



# **Peel2041+**

## Regional Official Plan

### **Agricultural and Rural Systems Policy Directions and Mapping**

**Planning and Growth Management Committee, April 29, 2021**

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Regional Planning and Growth Management



# Agricultural and Rural Systems

The **Rural System** encompasses lands outside the Region's Urban Boundary. It has the following components:

- Rural Settlement Areas;
- Prime Agricultural Areas;
- Rural Lands; and
- the Palgrave Estate Residential Community.

The Rural System contains water resources, natural heritage features, recreational resources and mineral aggregates.





# Agricultural and Rural Systems

The **Agricultural System** is made up of interconnected elements that together create a viable, thriving agricultural sector. It consists of:

- The **agricultural land base** comprised of Prime Agricultural Areas and Rural Lands linking Prime Agricultural Areas; and
- The complementary **agri-food network** of infrastructure, services and other businesses important to the viability of the agri-food sector.





# The Policy Context

## Rural Peel

Rural Peel contributes to Peel's economy, environmental health and quality of life.

Agriculture continues to be important:

- 34,000 hectares farmed in 2016
- gross farm income from agriculture - \$94M

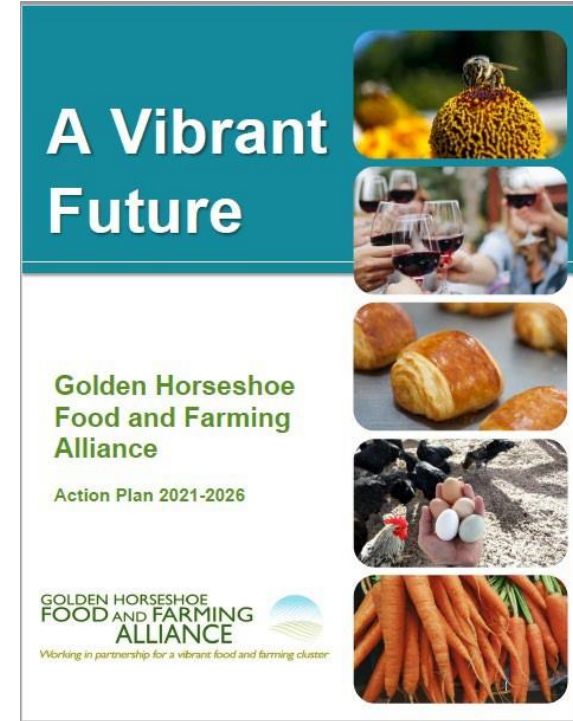
Urban pressures create significant challenges and opportunities.





# Peel Region Support for Agriculture

- Golden Horseshoe Food and Farming Alliance
- Peel Agricultural Advisory Working Group
- Peel Rural Water Quality Protection Program
- Grown in Peel
- Peel Food Action Council







# Provincial Policy Requires Agricultural System Approach

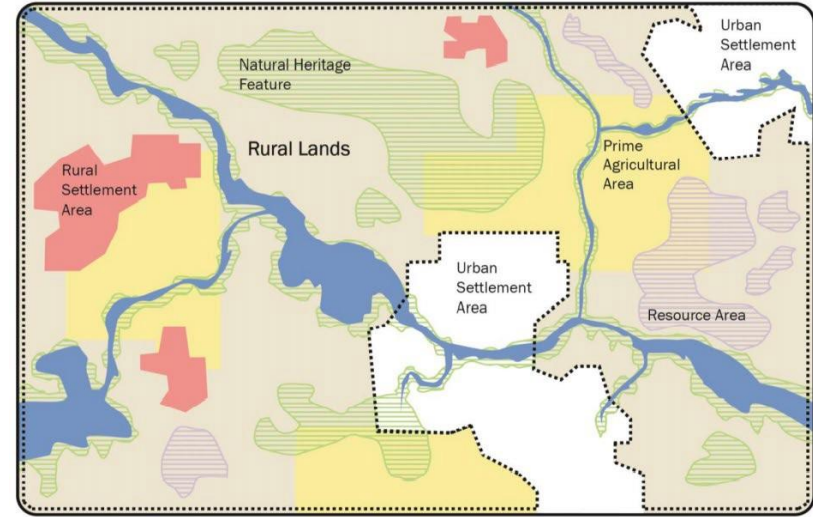
- Provincial mapping of Prime Agricultural Areas
- Protecting Prime Agricultural Areas for agricultural use
- Protecting farmers' ability to farm, avoiding land use conflicts
- Enhancing opportunities for agriculture-related uses and on-farm diversified uses
- Agricultural impact assessments





