

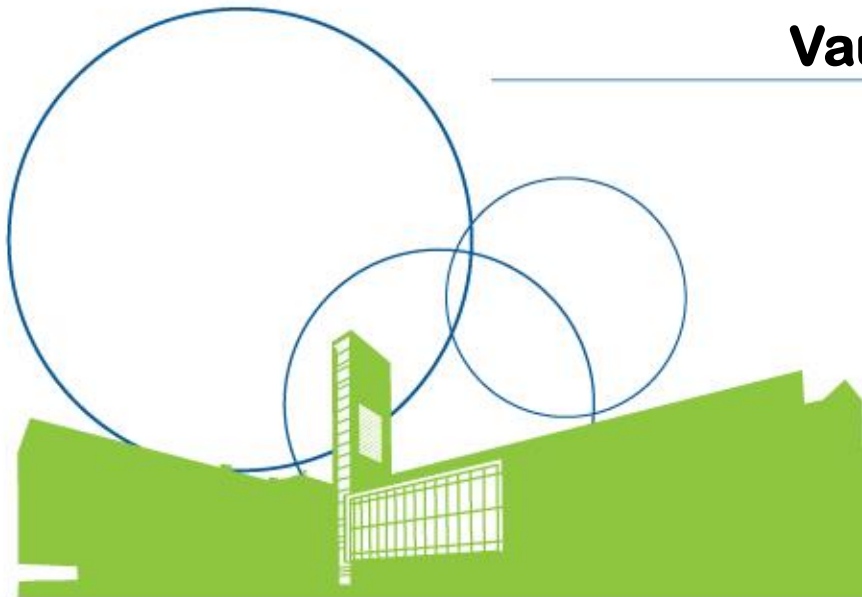
# Natural Heritage Network Study

Public Open House

May 22, 2014

Vaughan City Hall, Multi-Purpose Room

---



# Opening Remarks

**John MacKenzie, Commissioner of Planning**



**“Vaughan is known for lots of action and development but it’s also a place of great beauty.**

**I grew up enjoying the Humber River headlands and valley lands. Now, I’m thrilled to be working to protect these lands with the Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust so that many more generations can appreciate what they give us. Birds, ducks, clean water, any number of trees and wildflowers – we are lucky to have all of this.**

**We are responsible for making sure this is looked after long after we are gone.**

**The City of Vaughan is smart to be taking this big step now with a Natural Heritage Study before it’s too late.”**

**The Hon. Henry N.R. Jackman**

# AGENDA FOR VAUGHAN NHN OPEN HOUSE

6:30	Open House	
7:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks	John MacKenzie, City of Vaughan
7:05	Meeting Purpose & Agenda Review	Susan Hall, Lura Consulting
7:10	Presentation City of Vaughan NHN Study  <i>Questions of Clarification</i>	Tony Iacobelli, City of Vaughan Brent Tegler, North-South Environmental Robert Orland, Orland Conservation
7:45	Station Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 NHN mapping stations</li> <li>• Land Securement Strategy station</li> </ul>	Tony Iacobelli & Brent Tegler Robert Orland
8:40	Report Back & Plenary Discussion	All
8:55	Wrap Up and Closing Remarks	John MacKenzie

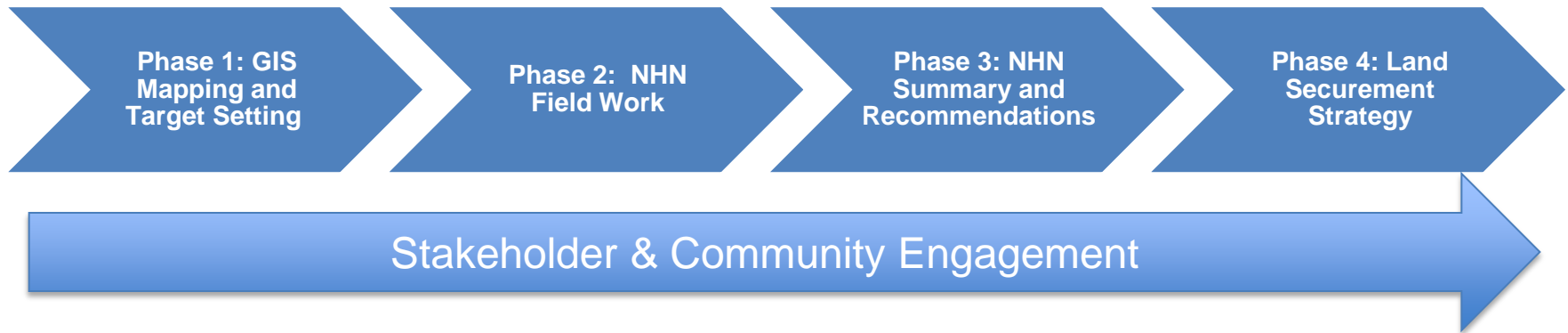


# Project Overview

**Tony Iacobelli, City of Vaughan Project Manager**  
**Brent Tegler, North-South Environmental**  
**Robert Orland, Orland Conservation**



