

Greenbelt

Master Plan Review 2013

Strategic
Environmental
Assessment

Prepared for the
National Capital Commission

By SENES Consultants Limited
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Executive Summary

This Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in support of the 2013 Greenbelt Master Plan development has been completed concurrent to the Master Plan review process. The Plan directions have been refined as a result of the analysis completed through this SEA analysis. Analysis of developing strategic directions and policies has helped to strengthen the final Plan version through consideration to achieve positive environmental effects, reduction of potential negative environmental effects, management of cumulative and residual effects and integration of directions from more strategic level documents such as the NCC's Environmental Strategy.

Overall, the anticipated environmental effects that will result through implementation of the proposed Greenbelt Master Plan components will be significant and positive for the Greenbelt and for Canada's Capital Region. The updated Master Plan places the Natural Environment as the primary role within the Greenbelt and the full suite of proposed plan directions substantively supports the protection and enhancement of the Natural Environment. This Master Plan, and the recent and developing strategic plans that cover Canada's Capital Region all rely upon increased partnership efforts to better integrate the planning and delivery of land and resource initiatives within the Capital. With the common recognition of collaboration as a necessity, the Greenbelt Master Plan should contribute significantly to a healthy and sustainable Capital natural environment.

The potential for negative environmental effects from implementation of the updated Greenbelt Master Plan does not arise from the proposed plan components themselves but in the way that the policies aim to accommodate human activities. The mitigation for preventing negative environmental effects is built into the full suite of Greenbelt policies. As a result, the expectation is that the Master Plan components working together will accomplish an overall positive environmental effect. This effect will be long term and should also be cumulative in its positive nature and scope when combined with the environmental effects that result from partner implementation of the other strategic plans for Canada's Capital Region.

1.0 Introduction

The first comprehensive Greenbelt Master Plan (GMP) was completed in 1996. As part of its planning process that requires regular reviews of strategic and master plans, the National Capital Commission (NCC) conducted a review of the Greenbelt Master Plan between 2008 and 2013. The review was undertaken to bring the Plan up to date while clarifying issues, addressing concerns and refining the Greenbelt's direction for the next ten years. This updated Master Plan has been directed by higher level Corporate and Capital plans and strategies including the NCC's 1999 *Plan for Canada's Capital* (under review in 2012), the Environmental Strategy (2010) and the Sustainability and Resilience Plan for Canada's Capital (2010).

The NCC conducts strategic environmental assessments (SEA) of all its plans as part of ensuring comprehensive environmental consideration throughout individual plan processes. The framework for SEAs is provided by the federal government *Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plans and Program Proposals*, updated by the Privy Council Office and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency in 2010 to align with the federal government's commitment to sustainable development. The SEA is a systematic, iterative assessment built into the planning process. Its purpose is to identify the scope and nature of likely environmental effects that will result from the plan's implementation, using this information to enhance the positive impacts and mitigate or eliminate the identified negative effects. Environmental considerations are part of the analysis of each of the plan direction and policy options with the final decisions on plan directions to be based on the SEA results. Stakeholders and the public are important contributors to this assessment process. The SEA process and its assessment results of the potential environmental effects of government plan components are documented in a publicly available report. This document represents this process documentation for the Strategic Environmental Assessment conducted for the 2012 Greenbelt Master Plan.

Assessment of the developing Greenbelt Master Plan (2102) through the SEA process has assisted the NCC and its stakeholders in:

- Optimizing positive environmental effects;
- Minimizing or mitigating negative environmental effects of the Plan proposals;
- Considering potential cumulative environmental effects;
- Implementing the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy (FSDS);
- Achieving cost-effectiveness by identifying potential liabilities from environmental clean-up or other unforeseen concerns;
- Streamlining some project level environmental assessment by addressing them at the plan stage;
- Promoting public accountability and credibility; and
- Contributing to broader governmental policy commitments and obligations.

2.0 Strategic Environmental Assessment Methodology

2.1 Reference Databases

The Greenbelt Master Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment is based on the NCC and Canadian government legislative and administrative instruments currently in force, including the following:

- Environmental legislation and policies;
- Environmental planning policies and documents prepared by the NCC;
- The various conventions and strategies initiated or adhered to by Canada.

Specifically, this SEA has been prepared in compliance with The *Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals* (Privy Council Office and Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency, 2010). *The Plan for Canada's Capital* (1999) and preliminary directions from its review that is underway in 2012, the Sustainability and Resilience Plan for Canada's Capital Region (2012) and the NCC's Environmental Strategy (2009) also provide strategic orientations and guidelines to structure the environmental planning of the Capital's natural heritage areas and overall assets.

2.2 Regulatory Framework

SEA is an important tool that allows decision makers to systematically assess the positive and negative environmental effects of a proposed policy, plan, or program. When integrated early on in the planning process, SEA can act as an early warning tool to ensure that plans and approaches are adjusted to give environmental components full consideration well before decisions are made. A commitment to sustainable development requires that environmental issues be considered along with social and economic ones. A SEA is an important part of this integrated decision making because it generates information about environmental effects of the project that can be used when policies, plans, and programs are developed.

The Government of Canada uses SEA as its main tool to integrate environmental considerations into new policies, plans, and programs. The Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals (updated in 2010) requires all federal departments and agencies to assess the environmental impact of proposals. Although the NCC is not mandated to follow this directive, the organization has committed to conduct SEAs for its plans as part of its planning practice.

2.3 SEA Methodology

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) differs from an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in that an SEA is an environmental assessment that is undertaken to address the environmental effects of plans, programs, and policies, (e.g. strategic plans, master plans) while an EIA is an environmental assessment that is undertaken to address the environmental effects of specific projects (i.e. widening a roadway, developing a wind farm). SEA's serve to lay the foundation for any future projects requiring environmental assessments that may be required under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act. Consequently, some of the more detailed, site specific directions of the GMP identified in the sector plans and related implementation strategies will be addressed through another environmental assessment process.

An SEA is intended to address potential environmental effects at a relatively conceptual level, in contrast to an EIA for projects which identifies specific environmental effects. The key to an effective SEA is to think broadly when the analysis is undertaken, and identify potential outcomes of the plan or project, whether these outcomes were intended as part of the proposal.

The SEA conducted for the Updated Greenbelt Master Plan followed the process of:

Step 1: Conduct Preliminary Scan

1. Identify direct and indirect outcomes of all plan proposals; the plan proposals consist of the individual strategic direction and policy statements within the Greenbelt Master Plan;
2. Assess whether the outcomes of each proposed plan statement is likely to have an important effect or change on the environment, either positive or negative; Environment is defined as all components of the earth, including land, water and air, all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms and the interacting natural systems.
3. Evaluate whether the outcomes of each proposed plan statement contribute to achievement of:
 - a. the *Federal Sustainable Development Strategy* goals and targets,
 - b. the *NCC Environmental Strategy* objectives within key action areas and
 - c. the strategies of *A Plan for Sustainability and Resilience in Canada's Capital Region*.

The above analysis conducted under the Preliminary Scan also considered whether the proposals:

4. Are likely to affect the number, location, type and characteristics of initiatives that would be subject to project-level environmental assessment under the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act;
5. Involve a new process, technology or delivery arrangement with important environmental implications; and
6. Whether the scale or timing of proposals could result in significant interactions with the environment.

Step 2: Further Analysis Identified Important Environmental Effects

For proposed plan statements with outcomes that will result in important positive or negative environmental effects, further analysis was conducted to define those effects in terms of:

1. ***Scope and nature of potential effects:*** Build upon the preliminary scan to describe the scope and nature of the interactions of the plan outcomes with the environment and to describe how the outcomes could affect the goals and targets of the FSDS;
2. ***Need for mitigation or opportunities for enhancement:*** Identify whether the adverse environmental effects can be reduced or eliminated through mitigation and whether positive environmental effects can be enhanced;
3. ***Scope and nature of residual effects:*** Describe any residual effects to the environment, after application of mitigation and enhancement measures;
4. ***Follow-Up:*** Identify appropriate follow-up measures to monitor the environmental effects and impacts upon the FSDS goals and targets of the proposed plan statements;
5. ***Public and stakeholder concerns:*** Identify any public and/or stakeholder concerns regarding the potential environmental effects. These have been assessed at four different stages of the review process. The final testing of stakeholder and public reaction to the proposed plan

statements occurred in the fourth and final stage of the plan review process in the winter of 2013.

Assessment of the potential environmental effects at this step included consideration of:

- **Frequency and duration** – one time occurrence, short or long-term effect;
- **Location and magnitude** – the anticipated scale of the effect; occurrence of effect at a local, regional, national or international level;
- **Timing** – occurrence of effect at a time that is sensitive for a particular environmental feature;
- **Risk** –level of risk associated with the effect, for example exposure of humans, flora or fauna to contaminants, or high potential for an accident;
- **Irreversibility** – the likelihood of the effect being irreversible;
- **Cumulative** –the likelihood of the effect combining with other regional effects in a way that could threaten a particular environmental component.

Step 3: Documentation of the SEA

The process and results of the analyses conducted under the Preliminary Scan and SEA process are documented in this report. This SEA report will be provided to interested individuals and groups through the NCC website pages for the Greenbelt Master Plan. A summary of the SEA will also comprise part of the submission to NCC senior management and the Board of Directors for plan consideration and approval.

3.0 Scope of the Assessment

Scoping sets the limits of the SEA and directs it towards the main environmental concerns, including the stress factors, issues, and fundamental values at stake. It is used to establish an assessment framework tailored to the Plan's potential consequences.

3.1 Environmental Issues

Concerns due to internal factors affecting the Greenbelt

- Increase in extent and intensity of recreational activities
- Increase of intense recreational activities (i.e. sportsfields)
- Natural area fragmentation from urban development (roads, power transmission lines, private properties and developments)
- Absence or degradation of buffer zones around streams and of links between core natural areas due to agriculture or urban development
- Use and alteration of riparian environments
- Addition of nutrients and disposal of wastewater into aquatic ecosystems
- Degradation of high quality soils
- Degradation of viewsheds
- Degradation of archaeological resources
- Degradation of wetlands
- Negative impact upon native species diversity and ecosystem health within regenerating and existing natural areas due to invasive species

Concerns due to factors affecting the Greenbelt at the regional level and beyond

- Ecological isolation of natural areas (lack of connection of core natural areas to others in the Greenbelt and to those outside the Greenbelt)
- Landscape fragmentation
- Increased pressure to introduce recreational facilities and activities
- Harvesting of renewable resources and development within upstream areas of watersheds outside of the Greenbelt
- Growth of urban development and transportation corridors
- Air pollutants and acid rain
- Climate change

Based on these concerns, broader impacts from the surrounding urban development upon the Greenbelt could include:

- The risk of the Greenbelt becoming an isolated island of natural and rural lands with an increasingly fragmented regional environment, whereby the natural and rural habitats could quickly become disconnected from those outside the Greenbelt as suburban development expands to the south, west and east and urban densification is magnified to the north;
- The gradual shrinking of residual land-based and aquatic habitats of the Greenbelt's natural populations within the lands adjacent to the Greenbelt, and this is likely to affect both the distribution and survival of certain species;

- The likely change in behaviour of wildlife due to the above noted disturbances and there is the potential for wildlife-human conflicts as the human population continues to grow and intensify, and
- The potential loss of the current biodiversity of the Greenbelt.

Environmental issues are a major concern for the future of the Greenbelt. As the City of Ottawa's urban area continues to increase in density and in size, the urban pressures exerted on all aspects of the Greenbelt will have an increasingly profound effect. The Greenbelt must be able to ensure the sustainability of its natural and agricultural resources and approach the aspects of integrity and conservation in a manner that maintains their intrinsic and extrinsic value. The environmental challenges facing the Greenbelt are:

- To maintain the natural functions of the Greenbelt's ecosystems and ecological values despite pressures from adjacent urban development, existing, expanded and new transportation infrastructure, alterations to surrounding land, and internal Greenbelt pressures created by recreation, built facilities and the rural community;
- To establish and maintain a balance between Natural Environment and the other Greenbelt roles;
- To blend the Greenbelt's ecological needs with those of neighbouring areas in order to mitigate the impacts of external pressures on the ecosystems, help to protect the Greenbelt's biodiversity, and ensure its sustainability;
- To limit, counter and reduce human stress factors on Natural Environment areas;
- To prevent fragmentation of Natural Environment areas;
- To designate high value ecosystems and habitats within the Greenbelt on NCC-owned lands as conservation lands, in line with the NCC's Corporate Environmental Strategy;
- To restore degraded ecosystems through planting of hedgerows, improving creek and stream buffers, removing debris and managing invasive species;
- To establish a "no net loss" of natural environment lands policy;
- To enhance the role of the Greenbelt in Capital climate change mitigation and ensure adaptation to climate change effects of the Greenbelt's ecosystems;
- To work with partners in the maintenance of pre-development water regimes which are threatened by development outside of the Greenbelt and on non-NCC lands.

3.2 Geographical and Temporal Limits

The SEA covers an area comprising the Greenbelt and areas beyond having an ecological influence on the Greenbelt. The geographic limit for the SEA broadly includes the area within Canada's Capital Region which predominantly consists of the existing Greenbelt and the adjacent lands beyond the Greenbelt limits within subwatersheds that occur within the Greenbelt. The area addressed in this SEA was established in order to take into consideration cumulative impacts and stressors outside the Greenbelt.

The temporal limits for this SEA consider the 55 year timeline of the Greenbelt vision statement and concept, to the year 2067. Incremental advances to the expected plan outcomes are expected over the next 10 years which serves as the life of the updated plan, however, the full delivery of the plan directions and outcomes is not expected until 2067.

4.0 Comparative Assessment of the Three Concept Options

Three concept plans were developed for consideration for planning of Greenbelt management over the next ten years to meet the 2067 vision for Canada's Capital Greenbelt.

Concept 1 involved strengthening the Natural Environment role within the existing Greenbelt boundaries.

Concept 2 included all changes proposed in Concept 1, but saw the addition of approximately 2400 hectares of new predominantly Natural Environment lands to the Greenbelt and the removal of Greenbelt designation from a number of "non-conforming" land-uses that occur on five separate Greenbelt land parcels.

Concept 3 saw the same interior strengthening of the Natural Environment and land additions as Concepts 1 and 2. Rather than removing the land uses which did not fit with the Greenbelt vision and roles, this concept proposed that four land parcels of the Greenbelt be removed and leased or sold for non-Greenbelt land uses.

All three concept options emphasized Greenbelt connectivity of the regional ecosystem network whereby the Greenbelt lands would connect along ecological corridors to significant natural features beyond the Greenbelt boundaries. This aspect of the concepts recognized the need for protection of ecological corridors without seeing outright purchases of corridors by the NCC.

This stage of the SEA involved a comparative assessment of the three concept options with regard to their degree of contribution to meeting the identified Greenbelt Strategic Statements. This analysis contributed to the selection process for the concept elements that were most viable in terms of sustainability and responded best to the issues facing the Greenbelt both now and in the future.

Appendix 1 presents a table that summarizes the results of the respective contributions expected from the three individual concept options. In the tally of the overall contribution of the concepts in meeting the Plan strategic statements, it was determined that there was not a lot of difference amongst the concept options. Certain elements of each of the concept options were, however, favoured or not favoured by most stakeholder and public members that commented on the concept options. As a result, the final Greenbelt concept became a mix of elements from all three concepts. This final concept is overall stronger than any of the three options considered in its ability to achieve the directions of the Greenbelt strategic statements/directions.

