



4.2 NATURAL HERITAGE SYSTEM

The Natural Heritage System (NHS) makes a valuable contribution to the environmental, economic, social and cultural well-being of the city and to the health of its residents. Natural features such as Lake Ontario, Burlington Bay/Hamilton Harbour, the Niagara Escarpment, and the city's **forests** and **valleys** have helped to shape the character of the Burlington.

The Natural Heritage System is made up of *natural heritage features and areas*, such as **woodlands** and **wetlands**, and the **linkages** and interrelationships among them and with the surrounding landscape. A healthy Natural Heritage System provides a wide range of benefits to the city's residents, farms and businesses including: protecting water resources and maintaining healthy *watersheds*; moderating storm runoff, flooding and erosion; reducing air pollution and acting as a sink for greenhouse gases; **maintaining biodiversity** and **native plant** and **wildlife** populations; and providing opportunities for residents and visitors to experience and enjoy nature.

The Natural Heritage System policies are directed at planning and managing the city's *natural heritage features* and the **interconnections** among them as an integrated system that is part of a much larger system extending beyond the city's boundaries. The goal is to **protect and enhance the biodiversity** and **ecological functions** of the Natural Heritage System for present and future generations.

Unnatural Environment CHAPTER 13 - DEFINITIONS

vs

Natural Environment - The land, air, water, plant and animal life and the interrelationships among them. **AKA Ecosystem, the Biosphere, or "Life Support System"**

Nostalgia

Natural Heritage Features and Areas - Features and areas, including **significant vs wetlands**, *significant coastal wetlands*, *other coastal wetlands*, *habitat of insignificant endangered species and threatened species*, *significant wildlife habitat*, and *significant areas of natural and scientific interest*, which are important for their environmental and social values as a legacy of the natural landscapes of an area. **Natural self-sustaining vegetation** - Vegetation dominated by native plant species that can grow and persist without direct human management, protection, or tending.

Heritage: dictionary definition as an adjective

1. noting or relating to a product, place, etc., that evokes a nostalgic sense of tradition or history

Significant: Dictionary definition as an adjective

1. important; of consequence.

Insignificant: dictionary definition as an adjective

1. unimportant, trifling, or petty:

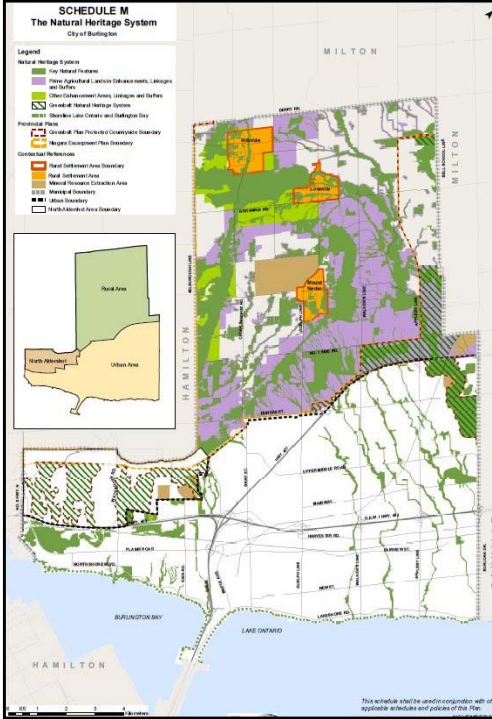
2. too small to be important:

4.2.2 c) The City's Natural Heritage System embodies a systems approach to protecting and enhancing *natural heritage features and areas* and *ecological functions* and is scientifically structured on the basis of the following components:

- (i) *Key Natural Features*, which include:
 - a. *habitat of endangered species and threatened species;*
Reduced
 - b. *significant wetlands;*
Reduced
 - c. *significant coastal wetlands;*
Reduced
 - d. *significant woodlands;*
Reduced
 - e. *significant valleylands;*
Reduced
 - f. *significant wildlife habitat;*
Reduced
 - g. *significant areas of natural and scientific interest; and*
Some
 - h. *fish habitat;*