# WHAT ARE THE KEY STEPS IN VAUGHAN'S NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK STUDY?



- **Open Houses/Community Forum (June 28 and October 4, 2012; November 13, 2013)**
- **Committee of the Whole reports (December 12, 2012 and December 3, 2013)**
- **First Nations consultation**
- **Stakeholder sessions**
- **Landowner meetings**



# WHAT IS A NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK (NHN)?

- A NHN protects Vaughan's remaining Core Natural Areas and Enhancement Areas to create a network of well connected habitat capable of sustaining native plants and animals

***To identify a Natural Heritage Network (NHN) consisting of **core areas** & **enhancement areas** that form a robust, linked ecological system of resilient natural habitats providing long term protection of native biodiversity***

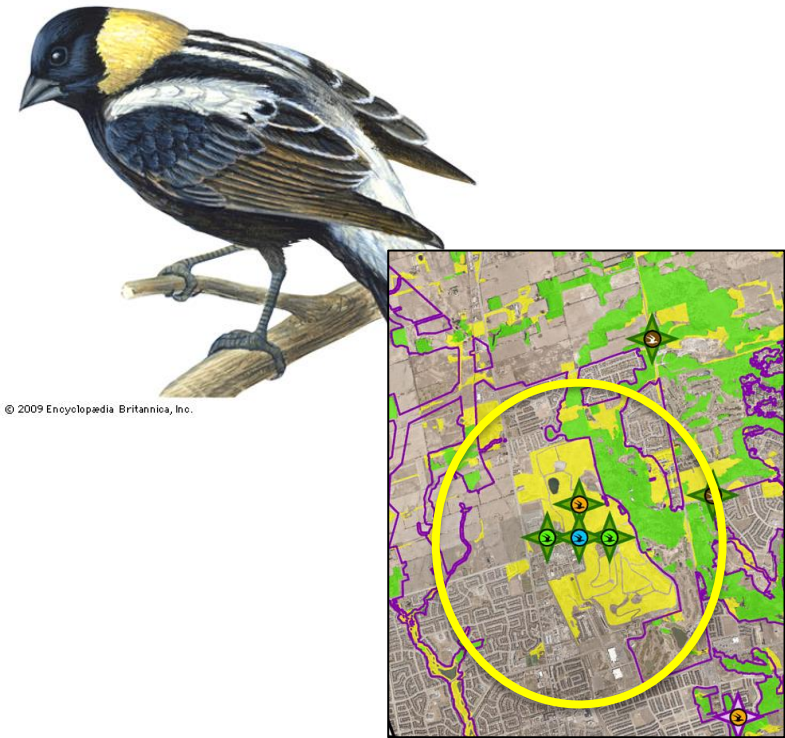


# WHAT TYPE OF FIELD WORK DID WE DO FOR THE NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK STUDY?

## Headwater Drainage Features



## Significant Wildlife Habitat





# WHAT INFORMATION ARE WE USING AND WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?



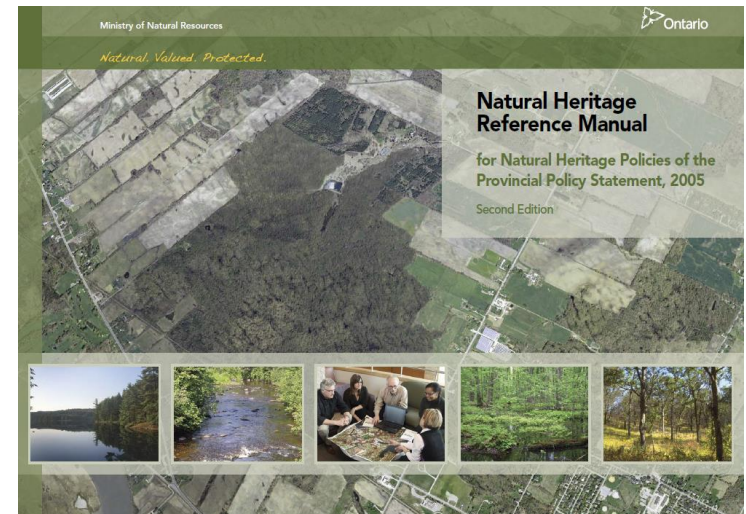
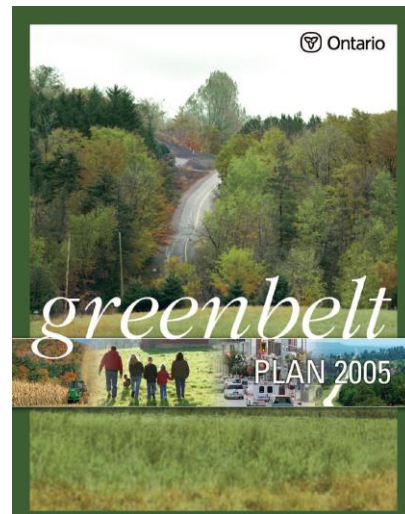
<b>DIGITAL DATA</b>
<b>Forest/Woodlands</b>
<b>Wetlands</b>
<b>Meadowlands</b>
<b>Flora &amp; Fauna</b>
<b>Significant Wildlife Habitat</b>
<b>Watercourses</b>
<b>Waterbodies</b>
<b>Crest of Slope</b>
<b>Oak Ridges Moraine</b>
<b>Greenbelt Plan</b>
<b>York Greenlands</b>
<b>Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest</b>
<b>Environmentally Significant Areas</b>
<b>City of Vaughan Zoning</b>



# HOW DO WE BUILD ON PREVIOUS EFFORTS?

Informing Vaughan's NHN based on:

- Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Greenbelt Plan;
- City-wide studies and master plans;
- TRCA studies.



# HOW DO WE USE THE INFORMATION TO IDENTIFY A NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK?

Criteria are used to determine the areas included in Vaughan's NHN based on:

- ecological principles intended to achieve the goal established for the NHN;
- implementing relevant Federal, Provincial, York Region and the City of Vaughan policies.

<b>Criteria Used to Define NHN</b>	
<b>Woodlands</b>	<b>Wetlands</b>
<b>Watercourses</b>	<b>Waterbodies</b>
<b>Valleylands</b>	<b>Significant Wildlife Habitat</b>
<b>Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)</b>	<b>Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA)</b>