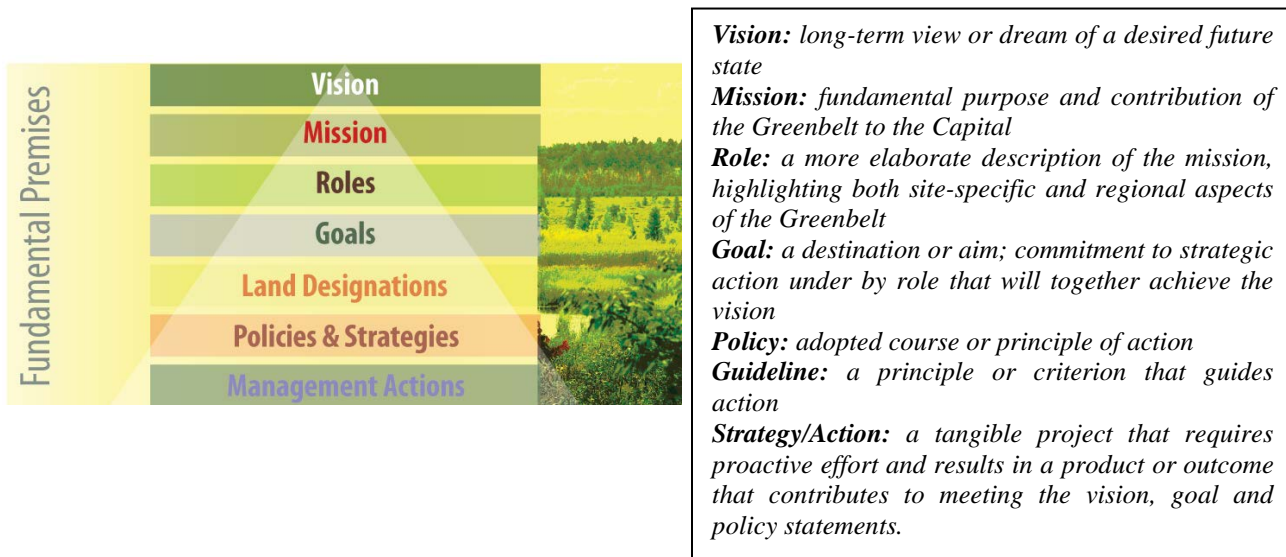
5.0 Preliminary Scan

As described under the assessment methodology in section 2, the preliminary scan involved the three main tasks of:

1. Identification of direct and indirect outcomes of all plan proposals; the plan proposals consist of the individual strategic direction and policy statements within the Greenbelt Master Plan;
2. Assessment of whether the outcomes of each proposed plan statement is likely to have an important effect or change on the environment, either positive or negative; Environment is defined as all components of the earth, including land, water and air, all organic and inorganic matter and living organisms and the interacting natural systems;
3. Evaluation of whether the outcomes of each proposed plan statement contribute to achievement of components of higher level strategic plans, namely:
 - a. the *Federal Sustainable Development Strategy* goals and targets,
 - b. the *NCC Environmental Strategy* objectives within key action areas and
 - c. the strategies of *A Plan for Sustainability and Resilience in Canada's Capital Region*.

The Greenbelt Master Plan has a hierarchy of strategic directions or statements to guide management and decisions for this national asset over the next 10 years, with the accomplishments or outcomes intended to extend over the next 55 years to meet the 2067 Greenbelt vision. The hierarchy of statements is visually presented in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Hierarchy of Strategic Statements



The statements assessed through the SEA process include the vision, mission, fundamental principle, role, goal and policy statements. Appendix 2 provides a table list of the likely outcomes for each of these statements. In determining the expected plan proposal outcomes, consideration was given to their potential interaction with existing environmental stresses and cumulative effects that may occur in combination with other plans, policies, programs and projects. For the most part, as discussed further below, the Greenbelt Master Plan outcomes provide for positive environmental benefits and contributions to higher level plans that guide management of lands and operations within Canada's Capital.

The range of likely outcomes from the proposed plan components are predominantly focused upon expanding the area, improving the health and increasing the biodiversity and overall resilience of the Greenbelt's natural systems and to some degree, those of the Capital Region. This is a very positive direction and appropriate that the majority of plan statements are oriented towards a healthier natural environment given that of the four main roles of the Greenbelt, Natural Environment is given first priority in the hierarchy along with the essence of the 2067 Greenbelt vision that is to achieve a "greener" Greenbelt. In addition to the fact that the majority of proposed plan statements aim to strengthen the natural environment of the Greenbelt and the Capital, all of the proposed plan directions are also expected to work together in a synergistic manner, with an anticipated greater overall positive environmental outcome.

Collaborative partnership effort is another main grouping of outcomes from the proposed plan directions. Many statements speak to the NCC and its partners working together to accomplish a strengthened Greenbelt environment in the management of the various human activities and limited development (federal and non-federal facilities, transportation, infrastructure, agriculture and recreation) that will occur within the Greenbelt over time. Existing business at the federal, non-federal, agricultural and recreational level will continue within the Greenbelt, with direction to have these operations enhance their contribution to Greenbelt Natural Environment, Sustainable Agriculture and Capital Experiences and Recreation.

Long-term protection of the main assets of the Greenbelt is another identified plan outcome. This includes protection of natural features and systems, cultural heritage, recreational opportunities, agricultural resources and the existing built structures. As well, a combination of partnership efforts and enhanced promotional directions that elevate people's exposure to the Greenbelt, enhance the experiences and provide for more visitor education and awareness will see a long-term outcome of a Greenbelt that is better known, understood and appreciated.

5.1 Important Environmental Effects of Greenbelt Master Plan Components

A conceptual analysis of the likely environmental effects that would result from the plan component outcomes evaluated the likely effects to all aspects of the environment. This included a determination of the likely environmental effect of each plan statement upon the biological, physical and cultural and socio-economic components of the environment. Appendix 2 presents the detailed tally of this assessment of whether each plan statement would result in a positive, neutral or negligible or negative effect upon the environmental component.

As noted above, the majority of plan directions result in a positive environmental effect. In a number of cases, the policy direction results in a neutral effect on many aspects of the cultural/socio-economic environmental components and on some individual components within the biological and physical environment. The main potential for negative environmental effects is observed in those policy directions which allow for or accommodate the potential for federal and non-federal facility expansion, regional transportation and infrastructure development and phase-out/demolition of Greenbelt residences and facilities. These items are discussed further in section 6.0.

5.2 Contribution of Greenbelt Master Plan Components to Capital Strategic Plans

The identified plan components were then evaluated as to whether their outcomes would contribute to the directions and targets of three higher level strategic plans for Canada’s Capital. Each of these plans/strategies is very much environmentally focussed in their directions, as presented below in Table 1. As a result, the Greenbelt Master Plan components as a whole contribute significantly to the majority of the directions in each of these plans. A matrix to present the complete results of this assessment is provided in Appendix 3. The contribution of Greenbelt Master Plan components to the individual directions of the three strategic plans was characterized as major, moderate or minor positive contribution, and neutral or negative.

Table 1: Environmental plans and strategies from three strategic plans guiding the objectives of the Greenbelt Master Plan development; the NCC *Environmental Strategy, A Plan for Sustainability and Resilience in Canada’s Capital* and the *Federal Sustainable Development Strategy*.

NCC Environmental Strategy	A Plan for Sustainability and Resilience in Canada’s Capital	Federal Sustainable Development Strategy
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reduce Waste going to landfill from all business 2. Enhance Biodiversity through Capital as conservation model 3. Prevent Pollution to protect Human & Environmental Health 4. Lead on Environmental Practices in NCC business 5. Combat Climate Change 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage Growth and Development 2. Encourage Sustainable Mobility 3. Encourage High Performance Buildings 4. Protect and Restore Green and Natural Systems 5. Protect Water and Manage Infrastructure 6. Nurture Culture and Identity 7. Support Social Development 8. Build a Sustainable Economy 9. Manage Materials and Solid Waste 10. Support Local Food and Agriculture 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Climate Change: Reduce GHG emission levels 2. Minimize Air Quality threats so air is clean to breathe and supports healthy ecosystems 3. Protect & enhance water quality – safe & secure for all, supports healthy ecosystems 4. Enhance information on water availability for sustainable use 5. Wildlife Conservation maintain or restore populations to healthy levels 6. Ecosystem /Habitat Conservation & Protection - maintain productive & resilient ecosystems 7. Sustainable production & consumption of Biological Resources within ecosystem limits 8. Green Government Operations – minimize environmental footprint

It is worth noting some of the assumptions that were made in the assignment of the degree of Greenbelt Master Plan contributions to other higher level strategic plans:

1. The Plan for Canada’s Capital that is under review will integrate the directions of the Greenbelt Master Plan, NCC Environmental Strategy and Capital Sustainability and Resilience Plan;
2. The list of projects envisioned to occur within the Greenbelt that will be subject to environmental assessment such as facility expansions, will follow the Master Plan policies and prepare a specific project-level EA;
3. Environmental leadership will be practiced at all federal sites, according to the FSDS, and be demonstrated and promoted to assist the NCC in providing environmental leadership to non-federal facilities, stakeholders, neighbours and visitors of the Greenbelt;
4. The directions from the Greenbelt Master Plan and the environmental leadership and directions for a sustainable and resilient Capital will be integrated into the updated City of Ottawa Official Plan, under review in 2013.

The assessment of how the Greenbelt Master Plan statements contribute to the directions of the three higher level plans in place within the Capital is also largely positive. The proposed Master Plan statements collectively contribute in some way to all of the directions of the three Capital strategic plans. Due to the fact that these three plans are mainly focused on a healthy and sustainable Capital and sustainable development within federal facilities, the contribution of the Greenbelt Master Plan components to these directions is similar to that of the assessment of likely environmental effects. The Master Plan contributes in a significant and positive way to all of the strategic plan directions related to ecosystem health and environmental stewardship and leadership. There are also indirect contributions to assisting with quality of life within the Capital and contribution to a sustainable economy through the Greenbelt directions for agriculture and research and demonstration of sustainable and environmental best practices.

The potential for negative effects upon strategic plan directions derives from a similar source to those for potential negative environmental effects, namely development of facilities, transportation or infrastructure. In the case of impact upon the Capital strategic plans, the potential for negative effects occurs mainly to the ecosystem and greening government related goals and targets of the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy. These are discussed further in section 6.0.

6.0 Detailed Analysis of Important Environmental Effects of the 2013 Plan

This section summarizes the results of the detailed strategic environmental assessment of the main findings from the Preliminary Scan of how the proposed Greenbelt Master Plan components are expected to impact upon the environment and upon the achievement of directions of Capital strategic plans.

1. Positive Effects to the Greenbelt and Capital Natural Environment

As described in the preliminary scan, the majority of Greenbelt Master Plan directions contribute positively and significantly to achieving a healthier and stronger natural environment within the Greenbelt with long term potential for a better connected Capital Ecosystem Network. Specifically, the statements for the vision, mission, many of the fundamental premises and the role, goal and policy statements for natural environment accomplish these anticipated positive environmental effects. Further positive environmental effects are expected from the execution of some of the policies under all the other sections of the Greenbelt Master Plan, including Sustainable Agriculture, Facilities (Federal and Non-Federal), Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure, Cultural Heritage, Capital Experiences and Recreation and Visual Resources. This closer review of the Greenbelt policies reveals that the various directions reinforce the positive environmental outcomes with many synergistic effects. For example, an increase in natural vegetative cover proposed through policies for land addition, stream buffers, ecological corridor establishment and enhancement of visual landscapes will lead to other improvements from the environmental effect such as for biodiversity, water quality, soil health, ecosystem connectivity, air quality, noise mitigation, greenspace and overall quality of life within the Capital. Other policies that contribute to enhancing natural environment effects include participating with outside authorities to develop and implement management and recovery plans for rare, threatened and endangered and invasive species, joint ecological restoration and enhancement efforts towards biodiversity and healthy water resources, mitigation of risks within and upstream of Greenbelt valley lands, and controlling road density and achieving optimum habitat size for the protection of landform character with the hydrological regime.

Although it is acknowledged that the full suite of policy directions in the Master Plan will take some time (i.e. much of the 54 year long term view of the Greenbelt vision and concept) it is expected that the implementation of all of these policies will accomplish a significant, positive and long-term environmental effect for the Greenbelt and the Capital's natural environment. It is also hoped that these positive environmental effects of the Greenbelt Master Plan will be cumulative with the actions and outcomes that will occur through implementation of other Capital strategic plans such as those reviewed through the Preliminary Scan and the under-review NCC Plan for Canada's Capital.

2. Sustainable Agriculture

The Master Plan sets a long-term aim to achieve viable and sustainable agriculture on the farmsteads and agricultural research facilities within the Greenbelt. Environmental stewardship and implementation of best management practices forms part of the policy directions for Greenbelt agriculture. As with achievement of natural environment policies, attaining sustainable agriculture will also take longer than the 10 year life of this Master Plan. In the shorter term interim while progress continues towards the envisioned sustainable agriculture that is in harmony with natural features and processes, there continues to be the potential for negative environmental effects from agricultural activities upon some aspects of the biological and physical environment, such as introduction of

contaminants or nutrients to surface water, interference with wildlife connectivity and impact upon the health of flora and fauna. These potential negative effects, however, are expected to decrease in occurrence and extent over time, with a future state whereby the contributions of agriculture to the surrounding environment are either neutral or positive. In the short-term, there are additional Plan policies that support sustainable agriculture and which will mitigate the potential environmental effects of agriculture. These include encouraging best management practices to conserve soil and water resources, promoting biodiversity while ensuring farm productivity, allowing natural forces to predominate in contribution to sustainable agriculture, promoting crop diversity and shelter belts contributing to natural systems, and supporting the maintenance and establishment of farms that are economically, environmentally and socially viable.

Positive cumulative effects are also expected through the delivery of Greenbelt sustainable agriculture. These would include the research and demonstration of best management practices upon Greenbelt farms that would be promoted through the diversity of local food products that will be provided for the Capital and as case studies for farms within and beyond the Greenbelt. Promotion of local food is also a component of the Capital's Sustainability and Resilience Plan and part of the Greening Government Operations goal within the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy.

3. Greenbelt Promotion, Capital Experiences and Recreation

Some of the Master Plan policies within these theme areas aim to promote and reinforce the importance of a healthy natural environment and to raise awareness of the best management practices in place amongst the various Greenbelt facilities and opportunities for recreation. The promotion of positive environmental effects and the importance of natural systems and participatory environmental stewardship by all will also contribute to overall positive environmental effects. Policies developing Greenbelt environmental stewardship and Capital experiences include education, demonstration and promotion of environmental best management practices in all facilities, activities and land uses within the Greenbelt, developing partnerships with outside authorities to provide and promote low-impact recreational activities and experiences as well as prohibiting activities and events that increase the existing human activities footprint. The effects of these policies contributing to positive environmental effects will be progressive over a long period of time with the impact expected to be long-lasting.

Leadership and promotion of environmental stewardship are also important aspects of all three Capital strategic plans - the NCC's Environmental Strategy, the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy and the Capital Sustainability and Resilience Plan. The overall positive environmental effects from environmental leadership and promotion should therefore also be cumulative.

4. Federal and Non-Federal Facilities

Expansion of existing Greenbelt facilities is one of the two main areas for potential negative environmental effects that could arise from implementation of the Master Plan policies. These effects could occur upon a range of environmental components – biological, physical, cultural or socio-economic – as a result of construction of built structures to support facility operations. A project specific environmental assessment would more specifically scope the potential impact of any future proposed development on the federally owned lands of the Greenbelt. This process to identify, mitigate and remove the potential for negative environmental effects of the proposed project, along with implementation of the full suite of proposed Greenbelt policies related to facility development and environmental protection is expected to mitigate the potential for negative environmental effects.

Policies that aid in environmental protection in association with facility development include: limiting facilities and operation areas to the existing built area footprint and prohibiting new facilities on new sites, requiring that facility uses do not impact negatively upon Greenbelt roles but complement the neighbouring Greenbelt land functions and character, requirement of a Federal Facility Master Plan prior to expansion or development with plan components giving consideration to facility integration with the Greenbelt, encouraging environmental stewardship and best management practices in facility design and management, and exploration of opportunities for voluntary facility phase-out and site re-naturalization.

There may be short-term impacts during the project construction for those facility expansion projects that do proceed over time. Example potential environmental effects include air quality, noise, water quality, vegetation or soil disturbance. The long term impact should be neutral to positive through implementation of the Greenbelt Master Plan policies and appropriate site-specific mitigation measures identified through the project environmental assessment.

The directions of the three Capital strategic plans also help to reinforce and result in a neutral and possible positive cumulative environmental effect as part of facility development through the directions for renewable energy, LEED certification, zero waste generation and demonstration of model biodiversity.