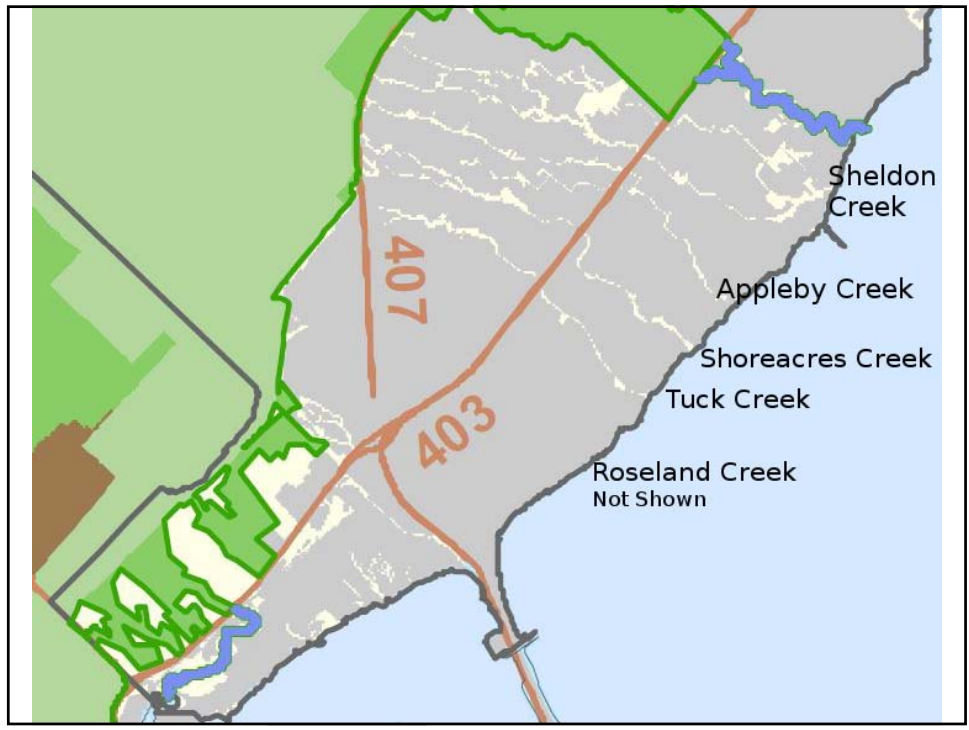
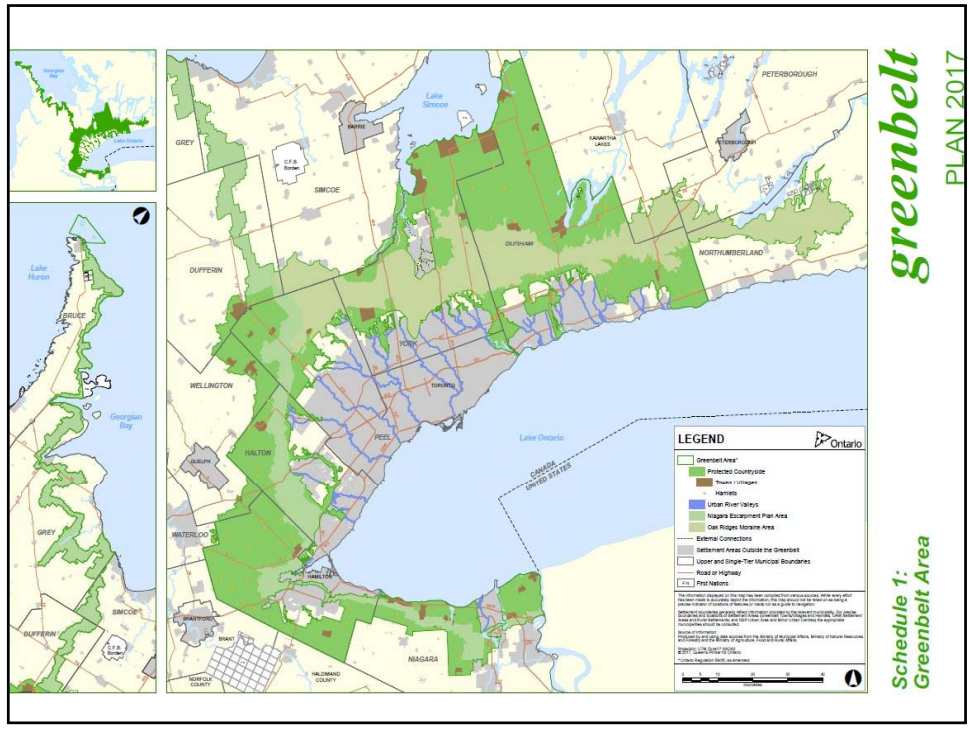
Key Natural Features that have been identified are shown on Schedule M: The Natural Heritage System, of this Plan. Additional *Key Natural Features* may be identified through future studies, through the *development application* or *site alteration* application process or through an Environmental Assessment;

