

Notice Committee of the Whole Meeting (Working Session) Natural Heritage Network Study – Phases 2 to 4 Update Report

Date:Tuesday December 3, 2013Time:9:30 a.m.Location:Vaughan City Hall
Committee Rooms 242/243 – 2nd Floor
2141 Major Mackenzie Drive
Vaughan, ON L6A 1T1

NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK INVENTORY AND IMPROVEMENTS – PHASES 2 TO 4 UPDATE REPORT

A staff report providing an update on Phases 2 to 4 of the Natural Heritage Network (NHN) Study will be considered by Vaughan Committee of Whole at the above-referenced date, time and location.

The City of Vaughan Official Plan (VOP 2010), adopted by Council in September 2010, designates a Natural Heritage Network which is made up of significant natural features such as valleylands, wetlands and woodlands. This study aims to confirm its boundaries and composition, and set targets for its refinement and improvement over the long term.

The overall NHN Study will assess the role of the existing NHN in maintaining elements of biodiversity and ecological functions for the long term, consistent with Section 2.1.2 of the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS). At the completion of all phases of the NHN Study, additional NHN areas may be proposed to meet ecosystem targets for the natural heritage system related to biodiversity persistence and maintaining ecological function.

The work program for the NHN Study includes:

- Phase 1 completed in November 2012 and a report provided to Committee of the Whole (Working Session) in December 2012;
- Phase 2 (field investigations);
- Phase 3 (summary, recommendations and reporting);
- Phase 4 (land securement strategy); and
- A public consultation strategy.

For more information on the Natural Heritage Network Study, please visit the project website: <u>http://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy_planning_projects/natural_heritage/Pages/default.aspx</u>

Additional information may be obtained from Tony Iacobelli, Senior Policy Planner (Environment) of the Policy Planning Department at (905) 832-8585, ext. 8630.