Headwater Streams Workshop – May 2009
Percentage of Watersheds Within ORM and NEC
Percentage of Watersheds Within Greenbelt Area
ORMCP – Unique requirements

- Watershed plans
- Water budgets and conservation plans
- Landform conservation areas
- Areas of high aquifer vulnerability
- Well-head protection plans
- No rapid infiltration basins for stormwater
### Policy Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greenbelt and ORMCP Similarities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural and Hydrologic Features</td>
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<tr>
<td>(no development or site alteration)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permanent and intermittent streams; wetlands, seeps and springs (ORMCP includes kettle lakes)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Significant woodlands and valleylands</td>
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<td>Minimum Vegetation Protection Zones (30m minimum)</td>
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<td>Minimum Area of Influence (natural heritage/hydrologic evaluation required if within 120m of feature)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development applications (requirement for natural heritage or hydrological evaluation)</td>
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<td>Performance standards for development</td>
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<td>Technical Papers</td>
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Stream cells with Significant Discharge

Stream cells showing >1.5 liters per second Discharge ("Significant")
Landscape Level

- Major Components
  - Oak Ridges Moraine
  - Niagara Escarpment
  - Protected Countryside
• Cores
• Linkages
• River valley corridors
• Natural heritage and hydrologic features
Cores

• Sixteen Natural Core areas
  – High concentrations of natural heritage features and functions
    • at least 50 per cent of their land areas covered by
      – natural features such as woodlands, wetlands, streams, valleys and/or
      – public lands.
  – Minimum core area sizes
    • 500 hectares in areas south of the Oak Ridges Moraine, east of the Niagara Escarpment and in the Niagara Peninsula; and
    • 1000 hectares in areas north of the Oak Ridges Moraine and west of the Niagara Escarpment.
Linkages

- Linkages
  - connect natural core areas inside and outside of the Greenbelt Plan
  - allow the movement of plants and animals between the cores and to natural cores located outside the Golden Horseshoe area
  - widths vary, and have no set minimum
  - Located to include natural features as “stepping stones” between cores.
River Valley Corridors

- River valley corridors flowing
  - south from the Oak Ridges Moraine
  - north and east from the Niagara Escarpment
  - provide linkages between the Greenbelt and Lake Ontario, and protect wildlife habitats along shorelines.

- Valley corridors, where appropriate, link to the valley corridors identified in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan.
River Valley Corridors - Widths

• Wide enough to protect
  - water and riverbank habitats in the valley, as well as
  - the linkage function of providing for the free movement of plants and animals.

• Defined as:
  - 60 metres from both sides of a stream where no defined valley exists;
  - the entire valley where a well-defined valley exists, plus an additional 60 metre setback from top of the valley wall; and
  - natural features, such as a woodland or wetland, within these setbacks plus an appropriate setback from the feature.

• Wider river valley corridors for significant streams:
  - the Little Rouge Creek through Markham, the Markham East/Rouge River/West Duffins Creek, and the East Branch of Sixteen Mile Creek, Humber River, Credit River, Bronte Creek
Water and Watersheds

- Important water resource areas
  - Eg. the Iroquois Shoreline
- Tops of the watersheds draining into Lake Ontario not already included in NEC, ORM
  - Examples
    - Credit River
    - Bronte Creek
    - Sixteen Mile Creek