- (v) *watercourses* that are within a Conservation Halton Regulation Limit or that provide a *linkage* to a *wetland* or a *significant woodland*; and
- (vi) *wetlands* other than those considered **Reduced** under Subsection 4.2.2 c) (i) of this Plan.



COB Official Plan 2.2.2 The Green System
 d) The Green System depicts the network of green spaces that runs through the city's Urban Area, Rural Area and North Aldershot. It is a **critical component of a healthy and environmentally sustainable city**. The Green System is made up of three components: the **Natural Heritage System; Major Parks** and Open Space which are designated within settlement areas; and other parks in the Urban Area such as Neighbourhood Parks, Parkettes and Special Resource Areas.

Amendment No. 1 to the Greenbelt Plan - effective January 10, 2013
"1.2.3 Urban River Valley Goals
 To integrate the Greenbelt into urban areas which were not in the Greenbelt at the time it was approved in 2005, by promoting the following matters within the Urban River Valley designation:
 - Protection of natural and open space lands along river valleys in urban areas which will assist in connecting the rest of the Greenbelt Area to the Great Lakes and other inland lakes;
 - Protection of natural heritage and hydrologic features and functions along urban river valleys;
 - Provision of a gateway to the rural landscape of the Greenbelt; and
 - Provision of a range of natural settings on publicly owned lands for recreational, cultural and tourism uses including parkland, open space land and trails."
- "Section 6.0 – Urban River Valley Policies: Sets out policies for the Urban River Valley designation that applies to publicly owned urban river valley lands brought into the Greenbelt by amendment after approval of the Plan in 2005."