# VOP Policy Changes



# Vaughan Official Plan 2010

## Policy Amendments Not Required

- Woodlands
- Wetlands
- Valleylands (Valley and Stream Corridors)
- Significant Wildlife Habitat
- ANSIs
- Habitat of Endangered and Threatened Species
- Fish Habitat

Note that habitat of Endangered and Threatened species and Fish Habitat are addressed through the policies in the VOP 2010 in accordance with appropriate federal and/or provincial legislation.



# Vaughan Official Plan 2010

## Recommended Policy Amendments – Draft for Review

### Watercourses and waterbodies – Proposed New Policy

- That *watercourses* may need to be confirmed by the City and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority through field investigation. *Headwater drainage features* (HDFs) shall be identified and managed in accordance with TRCA’s “Evaluation, Classification and Management of Headwater Drainage Features Guideline”, as may be updated.

The guideline is a module of the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol and can be found at:

<http://www.trca.on.ca/dotAsset/157464.pdf>



# Vaughan Official Plan 2010

## Recommended Policy Amendments – Draft for Review

### Watercourses and Waterbodies – Proposed New Policies

Amend VOP 2010 policy 3.2.3.4(h)

- Sensitive surface water features (including waterbodies), seepage areas and springs not already captured in *valley and stream corridors*, and a 30 metre minimum vegetation protection zone for those seepage areas and springs in the **Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation** and **Greenbelt Plan Areas**.

Add subparagraph to VOP 2010 policy 3.3.5.1

- Prohibiting development and site alteration within sensitive surface water features and their vegetation protection zone unless it is demonstrated through an environmental impact study that the development or site alteration will not result in a negative impact to the ecological and/or hydrological functions of the sensitive surface water feature.

# Vaughan Official Plan 2010

## Recommended Policy Amendments – Draft for Review

### Waterbodies – Proposed New Definitions

- Add definitions in Section 10.2 of VOP 2010 for *watercourses* and *Headwater Drainage Features* (from the TRCA Living City Policies document)
- Add definitions in Section 10.2 of VOP 2010 for *Sensitive Surface Water Features* and *Waterbody* (from the York Region Official Plan)





