



Plan the Bruce: **NATURAL LEGACY**

Discussion Paper

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Introduction

This Discussion Paper has been prepared within the context of Bruce County's journey to a new Official Plan. Plan the Bruce is Bruce County's Official Plan Review project. The County is currently undertaking Plan the Bruce in accordance with the Planning Act to prepare a new Official Plan.

To date, a total of six discussion papers have been endorsed by County Council or are nearing completion: Good Growth, Homes, Communities, , Agriculture, Connecting and Business. The following Discussion Paper identifies key 'Connecting' policy themes and considerations that will be subject to ongoing consultation and engagement as the new Official Plan is developed.

An important part of that plan is making sure it guides growth and development in a way that resonates with residents, visitors, business owners, community leaders and other stakeholders, and with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation and the Historic Saugeen Métis.

Plan the Bruce: Natural Legacy is focused on managing the natural legacy that we have inherited to ensure a healthy and resilient environment for future generations.

One action included in this management is mapping a Natural Environment System (N.E.S.) to identify important features and functions on the landscape to support biodiversity, water quality and quantity and ensure that the natural environment is resilient in the long-term.

To complete the N.E.S mapping, three options for the N.E.S. were developed and presented in the Options Report (N.S.E. 2021). As described in Section 6 of the Option report, the preferred Natural Environment System is to be informed by an evaluation of, and consultation on, the options for the Natural Environment System (N.E.S.) and initial policy directions to gain public input on the direction for the N.E.S. for Bruce County, system implementation and planning direction.

This report summarizes the key feedback received through consultation, the evaluation of the Options, and sets out recommended directions for the N.E.S. and its composite systems - the Natural Heritage System (N.H.S.) and the Water Resource System (W.R.S.).



Bruce County's Natural Legacy

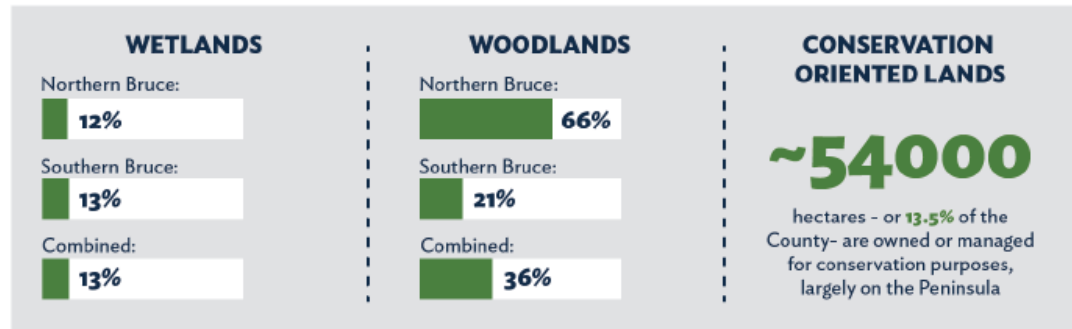
Bruce County is home to excellent landforms, shorelines and features intact natural areas, rare habitats and species uncommon within southern Ontario. Bruce County also features the Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve. Many areas provide opportunities for recreation in a natural setting.

The graphic at right illustrates the strong Natural Legacy of Bruce County and provides a snapshot of the diversity and significant habitats and species that the County's Natural Legacy supports.

Through the "Bruce G.P.S." public engagement process, the community expressed that:

- It is important to protect the County's natural resources, including farmland, water quality, natural areas, and scenic views; and
- Bruce County's rich natural resources contribute to our quality of life, economy, and health in the future.

Niagara Escarpment World Biosphere Reserve - a UNESCO world biosphere



BIODIVERSITY



Home to **2000+** species

Species at Risk with occurrence records in Bruce County. Includes Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern Species (per COSEWIC and SARO)

65

Total

62

are listed federally

57

are listed provincially



Many species in Bruce County have **restricted geographies** (e.g., the Peninsula, Great Lakes) and may be abundant here but are rare elsewhere.

RARE AND UNCOMMON HABITATS

12 rare vegetation communities.

5 are **Alvar** community types



Alvars are a very rare habitat type and those in Bruce County are **globally recognized**

>60

Alvar sites known to occur in Bruce County, largely associated with the Peninsula



Bruce Peninsula boasts the **largest representation** of alvars in Ontario



Alvars of Bruce County support **>400 species**, many of them rare and listed Species at Risk in Ontario and Federally.

3

are cliff community types

3

are sand dune & sand barren community types

1

is a coastal wetland community type



The Huron Fringe and Cabot Head are important areas for birds and their migration.



The current Bruce County Official Plan was established in 1997 and is based on the principle of sustainable development. The major principle is to meet the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This principle is to be used to resolve land use issues. Natural legacy goals in the current plan include protection and preservation of ecologically significant areas in their natural state; restoration of abandoned, neglected, or degraded lands; protection and enhancement to air, land and

water quality; and protection of mineral resources for extraction now or in the future.

Plan the Bruce: Natural Legacy is focused on managing the natural legacy that we have inherited to ensure a safe, healthy, and resilient environment for future generations. Protection of these resources is important for recreation, wise use of resources, and Bruce County's economy and quality of life. This project will include a **systems-based approach to stewarding natural and water resources** to reflect provincial direction and current best practices.



Options for a Natural Environment System

A systems-based approach considers the role(s) of a feature or area on the landscape and its relationship(s) with other features and areas, including how plants and animals might move. This shifts consideration from a focus on individual features to a broader focus on the connections that occur in nature.

For planning purposes, the Natural Environment System (N.E.S.) is comprised of two sub-systems:

- A **Natural Heritage System (N.H.S.)**, which is a network of natural features and areas like woodlands and wetlands that are connected across the landscape by linkages which enable movement of plants and animals between features and areas; and

- A **Water Resource System (W.R.S.)**, which is a combination of hydrologic (i.e., water-based) features like wetlands or watercourses and areas that serve important functions, such as significant ground water recharge areas, which are necessary for the ecological and hydrological integrity of the watershed.

While defined separately, these systems depend on each other and are together called the “Natural Environment System” to acknowledge this relationship and the role each plays in the health and resilience of Bruce County’s natural legacy.

The Natural Environment System Options report (NSE 2021) set out **three** options for a N.H.S. and **two** options for a W.R.S.



Natural Heritage System

The Options Report reviewed provincial policies and guidance, targets, landscape analyses, advisory group feedback, and existing examples from other places and presented three options for defining the various components of the Natural Heritage System.

- **Option 1** is a basic system that is consistent with the [Provincial Policy Statement](#) and has been informed by analyses of cover in Bruce County.
- **Option 2** builds on option 1, with more features/areas considered ‘key’ and includes more ‘supporting’ features and areas.
- **Option 3** builds on options 1 and 2 to identify a more ‘natural heritage forward’ system with additional ‘key’ and ‘supporting’ features included in the system.

None of the options limit existing agricultural uses or normal farm practices. Recommendations for the N.H.S. are focused on maintaining existing form and function in concert with other important land-based

needs. Implementation of the N.H.S. occurs through policy. Policy is generally triggered through a proposed change that requires a Planning Act Approval, such as a change in land use (e.g., from rural to settlement uses and includes new lot creation).

For **Southern Bruce County** a **features-based system** approach is recommended. This approach uses key and supporting features and areas, enhancement areas, and linkages as the building blocks for the N.H.S. This approach is most used in areas where there is lower natural cover and/or where natural features are more fragmented across the landscape.

For **Northern Bruce County** a **core areas-based system** approach, with connecting linkages, is recommended. Core areas include areas where key features and areas are concentrated or conserve representative or significant portions of natural areas in a largely intact natural landscape. Core areas are identified using several criteria, key among them being percent natural cover and size. Some features may be outside of core areas.

Visual Representation of Options for the Natural Environment System





Water Resource System

Based on the distribution and composition of hydrologic features and areas across Bruce County, the Options Report recommends a single approach to identifying the W.R.S. for Bruce County.

Two options for the County's W.R.S. have been prepared:

- **Option 1** includes only key hydrologic features and key hydrologic areas.
- **Option 2** builds upon option 1 by including 'other components', including natural hazards.



Community Engagement

The community was invited to get involved and offer feedback on the options presented for the N.H.S. and W.R.S., evaluation criteria for the options and preliminary planning directions presented in the Options Report. The community provided feedback on the options through a general survey (online) or Stakeholder Workbook (online and digital file). Both options were available to the community to fit individuals' interests in and level of knowledge of the subject of Natural Legacy.

Outreach included:

- Social media campaign
- Radio ads
- Newspaper advertisements

A Snapshot of Respondents

To understand who was providing feedback, the surveys asked several questions about residency (within Bruce County) and how the respondents use the land. Of the 164 survey responses:

- 84% reside (full-time or part-time) in Bruce County
- Respondents were from eight municipalities:
 - 45% North Bruce Peninsula,
 - 18% Saugeen Shores
 - 10% South Bruce Peninsula
 - 8% Kincardine
 - <5% from Arran-Elderslie, Brockton, Huron-Kinloss, and South Bruce

- Direct invitation to provide feedback to the Saugeen Ojibway Nation, the Historic Saugeen Métis, local municipalities, and stakeholder groups

Engagement efforts yield:

- 1100 visitors to the web site
- 149 general survey responses
- 15 stakeholder workbook responses
- Responses from 15 organizations (local municipalities, conservation organizations or businesses) and 145 individuals.

