**EXCERPTED FROM THE CHARACTERIZATION REPORT (Pages 120-123):**

**Table 2.5.2.12. Summary of Recommended Criteria for Identification of Key Features and Supporting Features for the Preliminary FSA NHS**

| Feature Type | PPS / Provincial Plan Feature | Peel Greenlands Designation | SSWS NHS Recommendation |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Wetlands | **Significant Wetland**  *As defined and delineated by the Province (MNRF)*  **Significant Coastal Wetlands**  *As defined and delineated by the Province (MNRF)*  ***Wetlands***  *Key Natural Heritage Feature and Key Hydrologic Feature under the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan* | **Core Area**   * *Significant wetlands and coastal wetlands as defined and delineated by the Province (MNRF)*   **NAC**   * *Evaluated non-provincially Significant wetlands*   **PNAC**   * *Unevaluated* wetlands | **Key Features**   * *Core Area wetlands (i.e., PSWs)* * *NAC and PNAC Wetlands ≥2ha.* * *NAC and PNAC wetlands ≥0.5ha that are contiguous to or occur within 30m of a permanent or intermittent watercourse.* * *NAC and PNAC wetlands ≥0.5ha that hydrologically contribute to a headwater identified as Protection or Conservation.* * *NAC and PNAC wetlands contiguous to a significant woodland.*   **Supporting Features**   * All other NAC and PNAC wetlands   Note: there are no coastal wetlands within the FSA. |
| Woodlands | **Significant Woodlands**  *As determined in accordance with provincial guidance documents.*  *The Natural Heritage Resource Manual (NHRM 3rd Edition) is applicable to the project area*  *Key Natural Heritage Feature under the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan..* | **Core Area**   * *Woodlands in Rural System ≥16ha* * *Woodlands in Urban System ≥4ha* * *Woodlands ≥4ha containing ≥0.5ha >100yrs of age and having late successional characteristics (excludes plantations)* * *Woodlands ≥4ha and supporting rare species or vegetation communities (per Table 1 of the ROP)*   **NAC**   * *Woodlands in Rural System ≥4ha <16ha* * *Woodlands in Urban System ≥2ha <4ha* * *Woodlands ≥0.5ha containing ≥0.5ha >100yrs of age and having late successional characteristics (excludes plantations)* * *Woodlands ≥0.5ha supporting a significant linkage function, as determined through a natural heritage study* * *Woodlands ≥0.5ha within 100m of another significant feature supporting a significant ecological relationship between the features* * *Woodlands ≥0.5ha within 30m of a watercourse, surface water feature or any wetland that is or can be identified as a wetland in accordance with OWES.* * *Woodlands ≥0.5ha and supporting rare species or vegetation communities (per Table 1 of the ROP)*   **PNAC**   * *Cultural woodlands and cultural savannahs ≥4ha in the Rural System and ≥2ha in the Urban System and Rural Service Centres* * *All other woodlands ≥0.5ha* | **Key Features**   * *Core Woodlands* * *NHRM Significant woodlands:*   + *Woodlands ≥4ha*   + *Woodlands with interior habitat of any size*   + *Woodlands ≥2ha and within 30m of a Watercourse or Provincially Significant Wetland.*   + *Woodlands ≥0.5ha and occurring within 30m of a permanent or intermittent stream, or a Key Feature*   + *Containing ≥0.5ha >100yrs of age and having late successional characteristics (excludes plantations)*   + *supporting rare species or vegetation communities (per Table 1 of the ROP)* * *Woodlands ≥0.5ha and contiguous to or occurring within 30m of a headwater feature or wetland supporting a headwater feature.*   **Supporting Features**  All NAC and PNAC woodlands using the Urban System Threshold (where applicable). |
| Valleylands | **Significant Valleylands**  *As determined in accordance with provincial guidance documents.*  *The Natural Heritage Resource Manual (NHRM 3rd Edition) is applicable to the project area.* | **Core Area**   * *Core valley and stream corridors as defined in Policy 2.3.2.2 and Table 2*   *Core Valley Component:*   * Main branches, major tributaries, other tributaries and identified watercourses draining directly to Lake Ontario. * Valley and stream corridors are the natural resources associated with the river systems characterized by their landform, features and functions, and include associated ravines.   *Mapping Criteria:*   * Main branches, major tributaries and watercourses having direct drainage to Lake Ontario are to be mapped from their outlet to the furthest upstream extent of their defined valley landform (i.e., mapped to limit of crest of slope). * Other tributaries are to be included and mapped to the limit of their defined valley portion if they meet the following criteria:   + Contains habitat for aquatic SAR (END or THR)   + Watercourse crosses municipal boundaries and provides linkage to other Core Areas of the Greenlands System. * Excludes ill-defined HDFs including created headwater valley / stream corridors, discontinuous defined valley features and other non-valley landforms.   *Core Valley Component:*   * Ill-defined sections of major valleys   *Mapping Criteria:*   * Ill-defined sections are to be illustrated using regulatory floodplain and meander belt hazards whichever is greater unless site specific assessment has determined valley width in accordance with the text of this Plan. * Shown schematically and subject to site specific evaluation to confirm width of Core valley and stream corridor.   *Core Valley Component:*   * Associated Ravines   *Mapping Criteria:*   * Associated ravines within the Urban System are to be included if meeting one or more of the following criteria:   + Important ecological functions related to the valley landform,   + Habitat for END / THR species   + Linkage to other natural features of the Greenlands System   + Flood and erosion hazards; or   + Restoration potential * Associated ravines within the Rural System are not considered Regional Core valley and stream corridors.   + Significance is determined in accordance with the Town of Caledon Official Plan policies.   **NAC**   * Any other valley or stream corridor not defined as part of the *Core* Areas | **Key Features**   * *Core* Valley and Stream Corridor Component   **Supporting Features**   * NAC Valley and Stream Corridors |
| Environmentally Sensitive or Significant Areas | n/a | **Core Area**   * Environmentally Sensitive or Significant Areas | **Key Features**   * ESA’s as defined by the Region[[1]](#footnote-1).   **Supporting Features**  n/a |
| Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH) | **Significant Wildlife Habitat** | **Core Area**  *n/a*  **NAC**   * *Per Figure 5 of the Peel ROP and as defined by the Peel-Caledon Significant Woodland and Significant Wildlife Habitat* Study *(June 2009).*   **PNAC**  n/a | **Key Features**   * *Confirmed SWH*   ***Supporting Features***  *n/a* |
| Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest | **Significant Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest**  *As identified by the Province.* | **Core Area**   * *Provincial Life Science ANSIs*   **NAC**   * *Regionally significant Life Science ANSIs* * *Provincially significant Earth Science ANSIs*   **PNAC**   * *Regionally significant Earth Science ANSIs* | **Key Features**   * *Provincial and Regional Life Science ANSIs* * *Provincially Significant Earth Science ANSIs*   **Supporting Features**   * *Regionally Significant Earth Science ANSIs* |
| Fish Habitat | **Fish Habitat**  *In accordance with the definitions provided under the Federal Fisheries Act.* | **Core Area**  *n/a*  **NAC**   * *Fish* *habitat*   **PNAC**  *n/a* | **Key Features**   * *Direct (Permanent or Seasonal) Fish Habitat*   **Supporting Features**   * *Indirect (Contributing) Fish Habitat* |
| Habitat for Threatened or Endangered Species | **Habitat for Endangered or Threatened Species**  *As identified in consultation with the MECP.* | **Core Areas**   * *Significant habitats of threatened and endangered species*   **NAC**  n/a  **PNAC**  n/a | **Key Features**   * *Habitat* *of threatened and endangered species confirmed in consultation with the MECP.*   **Supporting Features**  n/a |
| Hydrologic Features | n/a | **Core Areas**  n/a  **NAC**   * *Headwater* source or discharge areas   **PNAC**   * *Sensitive* groundwater recharge areas | **Key Features**   * Headwater Drainage Features identified as Protection and Conservation[[2]](#footnote-2).   **Supporting Features**   * Headwater Drainage Features identified as Mitigation. * [to be confirmed] Ecologically sensitive groundwater recharge areas. |
| Provincially Designated Land Uses / Areas | n/a | **Core Areas**   * *Escarpment Natural Areas of the Niagara Escarpment Plan*   **NAC**   * *Escarpment Protection Areas of the Niagara Escarpment Plan* | The FSA does not include any lands within the NEP area.  The GBP and GP NHS are coincident within the FSA. For both plans, features are protected, corridors are to be maintained, and policies apply within the area of the Plan.  **Key Features**   * Key Natural Heritage Features as defined in the Greenbelt Plan and the Growth Plan. * Key Hydrologic Features as defined in the Greenbelt Plan and the Growth Plan.   **Supporting Features**   * Other natural features (per the Plans) |
| Other | *Guidance in the PPS for the identification of NHS’ includes the option of including other natural heritage features and areas.*  Under the Growth Plan and Greenbelt Plan Sand Barrens, Savannahs and Grasslands are identified as Key Natural Heritage Features. | **Core Areas**  n/a  **NAC**   * *Any other natural features and functional areas interpreted as part of the Greenlands System NAC by the individual area municipalities, in consultation with the conservation authorities and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, including, as appropriate, elements of the Potential Natural Areas and Corridors (PNAC).*   **PNAC**   * *Potential ESA’s identified as such by the conservation authorities.* * *Any other natural features and functional areas interpreted as part of the Greenlands System PNAC by the individual area municipalities, in consultation with the conservation authorities.* | **Key Features**  Sand Barrens, Savannahs, and Grasslands (as defined through the Provincial Plans and per associated ELC classification) are considered Key Features.  Additional features may be considered pending further review. |
| Linkages / Natural Corridors | * + To be determined through Part B | | |
| Enhancement Areas | * + To be determined through Part B | | |

1. Conservation Authority ESAs are no longer in use; they have been replaced by other policy protections and are not maintained. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In accordance with assessment guidelines for Headwater Drainage Features [↑](#footnote-ref-2)