewater systems.
- 2.5.7.7 All development within the Highway Commercial designation shall be subject to *Site Plan Control*.
- 2.5.8 General Industrial Designation**
- 2.5.8.1 The General Industrial designation applies only to lands located within the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas which have municipal water and wastewater servicing.
- 2.5.8.2 Lands within the General Industrial designation shall be for industrial uses that require open storage of goods and materials such as manufacturing, processing, assembling, repairing, wholesaling, warehousing, trucking and storage, and associated retail and ancillary uses.

- 2.5.8.3 No residential uses shall be permitted in a General Industrial designation.
- 2.5.8.4 All development within the General Industrial designation shall be subject to *Site Plan Control*.
- 2.5.8.5 Specific uses within the General Industrial designation will be regulated through the Township Zoning By-law.

## **2.5.9 Light Industrial Designation**

- 2.5.9.1 The Light Industrial designation applies only to lands located within the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas which have municipal water and wastewater servicing and are compatible with surrounding *sensitive land uses*.
- 2.5.9.2 Permitted light industrial uses include: office uses and small-scale, self-contained industrial uses that produce and/or store a product where there is a low probability of fugitive emissions.
- 2.5.9.3 Council may also permit community, cultural and recreational uses in the Light Industrial designation without an amendment to this Plan provided they are adequately buffered from uses that produce potential nuisances, such as noise, odour, dust, vibration or heavy traffic, in accordance with any applicable provincial policy or guideline.
- 2.5.9.4 Commercial uses to be permitted within Light Industrial areas shall not include retail outlets, which provide for day-to-day retail shopping needs normally found in the Urban Core Area designation or Urban Growth Centre overlay, nor for the location of shopping centres or the type of retail shopping that would normally be found within Highway Commercial areas.
- 2.5.9.5 The Township Zoning By-law will regulate specific uses in the Light Industrial designation.

## **2.5.10 Special Policy Area for the New Hamburg Urban Area (August 16, 1990)**

- 2.5.10.1 This Plan designates certain lands along the Nith River as a Special Policy Area as shown on Map 4.2 (New Hamburg Urban Area). These lands are part of the historic centre of New Hamburg and special policies are required for the continued economic and social viability of the area.
- 2.5.10.2 An area within the Special Policy Area exists and functions as a hydraulic *floodway*. This hydraulic *floodway* is the minimum area required to pass the *regulatory flood* and obstruction of the hydraulic floodway would create adverse effects in the form of increased flood levels and velocities. No new buildings, structures or fill shall be



permitted in the hydraulic *floodway*. Surface parking may be permitted in the hydraulic *floodway*. New overnight parking shall not be permitted in the hydraulic *floodway*.

- 2.5.10.3 Commercial *development* and *redevelopment* shall be dry floodproofed to the *regulatory flood* elevation. Where it is demonstrated that it is not feasible to dry floodproof to the regulatory flood elevation a reduction in the dry *floodproofing standard* shall be permitted but in no case shall the reduction be to less than the *one hundred year flood* elevation with a requirement for *wet floodproofing* to the *regulatory flood* elevation. The minimum floor level for commercial *development* or *redevelopment* shall be the *one hundred year flood* elevation.

*Major renovation* of commercial uses shall be permitted. The intent of this policy is that major renovations shall be floodproofed to the *regulatory flood* elevation. Where this is not feasible a reduction in flood protection requirements may be permitted but in no case shall the reduction be to less than the *one hundred year flood* elevation.

*Minor renovation* of commercial uses shall be permitted provided that the minimum floor level is equal to or higher than the existing floor level and provided that the building or structure is floodproofed to an elevation equal to or higher than the existing one.

- 2.5.10.4 Except where *safe parking* and *safe access* can be provided to the *regulatory flood* elevation new residential dwelling units shall not be permitted except above commercial uses and shall be limited to one storey. Along Huron and Peel Streets new residential uses in upper stories shall be permitted in keeping with the existing streetscape. The minimum habitable floor space shall be located above the *regulatory flood* elevation.

New residential units shall be created only where *safe access* can be provided at the *one hundred year flood* elevation as the minimum. The determination of *safe access* shall be made by the Grand River Conservation Authority in an evaluation of flood depths and flood flow velocities in accordance with provincial policy.

Minor renovations to existing buildings used solely for residential purposes shall be permitted provided that minimum floor level is at or above the existing elevation of the ground floor.

- 2.5.10.5 New *development* associated with substances of a chemical, hazardous or toxic nature which may pose an unacceptable threat to public safety if damaged as a result of flooding or failure of floodproofing measures shall not be permitted to locate in the Special Policy Area.

- 2.5.10.6 Protective services such as police, fire, utility and public works yards and major electrical substations shall not be located in the Special Policy Area. Existing facilities will not be permitted to expand or extend without the approval from the Township and the Grand River Conservation Authority and any *major renovation* shall meet the provincial

requirements for *safe access/egress* for emergency vehicles. Council shall consider the relocation of the existing fire station.

- 2.5.10.7 New nursing homes, hospitals, homes for the aged, senior citizen apartments, group homes for people with a disability, day care centres, or other similar uses for which flooding could pose a significant danger to the inhabitants shall not be permitted to locate in the Special Policy Area.
- 2.5.10.8 Non-residential institutional *development, redevelopment* and major renovations such as church and libraries shall be wet floodproofed to the *regulatory flood* elevation. It is the intent of the policy that this *development, redevelopment, or major renovation* shall be dry floodproofed to the *regulatory flood* elevation where feasible but in no case shall the *dry floodproofing* requirement be reduced to less than the *one hundred year flood* elevation.
- Minor renovation* of non-residential institutional uses shall be floodproofed to an elevation equal to or higher than the existing elevation of the ground floor.
- 2.5.10.9 No basements or expansion to basements shall be permitted where flooding is greater than 0.5 meters.
- 2.5.10.10 Where practical new building services such as electrical, and heating systems shall be located above the *regulatory flood* elevation but where this is not feasible building services shall be floodproofed to the satisfaction of the Grand River Conservation Authority.
- 2.5.10.11 Special Policy Area Implementation

It is the policy of Council that the Special Policy Area policies shall be implemented in the following ways:

- a) Zoning By-law No. 86-51, passed by Township Council on September 29, 1986, added the (f) symbol as a suffix to the zone symbol to identify lands which are flood susceptible. All lands within the Special Policy Area therefore are zoned with the (f) suffix. The (f) suffix indicates that the lands are subject to the Grand River Conservation Authority Regulations for Fill, Construction and Alterations to Waterways;
- b) *site plan* applications for *development* within the Special Policy Area shall not be considered for approval until such time as the Township of Wilmot has been notified of the approval of the Grand River Conservation Authority as required under their Fill, Construction and Alterations to Waterways regulation. Approved *site plans* shall conform to the Grand River Conservation Authority permit with respect to matters governed by S.41 of the Planning Act such as lot grading and drainage. Upon completion of the building or structure, the Township or the Grand River

Conservation Authority may require a letter of compliance by a professional engineer verifying that the flood proofing measures have been implemented as required and are in conformity with the policies of this plan;

- c) building permits shall not be issued until such time as the Township of Wilmot has been notified of the approval of the Grand River Conservation Authority; and
- d) the Township will continue to maintain the flood contingency plan and to cooperate with the Grand River Conservation Authority in the operation of the New Hamburg flood warning system. The flood warning system shall contain provisions to ensure timely evacuation of vehicles.

## **2.6 RURAL SETTLEMENT AREAS**

### **2.6.1 General Policies**

2.6.1.1 The Rural Settlement Areas designation applies to the township's smaller settlement areas that are typically serviced with private wells and individual wastewater services. These areas will be planned to provide a limited mix of residential, associated commercial, institutional, recreational, open space and dry industrial uses serving primarily the local community.

2.6.1.2 The identified Rural Settlement Areas within the township are designated as shown on Maps 5.1 to 5.12 of this Plan and are as follows

1. Foxboro Green Settlement Area
2. Haysville Settlement Area
3. Lisbon Settlement Area
4. Luxemburg Settlement Area
5. Mannheim Settlement Area
6. New Dundee Settlement Area
7. Petersburg Settlement Area
8. Philipsburg Settlement Area
9. Shingletown Settlement Area
10. St. Agatha Settlement Area
11. Sunfish Lake Settlement Area
12. Wilmot Centre Settlement Area

2.6.1.3 Where an existing lot is partially located within a Rural Settlement Area and partially within the Countryside, the part of the lot located outside the Rural Settlement Area will be zoned for *agricultural uses* in accordance with the policies in this Plan. Consent applications to sever the lot along the boundary of the Rural Settlement Area so as to create a new *non-farm lot* outside the Rural Settlement Area will not be permitted.

- 2.6.1.4 Within a Rural Settlement Area, proposed development will:
- a) conform to the policies of Section 2.6 of this Plan;
  - b) be compatible with the surrounding land uses; and
  - c) be accompanied by detailed environmental and servicing studies as required by the policies of this Plan.
- 2.6.1.5 The expansion of existing Rural Settlement Areas will not be permitted, except as provided for in Policies 2.6.1.6, 3.8.4 and 8.1.2.18.
- 2.6.1.6 The Township, in collaboration with the Region, may consider permitting a minor expansion to a Rural Settlement Area for non-residential uses to accommodate the future needs of the Township. Any such expansions will require an amendment to this Plan and will only be considered as part of a *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan where:
- a) sufficient opportunities to accommodate the proposed non-residential use are not currently available within the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas or Rural Settlement Areas;
  - b) the site is zoned for the specific use;
  - c) within the within the Prime Agricultural Area:
    - i) the land does not comprise a *specialty crop area*;
    - ii) there are no reasonable alternatives that avoid the Prime Agricultural Area;
    - iii) there are no reasonable alternatives on lower priority agricultural lands in the Prime Agricultural Area.
  - d) the potential impacts on any surrounding agricultural operations are mitigated to the extent possible; and
  - e) the minor expansion complies with all other applicable policies in this Plan.
- 2.6.1.8 The designation of new *settlement areas* will not be permitted.
- 2.6.1.9 The Township will, where feasible, co-locate and integrate any proposed new *public service facilities* in Rural Settlement Areas in *community hubs*, and give priority to

maintaining and adapting existing *public service facilities* in *community hubs* to meet the needs of the community.

## **2.6.2 Settlement Residential Designation**

2.6.2.1 The Settlement Residential designation is applied to areas where the predominant use of land is for housing and related residential land uses within Rural Settlement Areas identified in this Plan. The purpose of the Settlement Residential designation is to provide for current and future housing demands in Rural Settlement Areas through mixed forms of residential development.

2.6.2.2 The Township Zoning By-law will regulate the specific type and density of residential development and specific secondary uses in the Settlement Residential designation.

## **2.6.3 Settlement Core Area Designation**

2.6.3.1 The purpose of the Settlement Core Area designation is to provide for a mix of residential and commercial uses. This Plan encourages a range and mix of housing types, commercial and compatible uses in Settlement Core Areas.

2.6.3.2 The Township Zoning By-law will regulate specific uses in the Settlement Core Area designation.

2.6.3.3 Expansions to the Settlement Core Area designation may be permitted through an amendment to this Plan. Any development that proposes to expand a Settlement Core Area will:

- a) be accompanied by a justification analysis which justifies the need for the expansion and considers the amount of land in other locations within the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas and Rural Settlement Areas available for development;
- b) minimize or, if feasible, prevent the impact of the expansion on the Greenlands Network, Prime Agricultural Areas, and *cultural heritage resources* in accordance with the policies in this Plan; and
- c) be accompanied by detailed environmental and servicing studies as required by the policies of this Plan.

2.6.3.4 Proposed development within Rural Settlement Areas for the purposes of commercial and service uses will be encouraged to locate within the Settlement Core Area designation.

## 2.6.4 Specific Rural Settlement Area Policies

### 2.6.4.1 *Sunfish Lake Settlement Area*

2.6.4.1.2 Notwithstanding the policies within Section 2.6.2, development and re-development within the Sunfish Lake Settlement Area shall be restricted to *seasonal* dwellings only, except for those properties which directly abut either Berlett's Road (Township Road No. 2) or which abut Cedar Grove Road or which were used as principal dwellings prior to January 1, 1982. The properties with principal dwellings permitted in accordance with this policy are shown on Map 5.11 and are legally described as follows:

- a) Part 29, Plan 58R-3682;
- b) Part 31, Plan 58R-3682;
- c) Part 37, Plan 58R-3682;
- d) Parts 1 and 2, Plan 58R-16560;
- e) Part 61, Plan 58R-3682;
- f) Part 62, Plan 58R-3682;
- g) Part 63, Plan 58R-3682;
- h) Part 24, Plan 58R-3682 now described as Part 1, Plan 58R11891 and Part 2, Plan 58R-11891;
- i) Part 27, Plan 58R-3682.

2.6.4.1.3 Except for those properties which now have direct access to either Berlett's Road or Cedar Grove Road, all access to the properties within the Settlement Boundary shall continue to be provided by private rights-of-way. All maintenance or works or costs required for these rights-of-way shall be the sole responsibility of the property owners.

2.6.4.1.4 The conversion of *seasonal* dwellings to principal dwellings shall not be permitted within the Sunfish Lake Settlement Area.

2.6.4.1.5 Future development within the Sunfish Lake Settlement Area shall take place in accordance with the applicable policies of Section 2.6.2.

2.6.4.1.6 No new lots shall be created within the Sunfish Lake Settlement Area, either through severance or through the approval of plans of subdivision. Severance applications to:

- a) create or alter any easement or right-of-way; or
- b) correct or confirm valid title for a lot which has been previously recognized and held in distinct and separate ownership; or
- c) make minor adjustment to the legal boundaries of lots so as to conform to existing patterns of exclusive use and occupancy, or to rectify problems created by the encroachment of buildings, structures, private water supply or private sewage disposal facilities on *abutting* lots,

may be considered on their merits and may be supported by the Township if it does not result in the creation of any additional lot held, or capable of being held, in distinct and separate ownership pursuant to the Planning Act.

2.6.4.1.7 No building permits for any properties within the Sunfish Lake Settlement Area shall be issued unless the property owner has supplied the Township with the written approval of the Grand River Conservation Authority for the proposed building.

2.6.4.1.8 In order to minimize *adverse* effects on the lake and on the surrounding area, any *development application* must include specific plans showing how drainage and runoff will be controlled during and after construction, and these plans must be approved by the Township and Grand River Conservation Authority prior to the issuance of a building permit.

## **2.6.5 Dry Industrial/Commercial Designation**

2.6.5.1 The Dry Industrial/Commercial designation only applies to lands located within Rural Settlement Areas.

2.6.5.2 The Dry Industrial/Commercial designation provides for a range of light industrial and secondary uses that do not require significant quantities of water or generate significant quantities of wastewater within their processes and are deemed not to be obnoxious uses.

2.6.5.3 Commercial uses permitted within Dry Industrial/Commercial areas shall not include retail outlets, which provide for day-to-day retail shopping needs normally found in the Settlement Core Area, the Urban Core Area designation or the Urban Growth Centre overlay, nor for the location of shopping centres or the type of retail shopping that would normally be found within Highway Commercial areas.

2.6.5.4 Section 2.6.5.3 shall not apply to the lands identified as Part of Lot 7, Concession South of Erb's Road (municipally known as 1782 Notre Dame Drive in St. Agatha).

2.6.5.5 The recycling of animal products or a rendering plant will not be permitted within the Dry Industrial/Commercial designation.

2.6.5.6 The Township Zoning By-law will regulate specific uses in the Dry Industrial/ Commercial designation.

## **2.7 EMPLOYMENT**

2.7.1 The Township will promote opportunities for economic development competitiveness by:

- a) making more efficient use of existing *employment areas* and vacant and underutilized employment lands and increasing employment densities;
- b) ensuring the availability of sufficient land, in appropriate locations, for a variety of employment to accommodate forecasted employment growth to the horizon of this Plan;
- c) planning to better connect areas with high employment densities to existing or planned transit;
- d) integrating and aligning land use planning and economic development goals and strategies to retain and attract investment and employment.
- e) encouraging business partnership arrangements;
- f) nurturing the growth of small businesses by permitting secondary uses and home occupations in accordance with the policies in this Plan;
- g) promoting education and skills training within the community;
- h) supporting and promoting local food and the *sustainability* of agri-food and agri-product businesses by protecting agricultural resources and minimizing land use conflicts;
- i) promoting energy conservation and providing opportunities for development of *renewable energy systems* and *alternative energy systems*, including district energy;
- j) promoting the sourcing of materials, products and natural resources from close to market locations in order to minimize the energy required to transport materials and products; and
- k) protecting *employment areas* in proximity to *major goods movement facilities and corridors* for employment uses that require those locations.
- l) ensuring the necessary *infrastructure* is provided to *employment areas*, including any *prime employment areas*, to support long-term needs.

2.7.2 The Township will direct retail and office uses to locations that support *active transportation* and have existing or planned transit.

2.7.3 In planning for employment, the Township will minimize surface parking and facilitate the development of *active transportation* networks and, where appropriate, a *transit supportive* built form.



- 2.7.4 As part of the implementation of the Regional employment strategy set out in Section 1.8 of this Plan, the Township will update this Plan as necessary to designate the Township's *employment areas*, including any *prime employment areas*, in conformity with the Regional Official Plan and protect them for appropriate employment use in accordance with Policies 2.7.5 and 2.7.6.
- 2.7.5 The Township will plan all *employment areas* within *settlement areas*, with the exception of any *prime employment areas*, to:
- a) prohibit residential uses and limiting other *sensitive land uses* that are not ancillary to the primary employment use;
  - b) prohibit *major retail* uses or establishing a size or scale threshold for any *major retail uses* that are permitted and prohibit any *major retail uses* that would exceed that threshold; and
  - c) integrate *employment areas* with adjacent non-employment areas and developing vibrant, mixed-use areas and *innovation hubs*, where appropriate.
- 2.7.6 If the Regional employment strategy undertaken in accordance with Section 1.8 of this Plan has identified any *employment areas* as *prime employment areas* in Wilmot Township, the Township will update this Plan as required to provide for the protection of these areas for appropriate employment uses over the long-term by:
- a) prohibiting residential, institutional, and other *sensitive land uses*;
  - b) prohibiting retail and office uses that are not associated with or ancillary to the primary employment use; and
  - c) planning for *freight-supportive* land use patterns.
- 2.7.7 The conversion of lands within *employment areas* or *prime employment areas* to non-employment uses in the Township may be permitted only through a *municipal comprehensive review* of Regional Official Plan.
- 2.7.8 For greater certainty, the redesignation of an *employment area* or to a designation that permits non-employment uses is considered a conversion and may occur only through a *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan undertaken in accordance with Policy 2.7.7.
- 2.7.9 Any proposed amendments to this Plan to permit new or expanded opportunities for *major retail* in an *employment area* may occur only through a *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan undertaken in accordance with Policy 2.7.7

- 2.7.10 The Township will support the retail sector by promoting *compact built form* and *reurbanization* of retail and service uses and areas and encouraging the integration of those uses with other land uses to support the achievement of *complete communities*.
- 2.7.11 The Township will maintain an employment land inventory including available lot sizes and, from time to time, update this inventory taking into consideration new development, expansions and *reurbanization* of existing properties.
- 2.7.12 The Township will support the development of a strong and diverse local food system by:
- a) providing for a mix of land uses, including food destinations within close proximity to each other to facilitate residents' access to locally grown and other healthy foods;
  - b) establishing zoning regulations to permit *temporary farmers' markets*, wherever appropriate, in existing and newly planned neighbourhoods, particularly in areas where access to locally grown food and other healthy food products may currently be limited; and
  - c) encouraging home and community gardens throughout the township.

## CHAPTER 3: THE COUNTRYSIDE

### 3.1 PURPOSE

The Township's Countryside is comprised of a diverse range of valuable natural resources, including agricultural lands, *woodlands*, *mineral aggregate resources* and groundwater recharge areas. These valuable assets support an array of economic activities and are essential for the long-term prosperity, quality of life and environmental health of the Township. The policies of this Plan therefore seek to maintain and wisely maintain these valuable natural resources for both future and current generations.

The Township contains significant areas of land which have historically been, and remain, devoted primarily to agriculture. Policies relating to agricultural lands are based on the recognition that agriculture is important to the Township's economy. The Township also recognizes that the economic climate of farming is changing and that additional activities, such as *on-farm diversified uses*, can be carried out on farms to support the viability of local agriculture in the Township.

This Plan designates a large portion of the Township's agricultural lands as Protected Countryside. This designation identifies a unique concentration of productive farmlands, significant mineral aggregate deposits, sensitive *environmental features*, and major groundwater recharge areas including portions of the Waterloo Moraine. The Protected Countryside is intended to permanently protect these critical areas from urban development and inappropriate rural activities, while providing for the continued uses of the lands for agriculture, mineral aggregate extraction and other appropriate rural uses.

The Township's Countryside also supports a variety of privately owned and operated recreation and tourism uses, including campgrounds, trailer parks, golf courses and other activities. These uses provide significant economic benefits and offer recreational and tourism opportunities for both visitors and residents of the Township.

### 3.2 AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM

3.2.1 As part of the next *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan, the Township will collaborate with the Region to refine and implement the Provincial mapping of the *Agricultural System* for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The following policies will apply with respect to the *Agricultural System*:

Deferral  
No. 1

- a) until the mapping of the *Agricultural System* has been issued by the Province, the Township will continue to Prime Agricultural Areas and Rural Areas designated in this Plan in accordance with the policies Plan.

- b) following the issuance of the mapping of the *Agricultural System* by the Province, the Township will update the Prime Agricultural Areas, including any *specialty crop areas*, in accordance with the Provincial mapping and these areas will be protected for long-term use for agriculture;
- c) where *agricultural uses* and non-agricultural uses interface outside of *settlement areas*, land use compatibility will be achieved by avoiding or where avoidance is not possible, minimizing and mitigating adverse impacts on the *Agricultural System*. Where mitigation is required, measures should be incorporated as part of the non-agricultural uses, as appropriate, within the area being developed;
- d) the Township will seek to maintain and enhance the geographic continuity of the agricultural land base and the functional and economic connections to the *agri-food network*;
- e) the Township will encourage the retention of existing lots of record for *agricultural uses*, and will discourage the use of these lots for non-agricultural uses; and
- f) the Township will consider opportunities for integrated planning for growth management, including goods movement and transportation planning, to support and enhance the *Agricultural System*.

- 3.2.2 The Prime Agricultural Area designation is shown on Map 10. This designation identifies areas where *prime agricultural lands* predominate. This designation includes areas of *prime agricultural lands* and associated areas of Canada Land Inventory Class 4 to 7 soils, and additional areas where there is a local concentration of farms that exhibit characteristics of ongoing agriculture.
- 3.2.3 The Rural Area designation is shown on Map 10. This designation identifies areas where Canada Land Inventory Class 4 to 7 soils predominate, and which are typically characterized by one or more of steep slopes, *environmental features* and/or existing *non-farm lots*.
- 3.2.4 The primary land uses permitted in the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Areas designations will be *agricultural uses*, *agriculture-related uses* and *on-farm diversified uses*.
- 3.2.5 Within the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Area designations, all types, sizes and intensities of *agricultural uses* and *normal farm practices* will be promoted and protected in accordance with provincial standards.
- 3.2.6 Non-farm-related development within the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Areas designations will be subject to Policy 3.7 of this Plan.

- 3.2.7 *Mineral aggregate operations* may be permitted as an interim use in the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Areas designations in accordance with the policies in Chapter 7.
- 3.2.8 Within the *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape* designation as shown on Map 4, Policies 8.1.2.5 to 8.1.2.13 supersede the policies in this Chapter to the extent of any conflict.
- 3.2.9 *Development applications* to create a new rural residential lot(s) within the Prime Agriculture Area and Rural Areas designations, or which would otherwise result in the creation of a new rural residential lot(s), will not be permitted except in accordance with Policies 3.2.11 and 3.2.12.
- 3.2.10 Within the Rural Areas designation, the Township may permit the creation of one or more new rural residential lots for the purposes of infilling within an existing grouping of rural residential lots that have not been designated as a Rural Settlement Area by this Plan, provided that:
- a) the existing grouping of lots accommodating the proposed infilling lot(s) presently consists of a grouping of four or more rural residential lots, with each such lot separated from each other by no more than 100 metres on the same side of an open public road;
  - b) the measurement of the 100 metre separation distance is determined in accordance with the *rural residential infilling formulae*;
  - c) the new lot has a maximum area of one hectare, except where natural features or existing lot patterns justify inclusion of additional lands;
  - d) the new lot is not located within a Source Water Protection Area where individual wastewater treatment systems are identified as a prohibited use in accordance with the policies of Chapter 8; and
  - e) the new lot can be appropriately serviced by private wells and individual wastewater treatment systems.
- 3.2.11 Within the Prime Agricultural Area or Rural Areas designations, where two or more farm parcels are to be merged in title into one ownership, with each lot having one dwelling, a new lot may be created for the dwelling surplus to the needs of the merged farm provided that:
- a) the surplus dwelling is designated by the Township as a heritage property under the Ontario Heritage Act; and

- b) the new lot has a maximum area of one hectare, except where natural features or existing lot patterns justify the inclusion of additional lands.

3.2.12 Notwithstanding the lot creation policies of this Chapter, a new farm or new lot shall not be deemed to have been created where consent is given for the following purposes:

- a) minor adjustments to lots so as to permit conformity with existing patterns of exclusive use and occupancy, or to rectify problems created by the encroachment of buildings, structures, private wells or individual wastewater treatment systems on *abutting* lots, provided that such adjustments do not result in the creation of any additional lot held, or capable of being held, in distinct and separate ownership pursuant to the Planning Act;
- b) minor adjustments to the boundaries of two adjoining *non-farm lots* recognized by the Township's Zoning By-law, provided that such adjustments do not result in the creation of any additional lot held, or capable of being held, in distinct and separate ownership pursuant to the Planning Act;
- c) minor adjustment to the boundaries between an adjoining farm and a *non-farm lot* that does not decrease the size of the farming operation;
- d) acquisitions of land for *infrastructure*, where the need for the project has been demonstrated through an *Environmental Assessment* or other appropriate study and the facility or corridor cannot be accommodated through the use of easements or rights-of-way;
- e) addressing legal or technical matters such as easements, rights-of-way, corrections of deeds, and quit claims that do not result in the creation of a separate lot, except where such easements or rights-of-way are intended to facilitate the construction of new buildings or structures on a vacant lot of record otherwise undevelopable due to a lack of frontage onto a public road. Consents for such easements will be considered an application to create a new lot and will be subject to the provisions set out in Policy 3.3.1 as applicable; or
- f) severing from each other two or more rural lots that have unintentionally merged in title, provided the severances reflect the original lot lines.

3.2.13 The planning and location of utility corridors, lines, towers and associated uses shall, wherever possible, respect the intent of this Plan which is to protect and preserve existing and potentially productive agricultural land to the greatest extent possible. Such uses should be encouraged to locate in areas having poorer soils and should be located and designed so as to minimize disturbance to existing farm operations. Such uses shall not require an amendment to the implementing Zoning By-law.

- 3.2.14 The Township will endeavor to support environmentally sustainable agriculture by assisting farmers in the development of individual Environmental Farm Plans to minimize soil degradation, protect the *quality and quantity of water* resources, improve the management of potential on-site pollution sources and to maintain, enhance or, where feasible, restore the *ecological functions* of elements of the Greenlands Network.
- 3.2.15 The Township will collaborate with the Region in the development and implementation of a regional agri-food strategy and other approaches to sustain and enhance the *Agricultural System* and the long-term economic prosperity and viability of the agri-food sector, including the maintenance and improvement of the *agri-food network* by:
- a) providing opportunities to support access to healthy, local, and affordable food, urban and near-urban agriculture, food system planning and promoting the sustainability of agricultural, agri-food, and agri-product businesses while protecting agricultural resources and minimizing land use conflicts;
  - b) protecting, enhancing, or supporting opportunities for infrastructure, services, and assets. Where negative impacts on *the agri-food network* are unavoidable, they will be assessed, minimized, and mitigated to the extent feasible; and
  - c) consider establishing or consulting with agricultural advisory committees or liaison officers.

### **3.3 FARM PARCEL CREATION/ALTERATION**

- 3.3.1 *Development applications* to create a new farm parcel, or reconfigure existing farm parcels within Prime Agricultural Area or Rural Areas, where lands are severed from one farm parcel and conveyed as a lot addition to an adjoining farm and held in one ownership, will comply with the following:
- a) each resultant farm that is created must have a minimum area of 40 hectares;  
or
  - b) resultant farms having less than a minimum of 40 hectares will:
    - i) be of a size appropriate for the type of *agricultural uses* common in the area; and
    - ii) be sufficiently large enough to sustain an economically viable farm operation and to maintain flexibility for future changes in the type or size of agricultural operations; and
    - iii) be permitted by a site specific zoning by-law amendment.

3.3.2 The Township may consult with the Region, the *Province*, or other professionals knowledgeable in farm economics and management, at the applicant's expense, to evaluate the farm severance for conformity with the provisions of this Plan.

3.3.3 This Plan recognizes that there are many existing farm parcels within the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Areas that are less than 40 hectares in area. These undersized parcels are considered as *agricultural uses* except where otherwise provided for in this Plan.

### **3.4 AGRICULTURE-RELATED USES**

3.4.1 *Development applications* to establish an *agriculture-related use* within the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Areas designations may be permitted through an amendment to the Township Zoning By-law, provided that the proposed use:

- a) conforms to the Zoning By-law and policies of this Plan;
- b) minimizes the amount of land removed from agricultural production and is suitable for the site in comparison to other reasonable alternatives available in the township, including sites with poorer agricultural soils or where fragmented or smaller lots and/or a mix of *non-farm lots* may already exist;
- c) be prohibited in *woodlands* except where an exception from the Regional Woodland Conservation By-law has been obtained;
- d) prevents or minimizes impacts on the Greenlands Network in accordance with policies in Chapter 8 of this Plan;
- e) mitigates any potential land use conflicts with adjacent farms and other land uses and complies with the *Province's* guidelines on land use compatibility; and
- f) can be appropriately serviced by private wells and individual wastewater treatment systems.

### **3.5 ON-FARM DIVERSIFIED USES**

3.5.1 *On-farm diversified uses* may be permitted on farm parcels within the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Areas designations subject to provisions set out in Policy 3.5.2. The Township Zoning By-law will regulate the nature and scale of the operations to ensure the farm remains valued for its agricultural capability.



3.5.2 The Township may permit the establishment of an *on-farm diversified use* provided that the proposed use:

- a) is clearly secondary to the principal agricultural use of the property, is limited in area and does not undermine the agricultural nature of the area;
- b) is clustered with the main farmstead such that any new buildings, structures or facilities associated with the proposed use, except road produce stands, can be integrated with the farm operation should the *on-farm diversified use* cease to exist;
- c) remains zoned for agricultural purposes;
- d) does not include automotive sales and/or repair;
- e) does not adversely affect any adjacent *sensitive land uses* with respect to noise, dust, fumes, odours, refuse matter or any other waste products; and
- f) is not detrimental to the environment and complies with the environmental policies in Chapter 8 of this Plan.

3.5.3 An *on-farm diversified use* established in accordance with Policy 3.5.2 may permit the minor retailing of products directly from the farm, provided that sales are limited to those goods produced or manufactured primarily on the farm.

