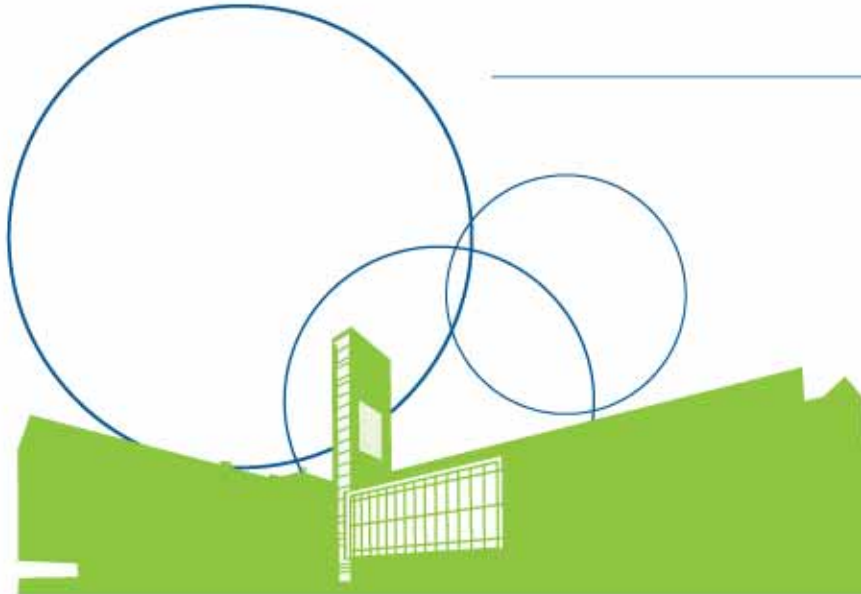


Natural Heritage Network Study

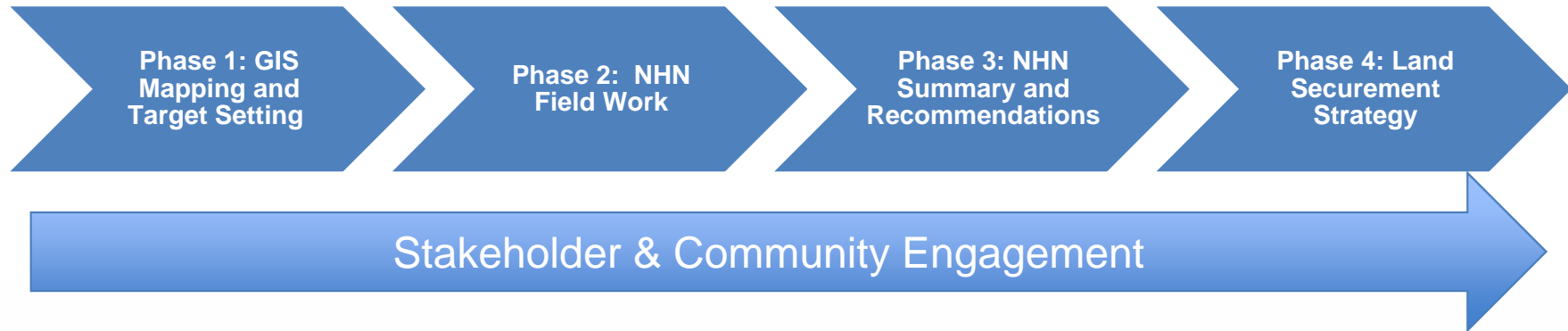
Committee of the Whole – Public Hearing

June 17, 2014

Vaughan City Hall, Council Chamber



KEY STEPS IN VAUGHAN'S NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK STUDY



- **Open Houses/Community Forum (June 28 and October 4, 2012; November 13, 2013)**
- **Committee of the Whole reports (December 12, 2012 and December 3, 2013)**
- **First Nations consultation**
- **Stakeholder sessions**
- **Landowner meetings**



OBJECTIVES OF A NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK (NHN)

- A NHN protects Vaughan's remaining Core Natural Areas and Enhancement Areas to create a network of well connected habitat capable of sustaining native plants and animals

*To identify a Natural Heritage Network (NHN) consisting of **core areas** & **enhancement areas** that form a robust, linked ecological system of resilient natural habitats providing long term protection of native biodiversity*



3



FIELD WORK UNDERTAKEN FOR THE NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK STUDY