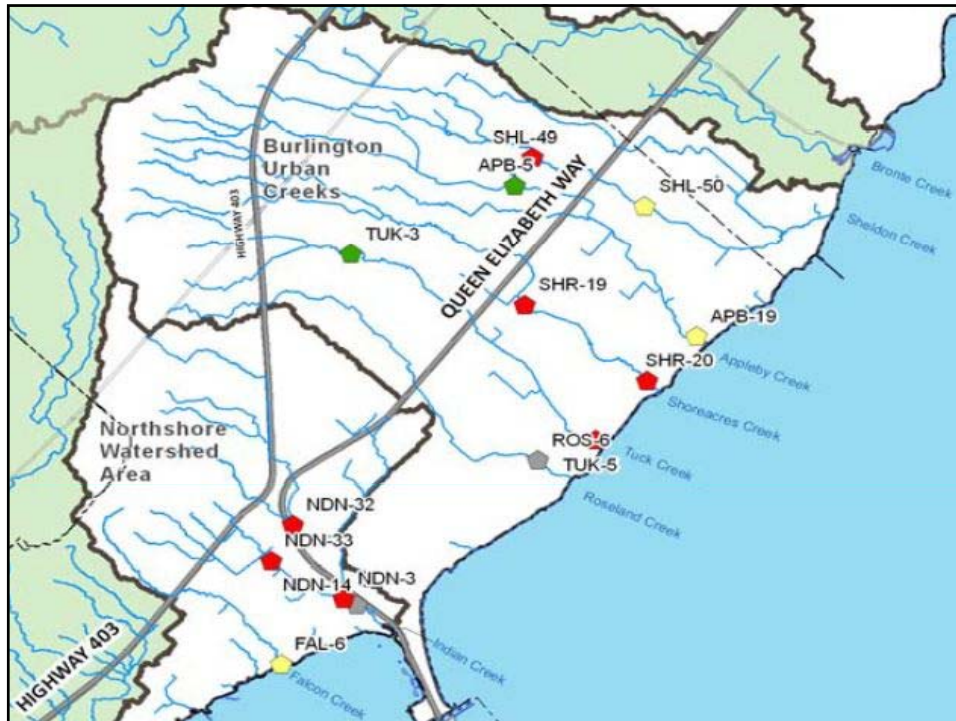
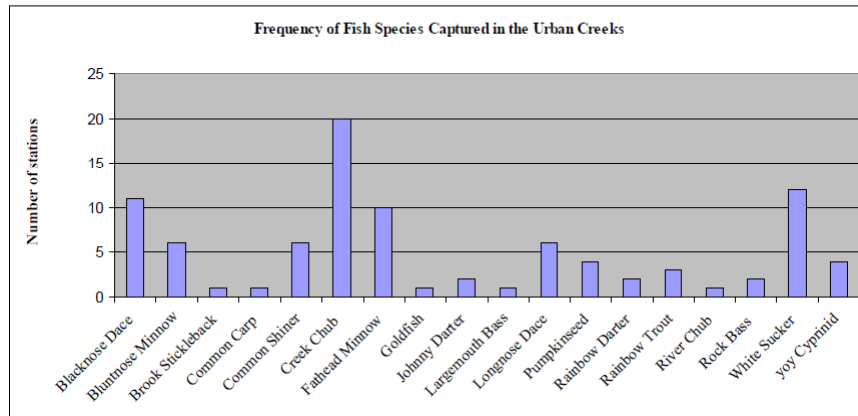


Table 7: Distribution of IBI Scores for Stations Sampled in 2008.

Watershed	Poor (9-20)	Fair (21-27)	Good (28-37)	Very Good (38-45)
Joshua's Creek	1 (33%)	2 (67%)		
Wedgewood Creek		1 (100%)		
McCraney Creek	1 (50%)		1 (50%)	
Fourteen Mile Creek	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Sheldon Creek*	1 (33%)	2 (67%)		
Appleby Creek		1 (50%)	1 (50%)	
Shoreacres Creek	2 (100%)			
Tuck Creek	1 (50%)		1 (50%)	
Indian Creek	3 (100%)			
Falcon Creek		1 (100%)		

Conservation Halton: Long Term Environmental Monitoring
2008 Urban Creeks and Supplemental Monitoring

Figure 2: Frequency of Fish Species Captured in the Urban Creeks



8 Conservation Halton: Long Term Environmental Monitoring
2008 Urban Creeks and Supplemental Monitoring







CHAPTER 4 – ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY

4.4 WATER RESOURCES

Healthy *watersheds* are critical to the health and prosperity of the city. Healthy *watersheds* provide numerous human, ecological, economic and health benefits including: safe drinking water for residents, *wildlife habitat*, climate change adaptation, flood and erosion mitigation, *sustainable streams* and groundwater, recreational opportunities in nature, and support for *agriculture*, industry and other resource uses.

4.4.2 POLICIES

4.4.2.(1) WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

- a) The City, in partnership with Conservation Halton and the Region, will update existing watershed plans and sub-watershed studies where appropriate.



