



Natural Heritage Network Study

- Phase 1

Presentation for Public Consultation Meeting #2

October 4, 2012

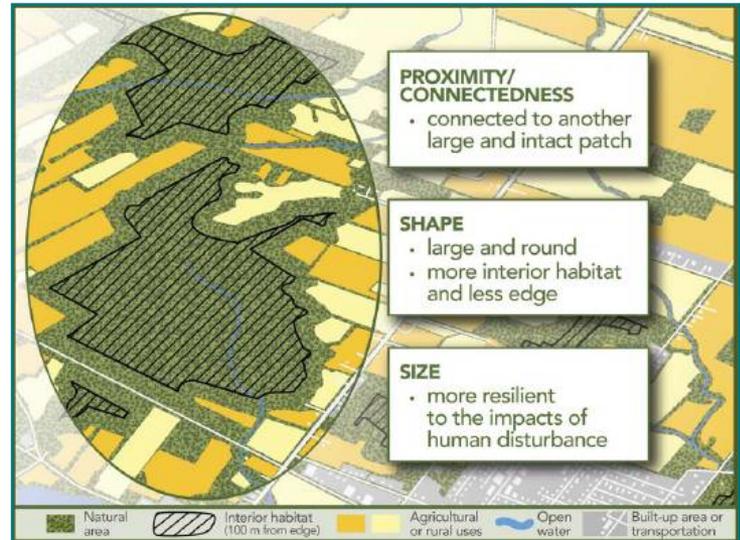
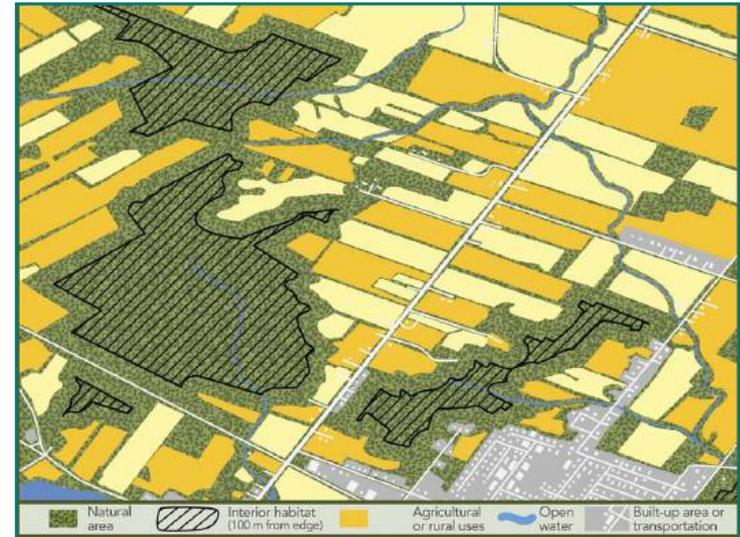
Multi-Purpose Room, Vaughan City Hall



NHN STUDY PHASES

- Natural Heritage Network Study
 - Phase 1 - Clean up existing data and set biodiversity/ecological function targets
 - Phase 2 – field investigations re significant wildlife habitat and headwaters evaluation
 - Phases 3 and 4 – Final Report with scan of land securement approaches

- Environmental Management Guidelines
 - Focus on scope of MESP and EIS in relation to the Natural Heritage Network





NHN STUDY - PHASE 1 TASKS

- inventory of the NHN constituent parts compiled in a comprehensive GIS database;
- setting ecosystem targets;
- undertaking a gap assessment of the biodiversity contribution and ecological functions of the existing NHN against the ecosystem targets;
- Initial review of the revised Environmental Management Guideline (EMG); and
- providing recommendations for field investigations in subsequent phases of the study.





NHN STUDY TIMING

- November final report from consultants for Phase 1;
- December Report to Committee of the Whole for Phase 1;
- Terms of Reference for Phases 2-4 approved by Council;
- Phases 2 to 4 ideally underway in time for the field season in spring of 2013.





Summary of Additional Consultation

Additional Consultation Sessions held on September 19th and 20th, 2012

- Long-term security of the NHN component parts, which also led to a discussion of land trusts as a land securement option, rather than public ownership;
- Need for east-west linkages not only between the Humber and Don watersheds, but also between the East and Main Humber, as well as conservation importance of east-west hedgerows;
- Consider appropriate transition of land uses adjacent to the NHN, led to specific discussion of pedestrian and bicycle paths may provide a way to buffer the NHN and add to the ecological integrity of the NHN;
- Concern about a focus on select species rather than all species, which led to a discussion of umbrella species; and
- Question about the potential impact of the proposed GTA West Corridor highway on the NHN.



Summary of Additional Consultation

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- Comment that the NHN cannot just be based on science only, but needs to be pragmatic and consider economic feasibility;
- Geographic or spatial example of ecosystem targets would be useful when noting size criteria (e.g. 4 hectares, 10 hectares or 100 hectares);
- Provide maps electronically to the public in advance of a public consultation meeting to allow time to review information (e.g. Acrobat map files via the City web site);
- Landowner compensation for natural heritage stewardship? Options should be explored in Phase 4 (stewardship strategy).

“Our green space makes urban lands livable.”

Resident quote



Questions /Comments?

Contact

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