- Respondents identified that they use the land for a variety of purposes:
 - 26% home / business
 - 23% recreation (e.g., hiking, biking, skiing, swimming, snowmobiling, etc.)
 - 20% nature appreciation (e.g., bird watching, forest bathing, etc.)
- 88% of respondents agreed that 'caring for our natural resources in Bruce County is very important to me / my organization'; 4% disagreed and 8% responded that they neither agreed nor disagreed ("neither") / were unsure.



Evaluating the Options

Criteria for the evaluation of N.E.S. options were presented in Section 6 of the Options discussion paper (N.S.E. 2021). These criteria are intended to assess key outcomes at the system and County scale. Generally, this is intended to identify a preferred system that:

- Achieves the intent of the Provincial Policy Statement (P.P.S).
- Reflects the vision for Bruce County’s Natural Legacy.
- Provides opportunities for balance with other Bruce GPS principles to ensure a healthy and vibrant County.
- Can be implemented effectively through the Official Plan and other tools.
- Supports broader County efforts to plan for and mitigate for climate change.

Evaluation criteria have been developed under several themes to support the above objectives:

- Theme 1: Supporting a resilient and connected Natural Heritage System with opportunities for enhancement

- Theme 2: Supporting ecological systems, human health and the economy by protecting water quality and quantity in the Water Resource System
- Theme 3: Ensuring the systems are consistent with the Bruce GPS guiding principles and direction for the County’s future
- Theme 4: Implementation

Themes 1 through 3 were presented to the public for comment through the Stakeholder workbook. Generally, criteria and measures were considered to be appropriate for evaluating the Options for the N.E.S. and no revisions were required to the criteria.

A preliminary evaluation for Theme 4 (Implementation) has been completed. Further work through preparation of the O.P. will refine the results with respect to implementation tools as they are developed.

Evaluation of the options using the themes, criteria and measures set out in the Options report is presented in **Appendix A** and summarized in relevant sections below.



What We Heard, Analysis, and Directions

This section summarizes feedback from community engagement, criteria-based evaluation of options, and includes recommended directions for the Natural Environment System.

Identify a Robust, Resilient Natural Heritage System

What We Heard

Most respondents (88%) indicated that caring for Bruce County’s natural resources is very important to them / their organization. This is reflected in an overall preference for the Option 3, with 56% of respondents selecting this as their preferred system overall. Respondents were asked to identify their top 5 considerations that informed their selection (**Figure 1**). Aligned with the overall strong preference for Option 3, respondents top concerns focused on preserving Bruce County’s Natural Legacy and climate change.

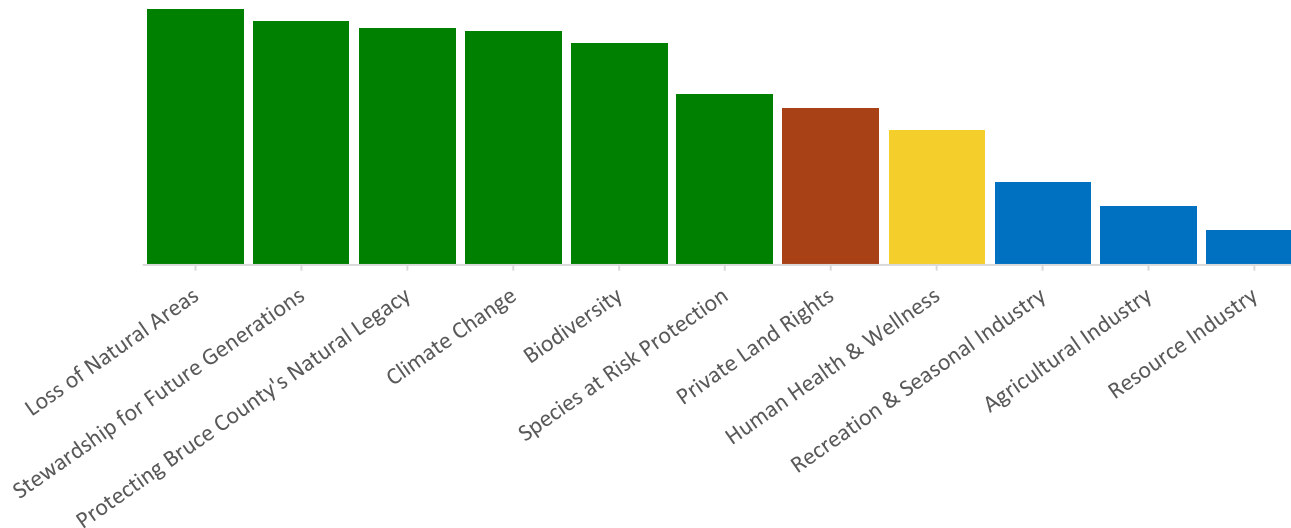


Figure 1: Respondents top 5 considerations for recommending an option for the natural heritage system.



While the majority of respondents chose Option 3, concerns relating to private property rights & potential restrictions that may result from this option and associated policies were also raised by respondents. These concerns are reflected in the selection of Option 1 as the second preferred option, by 20% of respondents.

The option to select ‘none of the above’ was also provided to respondents; 9% selected this response choice. Based on comments provided, individuals who chose this response included two ends of a spectrum: individuals who do not want any N.H.S. / no change in policy, and those who feel that more must be done to protect Natural Heritage (i.e., Option 3 is not robust enough).

Based on responses and comments received, the following general observations can be made:

- A geographically based, balanced approach to identifying the system was supported to both reflect geographic differences and to reflect directions and interests heard through consultation from these areas of the County.
- Across all component features / areas of the N.H.S., Option 3 received the greatest amount of support from respondents and for most component elements (wetlands, woodlands, A.N.S.I., valleylands, conservation lands, shorelines) received a majority of respondent support.
- Across most component features / areas, Option 1 received the second greatest amount of support (e.g., wetlands, woodlands, A.N.S.I., conservation lands, shorelines). As a subset, workbook respondents Option 2 was selected as the second choice for inclusion of A.N.S.I.’s within the system.
- Two strong voices were heard in the responses and comments:
 - Private property rights and concerns about restrictions that may be imposed as a result of the N.H.S.
 - Protection and preservation of Natural Heritage through a robust and resilient N.H.S. and progressive policies to address existing concerns, future pressures and climate change.
- Nearly all workbook respondents (93%) supported the recommendation that enhancement areas should include shoreline enhancement opportunities. The Huron Fringe (an important area for bids) was identified as a particular area of interest / concern.
- Support was received for the continued protection of significant wetlands including the Greenock Swamp within the N.H.S.
- A summary of key messages from comments received across the general survey and workbook on directions, concerns, and opportunities for the N.E.S. are presented in **Appendix C**.



Notable differences in feedback from residents was observed between northern and southern Bruce County:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Southern Bruce County: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Option 3 83% ○ Option 2 10% ○ Option 1 1% ○ No preference 4% ○ None of the above 2% | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northern Bruce County: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Option 3 44% ○ Option 2 7% ○ Option 1 29% ○ No preference 4% ○ None of the above 14% |
|---|--|

Respondents from southern Bruce County indicated a strong preference for a very natural-heritage forward system with most people preferring Option 3 overall. Responses received from residents of northern Bruce County provide a more polarized response. Option 3 received the greatest support overall, but it does not represent a majority of respondents and there was a clear divide between Option 3 and 1. Additionally, comments regarding private land rights and concerns over limitations to property use were heard more strongly from residents of northern Bruce County and a relationship between these comments and respondents who selected ‘none of the above’ in northern Bruce County was noted. This would suggest that rationale for some respondents in selecting ‘none of the above’ was a preference for an N.H.S. that is less than Option 1, or none at all.

A total of four local municipalities submitted comments and input through the workbook, 1 through the general stakeholder survey, and one by letter, with key outcomes including:

- **Overall:** Based on the general descriptions of options for the N.H.S., Option 2 (60%) was the overall preferred option, with municipalities striving for balance between increased protection of the N.H.S. beyond P.P.S. minimum standards, and to also retaining and/or provide flexibility for private land uses.
- **Wetlands:** Option 2 (60%) was the preferred option among municipalities. Comments received recognize that wetlands play an important role in stormwater management and mitigating climate change, however, it could be difficult for municipalities to balance interests.
- **Woodlands:** Option 2 (40%) was preferred for Key Feature Woodlands, with support for additional protection. Local municipalities were split between Option 1 and 2 (40%) for ‘supporting feature woodlands’; focused effort on protecting ‘key features’, retaining woodland cover was supported. Local municipalities identified the need to allow for opportunities for continued use of land.
- **Valleylands:** Preferred option for ‘supporting feature valleylands’ was Option 1 (60%).
- **A.N.S.I.:** The preferred option for A.N.S.I.’s was Option 2 (80%)



- **Supporting Features under Conservation-oriented Lands:** Preferred option for supporting features under conservation-oriented lands was Option 2 (60%).
- There was no clear, preferred option for Core Areas in Northern Bruce County, or areas that support hydrologic function.

Views on land use and protection vary among municipalities, creating support for flexibility among municipalities to allow those municipalities to take stronger action when wanted but not to restrict others who don't support those actions. Input and comments received from Indigenous communities and organizations strongly support high levels of protection for features and areas for both the N.H.S. and W.R.S. Respondents voiced the moral and ethical responsibility humans have to steward the earth for future generations, for both humans and wildlife. Respondents raised concerns about the state of declining biodiversity and the importance of protecting the rare and unique species and features (i.e., karst systems, alvars) of Bruce County. It was noted that woodlands and wetlands provide important ecosystem services, some of which cannot be replicated, and these services are critical for resilience to and mitigation of climate change. The need for the fundamental ability to exercise traditional Aboriginal and Treaty rights on the lands and the connection between traditional uses and the long-term sustainability of the natural environment were also brought forward in comments.

