

NATURAL HERITAGE STRATEGY

PUBLIC MEETING PRESENTATION

Date: February 27, 2012

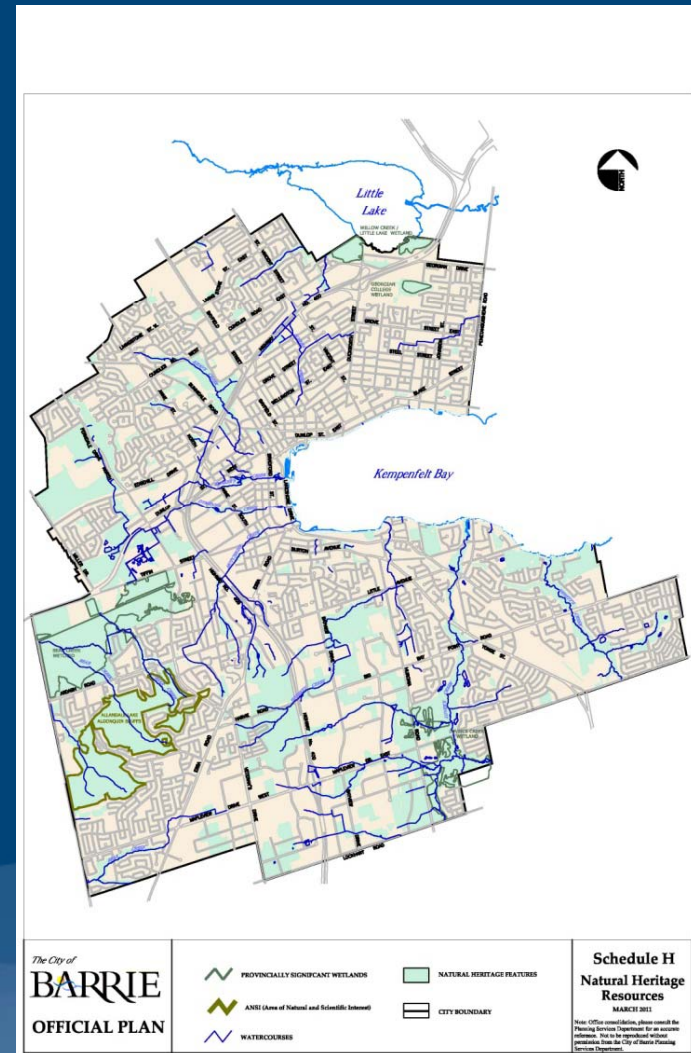
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Current Schedule 'H'

Natural Heritage Resources include:

- Provincially Significant Wetland
 - Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI's)
 - Watercourses
 - Natural Heritage areas (Provincially/Regionally significant)
- The Official Plan does not include policies to implement the protection and buffering of environmental features through formal study, unless currently zoned or adjacent Environmental Protection (EP)



Current Policy

3.5.2.4 NATURAL HERITAGE STRATEGY

- a) It is recognized that the City has additional natural heritage features and areas beyond those currently identified and designated Environmental Protection Area in Schedule H. The City shall further identify significant features and areas including, but not limited to, significant woodlands, significant valleylands, and significant wildlife habitat, recognizing the linkages between and among the natural heritage features and areas as part of a Natural Heritage Strategy that will be part of an Official Plan Amendment.
- b) The City will implement appropriate policies for protection and enhancement of significant heritage features and areas into a system which recognizes linkages between and among natural heritage features and areas that will be part of a future Official Plan Amendment.

Background

- Staff formed a working group with representatives from the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation and Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authorities
- The group discussed direction for policy implementation and methodology for Natural Heritage System and determined that the system of Levels could be used effectively for this project
- The Natural Heritage System was created by layered ELC mapping, all available provincial and regional data such as wetlands, aerial views and local knowledge
- Classification criteria were identified to be specific to the Barrie urban area and the importance of certain features to the ecosystem of the City in coordination with current legislation and policy

Proposed Schedule 'H'

Level 1:

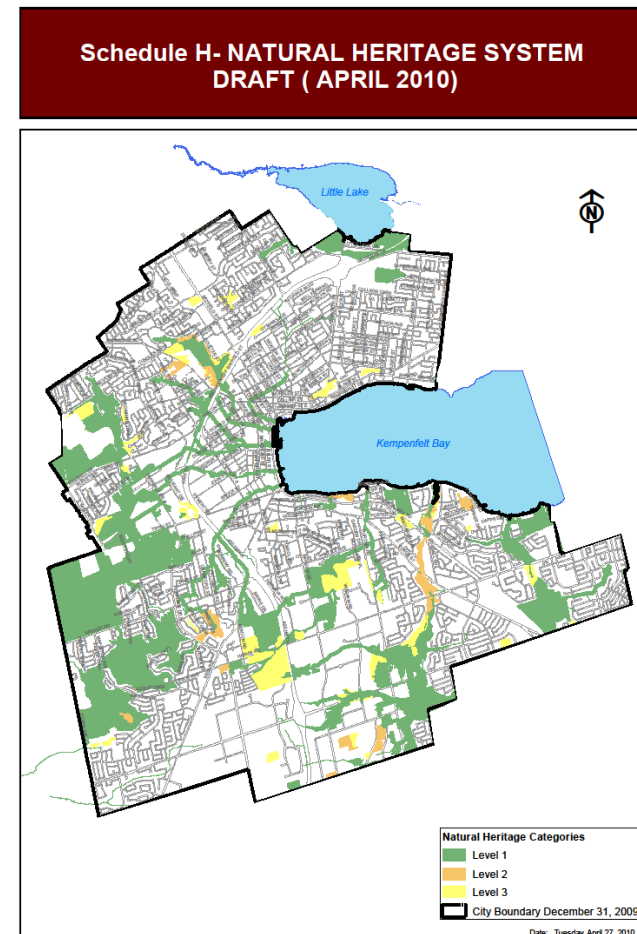
includes provincially significant wetlands, significant woodlands, significant habitat of endangered and threatened species, watercourse and vegetation protection zones.

Level 2:

includes significant wildlife habitat, significant valleylands, provincially significant life science ANSI's and woodlands

Level 3:

includes regionally significant life science ANSI's, supporting woodlands, cultural thickets and meadows



Proposed Policy

- a. The Natural Heritage System is depicted on Schedule H. Through the implementation of the following policies, Schedule H can be used as a tool for the protection, enhancement, and restoration of the City's natural heritage features and functions.
 - i. **Level 1** represents critical components of the Natural Heritage System. No development should be permitted.
 - Environmental Protection Area policy 4.7.2.2 would apply to all properties designated as Level 1.
 - Through study and refinement of zoning and feature development the City will strive to designate all properties within the Level 1 natural system as an Environmental Protection Area.
 - An Environmental Impact Study (EIS) will be required for any development or site alteration within 120m of an area designated as Level 1 on Schedule H.

Proposed Policy

- ii. **Level 2** represents significant components of the Natural Heritage System. The features and function of these areas should be retained; however, there is a limited opportunity for development if no negative impact can be demonstrated or moderated.
 - An EIS will be required to be completed for any development or site alteration in or within 120m of an area designated as Level 2 on Schedule H.

- iii. **Level 3** represents significant and supporting components of the Natural Heritage System. There is potential for flexibility for development if the proposal ensures the protection and buffering of the significant feature and/or retains the supporting function of this designation.
 - An EIS will be required to be completed for any development or site alteration in or within 30m of an area designated as Level 3 on Schedule H.

Proposed Policy

- b. A standard Terms of Reference for an EIS will be established by the City in consultation with the appropriate conservation authority, and may be scoped through the development process to reflect a specific feature or function at the discretion of the City in consultation with the applicable conservation authority. Features or functions identified through an EIS will be categorized by Level and will be subject to the policies of this section. An amendment to the Official Plan is not required for minor amendments to Schedule H.

- c. To ensure the effective management and retention of the Natural Heritage System, identified features and functions will not be reclassified to a lesser Level of protection if the system is damaged or destroyed after *the implementation of the Natural Heritage System policies*, without due consideration of the significance of the feature. The restoration and rehabilitation of the Natural Heritage System to the satisfaction of the City and applicable conservation authority may be required.

Proposed Policy

- d. Notwithstanding the land use limitations stated for Levels 1, 2, and 3 in this Section, where an existing designation permits other forms of development, such development may proceed subject to the policies of this Plan and appropriate planning application processes. The development shall be subject to an EIS which shall set out (i) measures to mitigate the negative impact of development on the Natural Heritage System and (ii) methods of promoting the sustainability of the natural heritage features and functions which are identified for the property and adjacent lands, such as buffers and rehabilitation programs.

- e. Where practical the City will work with adjacent jurisdictions to provide connectivity and protection for the natural heritage features and areas identified on Schedule H.

