

# Provincial Policy Statement 2014 Implications for MNHS2

MNHS Steering Committee

March 26, 2014

# PPS 2014 Overview

- Issued under Section 3 of the [Planning Act](#).
- It is effective April 30, 2014 (no transition policies). Applies to planning decisions made on or after that date.
- Replaces the [Provincial Policy Statement, 2005](#).
- Link:  
<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page10679.aspx>

# PPS 2014 – Big Picture

- References to climate change
- Consultation with aboriginal communities
- Emphasis on the diversity of the province
- Policies for “Rural Areas in Municipalities”
- Promote green infrastructure to complement infrastructure

From Definition Section:

**Green infrastructure:** means natural and human-made elements that provide ecological and hydrological functions and processes. *Green infrastructure* can include components such as natural heritage features and systems, parklands, stormwater management systems, street trees, urban forests, natural channels, permeable surfaces, and green roofs.

# MNHS2 Implications

## Part IV: Vision for Ontario's Land Use Planning System

Ontario's rich cultural diversity is one of its distinctive and defining features. The Provincial Policy Statement reflects Ontario's diversity, which includes the histories and cultures of Aboriginal peoples, and is based on good land use planning principles that apply in communities across Ontario. The Province recognizes the importance of consulting with Aboriginal communities on planning matters that may affect their rights and interests.

The Provincial Policy Statement focuses growth and development within urban and rural settlement areas and away from significant or sensitive resources and areas which may pose a risk to public health and safety, while supporting the viability of rural areas. It recognizes that the wise management of development land use change may involve directing, promoting or sustaining growth development. Land use must be carefully managed to accommodate appropriate development to meet the full range of current and future needs, while achieving efficient development patterns and avoiding significant or sensitive resources and areas which may pose a risk to public health and safety.

# MNHS2 Implications

## 1.1.1 Healthy, liveable and safe communities are sustained by:

- a) promoting efficient development and land use patterns which sustain the financial well-being of the Province and municipalities over the long term;
- b) accommodating an appropriate range and mix of residential, (including second units, affordable housing and housing for older persons), employment (including industrial, and commercial ~~and~~), institutional ~~uses~~), (including places of worship, cemeteries and long-term care homes), recreational, park and open space, and other uses to meet long-term needs;
- c) avoiding development and land use patterns which may cause environmental or public health and safety concerns;
- d) avoiding development and land use patterns that would prevent the efficient expansion of *settlement areas* in those areas which are adjacent or close to *settlement areas*;
- e) promoting cost-effective development patterns and standards to minimize land consumption and servicing costs;
- f) improving accessibility for persons with disabilities and ~~the elderly~~ older persons by ~~removing and/or~~ identifying, preventing and removing land use barriers which restrict their full participation in society; ~~and~~
- g) ensuring that necessary *infrastructure*, electricity generation facilities and transmission and distribution systems, and *public service facilities* are or will be available to meet current and projected needs; and
- h) promoting development and land use patterns that conserve biodiversity and consider the impacts of a changing climate.



# MNHS2 Implications

## 1.1.3 Settlement Areas

1.1.3.8 A planning authority may identify a *settlement area* or allow the expansion of a *settlement area* boundary only at the time of a *comprehensive review* and only where it has been demonstrated that:

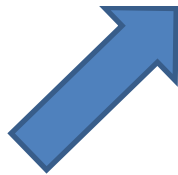
- a) sufficient opportunities for growth are not available through *intensification*, *redevelopment* and *designated growth areas* to accommodate the projected needs over the identified planning horizon;
- b) the *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* which are planned or available are suitable for the development over the long term, are financially viable over their life cycle, and protect public health and safety and the natural environment;



# MNHS2 Implications

## 1.1.4 Rural Areas in Municipalities

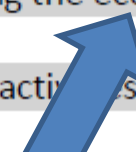
Rural areas are important to the economic success of the Province and our quality of life. Rural areas are a system of lands that may include rural settlement areas, rural lands, prime agricultural areas, natural heritage features and areas, and other resource areas. Rural areas and urban areas are interdependent in terms of markets, resources and amenities. It is important to leverage rural assets and amenities and protect the environment as a foundation for a sustainable economy.



# MNHS2 Implications

## 1.1.4 Rural Areas in Municipalities

1.1.4.1 Healthy, integrated and viable *rural areas* should be supported by:

- a) building upon rural character, and leveraging rural amenities and assets;
  - b) promoting regeneration, including the redevelopment of *brownfield sites*;
  - c) accommodating an appropriate range and mix of housing in rural *settlement areas*;
  - d) encouraging the conservation and *redevelopment* of existing rural housing stock on *rural lands*;
  - e) using rural *infrastructure* and *public service facilities* efficiently;
  - f) promoting diversification of the economic base and employment opportunities through goods and services, including value-added products and the sustainable management or use of resources;
  - g) providing opportunities for sustainable and diversified tourism, including leveraging historical, cultural, and natural assets;
  - h) conserving biodiversity and considering the ecological benefits provided by nature; and
  - i) providing opportunities for economic activities in *prime agricultural areas*, in accordance with policy 2.3.
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# MNHS2 Implications

## 1.2 Coordination

1.2.2 Planning authorities are encouraged to coordinate planning matters with Aboriginal communities.

## 1.6 Infrastructure and Public Facilities

1.6.2 Planning authorities should promote *green infrastructure* to complement *infrastructure*.

# MNHS2 Implications

## 2.0 Wise Use and Management of Resources

Ontario's long-term prosperity, environmental health, and social well-being depend on conserving biodiversity, protecting the health of the Great Lakes, and protecting natural heritage, water, agricultural, mineral and cultural heritage and archaeological resources for their economic, environmental and social benefits.