# Provincial Policy for Rural Systems Integrates Conservation, Agriculture and Rural Development

- Supports healthy, viable integrated rural areas
- Rural settlements shall be the focus for development
- Rural lands defined as lands outside prime agricultural areas and settlement areas
- Using infrastructure and public service facilities efficiently
- Development appropriate to the infrastructure which is planned or available





# Peel 2041+ Updating Regional Policy

- Ensure conformity with Provincial policy
- Refine Provincial Prime Agricultural Area mapping
- Utilize Regional/local studies on specific topics
- Discussion papers, draft policies and mapping
  - Agricultural policy
  - Agricultural mapping







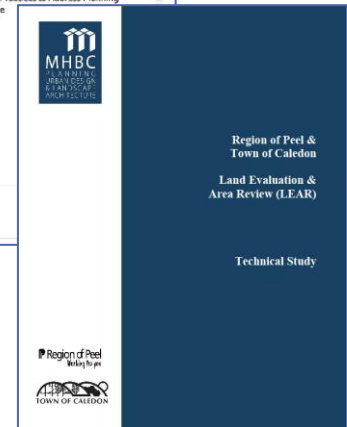
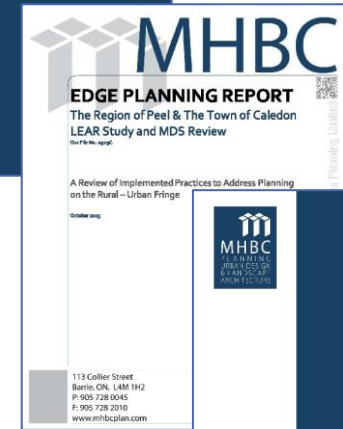
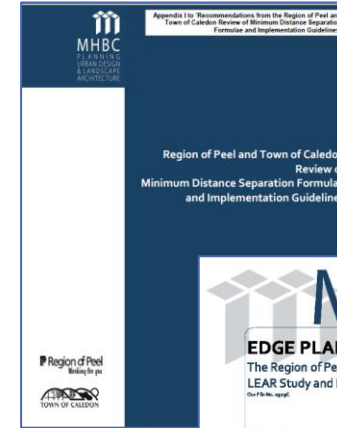
# Background Studies

In collaboration with the Town of Caledon

- Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) study
- Minimum Distance Separation (MDS)
- Edge Planning For Agriculture

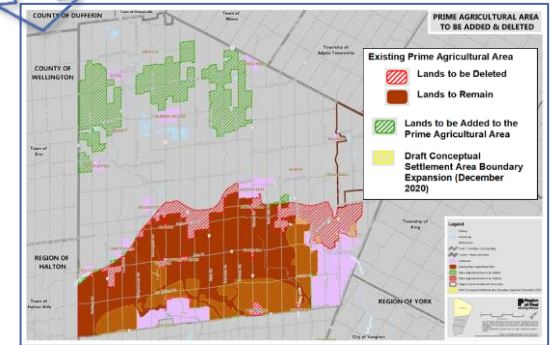
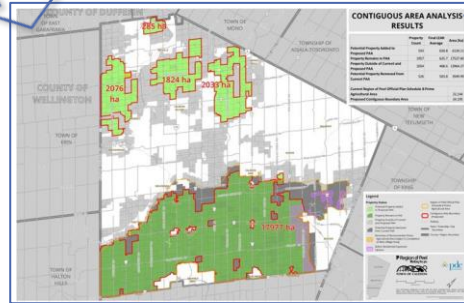
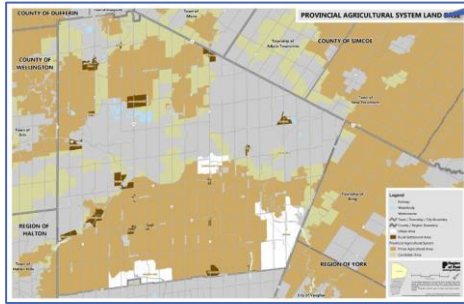
In collaboration with Regional Public Health

- Peel Food Charter
- Urban Agriculture





# Refinement of Provincial Agricultural Land Base Mapping and Prime Agricultural Areas



- Provincial mapping issued in 2018
- Municipalities required to designate Prime Agricultural Areas (PAA) in accordance with Provincial mapping
- Municipalities may refine mapping based on guidelines and criteria

• Region/Town Land Evaluation and Area Review Study (LEAR) used as basis to justify refinement of Provincial mapping