Headwater Drainage Features



Significant Wildlife Habitat



TYPE OF INFORMATION IDENTIFIED AND EVALUATED



DIGITAL DATA
Forest/Woodlands
Wetlands
Meadowlands
Flora & Fauna
Significant Wildlife Habitat
Watercourses
Waterbodies
Crest of Slope
Oak Ridges Moraine
Greenbelt Plan
York Greenlands
Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest
Environmentally Significant Areas
City of Vaughan Zoning



ESTABLISHING CRITERIA TO REFINE THE NATURAL HERITAGE NETWORK

Criteria are used to determine the areas included in Vaughan's NHN based on:

- ecological principles intended to achieve the goal established for the NHN;
- implementing relevant Federal, Provincial, York Region and the City of Vaughan policies.

Criteria Used to Define NHN	
Woodlands	Wetlands
Watercourses	Waterbodies
Valleylands	Significant Wildlife Habitat
Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest (ANSI)	Environmentally Significant Areas (ESA)

Proposed VOP Policy Changes



7

Vaughan Official Plan 2010

Proposed Amendments to Schedules – Draft for Review

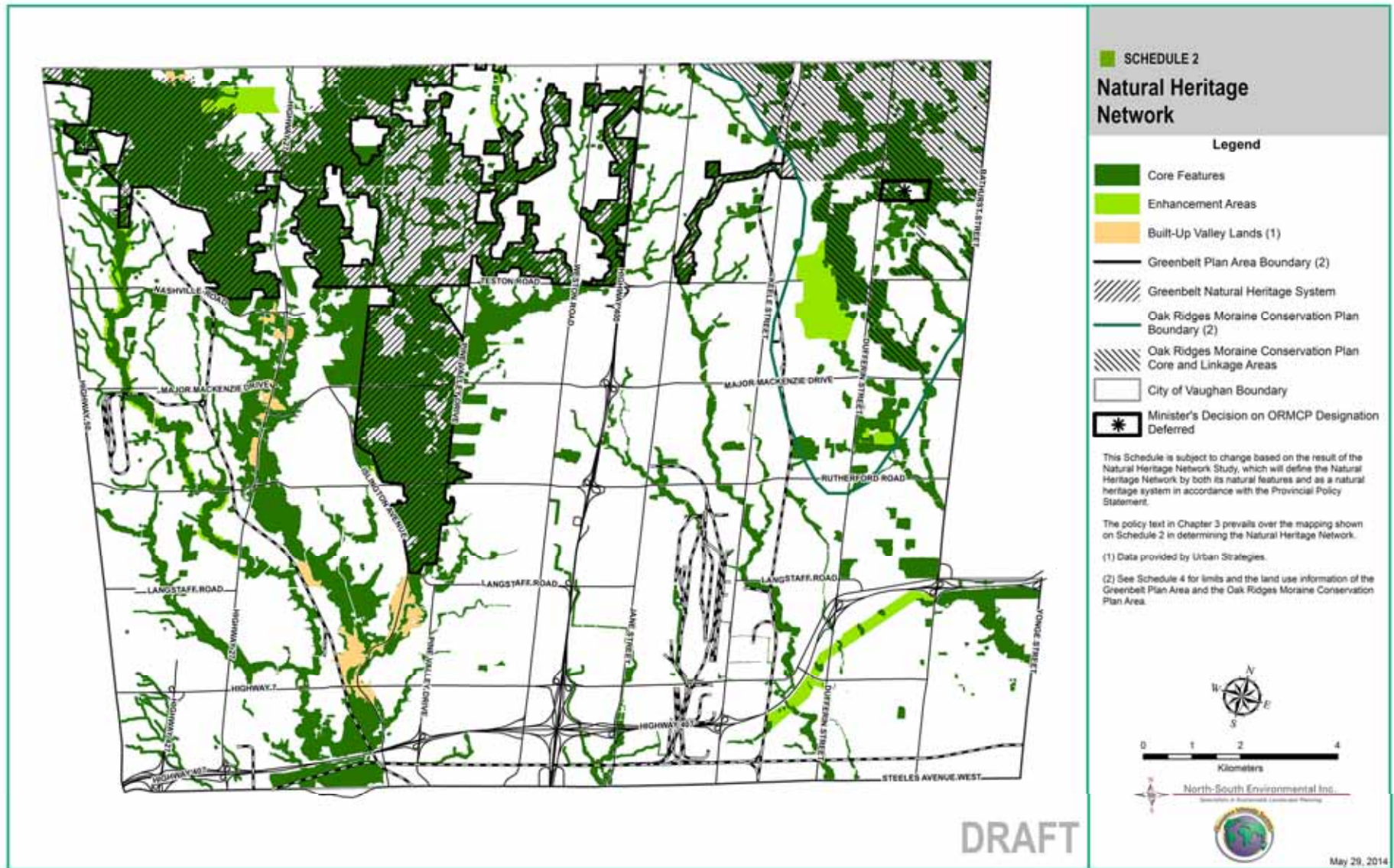
Schedule 2 – Natural Heritage Network

Legend

- Core Features
- Enhancement Areas
- Built-Up Valley Lands
- Natural Heritage System overlay of the Greenbelt Plan
- Natural Core and Natural Linkage designations of the ORMCP