Due to the fact the Greenbelt lands are part of several subwatersheds which extend beyond the Greenbelt boundaries, there is significant potential for negative environmental effects upon the Greenbelt from land uses outside its boundaries. The types of environmental effects that could occur from adjacent urban development include degraded water quality, changes to water quantity flows to Greenbelt lands, decreased air quality and introduction of invasive species. All of these effects could in turn impact upon Greenbelt habitat, biodiversity, flora, fauna and the overall health of terrestrial and aquatic systems. The potential for these effects will be reduced through implementation of the Master Plan policies for coordinated partnership efforts, NCC participation in a comprehensive approach to integrated planning for the Capital and infrastructure policies that require low impact design for stormwater management, stream restoration and avoidance of downstream effects. The success in reducing and eliminating the potential for these environmental effects from adjacent urban development will require monitoring and follow-up to modify land use practices beyond the Greenbelt.

5. Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure

Development of transportation infrastructure within and adjacent to the Greenbelt is identified as a main contributor to potential negative environmental effects. The Master Plan policies aim to maintain the focus upon a healthy natural environment as a first priority for the Greenbelt, however, the potential remains for environmental effects such as fragmentation, reduced vegetation and biodiversity, water quality, noise, air quality and loss of habitat from existing, expanded and new transportation infrastructure. Other types of regional infrastructure development (energy transmission, water mains, sewer mains, communication towers and stormwater management facilities) also have the potential to negatively impact upon environmental components. Generally, these effects tend to be long-term in nature and have the potential for significant local and broader geographic impact.

Policies supporting the sustainable development of transportation and infrastructure dictate the application of context sensitive design best practices to projects that conserve Greenbelt natural and

visual resources incorporating ecological principles, and mitigation measures to existing and new infrastructure projects through on-site or off-site restoration including for fragmentation.

The proposed plan policies aim to limit the amount of new transportation and infrastructure development that would occur within the Greenbelt as well as reverse some of the negative effects from existing facilities and appropriately mitigate the potential effects of future transportation and infrastructure development. It is not possible to predict whether these policies will accomplish the desired neutral and ideally positive long term effects upon the Greenbelt environment. Monitoring, research and adaptive management to help implement successful mitigation measures, particularly for transportation, will be important to achieve the desired outcome of reduced effects for existing infrastructure and neutral to net gain effects to natural environment for future transportation projects.

As part of the Master Plan review process, the NCC and the City of Ottawa completed a joint study to assess the cumulative effects of existing and proposed transportation projects. The purpose of this study was to determine the level of potential environmental effects that would occur from a set of future transportation infrastructure projects together with existing transportation infrastructure that occurs within, crosses or impacts upon Greenbelt lands. The study assessed each project on the level of cumulative negative effect that would result upon a defined landscape unit. With this analysis, the 30 proposed future transportation projects were categorized according to the degree of cumulative effect they would cause and how the projects would be managed. Some projects will require special conditions prior to their implementation while others were deemed to be not acceptable to proceed as proposed. The assessment framework developed through this study will be applied by the NCC and the City in consideration of future transportation projects.

Positive cumulative effects should be experienced over time with combined application of Greenbelt policies and the continued Capital Region efforts towards comprehensive integrated planning, such as the 2012 Sustainability and Resilience Plan.

6.1 Other Policy Options Considered

As part of the development of the Greenbelt strategic direction and policy statements evaluated through this SEA, the review team has considered other policy options to achieve the Greenbelt vision, roles and goals. These alternatives included:

- **Limit on all facility expansion:** Consideration was given to restrict any future facility expansion within the Greenbelt. The unintended result of this action was expected to include the potential for facilities to no longer be maintained properly or force them to locate elsewhere and hence result in greater environmental impact. The proposed policy aims to balance the need for ongoing responsible management with future upgrades to be conducted in an environmentally responsible manner within a built area footprint that is maintained to the existing built footprint area for all facilities.
- **Allow more development within the Greenbelt lands:** The pressure of a growing and urbanizing Capital that now significantly extends outside the Greenbelt boundaries led to consideration of the potential for limited development within the Greenbelt. This development could have included removal of Greenbelt lands for urban development or establishment of new recreation, commercial, municipal or federal facilities. Reasons for discarding this

consideration included the concern that any land development could lead to increased pressure and future loss of Greenbelt area. The resulting policy proposals to maintain all existing lands as Greenbelt, limit facility expansion to current built footprints and to add new natural environment lands will work towards increasing and strengthening the overall health and resilience of the Greenbelt as a whole.

- **Expansion of stream riparian areas:** Consideration was given to increase the width of naturalized vegetative buffer areas along Greenbelt stream corridors and to have this naturalization occur more quickly than described under the natural link policies. The current proposed policy directions take a phased approach that is believed to be practical to implement through leasing agreements and through working with federal partners. The longer term policy outcomes will achieve healthier and better functioning water courses and natural links.

6.2 Residual Effects

There is potential for residual effects to occur through implementation of the policies that permit facility expansion, infrastructure establishment or expansion and transportation infrastructure. These are expected to be mitigated through the implementation of supporting policies that focus on implementation of sustainable and best practices. In addition, the no net loss policy for the Greenbelt natural environment requires compensation of equivalent natural features and functions when negative impacts from development cannot be avoided.

The following table presents the summary of policy areas for which there is potential for residual effects and specifies how these should be addressed as part of Plan implementation. Overall, there should not be any residual effects that result from implementation of the full suite of Greenbelt Master Plan directions and policies.

Table 6.1: Management of Potential Residual Effects from Greenbelt Master Plan Directions

Policy	Potential Residual Effect	Mitigation	Final Residual Effect
1. Core Natural Area and Natural Link Policies	Potential loss of land area available for farming and requirement for change in farm practices	Changes are phased in over time, as leases are renewed, with education and support provided to farmers	Change in practices will ultimately see positive effects for natural environment and for farm productivity/viability
2. Agriculture	Limited natural link function and potential impacts upon biodiversity, water quality	Landscape and farm practices changes will be phased in over time through sustainable agriculture strategy	Change in farm practices to sustainable agriculture will ultimately see positive effects over time for natural environment
3. Facility expansion, facility operation	Potential loss of natural areas, vegetation, impacts to water quality/quantity, air quality	Requirement for phased in adoption of best management practices; specific mitigation developed through project EA	Potential for no effect
4. Allowance of specified transportation projects and infrastructure	Natural areas loss, fragmentation; water and air quality; disruption of recreation and agriculture activities	Limited types of projects allowed; effects to be addressed through project specific EA; requirement for no net loss for Core Natural Areas and compensation for negative effects	Potential exists for neutral effect; final result is dependent upon how projects are planned and implemented

7.0 Public and Stakeholder Feedback

The policy option considerations noted in section 6.1 reflect a balancing of public and stakeholder feedback to the development plan directions and to achieving the commonly agreed upon vision for a greener Greenbelt. It is expected that some limited stakeholder and public concerns remain with regard to the plan policies as the Plan review process nears completion.

Appendix 2 notes the anticipated support (general agreement, neutral or ambivalent, some concerns) by stakeholder and public members with regard to the proposed Master Plan statements. Some feedback has been sought from stakeholders and selected public representatives in the spring of 2012 on the draft plan directions evaluated through this SEA. The feedback received has been integrated, in balance with all feedback received throughout the review and in consideration of the agreed upon Greenbelt strategic directions and knowledge of the Greenbelt existing conditions and Capital planning framework. Final testing of the modified policy statements occurred through the fall of 2012 and winter of 2013 through consultation with stakeholders and the public on the final draft wording of the land designations, Greenbelt policies and sector plan maps and management actions.. A few areas of stakeholder and public concern remain, as highlighted in the table in Appendix 3. These concerns include:

- Allowance of future development of specified transportation infrastructure;
- Less area of natural land additions to the Greenbelt than originally defined;
- Likely limited potential for phase-out of federal and non-federal facilities at the end of their life cycle;
- Restriction of transportation and infrastructure development within the Greenbelt.

In addressing the above concerns, the final Plan policies have been refined to balance achievement of the Greenbelt roles, particularly in respect of natural environment as a primary priority, with public and stakeholder feedback and the anticipated level of future urban growth and facility development demands. The Master Plan directions have respected the wishes of neighbouring landowners and have integrated the requirement to implement developing knowledge in environmental best management practices and management of cumulative effects. Continued public involvement in implementing the Plan's directions over the next 10 years, and in the 54 years until 2067, will help significantly in their successful delivery to achieve positive environmental effects and the 2067 Greenbelt Vision.

8.0 Environmental Monitoring and Feedback Mechanisms

The key monitoring recommended for the Greenbelt Master Plan is to track implementation of the plan and policy directions and to monitor changes to the health of the Greenbelt natural systems. For the latter, a number of existing programs could be augmented through partnership collaboration along with Greenbelt policy implementation, such as:

- Watershed planning by conservation authorities, the City and participation of NCC;
- Water quality monitoring by conservation authorities and the City;
- Ecosystem and habitat research and monitoring by NCC, Conservation Authorities, MNR, City and other groups;
- Invasive species assessment and control by NCC, City, Conservation Authorities, MNR;
- Indicators for the Capital Region's Sustainability and Resilience Plan.

As noted in section 6.0, monitoring and follow-up to adapt mitigation measures will be key to realizing successful positive environmental effects through the implementation of Master Plan policies relating to accommodation of development for sustainable transportation, infrastructure and facility expansion.

9.0 Conclusion

Overall, the anticipated environmental effects that will result through implementation of the proposed Greenbelt Master Plan components will be significant and positive for the Greenbelt and for Canada's Capital Region. The updated Master Plan places the Natural Environment as the primary role within the Greenbelt and the full suite of proposed plan directions substantively supports the protection and enhancement of the Natural Environment. This Master Plan, and the recent and developing strategic plans that cover Canada's Capital Region all rely upon increased partnership efforts to better integrate the planning and delivery of land and resource initiatives within the Capital. This will continue to be a challenge for all partners, however, with the common recognition of collaboration as a necessity, there should be successful achievement of a healthy natural environment, as described in this SEA, in the future.

The potential for negative environmental effects from implementation of the updated Greenbelt Master Plan does not arise from the proposed plan components themselves but in the way that the policies aim to accommodate human activities. The mitigation for preventing negative environmental effects is built into the full suite of Greenbelt policies. As a result, the expectation is that the Master Plan components working together will accomplish an overall positive environmental effect. This effect will be long term and should also be cumulative in its positive nature and scope when combined with the environmental effects that result from partner implementation of the other strategic plans for Canada's Capital Region.

10.0 Resources

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Privy Council Office and the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency. 2010. The Cabinet Directive on the Environmental Assessment of Policy, Plan and Program Proposals. *Guidelines for Implementing the Cabinet Directive*.

Appendix 1: Environmental Assessment of Proposed Concept Options

	1	2	3
Greenbelt Concept Options			
Vision Statement			
<i>The Greenbelt will forever protect natural systems, agriculture and opportunities for outdoor recreation and education that will inspire Canadians and contribute to the sustainability and quality of life in Canada's Capital Region.</i>	2	3	3
Mission Statement			
<i>The Greenbelt contributes to the identity and enhancement of Canada's Capital through its provision of a natural and rural setting, valued ecological and cultural resources, sustainable agriculture, support for selected federal facilities, and a diversity of uses, activities and experiences for Canadians.</i>	2	3	3
Fundamental Premises			
1. <i>The Greenbelt will remain a large, rural green space running in a continuous belt in roughly its present shape and location and it will accommodate natural linkages to regional natural systems and expansion of the Greenbelt area.</i>	2	3	3
2. <i>The Greenbelt will be an environmental showcase for Canada's Capital, balancing favourable ecological, social and economic factors, demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship and facilitating use of environmental best management practices in all activities, facilities and land uses throughout the Greenbelt.</i>	2	2	2
3. <i>The Greenbelt will remain in the public domain</i>	3	2	2
4. <i>The Greenbelt will be an integrated, recognizable and relevant feature in the Capital and for Canadians that:</i> <i>a. Provides a gateway to the Capital;</i> <i>b. Preserves and connects natural ecosystems within and outside the Greenbelt;</i> <i>c. Buffers and connects human activities;</i> <i>d. Promotes sustainable agriculture;</i> <i>e. Protects and promotes cultural resources; and</i> <i>f. Contributes to a healthy environment and to quality of life in Canada's Capital.</i>	2	3	3
5. <i>The Greenbelt will support federal facilities that require space, seclusion and a location within Canada's Capital Region.</i>	2	2	2
6. <i>The Greenbelt will continue to play an important national research role in the Capital.</i>	2	2	2
7. <i>Outreach, education, co-operation and multi-sector partnerships with citizens, organizations and governments are essential to the Greenbelt's success.</i>	3	3	3
8. <i>The Greenbelt will provide various opportunities for public education and promotion about Canada's natural, agricultural and cultural heritage and of the importance of ecosystem and resource conservation.</i>	2	3	3
Roles & Goals			
<i>Natural Environment Role - Protect and enhance natural areas, ecosystems and habitats which are integral to the larger natural environment of Canada's Capital Region as the primary priority, in harmony with Canadians' aspirations for a healthy and resilient environment.</i>	2	3	3
Goal 1: Biodiversity: Protect, restore and maintain high-value ecosystems and natural habitats by encouraging management approaches that consider the broader Greenbelt ecosystem and regional natural areas.	3	3	3
Goal 2: Linkages: Preserve and establish functional connections and corridors between and around buffer zones and significant natural areas within and beyond Greenbelt boundaries.	2	3	3
Goal 3: Water Resources: Protect water resources through ecosystem management to guide land uses, activities and facility design and	2	3	3

Greenbelt Concept Options	1	2	3
operation within the Greenbelt and on lands adjacent to the Greenbelt.			
Goal 4: Land Resources: Protect significant geological, landform and soil features in the Greenbelt.	~	~	~
Goal 5: Vegetation: Sustain and restore the long-term composition, structure, and dynamics of vegetation communities.	3	3	3
<i>Sustainable Agriculture Role - Provide opportunities for sustainable agriculture, providing economic returns now and for future generations without interfering with natural processes and by realizing benefits for Canada's Capital Region.</i>	3	3	3
Goal 1: Greenbelt Agriculture: Encourage modern, diversified, sustainable and viable agriculture, rooted within the legacy of Canada's past.	3	3	3
Goal 2: Support for Farming: Support and partner with Greenbelt farmers to protect farm assets, to implement best management practices and to provide for long-term opportunities in agricultural and food production.	2	2	3
Goal 3: Relevance to the Community: Engage passionate people with the knowledge needed to increase farm diversification, visibility and the contribution of Greenbelt agriculture to local food, and agricultural experiences, resulting in greater relevance for the community.	3	3	3
<i>Capital Experiences and Recreation Role - Offer a rich and diverse array of outdoor activities and Capital experiences that respect and promote the other roles of the Greenbelt.</i>	2	2	3
Goal 1: Recreation: Encourage Canadians to experience the Greenbelt through a variety of low impact recreational activities that ensure protection of the natural environment and are delivered through a Greenbelt-wide system of amenities and programs that optimize internal and partnership resources.	2	2	3
Goal 2: Cultural Resources: Protect and promote the significance and contributions of past and current representations of Canada's rural roots and national institutions to the existence and health of our Greenbelt.	2	2	3
Goal 3: Public Access: Manage public access to the Greenbelt in a way that respects and protects its integrity, provides a variety of recreational experiences and promotes public health, safety and enjoyment.	2	2	3
Goal 4: Interpretation, Education and Research: Enhance visitor understanding of natural, agricultural and federal places and activities and cultural resources in the Greenbelt and their contribution to the Capital Region and Canada.	2	2	3
<i>Facilities Role - Support a range of federal facilities with seclusion requirements; maintain existing community facilities, limiting new facility development to current built areas. Minimize infrastructure intrusions in the Greenbelt.</i>	2	2	2
Goal 1: Federal Facilities: Support environmentally sound built federal facilities of national significance that require space, seclusion and location within the Capital and which align with the other Greenbelt roles; phase out existing federal facilities over time.	2	2	2
Goal 2: Non-Federal Facilities: Encourage existing built facilities to be environmentally sound and to adapt their structure and operations to support the other Greenbelt roles; do not allow new non-federal facilities and phase out existing facilities over time.	2	2	2
Goal 3: Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure: Ensure that environmental best management practices are applied in the design, operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure. Do not permit new infrastructure unless there is demonstration that there are no alternatives outside of the Greenbelt and no net loss will result to ecological or overall Greenbelt integrity.	2	2	2
Total	63	70	76