3.5.4 *On-farm diversified uses* may be subject to *site plan* control.

3.5.5 Consents shall not be granted for any *on-farm diversified uses* created in accordance with this Plan.

### **3.6 FARM-RELATED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

3.6.1 Additional permanent or temporary *farm-related residential units* may be permitted on a farm by site-specific zoning by-law amendment in order to accommodate full-time farm employees, including members of the farm household directly involved in the farm operation, provided that:

- a) the size, nature and productive capacity of the farm operation warrant additional farm employment for extended periods of time such that additional on-site accommodation is considered necessary;
- b) any new permanent dwellings will be limited to bunkhouses or the conversion and/or expansion of existing *farm-related residential units*;

- c) any new temporary dwelling will be located near the existing farm buildings and will be removed if they are no longer required to accommodate farm employees;
- d) the site can be appropriately serviced by private wells and individual wastewater treatment systems; and
- e) no new lot is created.

3.6.2 Notwithstanding Policy 3.6.1, the Township will permit the addition of one self-contained, residential unit (i.e., secondary suites) in a single detached dwelling or an ancillary structure located on a farm, except where infrastructure is inadequate or there are significant physical constraints.

3.6.3 Consents to sever a new lot will not be granted for any *farm-related residential units* established in accordance with this policy. It is an objective of this Plan that *farm-related residential units* will be clustered with the farmstead.

### **3.7 NON-FARM-RELATED DEVELOPMENT**

3.7.1 Within the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Areas designations, minor intensification of *existing* industrial, commercial, recreational and/or institutional uses, including minor changes to the uses thereof, may be permitted within the limits of the existing property.

#### **3.7.2 Recreation and Tourism Uses**

3.7.2.1 Within the Rural Areas designation, *development applications* to establish a Recreation and Tourism use may be permitted provided that:

- a) any buildings associated with the use are small-in-scale and do not include overnight guest accommodation, with the exception of campgrounds or trailer parks;
- b) the use is compatible with surrounding agricultural operations;
- c) the use minimizes the amount of land removed from agricultural production;
- d) the use complies with other policies of this Plan regarding mineral aggregate extraction, source water protection, the Greenlands Network, and water and wastewater servicing; and
- e) for proposed golf courses, the proponent submits a Best Management Practices report to the satisfaction of the Township that outlines measures to minimize irrigation, fertilizer and pesticide use requirements through use of Integrated

Pest Management, promotes native and naturalized vegetation and minimizes active use areas.

3.7.2.2 Within the Rural Areas designation, *development applications* to sever new lots for Recreation and Tourism uses established in accordance with Policy 3.7.2.3 may be permitted, provided that:

- a) the new lot will be limited to a minimum size needed to accommodate the use;
- b) the severance will not result in an undersized farm that may not be commercially viable, as determined in accordance with Policy 3.3.1;
- c) the lands to be severed have been designated in this Plan and zoned in the Township's Zoning By-law to permit only the proposed use; and
- d) the new lot can be appropriately serviced by private wells and individual wastewater treatment systems.

3.7.2.3 Within the Rural Areas designation, *development applications* to expand the lot areas of *existing* Recreation and Tourism uses may be permitted, provided that:

- a) the *existing* use is not a legal non-conforming use;
- b) there is a demonstrated need for the additional land area;
- c) the use minimizes the amount of land that is removed from agricultural production;
- d) the expansion does not adversely affect the ability of surrounding agricultural operations to carry out *normal farm practices*; and
- e) the lot addition will not result in an undersized farm that may not be commercially viable, as determined in accordance with Policy 3.3.1.

### **3.7.3 Rural Institutional Uses**

3.7.3.1 Within the Rural Areas designation, *development applications* to establish a *rural institutional use* may be permitted by an amendment to the Township's Zoning By-law provided that:

- a) there is a demonstrated need for the use to locate within the Rural Areas designation; and
- b) the use is in conformity with Policy 3.7.2.3 (a) to (d).

3.7.3.2 Notwithstanding Policy 6.15.6, in order to preserve and support the historic, social and cultural needs of a unique segment of the Region’s community which relies on horse-drawn vehicles as their primary means of transportation, the Township may permit the establishment of small-scale schools, places of worship and associated cemeteries within the Prime Agricultural Area or Rural Areas designations by an amendment to the Zoning By-law. In the Prime Agricultural Area, an alternative locational analysis must also be completed and the policies of Section 3.7.2.3 (b) to (d) apply.

3.7.3.3 *Development applications* to sever new lots for a *rural institutional use* established in accordance with Policy 3.7.3.1, or a small-scale school, place of worship and associated cemetery established in accordance with Policy 3.7.3.2, may be permitted provided that:

- a) the new lot will be limited to a minimum size needed to accommodate the use;
- b) the severance will not result in an undersized farm that may not be commercially viable, as determined in accordance with Policy 3.3.1;
- c) the severed lands are zoned in the Township’s Zoning By-law to permit only the proposed institutional use; and
- d) the new lot can be appropriately serviced by private wells and individual wastewater treatment systems.

3.7.3.4 Within the Prime Agricultural Area or Rural Areas designations, *development applications* to expand the lot area for a *rural institutional use* established in accordance with Policy 3.7.3.1, or a small-scale school, place of worship and associated cemetery established in accordance with Policy 3.7.3.2, may be permitted provided that:

- a) the *existing* use is not a legal non-conforming use;
- b) there is a demonstrated need for the additional land area;
- c) the use minimizes the amount of land removed from agricultural production;
- d) the expansion does not adversely affect the ability of surrounding agricultural operations to carry out *normal farm practices*; and
- e) the severance will not result in an undersized farm that may not be commercial viable, as determined in accordance with Policy 3.3.1.

### **3.7.4 Severances for Woodlands/Conservation Lands**

3.7.4.1 The creation of lots specifically for the purpose of conserving *environmental features* or elements of the Greenlands Network as designated on Map 7 of this Plan, may be

permitted only where such lands are designated by this Plan and zoned to prohibit any use not related to conservation, and are covered by a conservation easement granted in favour of the Region, the Township or conservation organization acceptable to the Region. The creation of such lots will not be permitted where the configuration of the remnant parcels will create the potential for new *non-farm lots*, or result in farms which may not be commercially viable in accordance with Policy 3.3.1 of this Plan.

### **3.8 THE PROTECTED COUNTRYSIDE**

- 3.8.1 The Protected Countryside is designated by the Region on Map 7 of the Regional Official Plan. A portion of the Protected Countryside is located in the township and is shown on Map 10 of this Plan. This designation identifies a continuous band of *environmental features* and agricultural lands within the region and the township that are to be permanently protected from urban development. Lands within the Protected Countryside contain a large concentration of *prime agricultural lands, woodlands, watercourses, lakes, portions of the Nith River valley, wetlands, Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes, Regional Recharge Areas, mineral aggregate* resources and portions of the Waterloo Moraine. The Protected Countryside is intended to permanently protect these valuable areas from urban development, while providing for the continued use of the lands for agriculture, environmental and other appropriate rural uses, including appropriate access to *mineral aggregate resources* and other natural resources, in conformity with the policies in this Plan and the Regional Official Plan.
- 3.8.2 Land uses within the Protected Countryside will be regulated in accordance with the underlying policies of the Prime Agricultural Area, Rural Areas or Landscape Level Systems as designated in this Plan.
- 3.8.3 Expansions of the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas or Rural Settlement Areas will not be permitted into the Protected Countryside, except as provided for in Policy 3.8.4.
- 3.8.4 Minor expansions of Rural Settlement Areas located within the Protected Countryside designation may be permitted to facilitate the enlargement of an *existing* employment, recreational or institutional use subject to the *municipal comprehensive review* provisions the Regional Official Plan. Such expansions will not be permitted where the lands subject to the expansion proposal are also designated as *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape* in this Plan.
- 3.8.5 The designation of lands as Protected Countryside will not affect *agricultural uses* and associated *normal farm practices* as defined in applicable provincial legislation and regulations in conformity with this Plan and the Township's Zoning By-law, and statutes, policies and regulations of other government agencies, including agricultural drainage through municipal or agreement drains.

- 3.8.6 Nothing in this Plan shall prevent the owner of a legal lot of record located within the Protected Countryside designation from obtaining a building permit to construct or enlarge a house, accessory building or farm structure, provided it is in conformity with all other Township, Regional, and Grand River Conservation Authority requirements and regulations.

## CHAPTER 4: HOUSING POLICIES

### 4.1 GENERAL POLICIES

- 4.1.1 The Township will maintain the ability to accommodate residential growth for a minimum of 10 years taking into account the density and *reurbanization* targets of this Plan, and, if necessary, lands which are designated and available for residential development.
- 4.1.2 The Township will maintain where new development is to occur, land with servicing capacity sufficient to provide at least a three year supply of residential units available through land suitably zoned to achieve the density and *reurbanization* targets of this Plan, and land in draft approved and registered plans.
- 4.1.3 The Township will give priority to the approval of *development applications* which provide housing types that are needed within the community.
- 4.1.4 The Township will encourage a high level of repair and maintenance in the existing housing stock by taking advantage of federal, provincial and Regional housing programs, adopting and implementing *Community Improvement Plans*, and by enforcing property standards by-laws.

### 4.2 RANGE AND MIX OF HOUSING TYPES

- 4.2.1 The Township will provide for a full range and mix of housing types, tenures and densities in all designations where residential land uses are permitted in order to accommodate the needs of current and future residents. The Township will:
- a) provide opportunities for *reurbanization* within the *built-up area*, except where *infrastructure* is inadequate or there are significant physical constraints;
  - b) promote the efficient use of land in new residential developments and in redeveloping areas; and
  - c) support and encourage innovative lot configurations and housing designs and construction techniques.
- 4.2.2 The Township will plan and provide for the development of *affordable housing* in both home ownership and rental housing, to meet the various physical, social, economic and personal support needs of future and current residents by:
- a) requiring, wherever appropriate, where a *development application* proposing residential uses is submitted for a site containing two hectares or more of developable lands, a minimum of 30 percent of new residential dwelling units to be planned in forms other than single detached and semi-detached dwellings,

and may include housing forms such as street front townhouses and multiple residential units, in accordance with Section 3A of the Regional Official Plan.

- b) integrating compact, *mixed-use* development in new residential developments and redeveloping areas;
- c) supporting the construction of assisted housing, not-for-profit and *affordable* private sector residential units; and
- d) permitting the addition of one self-contained, residential unit (i.e., secondary suites) in detached, semi-detached and row houses, and ancillary structures located on the same lot in both existing and newly developing residential neighbourhoods, except where *infrastructure* is inadequate or there are significant physical constraints.

4.2.3 The Township will collaborate with the Region and other agencies in the preparation of the Region’s Community Action Plan for Housing and the Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy.

4.2.4 The Township will endeavour to provide a range of planning and regulatory incentives that encourage *affordable housing*.

### **4.3 ASSISTED AND SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING**

4.3.1 Proposed residential development in the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas will be encouraged to include a portion of ownership and rental dwellings that provide barrier-free access to people with mobility limitations.

4.3.2 The Township will permit *special needs housing* in all residential areas, including areas with access to medical facilities, *employment areas*, social services, *human services*, other *special needs housing* and amenities, subject to the policies of this Plan. The Township Zoning By-law shall not distinguish between the users of *special needs housing* on the basis of personal characteristics.

### **4.4 SENIORS’ HOUSING**

4.4.1 The Township will encourage and support seniors’ housing projects that allow seniors to “age-in-place” and remain active in the community for as long as possible. Any form of seniors’ housing should be located in close proximity to commercial and retail areas, community and recreational facilities, institutional uses and parks/open space areas.

4.4.2 The Township will encourage other forms of housing for seniors such as retirement homes, rest homes, nursing homes, long-term care facilities and other seniors housing complexes.



## CHAPTER 5: COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT POLICIES

### 5.1 GENERAL POLICIES

5.1.1 Council may pass a by-law to designate part of, or the entire township, as a Community Improvement Project Area in accordance with Section 28 of the Planning Act. Within a designated Community Improvement Project Area, Council may prepare and adopt a *Community Improvement Plan* to promote maintenance, rehabilitation, revitalization, remediation and/or conservation of selected lands, buildings and/or communities.

5.1.2 Council will consider the characteristics of an area to be designated for community improvement. A Community Improvement Project Area will have one or more of the following characteristics:

- a) the presence of conflicting land uses;
- b) the presence of buildings in need of renovation, rehabilitation, improvement or replacement;
- c) deficiencies in terms of open spaces, parks, community facilities or landscaping;
- d) a significant deterioration of *infrastructure*; and/or
- e) deficiencies in terms of flood protection.

5.1.3 In order to provide for the rehabilitation of a Community Improvement Project Area with an approved *Community Improvement Plan*, Council may:

- a) acquire land within the community improvement project area and clear, grade or otherwise prepare the land for community improvement;
- b) construct, repair, rehabilitate or improve buildings on land that has been acquired by Council;
- c) sell, lease or otherwise dispose of land that has been acquired by Council;
- d) provide grants or loans to property and building owners within the Community Improvement Project Area;
- e) enforce by-laws and policies dealing with property maintenance; and
- f) encourage the private sector and the public to become involved with initiatives in community improvement project areas.

5.1.4 The Township may provide grants, loans or other assistance as deems appropriate for the purposes of carrying out programs as described in Regional Community Improvement Plans.

## CHAPTER 6: GENERAL LAND USE POLICIES

### 6.1 LAND USE COMPATIBILITY

6.1.1 The Township will encourage development that is compatible with the location, density and other characteristics of surrounding land uses. Compatibility will address both the impacts of surrounding land uses on the proposed development, as well as impacts of the proposed development on surrounding land uses. Factors that will be used to assess the compatibility of a proposed development include:

- a) the density, scale, height, massing and visual impact of surrounding buildings and the proposed development;
- b) the preservation of the natural environment and *cultural heritage resources*;
- c) the continued visibility and viability of adjacent land uses;
- d) *pedestrian*, cyclists, and vehicular movement and linkages, and parking requirements;
- e) landscaping, setbacks, sun and shadow effects, wind effects, signage, lighting and buffering of proposed and existing developments;
- f) noise, dust, odours or vibrations generated by surrounding land uses as well as the proposed development; and
- g) traffic generated by surrounding land uses and the proposed development.

6.1.2 The Township will prevent or mitigate potential *adverse effects* from odour, noise and other contaminants, and minimize risks to public health and safety due to the encroachment of *sensitive land uses* and potentially incompatible uses on one another. Compatible uses may be encouraged as a buffer between *sensitive land uses* and industrial uses, where the intervening use is compatible with both the industrial use and the *sensitive land use*.

6.1.3 The development of new employment uses and new *sensitive land uses* will have regard for *Province's* guidelines respecting separation distances between employment uses and sensitive uses. In locating any sensitive land uses in the vicinity of any established or approved employment use, and vice versa, the Township, in consultation with the Region, and the Province's land use compatibility guidelines will apply effective separation distances for minimizing the impacts of noise, vibration, odour and particulate matter.

6.1.4 The proponent of a development proposed within 500 metres of a landfill site, 300 metres of an aggregate operation or 1,000 metres of a quarry will be required to

undertake an impact assessment to determine the impacts due to noise, dust, odour and possible effects to water resources.

- 6.1.5 Pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act, the Township will require written approval from the Province prior to consideration of a *development application* within areas formerly used as waste management facilities.
- 6.1.6 The Township, in consultation with the Region and the *Province*, will consider the *adverse* effects associated with the operation of wastewater treatment facilities or systems on *sensitive land uses* during the development approval process and may require the appropriate use of separation distances or other mitigation measures.
- 6.1.7 The Township, in consultation with the Region and the *Province*, may require separation distances, berming, screening, fencing, and/or other appropriate buffers to mitigate both visual and noise impacts of a proposed development.
- 6.1.8 The Township will require appropriate implementation of safety measures such as setbacks, berms and security fencing and warning signs as conditions of approval for *development application* adjacent to *rail facilities* in consultation with the appropriate railway authority.
- 6.1.9 All site lighting, when required, shall be designed to create safe outdoor environments and to minimize glare and impact to night sky, public view and surrounding properties.

## **6.2 CONTAMINATED SITES**

- 6.2.1 Planning approvals will be subject to the submission of a Record of Site Condition for any *development application* proposed on, or adjacent to, a known or potentially contaminated site, in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Implementation Guidelines for the Review of Development Applications On or Adjacent to Known and Potentially Contaminated Sites.
- 6.2.2 The closure of landfill sites and other facilities identified under the Environmental Protection Act are subject to the closure conditions of a Certificate of Approval.

### **6.2.3 Reuse of Brownfield and Greyfield Sites**

The Township encourages the reuse of any identified *brownfield sites* or *greyfield sites* to support *reurbanization* and make better use of existing land and *infrastructure*.

## **6.3 MINIMUM DISTANCE SEPARATION I AND II**

- 6.3.1 New land uses, including the creation of separate lots, expansions of existing lots and the development of new or expanding livestock facilities will comply with the *minimum distance separation formulae* and the Nutrient Management Act. The completion of

Nutrient Management Plans according to Best Management Practices shall meet provincial legislation or a municipal requirement prior to the issuance of building permits for certain types and sizes of operation. Where provincial legislation permits, the Township may pass a by-law to encourage higher standards of environmental responsibility.

#### **6.4 NOISE**

6.4.1 Prior to the approval of *development applications* in any area with the potential to be adversely affected by traffic, rail and stationary noise, the Township shall require a noise feasibility study be undertaken to the satisfaction of the Region and/or the Township by a qualified professional which demonstrates that appropriate abatement measures will be provided as set out in the Regional Official Plan and the Region's Implementation Guidelines for Noise Policies.

6.4.2 The Township will require consideration of the use of *passive noise attenuation measures* during the preparation of *development applications*, as a preferred means of reducing the use of structural mitigation measures such as noise barriers.

6.4.3 Any required noise abatement measures will be implemented through the development approval process and may include the following:

- a) use of increased setbacks;
- b) specific siting of buildings and land uses;
- c) incorporation of special building design techniques such as height, configuration, internal layout, window locations and window construction; and/or,
- d) use of special building materials and techniques; and/or.
- e) use of sound barriers such as walls, fencing, or landscaped berms.

#### **6.5 PARKING, ACCESS AND LOADING FACILITIES**

6.5.1 All uses shall be supplied with adequate off-street parking and, in the case of institutional, commercial and industrial uses, adequate off-street loading facilities. Access points to off-street parking or loading areas shall be limited in number and designed in a manner that provides for the adequate and safe movement of vehicular or *pedestrian* traffic.

6.5.2 While it is the general intent of this Plan that development or redevelopment satisfy the minimum parking standards of the Township, where this is not possible and the Township still is in support of the proposed development, Council may allow a parking

exemption pursuant to Section 40 of the Planning Act. Parking exemptions will not be permitted for Highway Commercial development.

- 6.5.3 Access for all new habitable buildings shall be designed so that emergency vehicles and *pedestrian* movement is not prevented during a flood in order that safe access/evacuation is ensured.

## 6.6 INTEGRATED PLANNING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE

- 6.6.1 The Township will co-ordinate *infrastructure* planning, land use planning, and *infrastructure* investment to implement this Plan.

- 6.6.2 The Township will plan for new or expanded *infrastructure* in an integrated manner, including evaluations of long-range scenario-based land use planning and financial planning, and will be supported by *infrastructure* master plans, asset management plans, community energy plans, *watershed planning*, environmental assessments, and other relevant studies where appropriate, and should involve:

- a) leveraging *infrastructure* investment to direct growth and development in accordance with the policies of this Plan, including the achievement of the minimum *reurbanization* and density targets in this Plan;
- b) providing sufficient *infrastructure* capacity in *strategic growth areas*;
- c) identifying the full life cycle costs of *infrastructure* and developing options to pay for these costs over the long-term; and
- d) considering the impacts of a changing climate.

- 6.6.3 The Township will use *infrastructure investment* and other implementation tools and mechanisms to facilitate *reurbanization* and higher density development in *strategic growth areas*. Priority will be given to *infrastructure* investments made by the Region or the Province that support the policies of this Plan.

- 6.6.4 The Township will assess *infrastructure* risks and vulnerabilities, including those caused by the impacts of a changing climate, and identify actions and investments to address these challenges, which could be identified as part of municipal asset management planning.

## 6.7 TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

This section establishes the general transportation policies for the Township of Wilmot. A convenient, safe and functional road network is the key element in facilitating the movement of both people and goods to and from the various areas within the Township and neighbouring municipalities. The Township will provide and maintain a road network that is integrated with Provincial and Regional roads, to accommodate current

and anticipated traffic volumes so as to ensure the efficient movement of people and goods throughout the Township. The Township will also endeavour to implement transportation demand management strategies to assist in reducing the demand for roadways and the total number of vehicle trips. Such strategies may include encouraging more *sustainable* travel choices through the integration of *infrastructure* and policies supportive of walking, cycling, transit, carpooling and other forms of human-powered transportation.

### **6.7.1 General Policies**

6.7.1.1 To minimize the impact of development on Provincial and Regional Road systems, the Township will:

- a) apply Provincial and Regional conditions on *development applications* with respect to the operation of the respective road networks as part of development approvals under the Township’s jurisdiction;
- b) require *site plan* and plan of subdivision designs to have regard for the needs of cyclists, *pedestrians* and future transit for access to the site; and
- c) provide for the design and construction of an integrated road system.

6.7.1.2 The Township will encourage the use of Provincial and Regional Roads for long range or through traffic movement.

6.7.1.3 The Township will implement the applicable recommendations of the Regional Cycling Master Plan, the Regional Transportation Master Plan, the Regional Pedestrian Master Plan and the Regional Pedestrian Charter through the review of *development applications* and *site plans*.

6.7.1.4 Through the review of *development applications*, the Township may provide reduced parking standards for developments within the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas where the applicant agrees to incorporate transportation demand strategies as part of the proposed development.

6.7.1.5 The Township will plan and manage its road system to:

- a) provide connectivity among transportation modes for moving people and for moving goods;
- b) offer a balance of transportation choices that reduces reliance upon the automobile and promotes *active transportation* and transit, where planned to be available in the future;

- c) be sustainable and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by encouraging the most financially and environmentally appropriate mode for trip-making and supporting the use of zero- and low-emission vehicles;
- d) offer multimodal access to jobs, housing, schools, cultural, and recreational opportunities, and goods and services;
- e) accommodate agricultural vehicles and equipment, as appropriate; and
- f) provide for the safety of the Township road system’s users.

6.7.1.6 In the design, refurbishment, or reconstruction of the existing and planned street network, the Township will adopt a *complete streets* approach that ensures the needs and safety of all road users are considered and appropriately accommodated.

6.7.1.7 The Township, in collaboration with the Region, will assess the need to develop and implement additional transportation demand management policies or programs as part of the next *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan. Depending on the outcome of this review, the Township may establish additional policies in this Plan or programs to:

- a) reduce trip distance and time;
- b) increase the modal share of alternatives to the automobile, which may include setting modal share targets;
- c) prioritize *active transportation*, transit, and goods movement over single-occupant automobiles;
- d) expand infrastructure to support *active transportation*; and
- e) consider the needs of major trip generators.

## **6.7.2 Road Hierarchy**

6.7.2.1 The Township will recognize a hierarchy of roads of the following systems:

- a) **Provincial Highways:** All *development applications* which are located adjacent to a Provincial Highway, as designated on Map 6.1 of this Plan are subject to the geometric and safety requirements and permits of the Ministry of Transportation Ontario;
- b) **Regional Roads:** All *development applications* which impact an existing or proposed Regional Road as designated on Map 6.1 of this Plan, are subject to the policies of the Regional Official Plan and appropriate Regional Implementation Guidelines;

- c) Township Roads: are local roads serving the joint functions of facilitating traffic movement throughout the Township, providing direct access to *abutting* land uses, and connecting to the Provincial and Regional road system. All *development applications* which impact an existing Township Road, or proposing the development of a new Township Road are subject to the policies of this Plan, and appropriate Township implementation guidelines.

### **6.7.3 Township Roads**

6.7.3.1 Existing Township Roads are designated as shown on Map 6.1 of this Plan.

6.7.3.2 The Township will develop and maintain an on-going program of maintenance and improvement of the Township Road System taking into consideration both the function of the roadway and its impact on the surrounding environment.

6.7.3.3 The Township recognizes that Township Roads have a traffic carrying function beyond the immediate area and will protect this function by:

- a) giving preference to traffic movement on paved roads;
- b) limiting the number and location of accesses to locations where adequate site distances are achievable in accordance with Township standards. Access design will be in accordance with Township Road Entrance Guidelines;
- c) requiring, where necessary, the dedication of land to provide for future road expansions; and,
- d) requiring appropriate building setbacks in the Township Zoning By-Law.

6.7.3.4 Any new roads created through the development approval process must meet Township standards, and will be assumed by the Township, where appropriate, once constructed or as determined through a development agreement, in accordance with these standards.

6.7.3.5 The following changes to the classification or jurisdiction of roads shown on Map 6.1 may be made without amendment to this Plan:

- a) minor modification to the designations, such as a change in classification which does not significantly change the function of the road;
- b) temporary changes to the designations, such as a change in jurisdiction for the purpose of land dedication or road construction.



6.7.3.6 The Township will require road widenings from all lands contained within *development applications* and/or *site plans*, where the existing road allowance is less than the Designated Road Allowance shown on Schedule 'B', or where an additional widening is required in accordance with Policy 6.7.5.4. Any such road widenings will be obtained by dedication prior to, or as a condition of, the approval of the *development application* and/or *site plan*, in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act.

6.7.3.7 For the purposes of the site plan control provisions of the Planning Act, each Township Road described in Schedule 'B' will constitute a "highway to be widened", and the designated Regional Road Allowance plus the road widenings specified in Policy 6.7.3.6 will constitute the "extent of the proposed widening".

#### **6.7.4 Transportation Impact Studies**

6.7.4.1 Where a *development application* or *site plan* is likely to generate significant traffic volumes on a Township Road, or where the application is proposing the creation of new Township Roads, the applicant will be required to submit a Transportation Impact Study to the satisfaction of the Township. Based on the results of the Transportation Impact Study, the applicant may be required to dedicate land for road widenings and undertake other road improvements to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development on the Township's road system.

6.7.4.2 Where a *development application* is likely to generate significant traffic volumes on Regional Roads, the applicant will be required to submit a Transportation Impact Study to the satisfaction of the Region, in accordance with the Regional Transportation Impact Study Guidelines and the policies of the Regional Official Plan.

6.7.4.3 Where a *development application* will impact upon existing or planned Regional Roads, transportation impact studies, land dedications, noise attenuation and other measures will be required in accordance with the Regional Official Plan.

6.7.4.4 Where a *development application* will impact upon existing or planned Provincial Roads, transportation impact studies, land dedications, noise attenuation and other measures may be required by the *Province*.

6.7.4.5 Where a *development application* is affected by road improvements which are subject to an *Environmental Assessment*, the *Environmental Assessment* will be completed to the extent required before approval of the *development application* by the Township or the Region.

#### **6.7.5 Road Design and Construction**

6.7.5.1 The construction of any new Township Roads will conform to recommended standards outlined in the Township Construction Guidelines, and will be subject to the approval of the Township. The design of new Township Roads will take into consideration the

ability to maintain with ease, minimizing the impacts on operations activities in interim and ultimate conditions. Where Township roads intersect with City, Regional or Provincial roadways, the Township will co-operate with the respective road authority to ensure that the design of the Township road complements the design of the intersecting roadway.

- 6.7.5.2 Any costs associated with road design, construction and/or transportation improvements resulting from a proposed development which has not been provided for in the Township's Development Charges By-Law, will be the responsibility of the applicant.
- 6.7.5.3 Where a development application is affected by road improvements requiring land acquisition, the acquisition of this land must be secured prior to, or as a condition of, the approval of the development application by the Township or the Region.
- 6.7.5.4 In addition to requiring road widenings to secure the Designated Road Allowances shown in Schedule 'B', the Township may require road widenings as a condition of approval of a *development application* and/or *site plan*, for the following purposes:
- a) to provide for transit infrastructure, *pedestrian* facilities and cycling lanes;
  - b) at Township Road intersections to accommodate roundabouts, turning lanes, daylighting triangles, channelization and locations for traffic control devices;
  - c) to provide suitable access to major traffic generators or attractors; and
  - d) to accommodate cut and fill slopes.
- 6.7.5.5 Where a *development application* or *site plan* requires the granting of easements and/or the dedication of land for sidewalks, bicycle pathways, transit stops, public transit rights of ways, Township Roads, Regional Roads, roundabouts and utilities, the dedication of this land must be secured prior to, or as a condition of, the approval of the *development application* or *site plan* by the Township or the Region.
- 6.7.5.6 The provision of cycling and *pedestrian* amenities associated with transportation demand management, such as bicycle racks, *pedestrian* lighting, or street furniture that are required by the Township or the Region through a *development application* or *site plan*, will be the financial responsibility of the applicant, unless funding is available through other sources satisfactory to the Township and/or the Region.
- 6.7.5.7 As part of the completion of a Community Plan or review of *development applications* adjacent to Regional and Township roads, the Township will encourage innovative designs to support cycling, *pedestrian* and future transit access and maintain the integrity of the respective road systems.

**6.7.6 Emergency Access**

6.7.6.1 The Township will require as a condition of a *development application* or *site plan* approval, the submission of detailed drawings indicating the emergency access to be provided at all phases of the development for review and approval by the Township. Emergency accesses will be provided at the expense of the developer at no cost to the Township.

**6.7.7 Railways**

6.7.7.1 The Township will encourage the grade separation of main rail lines and Township roads identified on Map 6.1 of this Plan.

6.7.7.2 The Township will encourage access to rail service within Industrial/Commercial Areas of the Township.

6.7.7.3 The Township will discourage the extension of railway lines adjacent to, or within residential areas.

6.7.7.4 The Township will cooperate with the Region and other agencies to protect and where feasible, acquire abandoned rail corridors for their future use as transit, walking, cycling, and utility corridors.

6.7.7.5 The Township will require berming, setbacks, screening or fencing, safety and noise attenuation features where development is proposed *abutting* railway rights-of-way, as appropriate, as required in the Regional Official Plan and in consideration of any comments received from the *abutting* rail authority in response to a circulation required under the Planning Act.

6.7.7.6 The Township will require that any vibration sensitive development within 75 metres of a rail line must address vibration concerns, which may include the submission of a vibration study and the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, to the satisfaction of the Township, and in consideration of any comments received from the *abutting* rail authority in response to a circulation required under the Planning Act.

**6.7.8 Public Transit**

6.7.8.1 The Township supports planning for the future extension of transit services to accommodate its growing population and as such will cooperate with the Region in reviewing the feasibility of extending transit services to the Township.

6.7.8.2 Where appropriate, the Township will incorporate any required policy changes resulting from the transit services review noted in Policy 6.7.8.1 by amendment to this Plan.

## **6.7.9 Cycling Routes and Pedestrian Paths**

6.7.9.1 The development of cycling routes and *pedestrian* paths will be encouraged where practical and safe. The Township will give priority to the cycling routes identified on Map 6.2 of this Plan, the Wilmot Trails Master Plan and Implementation Guidelines, and to the *pedestrian* paths identified in the Regional Pedestrian Master Plan.

