



# Official Plan Update: Housekeeping Amendments on Environmental and Resources Policies

Virtual Webinar

March 27, 2025

# Land Acknowledgement

We are gathering on lands that have been home to First Nations Peoples from time immemorial. We acknowledge that what we now call Richmond Hill is on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Mississauga and Chippewa Nations of the Williams Treaties. We also recognize that we are on part of the traditional territories of the Haudenosaunee and the Huron Wendat.

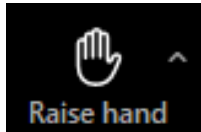
We would also like to acknowledge all First Nation, Inuit and Métis peoples from across North America, also known as Turtle Island, who now reside in the City of Richmond Hill. We are committed to rebuilding constructive and cooperative relationships.

# Agenda

1. Progress of Official Plan Update
2. Purpose & Overview of Housekeeping Amendments
3. Proposed Amendments
4. Upcoming Engagement Events
5. Next Steps
6. Questions and Discussion

# How to Participate

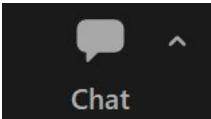
If you are joining by desktop or mobile Zoom app, a **toolbar with these buttons appears at the bottom of your screen.**



Click **Raise Hand** to ask a question verbally. 'Lower Hand' when your hand is raised, and you are in the queue.

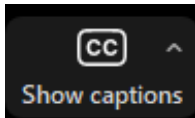
**All attendees are muted, attendees with their hand raised will be placed in a queue to be unmuted by the facilitator.**

---



Click or tap the **Chat** button to open the window and submit a written question or comment.

---



Click the **Show Captions** button to display automated closed captions.

---

## How to Participate by Telephone

Call-in participants can raise their hand and unmute or mute themselves with these keys.



**\*9**  
**Raise/  
Lower  
Hand**

**Raise your hand**, press **\*9** on your phone's keypad. Press **\*9** to **lower your hand**.

**Note:** You may hear an audio prompt if the host lowers your hand on your behalf.

---

**\*6**  
**Unmute/  
Mute**

To **unmute** press **\*6** on your phone's keypad. Press **\*6** again to **mute** when you are done speaking.

**Note:** You may hear an audio prompt if the host mutes you on your behalf.

# Progress of Official Plan Update

## **Completed:**

- OPA 18.3 Vision and City Structure
- OPA 18.4 Neighbourhoods
- OPA 18.5, OPA 18.6, OPA 18.7, and OPA 18.8:  
Local Centres and Key Development Area

## **Work Underway:**

- Protected Major Transit Station Area
- Regional Mixed-Use Corridor Analysis
- Employment Area policies
- Housekeeping/Technical amendment

Tonight's Webinar

# Poll Question #1

How have you been involved with the City of Richmond Hill's Official Plan Update?



# Overview of Housekeeping Policies

## Purpose

- Provincial and Regional Conformity
- Updates to policies needed to address changes since 2010
- Changes are mostly technical and housekeeping in nature
- Updates also improve implementation of the Official Plan

Housekeeping Policy Matters	
Climate Change	Affordable Housing
Natural Heritage System	Cultural Heritage Resources
Water Resources	Archaeological Resources
Prime Agricultural Areas	Community Uses
Mineral Aggregates	Transportation
Wildland Fire	Indigenous Engagement
Excess Soil Management	Monitoring & Targets
Other general technical updates	



# Climate Change

- Address climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and target a net-zero emission level by 2050
- Bolster policies that protect air quality





# Sustainable Design

- Promote alternative energy system and generation, where appropriate
- Promote sustainably designed buildings
- Incorporate dark sky compliant standards and bird-friendly design in new or re-development