Contribution of Direction to goals and/or strategic direction of higher-level plan/strategy. Proposed direction has:

- 3: major contribution to goal/strategic direction;
- 2: moderate contribution to goal/strategic direction;
- 1: minor contribution to goal/strategic direction;
- ∅: negligible or neutral contribution to the goal/strategic direction in question.
- : negative contribution or contradictory to the goal / strategic direction

Appendix 2: Analysis of Potential Interactions between Proposed Strategic and Policy Outcomes and Environmental Components

Environmental Components	Biological								Physical				Cultural and Socio-Economic											
	Forested Areas	Vegetative Cover	Wetlands	Biodiversity	Connected Natural Systems	Fauna	Flora	Aquatic Species	Air Quality	Surface Water	Ground Water	Soils	Noise and Odours	Visual Landscape	Local Economy	Human Health /Safety	Quality of Life	Recreation Destinations	Archaeological Resources	Cultural Heritage	Aboriginal Traditional Use	Existing Facility Use	Agriculture	Greenspace
Proposed Plan Components																								
Vision Statement																								
<i>The Greenbelt will forever protect natural systems, agriculture and opportunities for outdoor recreation and education that will inspire Canadians and contribute to the sustainability and quality of life in Canada's Capital Region.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mission Statement																								
<i>The Greenbelt contributes to the identity and enhancement of Canada's Capital through its provision of a natural and rural setting, valued ecological and cultural resources, sustainable agriculture, support for selected federal facilities, and a diversity of uses, activities and experiences for Canadians.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Fundamental Premises																								
1. <i>The Greenbelt will remain a large, rural green space running in a continuous belt in roughly its present shape and location and it will accommodate natural linkages to regional natural systems and expansion of the Greenbelt area.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
2. <i>The Greenbelt will be an environmental showcase for Canada's Capital, balancing favourable ecological, social and economic factors, demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship and facilitating use of environmental best management practices in all activities, facilities and land uses throughout the Greenbelt.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
3. <i>The Greenbelt will remain in the public domain</i>	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
4. <i>The Greenbelt will be an integrated, recognizable and relevant feature in the Capital and for Canadians that:</i> a. <i>Provides a gateway to the Capital;</i> b. <i>Preserves and connects natural ecosystems within and outside the Greenbelt;</i> c. <i>Buffers and connects human activities;</i> d. <i>Promotes sustainable agriculture;</i> e. <i>Protects and promotes cultural resources; and</i> f. <i>Contributes to a healthy environment and to quality of life in Canada's Capital.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
5. <i>The Greenbelt will support federal facilities that require space, seclusion and a location within Canada's Capital Region.</i>	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
6. <i>The Greenbelt will continue to play an important national research role in the Capital.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
7. <i>Outreach, education, co-operation and multi-sector partnerships with citizens, organizations and governments are essential to the Greenbelt's success.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
8. <i>The Greenbelt will provide various opportunities for public education and promotion about Canada's natural, agricultural and cultural heritage and of the importance of ecosystem and resource conservation.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Roles & Goals																								
Natural Environment Role - <i>Protect and enhance natural areas, ecosystems and habitats which are integral to the larger natural environment of Canada's Capital Region as the primary priority, in harmony with Canadians' aspirations for a healthy and resilient environment.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
Goal 1: Biodiversity: <i>Protect, restore and maintain high-value ecosystems and natural habitats by encouraging management approaches that consider the broader Greenbelt ecosystem and regional natural areas.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
Goal 2: Linkages: <i>Preserve and establish functional connections and corridors between and around buffer zones and significant natural areas within and beyond Greenbelt boundaries.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
Goal 3: Water Resources: <i>Protect water resources through ecosystem management to guide land uses, activities and facility design and operation within the Greenbelt and on lands adjacent to the Greenbelt.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
Goal 4: Land Resources: <i>Protect significant geological, landform and soil features in the Greenbelt.</i>	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+

Environmental Components		Biological							Physical				Cultural and Socio-Economic												
Proposed Plan Components		Forested Areas	Vegetative Cover	Wetlands	Biodiversity	Connected Natural Systems	Fauna	Flora	Aquatic Species	Air Quality	Surface Water	Ground Water	Soils	Noise and Odours	Visual Landscape	Local Economy	Human Health /Safety	Quality of Life	Recreation Destinations	Archaeological Resources	Cultural Heritage	Aboriginal Traditional Use	Existing Facility Use	Agriculture	Greenspace
Goal 5: Vegetation: Sustain and restore the long-term composition, structure, and dynamics of vegetation communities.		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	?	?	+	?	+	+
Sustainable Agriculture Role - Provide opportunities for sustainable agriculture, providing economic returns now and for future generations without interfering with natural processes and by realizing benefits for Canada's Capital Region.		?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	+
Goal 1: Greenbelt Agriculture: Encourage modern, diversified, sustainable and viable agriculture, rooted within the legacy of Canada's past.		?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	+
Goal 2: Support for Farming: Support and partner with Greenbelt farmers to protect farm assets, to implement best management practices and to provide for long-term opportunities in agricultural and food production.		?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	+
Goal 3: Relevance to the Community: Engage passionate people with the knowledge needed to increase farm diversification, visibility and the contribution of Greenbelt agriculture to local food, and agricultural experiences, resulting in greater relevance for the community.		?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	+
Capital Experiences and Recreation Role - Offer a rich and diverse array of outdoor activities and Capital experiences that respect and promote the other roles of the Greenbelt.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	+	+
Goal 1: Recreation: Encourage Canadians to experience the Greenbelt through a variety of low impact recreational activities that ensure protection of the natural environment and are delivered through a Greenbelt-wide system of amenities and programs that optimize internal and partnership resources.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
Goal 2: Cultural Resources: Protect and promote the significance and contributions of past and current representations of Canada's rural roots and national institutions to the existence and health of our Greenbelt.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Goal 3: Public Access: Manage public access to the Greenbelt in a way that respects and protects its integrity, provides a variety of recreational experiences and promotes public health, safety and enjoyment.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	+	+	?	?	?	+	?	?
Goal 4: Interpretation, Education and Research: Enhance visitor understanding of natural, agricultural and federal places and activities and cultural resources in the Greenbelt and their contribution to the Capital Region and Canada.		+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Facilities Role - Support a range of federal facilities with seclusion requirements; maintain existing community facilities, limiting new facility development to current built areas. Minimize infrastructure intrusions in the Greenbelt.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?
Goal 1: Federal Facilities: Support environmentally sound built federal facilities of national significance that require space, seclusion and location within the Capital and which align with the other Greenbelt roles; phase out existing federal facilities over time.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?
Goal 2: Non-Federal Facilities: Encourage existing built facilities to be environmentally sound and to adapt their structure and operations to support the other Greenbelt roles; do not allow new non-federal facilities and phase out existing facilities over time.		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	?
Goal 3: Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure: Ensure that environmental best management practices are applied in the design, operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure. Do not permit new infrastructure unless there is demonstration that there are no alternatives outside of the Greenbelt and no net loss will result to ecological or overall Greenbelt integrity.		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	?	-	-	?	?	?	?	?	-	-
Policies																									
Core Natural Areas	5.1.1.1 Manage activities to preserve and enhance biodiversity through the following strategies: a. Prepare a Greenbelt Natural Resource Management Plan. b. Participate with others to develop and implement recovery and management programs for unique, rare, threatened and endangered species and invasive species. c. Conduct scientific studies, regularly monitor indicators and thresholds to ensure the health of natural resources.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	+
	5.1.1.2 Require a net ecological gain for the Greenbelt from project proponents when land use changes or impacts are inevitable within Core Natural Areas	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	+	?	?	?	?	?	+
	5.1.1.3 Restore and enhance terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity in identified impacted and damaged areas,	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	?	?	+	?	?	?	?	-	-	+

Environmental Components		Biological							Physical				Cultural and Socio-Economic												
Proposed Plan Components		Forested Areas	Vegetative Cover	Wetlands	Biodiversity	Connected Natural Systems	Fauna	Flora	Aquatic Species	Air Quality	Surface Water	Ground Water	Soils	Noise and Odours	Visual Landscape	Local Economy	Human Health /Safety	Quality of Life	Recreation Destinations	Archaeological Resources	Cultural Heritage	Aboriginal Traditional Use	Existing Facility Use	Agriculture	Greenspace
	with focus upon: a. Improving key habitats for target species; b. Advancing the natural succession of plantation forests; and c. Curtailing the spread of invasive species through development and implementation of species-specific management protocols for those species that present the greatest threat and giving priority to effective control methods.																								
	5.1.1.4 Protect the landform and landscape character together with the hydrological regime of CNAs, through measures such as controlling road density and achieving optimum habitat size.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	+
	5.1.1.5 Apply preventive management practices, notably regarding potential negative impacts from human activities	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	-	-	+
	5.1.1.6 Continue to engage stakeholders in activities and processes that will enhance biodiversity and help all Canadians appreciate the Greenbelt (stakeholders include visitors, Greenbelt landowners, tenants, facility managers, the City of Ottawa, conservation authorities, academic institutions, and conservation and community groups).	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Natural Links	5.1.2.1 Actively manage <i>Natural Links</i> to convert existing land uses to a natural state to support CNA health and connectivity. Support and encourage stakeholders to maintain and enhance the natural state and function of their <i>Natural Links</i> .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	-	-	+
	5.1.2.2 Maintain or restore riparian areas of naturalized vegetation along watercourses, targeting the most prescriptive version of Ontario or federal standards.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	-	-	+
	5.1.2.3 Establish widths of Greenbelt <i>Natural Links</i> that are at minimum 60 metres initially, working towards a minimum 250 m width over the longer term for target <i>Natural Links</i> .	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	-	-	+
	5.1.2.4 Prevent fragmentation of designated natural links, providing connectivity elsewhere when facility security or structures (such as linear infrastructure) impact upon natural link function.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	-	-	+
	5.1.2.5 Restore fragmented ecosystems by providing for species movement and prohibiting land use changes that interfere with the function and health of natural links.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	-	-	+
	5.1.2.6 Continue to engage stakeholders to achieve the above objectives.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Sustainable Agriculture	5.2.1 Maintain or establish conditions for farms to be more economically, environmentally, and socially viable.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	+	+	+
	5.2.2 Encourage the desired types of farm and agricultural practices: a. Promote farm best management practices to conserve soil and water resources and promote biodiversity while ensuring farm productivity and viability. b. Apply a tenant selection process to identify farm candidates able to deliver sustainable and locally relevant agriculture, with priority given to food production. c. Create new small farm sites using adjoining houses and selected land parcels within the Greenbelt. d. Facilitate value-added activities on Greenbelt farms and establishment of more organic farms and community gardens.	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	+	+	+
	5.2.3 Protect and expand farm assets and built infrastructure: a) Revise farm leases in order to promote long term sustainable farm development. b) Preserve and improve selected heritage farmsteads for modern farm use and permit integration of new farm buildings where a need for an updated facility is identified.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~
	5.2.4 Direct those agricultural activities not requiring high capability soils for food production to locate on lower capability soils.	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	+	+	+
	5.2.5 Enhance visibility of the Greenbelt farm sector and help visitors appreciate the region's farming	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~

Environmental Components		Biological							Physical				Cultural and Socio-Economic													
Proposed Plan Components		Forested Areas	Vegetative Cover	Wetlands	Biodiversity	Connected Natural Systems	Fauna	Flora	Aquatic Species	Air Quality	Surface Water	Ground Water	Soils	Noise and Odours	Visual Landscape	Local Economy	Human Health /Safety	Quality of Life	Recreation Destinations	Archaeological Resources	Cultural Heritage	Aboriginal Traditional Use	Existing Facility Use	Agriculture	Greenspace	
	culture and rural heritage.																									
	5.2.6 Support farm tenants in resolution of conflicts that arise between normal farm operations and neighbouring urban land uses.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	
	5.2.7 Engage Greenbelt farmers and build effective partnerships to achieve the above.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
Federal Facilities	5.3.1.1 Accommodate needs of the existing federal facilities within the designated <i>Federal Facility and Operations</i> areas; allow facility expansion to occur only within the defined <i>Built Area</i> footprint (on the sector plans).	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	
	5.3.1.2 Ensure facility uses that complement adjacent Greenbelt land functions, character, design features and public programming and do not impact negatively upon other Greenbelt roles.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	
	5.3.1.3 Encourage development of a Federal Facility Master Plan for each site to document the existing site facilities and operations, future changes and how the facility is integrated within the Greenbelt.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	
	5.3.1.4 Require a Federal Facility Master Plan prior to any major expansion or redevelopment.	~	-	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	-	-	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~
	5.3.1.5 Maintain appropriate land buffers that restrict public access and uses in selected areas to safeguard from adjacent activities of federal facilities or other agencies.	+	+	~	+	~	+	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	+	~	+
	5.3.1.6 When federal facility custodians determine that their facilities are surplus to the needs of the Government of Canada, explore the opportunity for voluntary facility phase-out and site re-naturalization.	+	+	~	~	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	-	~	+
	5.3.1.7 Encourage federal facilities to apply environmental stewardship and best management practices in facility design and management, such as transportation demand management measures, and modern stormwater management approaches.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	+	+	+
	5.3.1.8 Encourage federal partners to explain their activities, roles and the overall Greenbelt to visitors of their facilities and encourage interpretation and events, and feature commemoration and public art along the public face of Federal Facilities near recreational pathways and along roadways	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	~	~	~	+	~	~
Non-Federal Facilities and Operating Areas	5.3.2.1 Limit non-federal facilities to those currently existing within the Greenbelt and prohibit new facilities on new sites.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	
	5.3.2.2 Permit existing small-scale commercial and community recreational facilities and increase their contribution to other Greenbelt roles.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	+	~	~	
	5.3.2.3 Allow minor expansion of existing non-federal facilities on the condition that the Greenbelt (<i>Natural Environment, Agriculture or Capital Experience & Recreation</i>) roles are not <i>negatively</i> impacted (neutral effect), and/or the minor expansion contributes <i>positively</i> to these Greenbelt roles.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	
	5.3.2.4 Pursue phase-out and site re-naturalization of non-federal facilities when they are determined to be surplus and have reached the end of their life cycle.	+	+	~	~	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	-	~	+
	5.3.2.5 Champion environmental stewardship and best management practices in facility management.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	+	+	+
Capital Experiences and Recreation Network – Capital Arrivals and Visitor Destinations	6.1.1.1 Allow and facilitate a diverse mix of low-impact outdoor activities and experiences that minimize impacts on the natural environment (for example: walking, cycling, cross-country skiing, in-line skating, snow-shoeing, bird watching);	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	+	~	~	
	6.1.1.2 Communicate the importance of the Greenbelt through development of an interpretation strategy and communication initiatives	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	+	+	~	~	~	+	~	~	
	6.1.1.3 Complete the Greenbelt Pathway	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	+	~	~	
	6.1.1.4 Develop a Greenbelt visitor experience and programming strategy	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	+	~	+	
	6.1.1.5 Prohibit activities and events that detract from low-impact activities or increase the existing human activities footprint	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	~	~	~	+	~	~	
	6.1.1.6 Foster partnerships and co-operation with others to provide and promote low-impact recreational activities and experiences	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	+	~	~