Analysis

The County's role is to identify a N.H.S. that is consistent with the P.P.S. and associated guidance documents, and that reflects the conditions (distribution and extent of features) within and context of Bruce County. The P.P.S. also directs that the system be maintained and, where possible, improved.

In addition to this, the County has a responsibility to ensure that resources are managed in a sustainable manner for current and future residents and Indigenous Communities. This includes wise management and protection of the natural legacy to support or improve biodiversity, water quantity and quality, human health and economic opportunities (e.g., agriculture, tourism).

The County set out criteria for evaluating options that support the direction and targets for the N.H.S. Theme 1 "Supporting a resilient and connected Natural Heritage System with opportunities for enhancement" is to be used in conjunction with feedback received from the engagement process. Through the evaluation (**Appendix A**), all options are aligned with the County's overall interest and direction for Natural Legacy. Option 3 best meets the criteria set out in Theme 1. Option 2 and Option 1 are, in order of preference, slightly less preferred. All options meet or exceed the province's requirements.



Overall direction from consultation responses indicates that the County should identify a robust and resilient N.H.S. Direction received from the local municipalities of Bruce County provide direction that a moderate approach is preferred. Support was heard for a strong and resilient natural environment and natural heritage system, but that this must be balanced with economic needs and maintaining flexibility in this regard (e.g., housing, recreational development, etc.).

There were many strong voices heard supporting the County in taking a very strong direction on the Natural Heritage System (Option 3) stating a responsibility to protect biodiversity, consideration for future generations, economic importance of the natural environment and climate change as supporting reasons for this direction. While representing a smaller subset of responses, voices that strongly preferred Option 1 or something even less restrictive, were clearly represented in responses. Upon further analysis, it became clear that there was a geographic relationship to responses, as illustrated in the ‘what we heard’ section above. In reflection of this, a different approach for northern and southern Bruce County should be considered both in reflection of the physical and social geography of the County.

Based on responses from municipalities and other respondents, flexibility will be required within the system to permit small scale activities that do not conflict with the objectives and intent of the N.H.S. (e.g., building a house on an existing lot, continuing agricultural uses). A need for flexibility was particularly expressed by the six local municipalities who provided feedback on the project.



Recommended Directions

- Identify a robust N.H.S. that will protect and preserve the existing features and functions of Bruce County, address future pressures and support resilience to climate change.
- Implement the core areas-based approach for Northern Bruce County and the Features-based system approach for Southern Bruce County.
- Develop refined criteria for components of the N.H.S. that reflect both the differences in physical geography and directions heard through consultation:
 - Southern Bruce County: A blended Option between Option 3 and 2 is recommended. Consideration to be given to some elements of Option 1 based on further analysis and directions heard.
 - Northern Bruce County: Option 2, with elements of Option 3 and 1 informed by further analysis and directions heard.

Through the refinement process, specific consideration will be given to supporting the stated system targets, flexibility for landowners and municipalities, and policy implementation tools.

- Consideration will be given to some specific elements of Option 1 based on feedback from municipalities and the need to balance protection with flexibility. The final blended options for northern and southern Bruce County that will form the preferred N.H.S. will reflect key messages and feedback received (e.g., Large Core Areas, slightly less restrictive ‘supporting feature’ woodland criteria).
- The final criteria for the recommended system will be informed by input received and further analysis of criteria and considerations for implementation. Based on input received through consultation, the final systems (northern and southern Bruce County) will integrate some elements across the spectrum of Options. Two initial directions include:
 - Conservation Oriented Lands: do not include participation in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program and/or Conservation Land Tax Incentive Programs as a criterion for including privately owned lands within the system. These areas may however be included if other criteria are met, such as Key Feature Woodland or Wetland, depending on the size and feature designation.
 - Enhancements: consider additional or refined direction re: criteria for ecologically based opportunities, shorelines (e.g., Huron Fringe).
- Map the N.H.S. to the extent possible to provide clear information to residents, businesses, agencies, stakeholders, and local municipalities. This should include mapping of enhancement opportunities.
- Develop clear policies, guidelines, and tools to support implementation, enforcement, stewardship, and enhancement. These should include direction and tools for streamlining simple activities that do not



inherently conflict with or negatively impact the N.H.S. (e.g., screening tool[s] and process(es)). This approach will support the goals and objectives, and permit the identification of a robust N.H.S., while not adding 'red tape'. This should be done in consultation with local municipalities which lead implementation through administration of zoning and building permits.

- Consideration should be given to flexibility that will permit a balanced approach to land use planning.



Identify a Holistic Water Resource System

What We Heard

Overall, respondents are concerned about water quality and quantity in Bruce County. This includes specific concerns around safe drinking water, availability of clean water for industry (e.g., agriculture), water and its influence on natural heritage, fish and fish habitat. More broadly, respondents identified concerns around existing and potential impacts to water quality (e.g., shoreline development / loss of naturalized shorelines, aquaculture) and quantity (e.g., flood mitigation / flood hazards). Climate change was referenced in comments which stated an interest in a holistic and comprehensive Water Resource System that recognizes the complex interactions on the landscape.

Respondents also raised concerns around mapping and implementation of policies that have the potential to impact use of private lands. For example, quality of hazard mapping (floodplain, shoreline hazards) and restrictions placed on uses within these areas.

In considering additional components that could be included in the W.R.S. under Option 2, all received strong support for inclusion in the system. Support for inclusion ranged from 68% (meanderbelt) to 76% (Headwater Areas).

Four local municipalities provided input on the W.R.S. through the stakeholder workbook. Input received on the W.R.S. is summarized as follows:

- 3 of municipalities supported the recommendation to include the water table, aquifers and unsaturated zone to be part of the W.R.S.
- 2 support inclusion of locally important recharge and / or discharge areas
- 2 of municipalities supported the conceptual inclusion of headwater areas, however there was no clear preferred direction for the recommendation to include protection and conservation H.D.F.'s areas in the W.R.S. Some municipalities were not sure if it was relevant based on the current level of development in their municipality, and others stated that applicable protocols developed by local conservation authorities to classify these features are currently not formally recognized by the province and therefore should not be incorporated into a policy document.



Analysis

The County is responsible for identifying a W.R.S. and for providing policies and direction which will inform land use planning that protects and where possible improves water quality and quantity for the long-term.

Policies and direction can include both protection (e.g., as constraints to development) and management tools (e.g., to maintain a broad landscape function such as infiltration / recharge) in supporting this objective.

As with the N.H.S., there is a need to align with policies and legislation that currently exist (e.g., Source Water Protection, Conservation Authorities Act) to ensure that there is clarity in authority and guidance for land use planning in the County, and to support consistent implementation without duplication.

W.R.S. Option 2 best meets the evaluation criteria for Theme 2: “Supporting ecological systems, human health and the economy by protecting water quality and quantity in the Water Resource System” (**Appendix A**). Option 1 inadequately addresses long-term water quality improvement and interactions & interdependencies with the N.H.S. Engagement outcomes also support Option 2 as the preferred direction for the W.R.S.

Recommended Directions

- That W.R.S. Option 2 is the preferred system.
- Through policy development and/or supporting information ground the concept of the W.R.S. as occurring everywhere on the landscape.
- Include Headwater Drainage Features (H.D.F.s) that receive a management recommendation of ‘Protection’ or ‘Conservation’ within the W.R.S. and that consideration further if features designated ‘Mitigation’ should be included within the W.R.S. Responses received did not provide support for inclusion / exclusion.
- Develop clear direction for features, areas and functions of the W.R.S. and how these are used to inform or guide land use planning (e.g., as a physical constraint, through management, or conceptually represented and how this informs land use planning).
- Map the W.R.S. to the extent possible, with policies and guidance for identifying and mapping features and functions that cannot be mapped at this time to support future identification and mapping.



Focus Policy on Overall Direction and Use Guidelines for Detailed Direction

What We Heard

Most respondents (~74%) agreed that Policy should focus on overall direction, with guidelines being used to set out specific direction, flexibility and allow for updates to reflect current best practice from time-to-time.

Comments received on this preliminary policy direction support this as good planning practice and allowing the County to respond to changes in practice, science and implementation practices.

Analysis

The County Official Plan and its policies should set out the vision for its Natural Legacy and set policies which act as the backbone to land use planning at the County scale and through local municipal partners. Setting a vision statement, goal or similar for the N.E.S. and its composite systems (the W.R.S. and N.H.S.) sets the tone and intent for land use planning and will assist with alignment through implementation.

Policies set out through the County Official Plan are intended to provide land use planning direction until 2046. As such, it is important that flexibility be built into the O.P. to allow the County to respond to changes in best practices, new information on factors and events that affect the County and its residents (e.g., Climate Change), and new tools (e.g., low impact designs). To the extent possible, policy should set out a clear direction, details should be addressed through readily accessible guidelines and other mechanisms that can be updated or revised through mechanisms that do not require a Plan Amendment.