# Vaughan Official Plan 2010

## Proposed Amendments to Schedules – Draft for Review

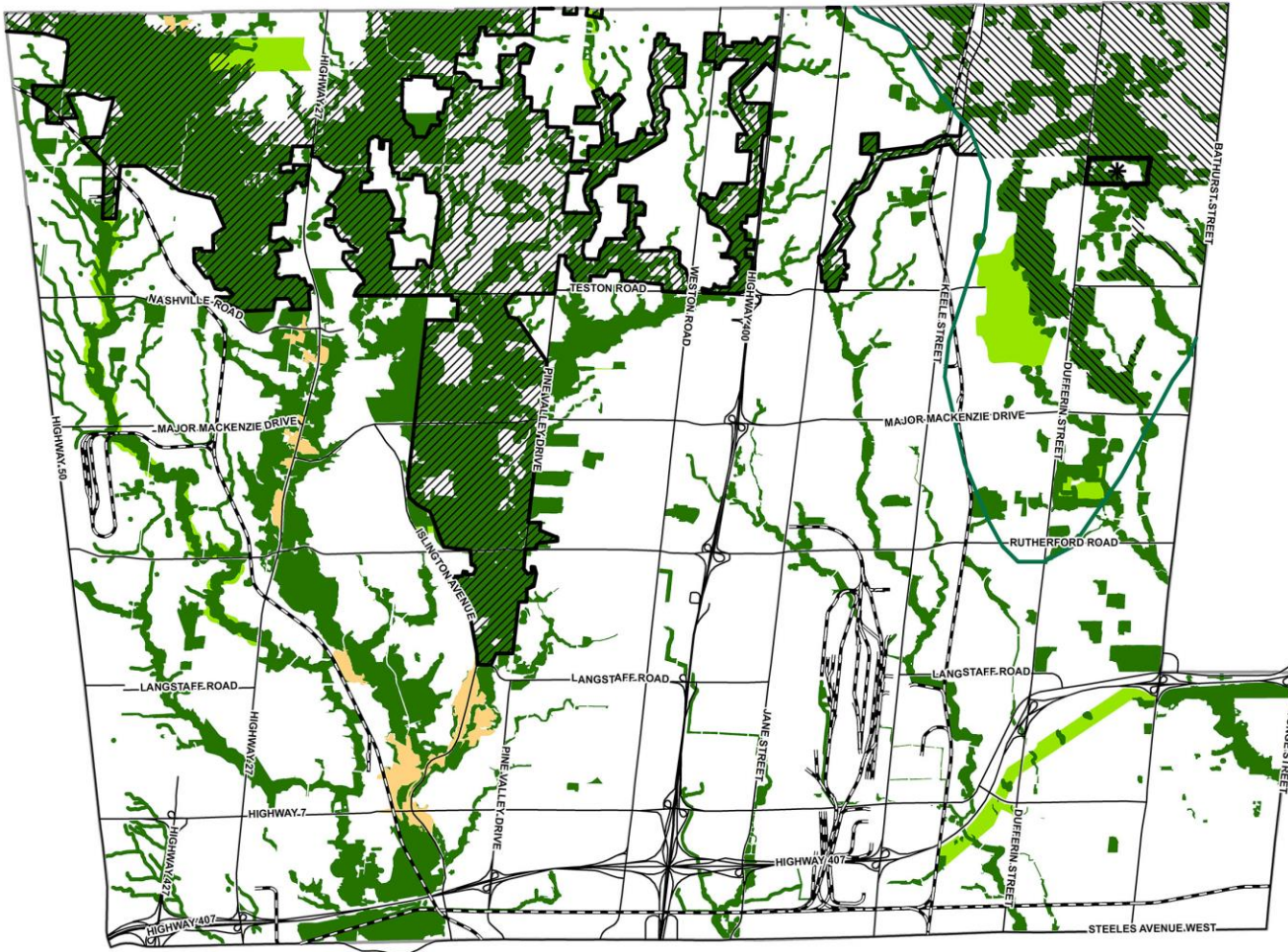
### Schedule 2 – Natural Heritage Network

#### Legend

- Core Features
- Enhancement Areas
- Built-Up Valley Lands
- Natural Heritage System overlay of the Greenbelt Plan
- Natural Core and Natural Linkage designations of the ORMCP












# Proposed Schedule 2 – Draft for Review



## SCHEDULE 2

### Natural Heritage Network

#### Legend

-  Core Features
-  Enhancement Areas
-  Built-Up Valley Lands (1)
-  Greenbelt Plan Area Boundary (2)
-  Greenbelt Natural Heritage System
-  Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Boundary (2)
-  Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Core and Linkage Areas
-  City of Vaughan Boundary
-  Minister's Decision on ORMCP Designation Deferred

This Schedule is subject to change based on the result of the Natural Heritage Network Study, which will define the Natural Heritage Network by both its natural features and as a natural heritage system in accordance with the Provincial Policy Statement.

The policy text in Chapter 3 prevails over the mapping shown on Schedule 2 in determining the Natural Heritage Network.