Proposed Schedule 2 – Draft for Review



Vaughan Official Plan 2010

Proposed Amendments to Schedules – Draft for Review

Schedule 2A – Hydrologic Features and Valleylands

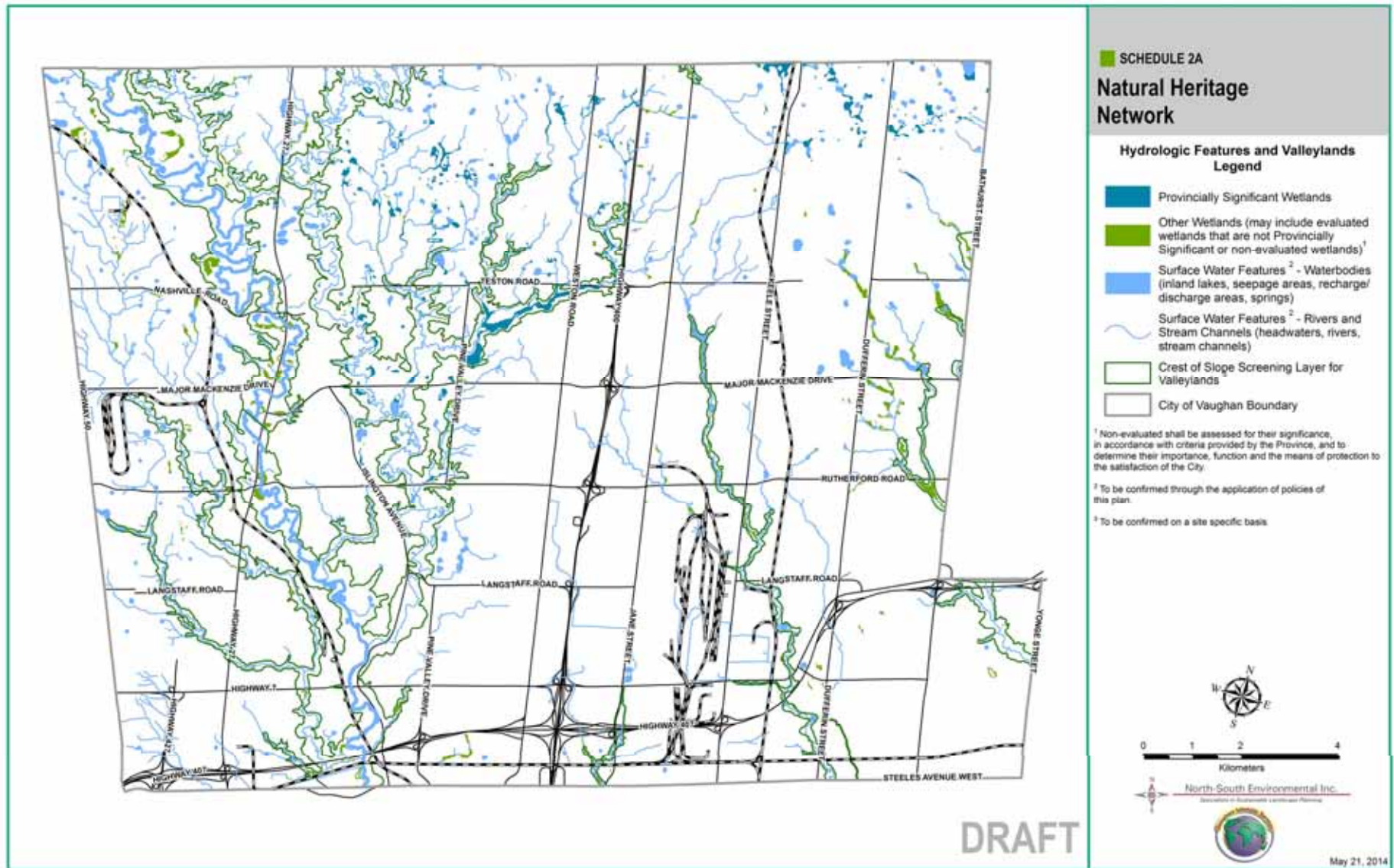
Legend

- Provincially Significant Wetlands
- Other Wetlands (may include evaluated wetlands that are not Provincially Significant or non-evaluated wetlands)
- Surface Water Features (headwaters, rivers, stream channels, inland lakes, seepage areas, recharge/discharge areas, springs)*
- Crest of Slope

*To be confirmed through the application of the policies of this plan.