Recommended Directions

- Develop policy that clearly defines the vision, goal(s), objectives for the N.E.S. and its component systems (W.R.S., N.H.S.).
- Include system targets (where appropriate) in accordance with the Targets Discussion Paper.
- Clearly define components of the system (e.g., N.H.S. Key and Supporting Features) and how they are protected and/or managed.
- Provide clear direction in policy to:
 - Direct most development towards existing settlement areas.
 - Direct development away from the N.H.S., and Key Hydrologic Features and Key Hydrologic Areas of the W.R.S.
 - Protect and manage the N.E.S. and its component systems in a way that meets or exceeds provincial direction.
 - Protect and manage the N.E.S. and its component systems in a way that supports the vision, goals, objectives and (where applicable) targets of the N.E.S.
 - Permit refinements to the system to reflect outcomes from detailed studies that improve understanding of features and functions. This may include both additions to and removals from the system
 - Supports, encourages and, where appropriate, requires the implementation of linkages and enhancement areas of the N.H.S.
 - Continue to permit agricultural uses within the N.H.S. / W.R.S. Neither the N.H.S. or W.R.S. are intended to limit the ability of agricultural uses to continue.
 - Continue to permit wise use of resources in resource-based industries by providing policy direction that supports best practices, restoration / rehabilitation.
 - Permit appropriate development that:
 - Avoids the most sensitive features, functions & areas
 - Minimizes impacts to the N.H.S. / W.R.S.
 - Has no negative impact to the system(s), features and functions.
- Clearly link Policy to Guidance Documents for detailed direction and guidance on implementation of policy.



Avoid Duplicating or Creating Conflicting Policies and Directions

What We Heard

While the Bruce County O.P. will provide direction for land use planning, development and site alteration, these same activities and others may also be regulated or otherwise managed across a variety of agencies. Comments heard through the consultation process identified the potential duplication, overlap and/or conflict between policies and requirements of various plans, legislation, etc. as a specific concern. It was clearly identified that providing clarity on responsibility / authority as well as avoiding these issues should be carefully considered in the preparation of policies for the O.P. and in particular as it relates to the N.E.S.

Specific examples of potential duplication or overlap between County policy and other agencies identified during consultation include fish habitat (Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry), and wetlands and hazard lands (Conservation Authorities, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry).

Analysis

This will be addressed through policy development, which is beyond the scope of the N.E.S. project; as such it was not identified as a preliminary direction. However, as concerns around this were raised in numerous comments and discussion, it was determined to be an important direction to raise through the current work and in recognition that the O.P. project has been initiated. In this way, it will ensure the message is carried forward into the next phase of work.

Several important points when considering the N.E.S. project and looking to the preparation of the O.P.:

- The N.E.S. is a comprehensive and holistic approach to addressing the County's Natural Legacy and as such will include features and areas that are managed or regulated through other agencies, legislation, etc. This is consistent with provincial direction which requires that some features, regulated through separate policy or legislation be identified as part of the N.E.S. As such, they are included. However, inclusion of these features and areas in the N.E.S. must recognize that elements of the N.E.S. continue to be regulated and/or managed by other agencies and policies should reflect this.
- The O.P. should draw attention to other policies, legislation, etc. to raise awareness of policies and legislation applicable to lands within Bruce County and which affect land use planning.
- The Plan, through policy or direction on implementation should refer to the regulating authorities for specific features, areas or functions of the N.E.S. For example:



- Fish & Fish Habitat: Department of Fisheries and Oceans under the Fisheries Act
- Wetlands & Hazard Lands: Provincial agency (M.N.R.F) for identification of Provincially Significant Wetlands; Conservation Authorities and/or Provincial Ministry for regulation of interference with all wetlands, watercourses and hazard lands (flood hazard, shoreline hazards).
- Source Water Protection - Risk Management Officers appointed in accordance with the Clean Water Act (2006).
- Species at Risk: Provincial ministry administering the Endangered Species Act (Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks) and Federal authority administering the Federal Species at Risk Act (Environment and Climate Change Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Parks Canada within national parks & historic sites).
- Niagara Escarpment: Niagara Escarpment Commission for development permitting, protections for features & areas within the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area.
- The County O.P. forms an important link, bridging the gap between these policies and land use planning. As such, it should dovetail and complement the work done by other agencies and their role in making decisions (for example, the Niagara Escarpment Commission is the approval authority for development permits within the Niagara Escarpment Plan Development Control Area).
- Guideline(s) provide a platform through which additional clarification can be provided to clarify relationships between policies, responsibilities (e.g., ‘who do I need to talk to if I want to develop X?’).

Recommended Directions

- Use the O.P. as a platform to educate & link residents, stakeholders, etc. to applicable policies and legislation that affect land uses.
- Refer to appropriate regulating bodies / agencies / authorities, where applicable / appropriate, and particularly where they have regulatory roles in the approval of a project.
- Provide clear direction on responsibilities, and
- To the extent possible, create a coordinated approach to land use planning to streamline the process and support good land use planning, smart economic growth, align with other pillars & overall support a healthy & vibrant Bruce County.



Link Policy to System Mapping

What We Heard

Strong support was provided for providing a clear link between N.E.S. policy and mapping (93% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed). Comments, and the source(s) of support for this preliminary recommendation varied, but many very good reasons were identified, for example, it was commented that system mapping can assist with:

- Change detection / management
- Helping landowners to understand what's on their land & how they might take action to support the N.H.S. / W.R.S.
- Avoiding conflict with landowners as information on potential constraints, opportunities, etc. are freely available at the outset of any planned action / development.
- Assisting the public understand the O.P. and how it applies to them.

Through earlier consultation and through comments on this and other questions, there remains concern about the accuracy of feature mapping and potential impacts this could have on both landowners (e.g., if a feature is mapped, but not present 'on the ground') and the natural environment (e.g., if a feature is present 'on the ground but not mapped').

Analysis

Not all features of the N.H.S. and W.R.S. systems can be mapped (e.g., due to lack of available information), however the systems should be mapped to the extent possible to support implementation. It is also important that the limitations of the mapping are recognized and clearly communicated in policy.

Mapping of the N.E.S. will assist landowners, stakeholders, member municipalities and the County in the implementation of the policies for the N.E.S. It can be used for screening purposes (e.g., to determine if a study is required), scope a study, and can be used to connect policy to features and areas 'on the ground'.

Limitations in mapping are recognized, however the benefits and opportunity to visualize how and where policies of the plan will be applicable is important to supporting a clear and understandable policy document. As understanding and available data continues to evolve, system mapping can continue be refined over time to reflect 'current and best' information.



Recommended Directions

- Map the N.E.S. (comprised of the N.H.S. and W.R.S.) to the extent possible. Mapping should clearly identify that not all features are mapped, and that mapping may be refined from time-to-time as additional information becomes available.
- Permit minor refinements to mapping without an Official Plan Amendment. The O.P. will need to identify what constitutes a ‘minor’ refinement(s) and ensure that sufficient flexibility is provided to permit these refinements. Clear guidance should also be provided to clearly identify what is not considered a minor refinement and is to be addressed through a formal amendment.
- Make N.E.S. mapping publicly available through an interactive mapping tool. Some sensitive information may be assigned restricted access (e.g., sensitive Species at Risk data) or be otherwise obscured to ensure protection of sensitive species / features, as appropriate.
- Include relevant information to a specific feature or area of the N.E.S. (e.g., feature type and designation, applicable policies) within the interactive mapping tool.
- Permit downloading (e.g., as a .pdf) and/or printing of maps from the interactive mapping tool, for general use.
- Explore linked ‘information sheets’ or documents from the mapping platform that help users navigate policy, permitting, and approvals related to the N.E.S., which includes identifying applicable approval agencies.
- Include disclaimers / clear ‘user guidelines’ in all mapping formats (hardcopy and interactive, online) that very clearly state limitations of the data and that refinements to the system may occur from time-to-time in accordance with policies of the plan. Disclaimers or other information provided on mapping should also indicate what features are **not mapped**.
- Policies of the plan should clearly state that features not mapped, but that are identified through other study or work are subject to policies of the plan, as appropriate.



Prepare Accessible Guidelines and Tools to Support Implementation

What We Heard

- 87% of workbook respondents and 71% of general survey respondents support updating the E.I.S. guidelines
- Comments Received (workbook)
 - 1 respondent strongly disagreed with an update as there was concern that it continues to promote a ‘development first’ approach, rather than a ‘environment first’ approach.
 - Most respondents agreed that updates were required to provide clear direction for landowners / developers on what is expected of them.
 - Guidelines need to be up-to-date and scientifically sound.
 - Establishing standards and providing guidance to meet minimum standards would help to standardize the quality and content of E.I.S. reporting.

Analysis

Guidelines and other supporting documents are effective tools to assist with:

- Information / explanation and further direction on intent, interpretation and application of policy.
- Education - regarding what terms and other things mean and on process.
- Clarifying process - a common complaint is lack of clarity on process. Applicable to all involved, including proponents, planners, and consultants. Guidelines can resolve much of this.
- Clarifying expectations - like with process, clarification on what is expected, providing templates, etc. can improve the quality of submission and support implementation of the N.E.S.

An updated E.I.S. guideline can also include processes for ‘no-risk’ and ‘low-risk’ projects. This does not provide a ‘development forward’ approach, rather it helps to ensure that all projects are properly considered. There are common mitigation measures that can be applied to simple, no and low-risk projects to avoid / address common impacts which streamlines the process, reduces overall costs for all involved and continues to support the goals and objectives for the system.

Where guidelines and other materials are technical in nature, the intended audience should be clearly identified and general information for key aspects / messages should be provided in plain language.