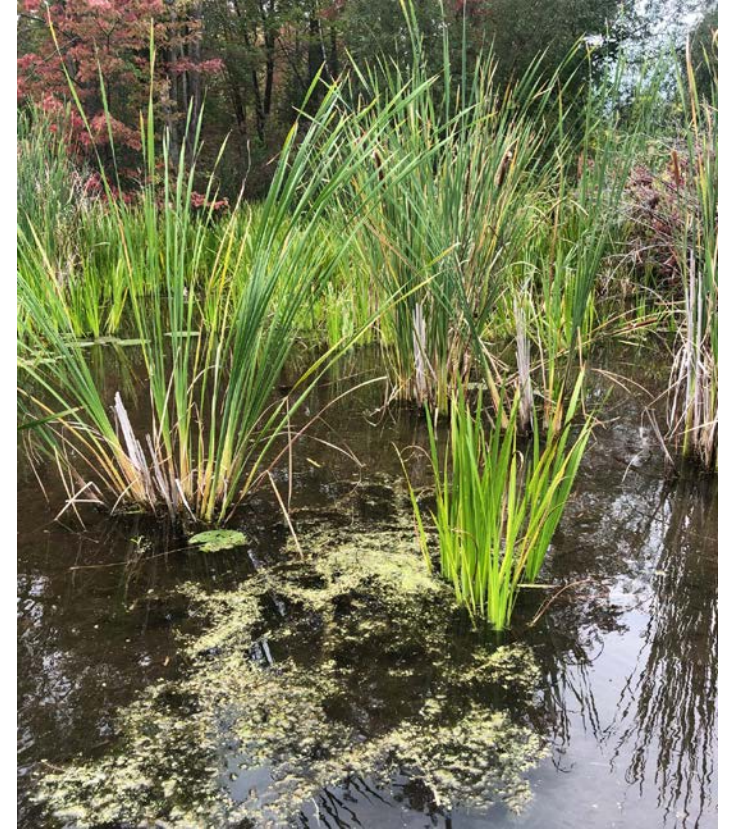
# Poll Question #2

What sustainable principles should the Official Plan incorporate?



# Natural Heritage System

- Continue to protect for key natural heritage features and key hydrologic features
- Conform with updates to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Greenbelt Plan
- Introduce “urban river valley” to conform with the Greenbelt Plan



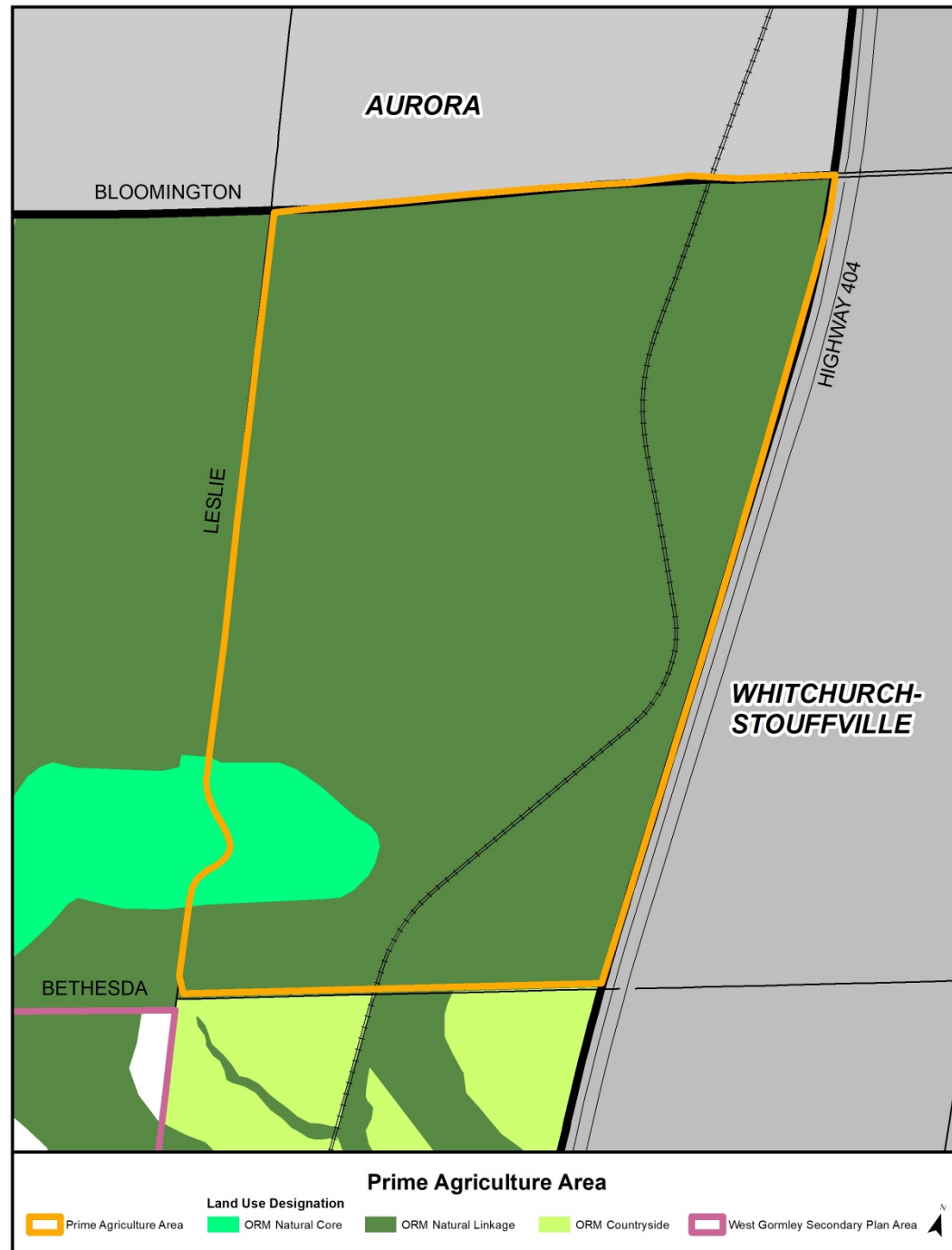
# Water Resources



- Continue to manage and protect water resources at a watershed scale
- Introduce “key hydrologic areas” to conform with the Greenbelt Plan
- Protect “vulnerable areas” to safeguard drinking water sources and conform with the Credit Valley – Toronto and Region – Central Lake Ontario (CTC) Source Protection Plan