Environmental Components		Biological							Physical				Cultural and Socio-Economic												
Proposed Plan Components		Forested Areas	Vegetative Cover	Wetlands	Biodiversity	Connected Natural Systems	Fauna	Flora	Aquatic Species	Air Quality	Surface Water	Ground Water	Soils	Noise and Odours	Visual Landscape	Local Economy	Human Health /Safety	Quality of Life	Recreation Destinations	Archaeological Resources	Cultural Heritage	Aboriginal Traditional Use	Existing Facility Use	Agriculture	Greenspace
	6.1.1.7 Limit existing high-impact recreational activities (e.g. sports fields, golf courses, off-leash dog parks, recreation centre), as identified on the sector plans, to their existing footprint and prohibit new high-impact recreational facilities and activities.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	~	~
Capital Experiences and Recreation Network – Visual Resources and Landscapes	6.1.2.1 Rationalize the Greenbelt trail network so as to provide connections to the Greenbelt Pathway and Capital Pathways, a range of experiences, access to Greenbelt Visitor Destinations and Views and to avoid sensitive natural areas.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	+	~	~
	6.1.2.2 Increase the visual interest of large agricultural fields by planting naturalistic groupings of shrubs and trees along the edges and intersections of roads and through encouragement of farm diversification that will lead to smaller fields and more livestock. See further details as described in the <i>Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (2013)</i> ;	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	+	+	+
	6.1.2.3 Improve the vistas of selected transportation routes, as identified in the sector plans, through use of context-sensitive landscaping.	~	+	~	~	+	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	+
	6.1.2.4 Protect and enhance panoramas identified as medium and high quality (2008 Greenbelt Visual Assessment), as identified on the sector plans. This includes views within and extending beyond Greenbelt boundaries. Consult both 1992 and 2008 Visual Assessment to determine precise land areas and the range of approaches available to improve landscape quality.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	+	~	~	~	~
	6.1.2.5 Strengthen the recreational pathway links to the Capital Pathway Network outside the Greenbelt, such as enhancing trail and transit access from adjacent communities. See Map 6.1 and the Greenbelt Concept Map (3.2) for location of the Greenbelt Pathway and how this system connects to the Capital Pathway Network.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	+	~	~	~	~
	6.1.2.6 Maintain and enhance the visual character of landscape views from roadways, working in partnerships and using a variety of approaches. Employ measures such as strategic roadside tree planting, increased hedgerows, establishment of shelter belts, woodlot and ravine restoration, compensation of tree canopy losses, vegetative screening, minimization of urban lighting, and infrastructure design. Assess each situation on its own merits to determine the most appropriate approach.	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	~	+
	6.1.2.7 Develop guidelines for desired Greenbelt visual, aesthetic and scenic quality and address management of visual character and impacts considering such matters as transportation route views, billboards, lighting and communication towers.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	+	~	~	~	~
	6.1.2.8 Maintain and enhance the edges of the Greenbelt to demonstrate best management practices and to delineate the Greenbelt. Encourage neighbouring owners to emulate such practices. Reinforce a distinct Greenbelt edge through such means as roadside plantings and shielded lighting.	+	+	~	~	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~
Natural Environment – Water Resources	6.2.1.1 a) Protect the aquatic, land, vegetation and forest resources within the Greenbelt through implementation of a watershed-based ecosystem management approach..	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
	6.2.1.1 b) Engage partners in ecosystem restoration efforts, enhancement of biodiversity and maintenance of healthy functioning of aquifer recharge areas, headwaters and waterways.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
	6.2.1.1 c) Identify and prioritize opportunities for regeneration of watercourses to ensure that improvements occur where they are most needed in order to restore degraded water resource areas	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
	6.2.1.1 d) Ensure that interventions in watercourses within the Greenbelt contribute to restoration and enhancement of the watercourse's overall ecological health	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
	6.2.1.1 e) Adopt and implement the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's sediment and erosion control guidelines for projects on federal lands.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
	6.2.1.1 f) Seek to improve the resilience of the Greenbelt's water resources to the effects of climate change	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
	6.2.1.1 g) Partner with others to manage and report on water resource health and to continue to conduct innovative studies on water resources	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~

Environmental Components		Biological							Physical				Cultural and Socio-Economic													
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Natural Environment - Land Resources	6.2.1.2 a) Conserve the natural land base and topography required for fulfillment of the primary and secondary Greenbelt roles.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	
	6.2.1.2 b) Work with partners and stakeholders to reduce and mitigate flooding, geotechnical and fluvial geomorphological risks to Greenbelt ecosystems, properties and unstable valley lands. Consider ecological health, hydrology and stormwater management in an integrated manner.	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	~	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	
	6.2.1.2 c) Prevent establishment of infrastructure, structures, development or site alteration within areas defined as “natural hazard lands” by the NCC and its partners	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	
	6.2.1.2 d) Encourage partners to respect natural hazard restrictions upstream of and adjacent to the Greenbelt..	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	
	6.2.1.2 e) Support the securement of contaminated sites within the Greenbelt..	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	
	6.2.1.2 f) Require that all projects completed within the Greenbelt are conducted in a sustainable manner to maintain the integrity of landforms	~	+	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+
	6.2.1.2 g) Promote knowledge of Greenbelt geology and landforms by identifying and interpreting these features across the Greenbelt	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	+	~	~	~	~	
	6.2.1.2 h) Allow extraction of mineral aggregate or non-renewable resources within the Greenbelt only within the Existing Built Area footprint limits of Federal and Non-Federal Facility Operations Areas	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	
Natural Environment - Vegetation and Forests	6.2.1.3 a) Provide for the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity on all Greenbelt lands.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	+	
	6.2.1.3 b) Provide for long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of local and regional environments, avoiding slow growth, potential insect infestations and damage from wind and ice storms.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	~	~	+	
	6.2.1.3 c) Through selective harvesting and thinning, promote mixed wood native stands and enhance biodiversity within a set period of time in Pine Grove and Pinhey Forests and in Stony Swamp	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	+	
	6.2.1.3 d) Through management of selected plantation areas, provide examples of pre-settlement heritage pine stands in Pine Grove and Pinhey Forests	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	~	~	+	
	6.2.1.3 e) Use best management practices to maintain a representative range of vegetation communities across the Greenbelt	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	+	
	6.2.1.3 f) Allow natural forces to predominate in forests, harvesting trees when needed to enhance biodiversity, forest health and to contribute to sustainable agriculture.	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	~	+	~	~	~	+	
	6.2.1.3 g) Implement species at risk, invasive species and disease management programs.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	~	+	+	
	6.2.1.3 h) Promote sustainable agriculture, particularly in the encouragement of crop diversity, hedgerow, and shelter belts. Adopt a holistic management approach through which farm lands will increasingly contribute to healthy, well-functioning Greenbelt natural systems.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	
Cultural Resources	6.2.2 a) Conserve a mosaic of landscape features that visually express land stewardship, ecological diversity and the history of the Capital.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	
	6.2.2 b) Conserve buildings, structures and features of cultural and heritage value (i.e. Lime Kiln, Carlsbad Springs, forests, farms, Rideau Canal, quarries) that celebrate the Capital’s rural history.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	~		
	6.2.2 c) Explore ways and locations to feature First Nations’ history within the Capital.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	
	6.2.2 d) Actively promote, in partnership with others, the distinction and relevance of Greenbelt cultural heritage features that link us to our past.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	
	6.2.2 e) Optimize partnership opportunities, where feasible, in the protection and promotion of Greenbelt cultural heritage.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	
	6.2.2 f) Encourage the development of more sustainable agriculture practices, buildings, and structures that also contribute to maintaining or promoting rural cultural heritage.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	
	6.2.2 g) Protect identified archaeological and palaeontological sites.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	

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Greenbelt Profile and Environmental Leadership	6.3 a) Achieve Greenbelt visibility through a physical branding and identity program that includes such initiatives as signage along Capital Arrivals and Scenic Routes and along the Greenbelt Edge, recognizable fencing and furniture, and partnership development of recreational amenities.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	~	+	~	~	~	~	
	6.3 b) Work in partnership with others (City of Ottawa, community groups, Greenbelt user groups and/or private organizations) to identify and establish recreational amenities needed to enhance the visitor experience. Develop and provide additional amenities (guided and circuit tours, refreshment service) that support the Greenbelt vision and goals. Use Greenbelt facilities and landscapes, and build on existing promotional materials, the NCC website, social media and the internet, to increase the Greenbelt profile and identity and to communicate the Greenbelt's richness and diversity	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	+	~	~	~	~	+
	6.3 c) Develop an interpretation, education and research program that: i. Encourages a diversity of public interpretation and education experiences; ii. Encourages the use of the Greenbelt as an outdoor laboratory; iii. Promotes the environmental, social, and economic resources of the Greenbelt; iv. Promotes the Greenbelt as a showcase for sustainability and high environmental quality; and v. Engages the support and contribution of a variety of partners to develop and deliver Greenbelt research, interpretive and educational programs.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~
	6.3 d) Define the messages, programs and visible identify for the Greenbelt through development of a Marketing, Branding and Communications strategy.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~
	6.3 e) Establish the Greenbelt as an environmental showcase where partnerships emerge to foster the use, demonstration and research of environmental best management practices in all Greenbelt activities, facilities and land uses. Integrate directions from the NCC's Environmental Strategy ¹ and the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy. Employ other strategies to including: i. Participate in and encourage integrated and comprehensive Capital planning at federal, provincial and municipal levels. ii. Demonstrate and require the highest environmental standards (municipal, provincial or federal) in land management. iii. Support small-scale renewable energy projects that use solar, geothermal or biomass energy sources, as well as energy-efficiency technologies, within Built Area limits of Federal Facility and Operations Areas, within Non-Federal Facility and Operations Areas, on or in farm buildings, or on brownfield sites in Natural Links. Such an installation will be permitted on the condition that it promotes more self-sufficient operations to reduce environmental footprints and costs, it does not negatively impact designated panoramas, and where it is demonstrated that the project will not cause a significant adverse environmental effect. iv. Encourage and support adoption of sustainable building standards, such as LEED™, for facility retrofits and expansion. v. Monitor and report regularly upon environmental accomplishments and progress.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	+	+	+	
Greenbelt	6.4 a) Set legal limits for the Greenbelt that embody the lands within the Greenbelt	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	

¹ National Capital Commission. 2009. Environmental Strategy.

Environmental Components		Biological							Physical				Cultural and Socio-Economic												
Proposed Plan Components		Forested Areas	Vegetative Cover	Wetlands	Biodiversity	Connected Natural Systems	Fauna	Flora	Aquatic Species	Air Quality	Surface Water	Ground Water	Soils	Noise and Odours	Visual Landscape	Local Economy	Human Health /Safety	Quality of Life	Recreation Destinations	Archaeological Resources	Cultural Heritage	Aboriginal Traditional Use	Existing Facility Use	Agriculture	Greenspace
Limits	6.4 b) Continue to add lands to the Greenbelt for the areas identified as “Addition” in the 1996 Greenbelt Master Plan ² and shown on Figure 5.1 (Land Designations) in Chapter 5.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	~	~	+	
	6.4 c) Add Potential Addition areas to the Greenbelt land over time. Potential Addition areas are identified in all sectors of the Greenbelt, except Mer Bleue, as shown on Figure 5.1 and on the sector plans in Chapter 7. Work with a range of public agencies (e.g. City of Ottawa, conservation authorities, Province of Ontario, Land Trusts) and private owners, through partnerships and other means, to encourage management of these lands in ways that support the Greenbelt roles. The NCC has jurisdiction only on federal lands within these additions (via the application of the National Capital Act) and does not have planning or other jurisdiction over non-federal lands	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	6.4 d) Explore working with partner agencies (City of Ottawa, conservation authorities, Province of Ontario, Land Trusts) and landowners of the two Special Study Areas on Figure 5.1 to identify a range of options such as conservation easements, “eco-gifts” for tax rebates on protected lands, voluntary protection of natural environment features, or land trusts. These “Special Study Areas” consist of privately-owned lands in the Stony Swamp and Greens Creek Sectors that have attributes of importance to key Greenbelt natural environment lands located immediately adjacent to them	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	6.4 e) Undertake further study to explore options that would ensure the protection of key environmental characteristics and achieve complementary recreational opportunities on the Special Study Areas	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Ecological Corridors	6.5 a) Support and work with stakeholders including the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario, Conservation Authorities, and conservation groups, to identify and explore ways to conserve regional ecological corridors outside the Greenbelt that will connect and strengthen the Greenbelt natural environment, building towards a “Capital Ecosystem Network”. This support and work will consist of: i. Identify the location and extent of ecological corridors that extend from Greenbelt Core Natural Areas to regionally significant natural features, building upon the work of the City of Ottawa on their Natural Heritage System and the NCC’s ecological corridors study for Gatineau Park. ii. Work to ensure protection of the identified ecological corridors through the most efficient and effective means, considering the significance of the natural features, land ownership and, if relevant, potential timing of development. Methods for protection include education and encouragement of land stewardship, landowner stewardship agreements, conservation easements, land designations and zoning, land trust or agency acquisition.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	+
	6.5 b) Protect the identified ecological corridors through the most efficient and effective means relevant to the natural feature significance, land ownership and potential development timing. Methods for protection include landowner stewardship agreements, conservation easements, land designation and zoning, land trust or agency acquisition	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	+
	6.5 c) Work in partnership with others to identify, protect, conserve and restore ecological corridors that connect Greenbelt Core Natural Areas to significant regional natural features outside of the Greenbelt	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	+	+	~	~	+
Transportation	6.6 a) Future transportation infrastructure projects that are proposed to be located within or adjacent to the Greenbelt will be considered according to the categories ³ determined through the cumulative effects	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	~	~	-	-	-	-	+	-	-

² Many of the Addition areas identified in the 1996 Plan have since been purchased by the NCC. The NCC will continue to pursue the acquisition of the remaining parcels of “additions” that were approved in the 1996 Master Plan as part of the Greenbelt and as part of the National Interest Land Mass (NILM).

³ The Cumulative Effects study findings led to categorization of 30 transportation projects according to their potential for cumulative effects on Core Natural Areas and Natural Links. The three categories for projects are: **1. Include** in the Greenbelt Master Plan, subject to standard design, review and review processes and mitigation determined by Environmental Assessment; **2. Include** in the Greenbelt Master Plan and subject to measures that minimize, compensate or offset contributions to cumulative effects on the Greenbelt, with the possibility of designation as “Not Include” in cases where specific mitigative conditions cannot be implemented satisfactorily, and **3. Not Include** in the Greenbelt Master Plan with the requirement to determine alternative locations outside CNA’s and NAL’s to avoid adverse cumulative effects.