6.7.9.2 The Township will identify and encourage opportunities for enhanced *pedestrian* and cycling environments which contribute to opportunities for walking and cycling for purposes of convenient travel, recreation, health, environmental and economic reasons, and promoting physical activity through the review of *development applications* and *site plans*. Examples of such measures may include:

- a) integrating *pedestrian* and cycling facilities into developments;
- b) ensuring local parks are *pedestrian*-friendly, safe and accessible, wherever feasible and appropriate;
- c) implementation of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles; and
- d) encouraging implementation of guidelines supportive of *pedestrian* and cycling activity in accordance with the provisions of the Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers' guidelines for promoting *sustainable* transportation through site design.
- e) providing consistent information and signage systems to support exploration, discovery and travel throughout the township by foot and bicycle;
- f) securing dedications for trail corridors; or
- g) providing *pedestrian* and cyclist connections to local schools, community centres, or future transit stops, where transit is being planned in the future.

6.7.9.3 Draft Plans of Subdivision or other *development applications* will provide for *pedestrian* paths and/or cycling routes connecting open space areas where appropriate.

## **6.7.10 Truck Routes**

6.7.10.1 To provide for the safe and efficient movement of trucks through and within the Township, and to minimize the impact of heavy trucks on residential areas, the Township will:

- a) encourage heavy truck traffic to utilize Provincial, Regional, and Primary Township roadways;
- b) prohibit truck traffic on all Local Township Roads, except in cases of local delivery and only in the absence of alternative acceptable routing.

**6.7.11 Scenic Roads**

6.7.11.1 The Township may identify Scenic Road Corridors through amendment to this Plan where:

- a) they have unique structural, topographic and visual features;
- b) they are adjacent to an area containing unique vegetation or species, including mature tree cover or enclosure;
- c) contiguous lands function as a wildlife corridor;
- d) the adjacent landscape or built structures have been identified as *cultural heritage resources* of cultural heritage value or interest; or
- e) the road is located within an approved or proposed Heritage Conservation District or *Cultural Heritage Landscape*.

6.7.11.2 Where necessary, prior to designating a Scenic Road Corridor, the Township will undertake necessary planning, transportation and traffic studies to identify alternative routes for existing or future high volume and high speed traffic.

6.7.11.3 The scenic values including the view from Township or Regional Roads to prominent heritage buildings or natural landscape features will be preserved where feasible.

6.7.11.4 Where feasible, the scenic values of designated Scenic Road Corridors will be maintained, preserved and protected by the Township when undertaking road improvements.

**6.8 INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICING PLANNING**

The Township, in conjunction with the Region, will ensure that all new development is serviced by adequate and effective water, wastewater and storm water facilities in accordance with sound engineering practices and technologies that aim to protect human health and the natural environment.

## **6.8.1 Wastewater Servicing**

6.8.1.1 The Township will evaluate wastewater servicing options for *development applications*, based on the following order of priority:

- a) extension of servicing from municipal wastewater services, unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Township and the Region that such a servicing option is not feasible; and
- b) new individual wastewater treatment systems, except where such systems are not permitted in accordance with Policy 6.8.1.2 b).

6.8.1.2 Notwithstanding Policy 6.8.1.1, *development applications* proposing the use of new individual wastewater treatment systems:

- a) may be permitted to support the development of new infill lots in the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas within the areas illustrated as Special Policy Area 6.8.1.2 a) on Maps 4.1 and 4.2; and
- b) will not be permitted within the Designated Greenfield Areas designation illustrated on Map 2.2, or within the areas designated as Wellhead Protection Sensitivity Area 1 or High Microbial Risk Management Zones on Map 8.

6.8.1.3 Prior to the approval of any *development applications* proposing the use of individual wastewater treatment systems, studies prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Implementation Guideline for Source Water Protection Studies and approved by the Region, must have demonstrated that such system(s) can operate satisfactorily on the site over the long-term and will not have a negative impact on groundwater resources. Any proposed individual wastewater treatment systems with a design capacity in excess of 10,000 litres per day must be designed in accordance with Section 22 of the Province's Design Guidelines for Sewage Works, 2008.

6.8.1.4 *Development applications* proposing alternative individual wastewater treatment systems will only be permitted where the proposed lot size would accommodate a conventional individual wastewater treatment system.

6.8.1.5 When reviewing *development applications* in the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas, the Township will ensure that no such development is recommended for approval if the Region determines that there is insufficient reserve capacity in the municipal wastewater services.

## **6.8.2 Water Supply**

6.8.2.1 The Township will evaluate water supply servicing options for *development applications*, based on the following order of priority:

- a) extension of servicing from municipal water services, unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Region that such a servicing option is not feasible; and
  - b) new private wells, except where such wells are not permitted in accordance with Policy 6.8.2.2 b).
- 6.8.2.2 Notwithstanding Policy 6.8.2.1, *development applications* proposing the use of new private wells:
- a) may be permitted to support the development of new infill lots in the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas within the areas illustrated as Special Policy Area 6.8.2.2 a) on Maps 4.1 and 4.2; and
  - b) will not be permitted within the Designated Greenfield Areas designation illustrated on Map 2.2, or within the areas designated as Wellhead Protection Sensitivity Area 1 or High Microbial Risk Management Zones on Map 8.
- 6.8.2.3 The Township will discourage non-residential development which requires significantly large quantities of water for its current or future operation.
- 6.8.2.4 The Township will encourage and support water conservation practices particularly in the fields of reduction of consumption, avoidance of wasteful practices, and water recycling.
- 6.8.2.5 The Township recognizes that the provision of an adequate and assured supply of potable water is a basic necessity to all residents of the Township and the Region, and that although supply of water is a Regional responsibility, the Township will, through its representatives at the Regional level, strive to assure such supply.
- 6.8.2.6 The Township will encourage Regional authorities to study and consider the possible effect of lowering water tables on the agricultural economy prior to developing new sources of ground water taking in the Township.
- 6.8.2.7 The Township, when considering development proposals in areas where municipal water supply is provided, will assure that no such development is recommended for approval if the Region determines that there is insufficient capacity in the water supply system.
- 6.8.2.8 When reviewing *development applications* in the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Area, the Township will ensure that no such development is recommended for approval if the Region determines that there is insufficient reserve capacity in the municipal water services.

6.8.2.9 Prior to the approval of any *development applications* that propose the use of private wells as a servicing option, studies undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Implementation Guideline for Source Water Protection Studies, must have demonstrated that such wells can operate satisfactorily on the site over the long-term and not negatively affect groundwater resources.

6.8.2.10 Where a *development application* proposes the use of private wells to supply potable water, only drilled wells with appropriate surface casing will be permitted.

### **6.8.3 Waste Management**

6.8.3.1 The Township will co-operate with the Region to co-ordinate the collection and haulage of waste and materials for recycling and composting to Regional waste management facilities and maximize opportunities for local composting and waste recycling.

## **6.9 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT**

6.9.1 The submission of *stormwater management plans* may be required as a condition of *development application* or *site plan* approval. All *stormwater management plans* shall be prepared by a professional engineer and submitted to the Township and the Grand River Conservation Authority for approval in accordance with the Township Stormwater Management Guidelines, approved Master Drainage Plans and *watershed planning studies*, Provincial guidelines and any applicable current best management practices. In addition, where lands drain to a Regional facility or a Provincial Highway, *stormwater management plans* shall also be submitted to the satisfaction of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and/or the Provincial Ministry of Transportation.

6.9.2 A landscaping plan approved by the Township will be required for all stormwater retention and detention facilities. All required landscaping will be installed in accordance with the approved plan, at the cost of proponent.

6.9.3 The Township may require Stormwater Management facilities to be dedicated to the Township as a condition of *development application* or *site plan* approval. Stormwater Management facilities conveyed to the Township must be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the approved *stormwater management plan*.

6.9.4 The Township may, where appropriate, require fencing around Stormwater Management facilities as a condition of development or *site plan* approval. Notwithstanding the above, the Township strongly encourages the development of stormwater management facilities which can serve as natural amenities and will discourage the development of stormwater management facilities which require fencing.

6.9.5 The Township will ensure insofar as possible that storm water run-off from both urban and rural areas and the discharge from municipal drains, tile drains and joint farm drains



will be managed to reduce the possibility of downstream flooding or flooding of adjacent lands, and to ensure that the discharge of storm water into existing water courses, streams or rivers will not add substantially to the pollution or channel degradation of these water courses.

6.9.6 The Township will develop *stormwater master plans* or equivalent for the Baden and New Hamburg Township Urban Areas that:

- a) are informed by *watershed planning*;
- b) protect the *quality and quantity* of water by assessing existing stormwater facilities and systems;
- c) characterize existing environmental conditions;
- d) examine the cumulative environmental impacts of stormwater from existing and planned development, including an assessment of how extreme weather events will exacerbate these impacts and the identification of appropriate adaptation strategies;
- e) incorporate appropriate *low impact development* and *green infrastructure*;
- f) identify the need for stormwater retrofits, where appropriate;
- g) identify the full life cycle costs of the stormwater *infrastructure*, including maintenance costs, and develop options to pay for these costs over the long-term; and
- h) include an implementation and maintenance plan.

6.9.7 Proposals for large-scale *development* proceeding by way of a secondary plan, plan of subdivision, vacant land plan of condominium or site plan will be supported by a *stormwater management plan* or equivalent, that:

- a) is informed by a *subwatershed plan* or equivalent;
- b) incorporates an integrated treatment approach to minimize stormwater flows and reliance on stormwater ponds, which includes appropriate *low impact development* and *green infrastructure*;
- c) establishes planning, design, and construction practices to minimize vegetation removal, grading and soil compaction, sediment erosion, and impervious surfaces; and

- d) aligns with the *stormwater master plan* for the *settlement area*, where applicable.

## 6.10 MAJOR UTILITY CORRIDORS OR RIGHTS-OF-WAY

6.10.1 The Township adopts the following policies relative to the construction or creation of major utilities, communication or service corridors proposed to cross the Township:

- a) All public utility, road, communication or service corridors, rights-of-way or installations that legally exist at the time of the approval of this Official Plan shall be considered to be in conformity therewith.
- b) The construction or creation of any new or additional major utility, road, communication or service corridors, rights-of-way or installations which include transforming distributing and regulatory facilities (with the exception of minor expansions) through, under or upon lands within the Township and the construction of major water control structures shall be considered to be in contravention of this Official Plan unless and until such project has been approved pursuant to the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act.

6.10.2 Disposal sites for liquid or solid wastes (but not including publicly owned and operated sewage treatment plants or sites for the land application of septic system wastes which have been approved by the Ministry of the Environment), major utilities corridors, major new road or rail rights-of-way and major water control structures will only be permitted in conformity with the policies of the Regional Official Plan and the policies of this Plan.

6.10.3 The encroachment of *abutting* land uses onto Hydro One Networks Inc., Interprovincial Pipeline and other utility easements are subject to the approval of the respective agency and the Township.

Secondary uses, such as active and passive recreation, agriculture, community gardens, other utilities and uses such as parking lots and outdoor storage that are accessory to adjacent land uses, are encouraged on hydro corridor lands, where compatible with surrounding land uses. However, a proponent should be aware of the primacy of the electricity transmission and distribution facilities and that secondary uses require technical approval from Hydro One Networks Inc.

6.10.4 The Township will confirm, as part of the development review process, that utility providers are able to provide services to support the proposed development in a timely manner and that, if required, appropriate locations for large utility equipment and utility clusters sites have been determined.

## **6.11 OPEN SPACE, MAJOR RECREATION, AND RECREATION AND TOURISM FACILITIES**

The Township recognizes the importance of parks, open space, recreational and tourism facilities in providing the conservation and protection of significant natural features and in providing recreational opportunities for its residents. The Township will provide and maintain sufficient space for both active and passive recreational pursuits by combining the provision of parkland, sports fields, community facilities, and natural areas to satisfy the recreational needs of all ages and lifestyles, in a manner that reflects the Township's growth and financial priorities.

### **6.11.1 General Policies**

- 6.11.1.1 The Open Space designation will be applied to any lands forming part of the Greenlands Network identified in Section 8.1 and which are located within the Baden or New Hamburg Urban Areas or the Rural Settlement Areas. Lands designated as Open Space are illustrated on Maps 4.1, 4.2 and 5.1 to 5.12 inclusive in this Plan.
- 6.11.1.2 The Major Recreation designation will be applied to all or portions of the following uses: conservation areas, major public parks, appropriate heritage features, and fairgrounds. Lands designated Major Recreation are identified on Maps 4.1, 4.1 and 4.2.
- 6.11.1.3 Where lands are designated as Open Space on any map in this Plan and as an element of the Greenlands Network illustrated on Map 7, uses permitted within the Open Space designation will be subject to the restrictions as established through the policies contained in Chapter 8 of this Plan.
- 6.11.1.4 Where lands are designated as Major Recreation on Maps 4.1, 4.1 or 4.2 and Environmentally Constrained Lands on Map 3, uses permitted within the Major Recreation designation will be subject to the policies contained in this Section and Section 8.2 of this Plan.
- 6.11.1.5 Specific uses within the Open Space and Major Recreation designations will be regulated through the Township Zoning By-law.
- 6.11.1.6 Where lands are designated as Ecological Conservation Area on any map in this Plan and as an element of the Greenlands Network illustrated on Map 7, uses permitted within the Ecological Conservation Area designation will be subject to the restrictions as established through the policies contained in Chapter 8 of this Plan and specifically regulated through the Township Zoning By-law.
- 6.11.1.7 The Township will actively seek to provide a balanced system of recreational and leisure opportunities through the development of parks, open space and recreational facilities that provide opportunities for physical recreation, socialization, cultural pursuits, community identification, nature appreciation and education.

- 6.11.1.8 Where feasible, the Township will facilitate partnership arrangements, joint ventures and facility sharing with the school boards, other institutions and community groups to expand the supply of parks, open space, and recreational facilities.
- 6.11.1.9 The Township, in consultation with every school board that has jurisdiction within the municipality, will periodically review and update its Parks and Recreation Master Plan on a Township-wide basis to maintain a current inventory of existing parkland, open space, and recreational facilities, identify deficiencies, and provide recommendations for future acquisition/development of parkland, open space and facilities.
- 6.11.1.10 The Township will encourage the development of a system of linked green space, open space and trails throughout the Township relying on existing parklands, corridors associated with watercourses, utility corridors, conservation areas, schools and the co-operation of private landowners.
- 6.11.1.11 The Township will encourage the development of a system of bicycle routes and *pedestrian* paths to link major public open space, schools and activity centres, and to provide for recreational needs of Township residents in accordance with Section 6.7.9 of this Plan.
- 6.11.1.12 The Township will encourage and work with the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Region, other agencies and the public to make lands available for recreational purposes such as cross-country skiing and hiking trails.

**6.11.2 Parkland and Open Space Acquisition**

- 6.11.2.1 The Township may acquire and/or protect Parkland and Open Space Areas as follows:
  - a) lease or purchase land at an appropriately negotiated price;
  - b) enter into any agreements, easements or enact a zoning by-law to preserve *woodlands* and conservation lands in accordance with Policy 3.7.4.1 of this Plan;
  - c) require in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act, the dedication of land for parkland purposes of up to 2 percent of the land proposed for commercial or industrial development as a condition of draft approval of Plan of Subdivision or the granting of a consent to sever;
  - d) require in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act, the dedication of land for parkland purposes of up to 5 percent of the land proposed for all other forms of development as a condition of draft approval of Plan of Subdivision or the granting of a consent to sever;
  - e) the Township may require cash-in-lieu of all or part of the required parkland dedication where:

- i) the required land dedication fails to provide an area of suitable shape, size or location for development of public parkland;
- ii) the required dedication of land would render the remainder of the site unsuitable or impractical for development;
- iii) it is determined that existing park and recreational facilities in the immediate area of the proposed development are adequate to serve the projected increase in population; or
- iv) funds are required to acquire, upgrade or expand land, parks or recreational facilities elsewhere in the Township to meet the needs of the projected population.

6.11.2.2 The amount paid for cash-in-lieu of parkland dedication will be in accordance with provisions of the Planning Act, and be placed in a fund to be expended solely for the purchase of additional parkland, open space or recreational lands and/or facilities.

6.11.2.3 The Environmentally Constrained Lands designated on Map 3 of this Plan will generally not be accepted as part of a dedication for parkland pursuant to the Planning Act.

6.11.2.4 The Township may accept ownership of *woodlands* and other environmental constrained lands areas for protecting the natural area for passive recreation and education uses.

6.11.2.5 Lands conveyed to the Township for active parkland and other recreational facilities may be required to meet minimum standards (to the satisfaction of the Township) in terms of drainage, grading and site condition.

6.11.2.6 Major Urban Greenlands are relatively large, publicly accessible parklands or open spaces located within urban areas that are owned and maintained by the Region, Township or the Grand River Conservation Authority. These urban greenlands are valued for their environmental, hydrological, recreational, and public health benefits, and are intended to help maintain a balance between the built and natural environment in urban areas.

6.11.2.7 The Township, in collaboration with the Region and the Grand River Conservation Authority, will designate any Major Urban Greenlands identified in the township in accordance with the Regional Official Plan, and establish associated policies for these areas in this Plan to:

- a) provide long-term protection from inappropriate development;

- b) require development on adjacent lands to not have an *adverse effect* on the valued characteristics of Major Urban Greenlands;
- c) facilitate public access to the Major Urban Greenlands through connections with cycling and *pedestrian* facilities; and
- d) provide for recreational and/or visitor services, wherever appropriate.

6.11.2.8 The Township will collaborate with the Region, the Grand River Conservation Authority and other stakeholders in the development and implementation of an Urban Greenlands Strategy that identifies a system of natural areas and open spaces, including Major Urban Greenlands, that enhance quality of life and public health within the township.

## **6.12 FIRE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION SERVICES**

6.12.1 The Township will not approve any *development application* which cannot be provided with adequate fire protection services.

6.12.2 The Township will consider, where appropriate, entering into agreements with adjacent municipalities for providing fire prevention and suppression services.

6.12.3 The Township will undertake fire prevention and safety programs in an effort to reduce fatalities, injuries and property damage.

6.12.4 The Township may require the provision of fire reservoirs as a condition of development or *site plan* approval, where such facilities are warranted to provide adequate fire protection.

6.12.5 Where the provision of a fire reservoir is required in accordance with Policy 6.12.4, detailed drawings will be submitted according to Township standards, illustrating the siting, design and access provisions must be approved by the Township prior to the approval of the proposed development.

## **6.13 ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS**

6.13.1 The Township will develop and incorporate, wherever appropriate, accessibility policies and regulations through the Zoning By-law and *site plan* guidelines in accordance with the provisions of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

## **6.14 ENERGY SUPPLY**

6.14.1 The Township will, where feasible, provide opportunities for the development of energy supply, including electricity generation facilities and transmission and distribution systems, to accommodate current and projected needs.

6.14.1 The Township will promote *renewable energy systems* and *alternative energy systems*, where feasible, in accordance with *provincial and federal requirements*.

**6.15 PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITIES**

6.15.1 The Township will co-ordinate planning for public service facilities, land use planning and investment in public service facilities.

6.15.2 The Township will, where appropriate, co-locate and integrate public service facilities and public services in community hubs to promote cost-effectiveness.

6.15.3 The Township will, where appropriate, give priority to maintaining and adapting existing public service facilities and spaces as community hubs to meet the needs of the community and optimize the long-term viability of public investments.

6.15.4 Existing public service facilities in the Township that are located in or near strategic growth areas and are easily accessible by active transportation and transit, where that service is available, should be the preferred location for community hubs.

6.15.5 The Township will collaborate and consult with service planning, funding, and delivery sectors to facilitate the co-ordination and planning of community hubs and other public service facilities.

6.15.6 The Township will ensure that new public service facilities, including hospitals and schools, are located in settlement areas and will give preference to sites that are easily accessible by active transportation and transit, where that service is available.

**6.16 URBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES**

6.16.1 Any urban design guidelines referenced in this plan will be used to ensure that development contributes to the well-being of residents and enhances the positive aspects of the community character. Urban design guidelines will be considered by a future Implementation Guideline in accordance with Policy 10.8 of this Plan.

## CHAPTER 7: MINERAL AGGREGATE RESOURCE AREA

### 7.1 PURPOSE

Portions of the township include *mineral aggregate resources* in the form of naturally occurring sand and gravel deposits. These aggregate resources provide material used in the construction of buildings and *infrastructure*. They also have the potential to support secondary industries that provide employment opportunities within the township.

To support the township's economic and growth needs, this Plan seeks to protect *mineral aggregate resources* for long-term use. The policies outlined below also provide for the orderly extraction of *mineral aggregate resources* as close to markets as possible to support the timely provision of infrastructure and reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions. These policies also provide for the optimum utilization of this resource within the township, while preventing or minimizing the potential impacts of *mineral aggregate operations* on surface water and groundwater resources, surrounding communities, *cultural heritage resources*, *environmental features* and *ecological functions*, and agricultural lands and operations.

#### 7.1.1 Designation and Protection

- 7.1.1.1 Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas are designated on Map 9 of this Plan. These areas have been identified by the *Province* as having a high potential to contain *mineral aggregate resources*. The identification of these resources in this Plan does not presume that all lands within these areas are suitable for *mineral aggregate operations*.
- 7.1.1.2 Extraction of *mineral aggregate resources* may be permitted in areas outside the Mineral Aggregate Resource Area, where there is a sufficient quantity and quality of resources to warrant extraction, as demonstrated to the satisfaction of the *Province*, the Region, and the Township and subject to the policies of this Plan.
- 7.1.1.3 The Township will prohibit development in areas located within or adjacent to Mineral Aggregate Resource Areas, which would preclude or hinder the establishment of *mineral aggregate operations* or access to the resources, except where:
- a) extraction would not be feasible;
  - b) the proposed land use or development serves a greater long term interest of the general public than does extraction; and
  - c) issues of public health, safety and environmental impacts are appropriately addressed.



- 7.1.1.4 Any new developments proposed within a Mineral Aggregate Resource Area in accordance with Policy 7.1.1.3 will minimize the amount of land needed for development to retain as much of the *mineral aggregate resource* potential as possible.
- 7.1.1.5 The Township encourages the recovery of *mineral aggregate resources* through the sequential use of developable land, whereby *mineral aggregate resources* are extracted prior to, or in conjunction with, development of the land.
- 7.1.1.6 The Township will plan for and regulate the subsequent use of rehabilitated *mineral aggregate operations* in accordance with the policies in this Plan.
- 7.1.1.7 The Township will regulate uses associated with aggregate extraction through the Zoning By-law as follows:
- a) permit *accessory uses* associated with aggregate extraction operations and processing activities such as crushing, screening, washing, stockpiling, blending with recycled asphalt or concrete materials, storage, weigh scales, parking and office facilities;
  - b) require site specific Zoning By-law amendments to permit ancillary land uses such as asphalt plants, concrete plants and aggregate depots that blend and stockpile aggregate materials with salt and aggregate transfer except where otherwise prohibited by the policies of this Plan, subject to:
    - i) the protection of adjoining lands from the negative effects of a reduced water supply, noise, dust, odour, lighting and outdoor storage;
    - ii) the protection of the environment from negative effects of dust, chemical spills, run-off, or contamination of surface or groundwater;
    - iii) access being obtained directly to a road capable of carrying the anticipated truck traffic; and,
  - c) notwithstanding Policy 7.1.1.7 b) ancillary land uses will not be permitted where they are identified as a prohibited use in accordance with the Source Water Protection policies in Section 8.6 of this Plan and Chapter 8 of the Regional Official Plan.

## **7.1.2 Existing Mineral Aggregate Operation**

- 7.1.2.1 The Township recognizes existing *mineral aggregate operations* as legal uses of land and will endeavour through the policies of this Plan to ensure their continued viability and use for extractive purposes in accordance with license requirements established under the Aggregate Resources Act. The Township will ensure that appropriate zoning is maintained to recognize existing licensed *mineral aggregate operations* as a permitted

use, and all new development in the vicinity of an existing *mineral aggregate operation* will be subject to Policy 7.1.1.3. The Township will zone existing licensed *mineral aggregate operations* appropriately in the Zoning By-law to permit aggregate extraction.

7.1.2.2

Deferral  
No. 2

*Development applications* to expand the boundaries of the licensed area of an existing *mineral aggregate operation*, or to increase the depth of extraction, will be subject to all policies in this Plan applicable to new *mineral aggregate operations*, as provided in Section 7.2, in addition to any requirements of the Aggregate Resources Act.

7.1.2.3

Where the licensee has circulated an application to expand an existing licensed *mineral aggregate operation* or to increase the depth of extraction which does not require the approval of a *development application*, the Township will review and provide comments on the application to the *Province* in the context of all relevant policies in this Plan that would apply to an application for a new *mineral aggregate operation*.

7.1.2.4

*Development applications* to expand an existing *mineral aggregate operation* located on lands designated as *Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes*, as shown on Map 7, will only be supported where:

- a) it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Region and the *Province* that substantial progress has been made in the rehabilitation to viable after-use of the disturbed area within the existing licensed area; and
- b) the total active extraction area of the original licensed area and the proposed expansion area is not increasing over the long term. A lesser standard may be considered where it can be demonstrated that the overall rehabilitation goals of the site can be more effectively achieved by deferring rehabilitation until a later stage of the *mineral aggregate operation*.

7.1.2.5

The Township will co-operate with the aggregate industry in the development and maintenance of an inventory of all existing *mineral aggregate operations* within the Township. This inventory will be updated periodically to help monitor aggregate extraction activities in the Township.

## 7.2

### NEW MINERAL AGGREGATE APPLICATIONS

7.2.1

Deferral  
No. 4

New *mineral aggregate operations* will require a site-specific amendment to the zoning by-law, the approval of which will be subject to all applicable policies of this Plan and the Regional Official Plan, in addition to any requirements for a license under the Aggregate Resources Act. Site-specific zoning by-law amendments approved under this policy will apply only to the boundary of the licensed area, and will limit the depth of extraction to that which is specified on the proposed *site plan*.

7.2.2 New mineral aggregate extraction within the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Areas designation may be permitted as an interim use, subject to the policies of this Plan, provided that agricultural rehabilitation is maximized.

Deferral  
No. 3

Within the Prime Agricultural Area designation as shown on Map 10, new *mineral aggregate operations* proposing extraction below the water table will require an amendment to this Plan and the Regional Official Plan to identify the area of extraction below the water table on Map 8. Such amendment will be subject to the policies in Section 7.4 and all other applicable policies in this Plan.

#### 7.2.4 Required Technical Information

7.2.4.1

Deferral  
No. 4

*Development applications* to permit a new *mineral aggregate operation*, expand an existing operation, or increase the depth of extraction, will only be permitted where the following studies have been submitted to the satisfaction of the Township, the Region and/or any other public agency having jurisdiction over the issue addressed by the study or that may be affected by the issue addressed by the study such as adjacent municipalities:

- a) noise, dust and vibration studies demonstrating that the proposed operation is appropriately designed, buffered and/or separated from any surrounding *sensitive land uses* to prevent any *adverse effects*;
- b) a hydrogeological study in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Implementation Guideline for Source Water Protection Studies, demonstrating, to the satisfaction of the Region, that the proposed operation will have no negative impacts on the *quality and quantity of water*;
- c) a Transportation Impact Study in accordance with the policies of this Plan, indicating how the proposed operation will address any potential impacts on Township roads, Regional roads and Provincial Highways;
- d) an *Environmental Impact Statement* prepared in accordance with the policies of this Plan, where the proposed *mineral aggregate operation* is *contiguous* to a Core Environmental Feature, or within or *contiguous* to a Supporting Environmental Feature;
- e) an *archaeological assessment* and/or *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment* in accordance with the policies of this Plan;
- f) information on the estimated lifespan of the *mineral aggregate operation* and demonstration that the final rehabilitation plan is consistent with the policies in this Plan and the Regional Official Plan; and

- g) any other studies identified by the Township to meet requirements of a complete application under the provisions of the Planning Act.

7.2.4.2 To avoid potential overlap among the studies required under Policies 7.2.4.1, 7.4.1 and similar studies that may be required by the Province, the Region or the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Township will require the applicant to participate in a *pre-submission consultation meeting* with each of these agencies prior to the submission of any supporting studies. The purpose of this *pre-submission consultation meeting* will be to identify the specific policy requirements of each of the agencies in each of the substantive areas being studied under Policy 7.2.4.1 and 7.4.1 such that a single study can satisfy all of the requirements identified by the agencies.

7.2.4.3 The studies identified in Section 7.2.4.1 will be required to take into account the potential *cumulative impacts* that may result from a proposed new *mineral aggregate operation* when added to other past, present and proposed future *mineral aggregate operations* in the vicinity of the proposed new operation. The appropriate level of detail, analysis, boundaries and baseline data to be used in the *cumulative impacts* assessment will be determined by the Township, the Region, the Grand River Conservation Authority, other affected public agencies, and the applicant as part of the *pre-submission consultation meeting* provided for in Policy 7.2.4.2.

## 7.2.5 Review Criteria

7.2.5.1 New *mineral aggregate operations* will not be permitted on lands designated as Core Environmental Features, except in accordance with the following:

- a) within *Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species* where authorized in accordance with *provincial and federal requirements*;
- b) within *Significant Woodlands, Significant Wildlife Habitat, Environmentally Significant Valley Features* and/or *Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest*, new *mineral aggregate operations* may be permitted where the features consists of habitats that can be effectively replaced or restored within a reasonable period of time, such as:
  - i) areas of crop or pasture;
  - ii) plantation;
  - iii) early successional habitat;
  - iv) areas of high disturbance;
  - v) areas of low ecological diversity with high percentage of non-native species;
  - vi) small areas of non-Provincially significant marsh or thicket wetland;
  - vii) old field meadow;
  - viii) hedgerows;
  - ix) minor areas on the perimeter of the features; or

- x) drainage swales; and
- c) the owner/applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Region that:
  - i) the portion of the Core Environmental Feature affected by the mineral aggregate extraction will be replaced or restored within a reasonable period of time with habitat of greater extent and/or ecological value as part of the rehabilitation plans, to promote, where possible, a net ecological gain, or in the case of *Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species*, compliance with *provincial and federal requirements* have been achieved;
  - ii) there will be no *adverse environmental impacts* to the *environmental features* or *ecological functions* and connectivity of the residual areas of the Core Environmental Feature;
  - iii) the quantity, quality and direction of local surface water and groundwater will be maintained or enhanced; and
  - iv) the extraction of *mineral aggregate resources* will be completed, and the area will be rehabilitated, as early as possible in the life of the operation.

7.2.5.2 New *mineral aggregate operations* may be permitted within a Source Water Protection Area as shown on Map 8 of this Plan, except where such uses are prohibited in accordance with the source water protection policies in Section 8.6 of this Plan and in Chapter 8 of the Regional Official Plan.

Deferral  
No. 3

7.2.5.3 New *mineral aggregate operations* proposed *contiguous* to Core Environmental Features as designated on Map 7 of this Plan, may be permitted, provided that there will be no *adverse environmental impacts* to their features or *ecological functions* and *Environmental Linkages*.