(1) Data provided by Urban Strategies.

(2) See Schedule 4 for limits and the land use information of the Greenbelt Plan Area and the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan Area.



North-South Environmental Inc.  
Specialists in Sustainable Landscape Planning



May 29, 2014

DRAFT

# Vaughan Official Plan 2010

## Proposed Amendments to Schedules – Draft for Review

### Schedule 2A – Hydrologic Features and Valleylands

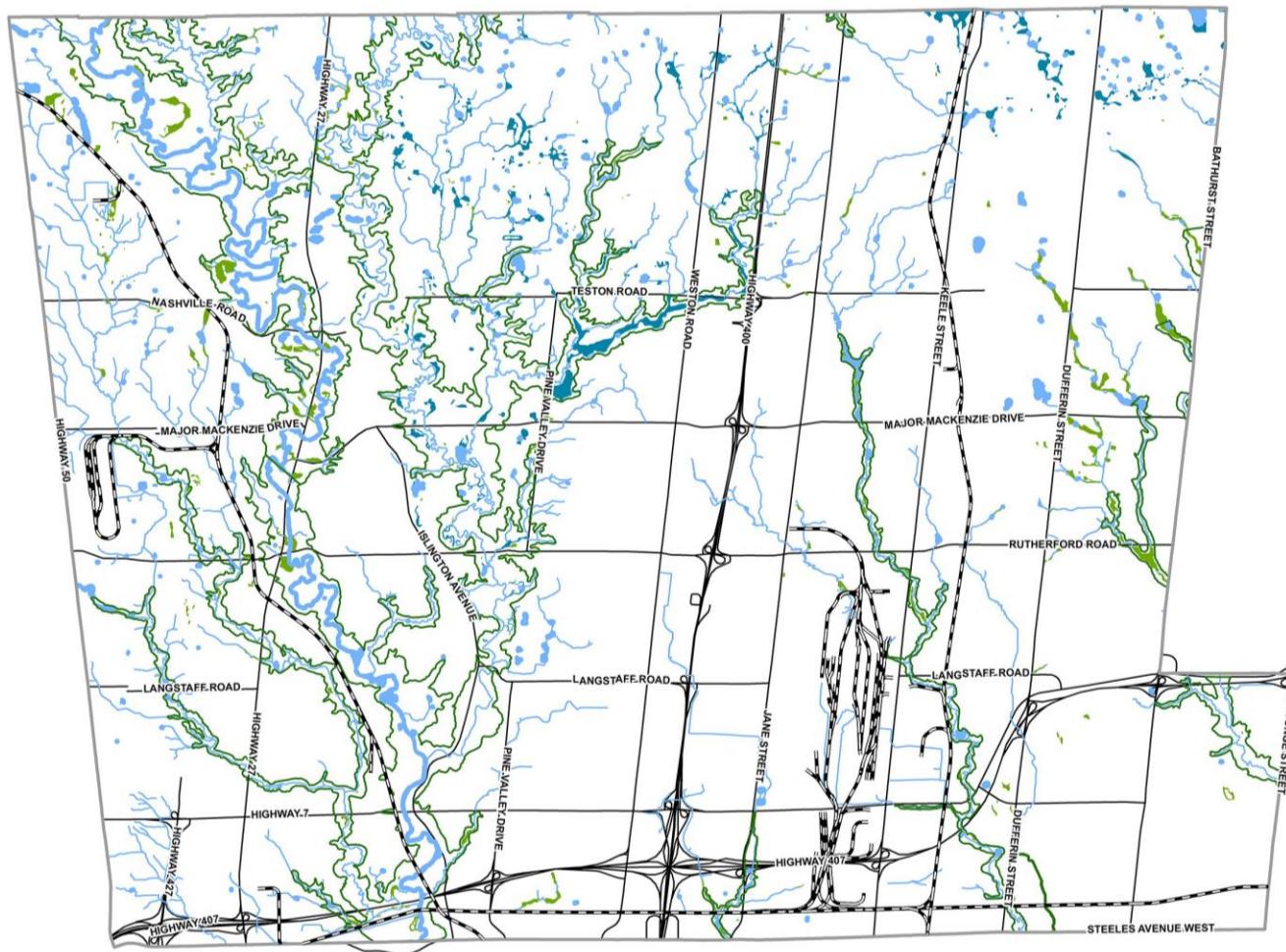
#### Legend

- Provincially Significant Wetlands
- Other Wetlands (may include evaluated wetlands that are not Provincially Significant or non-evaluated wetlands)
- Surface Water Features (headwaters, rivers, stream channels, inland lakes, seepage areas, recharge/discharge areas, springs)\*
- Crest of Slope

\*To be confirmed through the application of the policies of this plan.