Process and Review

- Improved schedule clearly identifies areas of significance and connectivity corridors
- Policies provide a standardized guideline for establishing development permissions in and around natural heritage features
- Refinements to take place on a site specific basis as the features are further defined and build-out occurs

Next Steps

1. Review and incorporate comments from the Open House, Public Meeting, agencies and the public
2. Recommend an Official Plan Amendment



Information

For updates, please visit: Barrie.ca

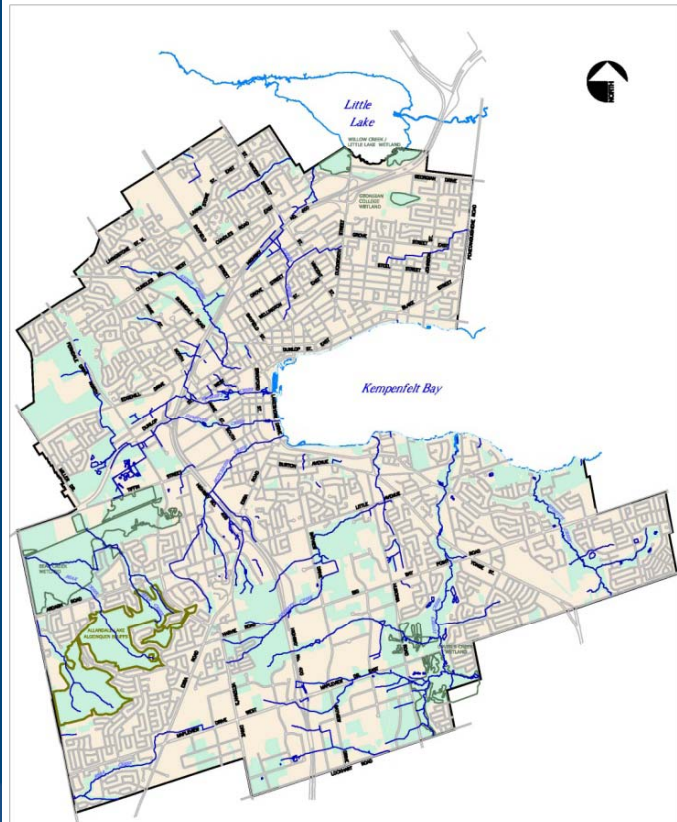
- Doing Business
- Planning & Development
- Natural Heritage Strategy

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Schedule 'H'



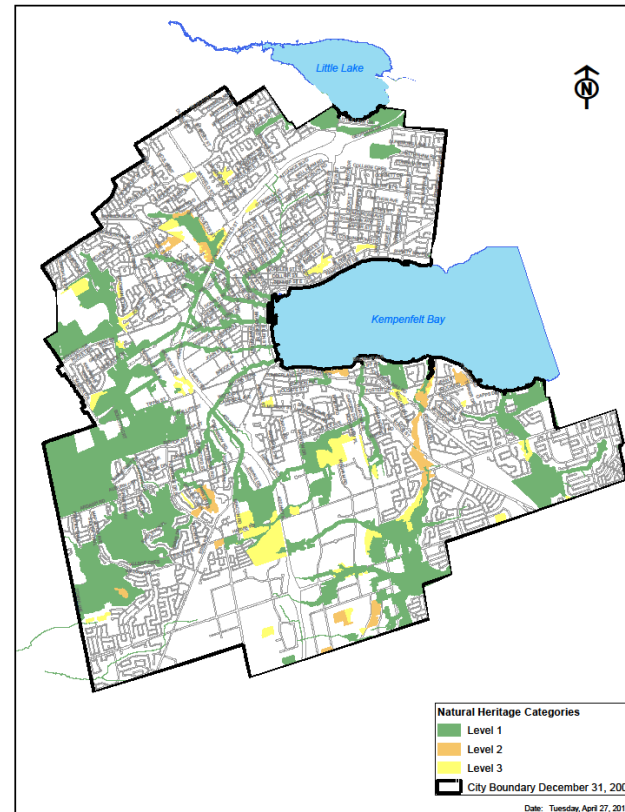
The City of
BARRIE
OFFICIAL PLAN

- PROVINCIAL SIGNIFICANT WETLANDS
- ANSI (Area of Natural and Scientific Interest)
- WATERCOURSES
- NATURAL HERITAGE FEATURES
- CITY BOUNDARY

Schedule H
Natural Heritage Resources
MARCH 2011

Note: Official identification, please consult the Planning Services Department for an accurate reference. This is to be reproduced without permission from the City of Barrie Planning Services Department.

Schedule H- NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM DRAFT (APRIL 2010)



- Natural Heritage Categories**
- Level 1
 - Level 2
 - Level 3
 - City Boundary December 31, 2009

Date: Tuesday, April 27, 2010