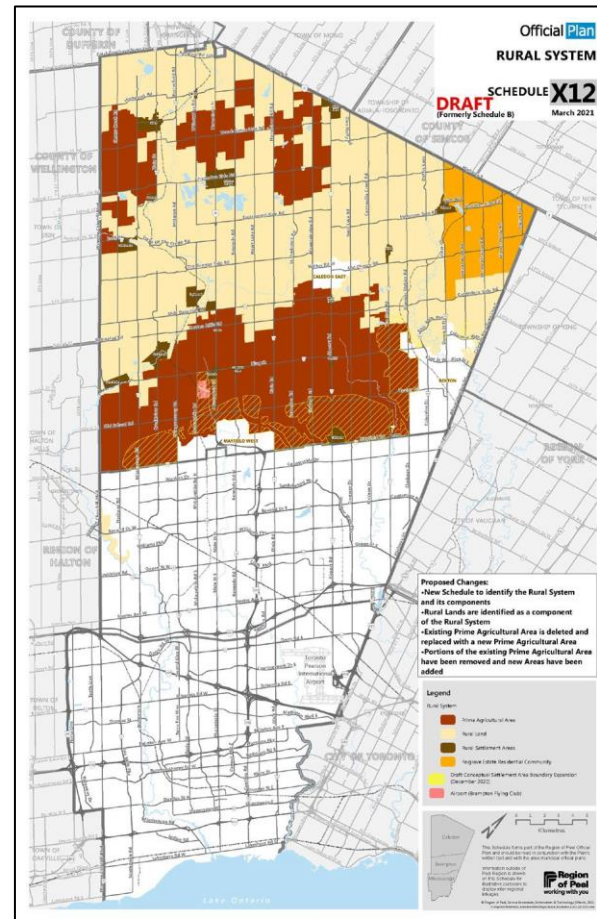
- Proposed refinement of PAA is consistent with Provincial direction
- Together with Rural Lands provides continuous land base for agriculture



# Proposed New Mapping Rural System

- Propose a new Schedule designating the Rural System and its components:
  - Prime Agricultural Area;
  - Rural Lands;
  - Rural Settlement Areas reflecting up-to-date mapping refinements\* ; and
  - the Palgrave Estate Residential Community

\*Note: Specific Rural Settlement Area expansion requests are being evaluated through the Settlement Area Boundary Expansion component of the MCR.





# Proposed Policies Agricultural System

- Incorporate an Agricultural System approach to support agriculture
- Protect Prime Agricultural Areas for agricultural use
- Provide greater flexibility and permissions for agricultural, agriculture-related and on-farm diversified uses
- Support urban agriculture and local food
- Promote initiatives to enhance the Agricultural System.





# Proposed Policies

## Rural System

- The Rural Service Centres (Bolton, Caledon East and Mayfield West) become part of the Urban System
- Encourages planning for healthy communities and economic development compatible with rural character and the natural environment
- Development directed to Rural Settlement Areas
- Permits Rural Settlement Area expansions only at the time of Municipal Comprehensive Review
- Designates Rural Lands and identifies permitted uses – including cemeteries
- Provides direction to be considered in reviewing development, including servicing
- Supports and enhances the Agricultural System

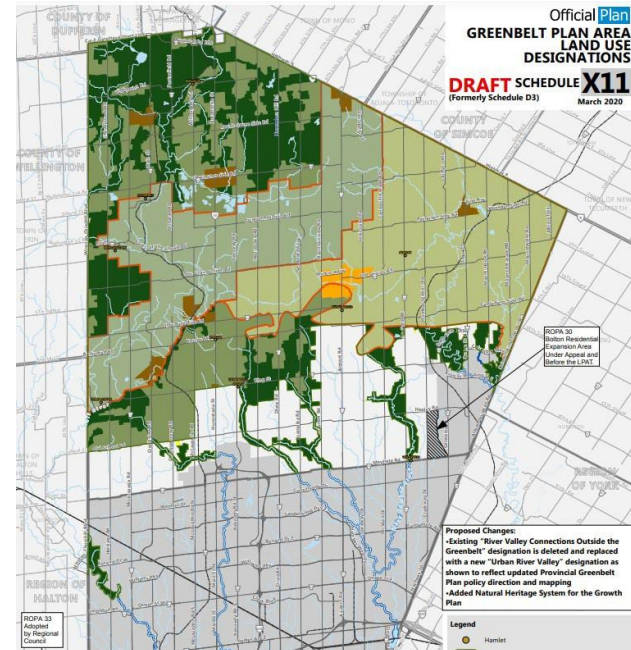




# Proposed Regional Policies

## The Provincial Planning Context

- Provincial land use plans apply in the Rural System outside the white belt
- The policies of those plans apply in addition to the policies of the Regional and local plans



# Questions?