# Prime Agricultural Area



# Prime Agricultural Area

- Introduce agricultural system, which comprises of a productive land base and the agri-food network
- Support local food production and local economy
- Identify “prime agricultural area”
- Permit agricultural uses, agriculture-related uses, and on-farm diversified uses
- Support urban agriculture



Source: York Region Agriculture and Agri-food Sector Strategy, 2024

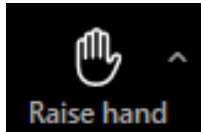
# Questions & Comments





# How to Participate

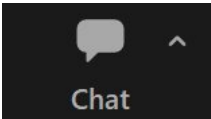
If you are joining by desktop or mobile Zoom app, a **toolbar with these buttons appears at the bottom of your screen.**



Click **Raise Hand** to ask a question verbally. 'Lower Hand' when your hand is raised, and you are in the queue.

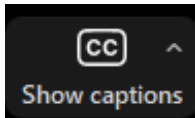
**All attendees are muted, attendees with their hand raised will be placed in a queue to be unmuted by the facilitator.**

---



Click or tap the **Chat** button to open the window and submit a written question or comment.

---



Click the **Show Captions** button to display automated closed captions.

---

## How to Participate by Telephone

Call-in participants can raise their hand and unmute or mute themselves with these keys.