Proposed Schedule 2A – Draft for Review



Vaughan Official Plan 2010

Proposed Amendments to Schedules – Draft for Review

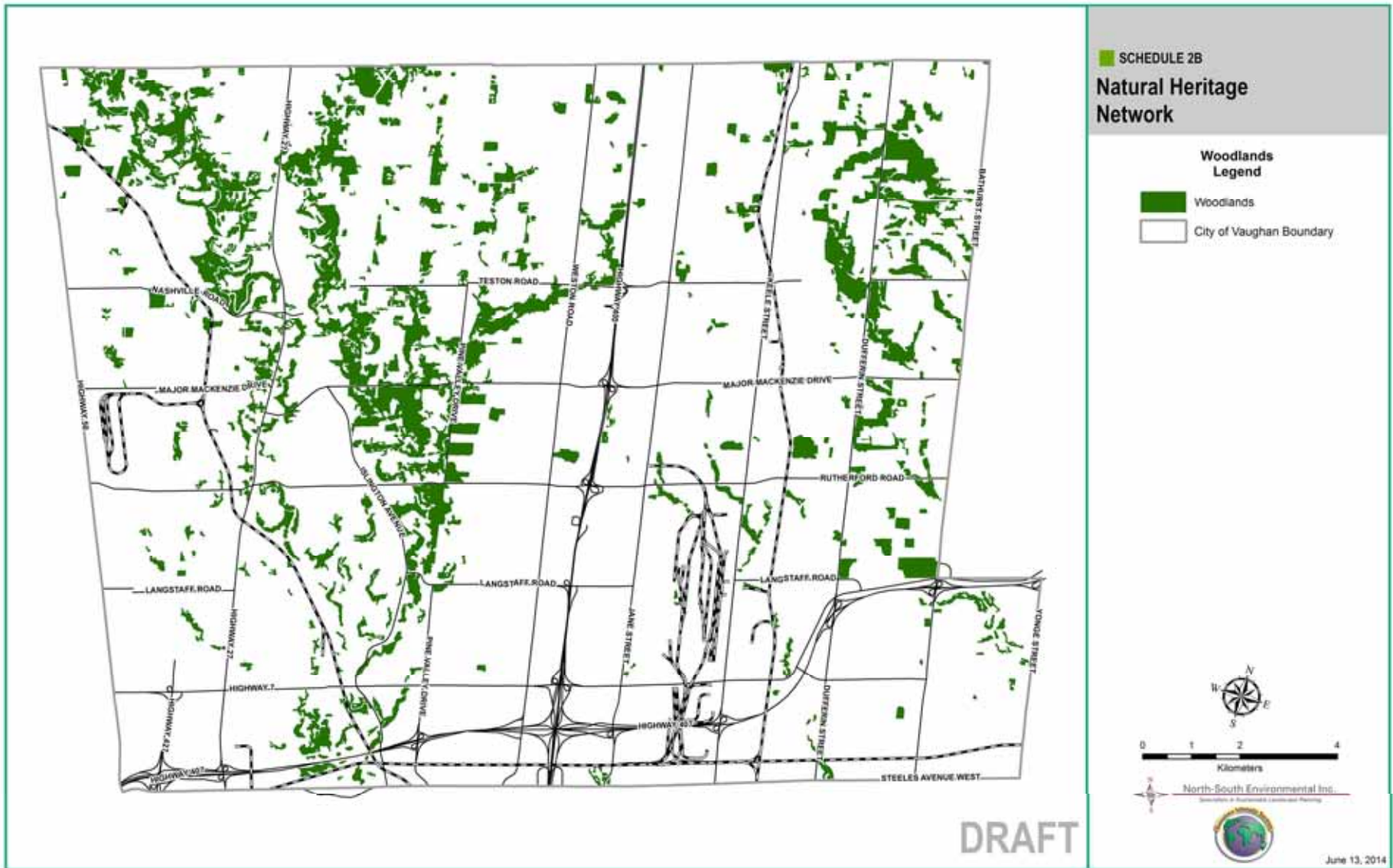
Schedule 2B – Woodlands

Legend

- Woodlands