Environmental Components		Biological							Physical				Cultural and Socio-Economic												
Proposed Plan Components		Forested Areas	Vegetative Cover	Wetlands	Biodiversity	Connected Natural Systems	Fauna	Flora	Aquatic Species	Air Quality	Surface Water	Ground Water	Soils	Noise and Odours	Visual Landscape	Local Economy	Human Health /Safety	Quality of Life	Recreation Destinations	Archaeological Resources	Cultural Heritage	Aboriginal Traditional Use	Existing Facility Use	Agriculture	Greenspace
	assessment. The study results are summarized in Appendix E and the categorization of 30 currently proposed projects appears in Chapter 7, Sector Plans.																								
	6.6 b) Work with the City of Ottawa and other authorities to ensure that projects listed in Chapter 7 and Appendix E are planned from the earliest stage to ensure early consultation and collaboration with, and consideration of the input of, the NCC.	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
	6.6 c) Apply the ecological principle of “No net loss” to transportation infrastructure projects, through identification and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures. Where on-site restoration cannot achieve a no-net-loss environmental condition, seek off-site restoration of other ecosystems and/or compensation to achieve ecosystem restoration elsewhere at a minimum at a comparable level, and preferably at a net gain.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
	6.6 d) Work with the City of Ottawa and other jurisdictions with the aim of closing unopened road allowances and existing low volume roads in the Greenbelt.	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	~	~	-	~	+
	6.6 e) Give priority to transport demand management measures when assessing new infrastructure proposals that respond to increasing demand for access to and within the Greenbelt. This will include consideration of the scope for giving priority to sustainable low-carbon and non-carbon transportation initiatives over schemes that create more capacity for vehicles.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
	6.6 f) Apply context-sensitive design best practices to transportation infrastructure projects that aim to conserve Greenbelt natural and visual resources. Take landscape ecology principles into account in order to achieve ecological connectivity and wildlife safety. Include measures that seek to “blend” the infrastructure project into the Greenbelt landscape and protect views. Require the incorporation of wildlife-friendly designs and crossing facilities, where appropriate, in transportation infrastructure projects that affect natural areas in the Greenbelt.	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
	6.6 g) Work with proponents of transportation infrastructure projects to ensure the provision of a symbolic and distinctive sense of place and arrival to and through the Greenbelt	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
	6.6 h) Discourage Park and Ride facilities from locating in the Greenbelt	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
	6.6 i) Identify and implement measures to mitigate the deficiencies of existing transportation corridors and other structures and their impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic habitats	~	+	+	~	+	+	+	~	~	+	+	~	~	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	+
	6.6 j) Encourage the reduction or elimination of unnecessary lighting along transportation routes and at facilities in the Greenbelt to help achieve a night sky quality, without compromising safety	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
	6.6 k) Require, of proponents of any future new transportation infrastructure or improvement to existing transportation infrastructure, a thorough assessment of the loss in environmental value resulting from any such proposal(s), such assessment to include a cumulative effects component. Consistent with policy c above, should a project be determined as “acceptable to proceed”, the delivery of measures consistent with the principle of “no net loss” at a minimum and preferably according to the principle of “net environmental gain” will be required	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
	6.6 l) Work with stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the extent of fragmentation caused by transportation projects, and determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
	6.6 m) Maintain and enhance the continuity of recreational pathways and natural links in the planning, design and function of transportation infrastructure	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~
Infrastructure – Water, Sewer,	6.7 a) For existing linear and point structures for water, sewage, stormwater, energy and communications: i. Permit continued presence of existing facilities; ii. When maintenance or upgrade of existing infrastructure is proposed, limit the works to the existing footprint of the infrastructure, to the extent possible. Prohibit further fragmentation of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	~	-	-	-	~	-	-

Environmental Components		Biological							Physical				Cultural and Socio-Economic												
Proposed Plan Components		Forested Areas	Vegetative Cover	Wetlands	Biodiversity	Connected Natural Systems	Fauna	Flora	Aquatic Species	Air Quality	Surface Water	Ground Water	Soils	Noise and Odours	Visual Landscape	Local Economy	Human Health /Safety	Quality of Life	Recreation Destinations	Archaeological Resources	Cultural Heritage	Aboriginal Traditional Use	Existing Facility Use	Agriculture	Greenspace
Energy & Communication Facilities	<p>Core Natural Areas by infrastructure. Require inclusion of measures and works for local habitat improvement in the specifications for infrastructure upgrade projects.</p> <p>iii. Prohibit location of new infrastructure projects within the Greenbelt for water, sewage, energy or communications that serve development outside the Greenbelt and that fail to consider and compare re-alignments or re-routing to avoid Core Natural Areas and Natural Links. Prohibit projects that fail to provide credible justification and rationale that demonstrate why a proposed Greenbelt alignment is the only option. When location within the Greenbelt cannot be avoided, require use of best practices to prevent permanent impacts upon streams, soils, water, vegetation, overall natural systems, land use and visual quality.</p> <p>iv. Allow the establishment of new infrastructure projects for water, wastewater, energy or communications that serve facilities and tenants within the Greenbelt, providing that their planning, design, construction and operation respect the other Greenbelt roles and apply sustainability and best management practices.</p>																								
	<p>6.7 b) For stormwater management facilities:</p> <p>i. Work with the City of Ottawa to address deficiencies in stormwater management practices in order to diminish adverse downstream effects upon the Greenbelt.</p> <p>ii. Work with partners to mitigate surface discharge of runoff to watercourses located within the Greenbelt where they exist and avoid urban stormwater runoff to watercourses located within the Greenbelt in the future, through adoption of an integrated subwatershed and “stormwatershed” approach to stormwater management. This approach will evaluate and manage cumulative effects of stormwater management practices, including hydrological, geotechnical and fluvial geomorphological risks. The approach will also include use of at-source best management and Low Impact Development practices in system design and operation.</p> <p>iii. Prohibit the establishment on Greenbelt lands of new stormwater management infrastructure and facility projects that support land uses located outside of the Greenbelt. Such facilities should be integrated with the proposed land use development and apply a subwatershed approach, as described in section 6.2.1.1.</p>	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
	<p>6.7 c) For any new infrastructure that might be established within the Greenbelt, require that such projects:</p> <p>i. Demonstrate responsible environmental management by ensuring that all environmental assessments for projects influencing Greenbelt resources are of superior quality and are comprehensive in terms of integrating the best available research and information.</p> <p>ii. Demonstrate that the new facility or infrastructure is bundled with existing built facilities or infrastructure to the maximum extent possible. To achieve effective bundling of infrastructure, specific design features or agreements may be necessary to ensure future flexibility for co-location of installations that differ in type or ownership.</p> <p>iii. Apply context-sensitive design best practices to infrastructure projects that aim to conserve Greenbelt natural and visual resources. Take landscape ecology principles into account in order to achieve ecological connectivity and wildlife safety. Include measures that seek to “blend” the infrastructure project into the Greenbelt landscape and protect views. Require the incorporation of wildlife-friendly designs, where appropriate, in infrastructure projects that</p>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	~	-	-	-	~	-	-

Environmental Components		Biological							Physical				Cultural and Socio-Economic												
Proposed Plan Components		Forested Areas	Vegetative Cover	Wetlands	Biodiversity	Connected Natural Systems	Fauna	Flora	Aquatic Species	Air Quality	Surface Water	Ground Water	Soils	Noise and Odours	Visual Landscape	Local Economy	Human Health /Safety	Quality of Life	Recreation Destinations	Archaeological Resources	Cultural Heritage	Aboriginal Traditional Use	Existing Facility Use	Agriculture	Greenspace
	affect natural areas in the Greenbelt.																								
	6.7 d) Ensure that all infrastructure facilities demonstrate environmental best practices in their management	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
	6.7 e) Ensure that both existing and any new infrastructure facilities minimize incremental and cumulative effects on land use, visual quality, natural systems, recreational activities and agricultural operations within the Greenbelt	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~
Residences in the Greenbelt	6.8 a) Maintain a small, rural population within the Greenbelt in a limited number of houses, notably farmstead houses that can be maintained for future use	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	~	+	~	+	~	+	+	~
	6.8 b) Over the long term, phase out houses in the Greenbelt that do not support a Greenbelt farmstead.	+	+	~	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	~	~	~	~	~	-	~	-	~	+

Importance of Impacts

The importance of impacts is assessed based upon the potential scope, magnitude, and duration of the impact.

Proposed direction has:

- +: Positive impact upon the environmental component;
- ~: neutral or insignificant impact upon the environmental component;
- : negative impact upon the environmental component in question.

Appendix 3: Analysis of Proposed Strategic and Policy Outcomes Contribution to Requirements of Higher Level Plans

- NCC Environmental Strategy, Canada's Capital Region Sustainability and Resilience Plan and Federal Sustainable Development Strategy

Environmental Components	NCC Environmental Strategy					Capital Sustainability & Resilience Plan										Federal Sustainable Development Strategy								Feedback			
	1. Reduce Waste going to landfill from all business	2. Enhance Biodiversity through Capital as conservation model	3. Prevent Pollution to protect Human & Environmental Health	4. Lead on Environmental Practices in NCC business	5. Combat Climate Change	1. Manage Growth and Development	2. Encourage Sustainable Mobility	3. Encourage High Performance Buildings	4. Protect and Restore Green and Natural Systems	5. Protect Water and Manage Infrastructure	6. Nurture Culture and Identity	7. Support Social Development	8. Build a Sustainable Economy	9. Manage Materials and Solid Waste	10. Support Local Food and Agriculture	1. Climate Change: Reduce GHG emission levels	2. Minimize Air Quality threats so air is clean to breathe and supports healthy ecosystems	3. Protect & enhance water quality – safe & secure for all, supports healthy ecosystems	4. Enhance information on water availability for sustainable use	5. Wildlife Conservation maintain or restore populations to healthy levels	6. Ecosystem /Habitat Conservation & Protection - maintain productive & resilient ecosystems	7. Sustainable production & consumption of Biological Resources within ecosystem limits	8. Green Government Operations – minimize environmental footprint	Addresses Stakeholder Concerns	Addresses Public Concerns		
Proposed Plan Components																											
Vision Statement																											
<i>The Greenbelt will forever protect natural systems, agriculture and opportunities for outdoor recreation and education that will inspire Canadians and contribute to the sustainability and quality of life in Canada's Capital Region.</i>	3	3	2	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	✓	✓		
Mission Statement																											
<i>The Greenbelt contributes to the identity and enhancement of Canada's Capital through its provision of a natural and rural setting, valued ecological and cultural resources, sustainable agriculture, support for selected federal facilities, and a diversity of uses, activities and experiences for Canadians.</i>	1	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	✓	✓		
Fundamental Premises																											
1. <i>The Greenbelt will remain a large, rural green space running in a continuous belt in roughly its present shape and location and it will accommodate natural linkages to regional natural systems and expansion of the Greenbelt area.</i>	∅	3	∅	3	2	1	1	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	2	1	3	3	1	∅	✓	✓		
2. <i>The Greenbelt will be an environmental showcase for Canada's Capital, balancing favourable ecological, social and economic factors, demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship and facilitating use of environmental best management practices in all activities, facilities and land uses throughout the Greenbelt.</i>	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	2	3	3	∅	∅	2	3	∅	1	1	2	1	3	3	3	2	✓	✓		
3. <i>The Greenbelt will remain in the public domain</i>	2	2	2	2	2	∅	∅	∅	2	2	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	∅	1	1	2	2	2	2	✓	✓		
4. <i>The Greenbelt will be an integrated, recognizable and relevant feature in the Capital and for Canadians that:</i> a. <i>Provides a gateway to the Capital;</i> b. <i>Preserves and connects natural ecosystems within and outside the Greenbelt;</i> c. <i>Buffers and connects human activities;</i> d. <i>Promotes sustainable agriculture;</i> e. <i>Protects and promotes cultural resources; and</i> f. <i>Contributes to a healthy environment and to quality of life in Canada's Capital.</i>	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	∅	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	✓	✓			
5. <i>The Greenbelt will support federal facilities that require space, seclusion and a location within Canada's Capital Region.</i>	1	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	1	1	1	2	✓	✓			
6. <i>The Greenbelt will continue to play an important national research role in the Capital.</i>	1	2	1	2	2	∅	1	2	2	2	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	∅	2	1	3	3	3	3	✓	✓		
7. <i>Outreach, education, co-operation and multi-sector partnerships with citizens, organizations and governments are essential to the Greenbelt's success.</i>	1	1	1	1	1	∅	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	∅	1	1	1	2	2	1	✓	✓			
8. <i>The Greenbelt will provide various opportunities for public education and promotion about Canada's natural, agricultural and cultural heritage and of the importance of ecosystem and resource conservation.</i>	3	3	3	3	3	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	✓	✓		
Roles & Goals																											
Natural Environment Role - <i>Protect and enhance natural areas, ecosystems and habitats which are integral to the larger natural environment of Canada's Capital Region as the primary priority, in harmony</i>	1	3	1	3	2	1	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	1	1	3	1	3	3	3	1	✓	✓		

Environmental Components	NCC Environmental Strategy					Capital Sustainability & Resilience Plan										Federal Sustainable Development Strategy								Feedback	
	1. Reduce Waste going to landfill from all business	2. Enhance Biodiversity through Capital as conservation model	3. Prevent Pollution to protect Human & Environmental Health	4. Lead on Environmental Practices in NCC business	5. Combat Climate Change	1. Manage Growth and Development	2. Encourage Sustainable Mobility	3. Encourage High Performance Buildings	4. Protect and Restore Green and Natural Systems	5. Protect Water and Manage Infrastructure	6. Nurture Culture and Identity	7. Support Social Development	8. Build a Sustainable Economy	9. Manage Materials and Solid Waste	10. Support Local Food and Agriculture	1. Climate Change: Reduce GHG emission levels	2. Minimize Air Quality threats so air is clean to breathe and supports healthy ecosystems	3. Protect & enhance water quality – safe & secure for all, supports healthy ecosystems	4. Enhance information on water availability for sustainable use	5. Wildlife Conservation maintain or restore populations to healthy levels	6. Ecosystem /Habitat Conservation & Protection – maintain productive & resilient ecosystems	7. Sustainable production & consumption of Biological Resources within ecosystem limits	8. Green Government Operations – minimize environmental footprint	Addresses Stakeholder Concerns	Addresses Public Concerns
<i>with Canadians' aspirations for a healthy and resilient environment.</i>																									
Goal 1: Biodiversity: Protect, restore and maintain high-value ecosystems and natural habitats by encouraging management approaches that consider the broader Greenbelt ecosystem and regional natural areas.	0	3	1	3	2	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	3	3	3	1	✓	✓
Goal 2: Linkages: Preserve and establish functional connections and corridors between and around buffer zones and significant natural areas within and beyond Greenbelt boundaries.	0	3	2	3	2	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	3	3	1	✓	✓
Goal 3: Water Resources: Protect water resources through ecosystem management to guide land uses, activities and facility design and operation within the Greenbelt and on lands adjacent to the Greenbelt.	0	3	3	3	1	1	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	3	2	3	3	1	✓	✓
Goal 4: Land Resources: Protect significant geological, landform and soil features in the Greenbelt.	1	2	1	3	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	✓	✓
Goal 5: Vegetation: Sustain and restore the long-term composition, structure, and dynamics of vegetation communities.	0	3	2	3	2	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	1	3	3	3	1	✓	✓
Sustainable Agriculture Role - Provide opportunities for sustainable agriculture, providing economic returns now and for future generations without interfering with natural processes and by realizing benefits for Canada's Capital Region.	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
Goal 1: Greenbelt Agriculture: Encourage modern, diversified, sustainable and viable agriculture, rooted within the legacy of Canada's past.	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
Goal 2: Support for Farming: Support and partner with Greenbelt farmers to protect farm assets, to implement best management practices and to provide for long-term opportunities in agricultural and food production.	1	1	1	2	2	1	0	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	0	✓	✓
Goal 3: Relevance to the Community: Engage passionate people with the knowledge needed to increase farm diversification, visibility and the contribution of Greenbelt agriculture to local food, and agricultural experiences, resulting in greater relevance for the community.	0	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	✓	✓
Capital Experiences and Recreation Role - Offer a rich and diverse array of outdoor activities and Capital experiences that respect and promote the other roles of the Greenbelt.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
Goal 1: Recreation: Encourage Canadians to experience the Greenbelt through a variety of low impact recreational activities that ensure protection of the natural environment and are delivered through a Greenbelt-wide system of amenities and programs that optimize internal and partnership resources.	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
Goal 2: Cultural Resources: Protect and promote the significance and contributions of past and current representations of Canada's rural roots and national institutions to the existence and health of our Greenbelt.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓
Goal 3: Public Access: Manage public access to the Greenbelt in a way that respects and protects its integrity, provides a variety of recreational experiences and promotes public health, safety and enjoyment.	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	✓	✓
Goal 4: Interpretation, Education and Research: Enhance visitor understanding of natural, agricultural and federal places and activities and cultural resources in the Greenbelt and their contribution to the Capital Region and Canada.	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	0	2	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	1	3	3	2	2	2	1	✓	✓
Facilities Role - Support a range of federal facilities with seclusion requirements; maintain existing community facilities, limiting new facility development to current built areas. Minimize infrastructure intrusions in the Greenbelt.	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
Goal 1: Federal Facilities: Support environmentally sound built federal facilities of national significance that require space, seclusion and location within the Capital and which align with the other Greenbelt	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2	✓	~