7.2.5.4 The Township Zoning By-law will include site-specific regulations to restrict extraction below the water table where hydrogeological *cumulative impacts* assessments, prepared in accordance with Policy 7.4.1 b), have not demonstrated to the Region's satisfaction the acceptability of such extraction from a surface water and groundwater perspective.

Deferral  
No. 3

7.2.5.5 New *mineral aggregate operations*, or *wayside pits and quarries*, may be permitted within *Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes* as shown on Map 7, in accordance with the policies in Section 9.C of the Regional Official Plan, where it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Township, in consultation with the Region, the *Province*, the Grand River Conservation Authority, and other affected agencies that:

- a) notwithstanding Policy 8.1.2.10, where extraction is proposed *contiguous* to a Core Environmental Feature, there will be no *adverse environmental impacts* to their features or landscape level *ecological functions* and connectivity;
- b) where extraction is proposed within or *contiguous* to the following features, which are not included within a Core Environmental Feature:
  - i) rivers, stream valleys, *floodplains*, or associated *hazardous lands* or *hazardous sites*;
  - ii) *fish habitat*;
  - iii) meromictic and kettle lakes;
  - iv) *Significant Wildlife Habitat*; or
  - v) savannas, tallgrass prairies, rare *woodland* types, cliffs, alvars, sand barrens, marl seeps, bogs and fens;

there will be no *adverse environmental impacts* to their features or landscape level *ecological functions* and connectivity, although extraction may be considered in habitats which can be effectively replaced or restored in a short to medium time scale such as areas of crop or pasture land, young plantation, early successional *woodland*, small areas of non-provincially *significant* marsh or thicket *wetland*, old field meadow, hedgerows and drainage swales; and

- c) the quantity and quality of local surface water and groundwater regimes can be maintained or enhanced.

#### 7.2.5.6

Where a new *mineral aggregate operation* is proposed on lands designated as an *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape* as designated on Map 7 of this Plan, the Township will recommend to the *Province* that the Natural Environment Report required under the Aggregate Resources Act also address the following objectives:

- a) natural habitat that would be lost from the site will be replaced with equivalent habitat on the property or on adjacent lands, and no less than 35 per cent of the licensed area remaining above the water table after extraction will be rehabilitated to sustainable natural *woodland* habitat representative of the landscape in which it is located;
- b) the quantity and quality of surface and groundwater regimes and aquatic ecosystems remaining after, or created by, extraction will be rehabilitated to sustainable natural aquatic ecosystems representative of the landscape in which they are located;

- c) the health, diversity, size, *ecological function* and connectivity of major natural features remaining within the proposed licensed area will be maintained and, where possible, enhanced before, during and after the extraction of aggregate resources;
- d) the rehabilitated area will be maximized and the disturbed area minimized on an ongoing basis during the life-cycle of the pit operation; and
- e) rehabilitation of any area once occupied by natural features, or identified as potential enhancement/restoration and/or *Environmental Linkage* areas is completed as early as possible in the life of the extraction operation.

7.2.5.7 *Development applications* that would establish an ancillary use to a *mineral aggregate operation* will only be permitted where applicable studies identified in Policy 7.2.1.2 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Township and/or the Region and other affected agencies that the proposed use will mitigate any potential *adverse effects*.

7.2.5.8 Prior to the establishment of a new *mineral aggregate operation*, Township support for the zone change application will be subject to the following:

- a) the submission and acceptance of any required studies identified in Policies 7.2.1.2 and 7.4.1;
- b) demonstration that the proposed rehabilitation is consistent with the policies of this Plan and the Regional Official Plan;
- c) the submission of all reports required by the Ministry of Natural Resources in accordance with the Aggregate Resources Act; and
- d) the Township being satisfied that the following conditions will be dealt with through the *site plan* approved under the Aggregate Resources Act, or other appropriate means:
  - i) to ensure provision of adequate buffering and/or screening along road rights-of-way, or adjacent to any existing or proposed sensitive uses, and implementation of any other necessary mitigation measures as determined through the approval of required studies to prevent where possible, or minimize any potential *adverse effects* on the surrounding *sensitive land uses*, to the satisfaction of the Township;
  - ii) that no new excavation or processing will take place until all required buffers and/or screenings have been installed;
  - iii) that no water or washing or screening operations will be discharged into any water course;

- iv) that the applicant, in co-operation with the Township and the Region, will establish all haul routes for truck traffic;
- v) that any required road improvements identified through the Transportation Impact Study noted in 7.2.1.2 above are in place prior to the removal of aggregates from the site; and,
- vi) that no new excavation or processing will take place until all required fencing and/or security measures have been put in place.

7.2.5.9 The Township will encourage the construction of intra-pit road systems and new roads to support the movement of *mineral aggregate resources* so as to lessen the impact of truck traffic on Township roads and *sensitive land uses*.

7.2.5.10 The Township will collaborate with the Region and the *Province* to ensure that all appropriate requirements resulting from the review of an application for a *mineral aggregate operation* are imposed and enforced as:

- a) conditions on the license or notes on the *site plan* required under the Aggregate Resources Act, including but not limited to spill protection measures to prevent discharges to surface water and groundwater resources from on-site fuel storage, vehicle or equipment repair and equipment operation, and spills from salt storage, use and transfer, and other best management practices; and
- b) regulations in site-specific zoning by-laws, development agreements and conservation easements, as may be applicable.

### **7.3 WAYSIDE PITS AND QUARRIES, PORTABLE ASPHALT AND CONCRETE PLANTS**

7.3.1 The removal or leveling of a hill containing aggregate for the purpose of increasing or improving lands for *agricultural uses* will be permitted in any land use designation without the need for a zoning by-law amendment provided that no excavation occurs below the average grade of land surrounding the hill. Such extraction is subject to support of the Region, the Township and the issuance of a wayside permit by the Ministry of Natural Resources.

7.3.2 The Township will request the Ministry of Natural Resources to include a notification on wayside permits for lands adjacent to Supporting Environmental Features that the Township should be contacted prior to excavation to obtain information on how to mitigate impacts on the Supporting Environmental Features.

7.3.3 *Wayside pits and quarries, portable asphalt plants and portable concrete plants* for the exclusive temporary use of a public road authority operating under an approved permit will be permitted on a temporary basis in all land use designations, without amendment



to this Plan, or the Zoning By-law, except where:

- a) the use would be located within or adjacent to an area of existing development that would be incompatible with aggregate extraction and associated activities;
- b) the use would be located within a Core Environmental Feature as designated on Map 7; or
- c) the use is identified as a prohibited use by the policies of this Chapter.

7.3.4 *Portable asphalt plants and portable concrete plants* will be discouraged on lands containing active agricultural operations. If asphalt or concrete for a public road project cannot be obtained from an existing asphalt or concrete plant, attempts should be made to locate the portable plant in *wayside pits and quarries*, vacant industrial sites, or on inactive or less productive agricultural lands.

7.3.5 *Portable asphalt plants and portable concrete plants* will obtain appropriate approvals from the *Province* pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act and will include provisions to prevent spills of petroleum chemicals to surface and groundwater resources.

#### 7.4 EXTRACTION BELOW THE WATER TABLE

7.4.1 In addition to all other applicable policies of this Plan, including the requirement for an amendment to this Plan and the Regional Official Plan in accordance with Policy 7.2.3, mineral aggregate extraction below the water table will only be permitted where:

Deferral  
No. 5

- a) on lands identified as *prime agricultural lands* within Prime Agricultural Areas, it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Township and the Region that there is a substantial quantity of *mineral aggregate resources* below the water table warranting extraction;
- b) in a *specialty crop area*, there is a substantial quantity of *high quality mineral aggregate resources* below the water table warranting extraction;
- c) the completion of a hydrogeological *cumulative impacts* assessment demonstrates that the removal of the resource and the subsequent rehabilitation of the lands will not negatively impact the quantity and quality of the surface or groundwater resources and relevant natural heritage features. Such studies will be completed to the satisfaction of the Township, the Region, the *Province*, the Grand River Conservation Authority, and other affected public agencies.
- d) if necessary and feasible to protect groundwater quality, post-extractive drainage is directed away from the resulting pond, the slopes of the pond are

stabilized with appropriate native species, and a pond planting plan is prepared and implemented to the satisfaction of the Township and the Region;

- e) on lands identified as *prime agricultural lands*, other alternatives have been considered by the applicant and found unsuitable, and agricultural rehabilitation in remaining areas will be maximized. The consideration of other alternatives will include investigation as to the availability of alternative resources on lands identified as Canada Land Inventory Class 4 to 7 soils, resources on lands committed to future urban uses, and resources on *prime agricultural lands* where rehabilitation to agriculture is feasible. Where no other alternatives are found, *prime agricultural lands* will be protected in this order of priority: *specialty crop areas*, Canada Land Inventory Class 1, 2, and 3 lands; and
- f) it is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Township and the Region that agricultural rehabilitation in remaining areas will be maximized, and that the site will be rehabilitated in accordance with the policies in Section 7.1.8 of this Plan.

7.4.2 Where the results of a hydrogeological *cumulative impacts* assessment indicate that mineral aggregate extraction below the water table may have a negative impact on the quantity or quality of groundwater in an area, the Township will restrict extraction below the water table by means of a site-specific zoning by-law regulation in accordance with Policy 7.2.5.4. The purpose of this restriction is to maintain the depth of residual over burden necessary to protect the quality and quantity of groundwater.

Deferral  
No. 3

7.4.3 Where the extraction of a proven significant quantity of *high quality mineral aggregate resources* located below the water table is not permitted in accordance with Policy 7.4.1 and 7.4.2, this resource will continue to be protected from land uses incompatible with its future extraction.

## 7.5 REHABILITATION OF AGGREGATE OPERATIONS

7.5.1 The Township will co-operate with land owners, the Region, pit operators, and the Ministry of Natural Resources in efforts to rehabilitate existing and/or abandoned pits and quarries to reduce or eliminate dangerous or hazardous conditions and return the pit site to a suitable land use as determined by the Township in conformity with the policies of this Plan and the Regional Official Plan.

7.5.2 All proposals for new *mineral aggregate operations*, including *wayside pits and quarries*, will include a rehabilitation plan to the satisfaction of the Township and the Region, ensuring that:

- a) progressive rehabilitation will be carried out whenever feasible so that depleted areas are restored while extraction continues in other areas of the site;

- b) final rehabilitation will comply with the land use designations contained in this Plan or the Regional Official Plan, and be compatible with the character of surrounding land uses;
- c) *comprehensive rehabilitation* will be carried out, to the extent possible, where a proposed new *mineral aggregate operation* abuts one or more existing licensed *mineral aggregate operations*;
- d) within the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Areas designations, rehabilitation to agriculture will be the first priority, as follows:
  - i) within the Prime Agricultural Area, substantially the same land area will be rehabilitated back to an *agricultural condition* to allow for the same range and productivity of crops common in the area; and
  - ii) within Rural Areas, rehabilitation of the site will be carried out so that substantially the same land area and same average soil quality for agriculture are restored; and
- e) where mineral aggregate extraction has occurred below the water table, rehabilitation will be in accordance with Policy 7.4.1 c) to protect groundwater quality.

### 7.5.3

In the Prime Agricultural Area designation, rehabilitation to agriculture will be the first priority. Notwithstanding this, complete agricultural rehabilitation within the Prime Agricultural Area and Rural Areas designations not be required where:

- a) the depth of extraction makes restoration of pre-extraction agricultural capability impractical;
- b) hydrogeological investigations completed in accordance with the policies in this Plan and the Regional Official Plan, have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Township and the Region that agricultural rehabilitation is not desirable due to groundwater protection requirements;
- c) the Region, in collaboration with the *Province*, the Grand River Conservation Authority and the Township, have determined a suitable post-extractive use in conformity with the policies in this Plan and the Regional Official Plan; and
- d) aggregate extraction would remove natural features such as *woodlands*, *wetlands* and watercourses on lands not otherwise protected by the Greenlands Network policies of this Plan and the Regional Official Plan, in which case these natural features will be restored and, where possible, enhanced.

7.5.4 Where multiple *mineral aggregate operations* are located in close proximity to one another, the Township will collaborate with the Region, the *Province*, the Grand River Conservation Authority and the affected applicants to jointly develop *comprehensive rehabilitation* plans for multiple properties.

**7.6 CONSERVATION OF MINERAL AGGREGATE RESOURCES**

7.6.1 The Township will ensure that *mineral aggregate resource conservation* will be undertaken, including through the use of aggregate recycling facilities within operations, wherever feasible.

**7.7 CONFORMITY TO THE GROWTH PLAN FOR THE GREATER GOLDEN HORSESHOE (2017)**

7.7.1 Where an application under the Aggregate Resources Act has been received and deemed complete by the Province after July 1, 2017, any applications under the Planning Act to permit the making, establishment or operation of the pit or quarry to which the Aggregate Resource Act application relates, will be subject to the mineral aggregate policies set out in the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe (2017) in addition to all relevant policies of this Plan.

## CHAPTER 8: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Jurisdiction over environmental matters is divided among different levels of government. Effective environmental planning and stewardship requires the co-operation of several different agencies and organizations, including federal and provincial ministries, the Region, the Township, the Grand River Conservation Authority, and neighbouring municipalities. Policies related to the Greenlands Network and *environmental features*, Environmentally Constrained Lands, Watershed Planning, and *Environmental Impact Statements* are encompassed in this section.

The Township will attempt to adhere to the following principles when practicing environmental management:

- 1) environmental awareness is essential to the development and maintenance of a *sustainable* community;
- 2) environmental standards for development must be established not only to prevent or minimize *adverse environmental impacts*, but also where feasible, to enhance *environmental features* and functions;
- 3) *watershed planning* is an effective tool for establishing policies in advance of urban development to protect the *environmental features* and functions of a watershed; and
- 4) the rich native *biodiversity* of the Township must actively be maintained, enhanced and restored wherever feasible.

### 8.1 THE GREENLANDS NETWORK

The township contains a diverse range of *environmental features* that form part of a broader Greenlands Network described in the Regional Official Plan. This natural system provides economic, ecological and social benefits and contributes to the overall quality of life in the township. It also supports and enhances air, land and water quality, and maintains biological diversity. The maintenance, enhancement and restoration of the *ecological function* and *hydrological function* of the Greenlands Network is therefore vital.

#### 8.1.1 General Policies

8.1.1.1 As part of the next *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan, the Township will collaborate with the Region to refine and implement the Provincial mapping of the *Natural Heritage System* for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The following policies will apply with respect to the *Natural Heritage System*:

- a) until the mapping of the *Natural Heritage System* has been issued by the Province, the Township will continue to protect the Greenlands Network designated in this Plan in accordance with the policies Plan;

- b) following the issuance of the mapping of the *Natural Heritage System* by the Province, the Township will update this Plan to:
  - i) incorporate the *Natural Heritage System* as an overlay in this Plan;
  - ii) establish appropriate policies to maintain, restore, or enhance the diversity and connectivity of the system and the long-term ecological or *hydrologic functions* of the features and areas as set out in the policies in Sections 4.2.2, 4.2.3 and 4.2.4 of the Growth Plan.

8.1.1.2 The Greenlands Network is comprised of the following elements:

- a) Landscape Level Systems;
- b) Core Environmental Features;
- c) *fish habitat*;
- d) Supporting Environmental Features; and
- e) *Environmental Linkages*.

8.1.1.3 *Development applications or site alteration* will be prohibited on lands where elements of the Greenland Network have not been adequately identified and evaluated through a *watershed planning* study or any other appropriate natural heritage review, until such time as an *Environmental Impact Statement* has been prepared by an applicant in accordance with the policies of this Plan and/or the Regional Official Plan, to identify and evaluate any such elements located on the subject lands and, wherever appropriate, *contiguous* lands.

8.1.1.4 The acquisition of elements of the Greenlands Network by the Township, the Region or other public agencies will be promoted wherever feasible.

8.1.1.5 Interpretation of the boundaries of the elements that make up the Greenlands Network, as required to support the review of *development applications*, will be achieved through the completion of *Environmental Impact Statements*, *watershed planning* studies, or other appropriate studies accepted by the Township, the Region and other public agencies having jurisdiction.

8.1.1.6 Any boundary interpretations of the Greenlands Networks not generally in conformity with the boundaries shown on Map 7 of this Plan will require an amendment to this Plan and/or the Regional Official Plan as applicable.

8.1.1.7 Illegal acts resulting, or having resulted, in a reduction in the form or function of an *environmental feature* within the Greenlands Network, including but not limited to such acts as tree removal, *wetland* filling or draining, or the diverting of watercourses, will not be recognized as existing conditions within the development review process. Restoration of the damaged area may be required prior to, or as a condition of, approval of any *development applications*.

8.1.1.8 Elements of the Greenlands Network that are privately owned are not for use by the public, except at the discretion of the owner.

### **8.1.2 Landscape Level Systems**

8.1.2.1 Landscape Level Systems are recognized within the Greenlands Network as large-scale *environmental features* or as *significant* concentrations of *environmental features*. These areas are designated by the Region on Map 4 of the Regional Official Plan and on Map 7 of this Plan. Landscape Level Systems consist of:

- a) *Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes*;
- b) Significant Valleys; and
- c) Regional Recharge Areas.

8.1.2.2 The Region may revise the boundaries of Landscape Level Systems through future amendments to the Regional Official Plan. The Township will update the boundaries of these areas in conformity with the Regional Official Plan as part of the statutory review of this Plan. Where there is a discrepancy between the boundaries of Landscape Level Systems shown in this Plan and the Regional Official Plan, the boundaries shown in the Regional Official Plan will be used to implement the policies of this Plan.

8.1.2.3 The designation of lands as Landscape Level Systems will not affect *agricultural uses* and associated *normal farm practices* as defined in applicable provincial legislation and regulations in conformity with this Plan, applicable Zoning By-laws, statutes, policies and regulations of other government agencies, including agricultural drainage through municipal or agreement drains.

8.1.2.4 The Township will maintain, enhance or, wherever feasible, restore the scenic qualities of Township Roads within Landscape Level Systems.

### **Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes**

8.1.2.5 *Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes* identify broad areas within the Region with distinct geographical and ecological characteristics and compositions that support and sustain a range of *ecological functions*. A portion of the Region's Laurel Creek

Headwaters *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape* is located within the township as designated on Map 7 of this Plan.

- 8.1.2.6 All *development applications* within *Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes* are subject to all applicable policies of this Chapter and Chapter 7 of the Regional Official Plan.
- 8.1.2.7 Future expansions of the Baden and/or New Hamburg Urban Areas, Rural Settlement Areas are not permitted within or into *Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes*.
- 8.1.2.8 The creation of new lots for *non-farm-related residential units* within *Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes* is only permitted within Rural Settlement Areas.
- 8.1.2.9 The Township Zoning By-law will not permit the land uses identified in Policy 7.B.10 of the Regional Official Plan within *Environmentally Sensitive Landscapes* outside of Rural Settlement Areas.
- 8.1.2.10 Where *development* or *site alteration* is proposed on lands within or *contiguous* to an *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape*, the applicant will be required to submit an *Environmental Impact Statement* which addresses landscape impacts in addition to any other requirements in accordance with the policies in Section 8.4 of this Plan.
- 8.1.2.11 Where construction of a road on a new right-of-way, widening or upgrading of an existing roadway, construction or upgrading of a trunk sewer, trunk watermain, gas pipeline or electricity transmission and distribution system, wastewater treatment facility, waste management facility or groundwater taking project is proposed within or *contiguous* to an *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape*, the submission of an *Environmental Impact Statement*, or other appropriate study, in accordance with the policies in Section 8.4, which evaluates landscape level impacts, will be required.
- Development that has received Environmental Assessment approval will be exempt from the requirement for an *Environmental Impact Statement*.
- 8.1.2.12 Nothing in this Plan will prevent the owner of a legal lot of record in an *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape* from obtaining a building permit to construct or enlarge a single detached dwelling, accessory building or *farm* structure, provided it is in conformity with all other Township, Region and Grand River Conservation Authority policies and regulations.
- 8.1.2.13 The designation of an *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape* will not affect existing aggregate extraction and processing operations licensed under the Aggregate Resources Act.



## Significant Valleys

- 8.1.2.14 Significant Valleys are designated on Map 7 of this Plan. This designation identifies valleys of the Nith River and Speed River, which are together nationally recognized as a Canadian Heritage River. Significant Valleys comprise the entire river channel within the region and run up to the point where the slope of the valley begins to grade into the surrounding upland.
- 8.1.2.15 All *development applications* within or *contiguous* to Significant Valleys will be in accordance with the policies of this Chapter and Chapter 7 of the Regional Official Plan.

## Regional Recharge Areas (Environmental Protection)

- 8.1.2.16 Regional Recharge Areas are designated on Map 7 and Map 8 of this Plan. This designation identifies large *environmental features* consisting of considerable deposits of sand and gravel that allow for the infiltration of substantial quantities of rainfall and snowmelt deep into the ground. Regional Recharge Areas serve to sustain a wide range of aquatic habitats and ecosystems within the Greenlands Network, and also serve to replenish deep underground aquifers that serve as a source for a significant share of the township's drinking water.
- 8.1.2.17 Expansions of the Baden and/New Hamburg Urban Areas or Rural Settlement Areas will not be permitted onto lands designated as Regional Recharge Areas, except as provided for in Policy 8.1.2.18 of this Plan and the policies of the Regional Official Plan.
- 8.1.2.18 Minor expansions of Rural Settlement Areas located within Regional Recharge Areas may be permitted to facilitate the enlargement of an *existing* employment, recreational or institutional use subject to the *municipal comprehensive review* provisions of the Regional Official Plan. Such expansions will not be permitted where the lands subject to the expansion proposal are also designated as *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape*.
- 8.1.2.19 *Development applications* within Regional Recharge Areas on lands already designated for urban development in this Plan may be permitted in accordance with the policies of this Plan and Section 7.B of the Regional Official Plan.

## 8.1.3 Core Environmental Features

- 8.1.3.1 Core Environmental Features identify those *environmental features* that are provincially or regionally *significant*. These features are the most *significant* elements of the regional landscape in terms of maintaining, protecting and enhancing *biodiversity* and important *ecological functions*.
- 8.1.3.2 Core Environmental Features are designated by the Region on Map 4 of the Regional Official Plan and on Map 7 of this Plan. This designation applies to lands that meet the criteria set out in the Regional Official Plan as:

- a) *Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species;*
- b) *Provincially Significant Wetlands;*
- c) *Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas;*
- d) *Significant Woodlands;*
- e) *Environmentally Significant Valley Features; or*
- f) *Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest.*

8.1.3.3 The Region may revise the boundaries of Core Environmental Features through future amendments to the Regional Official Plan. The Township will update the boundaries of these areas in conformity with the Regional Official Plan as part of the statutory review of this Plan. Where there is a discrepancy between the boundaries of Core Environmental Feature shown in this Plan and the Regional Official Plan, the boundaries shown in the Regional Official Plan will be used to implement the policies of this Plan.

8.1.3.4 *Development or site alteration* will not be permitted within Core Environmental Features, except for:

- a) forest, fish or wildlife management and conservation;
- b) flood or erosion control projects demonstrated to be in the public interest and for which no other alternative is feasible;
- c) minor alterations to legal non-conforming land uses within Core Environmental Features;
- d) *infrastructure* projects in accordance with the policies of the Regional Official Plan; or
- e) new *mineral aggregate operations* in accordance with the policies of Chapter 7 of this Plan, and the policies of the Regional Official Plan.

*Any development application or site alteration* for the above uses will require the submission of an *Environmental Impact Statement*, to the satisfaction of the Township, the Region, the Grand River Conservation Authority and/or the *Province* as appropriate, to determine the mitigation measures to be implemented, as appropriate, through the development review process.

8.1.3.5 *Development or site alteration* projects will only be permitted on lands *contiguous* to a Core Environmental Feature where an *Environmental Impact Statement*, or similar

study, submitted in accordance with the policies in Section 8.4 has determined to the satisfaction of the Township, the Region, the Grand River Conservation Authority and/or the *Province*, as appropriate, that approval of the proposed *development* or *site alteration* would not result in *adverse environmental impacts* on the features and *ecological functions* of the Core Environmental Feature.

8.1.3.6 Except at the discretion of the owner, Core Environmental Features that are privately owned are not for use by the public.

#### **8.1.4 Fish Habitat**

8.1.4.1 *Fish Habitat* will be identified through *watershed planning* studies, *Environmental Impact Statements* or other appropriate studies accepted by the Township and other public agencies having jurisdiction.

8.1.4.2 *Development* or *site alteration* will not be permitted within *fish habitat*, except in accordance with *provincial and federal requirements*.

8.1.4.3 *Watershed planning* studies, *Environmental Impact Statements* and other appropriate studies will be used to determine appropriate means to implement fishery policy and the specification of protective mitigation measures.

8.1.4.4 Any requirements imposed through *watershed planning* studies, *Environmental Impact Statements* and other appropriate studies must be implemented by the proponent to the satisfaction of the Federal Ministry of Fisheries and Oceans or its delegate.

#### **8.1.5 Supporting Environmental Features**

8.1.5.1 Supporting Environmental Features are designated on Map 7 of this Plan. These *environmental features* do not meet the criteria for designation as Landscape Levels Systems or Core Environmental Features but which are locally significant. Supporting Environmental Features play an important role in maintaining the *ecological functions* provided by the Greenlands Network and will be maintained, enhanced or, wherever feasible, restored.

8.1.5.2 Supporting Environmental Features are areas that meet the following criteria:

- a) is designated by the Ministry of Natural Resources as a locally significant *wetland*, including all non-provincially Significant Wetlands designated by the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Grand River Conservation Authority; or
- b) is identified as a locally significant *woodland*; or
- c) is identified as a locally significant *Environmental Linkage* by a study or studies completed in accordance with Policy 8.1.6.1 of this Plan; or

- d) is identified as a locally significant valley; or
- e) is identified as a locally significant *wildlife habitat* area; or
- f) is identified as a permanent or intermittent watercourse; or
- g) provides a connection or acts as a buffer or supporting area to *environmental features*, thus maintaining ecological connection between communities; or
- h) performs vital hydrogeological functions, such as serving as headwaters of a stream, groundwater recharge and discharge areas; or fulfils at least three of the following criteria:
  - i) is a good quality, representative example of a particular type of ecosystem native to the Township;
  - ii) contains uncommon or rare ecological communities such as old growth forests, savannas, prairies, bogs, fens, meadows and so on;
  - iii) is a natural area of over 1.0 hectare (2.5 acres);
  - iv) supports a moderate to high diversity of native species and ecological communities due to varied topography, microclimates, soils, and/or drainage;
  - v) contains nationally, provincially, or regionally *significant* species;
  - vi) contains “special” physical features (e.g. landforms, springs, fossils);
  - vii) is important or has the potential for ecological research, education and/or passive recreation due to location or features; or
  - viii) has a high aesthetic or scenic value in the Township.

8.1.5.3 The submission of an *Environmental Impact Statement* for review by the Township in consultation with the Region and the Grand River Conservation Authority will be required for all *development* proposed within or adjacent to a Supporting Environmental Feature, not already prohibited through Grand River Conservation Authority Policy. For the purposes of interpretation of this policy, “adjacent” will be defined as lands within 50 metres of the boundary of the Supporting Environmental Feature

8.1.5.4 Where an *Environmental Impact Statement* demonstrates that the proposed *development* will not result in *adverse environmental impacts* upon *environmental features* and functions of a Supporting Environmental Feature identified in this Plan, the

Township may, subject to appropriate conditions, approve or recommend approval of the application without amendment to this Plan.

- 8.1.5.5 Where an *Environmental Impact Statement*, submitted in accordance with the policies of Section 8.4, demonstrates that *development* may have an *adverse environmental impact* upon the *environmental features* and functions of a Supporting Environmental Feature, the Township will undertake one of the following:
- a) negotiate an agreement with the owner of the land requiring conditions of approval, or dedication of land to protect lands supporting the environmentally significant features and functions of the Supporting Environmental Feature;
  - b) request the *Province*, the Region, or the Grand River Conservation Authority to use powers within their jurisdiction to enable acquisition or protection of the Supporting Environmental Feature;
  - c) encourage public and/or private agencies to acquire all or the affected portion of the Supporting Environmental Feature;
  - d) require a Conservation Easement; or,
  - e) refuse the application.
- 8.1.5.6 Where a Supporting Environmental Feature is subsequently designated by the Region as a Landscape Level Feature or a Core Environmental Feature, the provisions of Policies 8.1.2 and Policy 8.1.3 will apply, respectively.
- 8.1.5.7 Where lands are identified through a *watershed planning* studies or other appropriate field study as fulfilling the criteria for a Supporting Environmental Feature designation in accordance with Policy 8.1.5.2, an amendment to this Plan will be considered to designate such lands as a Supporting Environmental Feature.
- 8.1.5.8 Where the Township, in consultation with Region and/ or the Grand River Conservation Authority determines that the preparation of an *Environmental Impact Statement*, for *development* proposed in or adjacent to a Supporting Environmental Feature, would serve no useful purpose, it may waive the requirement to complete such a study, subject to terms and conditions of approval that the Township may deem appropriate to conserve natural features.
- 8.1.5.9 The interpretation and definition of the boundaries of a Supporting Environmental Feature and *contiguous* lands will be determined by the Township in consultation with the *Province*, the Region and the Grand River Conservation Authority.
- 8.1.5.10 Supporting Environmental Features that are privately owned are not for use by the public, except at the discretion of the owner.

- 8.1.5.11 The Township will, in consultation with the *Province*, the Region, the Grand River Conservation Authority and affected landowners, will provide for the protection, enhancement or, wherever feasible, restoration of *Environmentally Significant Recharge Areas* and *Environmentally Significant Discharge Areas*, not fulfilling the criteria for designation as Regional Recharge Areas.
- 8.1.5.12 Where *Environmentally Significant Discharge Areas* and/or *Environmentally Significant Recharge Areas* sustain a Core Environmental Feature as documented through a study prepared in accordance with the policies of the Regional Official Plan, the Township will:
- a) not permit *development* or *site alteration* within or *contiguous* to the *Environmentally Significant Discharge Areas* and/or *Environmentally Significant Recharge Areas*, except where it has been determined to the satisfaction of the Region and/or other applicable agencies that the *development* or *site alteration* would not result in *adverse environmental impacts* on the features and *ecological functions* of the Core Environmental Feature; and
  - b) ensure that any proposed public *infrastructure* projects will avoid *Environmentally Significant Discharge Areas* and *Environmentally Significant Recharge Areas*, wherever feasible. Where it is not feasible to avoid these areas, the construction of the *infrastructure* project will be designed to maintain the *hydrologic functions* that sustain Core Environmental Features.
- 8.1.5.13 Lands within river or stream valleys, *floodplains*, *wetlands*, watercourses, lakes or *hazardous lands*, or lands within 120 metres of *Provincially Significant Wetlands* and *wetlands* greater than or equal to two hectares, or lands within 30 metres of *wetlands* less than two hectares, are regulated by the Grand River Conservation Authority. *Development* or *site alteration* within these Regulated Areas will require a permit from the Grand River Conservation Authority in accordance with the applicable regulations approved under the Conservation Authorities Act.
- 8.1.6 Environmental Linkages**
- 8.1.6.1 *Environmental Linkages* are areas intended to provide opportunities for plant and animal movement within and between *environmental features*, support hydrological and nutrient cycling, and contribute to the overall ecological integrity of the Greenlands Network. The Township, in consultation with the Region, Grand River Conservation Authority and other stakeholders, will assist in identifying *Environmental Linkages* through appropriate studies as determined by the Region or Grand River Conservation Authority.
- 8.1.6.2 The Township will require the incorporation of any *Environmental Linkages*, identified in accordance with the policies of this Plan and the Regional Official Plan, into the design

of new *development* to maintain, enhance or, wherever feasible, restore the *Environmental Linkages* within and between *environmental features*.