Proposed Schedule 2B – Draft for Review



Vaughan Official Plan 2010

Proposed Amendments to Schedules

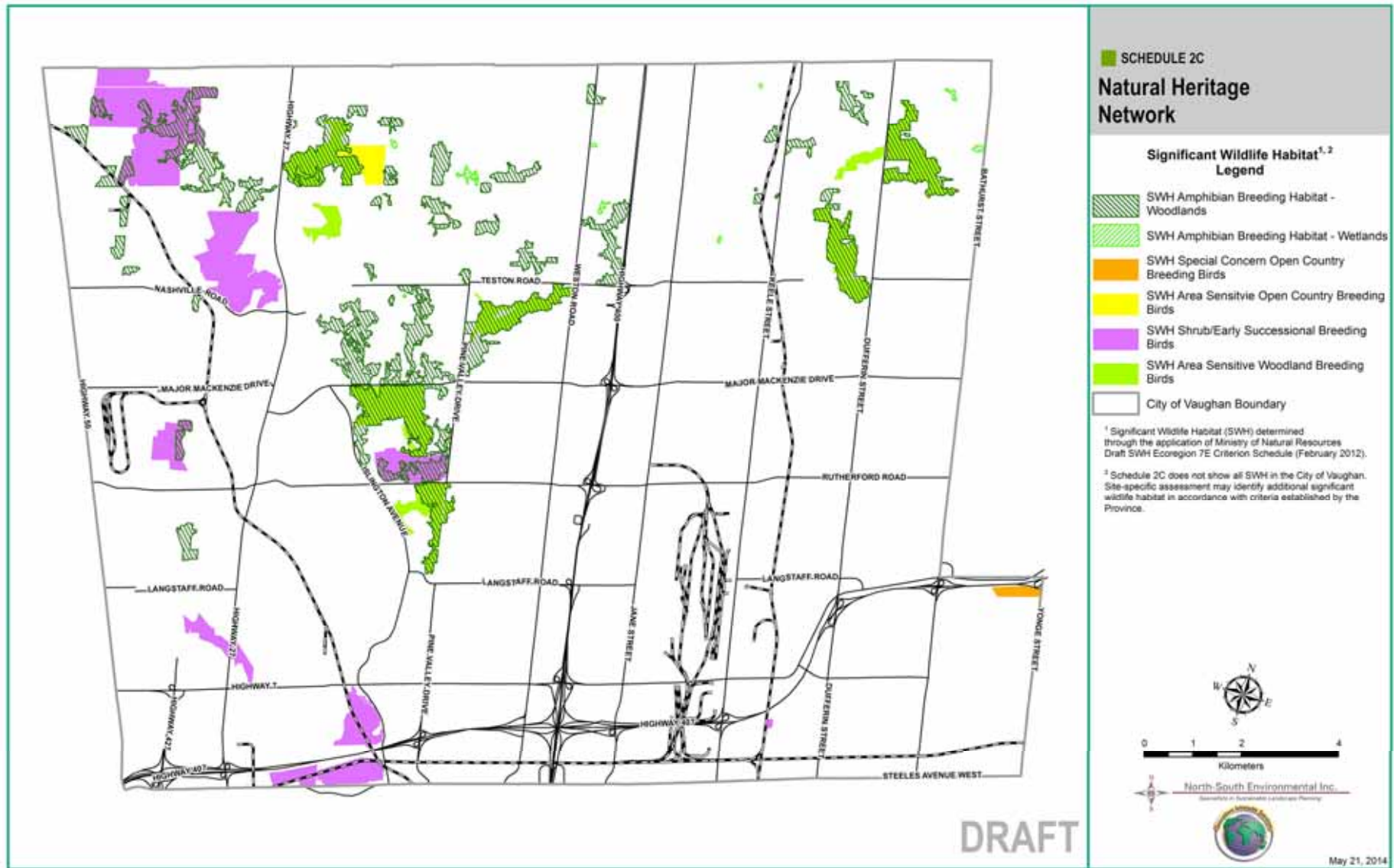
Schedule 2C – Significant Wildlife Habitat* – Draft for Review