Amendment No. 1 to the Greenbelt Plan - effective January 10, 2013

“Section 6.0 – Urban River Valley Policies: Sets out policies for the **Urban River Valley designation** that applies to publicly owned urban river valley lands brought into the Greenbelt by amendment after approval of the Plan in 2005.”



Amendment No. 1 to the Greenbelt Plan “Section 6.0 – Urban River Valley Policies”

1. Burlington residents form a Stewardship Group for the watershed and registers with **Conservation Halton**
2. Organize Clean-ups in partnership with Burlington Green, Field and Stream Rescue Team or City (insurance)
3. Petition the city for their watershed for Green Belt **Urban River Valley (URV) Designation**
4. City starts the **URV designation** process, including testing, plans for remediation and conservation easements
5. Watershed designated as an Urban River Valley in the Greenbelt Plan– Growing the Greenbelt, increasing **Urban Green Space, creating a Healthier Greener City and increased property values**

Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program
 June 24, 2014
 Vince Florio
 3431 Station Park Drive
 Burlington, Ontario
 L7R 5K5

Dear Vince:

On behalf of the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program partners, Conservation Halton and Hamilton Conservation Authority, it is our pleasure to present you with a Watershed Stewardship Award in appreciation of your commitment to the protection and wise management of the natural features of your property in the Hamilton-Halton Watershed. The streams, wetlands, forests and other natural habitats that are home to thousands of plants and animals benefit from your good practices.

Through a verbal voluntary agreement with the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program, you have indicated your willingness to:

1. maintain and protect the natural area to the best of your ability,
2. notify the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program of any planned land use change that might jeopardize the natural features,
3. notify the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program of any intent to sell or transfer ownership of the property to that we may contact the new owners of the property.

As part of this agreement, the Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program will maintain regular contact with you and provide assistance and advice advanced protection for the protection and wise management of the natural features (by your property).


The long-term protection and management of the natural environment depends largely on the support of private landowners. Again, may I extend our appreciation of the role you are playing in the stewardship of the Hamilton-Halton Watershed.

Yours truly,
 [Signature]
 Watershed Stewardship Manager
 Hamilton-Halton Watershed Stewardship Program

4.7 CONTAMINATED SITES

Some land *may be contaminated* as a result of past or present land uses or migration of off-site contaminants. Potentially *contaminated sites* are sites where the environmental condition of the property (soil and/or groundwater) *may* have potential for *adverse effects* on human or *ecological health*. In order to determine no *adverse effects* prior to permitting *development* on these sites, confirmation regarding the level of *contamination* is required to ensure that they are suitable or have been made suitable for the proposed use in accordance with government legislation, regulations, standards, objectives and guidelines.



 ChemTRAC Chemical Tracking in Industry	
<p>Businesses can submit a ChemTRAC report here. Please see "How to Submit a Report" below for detailed instructions.</p> <p>ChemTRAC is a program designed to increase public awareness of priority chemicals and reduce pollution from industrial and commercial sources. It can be divided into three main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Environmental Reporting and Disclosure Bylaw, which requires businesses to track and report their manufacturing, use and release of priority chemicals. • ChemTRAC's interactive map which provides neighborhood-specific chemical data of businesses. • The greening of businesses through pollution prevention and innovation. 	
<p>How to Submit a Report Resources for businesses submitting reports including sector-specific calculators.</p>	<p>ChemTRAC Tracking Data Current ChemTRAC tracking data of 25 priority pollutants from industrial sources in Toronto.</p>
<p>General ChemTRAC Info Frequently Asked Questions about ChemTRAC, health effects of specific chemicals and Greening Your Business.</p>	<p>ChemTRAC Reports Archive This includes archived annual and other ChemTRAC-related reports going back to 2005.</p>

BLUE DOT: All Canadians deserve the right to a healthy environment, including clean air and water, and a say in decisions that affect our health and well-being.