Recommended Directions

- Review and update E.I.S. Guideline
- Develop screening tool(s) to streamline low- and no-risk projects (e.g., clear, and specific criteria to identify qualified activities / projects, list of mitigation measures required).
- Use scoping tool(s) to avoid unnecessary work effort and costs, but also as a way to ensure a consistent approach and that the appropriate studies to assess significance and sensitivity are not missed.
- Include a user-guide within documents / tools to support a user-focused approach
- Clarify roles & responsibilities for agencies / stakeholders / proponents
- Acknowledge Indigenous interests and review processes as they relate to natural legacy.
- Provide tools & templates to improve overall consistency in the preparation and review processes
- Develop or provide direction for the assessment and consideration of the N.H.S. and W.R.S. This may require preparation of a new guideline to specifically address the W.R.S., or other method of directing assessment and consideration of this system.



Provide Essential Materials in Accessible Format(s)

What We Heard

Nearly all (93%) of Workbook respondents agreed with the direction to provide essential materials in accessible and various formats. Respondents recognized that this can be a challenging task but is very important. Respondents also agreed with the direction for plain language either within the O.P. (difficult) or to provide explanatory support information (planning tools).

Analysis

Policy is generally written to be clear in a legal context, but many areas can be written in plain language to make it easier to understand for general users. Policy support tools and resources can also be prepared to assist in interpretation and understanding of policies and how they apply, such as information sheets on ‘what policies mean to my property’

Recommended Directions

- Focus on plain language throughout the plan development process, and in the new Official Plan
- Prepare information sheets to support communications around common land-use planning questions



Consider a Community Planning Development Permit System (C.P.P.S.) for Improved Implementation

What We Heard

Most workbook respondents (71%) supported (strongly agreed, agreed, somewhat agreed) the consideration of a community planning development permit system (C.P.P.S) for improved implementation, while 7% (1 respondent) somewhat disagreed and 21% were unsure. Comments include suggestion that a control system at the County level could support a more consistent enforcement at the local level. Conversely, other responses felt that a C.P.P.S. may not be improve system efficiency and could be difficult to enforce. One suggestion was to make permitting ‘visible’ (e.g., posted like a zone change application or building permit) to support enforcement and controls.

Analysis

A C.P.P.S. presents an opportunity for lower-tier municipalities to access additional land use management tools to support good community planning objectives. A C.P.P.S. is established by a local municipal by-law, but it can only be established if the Official Plan has policies related to a C.P.P.S including relevant areas, details for delegations, goals, objectives, policies, and criteria; and types of conditions that may be applied that line up with goals, objectives, and policies. A C.P.P.S should be coordinated with Conservation Authority review to support a streamlined process.

Recommended Directions

- The Official Plan should include enabling policies that permit local Municipalities that are interested in this system to develop a C.P.P.S. Engagement on the C.P.P.S. policies through the plan development process can provide good high-level guidance, with details addressed through further engagement with local Municipalities that wish to use a C.P.P.S.



Use Different Forestry Practices for Different Areas

What We Heard

Most workbook respondents (64%) supported (strongly agree, agree, somewhat agree) the use of different forestry practices for different areas, while 14% disagree (somewhat disagree and disagree) and remaining 21% were unsure. Comments include the suggestion of using different approaches to support species with key habitat requirements. Respondents identified needing more information on what this would entail. Some were concerned that the approach could be difficult or not adequate and questioned if there would be issues with wildlife.

Analysis

The recommended ‘good forestry practices’ approach provides an opportunity for woodlot management for multiple purposes and supports overall forest health which can help to address wildland fire risks. ‘Good forestry practices’ for cedar are recognized as distinct from the single-tree selection approach discussed in the interim report, which would also be addressed through the policy. Methods for assessing woodlots for sensitivity (e.g., highly sensitive areas, sensitive species or habitats) are an important component of good forestry planning and balanced management for long-term and multi-uses.

Recommended Directions

- Provide additional high-level information with respect to good forestry practices in Core Areas or Key Feature Areas in the Official Plan; when the system is mapped, Transportation and Environmental Services can initiate an amendment to the Forest Conservation By-law to include a schedule showing locations of Core Areas and Key Features where permit applications would need to be consistent with Good Forestry Practices.
- Include specific consideration for areas of increased sensitivity to forestry related practices to ensure that forestry is undertaken in a manner that is compatible with the natural environment system in the long-term.



Progressive Rehabilitation Following Aggregate Extraction

What We Heard

Most of the workbook respondents (79%) supported (strongly agree, agree, or somewhat agree) progressive rehabilitation following aggregate extraction, while 7% somewhat disagree (1 respondent) and 14% are unsure (2 respondents). Some respondents commented that this approach provides progressive protection, whereas others felt this approach might have limited impact and/or ability to be implemented (e.g., strength of Aggregate Resources Act & Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry permitting). An advisory committee member recommended further outreach with the province regarding its operations plan review process as an alternative to Official Plan policy. One comment highlighted the excellent opportunity for enhancement following aggregate extraction compared to other forms of development, but enhancement / rehabilitation needs to be a well-planned design.

Analysis

Aggregate operations with more defined rehabilitation schedules are currently being advanced as best practice efforts; advancing this best practice as the benchmark expectation where extraction is proposed in the natural heritage system can help to support the wise use and long-term management of these areas. Direct industry participation was not identified through the engagement process, and so further consultation on criteria is recommended through the Official Plan development process.

Recommended Directions

- Include policies that require enhanced phasing and progressive rehabilitation planning for pit and quarry operations within the natural legacy system that meet criteria which could include size of extraction area, expected duration of operations (based on amount of resource divided by annual tonnage), and/or number of licenses in an area.
- Consult with Provincial staff, Indigenous communities and industry stakeholders to ensure that criteria support the objective of managing total disturbed areas while supporting viable extraction operations.



Include Conceptual Natural Legacy Mapping in Settlement Areas

What We Heard

Most of workbook respondents (71%) supported (strongly agree, agree, or somewhat agree) the inclusion of conceptual natural legacy mapping in settlement areas, while 14% (2 respondents) disagreed and 14% (2 respondents) were unsure. Comments include features do not follow political boundaries and noted the importance of natural corridors and linkages within settlement areas for a variety of functions; one comment noted natural legacy mapping should not be included in settlement areas. Comments noted ‘locals will do what locals will do’ and noted limited municipal resources and time horizons and questioned if the approach would affect the integrity of the natural legacy mapping.

Analysis

Several settlement areas within Bruce County have large natural areas, and some have already been mapped to include natural heritage features within local Official Plans. As these features may be all or partially within settlement areas, and connect to the broader system, they should be included within the natural legacy system. Local Official Plans are required to ‘conform’ to the County Official Plan, and so this direction would provide an opportunity for more refined details that still meet the overall direction, and integrity, of the Natural Legacy system to be identified and ‘uploaded’ into the County Official Plan.

This direction would also provide opportunities for more detailed considerations and flexibility in an overall balanced approach that considers opportunities to encourage appropriate growth in settlement areas.

Recommended Directions

- Identify conceptual natural legacy mapping in settlement areas, particularly where these areas include key features, through the Official Plan.
- Include policy direction noting that local Municipalities may identify additional features that are significant within the community and may include a finer level of detail regarding feature limits in settlement areas, or may take customized approaches that meet provincial requirements and the direction outlined in the County Official Plan
- Upload approved mapping within settlement areas to the County Official Plan to maintain consistent mapping at both the County-scale and the local-scale.



Plan for Sustainable Public Access to Natural Legacy Features

What We Heard

Most of the general survey respondents (79%) agreed with encouraging planning for sustainable public access to natural legacy features, while 12% disagreed and 9% were unsure. Similarly, most of the workbook respondents (87%) supported (strongly agree, agree, somewhat agree) this direction. An individual comment noted how [lack of] access to nature is a mental health issue that became clear through the pandemic, but comments also included some sustainability concerns around access dependent on the nature of the activity, feature sensitivities, etc. Other respondents expressed the need for more information to see how this direction would work, as well as for ‘sustainable’ public access to be clearly defined, and how areas will be monitored and enforced when necessary.

Analysis

Engagement results speak to both the need for access to nature, and the need to ensure that public access and uses are sustainable and appropriate to the area. This discussion intersects with engagement feedback from the Communities and Culture discussion papers and relates to ecotourism as an element supporting the ‘Business’ discussion paper.

As noted in the interim report, many places where the public access nature are managed by Provincial and Federal governments and are not subject to County plans or local land use controls.

Recommended Directions

- Recognize through the plan the need to work with all levels of government, public organizations, landowners, businesses, and organizations that promote or provide access to nature in order to manage public access to natural areas throughout Bruce County.
- Where new resource-based tourism is proposed, consideration should be given to the type and compatibility of the proposed use with the features and functions present on the lands. Policies should provide direction on how the N.E.S. will be preserved in the long-term with respect to these industries.



Continue to Build Relationships with and Learn from Indigenous Communities

What We Heard

Respondents brought forward questions around how Indigenous values and rights have been reflected in the N.H.S. and how Indigenous voices from communities that have lands and rights have been incorporated into the process.

Analysis

Indigenous communities were engaged and provided input to the Natural Legacy project and reports. Through consultation and input received, we acknowledge and seek to honour the cultural, spiritual, and reciprocal relationship that exists between Indigenous communities and the natural environment.

Bruce County will continue to seek input and engage Indigenous communities on the Natural Legacy and other Guiding Principles for the development of the Official Plan and further opportunities to engage will be sought as the Official Plan is prepared.

Bruce County continues to develop a relationship of engagement and consultation with Indigenous communities to hear their views, learn from their knowledge and look for ways to see Indigenous history, people and cultures reflected in the planning and management of the N.E.S.