Legend

- SWH Amphibian Breeding Habitat – Woodlands
- SWH Amphibian Breeding Habitat – Wetlands
- SWH Special Concern Open Country Breeding Birds
- SWH Area Sensitive Open Country Breeding Birds
- SWH Shrub/Early Successional Breeding Birds
- SWH Area-Sensitive Woodland Breeding Birds

* Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) determined through the application of Ministry of Natural Resources *Draft* SWH Ecoregion 7E Criterion Schedule (February 2012). Site-specific assessments may identify additional significant wildlife habitat in accordance with criteria established by the Province.

Proposed Schedule 2C – Draft for Review



SCHEDULE 2C
Natural Heritage
Network

- Significant Wildlife Habitat^{1,2} Legend**
- SWH Amphibian Breeding Habitat - Woodlands
 - SWH Amphibian Breeding Habitat - Wetlands
 - SWH Special Concern Open Country Breeding Birds
 - SWH Area Sensitive Open Country Breeding Birds
 - SWH Shrub/Early Successional Breeding Birds
 - SWH Area Sensitive Woodland Breeding Birds
 - City of Vaughan Boundary

¹ Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) determined through the application of Ministry of Natural Resources Draft SWH Ecoregion 7E Criterion Schedule (February 2012).

² Schedule 2C does not show all SWH in the City of Vaughan. Site-specific assessment may identify additional significant wildlife habitat in accordance with criteria established by the Province.

0 1 2 4
Kilometers

North-South Environmental Inc.
Specialists in Sustainable Landscape Planning

May 21, 2014

Vaughan Official Plan 2010

Policy Amendments Not Required

- Woodlands
- Wetlands
- Valleylands (Valley and Stream Corridors)
- Significant Wildlife Habitat
- ANSIs
- Habitat of Endangered and Threatened Species
- Fish Habitat

Note that habitat of Endangered and Threatened species and Fish Habitat are addressed through the policies in the VOP 2010 in accordance with appropriate federal and/or provincial legislation.



Vaughan Official Plan 2010

Recommended Policy Amendments – Draft for Review

Watercourses and waterbodies – Proposed New Policy

- That *watercourses* may need to be confirmed by the City and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority through field investigation. *Headwater drainage features* (HDFs) shall be identified and managed in accordance with TRCA’s “Evaluation, Classification and Management of Headwater Drainage Features Guideline”, as may be updated.

The guideline is a module of the Ontario Stream Assessment Protocol and can be found at:

<http://www.trca.on.ca/dotAsset/157464.pdf>



Vaughan Official Plan 2010

Recommended Policy Amendments – Draft for Review

Watercourses and Waterbodies – Proposed New Policies

Amend VOP 2010 policy 3.2.3.4(h)

- Sensitive surface water features (including waterbodies), seepage areas and springs not already captured in *valley and stream corridors*, and a 30 metre minimum vegetation protection zone for those seepage areas and springs in the **Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation** and **Greenbelt Plan Areas**.

Add subparagraph to VOP 2010 policy 3.3.5.1

- Prohibiting development and site alteration within sensitive surface water features and their vegetation protection zone unless it is demonstrated through an environmental impact study that the development or site alteration will not result in a negative impact to the ecological and/or hydrological functions of the sensitive surface water feature.

Vaughan Official Plan 2010

Recommended Policy Amendments – Draft for Review

Waterbodies – Proposed New Definitions

- Add definitions in Section 10.2 of VOP 2010 for *watercourses* and *Headwater Drainage Features* (from the TRCA Living City Policies document)
- Add definitions in Section 10.2 of VOP 2010 for *Sensitive Surface Water Features* and *Waterbody* (from the York Region Official Plan)



Managing the NHN



Managing the Natural Heritage Network

Implementation through Development Review (finalize EMG, develop a habitat compensation protocol, monitor progress towards targets)

Stewardship (restoration efforts, invasive species management, etc.)

Land Securement (landowner outreach, partnerships with existing land trusts)



VAUGHAN NHN Phase 2-4 Study Next Steps

Public Hearing – June 17, 2014

Public Comment period

Expert/Agency/City meetings

Future Technical Report to Committee of the Whole

Amendments to VOP 2010 recognizing existing appeals



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Project Web Site

http://www.vaughan.ca/projects/policy_planning_projects/natural_heritage/Pages/default.aspx