**\*9**  
**Raise/  
Lower  
Hand**

**Raise your hand**, press **\*9** on your phone's keypad. Press **\*9** to **lower your hand**.

**Note:** You may hear an audio prompt if the host lowers your hand on your behalf.

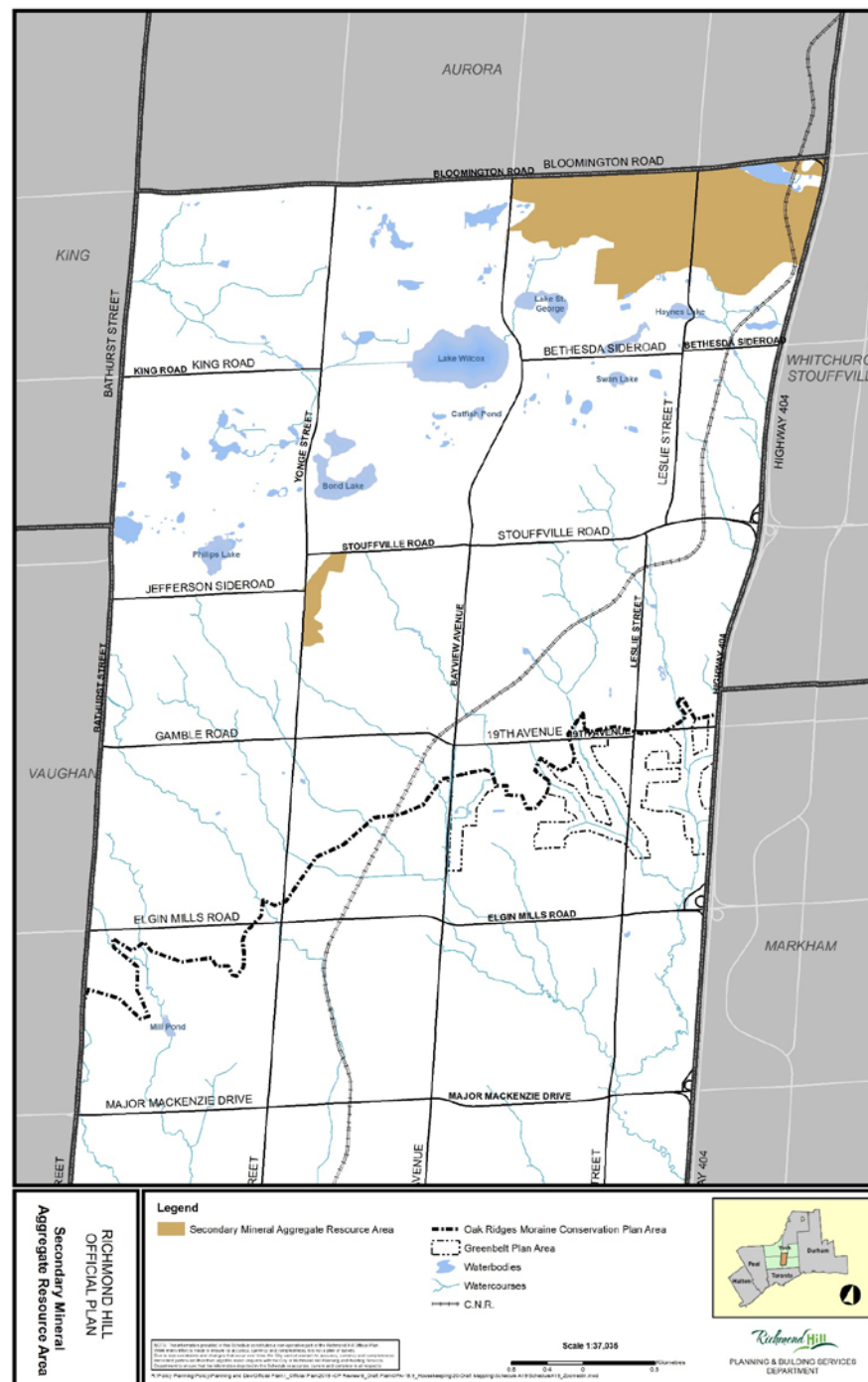
---

**\*6**  
**Unmute/  
Mute**

To **unmute** press **\*6** on your phone's keypad. Press **\*6** again to **mute** when you are done speaking.

**Note:** You may hear an audio prompt if the host mutes you on your behalf.

# Mineral Aggregate Resources



# Mineral Aggregate Resources



- Identify secondary significant resource areas comprising of sand and gravel in the Official Plan
- Protect mineral aggregate resources area for future extraction
- Require extraction to conform with environmental policies of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and other provincial legislation
- Require rehabilitation of pits and quarries comply with the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and other provincial legislation

# Wildland Fire

- Direct development away from areas with extreme or high risk of wildland fire
- Where development is to occur in extreme or high risk areas, it must provide for mitigation measures to reduce the risk of wildland fire



# Excess Soil Management

- Excess soil is soil that has been excavated and cannot be reused at the site where excavation occurred
- Reusing excess soil reduces soil being brought to landfills
- Development should apply best management practices in excess soil management in accordance with provincial regulation

# Upcoming Engagement Events

Date	Event
April 22	Virtual Meeting #2 Employment Areas and Other Housekeeping Topics (Housing, Community Uses, Cultural Heritage Resources, Transportation, etc.)
April	Indigenous Engagement
May 28	In-person Public Information Centre Protected Major Transit Station Areas and Regional Mixed-Use Corridor
June 12	Virtual Meeting #3 Protected Major Transit Station Areas and Regional Mixed-Use Corridor

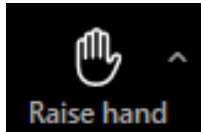
# Questions & Comments





# How to Participate

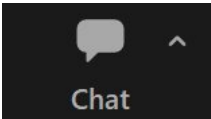
If you are joining by desktop or mobile Zoom app, a **toolbar with these buttons appears at the bottom of your screen.**



Click **Raise Hand** to ask a question verbally. 'Lower Hand' when your hand is raised, and you are in the queue.

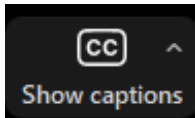
**All attendees are muted, attendees with their hand raised will be placed in a queue to be unmuted by the facilitator.**

---



Click or tap the **Chat** button to open the window and submit a written question or comment.

---



Click the **Show Captions** button to display automated closed captions.

---

## How to Participate by Telephone

Call-in participants can raise their hand and unmute or mute themselves with these keys.



**\*9**  
**Raise/  
Lower  
Hand**

**Raise your hand**, press **\*9** on your phone's keypad. Press **\*9** to **lower your hand**.

**Note:** You may hear an audio prompt if the host lowers your hand on your behalf.

---

**\*6**  
**Unmute/  
Mute**

To **unmute** press **\*6** on your phone's keypad. Press **\*6** again to **mute** when you are done speaking.

**Note:** You may hear an audio prompt if the host mutes you on your behalf.

# Next Steps

- Complete engagement events by end of June 2025
- Draft Official Plan Amendment released for public commenting in late 2025
- Council Public Meeting and Statutory Public Open House in early 2026
- Council adoption by mid-year 2026

# Contact Information



For more information about the Official Plan Update, and to register for future engagement events, please visit [Richmondhill.ca/OPUpdate](https://Richmondhill.ca/OPUpdate)



Or please contact [opupdate@richmondhill.ca](mailto:opupdate@richmondhill.ca)