Recommended Directions

- Continue to develop meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities to hear their views and learn from their knowledge.
- Recognize in the Official Plan the P.P.S. (2020) direction to engage with Indigenous communities and coordinate on land use planning matters, and the expressed interests of local Indigenous communities related to the Natural Environment System.
- Look for opportunities to include Indigenous Traditional Knowledge in studies and land use planning processes.
- Support the continuation of traditional spiritual and cultural uses within the N.H.S. and W.R.S.
- Seek opportunities to reflect Indigenous views and knowledge.



Appendix A Evaluation of Options



Evaluation of the options using the themes, criteria and measures set out in the options report (Section 6) is presented in the tables below. These are summarized in directions presented in this discussion paper, as appropriate.

Evaluation of Theme 1: Supporting a resilient and connected Natural Heritage System with Opportunities for enhancement.

Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Criteria 1-1</p> <p>The system reflects Bruce County’s Natural Legacy, interests and direction</p>	Aligned	Strongly Aligned	Strongly Aligned
<p>Criteria 1-2</p> <p>The system supports keystone species (i.e., Black bear, Massasauga Rattlesnake) and Species at Risk.</p>	<p>Moderately Effective</p> <p>Core areas approach used in Northern Bruce County. Core Areas are smaller than Options 2 or 3.</p>	<p>Moderately Effective</p> <p>Core areas approach used in Northern Bruce County. Core Areas are larger than Option 1, smaller than Options 3.</p>	<p>Highly Effective</p> <p>Core areas approach used in Northern Bruce County. Largest Core areas provide best option for supporting keystone species.</p>
<p>Criteria 1-3</p> <p>The option provides opportunities to enhance the system</p>	<p>Highly Effective</p> <p>All options include direction for enhancement. Enhancement areas are smallest in this Option.</p>	Highly Effective	<p>Highly Effective</p> <p>Enhancement areas are largest in this Option, however difference between options are relatively small.</p>



Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Criteria 1-4a</p> <p>The option supports Bruce County in achieving the ‘no net loss’ Natural Heritage Target for Woodlands¹.</p>	<p>Moderately Supports</p> <p>Fewest woodlands are identified as Key Features. Achieving no net loss target relies more on policy direction for offsetting and restoration.</p>	<p>Moderately Supports</p> <p>More woodlands are identified as Key Features.</p>	<p>Strongly Supports</p> <p>The most woodlands are identified as Key Features. Achieving no net loss target less reliant on policy direction for offsetting and restoration.</p>
<p>Criteria 1-4b</p> <p>The option supports Bruce County in achieving the ‘no net loss’ Natural Heritage Targets for Wetlands².</p>	<p>Moderately Supports</p> <p>Protects Provincially Significant Wetlands as Key Features.</p>	<p>Strongly Supports</p> <p>Protects Provincially Significant Wetlands and some other wetlands as Key Features.</p>	<p>Strongly Supports</p> <p>Protects Provincially Significant Wetlands and more other wetlands as Key Features.</p>

¹ Key Feature woodlands (‘Significant Woodlands’) receive greater levels of policy-based protection. Woodlands not identified as Significant are at a higher risk of being lost on the landscape over time. Significant woodlands require demonstration of ‘no negative impact’ where development or site alteration is proposed by demonstrating that the functions of the woodland are maintained for the long-term.

² Development and site alteration are prohibited in Provincially Significant Wetlands (‘no impact’ threshold). Other wetlands identified as ‘Key Features’ may receive policy protections such as ‘no negative impact’ under Bruce County Official Plan (see note on woodlands above re: ‘no negative impact’ threshold).



Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Criteria 1-4c</p> <p>The option supports Bruce County in achieving the Natural Heritage Targets for Linkages³.</p> <p>Target(s): Connect habitat blocks or areas identified as significant in the County with landscape-level linkages.</p> <p>Connect other significant features / areas with local-level linkages.</p>	<p>Strongly Supports</p> <p>Narrowest linkage widths; support a connected system.</p>	<p>Strongly Supports</p> <p>Wider linkage widths, increase internal habitat opportunities and system resilience.</p>	<p>Strongly Supports</p> <p>Widest linkages, greatest system resilience.</p>

³ All options include strong linkage recommendations as these form a critical component of a resilient N.H.S. Wider linkages have been demonstrated as supporting a greater number of species and supporting better system resilience. Options focus on increased resilience (from Option 1 to 3).



Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Criteria 1-4d</p> <p>The option supports Bruce County in achieving the Natural Heritage Targets for Enhancement and Restoration.</p> <p>Target: Identify restoration / enhancement areas that improve the form and / or function of the N.E.S.</p>	<p>All Options: Strongly Supports</p> <p>No substantive difference between options. All options include guidance for system enhancement. All options identify potential opportunities for enhancement to support the system; their identification does not alter existing land uses in any way.</p>	<p>Incremental increase in the extent of potential enhancement areas identified.</p>	<p>Incremental increase in the extent of potential enhancement areas identified.</p>



Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Criteria 1-4e</p> <p>The option supports Bruce County in achieving the Natural Heritage Targets for Riparian Areas.</p> <p>Targets: No net loss of natural riparian cover.</p> <p>Increase natural riparian cover in areas with low natural cover.</p>	<p>All Options: Moderately Supports</p> <p>Riparian areas are not expressly identified as features in N.H.S. Options; they are captured indirectly through protection of fish habitat (e.g., through application of buffers). Increasing riparian cover is addressed through Enhancements and is consistent across all options.</p>	<p>Same as Option 1</p>	<p>Same as option 1</p>
<p>Criteria 1-4f</p> <p>The option supports Bruce County in achieving the Natural Heritage Targets for Shoreline Areas.</p> <p>Target: No net loss of natural shoreline areas.</p>	<p>Limited Support</p> <p>Shorelines are not considered part of the N.H.S.</p> <p>Enhancement opportunities capture shorelines as opportunities to support the system.</p>	<p>Moderately Supports</p> <p>Shorelines are considered part of the N.H.S. as Supporting Features.</p> <p>Enhancement opportunities capture shorelines as opportunities to support the system.</p>	<p>Moderately Supports</p> <p>Shorelines are considered part of the N.H.S. as Supporting Features.</p> <p>Enhancement opportunities capture shorelines as opportunities to support the system.</p>



Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Criteria 1-4g</p> <p>The option supports Bruce County in achieving the Natural Heritage Targets for: Aquatic Community / Fish Habitat.</p> <p>Target: Protect all fish habitat.</p>	<p>All Options: Strongly Supports.</p> <p>All fish habitat is identified as a Key Feature within the N.H.S.</p>	<p>Same as Option 1</p>	<p>Same as Option 1</p>
<p>Criteria 1-4h</p> <p>The option supports Bruce County in achieving the Natural Heritage Targets for: Significant Wildlife Habitat.</p> <p>Target: Protect all Significant Wildlife Habitat.</p>	<p>All Options: Strongly Supports</p> <p>All confirmed Significant Wildlife Habitat is identified as a Key Feature within the N.H.S.</p>	<p>Same as Option 1</p>	<p>Same as Option 1</p>



Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Criteria 1-4i The option supports Bruce County in achieving the Natural Heritage Targets for: Grassland Habitat.</p>	<p>All Options: Limited Support</p> <p>Grassland habitats are not expressly identified as components of the N.H.S. Open Country breeding habitat for birds is captured under Significant Wildlife Habitat.</p> <p>Opportunities to support creation of grassland habitat can be encouraged through enhancement(s).</p>	<p>Same as Option 1</p>	<p>Same as Option 1</p>



Table 2. Evaluation of Theme 2: Supporting ecological systems, human health and the economy by protecting water quality and quantity in the Water Resource System.

Criteria	Option 1	Option 2
<p>Criteria 2-1 The option identifies important hydrologic features and areas that will maintain movement and quantity of water on the landscape in the long-term.</p>	<p>Moderately Effective - Highly Effective</p> <p>This option includes all components identified as ‘required’ for the Water Resources System under the Growth Plan⁴. This is a good base system.</p>	<p>Highly Effective</p> <p>This option extends the system to additional headwater features and areas and includes additional, localized features and functions to support the system at multiple scales.</p>
<p>Criteria 2-2 The option identifies features and opportunities which support and have potential to improve water quality in the long-term.</p>	<p>Inadequately Addressed</p> <p>This option includes core functions but does not include features and areas which will support water quality improvements.</p>	<p>Highly Effective</p> <p>Extends the system to include features at multiple scales and with functions more specific to water quality (e.g., headwater drainage features, shoreline areas, riparian lands).</p>
<p>Criteria 2-3 The option reflects the interactions and interdependencies between water resource features and areas and</p>	<p>Inadequately Addressed</p> <p>This option will support ecological features and functions but is focused on the broad-scale system. Smaller,</p>	<p>Highly Effective</p> <p>By including areas important at more localized scales (e.g., subwatershed), headwaters, shorelines, etc., interactions and interdependencies</p>

⁴ Policies of the Growth Plan do not apply to Bruce County; the Growth Plan was used as guidance as it provides more refined direction on components which is otherwise limited (e.g., limited direction is provided in the P.P.S.)



ecological features and functions.	localized interactions are not captured.	between water resources and ecological features and functions are better represented and maintained.
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Table 3. Evaluation of Theme 3: Ensuring the systems are consistent with the Bruce GPS guiding principles and direction for the County’s future.

Natural Heritage System (N.H.S.)

Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Criteria 3-1 The option is aligned with Bruce GPS Guiding Principles: Agriculture; Homes; Communities; Business; Good Growth; Natural Legacy; Connecting; Heritage</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>None of the options impact ongoing agricultural uses. Option 1 may offer greater flexibility for locating single dwellings in countryside areas.</p> <p>Natural Legacy: Aligned</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Option 2 represents a balanced approach of the 3 options presented.</p> <p>Natural Legacy: Strongly Aligned</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Option 3 best supports Communities and Good Growth principles with focus on complete communities in the right places with the right infrastructure.</p> <p>Natural Legacy: Strongly Aligned</p>
<p>Criteria 3-2 The option provides flexibility to achieve balanced land use planning.</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Relative to other Options, this option has a higher risk to natural heritage in the land use planning process.</p> <p>Opportunities exist through policy to support balance.</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Relative to other Options, this option has a moderate risk for natural heritage in the land use planning process.</p> <p>Opportunities exist through policy to support balance.</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Relative to other Options, this is the low-risk option for natural heritage in the land use planning process.</p> <p>Opportunities exist through policy to support balance.</p>



Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Criteria 3-1 The option is aligned with Bruce GPS Guiding Principles: Agriculture; Homes; Communities; Business; Good Growth; Natural Legacy; Connecting; Heritage</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>None of the options impact ongoing agricultural uses. Option 1 may offer greater flexibility for locating single dwellings in countryside areas.</p> <p>Natural Legacy: Aligned</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Option 2 represents a balanced approach of the 3 options presented.</p> <p>Natural Legacy: Strongly Aligned</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Option 3 best supports Communities and Good Growth principles with focus on complete communities in the right places with the right infrastructure.</p> <p>Natural Legacy: Strongly Aligned</p>
<p>Criteria 3-3 The option supports resilience and adaptation to climate change.</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Larger and better connected N.H.S. are more resilient. Option 1 provides a strong, connected system, but is least robust of options presented.</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Option 2 provides a strong, connected system, and represents a balance between Option 1 and 3.</p>	<p>Strongly Aligned</p> <p>Option 3 offers the most robust system in terms of feature protections and connectivity.</p>



Water Resource System (W.R.S.)

Criteria	Option 1	Option 2
<p>Criteria 3-1 The option is consistent / aligned with Bruce GPS Guiding Principles: Agriculture; Homes; Communities; Business; Good Growth; Natural Legacy; Connecting; Heritage</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Support core, County-scale water resource system form and functions. Protecting and maintaining water quality and quantity is critical to all Guiding Principles.</p>	<p>Strongly Aligned</p> <p>Supports more refined protection to support the system consistently and in accordance with local conditions. Protecting and maintaining water quality and quantity is critical to all Guiding Principles. This option best supports Guiding Principles.</p>
<p>Criteria 3-2 The option provides flexibility to achieve balanced land use planning.</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Alignment at a broad scale. Becomes less aligned at refined scales as it is more likely to result in loss of some localized functions.</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>Considers water resources features and areas (water quality and quantity) at all scales.</p>
<p>Criteria 3-3 The option supports resilience and adaptation to climate change.</p>	<p>Not Aligned</p> <p>This represents a base system. It does not adequately address risks associated with climate change.</p>	<p>Aligned</p> <p>This system, through inclusion of additional features and areas will better permit land use planning and implementation to address climate change.</p>



Table 4. Evaluation of Theme 4: Implementation. To be further considered through preparation of the O.P.

Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<p>Criteria 4-1 Appropriate tools and methods are available to the County to implement the option.</p>	<p>Generally yes; limitations, where they exist, are common to the type of feature rather than the specific approach in the Option. To be further explored through preparation of the OP.</p>	<p>Generally yes; Inclusion of broad functions / areas (e.g., water table) will be conceptual and used to raise awareness of the system. Limitations, where they exist, are common to the type of feature rather than the specific approach in the Option. To be further explored through preparation of the OP.</p>	<p>Generally yes; Inclusion of broad functions / areas (e.g., water table) will be conceptual and used to raise awareness of the system. Limitations, where they exist, are common to the type of feature rather than the specific approach in the Option. To be further explored through preparation of the OP.</p>
<p>Criteria 3-2 The option provides flexibility to achieve balanced land use planning.</p>	<p>Most flexibility to support other planning objectives. Although the options represent incremental changes, this option includes the least constraints on development and land uses from a Natural Heritage and W.R.S. perspective. All options provide opportunities for flexibility and streamlining (e.g.,</p>	<p>Moderate flexibility to support other planning objectives. This option is the ‘moderate’ option for constraints on development and land uses from a Natural Heritage and W.R.S. perspective. All options provide opportunities for flexibility and streamlining (e.g., screening process for no- and low-risk projects)</p>	<p>Less flexibility to support other planning objectives. Although the options represent an incremental change, this option includes the greatest constraints to development and land uses from a Natural Heritage and W.R.S. perspective. All options provide opportunities for flexibility and streamlining (e.g.,</p>



Criteria	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
	screening process for no- and low-risk projects)		screening process for no- and low-risk projects)
Criteria 1-3 The option provides opportunities to enhance the system	Yes. Direction for enhancement areas in this option would include the least <i>potential</i> enhancement areas.	Yes. Direction for enhancement areas in this option would include less than Option 3, but more than Option 1.	Yes. Direction for enhancement areas in this option would include the most <i>potential</i> enhancement areas.
Criteria 3-3 The option supports resilience and adaptation to climate change.	Less Aligned Larger and better connected N.H.S. are more resilient. Option 1 provides a connected system but is least robust of options presented for the N.H.S. and therefore is less aligned. For the W.R.S. this system inadequately addresses risks of climate change and opportunities to capture and mitigate issues.	Aligned Option 2 provides a strong, connected system, and represents a balance between Option 1 and 3. For the N.H.S., this Option is more robust including a greater proportion of features and increased linkages, enhancements. For the W.R.S. this option is consistent with Option 3 and includes consideration for additional features, areas and functions that will permit a more holistic view of water resources and support addressing resilience to climate change.	Strongly Aligned Option 3 offers the most robust system in terms of feature protections and connectivity. For the N.H.S., this Option is most resilient including the greatest proportion of features and increased linkages, enhancements. For the W.R.S. this option is consistent with Option 3 and includes consideration for additional features, areas and functions that will permit a more holistic view of water resources and support addressing resilience to climate change.



Appendix B Engagement: Results Summaries by Feature



Natural Heritage System

Respondents were asked to provide input on the components of the N.H.S. to inform the selection of the generally preferred Option and any modifications or refinements to specific components to reflect a desired direction for Bruce County. A summary of input is below.

Table B-1. Summary of input on the components of the N.H.S. from the public general survey and the stakeholder workbook.

Legend: ■ Option 1 ■ Option 2 ■ Option 3 ■ Something else

Feature Type	Brief Interpretation of Direction	General Survey Results	Stakeholder Workbook Results
Wetlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in favour of Option3 Wetlands as climate change resilience A focus on P.S.W.s is insufficient Coastal wetlands at higher risk due to shoreline development, industry 		
Woodlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of Option 3 from the general survey, however no overwhelming consensus from the Stakeholder Workbook Woodlands very important from a connectivity perspective High level of protection needed 		



Feature Type	Brief Interpretation of Direction	General Survey Results	Stakeholder Workbook Results
Valleylands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority (~50%) of general survey in support of Option 3. Stakeholder workbook highly in favor of Option 2/3. Option 2/3 include the same features. Ok with provincial direction for key feature / significant valleylands, but some questions around mapping, inclusion of agricultural lands, etc. within them. Also questions around mapping. Want to see valleylands retained as part of the system, concerns with loss of systems, functions for flood protection / movement of water. One comment questioned whether the County was capable of / has enough information to define 'supporting feature' valleylands. 		
Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of Option 3. Protection of regional A.N.S.I.'s as important. They capture a lot of diversity and excellent habitats. Concern that regionally significant areas would not be captured through the provincially significant designation 		



Feature Type	Brief Interpretation of Direction	General Survey Results	Stakeholder Workbook Results
Conservation Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of Option 3. The need to balance recreation & conservation (for Option 2) Need for truly protected lands (Option 3) & more protection 		
Shorelines outside of built-up areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of Option 3 Concern over exploitation & destruction of shorelines Concerns around mapping of shoreline hazards (inaccuracies) Fewer restrictions should be placed on individual landowners Protect remaining natural shorelines Role of and impacts to shorelines as a result of climate change 		(This question was not included in the Stakeholder Workbook)



Water Resource System

Respondents were asked to provide input on the components of the W.R.S. to inform the selection of features to be included in the W.R.S. and any modifications or refinements to specific components to reflect a desired direction for Bruce County. A summary of input is below. Responses from respondents that selected ‘strongly agree’, ‘agree’ and ‘somewhat agree’ were combined under the result of ‘agree’ for the purposes of this summary only. Similarly, ‘strongly disagree’, ‘disagree’, and ‘somewhat disagree’ were combined under the result of ‘disagree’.

Table B-2. Summary of input on the components of the W.R.S. from the public general survey and the stakeholder workbook.

Legend:

■ Include / Agree
 ■ Do Not include / Disagree
 ■ No Preference / Unsure

Feature Type	Brief Interpretation of Direction	General Survey Results	Stakeholder Workbook Results
Groundwater Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good way to support planning and empowers due diligence for development of sites • Specific guidance/policies will need to be developed on how they should be accounted for or considered during development review • Vulnerable aquifers need protection • Need to see where features are located and specific information to understand why studies are needed • Without mapping unsure how these will be incorporated in the plan; Abstract policy hard to uphold. 		