# Proposed Schedule 2A – Draft for Review



SCHEDULE 2A

## Natural Heritage Network

### Hydrologic Features and Valleylands Legend

- Provincially Significant Wetlands
- Other Wetlands (may include evaluated wetlands that are not Provincially Significant or non-evaluated wetlands)<sup>1</sup>
- Surface Water Features<sup>2</sup> - Waterbodies (inland lakes, seepage areas, recharge/discharge areas, springs)
- Surface Water Features<sup>2</sup> - Rivers and Stream Channels (headwaters, rivers, stream channels)
- Crest of Slope Screening Layer for Valleylands<sup>3</sup>
- City of Vaughan Boundary

<sup>1</sup> Non-evaluated shall be assessed for their significance, in accordance with criteria provided by the Province, and to determine their importance, function and the means of protection to the satisfaction of the City.

<sup>2</sup> To be confirmed through the application of policies of this plan.

<sup>3</sup> To be confirmed on a site specific basis.



North-South Environmental Inc.  
Specialists in Sustainable Landscape Planning



DRAFT

May 21, 2014

# Vaughan Official Plan 2010

## Proposed Amendments to Schedules – Draft for Review

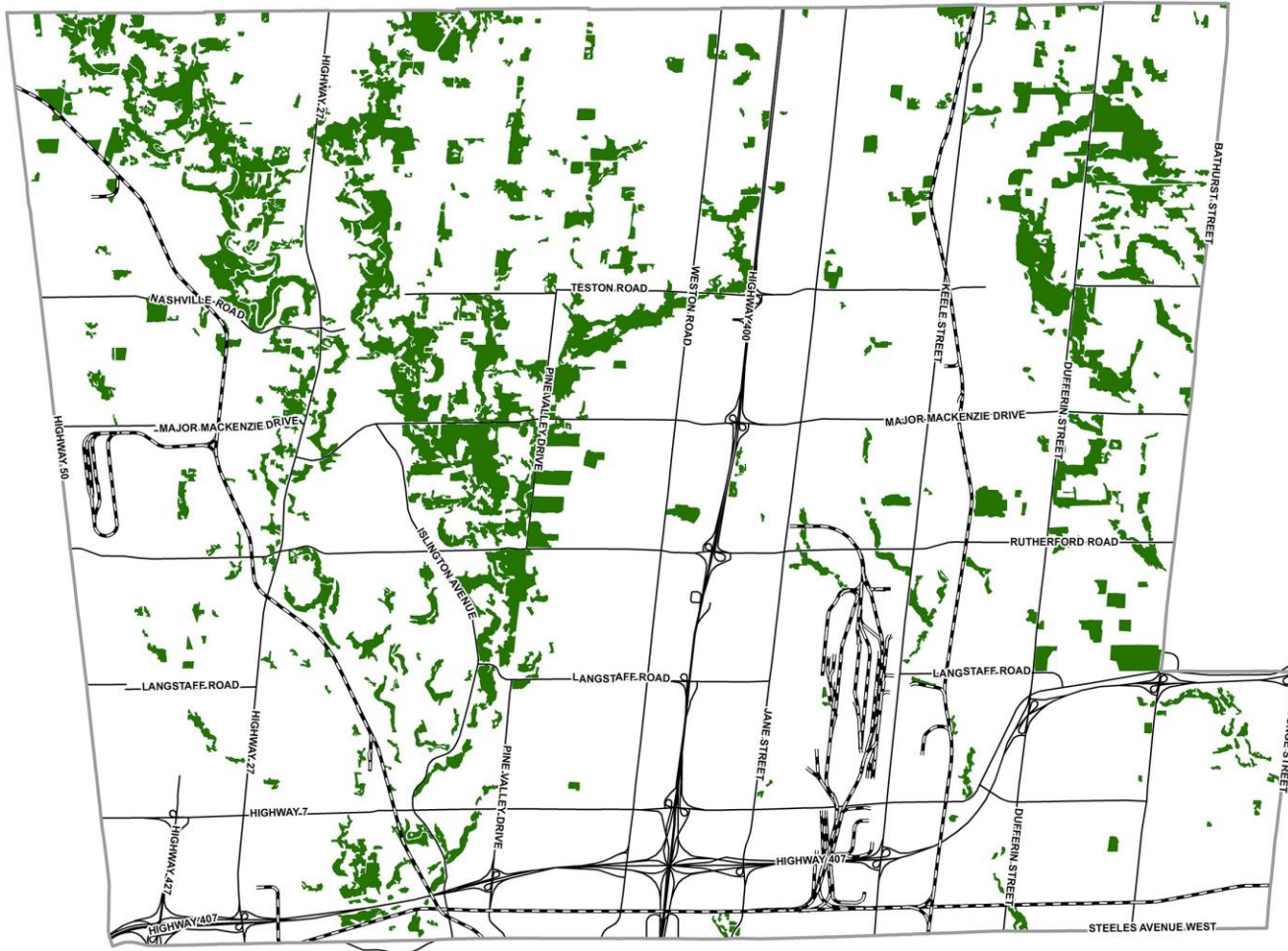
### Schedule 2B – Woodlands

#### Legend

- Woodlands (> 0.5 hectares)