- 8.1.6.3 The Township will enhance *Environmental Linkages*, where appropriate, by restoring natural habitat on lands owned by the Township.
- 8.1.6.4 The Township will encourage the naturalization of inactive sections of parks and open space areas under the jurisdiction of other agencies and in private ownership, wherever appropriate, to enhance *Environmental Linkages*.

## **8.2 ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSTRAINED LANDS**

Environmentally Constrained Lands identify areas that will generally be restricted from development. These lands contain physical characteristics that could be unsafe to development due to naturally occurring hazards, such as flooding, erosion or slope failures. To prevent the loss of life and minimize property damage and social disruption, this Plan seeks to direct development away from these natural occurring hazards, except where it is determined to be appropriate and safe. The Grand River Conservation Authority is a key partner in this effort through the administration of its policies and regulations under the Conservation Authorities Act.

- 8.2.1 Environmentally Constrained Lands are designated on Map 3 of this Plan. This designation applies to *hazardous lands* and *hazardous sites* identified and regulated by the Grand River Conservation Authority. The Township will update the boundaries of the Environmentally Constrained Lands designation in consultation with the Grand River Conservation Authority as part of the statutory review of this Plan.
- 8.2.2 Permitted uses within the Environmentally Constrained Lands designation may include agriculture, conservation, passive recreational uses, and forestry and wildlife management.
- 8.2.3 Lands identified on Map 3 as being within the Environmentally Constrained Lands designation will be zoned to prohibit new buildings or structures. Setbacks from lands shown as Environmentally Constrained Lands will be established and/or modified where appropriate, in consultation with the Grand River Conservation Authority.
- 8.2.4 Where Environmentally Constrained Lands contain all or a portion of an element of the Greenlands Network identified in this Chapter, the more restrictive policies will apply.
- 8.2.5 Within the Environmentally Constrained Lands designation, *development or site alteration* will not be permitted within:
  - a) *hazardous lands* which are impacted by *flooding hazards* and/or *erosion hazards*;

- b) erosion access allowances, which will not be less than six metres; and
- c) *hazardous sites*;

except where:

- i) a special policy area has been approved by the *Province*; or
- ii) the *development* is limited to land uses that, by their nature, must locate within the *floodway*, including flood and/or erosion control works, structures necessary for conservation, water supply, wastewater management, or minor additions or passive non-structural uses which do not affect flood flows and meet all applicable Grand River Conservation Authority policies; or
- iii) a *two-zone policy area* has been designated in accordance with the policies of the Regional Official Plan to permit *development* or *site alteration* in the *flood fringe*, and the effects and risk to public safety are minor so as to be managed or mitigated in accordance with the *Province's* standards, as determined by the demonstration and achievement of all of the following:
  - a) *development* or *site alteration* is carried out in accordance with *floodproofing standards, protection works standards, and access standards*;
  - b) vehicles and people have a way of safely entering and exiting the area during times of flooding, erosion and other emergencies;
  - c) new hazards are not created and *existing* hazards are not aggravated; and
  - d) no *adverse environmental impacts* will result.

8.2.6 Notwithstanding Policy 8.2.5, *development* proposing the following land uses will not be permitted within *hazardous lands* and *hazardous sites*:

- a) an institutional land use associated with hospitals, nursing homes, pre-school, school nurseries, day care and schools, where there is a threat to the safe evacuation of the sick, the elderly, persons with disabilities or the young during an emergency as a result of flooding, failure of *floodproofing standards* or *protection works standards*, or erosion;



- b) an *essential emergency service* such as that provided by fire, police and ambulance stations and electrical substations, which would be unacceptably impaired during an emergency as a result of flooding, the failure of *floodproofing standards* or *protection works standards*, or erosion;
- c) land uses associated with the disposal, manufacture, treatment or storage of *hazardous chemicals and/or substances*;
- d) fully enclosed underground parking facilities unless otherwise permitted in Grand River Conservation Authority policy; and,
- e) new private sewage disposal systems.

8.2.7 Structures which are replaced or reconstructed as a result of fire or other unusual loss will be constructed and/or flood proofed to the satisfaction of the Grand River Conservation Authority.

8.2.8 Subject to Policy 8.2.5, minor expansions and alterations may be made to existing buildings and structures located within that portion of *hazardous lands* or *hazardous sites* identified by the Grand River Conservation Authority as Regulatory Floodplain, provided that:

- a) it is approved by the Grand River Conservation Authority;
- b) it has received the appropriate Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses permit;
- c) no new habitable floor space is created below the elevation of the first floor, no new basement is proposed, and any crawl space is non-habitable and designated to facilitate services only;
- d) the renovations, additions, and/or alterations are flood proofed in accordance with the requirements of the Grand River Conservation Authority; and
- e) and all other applicable Grand River Conservation Authority policies are met.

8.2.9 Outdoor storage is prohibited within that portion of *hazardous lands* or *hazardous sites* identified by the Grand River Conservation Authority as Regulatory Floodplain.

8.2.10 An amendment to this Plan will not be required for minor revisions to the boundaries of the *hazardous lands* and *hazardous sites* designations, where such revisions are supported by technical studies approved by the Grand River Conservation Authority.

8.2.11 The acquisition of *hazardous lands* or *hazardous sites* by the Township or other public agencies will be promoted wherever feasible.

8.2.12 The Township will require detailed hydrogeological and/or geotechnical studies to assess potential risks to persons, buildings, structures, or public *infrastructure* occasioned by groundwater discharge or high water tables prior to *development*. Such studies should demonstrate that engineering solutions designed to protect structures from the effects of groundwater discharge and high water tables will be effective, will not require significant on-going maintenance to remain effective, and will not divert or impede natural groundwater flows so as to create hazards or annoyances to adjacent lands and buildings. Where *discharge constraint areas* are identified in the above studies, they will be identified through an amendment to this Plan and/or in Community Plans.

8.2.13 The Township will consider the potential impacts of climate change that may increase the risks associated with natural hazards.

### **8.3 WATERSHED PLANNING**

A component of environmental management is *watershed planning* for drainage basins. This provides a unique opportunity to understand the characteristics of ground and surface water resources, evaluate interrelated natural habitats, identify appropriate locations for development, and establish measures to prevent adverse impacts on natural systems. *Watershed planning* also recognizes that the Region and Township are part of a larger natural system.

The Township recognizes the direct relationship between human activities and impacts on water and other natural resources. Planning from a watershed perspective allows recommendations to be made concerning land use Planning Actions and conditions of development approval the Township can implement to prevent or minimize those impacts.

#### **8.3.1 General policies**

8.3.1.1 The Township will participate in co-operation with other municipalities, the public, landowners, the Grand River Conservation Authority, the Region, provincial ministries and other interested agencies in the completion of *watershed planning* studies for watersheds within the Township.

8.3.1.2 Priorities and guidelines for the completion of publicly funded *watershed planning* studies will be determined in accordance with Section 7.F of the Regional Official Plan.

8.3.1.3 The Township will amend this Plan, as required, to implement appropriate recommendations from a *watershed planning* study.

8.3.1.4 The Township will implement appropriate recommendations of a *watershed planning* study during the development approval process.

- 8.3.1.5 *Watershed planning* studies will be used to identify potential impacts of change on water budget, peak run off flows, run off volumes, time distribution of stormwater runoff, flood levels and velocities, *floodplain* storage, existing storm water management facilities, capacities of existing downstream works, *floodplain* buildings and structures, erosion and sedimentation of stream systems, surface water quality, groundwater quantity and quality, water supply aquifer, infiltration, recharge, discharge, baseflow, *wetlands*, significant *woodlands* and other ecosystems, significant flora and fauna, including *Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species*, aquatic habitat and fisheries, recreation, consideration and recommendation of rehabilitation measures for a system which is already impacted; and other environmental aspects determined as part of the terms of reference for the *watershed planning* study.
- 8.3.1.6 The Township, the *Province*, the Region, and the Grand River Conservation Authority, in consultation with affected landowners and the general public, will jointly determine the terms of reference for *watershed planning* studies. At a minimum, the terms of reference for a *watershed planning* study will include:
- a) identification, maintenance, restoration and, wherever feasible, enhancement of *environmental features*, *groundwater features*, surface water features and *ecological functions* which are necessary for the ecological and hydrological integrity of the *watershed*;
  - b) identification, maintenance, enhancement and, wherever feasible, restoration of *Environmental Linkages* among *environmental features* and *ecological functions*, *groundwater features* and surface water features;
  - c) determination of areas where *development* or *site alteration* will be prohibited to:
    - i) protect actual and potential municipal water services and identified *vulnerable* areas; and
    - ii) maintain, or, enhance wherever feasible, restore sensitive and *vulnerable* surface water and *groundwater features*, and their *hydrologic functions*, and *floodplains*;
  - d) protection of the quality, quantity, distribution and direction of flow of existing surface and groundwater processes;
  - e) identification of stormwater management practices that maintain or enhance the quality, quantity and distribution of stormwater including infiltration measures, and minimize stormwater volumes and contaminant loads;
  - f) identification of areas where site specific *Environmental Impact Statements* may be required for the review of *development applications* in accordance with the

policies of the Regional Official Plan. Wherever feasible, a *watershed planning* study should partially fulfill the *Environmental Assessment* requirements for major *infrastructure* works to be located within that *watershed*, and/or comprehensive *Environmental Impact Statements* for all or part of the *watershed*; and

- g) develop a monitoring plan and define roles and responsibilities for pre-, during- and post-construction monitoring to determine and address the impact of development on the Greenlands Network and surface and groundwater resources.

8.3.1.7 The Township will support, and participate in, Regional initiatives to undertake *watershed studies* under the policies of the Regional Official Plan. Such studies are intended to both minimize *adverse environmental impacts*, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-*watershed* impacts, and to maintain, enhance or, wherever feasible, restore the Greenlands Network. Such studies will also be used to direct enhancement of the water system, maintenance or improvement of the health of watercourses and to identify natural hazards.

8.3.1.8 The Township will require the finalization of a *watershed planning* study prior to adopting any Community Plans or amendments to this Plan that would permit significant areas of development within a *watershed*.

8.3.1.9 Where a *watershed planning* study relates to matters of Regional interest, the Township will ensure that the relevant portions of the *watershed study* are first approved by the Region, prior to Township Council adoption of an Official Plan amendment or Community Plan that would implement the recommendations of the *watershed planning* study.

### **8.3.2 Watershed Studies**

Policies relating to specific *watershed planning* studies, including the Alder Creek Watershed Study and Upper Strasburg Creek Subwatershed Plan Update (2008), will be considered by the Township as part of the next statutory review of this Plan.

## **8.4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

An *Environmental Impact Statement* is a document describing the effects of proposed activities on the environment. "Environment," in this case, is defined as the natural and physical environment and the relationship of people with that environment. This means that the "environment" considered in an *Environmental Impact Statement* includes land, water, air, structures, living organisms, environmental values at the site, and the social, cultural, and economic aspects. An "impact" is a change in consequence that results from an activity. Impacts can be positive or negative or both. An *Environmental Impact Statement* describes impacts, as well as ways to prevent, minimize or mitigate impacts

as a means to lessen or remove negative impacts. Therefore, an *Environmental Impact Statement* is a document that describes the impacts on the environment as a result of a proposed action. It also describes impacts of alternatives as well as plans to prevent, minimize or mitigate the impacts.

#### **8.4.1 General Policies**

8.4.1.1 An *Environmental Impact Statement* will be required in accordance with the policies of this Plan to identify and evaluate the potential effects of a proposed *development* or *site alteration* on elements of the Greenlands Network, and recommend means of preventing, minimizing or mitigating these impacts, as well as enhancing or restoring the quality and connectivity of elements of the Greenlands Network. An *Environmental Impact Statement* may also be used to identify and evaluate elements of the Greenlands Network and interpret the boundaries of these elements based on ecological considerations. The Township, the *Province*, the Region, the Grand River Conservation Authority, and other affected public agencies will co-ordinate the requirements for the preparation of an *Environmental Impact Statement*.

8.4.1.2 The Township may require the submission of a single comprehensive *Environmental Impact Statement* where:

- a) *development* or *site alteration* is proposed on multiple contiguous properties containing elements of the Greenlands Network;
- b) a Community Plan or other comprehensive *community planning process* is being undertaken; or
- c) environmental studies are required to support the proposed expansion of the Baden and/or New Hamburg Urban Areas or Rural Settlement Areas boundaries; or
- d) the extent of a *development application* and its anticipated impacts on the Greenlands Network are anticipated by the relevant agency(ies) to be substantial.

8.4.1.3 Where an *Environmental Impact Statement* is required, it will be prepared by a qualified professional and submitted with the *development application* for review in accordance with Policy 8.4.1.1 of this Plan and with the provisions of the Regional Greenlands Network Implementation Guideline.

8.4.1.4 The need for, and scope of the *Environmental Impact Statement*, will be determined in collaboration with the Region, the *Province*, and the Grand River Conservation Authority by:

- a) the Province, for *development* or *site alteration* potentially affecting *Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species*, or;
- b) the Region, for *development* or *site alteration* potentially affecting:
  - i) Landscape Level Systems, not including Significant Valleys;
  - ii) Core Environmental Features; or
  - iii) *Environmentally Significant Discharge Areas* and/or *Environmentally Significant Recharge Areas* that sustain Core Environmental Features.
- c) the Grand River Conservation Authority for Significant Valleys, *Provincially Significant Wetlands* located outside *Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas* and *wetlands* not identified as provincially *significant*, including unevaluated *wetlands*;
- d) the Township for *development applications* potentially affecting Supporting Environmental Features and other elements of the Greenlands Network; and
- e) the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, or its delegate, for *fish habitat*.

8.4.1.5 The submission of an *Environmental Impact Statement* will not be required by the Township where an *Environmental Assessment* or alternative environmental review is being undertaken as part of a comprehensive planning process, provided the *Environmental Assessment* or alternative environmental review fulfils the requirements of an *Environmental Impact Statement*.

## **8.4.2 Environmental Impact Statements for Supporting Environmental Features**

8.4.2.1 Where an *Environmental Impact Statement* is required for Supporting Environmental Features in accordance with Policy 8.1.5.3, it will be prepared by a qualified professional and submitted with the *development application* to the Township for review in consultation with the Region. Where the Supporting Environmental Feature is a Locally Significant Wetland, the Township will consult with the Grand River Conservation Authority and other affected public agencies.

8.4.2.2 *Environmental Impact Statements* for development affecting Supporting Environmental Feature will be prepared in accordance with the Regional Greenlands Network Implementation Guideline.

8.4.2.3 Where the Township, in consultation with the Region, the Grand River Conservation Authority, and other affected public agencies determines that the preparation of an *Environmental Impact Statement*, for *development* proposed in or adjacent to a Supporting Environmental Feature, would serve no useful purpose, the Township may

waive the requirement to complete such a study, subject to terms and conditions of approval that the Township may deem appropriate to conserve natural features.

### **8.4.3 Environmental Impact Statements for Fish Habitat**

8.4.3.1 Any development proposed *contiguous* to designated *fish habitat*, will require the preparation and submission of an *Environmental Impact Statement* for review by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans, or its delegate.

## **8.5 ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AND CLIMATE CHANGE**

### **8.5.1 Biodiversity**

8.5.1.1 The Township highly values its rich *biodiversity*, and will encourage the conservation and enhancement of the native diversity of the natural environment.

8.5.1.2 The Township will co-operate with the Region in the development and maintenance of an environmental database to document the occurrence and distribution of significant species and other features.

8.5.1.3 The Township will encourage the use of native species appropriate to the Township and will discourage the use of non-native or invasive species in accordance with the Regional list of Native Trees and Shrubs and Non-Native Species, when planning within or *contiguous* to the Greenlands Network.

8.5.1.4 The Township will, where feasible, promote the use of native species of trees, shrubs and prairie vegetation for plantings along Township Roads.

### **8.5.2 Managing Woodland Resources**

8.5.2.1 The Township, in collaboration with the Region, will minimize the impact of *development* on *woodlands* by proposing alternative locations for proposed land uses and/or through the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.

8.5.2.2 The Township will consider the importance of *woodlands* during the development review process, giving consideration to:

- a) the potential impact of the proposed land use on the *ecological functions*, productivity or potential productivity of the *woodland* for commercial timber production;
- b) the impact of the proposed land use on the extent and distribution of *woodland* cover in the in which the subject land is situated; and

- c) opportunities to restore or re-establish productive forest habitats consisting of native species following the completion of the proposed *development*.

8.5.2.3 The Township will consider the adoption of a Tree Preservation By-law to prohibit or regulate the destruction or injuring of trees in *woodlands* less than four hectares in area.

### **8.5.3 Land Stewardship**

8.5.3.1 The Township, in co-operation with the Region, encourages landowners to maintain, enhance or, wherever feasible, restore *environmental features* on their property through measures including conservation easements, buffers and wherever appropriate, fencing.

8.5.3.2 The Township will endeavour to secure ownership of elements of the Greenlands Network in conjunction with recreational areas, and to prepare management plans for these lands to maintain, enhance or, wherever feasible, restore their *ecological functions*.

8.5.3.3 The Township will implement the use of native trees and shrubs, as identified by the Region, when planting within or *contiguous* to elements of the Greenlands Network, and will encourage individuals and agencies to do likewise.

8.5.3.4 The Township will, wherever feasible and appropriate, use species native to the region in plantings along Township Roads and on the grounds of Township facilities, stormwater management facilities and park naturalization projects.

### **8.5.4 Climate Change**

8.5.4.1 The Township, in collaboration with the Region, will update this Plan following the next *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan to identify actions in the Township that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate change adaptation goals, aligned with the Ontario Climate Change Strategy, 2015 and the Climate Change Action Plan, 2016, that will include:

- a) supporting the achievement of *complete communities* as well as the minimum *reurbanization* and density targets in this Plan;
- b) reducing dependence on the automobile and supporting existing and planned transit and *active transportation*;
- c) assessing *infrastructure* risks and vulnerabilities and identifying actions and investments to address these challenges;



- d) undertaking stormwater management planning in a manner that assesses the impacts of extreme weather events and incorporates appropriate green infrastructure and *low impact development*;
- e) recognizing the importance of *watershed planning* for the protection of the *quality and quantity of water* and the identification and protection of hydrologic features and areas;
- f) protecting the Greenlands Network and water resource systems;
- g) promoting local food, food security, and soil health, and protecting the agricultural land base;
- h) providing direction that supports the culture of conservation policies in accordance with Policy 8.7.1; and
- i) any additional policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and build resilience, as appropriate.

8.5.4.2 In planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the impacts of climate change in accordance the actions set out in with Policy 8.5.4.1, the Township may:

- a) develop strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve resilience through the identification of vulnerabilities to climate change, land use planning, planning for *infrastructure*, including transit and energy, *green infrastructure*, and *low impact development*, and the conservation objectives described in Policy 8.7.1.1 of this Plan.
- b) develop Township greenhouse gas inventories for transportation, buildings, waste management and municipal operations; and
- c) establish interim and long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the Township that support Regional and Provincial targets and reflect consideration of the goal of low-carbon communities and monitor and report on progress made towards the achievement of these targets.

## 8.6 SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

The township is reliant on groundwater resources to supply the majority of its drinking-water. Protecting existing and future sources of drinking-water from incompatible land uses and from contamination that could hinder groundwater recharge is essential to maintaining human health, economic prosperity and a high quality of life. The Township will maintain and wherever feasible, enhance the *quality and quantity of water* infiltration and recharge to groundwater aquifers. The Township will support the Region in implementing land use planning decisions to protect the quality and quantity of drinking-water resources, and to limit *development* and *site alteration* that could

adversely affect drinking-water supplies drawn from the Grand River and from groundwater resources.

### **8.6.1 Source Water Protection Areas**

- 8.6.1.1 Source Water Protection Areas are designated on Map 8 of this Plan. These areas are significant in that they contribute water, or are in close proximity to municipal water service wells and surface water intakes that are *vulnerable* to contamination and/or depletion from incompatible land uses. Within the township, Source Water Protection Areas consist of: 1) Wellhead Protection Sensitivity Areas; 2) High Microbial Risk Management Zones; and 3) Regional Recharge Areas.
- 8.6.1.2 Wellhead Protection Sensitivity Areas are classified from 1 to 8, as designated on Map 8 of this Plan. This classification allows for varying degrees of management relative to the *vulnerability* of the underlying groundwater to contamination, the importance of the well to the capacity of the municipal water services, and the length of time groundwater within the area will take to reach the municipal water service well.
- 8.6.1.3 High Microbial Risk Management Zones identify areas where the underlying groundwater is the most *vulnerable* to disease causing organisms. These zones surround municipal water service wells supplied by Groundwater Under the Direct Influence of Surface Water (GUDI). GUDI wells draw groundwater that is directly connected to and dependent upon, surface water in locations where contaminants in the surface water may not be filtered adequately by the overlying soil or subsurface before entering the well.
- 8.6.1.4 Regional Recharge Areas identify areas that will be protected from land use practices and *hazardous chemicals and/or substances* that could negatively impact the *quality and quantity of water* within and available to the aquifers that contribute to municipal water services.
- 8.6.1.5 The Township will review and update its Zoning By-Law to prohibit land uses that may pose a risk to Source Water Protection Areas in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Regional Official Plan.
- 8.6.1.6 *Development applications* within Source Water Protection Areas will be reviewed in accordance with the source water protection policies outlined in Section 8A of the Regional Official Plan.
- 8.6.1.7 New water taking will not be permitted for any new or expanding uses within the Baden and/or New Hamburg Urban Areas.
- 8.6.1.8 New water taking in quantities greater than 50,000 litres per day may be permitted outside of the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas and Source Water Protection Area designations through a site specific zoning by-law amendment, provided that the

application is substantiated by further study in accordance with Regional Official Plan Policy 8.A.7.

- 8.6.1.9 Where the source water protection policies in the Regional Official Plan require one or more studies to be submitted in support of a *development application*, such studies will be completed in accordance with the Section 8A of the Regional Official Plan and the Regional Implementation Guideline for Source Water Protection Studies to the satisfaction of the Region. Studies submitted by the applicant will demonstrate that the proposed use will not negatively impact the quantity and/or quality of drinking-water resources in Source Water Protection Areas for the *development application* to receive approval.
- 8.6.1.10 The Township, in consultation with the Region, the *Province* and the Grand River Conservation Authority will provide advice to land owners to promote good stewardship practices for lands and water within Source Water Protection Areas.
- 8.6.1.11 The Township will, in collaboration with other public agencies having jurisdiction, provide input into and implement the *Province's* Source Water Protection Plan.
- 8.6.1.12 The Township will amend this Plan to conform to an approved provincial Source Protection Plan, as required.

### **8.7.1 A Culture of Conservation**

- 8.7.1.1 As part of the next *municipal comprehensive review* of the Regional Official Plan, the Township will collaborate with the Region in the development and implementation of policies in this Plan and other strategies in support of the following conservation objectives set out in Section 4.2.9 of the Growth Plan:
  - a) water conservation, including through:
    - i) water demand management for the efficient use of water; and
    - ii) water recycling to maximize the reuse and recycling of water;
  - b) energy conservation for existing buildings and planned developments, including municipally owned facilities, including through:
    - i) identification of opportunities for conservation, energy efficiency and demand management, as well as district energy generation, *renewable energy systems* and *alternative energy systems* and distribution through community, municipal, and regional energy planning processes, and in the development of conservation and demand management plans;

- ii) land use patterns and urban design standards that support energy efficiency and demand reductions, and opportunities for alternative energy systems, including district energy systems; and
- iii) other conservation, energy efficiency and demand management techniques to use energy wisely as well as reduce consumption;
- c) air quality improvement and protection, including through reduction in emissions from municipal, commercial, industrial, and residential sources; and
- d) integrated waste management, including through:
  - i) enhanced waste reduction, composting, and recycling initiatives, and the identification of new opportunities for energy from waste, source reduction, reuse, and diversion, where appropriate;
  - ii) a comprehensive plan with integrated approaches to waste management, including reduction, reuse, recycling, composting, diversion, and disposal of residual waste;
  - iii) promotion of building conservation and adaptive reuse, as well as the reuse and recycling of construction materials; and
  - iv) consideration of waste management initiatives within the context of long-term regional planning, and in collaboration with neighbouring municipalities.

8.7.1.2 The Township will ensure that relevant development proposals incorporate best practices for the management of excess soil generated and fill received during *development* or *site alteration*, including *infrastructure* development, so that:

- a) any excess soil is reused on-site or locally to the maximum extent possible and, where feasible, excess soil reuse planning is undertaken concurrently with development planning and design;
- b) appropriate sites for excess soil storage and processing are permitted close to areas where proposed development is concentrated or areas of potential soil reuse; and
- c) fill quality received and fill placement at a site will not cause an adverse effect with regard to the current or proposed use of the property or the natural environment and is compatible with adjacent land uses.

## CHAPTER 9: CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Township of Wilmot has a rich and diverse cultural heritage, including a range of *built heritage resources* and cemeteries, unique *Cultural Heritage Landscapes* and diverse archaeological sites. The Township recognizes the importance of these *cultural heritage resources* to foster a sense of place and benefit the community, particularly in *strategic growth areas*. The policies of this Chapter therefore seek to identify, protect and manage the township's *cultural heritage resources* in a manner that retains their heritage values, attributes and integrity.

### 9.1 GENERAL POLICIES

- 9.1.1 The Township will set an example to the community by *conserving* and enhancing *cultural heritage resources* using the provisions of the Ontario Heritage Act, the Planning Act, the Environmental Assessment Act, the Funeral, Burial and Cremation Act and the Municipal Act.
- 9.1.2 The Township will establish and maintain a Municipal Heritage Committee (Heritage Wilmot) to provide consultation and recommendations regarding the designation, restoration, demolition, or alteration of buildings, structures, landscapes and sites of architectural, cultural, or historic value, interest or significance.
- 9.1.3 The Township may coordinate the creation and delivery of financial incentive programs for the promotion, preservation, restoration and rehabilitation of *cultural heritage resources*.
- 9.1.4 The Township will work with stakeholders, as well as First Nations and Métis communities, in developing and implementing the policies of this Plan and strategies for the identification, wise use and management of *cultural heritage resources*.

### 9.2 HERITAGE REGISTER

- 9.2.1 The Township, in consultation with Heritage Wilmot, will prepare, publish and periodically update a *Register* of the Township's *cultural heritage resources*. The *Heritage Register* will include:
- a) properties that are designated under the Ontario Heritage Act;
  - b) properties that are protected by a heritage easement or covenant under the Ontario Heritage Act;
  - c) properties that are identified by the Grand River Conservation Authority or in Regional, provincial or federal heritage inventories;
  - d) non-designated properties that have been identified as having cultural heritage value or interest.

### 9.2.2

The Township, in consultation with Heritage Wilmot, will determine what *cultural heritage resources* should be included on the *Heritage Register*. In order to be included on the *Heritage Register* a *cultural heritage resource* must satisfy at least two of the following criteria:

- a) it dates from an early time period in the development of the Township;
- b) it is a good, representative example of the work of an outstanding local, regional, provincial, national or international architect, engineer, builder, designer, landscape architect, interior designer, craftsman, or sculptor;
- c) it is associated with a person who is recognized as having made a significant contribution to the Township's social, cultural, political, economic, technological or physical development or as having materially influenced the course of local, regional, provincial, national or international history;
- d) it is directly associated with an historic event which is recognized as having local, regional, provincial, national or international importance;
- e) it is an example and illustration of the Township's social, cultural, political, economic or technological development history;
- f) it is a representation of construction methods now rarely used;
- g) it is a representative example of its architectural style or period of building;
- h) it is an outstanding example of architectural design;
- i) it terminates a view or otherwise makes an important contribution to the landscape or streetscape of which it forms a part;
- j) it is generally well recognized as a historic Township landmark;
- k) it is an example of outstanding historic interior design;
- l) it is an example of a rare or otherwise important historic feature of good urban design or landscaping, or streetscaping; or
- m) it makes an important contribution to the urban/rural composition given its unique aesthetic or picturesque qualities.
- n) it meets other criteria established or accepted by the *Province*.

9.2.3 The Township will encourage the preservation, restoration and integration of *cultural heritage resources* into the design of new developments.

### 9.3 DESIGNATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE RESOURCES

9.3.1 The Township, in consultation with Heritage Wilmot, will regulate the demolition, removal or alteration of buildings or structures of historic and architectural interest or value included in the *Heritage Register*. For these purposes Council may:

- a) pass by-laws to designate properties including buildings or structures of historic and architectural interest or value; and will not permit the demolition, removal or alteration of these buildings or structures, pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act;
- b) pass by-laws providing for the acquisition by purchase, lease or otherwise of any property or part thereof, designated in accordance with Policy 9.2.1, or for the expropriation of any such property;
- c) protect the *cultural heritage resource* by entering into any easement agreement or covenant with the owner of a designated property, or register and enforce any easement or covenant with the land registry office against a designated property, in accordance with Policy 9.2.1; or
- d) designate areas of architectural and historic significance as Heritage Conservation Districts, pursuant to the Ontario Heritage Act. The features that give the area its distinctive character and contribute to the area's merit as a Heritage District shall be preserved. These may include the placement and relationship of buildings, the scale and character of the building groups, the architectural details of the buildings, natural areas, vistas and streetscapes and the unique historical, social or cultural association of the area.

9.3.2 Heritage Conservation Districts may include, but are not limited to areas where:

- a) a significant number of the buildings sites, structures, and landscapes reflect an aspect of the history of the community by nature of location and historical significance and/or socio-cultural context of the setting;
- b) a significant number of the buildings are of a style or architecture or a method of construction to be significant historically or architecturally at a local, regional, provincial, national or international level;
- c) the district contains other important physical, archaeological, environmental, cultural or aesthetic characteristics that in themselves do not constitute sufficient grounds for the designation of a Heritage Conservation District, but which lend support in evaluating the criteria for designation; or

- d) the district is an area of special association that is distinctive within the Township and, as a result, contributes to the character of the entire community.

#### **9.4 CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPES**

9.4.1 *Cultural heritage landscapes* are defined geographic areas of heritage significance, which have been created or modified through human activity and are valued by the community. It involves a grouping of individual heritage features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites and natural elements, which together form a *significant* type of heritage form, distinctive from that of its constituent elements or parts.

9.4.2 The Township, in consultation with Heritage Wilmot, will identify, document, and designate Cultural Heritage Landscapes and establish associated policies to conserve these areas in accordance with the policies in the Regional Official Plan and the Regional Implementation Guideline for Cultural Heritage Landscape Conservation.