Feature Type	Brief Interpretation of Direction	General Survey Results	Stakeholder Workbook Results
Headwater Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of including headwater areas Progressive protection needed Could be useful to complete a full illustration of connected water features / watershed evaluation Suggestion to specify which headwaters are within the County 		
Headwater Drainage Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of including headwater drainage features Progressive protection needed M.E.C.P. developing identification criteria In support, but may receive pushback from Northern Bruce Peninsula residents 		



Feature Type	Brief Interpretation of Direction	General Survey Results	Stakeholder Workbook Results
Karst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of including karst features The inclusion of karst features does not restrict uses and informs underlying conditions for planning Inclusion is critical and better understanding of the functioning of karst systems is needed Contamination of karst systems is likely impossible to reverse Should only be included if specific location is known 		
Riparian Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of including Riparian Lands Riparian areas change over time and need leeway for carving and depositing Progressive protection needed Support for protection and conservation but not mitigation Maintenance of riparian lands very important to water quality and aquatic habitat Opportunity to improve / restore riparian area on agricultural lands 		



Feature Type	Brief Interpretation of Direction	General Survey Results	Stakeholder Workbook Results
Meander Belts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of including meander belts Protection necessary to prevent building in a flood zone Inclusion only if they align with areas regulated by Conservation Authorities Adjacent land uses should be considered in a balanced approach 		
Shoreline Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of including shoreline areas Noted ecological significance of coastal wetlands and development pressure Importance of naturalized shorelines for maintaining water quality Shorelines should be included in both systems (i.e., N.H.S. & W.R.S.), not including it in both could lead to a planning / development oversight Shorelines provide important terrestrial and aquatic habitat 		



Feature Type	Brief Interpretation of Direction	General Survey Results	Stakeholder Workbook Results
Floodplains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of including floodplains Important part of the hydrological system Essential to prepare for flooding, especially with climate change No Conservation Authority influence on the peninsula, this should be accounted for somewhere 		
Shoreline hazard areas (30 m from limits of a flood line hazard for a waterbody)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Majority in support of including shoreline hazard areas Floods can function independently and unpredictably, requiring unique policies for flood hazard areas Consideration for development of areas in urban areas where development has already occurred (i.e., breakwater) 		



Appendix C Engagement: Key Themes & Messages



Table C-1. Summary of key messages from comments from the public general survey and the stakeholder workbook. These comments were considered in the development of the directions recommended in the report. The table below is not a list of directions for the Natural Legacy system for Bruce County.

Theme	Summary of Comments
Private Land Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not adding additional restrictions than those <i>required</i> by legislation • Flexibility & autonomy in how lands are used / developed • Private property rights as paramount • Concerns for impacts to current and future land uses • Devaluation of property • Encourage landowner stewardship over policy-based protections • Balance between private land rights and protection is needed • Concerns over mapping accuracies & limitations applied to properties as a result • New policies should not apply to existing property / structures • Desire to protect features while avoiding or minimizing restrictions to opportunities on private land
Shorelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over exploitation & destruction of shorelines • Efforts should be spent on naturalization of shorelines - important for wildlife, water quality, vegetation • Concerns around mapping of shoreline hazards (inaccuracies) • Restrict shoreline damage by tourism & industry • Fewer restrictions should be placed on individual landowners • Protect remaining natural shorelines • Role of and impacts to shorelines as a result of climate change • Waterfront properties and the importance of maintaining / restoring natural shorelines • Shoreline areas are very important to biodiversity, water quality, fish habitat, etc., and are under increased and ongoing pressure in the County. Policy protection is essential to guide beneficial decision-making regarding development in shoreline areas



Theme	Summary of Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid hindering development on remaining undeveloped lands. Setbacks should align with conservation authority policies/guidelines
Indigenous Rights, Uses and Ways of Knowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with, work with and learn from Indigenous communities • Reflect Indigenous ways of knowing, traditional uses into the N.E.S. • Responsibility to the next seven generations for the health of our environment • Concern over Indigenous traditional harvesting and practices being affected by changes to the N.H.S. / W.R.S. • Stronger protective measures of the N.H.S. and natural legacy in order to protect Indigenous rights and traditional ways of life • The ability to exercise traditional Aboriginal and Treaty rights on the land is a fundamental requirement
Water Quality & Quantity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of the watershed system including wetlands, aquifers, Georgian Bay, and cold water streams including fish habitat • Concerns over the impact of fish farming to the W.R.S • Concern for the impact of the proposed deep geological repository (D.G.R.)⁵ site in South Bruce on the N.H.S. and W.R.S. • All wetlands, of any size, should be protected from drainage and fill • Tourist access restricted from ecologically significant and sensitive areas • Long-term protection of clean water • Support for the removal of legacy fish barriers such as dams • Discharge of sewage plant effluent only in watercourses that have suitably high flow to minimize impact on migrating fish

⁵ A used nuclear fuel storage site. As of January 2020, the project was not approved and alternate solutions are being explored.



Theme	Summary of Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetlands are critical to maintaining water quality, flood and erosion control, maintaining fish and wildlife populations and support species at risk populations • Naturally-vegetated valleylands are important for maintaining water quality • From a municipality perspective, wetlands are important for water quality and stormwater management
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern for development negatively impacting clean drinking water sources, and degrading or destroying rare and sensitive intact ecosystems • Long term protection of the N.H.S. to combat increasing development pressures • Balance between private land rights and development and the protection of the N.H.S. • Concern over increased development pressure and active development without proper infrastructure in place • Support for increasing housing and development in urban centers/settlement footprints instead of urban sprawl • The need of specific requirements for development in terms of submissions and plans. Requirements should account for climate change mitigation (i.e., high winds, flooding) • Lack of enforcement for the destruction of wetlands and sensitive shoreline areas due to development • Desire to protect features while avoiding or minimizing restrictions to development opportunities
Stewardship & Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support and financial incentives for voluntary enhancement projects on private property • Concern of environmental policy setbacks changing landowner rights and freedom • Balance between private land rights and stewardship is needed • Opportunity for enhancement through Alternative Land Use Services (A.L.U.S.) grants and National Farmers Union (N.F.U.s) • Enhancement to better protect and strengthen the N.H.S. / W.R.S. • Need for shoreline and riparian enhancement / restoration • Enhancement areas provide an opportunity to reverse biodiversity and ecosystem health declines



Theme	Summary of Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for seeking out enhancement opportunities to protect the N.H.S.
Linkages & Fragmentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over linkages becoming degraded and lost from the landscape, especially wooded areas near beaches • Opportunity to create and maintain linkages on farmland through A.L.U.S. and similar programs • County-scale linkages should aim to be robust • Concern over the impact of roads on the movement of wildlife, especially turtles and reptiles, and the need to develop strategies, planning, and mitigation • Connectivity will become increasingly important as a result of climate change • Consideration for flexibility to accommodate development and avoid penalizing landowner visions for site-scale linkages • Request for information of the impacts/consequences of not having linkages on the landscape to better illustrate the need of inclusion in the N.H.S.
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of preserving the lands and waters for future generations including farmlands • Tile drain farm fields should be required to hold drained water on property in a retention pond • Cattle should be restricted from general access to watercourses • Farmers have long been stewards of the land • Climate mitigation through farming practices that retain / build healthy soils • Opportunities to support small family farms through enhancement incentive programs such as A.L.U.S. including riparian restoration • Concern of losing prime farmland to housing development pressure
Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progressive policies and actions are needed to protect the N.H.S., increase climate resilience, and enhance habitat for increased biodiversity • The need for climate change resiliency incentives and programs to support action on the community level • Climate change mitigation and planning is tied to stronger N.H.S. regulations and policies • Requirements for development plans should account for climate change mitigation (i.e., high winds, flooding)



Theme	Summary of Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change action and protecting the environment should be a top priority • The importance of coastal wetlands to climate change mitigation • Support for a robust W.R.S. to protect water quality, mitigate flood control, protect ecosystem health and services, climate change mitigation, and protect shorelines which support biodiversity.
Recreation, hunting, & Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for finding a balance for protection of the N.H.S. and recreational activities • Tourism vital for the economy, however tourist access should be restricted from ecologically significant and sensitive areas • Consideration for the negative impact of visitors on the N.H.S. • Planning and monitoring needed for the increasing number of visitors and the lack of infrastructure • Opportunity to provide hunting and harvesting of game, and sport fishing in northern Bruce Peninsula.
Policy & Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should not include any provisions that are already addressed by Provincial or Conservation Authority mandates • Tree-cutting by-laws should be strengthened to stop the cutting and removal of fence lines • Remove all planned development (P.D.) in P.P.S. areas⁶ • Enforce P.P.S. and O.P. compliance • State in the O.P. that no residential, commercial, or industrial development will be allowed in P.P.S. designated or O.P. designated Natural zones or equivalent designated lands • Lack of enforcement for permitting system and bylaws

⁶ Inferred to relate to Planned Development Zoning in Rural Recreational Areas of Northern Bruce County where Provincially Significant Features also occur.



Theme	Summary of Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan should address the issue of co-ordination between several organizations that own and manage conservation land • Policy needed for flood hazards and shoreline protection • Policy protection of both regionally and provincially significant A.N.S.I.'s to maintain existing levels of significant habitat and biodiversity
Evaluations & Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of environmental assessment to determine impacts of the deep geological repository (D.G.R.)⁷ • Lack of data and studies on wildlife corridors
Survey Format & Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More illustrations to better understand the report and the proposed options • Clearer and more plain language for definitions, information, and policies • Make the survey saveable and printable
Trust & Hidden Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that the survey was not only for residents • Response survey bias • Concern about hidden agenda to revoke property owner rights • Lack of trust for what is best for the residents

⁷ Inferred to be related to ongoing process to assess locations for storage of Canada's Used Nuclear Fuel.