# Proposed Schedule 2B – Draft for Review





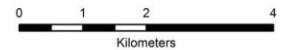
DRAFT

SCHEDULE 2B

## Natural Heritage Network

### Woodlands Legend

-  Woodlands (> 0.50 ha)
-  City of Vaughan Boundary



North-South Environmental Inc.  
Specialists in Sustainable Landscape Planning



May 21, 2014

# Vaughan Official Plan 2010

## Proposed Amendments to Schedules

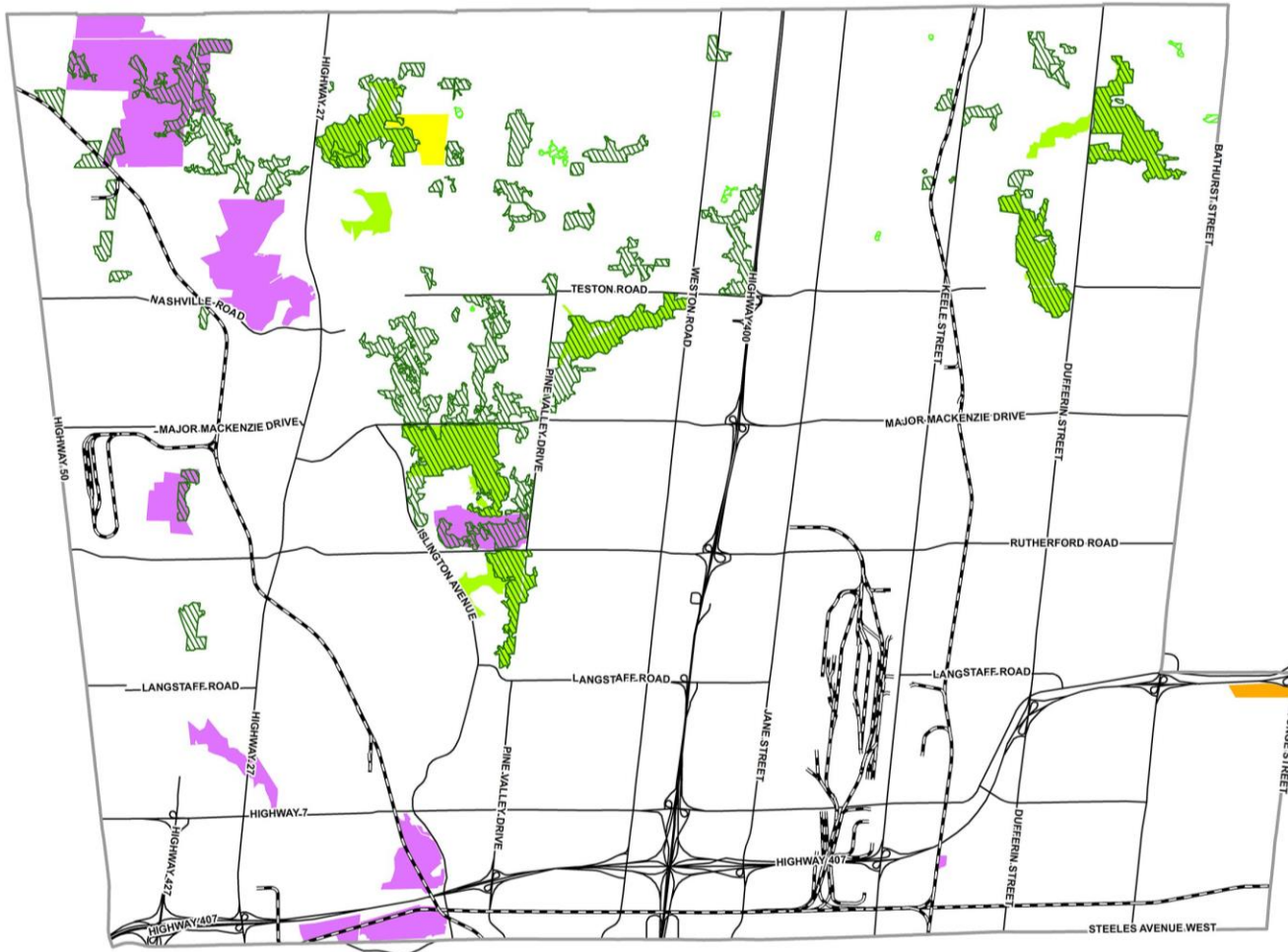
### Schedule 2C – Significant Wildlife Habitat\* – Draft for Review