#### **9.5 CULTURAL HERITAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

9.5.1 *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment* will be required by the Township for any proposed *development* or *site alteration* that includes or is *contiguous* to a property designated under the Ontario Heritage Act or that includes a non-designated *cultural heritage resource* that is identified in the *Heritage Registry*. The Township, in consultation with the Heritage Wilmot, may scope or waive the requirement for a *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment* where the scale and nature of the proposed development is such that no useful purpose would be served by the completion of the *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment*. The Township will consider conservation alternatives for any proposed development in the following order of preference:

- a) rehabilitate and incorporate the *cultural heritage resource* and its surrounding context into the proposed development;
- b) recognize and incorporate the *cultural heritage resource* and its surrounding context into the proposed development in a manner which does not conflict with the *cultural heritage resource*;
- c) promote the use of scale and design in new developments which blends harmoniously with existing heritage resources;
- d) promote the re-use of the resource, building, or building elements where the heritage resource cannot be *conserved* intact; and
- e) require, prior to approving a *development application* that would result in the destruction of a heritage resource, that the applicant provide measured drawings, a land use history, photographs and other available documentation of



the heritage feature in its surrounding context and, if feasible, relocate the *cultural heritage resource*.

- 9.5.2 *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments* will include, but may not be limited to:
- a) historical research, site analysis and evaluation;
  - b) identification of the *significance* and heritage attributes of the *cultural heritage resource*;
  - c) description of the proposed *development* or *site alteration*;
  - d) assessment of *development* or *site alteration* impacts;
  - e) consideration of alternatives, mitigation and conservation methods;
  - f) schedule and reporting structure for implementation and monitoring; and
  - g) a summary statement and conservation recommendations.
- 9.5.3 Where a *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment* relates to a *cultural heritage resource* of Regional interest, the Township will ensure a copy of the assessment is circulated to the Region for review. In this situation, the *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment* submitted by the applicant will be completed to the satisfaction of both the Township and the Region.
- 9.5.4 Where a *development application* includes, or is adjacent to, a cultural heritage resource of Regional interest which is not listed on the *Heritage Registry*, the applicant will be required to submit a *Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment* to the satisfaction of the Region.
- 9.5.6 The Township will encourage measures which enhance public appreciation and visibility of heritage features.
- 9.5.7 The Township, where feasible, will facilitate the restoration, rehabilitation, use and maintenance of *cultural heritage resources* located within public open space for any purpose compatible with the existing or proposed function of the public space.
- 9.5.8 The Township will assess the impact of proposed road construction, improvements and other public works *abutting cultural heritage resources* identified in the *Heritage Registry*, and provide in the project design for the mitigation of any negative impacts.
- 9.5.9 The Township will consider the interests of First Nations and Métis communities in conserving *cultural heritage resources*.

## **9.6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

9.6.1 During the review of *development applications* and/or *site plans*, the Township and/or the Region will require the applicant to submit an *archaeological assessment* conducted by a licensed archaeologist in accordance with the provisions of the Regional Archaeological Implementation Guideline following the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport Standards and Guidelines, to the satisfaction of the *Province*, where *archaeological resources* and/or areas of *archaeological potential* have been identified in the Region's Archaeological Master Plan.

9.6.2 Where an *archaeological assessment* identifies a *significant archaeological resource*, the Township will require the applicant to *conserve* the *significant archaeological resource* by:

- a) ensuring the site remains undeveloped and, wherever appropriate, designated as Open Space in this Plan; or
- b) removing the *significant archaeological resource* from the site by a licensed archaeologist, prior to site grading or construction.

## **9.7 CEMETERIES AND BURIAL PLACES**

9.7.1 All licensed, private, abandoned or legally closed cemeteries will be included in the Township's *Heritage Register* and will be encouraged to be retained as close to their original condition and location as possible, or restored.

9.7.2 Where burial places are encountered during any excavation activity, the provisions of the Cemeteries Act and its regulations will apply.

## CHAPTER 10: IMPLEMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

Implementation and interpretation is the part of the planning process which involves putting the plan into effect by allocating resources such as staff, public works and capital budget programming.

### 10.1 LOCAL/REGIONAL JURISDICTION

- 10.1.1 This Plan is a legal document prepared in accordance with the statutory powers and responsibilities vested in the Township by the *Province* and the Region. All public works carried out in the Township and all municipal by-laws passed for any purpose must conform to this Plan.
- 10.1.2 This Plan will be used as the basis for actions on planning matters within Township jurisdiction.
- 10.1.3 The effect of federal and provincial legislation in granting exemptions from compliance under this Plan for specified undertakings is acknowledged. However, the Township will strive through consultation to gain the full support of federal and provincial and Regional agencies in attaining the objectives of this Plan.
- 10.1.4 Other government agencies will have regard to this Plan in preparing and administering plans and programs which may affect the Township.
- 10.1.5 The private sector is encouraged to refer to this Plan when developing plans and programs which affect areas of Township interest.
- 10.1.6 The Township considers the policies of this Plan, as approved by the Region, to be appropriate Township interpretations consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement, and in conformity with the Regional Official Plan and the *Province's* Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.
- 10.1.7 References to specific sections within the Regional Official Plan are made within this Plan. These references, if amended, deleted or renumbered, shall not create the need to amend this Plan. The reference shall be interpreted to incorporate the relevant changes to the Regional Official Plan.

### 10.2 INTERPRETATION

- 10.2.1 This Plan was prepared by the Township of Wilmot in accordance with the Planning Act, and is to be read in conjunction with the Regional Official Plan.
- 10.2.2 The text, tables, maps, schedule and glossary of terms contained in this Plan constitute the Township's Official Plan. This Plan is intended to be read in its entirety, and all relevant policies, maps and schedules are to be applied to each situation.

10.2.3 The policies contained in this Plan are intended to provide a statement of the intentions of Township Council. If clarification of any policy is necessary, reference should be made to the preambles and goals of this Plan.

10.2.4 Where differences of opinion arise as to the meaning of any part of this Plan, an interpretation may be made by Township Council after hearing all interested parties. Where such interpretation is not accepted by any interested corporation or person, such corporation or person is free to apply to the Courts or other body having jurisdiction for a judicial interpretation.

10.2.5 Where a parcel of land is subject to one or more designations on a map in this Plan, development proposals will be reviewed in accordance with all the policies of the applicable designation, but where conflict exists between these policies, the more restrictive policies will prevail to the extent of the conflict. In the case of a discrepancy between the policies and the related map, the policies will take precedence. In the event of a conflict between this Plan and the Regional Official Plan, the more restrictive provision will apply.

10.2.6 The boundaries shown on the maps in this Plan will be interpreted as follows:

- a) the urban land use designations as shown on Maps 2.1, 4.1, 4.2 and 5.1 to 5.12 will be interpreted as being definitive;
- b) where the boundaries of the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas and Rural Settlement Areas coincide with such physical features as roadways, rivers and other defined geographical features, the boundaries will be deemed to be the centre line of that feature;
- c) the environmental land use designations as shown on Map 7, are based on more detailed mapping contained in the Region's Implementation Guideline entitled "Technical Appendix for Landscape Level Systems and Core Environmental Features". The interpretation of these boundaries will be in accordance with the provisions set out in the Regional Official Plan; and,
- d) the boundaries of the various natural resource areas as shown on Maps 3, 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be interpreted through the development review process.

10.2.7 Where any Act or portion of an Act is referred to in the Plan, such references shall be interpreted to refer to any subsequent renumbering of the sections in the Act and/or changes in the date of the Act.

### **10.3 AMENDMENTS TO THIS PLAN**

10.3.1 Notice of amendments to this Plan will be given in accordance with the procedures as provided for in the Planning Act.

- 10.3.2 In considering amendments to this Plan, the Township will be guided by the following:
- a) the need for the proposed change;
  - b) the effect of the proposed change on the demand for Township services and facilities;
  - c) the implications the amendment may have on other policies of the Plan;
  - d) the impact of the proposed change on the Township's ability to achieve the goals and policies and density and *reurbanization* targets expressed in this Plan, or on other Township policies, programs or interests; and
  - e) the impact of the proposed change on the Region's ability to achieve the principles and policies expressed in the Regional Official Plan, or on other Regional policies, programs or interests.
- 10.3.3 Technical revisions to this Plan will not require an amendment to this Plan provided they do not change the intent of the Plan. Technical revisions include:
- a) changing the numbering, cross-referencing and arrangement of the text, tables and schedules;
  - b) altering punctuation or language for consistency; and
  - c) correcting grammatical, dimensional and boundary, mathematical or typographical errors.
- 10.3.4 The Township will revise this Plan as required no less frequently than every five years, to ensure that:
- a) the policies, density and *reurbanization* targets of this Plan are being met or exceeded;
  - b) the goals and policy directions remain realistic and appropriate with regard to changing social, economic, environmental and technological circumstances;
  - c) this Plan conforms with applicable Provincial Plans and the Regional Official Plan, or does not conflict with them;
  - d) the Plan remains consistent with the Provincial Policy Statement; and
  - e) this Plan is consistent with any judicial decisions, Local Planning Appeal Tribunal decisions and/or changes to provincial legislation.

10.3.5 If the Township replaces this Plan with an another new Official Plan, the Township will initiate the revisions set out in Policy 10.3.4 no less frequently than 10 years after the new Official Plan comes into effect, and every five years thereafter.

#### **10.4 ZONING BY-LAW**

10.4.1 It is intended that the Council of the Township shall bring a comprehensive Zoning Bylaw into effect in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act. Such by-law shall zone land in accordance with the proposals contained within this Plan and will establish regulations to control the use of land and the character, location, and use of buildings and structures.

#### **10.5 MONITORING AND REVIEW**

10.5.1 It is the intent of this Plan to provide for continuous monitoring and review to ensure that this Plan remains current and addresses significant issues or changes in planning thought, to ensure the effectiveness, viability and relevance of the objectives and policies of this Plan.

10.5.2 To provide information for the on-going evaluation of policies, and comprehensive reviews of this Plan, the Township will assist where feasible, in the Region's efforts to carry out a program of research to identify the changing social, economic and physical needs of the residents of the Region and the consequences of technological improvements that may affect the programs and policies of the Region.

10.5.3 The Township will monitor characteristics and trends in the growth and change of major land uses and demographics in the township including:

- a) the supply of existing and potential housing stock by type, including *affordable housing*, to accommodate the varying needs of the township's residents;
- b) the supply of vacant employment land to accommodate job creation in keeping with the employment forecasts in this Plan; and
- c) the general demographic, economic, employment, social and technological information and trends that may affect aspects of this Plan.

10.5.4 The information collected through Policy 10.5.3 will be used in the review of this Plan as provided for in Policy 10.3.5 and Policy 10.3.7. If a review of this Plan identifies appropriate changes to the Plan, then amendments will be brought forward for Council consideration in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act.

## **10.6 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**

10.6.1 The implementation of this Plan must be financially viable. This Plan shall be managed to ensure that the required capital expenditures to provide the services for development and improvement are paid in an equitable and appropriate manner. The Township plays a role in ensuring optimal service delivery and in implementing the Plan. The following policies shall apply to financial management and implementation of this Plan:

- a) the Township shall recover all eligible growth-related capital costs through development charges, in accordance with provincial legislation;
- b) the Township may pass development charges by-laws that apply to the Township, as a whole and/or that apply to specific geographic areas within the Township; and
- c) *development applications* or proposals that otherwise comply with the relevant policies of this Plan may be refused on the basis of financial impact and burden on the Township, and lack of alignment with the Township's asset management plan, if suitable mitigation measures are not available.

## **10.7 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ENGAGEMENT**

10.7.1 The Township will provide opportunities for public, agency and stakeholder input during:

- a) the review of this Plan, and the development of new policies;
- b) monitoring of the effectiveness of the policies of this Plan;
- c) the review and development of zoning by-laws;
- d) development application review processes, where applicable;
- e) the preparation and/or review of neighbourhood planning studies, Community Improvement Project Plans and other planning studies; and
- f) any other planning process where the Township seeks public involvement.

10.7.2 The opportunities for public, agency and stakeholder participation outlined in Policy 10.7.1 will be in accordance with this Plan, the Planning Act, the Environmental Assessment Act, the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act and other relevant legislation, policy and regulations.

- 10.7.3 When *development applications* for amendments to both this Plan and the Regional Official Plan are required, Township Council may hold a joint public meeting with the Region of Waterloo to consider both applications concurrently to streamline the process and to simplify public consultation.
- 10.7.4 In public participation programs associated with a statutory review of this Plan, or major amendments hereto, the Township will endeavour to provide enhanced opportunities for public input by:
- a) requiring an expanded public consultation process, including but not limited to public open houses, workshops and community meetings as necessary;
  - b) developing a webpage to provide supporting materials, outline how the public can participate in the process, and explain how to obtain additional information; and
  - c) ensure that the public participation process is flexible to allow for changes as necessary.
- 10.7.5 When a public open house or community meeting is required, the Township will select locations consistent with the standards of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, and will include places which are accessible to a broad cross section of stakeholders including, but not limited to:
- a) public gathering places such as community centres, libraries, and public recreational facilities such as arenas, pools or parks;
  - b) special events where people congregate, such as festivals, cultural events and farmers markets; and
  - c) where possible, geographically appropriate and convenient to the area of the Township most impacted by the land use planning matter under consideration.
- 10.7.6 In accordance with the provisions of the Planning Act, the Township will provide summarized feedback to all participants and/or citizens at large to explain the effect of the public input on the Township's planning decision.
- 10.7.7 A Public Consultation Strategy, satisfying the minimum requirements of the Planning Act, is required for all applications for an Official Plan Amendment, Zoning By-law Amendment, and/or Plan of Subdivision.

## **10.8 IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES**

- 10.8.1 Implementation Guidelines are recognized as statements adopted by resolution of Council which detail the manner in which policies established in this Plan will be



implemented. The content and scope of these Implementation Guidelines are determined by the Township, and will be in conformity with the provisions of this Plan and the Regional Official Plan and amendments thereto and will be prepared in consultation with the Region, appropriate agencies and the public.

10.8.2 Implementation Guidelines will not be used to introduce new policy directions, which could be used for the basis for denying applications under the Planning Act, or for interfering with the natural justice rights of landowners or the public.

10.8.3 Implementation Guidelines may include, but are not limited to:

- a) strategic plans;
- b) *watershed* and master drainage plans; and
- c) results of a *community planning process* not adopted by amendment to this Plan.
- d) staging programs for public works;
- e) servicing design criteria;
- f) transportation standards and priorities; and
- g) technical documentation.

10.8.4 An opportunity will be provided to all persons having an interest in a proposed Implementation Guideline to make representations to Council or to a Committee of Council.

10.8.5 Prior to the adoption of any specific Implementation Guideline in accordance with the provisions of this Section, any actions taken by the Township relating to such matters will be in accordance with existing practices previously approved by Council.

## **10.9 DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REVIEW**

10.9.1 The Township will provide comments to the Region, adjacent municipalities or other applicable agencies with respect to matters of Township significance or interest relating to *development applications* submitted in accordance with the Planning Act or other provincial or federal legislation. These comments will be provided in accordance with the procedures established by the *Province*, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal or other legal authority.

10.9.2 The Township may, by by-law, require a *pre-submission consultation meeting* between the applicant, the Township, the Region and other appropriate agencies prior to the

submission of applications for official plan amendment, zoning by-law amendments, or *site plan* applications in accordance with the Planning Act.

10.9.3 In accordance with the provisions for complete applications under the Planning Act, the Township will require the following additional information and material to assist in the review of applications for official plan amendments, zoning by-law amendments or *site plan* applications:

- a) a completed application form;
- b) the prescribed application fee;
- c) prescribed information and material as required under the Planning Act;
- d) a planning report outlining how the proposed application is consistent with this Plan, the Regional Official Plan, Provincial Plans, the Provincial Policy Statement and any other applicable planning document or statutes;
- e) appropriate drawings, concept plans and/or plans of survey; and
- f) any studies and reports listed in Policy 10.9.3 that may be necessary to review the application as determined by the Township or other agencies through a *pre-submission consultation meeting*, except consent applications.

10.9.4 In considering applications for official plan amendments, zoning by-law amendments or *site plan* applications, the Township may require the *other information and materials* listed in Schedule 'A' identified through a *pre-submission consultation meeting*, in order for the applications to be deemed complete at the discretion of the Township.

10.9.5 Any studies or reports submitted in accordance with Policy 10.9.3 will subject to the following requirements to be deemed complete:

- a) the content and necessity of the information will be in keeping with the scope and complexity of the application;
- b) the information must be prepared by a qualified professional retained by and at the expense of the applicant;
- c) the information must be in accordance with any applicable Township, Regional or provincial guidelines; and
- d) the information must be submitted in an appropriate digital format, if requested by the Township.

- 10.9.6 The Township may conduct a peer review of the reports and studies listed in Policy 10.9.3 or Schedule 'A' – Additional Information, where necessary, to determine whether the quality of the submission is satisfactory. Such peer reviews will be completed by an appropriate agency or professional consultant retained by the Township at the applicant's expense. The Township may refuse the studies and reports if it considers the quality of the submission unsatisfactory.
- 10.9.7 The Township may refuse to accept or further consider applications for official plan amendments, zoning by-law amendments, or *site plan* application in the absence of a complete application satisfying the requirements of all applicable legislation and this Plan and this Official Plan. , and will not approve such applications prior to the completion of appropriate *Environmental Assessments* in accordance with the Environmental Assessment Act.
- 10.9.8 The Township will encourage, in consultation with the Region and other appropriate agencies, the review of draft approved subdivisions every three years to determine if the draft approval should be maintained, and as a result of this review, modify the conditions of draft approval as required.
- 10.9.9 The Township Council may consider delegating, where appropriate, approval authority and the ability to recommend conditions of approval to appropriate delegates as a means to streamline the development approvals process.
- 10.9.10 The Township encourages the concurrent submission and processing of related *development applications*.
- 10.9.11 The Township, in consultation with the Region and other appropriate agencies, will develop guidelines for the review of *development applications* which:
- a) establish and monitor general time frames and procedures for development approvals;
  - b) identify means of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the planning approval process;
  - c) update approval procedures based on the review; and
  - d) annually prepare a report to Council on the results of the review.
- 10.9.12 The Township will maintain a Development Applications in Process Status Report and report to Council annually with the results.

## 10.10 SITE PLAN CONTROL

- 10.10.1 All lands within the Township shall be deemed to be a *Site Plan* Control Area and shall be applicable to all development excluding:
- a) development proposed in conjunction with farm operations, farm buildings (except for commercial greenhouses), and the residence of the farm operator for agricultural purposes; and
  - b) single detached, semi-detached, and duplex dwellings, except where such dwellings are:
    - i) proposed within or contiguous to lands designated as Open Space or any elements of the Greenlands Network identified in Section 8.1 of this Plan; or
    - ii) included in a draft plan of condominium application, or forming part of a zero lot line, linked housing, or other similar innovation in housing developments.
- 10.10.2 Drawings showing plan, elevation and cross-section views may be required for all proposed development and adjacent buildings to be erected, including all buildings to be used for residential purposes regardless of the number of units within the *Site Plan* Control Area outlined in Policy 10.10.1 above. Any required elevation drawings will include matters of massing, conceptual building design, interior walkways and the relationship of the proposed building to adjacent buildings, streets and exterior areas to which members of the public have access, as well as matters relating to exterior and *sustainable* design including, without limitation, the character, scale, appearance and design features of buildings, and the *sustainable* design elements on any adjoining street or highway under the Township's jurisdiction set out in Section 41(4)(e) of the Planning Act.
- 10.10.3 Widening of highways may be required as a condition of *site plan* approval for all development within the *Site Plan* Control Area *abutting* Local or Primary Township Roads described in Schedule 'A' – Designated Road Allowances.
- 10.10.4 The Township may enter into such agreements as may be necessary to secure appropriate conditions of *site plan* approval pursuant to the provisions of the Planning Act.
- 10.10.5 The Township Council shall consult with the Region when considering applications for *site plan* approval to ensure that Regional conditions requested pursuant to the provisions of the Planning Act are appropriately satisfied.

## 10.11 HOLDING PROVISIONS

- 10.11.1 Holding provisions may be utilized by the Township for those situations where it is necessary or desirable to zone lands for development in advance of the fulfillment of specific requirements and conditions, and where the details of the development have not yet been fully resolved. These details include:
- a) a Record of Site Condition being submitted to the *Province*, and any associated remedial works of properties, where remedial work is required to allow the continued use or reuse of a site;
  - b) measures to appropriately protect the natural environment;
  - c) phasing of development or future subdivision of lands;
  - d) the provision of school sites;
  - e) the provision of municipal *infrastructure*;
  - f) measures to appropriately *conserve cultural heritage resources*;
  - g) demonstrating compliance with the Province's D-Series Guidelines and other applicable provincial guidelines on land use compatibility;
  - h) completion and registration of any development agreement under Section 37 of the Planning Act that is satisfactory to the Township; and
  - i) completion and registration of any cash-in-lieu of parking agreement under Section 40 of the Planning Act that is satisfactory to the Township.
- 10.11.2 Holding provisions will be applicable to all land use categories in this Plan and may be applied through the Township Zoning By-Law to any zoning category or specific land use within a zoning category.
- 10.11.3 Holding provisions may be applied Township wide, to portions of the Township such as lands within a specific service area, catchment area, drainage shed, service pressure zone, Rural Settlement Area, the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas, or on a site specific basis.
- 10.11.4 Implementation of Township-wide holding provisions may be by way of both general Township Zoning By-Law and/or site specific Zoning By-Laws, and do not require amendment to this Plan to enact a holding by-law or remove the holding symbol.
- 10.11.5 Interim uses permitted while the holding provision is in place shall include:

- a) existing uses; and
- b) other uses deemed appropriate by Township Council which do not adversely affect the future development potential of the lands consistent with the rationale for which the holding provision has been applied.

10.11.6 In order to use the holding symbol under these policies, the following requirements will be clearly outlined in the implementing Zoning By-Law:

- a) conditions that must be met before the holding symbol is removed; and,
- b) applicable criteria for assessing that a requirement or condition has been met.

## **10.12 PROPERTY STANDARDS BY-LAW**

10.12.1 Township Council may pass a by-law to establish minimum property standards to conserve sustain and protect existing and future development of the Township. The Property Standards By-law, applicable to all properties, shall contain requirements with respect to:

- a) garbage disposal;
- b) pest prevention;
- c) structural maintenance of buildings;
- d) safety of buildings;
- e) cleanliness of buildings;
- f) services to buildings - plumbing, heating, and electricity;
- g) maintenance of yards, lands, parking, storage, loading and unloading areas, including the removal of rubbish, debris, weeds, abandoned or used vehicles, trailers, boats, barges, mechanical equipment or material;
- h) maintaining fences, swimming pools, accessory buildings, and signs; and
- i) occupancy standards.

10.12.2 If a Property Standards By-law is passed, the Council shall appoint a Property Standards Officer who will be responsible for administering and enforcing the Property Standards By-law. The Township shall appoint a property standards committee, in accordance with the Planning Act, for the purpose of hearing appeals against orders of the Property Standards Officer.

10.12.3 The measures to be used generally in achieving the property maintenance program would include an education and public relations program to show people the benefits of continued property maintenance, together with information showing what improvements can be made without increasing assessment.

10.12.4 Complementary to the enforcement of standards on private properties, the Township will undertake to keep in a fit and well-mannered condition all municipally owned properties and structures.

### **10.13 CONDITIONAL ZONING**

10.13.1 As provided under Section 34 of the Planning Act, the Township has the authority to impose prescribed conditions on a specific property when passing a zoning by-law. To date, the *Province* has not yet passed the necessary regulations that will identify the scope of conditions municipalities may impose on zoning.

10.13.2 When regulations have been passed by the *Province* identifying the scope of conditions that municipalities may apply on development, the Township may pass a by-law under Section 34 of the Planning Act to permit the use of land or the erection, location or use of buildings or structures and impose one or more prescribed conditions on the use, erection or location of the building including:

- a) requiring an owner of land to which the by-law applies to enter into an agreement relating to the condition;
- b) requiring the agreement to be registered against the land to which it applies, and
- c) enforcing the agreement against the owner and subject to the Registry Act and the Land Titles, any and all subsequent owners of the land.

### **10.14 INTERIM CONTROL BY-LAW**

10.14.1 Interim Control By-laws may be used by the Township to restrict development in areas subject to certain studies such as servicing feasibility studies, parkland feasibility studies, etc.

10.14.2 In accordance with the Planning Act, where the Council has, by by-law or resolution, directed that a review or study be undertaken in respect of land use planning policies in the Township, or any defined area or areas, the Council may pass an Interim Control By-law.

10.14.3 The By-law may prohibit the use of land, buildings or structures for, or except for such purposes as set out in the By-law.

**10.15 BONUSING**

- 10.15.1 Council may pass a by-law in accordance the Planning Act, R.S.O. 1990 Chap.P.13, to authorize increases in height and density of development in return for the provisions of certain facilities, services or other matters outlined in the by-law.
- 10.15.2 Such a by-law shall identify areas or Zone categories where the bonus provisions would apply, and shall specify the amount by which the height or density of the development would be permitted to increase. Council will give consideration to proposals to increase the height and/or density for a specific site, but such proposals may not necessarily be granted.
- 10.15.3 When considering such proposals, Council shall have due regard to the compatibility and scale of the proposed development in relation to the existing land uses, and to the *cumulative impact* resulting from granting bonuses in the general area.
- 10.15.4 The facilities, services, or other matters that are required in the by-law may include, but shall not be limited to, the provisions of *affordable housing* units to meet established housing targets, day care centres/facilities, parkland beyond the legislated requirements, hard servicing facilities (sanitary and storm sewers and watermains) above and beyond those required to service the development, increased buffering or landscaping, the use or re-use of vacant land and/or buildings (particularly in the Urban/ Settlement Core Areas), the preservation of heritage buildings and/or *Cultural Heritage Landscapes*, the provisions of community or recreational facilities, open space, and the redevelopment of lands.
- 10.15.5 Generally, the use of this Section shall only be considered in conjunction with medium and/or high density residential developments, and/or *mixed-use* commercial/residential projects.

**10.16 ENACTMENT OF MISCELLANEOUS BY-LAWS**

- 10.16.1 Council will review legislation pertaining to or affecting the use or redevelopment of land and, where necessary, amend existing by-laws or pass new by-laws to ensure that such matters are properly regulated and controlled.

**10.17 CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC WORKS**

- 10.17.1 The construction of public works within the Township shall be carried out in accordance with the policies of this Plan.



## 10.18 USES PERMITTED IN ALL DESIGNATIONS

10.18.1 The following uses will be permitted in all designations within the Township except where they are expressly prohibited or precluded by any other policy of this Plan or the Regional Official Policies Plan:

a) Public roads, railway lines, public parks and other non-intensive recreational facilities, public utilities such as local water supply, sewage, and drainage facilities, gas, telephone and cable television transmission utility services, subject to any regulatory requirements such as the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Act. The location of such uses should be justified and the use should be compatible with the surrounding uses.

b) Electricity generation facilities and transmission and distribution systems

The development of electricity generation facilities and transmission and distribution systems is permitted in all designations, subject to any regulatory requirements for the utility involved.

c) Telecommunications Facilities

In locating new telecommunications facilities and transmission towers and related above-ground *infrastructure*, the locational and design requirements of the facility shall be balanced with the need to preserve the natural and cultural landscape and minimize the impact on the community. Such facilities may be permitted provided that:

- i) an adequate public consultation process has been followed;
- ii) municipalities within 500 metres of the proposed facility site have been consulted;
- iii) a site selection/planning report has been prepared;
- iv) the structures have been designed to minimize visual impact and to avoid disturbance of significant natural features;
- v) appropriate approvals have been obtained from the relevant public agencies.

d) Accessory Uses, Buildings and Structures

Any use, building or structure which is normally incidental and subordinate to a permitted use shall be permitted on the same lot as the permitted use, subject

to the regulations of the Zoning By-law, and provided adequate water supply and waste disposal facilities are available.

10.18.2 Uses permitted in all designations will be regulated through the Township Zoning By-law and any applicable legislation.

#### **10.19 LAND USES PROHIBITED IN ALL DESIGNATIONS**

10.19.1 The following uses are prohibited in all designations in this Official Plan:

- a) uses that are noxious, polluting either directly or indirectly, or produce or store hazardous substances;
- b) the recycling and/or the storage of contaminated materials;
- c) uses that are prohibited pursuant to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act.

10.19.2 The Zoning By-law shall incorporate provisions setting out those uses which are prohibited in all zone categories.

#### **10.20 EXISTING USES**

10.20.1 Notwithstanding the provisions of this Plan, it is the policy of the Township that any lands used for any legally existing purpose in any designation for which no provision is made by this Plan for such activity to be undertaken, may continue to be used for such purpose.

10.20.2 Subject to the provisions of Chapters 2 to 10 inclusive of this Plan, Council may pass by-laws or otherwise facilitate the continuation, extension or enlargement of such uses within the confines of the lands on which the activity is located without amendment to this Plan, provided that:

- a) the existing use is an appropriate use of such lands and its continuation, enlargement or extension will not have a detrimental impact on the surrounding land uses; and
- b) such actions by Council do not provide for the expansion of the existing use onto adjoining lands.

10.20.3 Notwithstanding Policy 10.19.1, Council may pass by-laws or otherwise facilitate or encourage the relocation of an existing use where any of the following conditions exist:

- a) the use is located within lands designated as Environmentally Constrained Lands within this Plan and the continuation of this use poses a threat to the health and safety of residents or users of the property;
- b) the *existing* use is incompatible with existing or proposed uses on the surrounding lands;
- c) the buildings, facilities or *infrastructure* of the *existing* use are inadequate, obsolete, or structurally unsound;
- d) the *existing* use would benefit from relocation; or
- e) the site or facilities of the *existing* use are required for public purposes.

## **10.21 TEMPORARY USES**

10.21.1 The Municipality may pass a temporary use by-law to allow a use otherwise prohibited by the Zoning By-law. A temporary use by-law will define the land or lands to which it applies, and shall prescribe the period of time during which it is effect, which shall not exceed three years from the day of the passing of the by-law. Council may extend this period by passing further by-laws. Temporary use by-laws shall not be passed for the purpose of permitting uses that are not in conformity with this Plan. In enacting a temporary use by-law, Council shall consider the following:

- a) the compatibility of the proposed use with the surrounding land uses;
- b) the adequacy of any services that may be required for the proposed use;
- c) access and parking requirements;
- d) traffic impacts; and
- e) the conformity of the proposed use with the policies of this Plan.

10.21.2 Notwithstanding Policy 10.20.1, the initial by-law authorizing the temporary use of a garden suite may be approved for a period of up to twenty years.

10.21.3 The Township may enter into an agreement with a property owner and/or other parties concerning the temporary use.

10.21.4 Where an authorized temporary use is discontinued prior to the expiry of the authorizing by-law, the use will not be resumed.

**10.22 SPECIAL POLICY AREAS**

10.22.1 Special Policy Areas may be established by Council to designate areas subject to specific constraints to development, policy exceptions, or which would require the submission of specific studies prior to consideration of a development approval.