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Proposed Plan Components		1. Reduce Waste going to landfill from all business	2. Enhance Biodiversity through Capital as conservation model	3. Prevent Pollution to protect Human & Environmental Health	4. Lead on Environmental Practices in NCC business	5. Combat Climate Change	1. Manage Growth and Development	2. Encourage Sustainable Mobility	3. Encourage High Performance Buildings	4. Protect and Restore Green and Natural Systems	5. Protect Water and Manage Infrastructure	6. Nurture Culture and Identity	7. Support Social Development	8. Build a Sustainable Economy	9. Manage Materials and Solid Waste	10. Support Local Food and Agriculture	1. Climate Change: Reduce GHG emission levels	2. Minimize Air Quality threats so air is clean to breathe and supports healthy ecosystems	3. Protect & enhance water quality – safe & secure for all, supports healthy ecosystems	4. Enhance information on water availability for sustainable use	5. Wildlife Conservation maintain or restore populations to healthy levels	6. Ecosystem /Habitat Conservation & Protection – maintain productive & resilient ecosystems	7. Sustainable production & consumption of Biological Resources within ecosystem limits	8. Green Government Operations – minimize environmental footprint	Addresses Stakeholder Concerns	Addresses Public Concerns	
roles; phase out existing federal facilities over time.																											
Goal 2: Non-Federal Facilities: Encourage existing built facilities to be environmentally sound and to adapt their structure and operations to support the other Greenbelt roles; do not allow new non-federal facilities and phase out existing facilities over time.		1	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	✓	~
Goal 3: Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure: Ensure that environmental best management practices are applied in the design, operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure. Do not permit new infrastructure unless there is demonstration that there are no alternatives outside of the Greenbelt and no net loss will result to ecological or overall Greenbelt integrity.		1	1	1	1	1	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	1	✓	✗
Policies																											
Core Natural Areas	5.1.1.1 Manage activities to preserve and enhance biodiversity through the following strategies: a. Prepare a Greenbelt Natural Resource Management Plan. b. Participate with others to develop and implement recovery and management programs for unique, rare, threatened and endangered species and invasive species. c. Conduct scientific studies, regularly monitor indicators and thresholds to ensure the health of natural resources.	∅	3	1	3	2	∅	∅	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	1	✓	✓	
	5.1.1.2 Require a net ecological gain for the Greenbelt from project proponents when land use changes or impacts are inevitable within Core Natural Areas	∅	3	1	3	2	∅	∅	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	2	2	3	3	3	1	✓	~	
	5.1.1.3 Restore and enhance terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity in identified impacted and damaged areas, with focus upon: a. Improving key habitats for target species; b. Advancing the natural succession of plantation forests; and c. Curtailing the spread of invasive species through development and implementation of species-specific management protocols for those species that present the greatest threat and giving priority to effective control methods.	∅	3	1	3	2	∅	∅	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	3	2	3	3	3	1	✓	✓	
	5.1.1.4 Protect the landform and landscape character together with the hydrological regime of CNAs, through measures such as controlling road density and achieving optimum habitat size.	∅	3	1	3	1	∅	∅	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	2	2	3	3	3	1	✓	✓	
	5.1.1.5 Apply preventive management practices, notably regarding potential negative impacts from human activities	∅	3	1	3	2	∅	∅	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	1	✓	✓	
	5.1.1.6 Continue to engage stakeholders in activities and processes that will enhance biodiversity and help all Canadians appreciate the Greenbelt (stakeholders include visitors, Greenbelt landowners, tenants, facility managers, the City of Ottawa, conservation authorities, academic institutions, and conservation and community groups).	∅	3	1	3	2	∅	∅	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	1	✓	✓	
Natural Links	5.1.2.1 Actively manage <i>Natural Links</i> to convert existing land uses to a natural state to support CNA health and connectivity. Support and encourage stakeholders to maintain and enhance the natural state and function of their Natural Links.	∅	3	1	3	2	∅	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	1	✓	✓	
	5.1.2.2 Maintain or restore riparian areas of naturalized vegetation along watercourses, targeting the most prescriptive version of Ontario or federal standards.	∅	3	1	2	2	∅	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	3	2	3	3	3	1	~	✓	

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	5.1.2.3 Establish widths of Greenbelt <i>Natural Links</i> that are at minimum 60 metres initially, working towards a minimum 250 m width over the longer term for target Natural Links.	∅	3	1	3	2	∅	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	3	2	3	3	3	1	~	X
	5.1.2.4 Prevent fragmentation of designated natural links, providing connectivity elsewhere when facility security or structures (such as linear infrastructure) impact upon natural link function.	∅	3	1	3	1	∅	∅	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	2	2	3	3	3	1	~	✓
	5.1.2.5 Restore fragmented ecosystems by providing for species movement and prohibiting land use changes that interfere with the function and health of natural links.	∅	3	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	2	2	3	3	3	1	~	✓
	5.1.2.6 Continue to engage stakeholders to achieve the above objectives.	∅	3	1	3	2	∅	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	2	3	3	3	1	✓	✓
Sustainable Agriculture Federal Facilities	5.2.1 Maintain or establish conditions for farms to be more economically, environmentally, and socially viable.	∅	2	2	2	2	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	∅	3	3	2	2	2	1	✓	✓
	5.2.2 Encourage the desired types of farm and agricultural practices: a. Promote farm best management practices to conserve soil and water resources and promote biodiversity while ensuring farm productivity and viability. b. Apply a tenant selection process to identify farm candidates able to deliver sustainable and locally relevant agriculture, with priority given to food production. c. Create new small farm sites using adjoining houses and selected land parcels within the Greenbelt. d. Facilitate value-added activities on Greenbelt farms and establishment of more organic farms and community gardens.	1	2	1	2	1	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	1	2	∅	3	1	∅	1	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
	5.2.3 Protect and expand farm assets and built infrastructure: a. Revise farm leases in order to promote long term sustainable farm development. b. Preserve and improve selected heritage farmsteads for modern farm use and permit integration of new farm buildings where a need for an updated facility is identified.	∅	1	∅	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	1	∅	3	1	∅	1	1	∅	1	1	∅	✓	✓
	5.2.4 Direct those agricultural activities not requiring high capability soils for food production to locate on lower capability soils.	1	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	2	2	3	1	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	✓	✓
	5.2.5 Enhance visibility of the Greenbelt farm sector and help visitors appreciate the region's farming culture and rural heritage.	∅	2	1	1	1	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	∅	2	∅	3	1	∅	2	2	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
	5.2.6 Support farm tenants in resolution of conflicts that arise between normal farm operations and neighbouring urban land uses.	1	2	3	3	2	∅	∅	∅	2	2	1	∅	2	∅	3	2	∅	3	3	2	2	2	1	✓	✓
	5.2.7 Engage Greenbelt farmers and build effective partnerships to achieve the above.	∅	1	∅	1	∅	∅	∅	2	1	1	1	∅	1	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	✓	✓
Federal Facilities	5.3.1.1 Accommodate needs of the existing federal facilities within the designated <i>Federal Facility and Operations</i> areas; allow facility expansion to occur only within the defined <i>Built Area</i> footprint (on the sector plans).	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	~	~
	5.3.1.2 Ensure facility uses that complement adjacent Greenbelt land functions, character, design features and public programming and do not impact negatively upon other Greenbelt roles.	∅	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	∅	∅	1	1	1	∅	1	1	1	1	1	2	~	~
	5.3.1.3 Encourage development of a Federal Facility Master Plan for each site to	∅	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	1	1	1	∅	1	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓

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	document the existing site facilities and operations, future changes and how the facility is integrated within the Greenbelt.																									
	5.3.1.4 Require a Federal Facility Master Plan prior to any major expansion or redevelopment.	Ø	1	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	Ø	1	1	2	2	2	2	~	~
	5.3.1.5 Maintain appropriate land buffers that restrict public access and uses in selected areas to safeguard from adjacent activities of federal facilities or other agencies.	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	1	Ø	1	1	Ø	1	✓	✓	
	5.3.1.6 When federal facility custodians determine that their facilities are surplus to the needs of the Government of Canada, explore the opportunity for voluntary facility phase-out and site re-naturalization.	Ø	2	1	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	2	2	2	✓	✓	
	5.3.1.7 Encourage federal facilities to apply environmental stewardship and best management practices in facility design and management, such as transportation demand management measures, and modern stormwater management approaches.	2	1	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	3	✓	✓
	5.3.1.8 Encourage federal partners to explain their activities, roles and the overall Greenbelt to visitors of their facilities and encourage interpretation and events, and feature commemoration and public art along the public face of Federal Facilities near recreational pathways and along roadways	1	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	2	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	1	Ø	1	1	1	1	Ø	1	✓	✓
Non-Federal Facilities and Operating Areas	5.3.2.1 Limit non-federal facilities to those currently existing within the Greenbelt and prohibit new facilities on new sites.	Ø	1	1	1	1	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	✓	✓
	5.3.2.2 Permit existing small-scale commercial and community recreational facilities and increase their contribution to other Greenbelt roles.	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	✓	✓
	5.3.2.3 Allow minor expansion of existing non-federal facilities on the condition that the Greenbelt (<i>Natural Environment, Agriculture or Capital Experience & Recreation</i>) roles are not <i>negatively</i> impacted (neutral effect), and/or the minor expansion contributes <i>positively</i> to these Greenbelt roles.	1	1	Ø	1	Ø	-	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø	1	Ø	1	Ø	1	1	1	2	✓	✓
	5.3.2.4 Pursue phase-out and site re-naturalization of non-federal facilities when they are determined to be surplus and have reached the end of their life cycle.	Ø	2	1	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	2	2	2	✓	✓
	5.3.2.5 Champion environmental stewardship and best management practices in facility management.	1	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	2	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	1	Ø	1	1	1	1	Ø	1	✓	✓
Capital Experiences and Recreation Network – Capital Arrivals and Visitor Destinations	6.1.1.1 Allow and facilitate a diverse mix of low-impact outdoor activities and experiences that minimize impacts on the natural environment (for example: walking, cycling, cross-country skiing, in-line skating, snow-shoeing, bird watching);	Ø	1	1	1	1	1	Ø	1	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	✓	✓	
	6.1.1.2 Communicate the importance of the Greenbelt through development of an interpretation strategy and communication initiatives	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	✓	✓
	6.1.1.3 Complete the Greenbelt Pathway	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	✓	✓
	6.1.1.4 Develop a Greenbelt visitor experience and programming strategy	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	✓	✓
	6.1.1.5 Prohibit activities and events that detract from low-impact activities or increase the existing human activities footprint	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	✓	✓
	6.1.1.6 Foster partnerships and co-operation with others to provide and promote low-impact recreational activities and experiences	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	✓	✓
	6.1.1.7 Limit existing high-impact recreational activities (e.g. sports fields, golf courses, off-leash dog parks, recreation centre), as identified on the sector plans, to their existing	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	✓	✓

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	footprint and prohibit new high-impact recreational facilities and activities.																										
Capital Experiences and Recreation Network – Visual Resources and Landscapes	6.1.2.1 Rationalize the Greenbelt trail network so as to provide connections to the Greenbelt Pathway and Capital Pathways, a range of experiences, access to Greenbelt Visitor Destinations and Views and to avoid sensitive natural areas.	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	✓	✓
	6.1.2.2 Increase the visual interest of large agricultural fields by planting naturalistic groupings of shrubs and trees along the edges and intersections of roads and through encouragement of farm diversification that will lead to smaller fields and more livestock. See further details as described in the <i>Sustainable Agriculture Strategy (2013)</i> ;	Ø	2	2	2	1	1	Ø	Ø	2	2	2	2	2	Ø	3	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	✓	✓
	6.1.2.3 Improve the vistas of selected transportation routes, as identified in the sector plans, through use of context-sensitive landscaping.	Ø	1	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	✓	✓	
	6.1.2.4 Protect and enhance panoramas identified as medium and high quality (2008 Greenbelt Visual Assessment), as identified on the sector plans. This includes views within and extending beyond Greenbelt boundaries. Consult both 1992 and 2008 Visual Assessment to determine precise land areas and the range of approaches available to improve landscape quality.	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	✓	✓
	6.1.2.5 Strengthen the recreational pathway links to the Capital Pathway Network outside the Greenbelt, such as enhancing trail and transit access from adjacent communities. See Map 6.1 and the Greenbelt Concept Map (3.2) for location of the Greenbelt Pathway and how this system connects to the Capital Pathway Network.	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	✓	✓
	6.1.2.6 Maintain and enhance the visual character of landscape views from roadways, working in partnerships and using a variety of approaches. Employ measures such as strategic roadside tree planting, increased hedgerows, establishment of shelter belts, woodlot and ravine restoration, compensation of tree canopy losses, vegetative screening, minimization of urban lighting, and infrastructure design. Assess each situation on its own merits to determine the most appropriate approach.	Ø	1	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	✓	✓	
	6.1.2.7 Develop guidelines for desired Greenbelt visual, aesthetic and scenic quality and address management of visual character and impacts considering such matters as transportation route views, billboards, lighting and communication towers.	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	✓	✓
	6.1.2.8 Maintain and enhance the edges of the Greenbelt to demonstrate best management practices and to delineate the Greenbelt. Encourage neighbouring owners to emulate such practices. Reinforce a distinct Greenbelt edge through such means as roadside plantings and shielded lighting.	Ø	1	1	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	✓	✓	
Natural Environment – Water Resources	6.2.1.1 a) Protect the aquatic, land, vegetation and forest resources within the Greenbelt through implementation of a watershed-based ecosystem management approach..	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	3	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	3	3	2	2	1	1	✓	✓	
	6.2.1.1 b) Engage partners in ecosystem restoration efforts, enhancement of biodiversity and maintenance of healthy functioning of aquifer recharge areas, headwaters and waterways.	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	3	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	3	3	2	2	1	1	✓	✓	
	6.2.1.1 c) Identify and prioritize opportunities for regeneration of watercourses to ensure that improvements occur where they are most needed in order to restore degraded water resource areas	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	3	3	2	2	2	2	✓	✓	
	6.2.1.1 d) Ensure that interventions in watercourses within the Greenbelt contribute to restoration and enhancement of the watercourse’s overall ecological health	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	3	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	3	3	2	2	1	1	✓	✓	

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	6.2.1.1 e) Adopt and implement the Rideau Valley Conservation Authority's sediment and erosion control guidelines for projects on federal lands.	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	3	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	3	3	2	2	1	1	✓	✓
	6.2.1.1 f) Seek to improve the resilience of the Greenbelt's water resources to the effects of climate change	Ø	1	1	2	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	3	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	3	3	2	2	1	1	✓	✓
	6.2.1.1 g) Partner with others to manage and report on water resource health and to continue to conduct innovative studies on water resources	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	3	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	3	3	2	2	1	1	✓	✓
Natural Environment - Land Resources	6.2.1.2 a) Conserve the natural land base and topography required for fulfillment of the primary and secondary Greenbelt roles.	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	1	1	1	2	Ø	✓	✓
	6.2.1.2 b) Work with partners and stakeholders to reduce and mitigate flooding, geotechnical and fluvial geomorphological risks to Greenbelt ecosystems, properties and unstable valley lands. Consider ecological health, hydrology and stormwater management in an integrated manner.	Ø	Ø	1	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	1	1	1	2	Ø	✓	✓
	6.2.1.2 c) Prevent establishment of infrastructure, structures, development or site alteration within areas defined as "natural hazard lands" by the NCC and its partners	Ø	1	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	1	1	1	2	Ø	✓	✓
	6.2.1.2 d) Encourage partners to respect natural hazard restrictions upstream of and adjacent to the Greenbelt..	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	1	1	Ø	✓	✓
	6.2.1.2 e) Support the securement of contaminated sites within the Greenbelt.	Ø	Ø	3	3	Ø	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	✓	~
	6.2.1.2 f) Require that all projects completed within the Greenbelt are conducted in a sustainable manner to maintain the integrity of landforms	Ø	Ø	1	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	1	1	1	2	Ø	✓	✓
	6.2.1.2 g) Promote knowledge of Greenbelt geology and landforms by identifying and interpreting these features across the Greenbelt	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	~	~
	6.2.1.2 h) Allow extraction of mineral aggregate or non-renewable resources within the Greenbelt only within the Existing Built Area footprint limits of Federal and Non-Federal Facility Operations Areas	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	Ø	~	~
Natural Environment - Vegetation and Forests	6.2.1.3 a) Provide for conservation & enhancement of biodiversity on all Greenbelt lands.	Ø	3	1	3	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	2	1	3	3	3	1	✓	✓
	6.2.1.3 b) Provide for long-term health of forest ecosystems for the benefit of local and regional environments, avoiding slow growth, potential insect infestations and damage from wind and ice storms.	Ø	2	Ø	2	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	1	2	2	2	1	✓	✓
	6.2.1.3 c) Through selective harvesting and thinning, promote mixed wood native stands and enhance biodiversity within a set period of time in Pine Grove and Pinhey Forests and in Stony Swamp	Ø	2	Ø	2	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	1	2	2	3	1	✓	✓
	6.2.1.3 d) Through management of selected plantation areas, provide examples of pre-settlement heritage pine stands in Pine Grove and Pinhey Forests	Ø	3	Ø	3	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	1	2	2	2	1	✓	✓
	6.2.1.3 e) Use best management practices to maintain a representative range of vegetation communities across the Greenbelt	Ø	3	Ø	3	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	1	2	2	2	1	✓	✓
	6.2.1.3 f) Allow natural forces to predominate in forests, harvesting trees when needed to enhance biodiversity, forest health and to contribute to sustainable agriculture.	Ø	2	Ø	2	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	2	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	Ø	2	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
	6.2.1.3 g) Implement species at risk, invasive species and disease management programs	Ø	1	1	2	2	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	Ø	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
	6.2.1.3 h) Promote sustainable agriculture, particularly in the encouragement of crop diversity, hedgerow, and shelter belts. Adopt a holistic management approach through which farm lands will increasingly contribute to healthy, well-functioning Greenbelt	1	2	1	2	1	Ø	Ø	1	1	1	1	1	2	Ø	3	1	Ø	1	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓

Environmental Components		NCC Environmental Strategy					Capital Sustainability & Resilience Plan										Federal Sustainable Development Strategy								Feedback		
Proposed Plan Components		1. Reduce Waste going to landfill from all business	2. Enhance Biodiversity through Capital as conservation model	3. Prevent Pollution to protect Human & Environmental Health	4. Lead on Environmental Practices in NCC business	5. Combat Climate Change	1. Manage Growth and Development	2. Encourage Sustainable Mobility	3. Encourage High Performance Buildings	4. Protect and Restore Green and Natural Systems	5. Protect Water and Manage Infrastructure	6. Nurture Culture and Identity	7. Support Social Development	8. Build a Sustainable Economy	9. Manage Materials and Solid Waste	10. Support Local Food and Agriculture	1. Climate Change: Reduce GHG emission levels	2. Minimize Air Quality threats so air is clean to breathe and supports healthy ecosystems	3. Protect & enhance water quality – safe & secure for all, supports healthy ecosystems	4. Enhance information on water availability for sustainable use	5. Wildlife Conservation maintain or restore populations to healthy levels	6. Ecosystem /Habitat Conservation & Protection - maintain productive & resilient ecosystems	7. Sustainable production & consumption of Biological Resources within ecosystem limits	8. Green Government Operations – minimize environmental footprint	Addresses Stakeholder Concerns	Addresses Public Concerns	
	practices in all Greenbelt activities, facilities and land uses. Integrate directions from the NCC's Environmental Strategy ⁴ and the Federal Sustainable Development Strategy. Employ other strategies to including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Participate in and encourage integrated and comprehensive Capital planning at federal, provincial and municipal levels. ii. Demonstrate and require the highest environmental standards (municipal, provincial or federal) in land management. iii. Support small-scale renewable energy projects that use solar, geothermal or biomass energy sources, as well as energy-efficiency technologies, within Built Area limits of Federal Facility and Operations Areas, within Non-Federal Facility and Operations Areas, on or in farm buildings, or on brownfield sites in Natural Links. Such an installation will be permitted on the condition that it promotes more self-sufficient operations to reduce environmental footprints and costs, it does not negatively impact designated panoramas, and where it is demonstrated that the project will not cause a significant adverse environmental effect. iv. Encourage and support adoption of sustainable building standards, such as LEED™, for facility retrofits and expansion. v. Monitor and report regularly upon environmental accomplishments and progress. 																										
Greenbelt Limits	6.4 a) Set legal limits for the Greenbelt that embody the lands within the Greenbelt	∅	2	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	✓	✓
	6.4 b) Continue to add lands to the Greenbelt for the areas identified as "Addition" in the 1996 Greenbelt Master Plan ⁵ and shown on Figure 5.1 (Land Designations) in Chapter 5.	∅	3	∅	3	1	1	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	✓	~
	6.4 c) Add Potential Addition areas to the Greenbelt land over time. Potential Addition areas are identified in all sectors of the Greenbelt, except Mer Bleue, as shown on Figure 5.1 and on the sector plans in Chapter 7. Work with a range of public agencies (e.g. City of Ottawa, conservation authorities, Province of Ontario, Land Trusts) and private owners, through partnerships and other means, to encourage management of these lands in ways that support the Greenbelt roles. The NCC has jurisdiction only on federal lands within these additions (via the application of the National Capital Act) and does not have planning or other jurisdiction over non-federal lands	∅	3	∅	3	1	1	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	✓	~
	6.4 d) Explore working with partner agencies (City of Ottawa, conservation authorities, Province of Ontario, Land Trusts) and landowners of the two Special Study Areas on Figure 5.1 to identify a range of options such as conservation easements, "eco-gifts" for tax rebates on protected lands, voluntary protection of natural environment features, or land trusts. These "Special Study Areas" consist of privately-owned lands in the Stony	∅	3	∅	3	1	1	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	✓	~

⁴ National Capital Commission. 2009. Environmental Strategy.

⁵ Many of the Addition areas identified in the 1996 Plan have since been purchased by the NCC. The NCC will continue to pursue the acquisition of the remaining parcels of "additions" that were approved in the 1996 Master Plan as part of the Greenbelt and as part of the National Interest Land Mass (NILM).

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	Swamp and Greens Creek Sectors that have attributes of importance to key Greenbelt natural environment lands located immediately adjacent to them																										
	6.4 e) Undertake further study to explore options that would ensure the protection of key environmental characteristics and achieve complementary recreational opportunities on the Special Study Areas	1	1	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
Ecological Corridors	6.5 a) Support and work with stakeholders including the City of Ottawa, the Province of Ontario, Conservation Authorities, and conservation groups, to identify and explore ways to conserve regional ecological corridors outside the Greenbelt that will connect and strengthen the Greenbelt natural environment, building towards a “Capital Ecosystem Network”. This support and work will consist of: i. Identify the location and extent of ecological corridors that extend from Greenbelt Core Natural Areas to regionally significant natural features, building upon the work of the City of Ottawa on their Natural Heritage System and the NCC’s ecological corridors study for Gatineau Park. ii. Work to ensure protection of the identified ecological corridors through the most efficient and effective means, considering the significance of the natural features, land ownership and, if relevant, potential timing of development. Methods for protection include education and encouragement of land stewardship, landowner stewardship agreements, conservation easements, land designations and zoning, land trust or agency acquisition.	∅	3	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	3	1	3	3	2	2	2	✓	✓
	6.5 b) Protect the identified ecological corridors through the most efficient and effective means relevant to the natural feature significance, land ownership and potential development timing. Methods for protection include landowner stewardship agreements, conservation easements, land designation and zoning, land trust or agency acquisition	∅	3	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	✓	✓
	6.5 c) Work in partnership with others to identify, protect, conserve and restore ecological corridors that connect Greenbelt Core Natural Areas to significant regional natural features outside of the Greenbelt	∅	3	∅	3	1	∅	∅	∅	3	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	✓	✓
Transportation	6.6 a) Future transportation infrastructure projects that are proposed to be located within or adjacent to the Greenbelt will be considered according to the categories ⁶ determined through the cumulative effects assessment. The study results are summarized in Appendix E and the categorization of 30 currently proposed projects appears in Chapter 7, Sector Plans.	∅	1	∅	2	1	∅	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	~	×
	6.6 b) Work with the City of Ottawa and other authorities to ensure that projects listed in Chapter 7 and Appendix E are planned from the earliest stage to ensure early consultation and collaboration with, and consideration of the input of, the NCC.	∅	1	∅	2	1	∅	1	∅	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	~	×
	6.6 c) Apply the ecological principle of “No net loss” to transportation infrastructure projects, through identification and implementation of appropriate mitigation measures.	∅	2	1	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	∅	1	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓

⁶ The Cumulative Effects study findings led to categorization of 30 transportation projects according to their potential for cumulative effects on Core Natural Areas and Natural Links. The three categories for projects are: **1. Include** in the Greenbelt Master Plan, subject to standard design, review and review processes and mitigation determined by Environmental Assessment; **2. Include** in the Greenbelt Master Plan and subject to measures that minimize, compensate or offset contributions to cumulative effects on the Greenbelt, with the possibility of designation as “Not Include” in cases where specific mitigative conditions cannot be implemented satisfactorily., and **3. Not Include** in the Greenbelt Master Plan with the requirement to determine alternative locations outside CNA’s and NAL’s to avoid adverse cumulative effects.

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	Where on-site restoration cannot achieve a no-net-loss environmental condition, seek off-site restoration of other ecosystems and/or compensation to achieve ecosystem restoration elsewhere at a minimum at a comparable level, and preferably at a net gain.																									
	6.6 d) Work with the City of Ottawa and other jurisdictions with the aim of closing unopened road allowances and existing low volume roads in the Greenbelt.	∅	2	∅	2	1	∅	2	1	1	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	∅	2	2	2	1	~	✓
	6.6 e) Give priority to transport demand management measures when assessing new infrastructure proposals that respond to increasing demand for access to and within the Greenbelt. This will include consideration of the scope for giving priority to sustainable low-carbon and non-carbon transportation initiatives over schemes that create more capacity for vehicles..	∅	2	∅	2	2	2	3	1	1	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	∅	1	1	1	1	~	~
	6.6 f) Apply context-sensitive design best practices to transportation infrastructure projects that aim to conserve Greenbelt natural and visual resources. Take landscape ecology principles into account in order to achieve ecological connectivity and wildlife safety. Include measures that seek to “blend” the infrastructure project into the Greenbelt landscape and protect views. Require the incorporation of wildlife-friendly designs and crossing facilities, where appropriate, in transportation infrastructure projects that affect natural areas in the Greenbelt.	∅	1	∅	1	1	∅	∅	∅	1	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
	6.6 g) Work with proponents of transportation infrastructure projects to ensure the provision of a symbolic and distinctive sense of place and arrival to and through the Greenbelt	∅	1	∅	1	1	∅	∅	∅	1	1	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	✓	✓
	6.6 h) Discourage Park and Ride facilities from locating in the Greenbelt.	∅	1	1	2	1	1	2	∅	1	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	~	✓
	6.6 i) Identify and implement measures to mitigate deficiencies of existing transportation corridors and other structures and their impacts upon terrestrial and aquatic habitats	∅	2	2	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	2	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	2	∅	1	2	2	2	✓	✓
	6.6 j) Encourage the reduction or elimination of unnecessary lighting along transportation routes and at facilities in the Greenbelt to help achieve a night sky quality, without compromising safety	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	2	∅	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	~	✓
	6.6 k) Require, of proponents of any future new transportation infrastructure or improvement to existing transportation infrastructure, a thorough assessment of the loss in environmental value resulting from any such proposal(s), such assessment to include a cumulative effects component. Consistent with policy c above, should a project be determined as “acceptable to proceed”, the delivery of measures consistent with the principle of “no net loss” at a minimum and preferably according to the principle of “net environmental gain” will be required	∅	∅	∅	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	2	✓	✓
	6.6 l) Work with stakeholders to monitor and evaluate the extent of fragmentation caused by transportation projects, and determine the effectiveness of mitigation measures	∅	∅	∅	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	2	✓	✓
	6.6 m) Maintain and enhance the continuity of recreational pathways and natural links in the planning, design and function of transportation infrastructure	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	2	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	✓	✓
Infrastructure – Water, Sewer,	6.7 a) For existing linear and point structures for water, sewage, stormwater, energy and communications: i. Permit continued presence of existing facilities; ii. When maintenance or upgrade of existing infrastructure is proposed, limit the	∅	∅	1	2	∅	2	∅	2	1	1	∅	∅	2	2	∅	∅	1	∅	∅	-	-	-	1	~	✓

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Energy & Communication Facilities	<p>works to the existing footprint of the infrastructure, to the extent possible. Prohibit further fragmentation of Core Natural Areas by infrastructure. Require inclusion of measures and works for local habitat improvement in the specifications for infrastructure upgrade projects.</p> <p>iii. Prohibit location of new infrastructure projects within the Greenbelt for water, sewage, energy or communications that serve development outside the Greenbelt and that fail to consider and compare re-alignments or re-routing to avoid Core Natural Areas and Natural Links. Prohibit projects that fail to provide credible justification and rationale that demonstrate why a proposed Greenbelt alignment is the only option. When location within the Greenbelt cannot be avoided, require use of best practices to prevent permanent impacts upon streams, soils, water, vegetation, overall natural systems, land use and visual quality.</p> <p>iv. Allow the establishment of new infrastructure projects for water, wastewater, energy or communications that serve facilities and tenants within the Greenbelt, providing that their planning, design, construction and operation respect the other Greenbelt roles and apply sustainability and best management practices.</p>																										
	<p>6.7 b) For stormwater management facilities:</p> <p>i. Work with the City of Ottawa to address deficiencies in stormwater management practices in order to diminish adverse downstream effects upon the Greenbelt.</p> <p>ii. Work with partners to mitigate surface discharge of runoff to watercourses located within the Greenbelt where they exist and avoid urban stormwater runoff to watercourses located within the Greenbelt in the future, through adoption of an integrated subwatershed and “stormwatershed” approach to stormwater management. This approach will evaluate and manage cumulative effects of stormwater management practices, including hydrological, geotechnical and fluvial geomorphological risks. The approach will include use of at-source best management & Low Impact Development practices in system design/operation.</p> <p>iii. Prohibit the establishment on Greenbelt lands of new stormwater management infrastructure and facility projects that support land uses located outside of the Greenbelt. Such facilities should be integrated with the proposed land use development and apply a subwatershed approach, as described in section 6.2.1.1.</p>	∅	∅	∅	2	∅	2	∅	∅	1	2	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	∅	1	1	1	1	1	~	~
	<p>6.7 c) For any new infrastructure that might be established within the Greenbelt, require that such projects:</p> <p>i. Demonstrate responsible environmental management by ensuring that all environmental assessments for projects influencing Greenbelt resources are of superior quality and are comprehensive in terms of integrating the best available research and information.</p> <p>ii. Demonstrate that the new facility or infrastructure is bundled with existing built</p>	1	1	1	2	1	2	∅	2	1	1	∅	∅	1	2	∅	∅	∅	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	~	~

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	<p>facilities or infrastructure to the maximum extent possible. To achieve effective bundling of infrastructure, specific design features or agreements may be necessary to ensure future flexibility for co-location of installations that differ in type or ownership.</p> <p>iii. Apply context-sensitive design best practices to infrastructure projects that aim to conserve Greenbelt natural and visual resources. Take landscape ecology principles into account in order to achieve ecological connectivity and wildlife safety. Include measures that seek to “blend” the infrastructure project into the Greenbelt landscape and protect views. Require the incorporation of wildlife-friendly designs, where appropriate, in infrastructure projects that affect natural areas in the Greenbelt.</p>																									
	6.7 d) Ensure that all infrastructure facilities demonstrate environmental best practices in their management	∅	1	∅	1	∅	1	∅	∅	1	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	~	~
	6.7 e) Ensure that both existing and any new infrastructure facilities minimize incremental and cumulative effects on land use, visual quality, natural systems, recreational activities and agricultural operations within the Greenbelt	∅	1	∅	1	1	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	~	~
Residences in the Greenbelt	6.8 a) Maintain a small, rural population within the Greenbelt in a limited number of houses, notably farmstead houses that can be maintained for future use	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	2	2	∅	∅	3	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	✓	✓
	6.8 b) Over the long term, phase out houses in the Greenbelt that do not support a Greenbelt farmstead.	∅	2	1	1	1	1	∅	∅	2	1	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	∅	1	∅	2	2	2	2	✓	✓	

Contribution of Direction to goals and/or strategic direction of higher level plan/strategy

Proposed direction has:

- 3: major contribution to goal/strategic direction;
- 2: moderate contribution to goal/strategic direction;
- 1: minor contribution to goal/strategic direction;
- ∅: negligible or neutral contribution to the goal/strategic direction in question.
- : negative contribution or contradictory to the goal / strategic direction

Stakeholder and Public Feedback to Date on Plan Directions:

- ✓ - general support
- ~ - ambivalent or neutral
- X – a number of members may have concern with the proposed direction