#### Legend

- SWH Amphibian Breeding Habitat – Woodlands
- SWH Amphibian Breeding Habitat – Wetlands
- SWH Special Concern Open Country Breeding Birds
- SWH Area Sensitive Open Country Breeding Birds
- SWH Shrub/Early Successional Breeding Birds
- SWH Area-Sensitive Woodland Breeding Birds

\* Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) determined through the application of Ministry of Natural Resources *Draft* SWH Ecoregion 7E Criterion Schedule (February 2012). Site-specific assessments may identify additional significant wildlife habitat in accordance with criteria established by the Province.

# Proposed Schedule 2C – Draft for Review



**SCHEDULE 2C**

## Natural Heritage Network

**Significant Wildlife Habitat<sup>1, 2</sup> Legend**

- SWH Amphibian Breeding Habitat - Woodlands
- SWH Amphibian Breeding Habitat - Wetlands
- SWH Special Concern Open Country Breeding Birds
- SWH Area Sensitive Open Country Breeding Birds
- SWH Shrub/Early Successional Breeding Birds
- SWH Area Sensitive Woodland Breeding Birds
- City of Vaughan Boundary

<sup>1</sup> Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) determined through the application of Ministry of Natural Resources Draft SWH Ecoregion 7E Criterion Schedule (February 2012).

<sup>2</sup> Schedule 2C does not show all SWH in the City of Vaughan. Site-specific assessment may identify additional significant wildlife habitat in accordance with criteria established by the Province.

0 1 2 4  
Kilometers

North-South Environmental Inc.  
Specialists in Sustainable Landscape Planning

**DRAFT**

May 21, 2014



# Managing the NHN



# Next Steps – Managing the Natural Heritage Network

## Implementation through Development Review

- Finalize Environmental Management Guideline
- Develop a habitat compensation protocol
- Monitor progress of the NHN towards ecosystem targets



# Next Steps – Managing the Natural Heritage Network

## Stewardship

- Restoration priorities with conservation partners
- Invasive species management
- Complementing Parks Department efforts (i.e. trails)
- Habitat management for open country species
- Education and outreach opportunities



# Next Steps – Managing the Natural Heritage Network

## Land Securement

- A Framework for a Land Securement Working Group has been created
- Build relations with external partners (e.g. Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust, Ontario Farmland Trust)
- Focus will be on short-term efforts such as outreach and landowner contact
- Identify internal staff expertise and existing budgets



# VAUGHAN NHN LAND SECUREMENT TOOLS

- **Land donation** – simple & direct
- **Conservation severance** – severe & donate a portion of land owned
- **Bequest** – donate land & estate receives tax benefits
- **Life interest agreement** – commit to protection while owning land
- **Conservation easement agreement** – protection registered on title for perpetuity
- **Split receipt** – donate all of land receive \$ value for a portion of land



*“...making a contribution to natural heritage protection”*



# Questions of Clarification?



# Station Discussions



# Station Discussions

- Decide where to start first
- If the station is crowded, come back later
- At each station:
  - Listen to brief overview
  - Have questions addressed
- After 25 minutes rotate if you want to





# Station Discussions

- Decide where to start first
- If the station is crowded, come back later
- At each station:
  - Listen to brief overview
  - Have questions addressed
- After 25 minutes rotate if you want to



# Report Back & Plenary Discussion



# VAUGHAN NHN Phase 2-4 Study Next Steps

Public Hearing – June 17, 2014

Public Comment period

Expert/Agency/City meetings

Future Technical Report to Committee of the Whole

Amendments to VOP 2010 recognizing existing appeals



# Contact Information:

## Tony Iacobelli

- Senior Environmental Planner, City of Vaughan
- Email [tony.iacobelli@vaughan.ca](mailto:tony.iacobelli@vaughan.ca)
- 905-832-8585 ext. 8630

## Brent Tegler

- Principal/Applied Ecologist
- North-South Environmental
- [btegeler@nsenvironmental.com](mailto:btegeler@nsenvironmental.com)

## Project Web Site

[http://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy\\_planning\\_projects/natural\\_heritage/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy_planning_projects/natural_heritage/Pages/default.aspx)

# Thank You!