## **SCHEDULE 'A': ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **Digital Plan**

- Subdivision / Condominium Plans

### **Cultural**

- Archaeological Assessment
- Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment

### **Environmental**

- Aggregate / Mineral Resource Analysis
- Local Air Quality Study
- Salt Impact Assessment
- Salt Management Plan
- Cut & Fill Analysis
- Environmental Impact Statement
- Comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement
- Natural Habitat Inventory
- Environmental Management Plan
- Tree Conservation and Planting Plans
- Provincial and Federal Requirements for Fish Habitat
- Slope Stability Study and Report
- Floodline Delineation Study / Hydraulics Study
- Hydrologic and Hydrogeologic Studies
- Source Water Protection Studies
- Best Management Practices for Development within the Regional Recharge Area
- Best Management Practices for Golf Courses
- Environmental Site Assessment and/or Record of Site Condition
- Cumulative Impact Assessment
- Site Plan, Spill Protection Measures and other Best Management Practices for Mineral Aggregate Operations
- Final Rehabilitation Plan for Mineral Aggregate Operations

### **Construction, Servicing and Infrastructure**

- Preliminary Grading Plan
- Preliminary Stormwater Management Report / Plan and/or update to an existing Stormwater Management Plan
- Soils / Geotechnical Study
- Construction Methods and Spills Protection Measures
- Servicing Options Report
- Development Phasing Plan
- Water and Wastewater Servicing Plans and associated studies
- Hydrogeologic Studies for Privately Serviced Developments
- Impact on Existing Infrastructure Study

### **Land Use Compatibility**

- Air Quality Assessment
- Dust Impact Analysis
- Land Use Compatibility Study
- Landfill Impact Study
- Agricultural Impact Assessment
- Minimum Distance Separation Analysis
- Noise Study
- Odour Impact Assessment
- Vibration Study
- Written Provincial Approval (pursuant to the Environmental Protection Act for development within former waste management facilities)
- Provincial and Federal Requirements for Alternative and/or Renewable Energy Systems and Fish Habitat
- Approval from the Grand River Conservation Authority

### **Planning**

- Affordable Housing Report / Rental Conversion Assessment
- *Agricultural Impact Assessment*
- Detailed Property Assessment of Affordable Rental Housing
- Farm Viability Study
- Planning Report
- Public consultation strategy
- Land Use Study for Retail / Commercial Land Uses in Support of the Planned Community Structure or Retail / Commercial Impact Analysis
- Retail Commercial Market Impact Study
- Urban Design Report / Brief

### **Transportation**

- Transportation Impact Study
- Transportation System Impact Study
- Parking Analysis
- Pedestrian Route and Sidewalk Analysis
- Roundabout Feasibility Analysis
- Traffic Calming Options Report
- Transit Assessment
- Transportation Demand Management Options Report
- Provincial Requirements and Permits under the Public Transportation Act and Highway Improvements Act
- Environmental Assessment and Other Appropriate Studies for development adjacent to Proposed Township, Regional and Provincial Corridors

**SCHEDULE 'B': DESIGNATED ROAD ALLOWANCES**

ROAD NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATED RD. ALLOWANCE	
			Metres	Feet
			(up to the maximum)	
Beck Street	Queen Street	Foundry Street	20.117	66.00
Bell Drive	Tannery Street	Foundry Street	20.117	66.00
Bettschen Lane	Michael Myers Road	Hunsberger Drive	20.117	66.00
Brenneman Drive	Snyder's Road West	Snyder's Road West	20.117	66.00
Brewery Street	Gingerich Road	Snyder's Road East	20.117	66.00
Brewery Street	Snyder's Road East	South End	20.117	66.00
Brubacher Street	Snyder's Road West	C.N.R. Tracks	20.117	66.00
Charles Street	Foundry Street	Mill Street	20.117	66.00
Charles Street	Mill Street	Queen Street	20.117	66.00
Charlotta Street	Mill Street	Snyder's Road West	20.117	66.00
Christian Street	Snyder's Road West	Charlotta Street	20.117	66.00
Country Creek Drive	Village Green Way	Regional Road 6	20.117	66.00
Ditner Avenue	Isaac Shantz Drive	Honderich Place	20.117	66.00
Elizabeth Street	Snyder's Road East	Schneller Drive	20.117	66.00
Erbach Crescent	Schneller Drive	Forler Street	20.117	66.00
Erhardt Wagner Place	Stuckey Avenue	End	20.117	66.00
Foell Street	Snyder's Road East	End	20.117	66.00
Forler Street	Snyder's Road East	Schneller Drive	20.117	66.00
Geiger Place	Hunsberger Drive	End	20.117	66.00
George Schmitt Court	Stiefelmeyer Crescent	End	20.117	66.00
Goldschmidt Crescent	Stuckey Avenue	Stuckey Avenue	20.117	66.00
Hammacher Street	Stuckey Avenue	Erhardt Wagner Place	20.117	66.00
Hastings Court	Brewery Street	Hastings Court	20.117	66.00
Hillview Drive	Louisa Street	End	20.117	66.00
Honderich Place	Livingston Boulevard	End	20.117	66.00
Hunsberger Drive	Wagler Avenue	Michael Myers Road	20.117	66.00
Isaac Shantz Drive	Livingston Boulevard	Kropf Drive	20.117	66.00
Jacob Cressman Drive	Livingston Boulevard	Michael Myers Road	20.117	66.00
Joseph Lichti Lane	Isaac Shantz Drive	Kropf Drive	20.117	66.00
King William Street	Foundry Street	Tannery Street	20.117	66.00
Kropf Drive	Goldschmidt Crescent	Stuckey Avenue	20.117	66.00
Livingston Boulevard	Snyder's Road West	Snyder's Road West	20.117	66.00
Louisa Street	Foundry Street	Brewery Street	20.117	66.00
Louisa Street	Brewery Street	Hillview Drive	20.117	66.00

ROAD NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATED RD. ALLOWANCE	
			Metres	Feet
			(up to the maximum)	
McFadyen Street	Wagler Avenue	Livingston Boulevard	20.117	66.00
Michael Myers Road	Goldschmidt Crescent	Hunsberger Drive	20.117	66.00
Mill Street	Snyder's Road West	Charles Street	20.117	66.00
Miller Street	Charlotta Street	Snyder's Road West	20.117	66.00
Oesch Lane	Wagler Avenue	Wagler Avenue	20.117	66.00
Queen Street	Snyder's Road West	Beck Street	20.117	66.00
Queen Street	Beck Street	Charles Street	20.117	66.00
Queen Street	Charles Street	George Street	20.117	66.00
Roth Avenue	Wagler Avenue	Jacob Cressman Drive	20.117	66.00
Samuel Foster Court	Stiefelemeyer Crescent	End	20.117	66.00
Schneller Court	Schneller Drive	End	20.117	66.00
Schneller Drive	Louisa Street	East End	20.117	66.00
Schneller Drive	East End	Snyder's Road	20.117	66.00
Silver Springs Drive	Brewery Street Exit	Foundry Street	20.117	66.00
St. George Street	Queen Street	End	20.117	66.00
Stiefelmeyer Crescent	Schneller Drive	End	20.117	66.00
Stuckey Avenue	Erhardt Wagner Place	Hunsberger Drive	20.117	66.00
Tannery Street	William Street	End	20.117	66.00
Village Green Way	Brewery Street	Country Creek Drive	20.117	66.00
Wagler Avenue	Livingston Boulevard	Hunsberger Drive	20.117	66.00
Burkle Toman Court	Milne Drive	End	20.117	66.00
Cedarbrook Court	Bleams Road	South End	20.117	66.00
John Ross Court	Rickert Way	End	20.117	66.00
Mannheim Crescent	East End	West End	20.117	66.00
Meadowcliff Place	Woodridge Drive	North End	20.117	66.00
Milne Drive	Rickert Way	Rickert Way	20.117	66.00
Rickert Way	Trussler Road	Milne Drive	20.117	66.00
Shadybrook Court	Mannheim Road	South End	20.117	66.00
Shadybrook Street	Mannheim Road	Shadybrook Court	20.117	66.00
Sparling Drive	Bleams Road	Mannheim Crescent	20.117	66.00
Woodridge Drive	Mannheim Road	End	20.117	66.00
Albert Street	Arnold Street	End	20.117	66.00
Arnold Street	Waterloo Street	Albert Street	20.117	66.00
Arnold Street	Albert Street	Victoria Street	20.117	66.00
Asmus Street	Boullee Street	End	20.117	66.00
Astor Crescent	Conestoga Road	Conestoga Road	20.117	66.00



ROAD NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATED RD. ALLOWANCE	
			Metres	Feet
			(up to the maximum)	
Berger Court	Bleams Road East	Sheppard Place	20.117	66.00
Bier Crescent	Forrest Avenue	Forrest Avenue	20.117	66.00
Bleams Court	Huron Street	East End	20.117	66.00
Bleams Road	West End	Peel Street	20.117	66.00
Bleams Road	Peel Street	Jacob Street	20.117	66.00
Boullee Street	Peel Street	Jacob Street	20.117	66.00
Boullee Street	Jacob Street	Asmus Street	20.117	66.00
Boullee Street	Asmus Street	Hamilton Road	20.117	66.00
Boullee Street	Hamilton Road	Maurice Street	20.117	66.00
Burns Street	Union Street	Mill Street	20.117	66.00
Byron Street	Waterloo Street	Milton Street	20.117	66.00
Captain McCallum Drive	Hamilton Road	End	20.117	66.00
Catherine Street	Steinman Street	Forrest Avenue	20.117	66.00
Centennial Crescent	Huron Street	End	20.117	66.00
Charles Young Avenue	Laschinger Boulevard	End	20.117	66.00
Church Street	Wilmot Street	Peel Street	20.117	66.00
Conestoga Road	James Street	Astor Crescent	20.117	66.00
Daniells Crescent	Eby Crescent	Ebv Crescent	20.117	66.00
Eby Crescent	Catherine Street	Forrest Avenue	20.117	66.00
Fairview Street	Bleams Road	Walker Road	20.117	66.00
Forrest Avenue	Waterloo Street	Catherine Street	20.117	66.00
George Street	King Street	Victoria Street	20.117	66.00
Glen Goebel Court	Joseph Street	End	20.117	66.00
Good Street	Boullee Street	Marvin Street	20.117	66.00
Grace Street	Jacob Street	End	20.117	66.00
Grandview Avenue	Hunter Street	Bleams Road	20.117	66.00
Grant Street	William Street	Conestoga Road	20.117	66.00
Greenwood Drive	Huron Street	End	20.117	66.00
Hamilton Road	Highway 7/8	Boullee Street	20.117	66.00
Hamilton Road	Boullee Street	Neville Street	20.117	66.00
Hannah Street	Milton Street	Waterloo Street	20.117	66.00
Harlew Crescent	Riverside Drive	End	20.117	66.00
Heritage Drive	Bleams Road	North End	20.117	66.00
Hillfield Drive	Walker Road	Riverview Avenue	20.117	66.00
Hillfield Drive	Riverview Avenue	End	20.117	66.00
Hillview Drive	Huron Street	End	20.117	66.00

ROAD NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATED RD. ALLOWANCE	
			Metres	Feet
			(up to the maximum)	
Hincks Street	Steinman Street	Forrest Avenue	20.117	66.00
Hostettler Road	Waterloo Street	West End	20.117	66.00
Hunter Street	Huron Street	End	20.117	66.00
Huron Place	Huron Street	End	20.117	66.00
Ingold Avenue	Laschinger Boulevard	End	20.117	66.00
Jacob Street	Bleams Road East	Mill Street	20.117	66.00
James Street	Hincks Street	Conestoga Road	20.117	66.00
Jantzi Place	Forrest Avenue	End	20.117	66.00
Joseph Street	Bleams Road	Fairview Street	20.117	66.00
Laschinger Boulevard	Victoria Street	End	20.117	66.00
Lewis Street	Hannah Street	End	20.117	66.00
Marty Lane	Theodore Schuler Boulevard	Theodore Schuler Boulevard	20.117	66.00
Marvin Street	Hamilton Road	Maurice Street	20.117	66.00
Maurice Street	Boullee Street	Marvin Street	20.117	66.00
Merner Place	Eby Crescent	Eby Crescent	20.117	66.00
Mill Street	Huron Street	Burns Street	20.117	66.00
Mill Street	Burns Street	End	20.117	66.00
Milton Street	Huron Street	Shade Street	20.117	66.00
Milton Street	Shade Street	Hannah Street	20.117	66.00
Nelson Street	Waterloo Street	End	20.117	66.00
Neville Street	Victoria Street	Hamilton Road	20.117	66.00
Nithview Court	Nithview Drive	End	20.117	66.00
Nithview Drive	Hamilton Road	Nithview Court	20.117	66.00
Old Haysville Road	Bleams Road	End	20.117	66.00
Park Place	Victoria Street	End	20.117	66.00
Peel Street	Huron Street	Burns Street	20.117	66.00
Perth Street	Wilmot-North Easthope Road	Shade Street	20.117	66.00
Queen Mary Street	James Street	Waterloo Street	20.117	66.00
Ritz Crescent	Hostettler Road	Hostettler Road	20.117	66.00
Riverside Drive	Victoria Street	End	20.117	66.00
Riverview Avenue	Fairview Street	Hillfield Avenue	20.117	66.00
Seyler Street	Asmus Street	Peel Street	20.117	66.00
Shade Street	Waterloo Street	End	20.117	66.00
Shephard Place	Bergey Court	Bergey Court	20.117	66.00

ROAD NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATED RD. ALLOWANCE	
			Metres	Feet
			(up to the maximum)	
Spahr Lane	Theodore Schuler Boulevard	Hostetler Road	20.117	66.00
Steinman Street	Waterloo Street	Catherine Street	20.117	66.00
Stier Road	Theodore Schuler Boulevard	Strauch Avenue	20.117	66.00
Stone Street	Huron Street	End	20.117	66.00
Strauch Avenue	Theodore Schuler Boulevard	Theodore Schuler Boulevard	20.117	66.00
Smith's Creek Drive	Walter Perry Place	Catherine Street	20.117	66.00
Theodore Schuler Boulevard	Forrest Avenue East	Theodore Schuler Boulevard	20.117	66.00
Union Street	Huron Street	Burns Street	20.117	66.00
Victoria Street	Waterloo Street	Arnold Street	20.117	66.00
Victoria Street	Arnold Street	Boullee Street	20.117	66.00
Victoria Street	Boullee Street	Highway 7/8	20.117	66.00
Walter Perry Place	Catherine Street	End	20.117	66.00
Weber Street	Wilmot Street	End	20.117	66.00
Webster Street	Waterloo Street	Victoria Street	20.117	66.00
Williams Street	Waterloo Street	End	20.117	66.00
Wilmot Street	Bleams Road	Huron Street	20.117	66.00
Alderside Drive	Main Street	End	20.117	66.00
Alderview Drive	Bechtel Street	End	20.117	66.00
Bechtel Avenue	Main Street	End	20.117	66.00
Beechim Drive	Beverly Street	Kathreen Street	20.117	66.00
Benjamin Street	Front Street	Queen Street	20.117	66.00
Beverly Street	Main Street	End	20.117	66.00
Bock Court	Bock Drive	End	20.117	66.00
Bock Drive	Main Street	North End	20.117	66.00
Casselholme Crescent	Queen Street	Queen Street	20.117	66.00
Cedar Crescent	Bridge Street	Bridge Street	20.117	66.00
Dundee Avenue	Bridge Street	Poth Drive	20.117	66.00
Frederick Street	North Street	Main Street	20.117	66.00
Front Street	Main Street	Bridge Street	20.117	66.00
Kathreen Street	Main Street	End	20.117	66.00
Kenneth Fried Place	Casselholme Crescent	End	20.117	66.00
Main Street	Queen Street	Bridge Street	20.117	66.00
Meadowbrook Court	Bridge Street	South End	20.117	66.00

ROAD NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATED RD. ALLOWANCE	
			Metres	Feet
			(up to the maximum)	
Mill Street	Main Street	South Street	20.117	66.00
Mitchell Street	North Street	Main Street	20.117	66.00
North Street	Queen Street	Frederick Street	20.117	66.00
Poth Drive	Queen Street	West End	20.117	66.00
Queen Street	Bridge Street	Oxford-Waterloo Road	20.117	66.00
Saltzberry Path	Main Street	South Street	20.117	66.00
South Street	Queen Street	Mill Street	20.117	66.00
Water Street	Queen Street	Mitchell Street	20.117	66.00
Alice Street	Deerfield Avenue	Redford Drive	20.117	66.00
Cecil Kennedy Court	Notre Dame Drive	End	20.117	66.00
Deerfield Avenue	Notre Dame Drive	Alice Crescent	20.117	66.00
Redford Drive	East End	West End	20.117	66.00
Reinhart Place	Notre Dame Drive	End	20.117	66.00
Clarence Avenue	Wilma Street	Notre Dame Drive	20.117	66.00
Meadowview Place	St. Ann Avenue	End	20.117	66.00
St. Ann Avenue	Notre Dame Drive	Notre Dame Drive	20.117	66.00
Strauss Court	Erb's Road	South End	20.117	66.00
Wilma Street	Erb's Road	St. Ann Avenue	20.117	66.00
Bean Road	Oxford Road 5	Tye Road	20.117	66.00
Berlett's Road	Wilmot Line	Wilmot-Easthope Road	20.117	66.00
Bethel Road	Puddicombe Road	Trussler Road	20.117	66.00
Bridge Street	Oxford Road 5	Trussler Road	20.117	66.00
Carmel-Koch Road	Wilmot-Easthope Road	Wilmot Line	20.117	66.00
Christner Road	Wilmot-Easthope Road	Waterloo Street	20.117	66.00
Concession Road	Oxford Road 5	Walker Road	20.117	66.00
Deer Court	Nafziger Road	Bean Road	20.117	66.00
Diamond Road	Oxford Road 5	Oxford-Waterloo Road	20.117	66.00
Gingerich Road	Foundry Street	End	20.117	66.00
Hallman Road	Huron Road	Oxford-Waterloo Road	20.117	66.00
Haysville Road	Highway 7/8	Huron Road	20.117	66.00
Holland Mills Road	Bleams Road	Huron Road	20.117	66.00
Huron Road	Oxford Road 5	Trussler Road	20.117	66.00
Kaster Court	Nafziger Road	End	20.117	66.00
King Street	Webster Street	Waterloo Street	20.117	66.00
Knechtel Court	Trussler Road	Bleams Road	20.117	66.00
Lisbon Road	Wilmot-Easthope Road	Nafziger Road	20.117	66.00
Mannheim Road	Bleams Road	Huron Road	20.117	66.00

ROAD NAME	FROM	TO	DESIGNATED RD. ALLOWANCE	
			Metres	Feet
			(up to the maximum)	
Nafziger Road	Deer Court	Bleams Road	20.117	66.00
Oxford Road 5	Highway 7/8	Oxford-Waterloo Road	20.117	66.00
Oxford-Waterloo Road	Oxford Road 5	Trussler Road	20.117	66.00
Pine Hill Road	Huron Road	Bridge Street	20.117	66.00
Pine Hill Road	Bridge Street	Oxford-Waterloo Road	20.117	66.00
Puddicombe Road	Huron Road	Oxford-Waterloo Road	20.117	66.00
Sandhills Road	Gerber Road	Oxford-Waterloo Road	20.117	66.00
Settlement Road	Gerber Road	Sandhills Road	20.117	66.00
Wilby Road	Nafziger Road	Wilmot Line	20.117	66.00
Wilmot Centre Road	Bleams Road	Huron Road	20.117	66.00
Wilmot Easthope Road	Perth Line	Lisbon Road	20.117	66.00
Wilmot Easthope Road	Lisbon Road	Huron Street	20.117	66.00
Wilmot Line	Cedar Grove Road	Erb's Road	20.117	66.00

## GLOSSARY OF DEFINITIONS

**Active transportation** – Human-powered travel, including but not limited to, walking, cycling, inline skating and travel with the use of mobility aids, including motorized wheelchairs and other power-assisted devices moving at a comparable speed.

**Abutting** – parcels of land have a common boundary or that a lot borders on a public road.

**Access standards** – methods or procedures to ensure safe vehicular and *pedestrian* movement, and access for the maintenance and repair of protection works during times of *flooding hazards, erosion hazards, and/or* weather-related hazards.

**Accessory Use** – any land, building or structure that is subordinate to and exclusively devoted to the principal use that is permitted and that is located on the same lot.

**Adverse effects** – as defined in the Environmental Protection Act; one or more of:

- a) impairment of the quality of the natural environment for any use that can be made of it;
- b) injury or damage to property or plant or animal life;
- c) harm or material discomfort to any person
- d) an adverse effect on the health of any person;
- e) impairment of the safety of any person;
- f) rendering any property or plant or animal life unfit for human use;
- g) loss of enjoyment of normal use of property; and
- h) interference with normal conduct of business.

**Adverse environmental impacts** – changes likely to arise directly or indirectly from development or *site alteration* within or *contiguous* to an element of the Greenlands Network that result in widespread, long-term or irreversible degradation of the *significant* features or impairment of the natural functions of the designated area. Examples of *adverse environmental impacts* include but are not limited to, the following:

- a) fragmentation of substantial reduction in size of an element of the Greenlands network;
- b) significant increase in the perimeter-to-area ratio of an element of the Greenlands network;
- c) disruption of corridors and *Environmental Linkages* to other elements of the Greenlands Network;

- d) substantial alteration of natural topography;
- e) disruption of ecological relationships among significant or representative native species;
- f) increased potential for human or domestic animal intrusion into relatively inaccessible areas;
- g) alteration of the quantity, quality, timing (hydroperiod) or direction of flow of surface water or groundwater within or *contiguous* to an element of the Greenlands Network;
- h) alteration of the structure, functions or ecological interrelationships of a natural habitat which sustain representative community associations of populations of significant species;
- i) reductions in the populations or reproductive capacity of significant species;
- j) mortality in or removal of the predominant vegetation which provides structure to an element of the Greenlands Network;
- k) erosion of soils or deposition of sediment;
- l) compaction or trampling of soils;
- m) increased potential for the introduction of invasive non-native species;
- n) disruption of ecological processes due to increase nocturnal artificial light levels; or
- o) increases in the level and quality of noise.

**Affordable housing –**

- a) In the case of home ownership, the least expensive of:
  - i) housing for which the purchase price results in annual accommodation costs which do not exceed 30 per cent of gross annual household income for *low and moderate income households*; or
  - ii) housing for which the purchase price is at least 10 per cent below the average purchase price of a resale unit in the regional market area;
- b) In the case of rental housing, the least expensive of:
  - i) a unit for which the rent does not exceed 30 per cent of gross annual household income for *low and moderate income households*; or

- ii) a unit for which the rent is at or below the average market rent of a unit in the regional market area.

**Agricultural condition –**

- a) in regard to *specialty crop areas*, a condition in which substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture are restored, the same range and productivity of specialty crops common in the area can be achieved, and, where applicable, the microclimate on which the site and surrounding area may be dependent for specialty crop production shall be maintained or restored; and
- b) in regard to *prime agricultural land* outside of *specialty crop areas*, a condition in which substantially the same areas and same average soil capability for agriculture are restored.

**Agricultural Impact Statement** – a study that evaluates the potential impacts of non-agricultural development on agricultural operations and the *Agricultural System* and recommends ways to avoid or, if avoidance is not possible, minimize and mitigate adverse impacts.

**Agricultural uses** – means the growing or crops, including nursery, biomass, horticultural and floricultural crops; raising of livestock; raising of other animals for food, fur or fibre, including poultry and fish; aquaculture; apiaries; agro-forestry; maple syrup production; and associated on-farm buildings and structures, including, but not limited to *farm greenhouses* livestock facilities, manure storage and value-retaining facilities.

**Agricultural System** – the system mapped and issued by the *Province* in accordance with this Plan, comprised of a group of inter-connected elements that collectively create a viable, thriving agricultural sector. It has two components:

- a) An agricultural land base comprised of prime agricultural areas, including specialty crop areas, and rural lands that together create a continuous productive land base for agriculture;
- b) An agri-food network which includes infrastructure, services and assets important to the viability of the agri-food sector.

**Agriculture-related uses** – means those farm-related commercial and farm-related industrial uses that are directly related to farm operations in the area, support agriculture, benefit from being in close proximity to farm operations, and provide direct products and/or services to farm operations as a primary activity. Such uses may generally include abattoirs, grain drying and storage operations, feed mills, produce auctions or locally grown food and similar uses that provide a direct service to the farm community.

**Agri-food network** – within the *Agricultural System*, a network that includes elements important to the viability of the agri-food sector such as regional *infrastructure* and transportation networks; on-farm buildings and infrastructure; agricultural services, farm markets, distributors, and primary processing; and vibrant, agriculture-supportive communities.



**Agri-tourism uses** – means those farm-related tourism uses, including limited accommodation such as a bed and breakfast, tours of working farms or any agricultural, horticultural or agri-business operation for the purpose of education, enjoyment, or active involvement in the activities of the farm where the principal activity on the property remains as farming and where products used in the activity are produced on the property or related to farming.

**Alternative energy system** – means a system that uses sources of energy or energy conversion processes to produce power, heat and/or cooling that significantly reduces the amount of harmful emissions to the environment (air, earth and water) when compared to conventional energy systems.

**Archaeological assessment** – the combined background research and field study of a property evaluated as moderate to high on *archaeological potential*. Maps approved by the Province that identify the presence of and interpretation of the *archaeological resources* on the property, and make recommendations for the mitigation of the impacts on the resources. *Archaeological assessments* must be undertaken by a provincially-licensed archaeologist, in accordance with reporting guidelines established by the Province, and must address the entire area of the *development application*.

**Archaeological potential** – the likelihood to contain *archaeological resources*. Methods to identify archaeological potential are established by the Province, but municipal approaches which achieve the same objectives may also be used. The Ontario Heritage Act requires archaeological potential to be confirmed through archaeological fieldwork.

**Archaeological resource** – includes artifacts, archaeological sites and marine archaeological sites as defined under the Ontario Heritage Act. The identification and evaluation of such resources are based upon archaeological fieldwork undertaken in accordance with the Ontario Heritage Act.

**Areas of natural and scientific interest (ANSI)** – areas of land and water containing natural landscapes or features that have been identified as having life science or earth science values related to protection, scientific study or education.

**Biodiversity** – the variety of life in all its forms. It includes species diversity, ecosystem diversity, and genetic diversity within species.

**Brownfield** – underdeveloped or previously developed properties that may be contaminated. They are usually, but not exclusively, former industrial or commercial properties that may be underutilized, derelict, or vacant.

**Built boundary** – the limits of the developed portions of the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas as defined by the *Province* in accordance with the provisions of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe.

**Built heritage resources** – one or more *significant* buildings, structures, monuments, installations or remains associated with architectural, cultural, social, political, economic or military history and identified as being important to the community. These resources may be identified through designation

or heritage conservation easement under the Ontario Heritage Act, or listed by local, regional, provincial or federal jurisdictions.

**Built-up area** – includes all lands within the *built boundary* of the Baden and New Hamburg Urban Areas as of June 16, 2009 and as established by the *Province*.

**Community Improvement Plan** – a plan for the community improvement of a Community Improvement Project Area.

**Community Planning Process** – a comprehensive planning exercise for a large area of new development which involves consultation with various agencies and the public. Some elements resulting from a community planning process must be designated in the Official Plan. The results of a community planning process may include the adoption of implementation plans (also referred to as “Community Plans” or “District Plans”) by Township Council.

**Compact built form** – a land use pattern that encourages the efficient use of land, walkable neighbourhoods, mixed land uses (residential, retail, workplace, and institutional) all within one neighbourhood, proximity to transit and reduced need for *infrastructure*. *Compact built form* can include detached and semidetached houses on small lots as well as townhouses and walk-up apartments, multi-storey commercial developments, and apartments or offices above retail. Walkable neighbourhoods can be characterized by roads laid out in a well connected network, destinations that are easily accessible by transit and *active transportation*, sidewalks with minimal interruptions for vehicle access, and a pedestrian-friendly environment along roads to encourage *active transportation*.

**Complete communities** – places such as mixed-use neighbourhoods or other areas within cities, towns, and *settlement areas* that offer and support opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to conveniently access most of the necessities for daily living, including an appropriate mix of jobs, local stores, and services, a full range of housing, transportation options and *public service facilities*. *Complete communities* are age-friendly and may take different shapes and forms appropriate to their contexts.

**Complete streets** – streets planned to balance the needs of all road users, including *pedestrians*, cyclists, transit-users, and motorists.

**Comprehensive rehabilitation** – rehabilitation of land from which mineral aggregate resources have been extracted that is coordinated and complementary, to the extent possible, with the rehabilitation of other sites in an area where there is a high concentration of *mineral aggregate operations*.

**Conserve/Conserved/Conserving** – (for the purposes of Chapter 9 only) the identification, protection, management and use of built heritage resources, *Cultural Heritage Landscapes* and *archaeological resources* in a manner that ensures their cultural heritage values, or interest is retained under the Ontario Heritage Act. This may be achieved by the implementation of recommendations set out in a conservation plan, *archaeological assessment*, and/or heritage impact assessment. Mitigative measures and/or alternative development approaches can be included in these plans and assessments.

**Contiguous** – lands that are situated in sufficiently close proximity such that development or *site alteration* could reasonably be expected to produce one or more of the following impacts: alterations to existing hydrological or hydrogeological regimes; clearing of existing vegetation; erosion and sedimentation; or producing a substantial disruption of existing natural *Environmental Linkages* or the habitat of a significant species.

**Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment** – a study to determine if *cultural heritage resources* will be negatively impacted by a proposed *development* or *site alteration*. It can also demonstrate how the *cultural heritage resource* will be *conserved* in the context of redevelopment or *site alteration*. Mitigative or avoidance measures or alternative development approaches may also be recommended.

**Cultural Heritage Landscape** - a defined geographical area that may have been modified by human activity and is identified as having cultural heritage value or interest by a community, including an Aboriginal community. The area may involve features such as structures, spaces, archaeological sites or natural elements that are valued together for their interrelationship, meaning or association.

**Cultural heritage resource** – the physical remains and the intangible cultural traditions of past human activities. These include, but are not limited to:

- a) buildings (residential, commercial, institutional, industrial and agricultural);
- b) *Cultural Heritage Landscapes* (designed, organic/evolved);
- c) structures (water tower; bridge, fence and dam);
- d) monuments (cenotaph, statue and cairn);
- e) *archaeological resources*;
- f) cemeteries;
- g) scenic roads;
- h) vistas/viewsheds;
- i) culturally *significant* natural features (tree and landform);
- j) movable objects (archival records and artifacts); and
- k) cultural traditions (language, stories, music, dance, food, celebrations, arts and crafts).

**Cumulative impacts** – the changes to the environment resulting from a particular activity in combination with the incremental impacts caused by other closely related past, present and reasonably foreseeable future activities. *Cumulative impacts* may reveal that relatively minor impacts associated with a

particular activity may contribute to more significant impacts when considered collectively with other activities taking place over a period of time.

**Development** – (for the purposes of Chapters 8 and 9 only) the creation of a new lot, a change in land use, or the construction of buildings and structures, requiring approval under the Planning Act.

**Development** – (for the purposes of Sections 2.5.10 and 2.5.11 only) shall mean the construction, erection or placing of buildings or structures on land and includes such site related activities as grading.

**Development application** – an application for approval under the Planning Act. Development applications may include applications for approval of the following: Plans of Subdivision; Plans of Condominium; Consent; Part Lot Control Exemption By-Laws; Official Plan Amendments; and Zone Change Applications. Development applications do not include *site plans*.