# MNHS2 Implications

## 2.1 Natural Heritage

2.1.3 *Natural heritage systems* shall be identified in Ecoregions 6E & 7E<sup>1</sup>, recognizing that *natural heritage systems* will vary in size and form in *settlement areas*, *rural areas*, and *prime agricultural areas*.

**Natural heritage system:** means a system made up of *natural heritage features and areas*, ~~linked by~~ and linkages intended to provide connectivity (at the regional or site level) and support natural processes ~~natural corridors~~ which are necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species, and ecosystems. These systems can include *natural heritage features and areas*, federal and provincial parks and conservation reserves, other *natural heritage features*, lands that have been restored or have ~~and areas with~~ the potential to be restored to a natural state, areas that support hydrologic functions, and working landscapes that enable ecological functions to continue. The Province has a recommended approach for identifying *natural heritage systems*, but municipal approaches that achieve or exceed the same objective may also be used.

From Definition Section:

# MNHS2 Implications

## 2.2 Water

2.2.1 Planning authorities shall protect, improve or restore the *quality and quantity of water* by:

- a) using the *watershed* as the ecologically meaningful scale for integrated and long-term planning, which can be a foundation for considering cumulative impacts of development;
- b) minimizing potential *negative impacts*, including cross-jurisdictional and cross-*watershed* impacts;
- c) identifying *surface water features*, water resource systems consisting of *ground water features, hydrologic functions, and natural heritage features and areas*, and *surface water features* including shoreline areas, which are necessary for the ecological and hydrological integrity of the *watershed*;
- d) maintaining linkages and related functions among *surface water features, ground water features, hydrologic functions, and natural heritage features and areas*, and *surface water features* including shoreline areas;
- e) implementing necessary restrictions on *development* and *site alteration* to:
  1. protect all municipal drinking water supplies and *designated vulnerable areas*; and
  2. protect, improve or restore *vulnerable* surface and ground water, *sensitive surface water features* and *sensitive ground water features*, and their *hydrologic functions*;



# MNHS2 Implications

## 3.1 Natural Hazards

3.1.8 *Development shall generally be directed to areas outside of lands that are unsafe for development due to the presence of hazardous forest types for wildland fire.*

*Development may however be permitted in lands with hazardous forest types for wildland fire where the risk is mitigated in accordance with wildland fire assessment and mitigation standards.*

From Definition Section:

**Hazardous forest types for wildland fire:** means forest types assessed as being associated with the risk of high to extreme wildland fire using risk assessment tools established by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, as amended from time to time.

\* It is unlikely that this would be applicable in Middlesex County but we should touch base with MNR

# MNHS2 Implications

## 4.0 Implementation and Interpretation

- 4.1 This Provincial Policy Statement applies to all ~~applications, matters or proceedings commenced on or after March 1, 2005.~~ decisions in respect of the exercise of any authority that affects a planning matter made on or after April 30, 2014.
- 4.7 The official plan is the most important vehicle for implementation of this Provincial Policy Statement. Comprehensive, integrated and long-term planning is best achieved through official plans.
- ~~Municipal~~ Official plans shall identify provincial interests and set out appropriate land use designations and policies. To determine the significance of some natural heritage features and other resources, evaluation may be required. ~~Municipal~~

# MNHS2 Implications

## 6.0 Definitions

### Significant means:

- b) in regard to *woodlands*, an area which is ecologically important in terms of features such as species composition, age of trees and stand history; functionally important due to its contribution to the broader landscape because of its location, size or due to the amount of forest cover in the planning area; or economically important due to site quality, species composition, or past management history. These are to be identified using criteria established by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources;
- c) in regard to other features and areas in policy 2.1, ecologically important in terms of features, functions, representation or amount, and contributing to the quality and diversity of an identifiable geographic area or *natural heritage system*;

Criteria for determining significance for the resources identified in sections (c)-(e) ~~(e)-(g)~~ are recommended by the Province, but municipal approaches that achieve or exceed the same objective may also be used.

# MNHS2 Implications

## 6.0 Definitions

**Woodlands:** means treed areas that provide environmental and economic benefits to both the private landowner and the general public, such as erosion prevention, hydrological and nutrient cycling, provision of clean air and the long-term storage of carbon, provision of wildlife habitat, outdoor recreational opportunities, and the sustainable harvest of a wide range of woodland products. *Woodlands* include treed areas, woodlots or forested areas and vary in their level of significance at the local, regional and provincial levels. *Woodlands* may be delineated according to the *Forestry Act* definition or the Province's Ecological Land Classification system definition for "forest."



# PPS 2014 and MNHS2

## Questions and Discussion