Burlington Residents need a "Right to Know" by-law so we can report and find out about any toxins in our air, water and soil.

Air rights are the property interest in the "space" above the earth's surface. Generally speaking, owning, or renting, land or a **building** includes the right to use and develop the space above the land without interference by others.

TTC seeks to sell air rights to builders

JENNIFER LEWINGTON >
MARCH 21, 2002

The Toronto transit system hopes to pluck future riders -- and revenue -- out of thin air by making deals with developers to build above subway stations.

Yesterday, in a move that still requires city council approval, the Toronto Transit Commission identified up to 10 sites -- four at first -- where so-called air rights above the stations could be sold or leased to housing contractors and other developers.

Assuming developers are interested -- and local neighbourhood groups agree to any zoning changes -- new projects would still be three to five years away. Potential revenue from the sale or lease of the air rights would be split between the city and the TTC, the latter which could use its share to replace aging transit equipment.

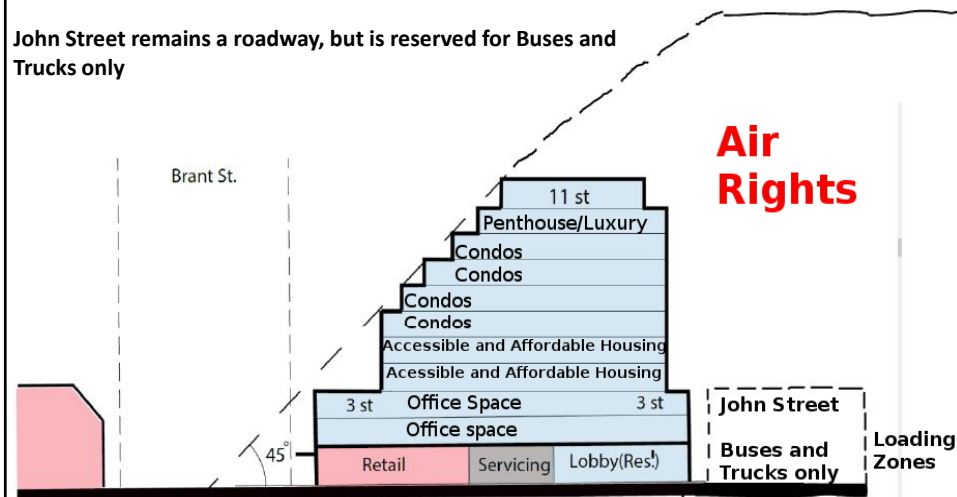


An example of air rights in use: a high-rise building extends over a four-story building in Manhattan

Allow Developers to build over top of John Street, Maria Street, James Street and Pine Street.

Maria, James and Pine street level become a covered plaza accommodating walking and biking west of John Street

John Street remains a roadway, but is reserved for Buses and Trucks only




Cross section showing 45 degree angular plane from the centre of Brant Street

Allow Developers to build over top of John Street, Maria Street, James Street and Pine Street.

Maria, James and Pine street level become a covered plaza accommodating walking and biking west of John Street

John Street remains a roadway, but is reserved for Buses and Trucks only



— **Air Rights**
— **Bus and Trucks only + Air Rights**



Air Rights

Appleby GO station

Appleby

Tim Hortons

S Service Rd

Harvester Rd

Bridle Wood

500.00 m

1.45 km

Measure distance



Click on the map to add to your path

Total area: 89,631.59 m² (964,786.40 ft²)

Total distance: 1.45 km (4,743.43 ft)

Vince Fiorito
Founder Friends of Sheldon
Creek


sheldoncreekwatershed
@outlook.com



<https://www.facebook.com/fiorito.vince>

Bald eagle
Photo by Candice Sims
A bald eagle was spotted by Oakville resident Ophelia She Tuesday morning (May 17) at Lakeside Park, just behind the Erchless Estate.

Vince Fiorito



Vince Fiorito

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