**Discharge Constraint Areas** – lands where groundwater naturally discharges to the surface of the soil nor other surface water bodies and may pose a serious constraint to the construction, use and occupancy of land and buildings.

**Dry floodproofing** – (for the purposes of Sections 2.5.10 and 2.5.11 only) means the use of fill, columns or design modifications to elevate openings in buildings or structures above the *regulatory flood* level or the use of watertight doors, seals, berms/floodwalls to prevent water from entering openings below the *regulatory flood* level.

**Ecological function** – the natural processes, products or services that living and non-living environments provide or perform within or among species, ecosystems and landscapes, including *hydrologic functions* and biological, physical, chemical and socio-economic interactions.

**Employment area** – areas designated in this Plan for clusters of businesses and economic activities including, but not limited to, manufacturing, warehousing, offices, and associated retail and ancillary facilities. These areas include lands designated as Light Industrial and General Industrial.

**Endangered species** – means a species that is listed or categorized as an “Endangered Species” on the *Province’s* official Species at Risk list, as updated and amended from time to time.

**Environmental Assessment** – a process for the authorization of an undertaking under legislation such as the Environmental Assessment Act and the Ontario Energy Board Act.

**Environmental features** – features of the natural environment, including:

- a) *Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species;*
- b) *fish habitat;*
- c) *wetlands;*

- d) Provincially *Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest*, or regionally *significant* life science *Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest*;
- e) *Environmentally Significant Valley Features*;
- f) *Significant Woodlands*;
- g) *Significant Wildlife Habitat*;
- h) sand barrens, savannas and tallgrass prairies;
- i) alvars;
- j) permanent and intermittent watercourses;
- k) lakes (and their littoral zones);
- l) *Environmentally Significant Discharge Areas & Environmentally Significant Recharge Areas*; and
- m) Regional Recharge Areas.

**Environmental Impact Statement** – a study in accordance with established procedures to refine the boundaries of elements of the Greenlands Network, identify the potential impacts of a *development application* on such elements, and recommend a means of preventing or minimizing these impacts through avoidance or mitigation.

**Environmental Linkages** – areas that connect *environmental features* along which plants and animals can propagate, genetic interchange can occur, populations can move in response to environmental changes and life-cycle requirements, and species can be replenished from other *environmental features*. *Environmental Linkages* can also include those areas currently performing or with the potential to perform, through restoration, linkage functions. Although *Environmental Linkages* help to maintain and improve *environmental features*, they can also serve as important *environmental features* in their own right.

**Environmentally Sensitive Landscape** – a geographically and ecologically definable landscape that is distinguishable from the surrounding areas by concentration, proximity and overlap of:

- a) designated natural features (such as *Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas* or *Provincially Significant Wetlands*);
- b) associated natural features (such as stream valleys and specialized habitats), and;
- c) *ecological functions* (such as groundwater recharge areas and ecological corridors or *Environmental Linkages*) which together constitute a heterogeneous landscape mosaic that contributes *significantly* to Regional *biodiversity* conservation.

An *Environmentally Sensitive Landscape* (ESL) may include lands under active human use or management, but should be predominantly natural, not bisected by major highways, and exclusive of areas irreversibly transformed by concentrated human settlement, or where widespread commitments to development in the form of land use designations have been made in the Township's Official Plan. In recognition of the cultural influences that have shaped, and continue to shape, the township's landscape, ESL's are considered compatible with a number of limited human uses such as legally permitted agricultural, residential, commercial and resource extraction areas.

In addition to protecting regional and local *biodiversity*, providing a wide range of *ecological functions*, and accommodating some human land uses, ESLs also provide continued opportunities for aesthetic enjoyment, low-impact recreation, and scientific, archaeological and/or historical study in the township's Countryside.

**Environmentally Sensitive Policy Areas** – a natural area identified as regionally *significant* by the Region of Waterloo based on the criteria set out in the Regional Official Plan.

**Environmentally Significant Discharge Areas** – lands where groundwater discharges to the surface of the soil or to surface water bodies to sustain *wetlands*, fisheries, or other specialized natural habitats.

**Environmentally Significant Recharge Areas** – lands where water infiltrates into the ground to replenish an aquifer that sustains, in full or in part, *environmental features*.

**Environmentally Significant Valley Features** – a natural feature within a Significant Valley identified as ecologically important by the Region of Waterloo based on the criteria set in the Regional Official Plan.

**Erosion hazard** – the loss of land, due to human or natural processes, that poses a threat to life and property. The *erosion hazard* limit is determined using considerations that include the 100 year erosion rate (the average annual rate of recession extended over a 100 year time span), an allowance for slope stability, or erosion access allowance, or in unconfined systems, the meander belt allowance.

**Essential Emergency Service** - services which would be impaired during an emergency as a result of flooding, the failure of floodproofing measures and/or protection works, and/or erosion.

**Existing** – land uses legally existing in accordance with the Township Zoning By-law.

**Farm greenhouse** – a building used for the growing of flowers, fruits, vegetables, plants, shrubs, trees and other similar agricultural products, under glass, fibreglass or plastic, that are used as inputs on the farm or primary sold off-site at wholesale or retail.

**Farm-Related Residential Unit** – a dwelling on a farm used as the primary residence for an active and operating farmer, or a dwelling for a full-time farm employee of an active farm on which the dwelling is located.

**Fish** – means fish, which as defined in the Fisheries Act, includes fish, shellfish, crustaceans, and marine animals, at all stages of their life cycles.

**Fish habitat** – as defined in the Fisheries Act, means spawning grounds and any other areas, including nursery, rearing, food supply, and migration areas on which fish depend directly or indirectly in order to carry out their life processes.

**Flood fringe** – for watercourses and small inland lake systems; the outer portion of the *floodplain* between the *floodway* and the *flooding hazard* limit. Depths and velocities of flooding are generally less severe in the *flood fringe* than those experienced in the *floodway*.

**Flooding hazard** – the inundation of areas adjacent to watercourses and small inland lake systems, and not ordinarily covered by water. The *flooding hazard* limit is the greater of:

- a) the flood resulting from the rainfall actually experienced during a major storm such as the Hurricane Hazel storm (1954) or the Timmins storm (1961), transposed over a specific watershed and combined with the local conditions, where evidence suggests that the storm event could have potentially occurred over *watersheds* in the general area;
- b) the *one hundred year flood*; and
- c) a flood which is greater than (a) or (b) which was actually experienced in a particular watershed or portion thereof as a result of ice jams and which has been approved as the standard for that specific area by the *Province*;
- d) except where the use of the *one hundred year flood* or the actually experienced event has been approved by the *Province* as the standard for a specific watershed (where the past history of flooding supports the lowering of the standard).

**Floodplain** – for watercourses and small inland lake systems; the area, usually low lands adjoining a watercourse, which has been or may be subject to *flooding hazards*.

**Floodproofing standard** – the combination of measures incorporated into the basic design and/or construction of buildings, structures, or properties to reduce or eliminate *flooding hazards* along watercourses and small inland lake systems.

**Floodway** – for watercourses and small inland lake systems; the portion of the *floodplain* where *development* and *site alteration* would cause a danger to public health and safety or property damage. Where a *one-zone policy area* is applied, the *floodway* is the entire contiguous *floodplain*. Where a *two-zone policy area* is applied, the *floodway* is the contiguous inner portion of the *floodplain*, representing that area required for the safe passage of flood flow and/or that area where flood depths and/or velocities are considered to be such that they pose a potential threat to life and/or property damage. Where a *two-zone policy area* applies, the outer portion of the *floodplain* is called the *flood fringe*. In all cases the *floodway* will include areas of inundation that contain high points of land not subject to flooding.

**Freight-supportive** – in regard to land use patterns, means transportation systems and facilities that facilitate the movement of goods. This includes policies or programs intended to support efficient freight movement through the planning, design and operation of land use and transportation systems. Approaches may be recommended in guidelines developed by the Province or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives.

**Green infrastructure** - natural and human-made elements that provide ecological and hydrologic functions and processes. *Green infrastructure* can include components such as natural heritage features and systems, parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels, permeable surfaces, and green roofs.

**Greyfield** – previously developed properties that are not contaminated. They are usually, but not exclusively, former commercial properties that are underutilized, derelict, or vacant.

**Gross leasable area** – the total floor area designed for tenant occupancy and exclusive use, including basements, upper floors and mezzanines. It is measured from the centre line of joint partitions and from outside wall faces. Gross leasable area is the area on which tenants pay rent, and which produces income for an owner.

**Groundwater features** – refers to water-related features in the earth’s subsurface, including recharge/discharge area, water tables, aquifers and unsaturated zones that can be defined by surface and subsurface hydrogeology investigations.

**Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species –**

- a) with respect to a species listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List as an endangered or threatened species for which a regulation made under clause 55(1)(a) of the Endangered Species Act, 2007 is in force, the area prescribed by that regulation as the habitat of the species; or
- b) with respect to any other species listed on the Species at Risk in Ontario List as an endangered or threatened species, an area on which the species depends, directly or indirectly, to carry on its life processes, including life processes such as reproduction, rearing, hibernation, migration or feeding, as approved by the *Province*; and

places in the areas described in clause (a) or (b), whichever is applicable, that are used by members of the species as dens, nests, hibernacula or other residences.

**Hazardous chemicals and/or substances** – substances that individually or in combination with other substances are normally considered to pose a danger to public health, safety, and the environment. These substances generally include a wide array of materials that are toxic, ignitable, corrosive, reactive, radioactive or pathological.



**Hazardous lands** – property or lands that could be unsafe for development due to naturally occurring processes. Along watercourses and small inland lake systems, this means the land, including that covered by water, to the furthest landward limit of the *flooding hazard* or *erosion hazard* limits.

**Hazardous sites** – property or lands that could be unsafe for *development* and *site alteration* due to naturally occurring hazards. These may include unstable soils (sensitive marine clays [leda], organic soils) or unstable bedrock (karst topography).

**High quality** – primary and secondary sand and gravel and bedrock resources as defined in the Aggregate Resource Inventory.

**Heritage Register** – the official list or record of *cultural heritage resource* properties that have been identified as being of cultural heritage value or interest.

**Human services** – those services that maintain and promote a high quality of life and allow residents to develop to their full potential, including, but not limited to, police services, emergency services, social assistance, pre-employment services, child care, health care and cultural services.

**Hydrologic functions** – the functions of the hydrological cycle that include the occurrence, circulation, distribution and chemical and physical properties of water on the surface of the land, in the soil, underlying rocks and in the atmosphere, and water’s interaction with the environment including its relation to living things.

**Infrastructure** – physical structures (facilities and corridors) that form the foundation for development. Infrastructure includes: municipal drinking-water supply systems; municipal wastewater systems; stormwater management systems; waste management systems; electricity generation facilities and transmission and distribution systems; communications/telecommunications; transit systems and corridors; roads, including Township, Regional, Provincial Highways, and private roadways; *rail facilities*; and oil and gas pipelines and associated facilities.

**Innovation hubs** – locations that support collaboration and interaction between the private, public and academic sectors across many different economic sectors to promote innovation.

**Liveable** – the ability to readily satisfy the majority of one’s day-to-day housing, employment, shopping, health, transportation and recreational needs and thereby sustain a high quality of life. A liveable region is one that contains integrated, compact, *mixed-use* communities with distinct senses of place and character that provide people with choices about where they live work and play.

**Low impact development** – an approach to stormwater management that seeks to manage rain and other precipitation as close as possible to where it falls to mitigate the impacts of increased runoff and stormwater pollution. It includes a set of site design strategies and distributed, small-scale structural practices to mimic the natural hydrology to the greatest extent possible through infiltration, evapotranspiration, harvesting, filtration, and detention of stormwater. *Low impact development* can include: bio-swales, permeable pavement, rain gardens, green roofs, and exfiltration systems. *Low*

*impact development* often employs vegetation and soil in its design, however, that does not always have to be the case.

**Low and moderate income households –**

- a) in the case of ownership housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 percent of the income distribution for the regional market area; or
- b) in the case of rental housing, households with incomes in the lowest 60 percent of the income distribution for renter households for the regional market area.

**Major goods movement facilities and corridors –** means transportation facilities and corridors associated with the inter- and intra-provincial movement of goods. Examples include: inter-modal facilities, ports, airports, rail facilities, truck terminals, freight corridors, freight facilities, and haul routes and primary transportation corridors used for the movement of goods. Approaches that are *freight-supportive* may be recommended in guidelines developed by the *Province* or based on municipal approaches that achieve the same objectives.

**Major renovation –** (for the purposes of Sections 2.5.10 and 2.5.11 only) shall mean the addition or alteration of a building or structure that increases the size of a building or structure by 50 percent or greater of existing floor area or substantially increases the value of a building.

**Major retail –** large-scale or large-format stand-alone retail stores or retail centres that have the primary purpose of commercial activities.

**Mineral aggregate operation –** an operation and uses accessory thereto, other than *wayside pits and quarries*, conducted under a license or permit under the Aggregate Resources Act.

**Mineral aggregate resources –** gravel, sand, clay, earth, shale, stone, limestone, dolostone, sandstone, marble, granite, rock or other material prescribed under the Aggregate Resources Act suitable for construction, industrial, manufacturing and maintenance purposes but does not include metallic ores, asbestos, graphite, kyanite, mica, nepheline syenite, salt, talc, wollastonite, mine tailings or other materials prescribed under the Mining Act.

**Mineral Aggregate Resource Conservation –**

- a) the recovery and recycling of manufactured materials derived from mineral aggregates (e.g., glass, porcelain, brick, concrete, asphalt, slag, etc.), for re-use in construction, manufacturing, industrial or maintenance projects as a substitute for new mineral aggregates; and
- b) the wise use of mineral aggregates including utilization or extraction of on-site *mineral aggregate resources* prior to development occurring.

**Minimum distance separation formulae –** the separation distance as determined through the Provincial Minimum Distance Separation Formulae I and II or any other reduced distance satisfactory to the

Township and the *Province* through an amendment to a Township Zoning By-law or minor variance application.

**Minor renovation** – (for the purposes of Sections 2.5.10 and 2.5.11 only) shall mean the addition or alteration of a building or structure that increases the size of a building by less than 50 percent of the existing floor area.

**Mixed-use** – development of compatible residential and non-residential land uses within the same area or on the same parcel of land. Mixed-use facilitates the provision of a wide range of residential types within close proximity to employment, institutional, social and recreational opportunities.

**Municipal comprehensive review** – a new official plan, or an official plan amendment, initiated by the Region of Waterloo under Section 26 of the Planning Act that comprehensively applies the policies and schedules of the Growth Plan and the Provincial Policy Statement as applicable.

**Natural Heritage System** – The system mapped and issued by the *Province* comprised of *natural heritage features and areas*, and linkages intended to provide connectivity (at the regional or site level) and support natural processes which are necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species, and ecosystems. The system can include *key natural heritage features, key hydrologic features*, federal and provincial parks and conservation reserves, or other *natural heritage features and areas*, lands that have been restored or have the potential to be restored to a natural state, associated areas that support *hydrologic functions*, and working landscapes that enable *ecological functions* to continue.

**Negative Impact** –

- a) In regard to water, degradation to the quality or quantity of surface or groundwater, key hydrologic features or vulnerable areas and their related hydrologic functions due to single, multiple or successive development or site alteration activities;
- b) In regard to fish habitat, any permanent alteration to or destruction of fish habitat, except where, in conjunction with the appropriate authorities, it has been authorized under the Fisheries Act; and
- c) In regard to other natural heritage features and areas, degradation that threatens the health and integrity of the natural features or ecological functions for which an area is identified due to single, multiple or successive development or site alteration activities.

**Non-Farm-Related Residential Unit** – any dwelling unit that does not conform to the definition of a farm-related unit.

**Non-farm lot** – a parcel of land designated in this Official Plan or zoned in the Township’s Zoning By-law for non-farm purposes.

**Normal farm practices** – a practice, as defined in the Farming and Food Production Protection Act, that is conducted in a manner consistent with proper and acceptable customs and standards as established and followed by similar agricultural operations under similar circumstances; or make use of innovative

technology in a manner consistent with proper advanced farm management practices. *Normal farm practices* shall be consistent with the Nutrient Management Act, and regulations made under that Act.

**On-farm diversified uses** – means uses that are secondary to the principal agricultural use of the property, and are limited in area. *On-farm diversified uses* include, but are not limited to, home occupations, home industries, *agri-tourism uses*, and uses that produce value-added agricultural products from the farm operation on the property.

**One hundred year flood** – means that flood, based on an analysis of precipitation, snow melt, or a combination thereof, having a return period of 100 years on average, or having a 1% chance of occurring or being exceeded in any given year.

**One-zone policy area** – the approach whereby the *floodplain*, as defined by the Regulatory Floodline, is treated as one unit, and approval of all *development applications* are prohibited or restricted.

**Other information and materials** – the particular studies, reports, maps, plans and other documentation that may be required of the owner/applicant in addition to the requirements of sub-sections 22(4) and 51(17) of the Planning Act to satisfy the requirements of a complete application. The study requirements will be determined on a case-by-case basis through the *pre-submission consultation meeting*.

**Passive noise attenuation measures** – noise reducing site designs, building layouts, and structural design measures that mitigate noise between *sensitive land uses* and noise generating or other potentially incompatible land uses without the use of structural mitigation measures such as noise attention walls or berms.

**Pedestrian** – a person moving from place to place, either by foot or by using an assistive mobility device. Pedestrians include residents and visitors of all abilities.

**Portable asphalt plants** – a facility:

- a) with equipment designed to heat and dry aggregate and to mix aggregate with bituminous asphalt to produce asphalt paving material, and include stockpiling and storage of bulk materials used the in process; and
- b) which is not of permanent construction, but which is to be dismantled at the completion of the construction project.

**Portable concrete plants** – a facility:

- a) with equipment designed to mix cementing materials, aggregate, water and admixtures to produce concrete, and includes stockpiling and storage of bulk materials used in the process; and
- b) which is not of permanent construction, but which is to be dismantled at the completion of the construction project.

**Pre-submission consultation meeting** – the opportunity for staff to consult with an owner/applicant prior to the owner/applicant preparing an application, in order to outline the information and materials that the owner/applicant will be required to submit concurrently with the application form and prescribed fees.

**Prime agricultural lands** – means *specialty crop areas* and/or Canada Land Inventory Classes 1, 2, and 3 lands, as amended from time to time, in this order of priority for protection.

**Prime employment areas** – areas of employment within *settlement areas* that are designated in this Plan and the Regional Official Plan, and are protected over the long-term for uses that are land extensive or have low employment densities and require locations that are adjacent to or near major goods movement facilities and corridors. These uses include manufacturing, warehousing, and logistics, and appropriate associated uses and ancillary facilities.

**Protection works standards** – the combination of non-structural or structural works and allowances for slope stability and flooding/erosion to reduce the damage caused by *flooding hazards*, *erosion hazards* and other water-related hazards, and to allow access for their maintenance and repair.

**Province** – the Province of Ontario or one or more of its ministries or other agencies that exercise delegated authority on behalf of one or more ministries.

**Provincial and Federal requirements** –

- a) for the purposes of Policy 6.15.1, legislation, regulation, policies and standards administered by federal or provincial governments for the purpose of protecting the environment from potential impacts associated with energy systems and ensuring that the necessary approvals are obtained;
- b) for the purposes of Policy 7.2.2.1, legislation and policies administered by federal or provincial governments, where applicable, for the purpose of protecting species at risk and their habitat; and
- c) for the purposes of Policy 8.1.4.2, legislation and policies administered by federal or provincial governments for the purposes of fisheries protection (including *fish* and *fish habitat*), and related, scientifically established standards such as water quality criteria for protecting Lake Trout populations; and

**Provincially constrained environmental areas** – landscape features where the features are both identified in any applicable official plan or Provincial Plan, and where applicable Provincial Plan or Provincial Policy Statement prohibits development in the features: *wetlands*, *woodlands*, *Significant Valleys*, *Environmentally Significant Valley Features*, *Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest*, *Habitat of Endangered Species and Threatened Species*, *Significant Wildlife Habitat*, and *fish habitat*.

**Provincially Significant Wetlands** – an area identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources using the evaluation procedures established by the Province, as amended from time to time.

**Public service facilities** – Lands, buildings and structures for the provision of programs and services provided or subsidized by a government or other body, such as social assistance, recreation, police and fire protection, health and educational programs, and cultural services. Public service facilities do not include *infrastructure*.

**Public realm** – all spaces to which the public has unrestricted access, such as streets, parks, and sidewalks.

**Quality and quantity of water** – measured by indicators associated with *hydrologic function* such as minimum base flow, depth to water table, aquifer pressure, oxygen levels, suspended solids, temperature, bacteria, nutrients and hazardous contaminants, and hydrologic regime.

**Rail facilities** – rail corridors, rail sidings, train stations, inter-modal facilities, rail yards and associated uses, including designated lands for future *rail facilities*.

**Redevelopment** – (for the purposes of Sections 2.5.10 and 2.5.11 only) shall mean the removal of buildings or structures from land and the construction or erection of other buildings or structures.

**Regulatory Flood** – (for the purposes of Sections 2.5.10 and 2.5.11 only) means the flood resulting from the Hurricane Hazel storm centred event, as determined by the Grand River Conservation Authority.

**Renewable energy source** – means an energy source that is renewed by natural processes and includes wind, water, biomass, biogas, biofuel, solar energy, geothermal energy and tidal forces.

**Renewable energy systems** – means the production of electrical power, heat and/or cooling from a *renewable energy source*.

**Reurbanization** – describes four distinct types of activity, all or which serve to increase the residential or employment density on sites located within the existing, *built-up area*. The four types of activity captured under the definition of *reurbanization* include:

- a) *infill*: new development on formerly vacant land;
- b) intensification: an expansion in the use of an existing structure or structures that serves to increase the density on a site;
- c) adaptive reuse: a change in the use of a structure, typically from
- d) Redevelopment: the wholesale change or conversion of an area, often involving some form of land assembly and/or demolition, which results in significantly higher density than existed previously.

Many of the key opportunities for *reurbanization* are associated with *brownfields* and *greyfields*.

**Rural institutional use** – institutional uses related to and directly serving the needs of the rural community, such as schools, places of worship and rural community centres.

**Rural residential infilling formulae** – the measurement of the 100 metre separation distance set out in this Plan will be determined as follows:

- a) measurement is established between two points located along the centre-line of the right-of-way of an open public road and which point are determined by a line drawn from the centre of such unit and perpendicular to the public road;
- b) the distance between the two points is measured along the public road through intersecting public roads; and
- c) the point of reference on an adjoining and undeveloped rural residential lot is determined by the midpoint along the public road.

**Safe Access** – (for the purposes of Sections 2.5.10 and 2.5.11 only) means pedestrian or vehicular access/evacuation routes as determined by the Grand River Conservation Authority in an evaluation of flood depths and velocities in accordance with Provincial policy.

**Safe Parking** – (for the purposes of Sections 2.5.10 and 2.5.11 only) means that the parking area is not flooded to a depth greater than 0.3 metres with velocity of 3 metres or less.

**Seasonal** – when referring to the use of a dwelling, means that the dwelling is, or is intended as, a secondary place of residence of the occupant and is not the occupant's principal residence.

**Sensitive land uses** – buildings, amenity areas, or outdoor spaces where routine or normal activities occurring at reasonably expected times would experience one or more adverse effects from contaminant discharges generated by nearby major facilities. *Sensitive land uses* may be a part of the natural or built environment. Examples may include, but are not limited to: residences, day care centres, and educational and health facilities.

**Settlement areas** – Township Urban Areas, Rural Settlement Areas and Rural Employment Areas that are:

- a) built up areas where development is concentrated and which may have a mix of land uses; and
- b) lands which have been designated in this Plan for development in accordance with the policies of this Plan. Where there are no lands that have been designated for development, the settlement area may be no larger than the area where development is concentrated.

**Significant** –

- a) in regard to *wildlife habitat*, areas that are ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or natural heritage system;
- b) in regard to regionally significant features and areas comprising the Greenlands Network, area identified as being ecologically important to the region based on the specific criteria established by the Region and described in the associated policies in this Plan;
- c) in regard to *cultural heritage resources*, resources that are valued for the important contribution they make to our understanding of the history of a place, an event or a people;
- d) in regard to *areas of natural and scientific interest*, areas identified as provincially significant by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources using evaluation procedures established by the *Province*, as amended from time to time;
- e) in regard to woodlands, areas identified as ecologically important by the Region of Waterloo based on the criteria set out in the Regional Official Plan.

**Site alteration** – activities, such as grading, excavation and the placement of fill that would change the landform and natural vegetative characteristics of a site.

**Site Plan** – applicable to all chapters except Chapter 7 (Mineral Aggregate Resources) – an application under Section 41 of the Planning Act which details building location and design as well as other site specific considerations such as walkways, landscaping, lighting and storage areas.

**Special needs housing** – any housing, including dedicated facilities, in whole or in part, that is used by people who have specific needs beyond economic needs, including but not limited to, needs such as mobility requirements or support functions required for daily living.

**Specialty crop area** – areas designated using guidelines developed by the *Province*, as amended from time to time. In these areas, specialty crops are predominantly grown such as tender fruits (peaches, cherries, plums), grapes, other fruit crops, vegetable crops, greenhouse crops, and crops from agriculturally developed organic soil usually resulting from:

- a) soils that have suitability to produce specialty crops, or lands that are subject to special climatic conditions, or a combination of both;
- b) farmers skilled in the production of specialty crops; and
- c) a long-term investment of capital in areas such as crops, drainage, infrastructure and related facilities and services to produce, store, or process specialty crops.

**Stormwater master plan** – a long-range plan that assesses existing and planned stormwater facilities and systems and outlines stormwater *infrastructure* requirements for new and existing development



within a settlement area. *Stormwater master plans* are informed by *watershed planning* and are completed in accordance with the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment.

**Stormwater management plan** – a plan that provides direction to avoid or minimize and mitigate stormwater volume, contaminant loads, and impacts on receiving water courses to: maintain groundwater quality and flow and stream base flow; protect water quality; minimize the disruption of pre-existing (natural) drainage patterns wherever possible; prevent increases in stream channel erosion; prevent any increase in flood risk; and protect aquatic species and their habitat.

**Strategic growth areas** – within Township Urban Areas, nodes, corridors, and other areas that have been identified by the Township, the Region or the Province to be the focus for accommodating *reurbanization* and higher-density mixed uses in a more *compact built form*. *Strategic growth areas* may include the Urban Growth Centres and other major opportunities that may include infill, redevelopment, *brownfield sites*, the expansion or conversion of existing buildings, or *greyfields*. Lands along major roads, arterials, or other areas with existing or planned frequent transit service or higher order transit corridors may also be identified as *strategic growth areas*.

**Subwatershed plan** – a plan that reflects and refines the goals, objectives, targets, and assessments of *watershed planning* for smaller drainage areas, is tailored to subwatershed needs and addresses local issues.

A *subwatershed plan* should: consider existing development and evaluate impacts of any potential or proposed land uses and development; identify hydrologic features, areas, linkages, and functions; identify natural features, areas, and related *hydrologic functions*; and provide for protecting, improving, or restoring the *quality and quantity of water* within a subwatershed.

A *subwatershed plan* is based on pre-development monitoring and evaluation; is integrated with natural heritage protection; and identifies specific criteria, objectives, actions, thresholds, targets, and best management practices for development, for water and wastewater servicing, for stormwater management, for managing and minimizing impacts related to severe weather events, and to support ecological needs.

**Sustainable/sustainability** – the ability to meet the needs of both current and future generations by balancing cultural, economic, environmental and social elements through thoughtful, comprehensive and inclusive decision-making. A sustainable township is one that is robust, resilient and strives to live within its natural limits.

**Temporary Farmers' Markets** – outdoor food stands using temporary structures to sell food products to the public. The foods sold would be primarily from local sources, and may include processed foods such as jams and preserves and other farm-made products. Stand operators could be farmers or staff or volunteers of a business or organization with a permit to operate the stand.

**Threatened species** – means a species that is listed or categorized as a “Threatened Species” on the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources’ official Species at Risk list, as updated and amended from time to time.

**Transit-supportive** – relating to development that makes transit viable and improves the quality of the experience of using transit. It often refers to compact, mixed-use development that has a high level of employment and residential densities. *Transit-supportive* development will be consistent with Ontario’s Transit Supportive Guidelines.

**Two-zone policy area** – the approach that selective developed urban areas within the *floodplain*, as defined by the Regulatory Floodline, are considered to be less hazardous than others such that *development applications* could potentially safely occur. The first zone, termed the *flood fringe*, defines the portion of the *floodplain* where development may occur subject to appropriate *floodproofing standards*. The second zone, termed the *floodway*, defines that portion of the *floodplain* where development is prohibited.

**Vulnerable/vulnerability** – surface water and/or groundwater that can be easily changed or impacted.

**Watershed** – an area that is drained by a river and its tributaries.

**Watershed planning** – planning that provides a framework for establishing goals, objectives, and direction for the protection of water resources, the management of human activities, land, water, aquatic life, and resources within a watershed and for the assessment of cumulative, cross-jurisdictional, and cross-watershed impacts.

*Watershed planning* typically includes: watershed characterization, a water budget, and conservation plan; nutrient loading assessments; consideration of climate change impacts and severe weather events; land and water use management objectives and strategies; scenario modelling to evaluate the impacts of forecasted growth and servicing options, and mitigation measures; an environmental monitoring plan; requirements for the use of environmental best management practices, programs, and performance measures; criteria for evaluating the protection of *quality and quantity of water*; the identification and protection of hydrologic features, areas, and functions and the interrelationships between or among them; and targets for the protection and restoration of riparian areas.

*Watershed planning* is undertaken at many scales, and considers cross jurisdictional and cross-watershed impacts. The level of analysis and specificity generally increases for smaller geographic areas such as *subwatersheds* and tributaries.

**Wayside pits and quarries** – a temporary pit or quarry opened and used by or for a public authority solely for the purpose of a particular project or contract of road construction and not located on the road right-of-way.

**Wet floodproofing** – (for the purposes of Sections 2.5.10 and 2.5.11 only) means the use of materials, methods and design measures to maintain structural integrity and minimize water damage in buildings or structures which are intentionally designed to allow floodwaters to enter, as determined by the Grand River Conservation Authority.

**Wetlands** – lands that are seasonally or permanently covered by shallow water, as well as lands where the water table is close to or at the surface. In either case the presence of abundant water has caused the formation of hydric soils and has favoured the dominance of either hydrophytic plants or water tolerant plants. The four major types of wetlands are swamps, marches, bogs, and fens. Periodically soaked or wet lands being used for agricultural purposes which no longer exhibit *wetland* characteristics are not considered to be wetlands for the purposes of this definition.

**Wildlife Habitat** – areas where plants, animals and other organisms live and find adequate amounts of food, water, shelter and space needed to sustain their populations. Specific wildlife habitats of concern may include areas where species concentrate at a vulnerable point in their annual or life cycle; and areas which are important to migratory or non-migratory species.

**Woodlands** – treed areas that provide environmental and economic benefits to both the private landowner and the general public, such as erosion prevention, hydrological and nutrient cycling, provision of clean air and the long-term storage of carbon, provision of wildlife habitat, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the *sustainable* harvest of a wide range of *woodland* products. Woodlands include treed areas, woodlots or forested areas and vary in their level of significance at the local, regional and provincial levels.