



April 19, 2021

Re: Proposed Greenbelt Expansion

The Urban River Valley designation as shown on Schedule 1 applies to lands within the main corridors of river valleys connecting the rest of the Greenbelt to the Great Lakes and inland lakes. The lands in this designation comprise river valleys and associated lands and are generally characterized by being:

- lands containing natural and hydrologic features, including coastal *wetlands*
- lands designated in official plans for uses such as parks, open space, recreation, conservation and environmental protection

Question 1:

- **What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of the Study Area of the Paris Galt Moraine?**

We at the Six Nations of the Grand River are not opposed to the initial focus area of the Study Area, however, we would like to know the rationale behind the decision to arrive at this focus area. What criteria was used to determine that this was the area that needed to be examined? Who was consulted on the area of focus? What scientific principles were used to determine that this is the best area on which to place the focus?

Question 2:

- **What are the considerations in moving from a Study Area to a more defined boundary of the Paris Galt Moraine?**

It is very difficult to comment on this when we have no context for choosing this Study Area. What more defined boundary are you proposing? There has been no consultation regarding this proposed expansion with the People of the Six Nations of the Grand River. How can you possibly expect for us to have a reasoned, thoughtful response to these questions without first having a discussion regarding the proposed changes?

Question 3:

- **What are your thoughts on the initial focus area of adding, expanding and further protecting Urban River Valleys?**

Again, this sounds like a good idea but there is not enough information regarding the plans for this. Have you already chosen specific rivers? Are you looking at all rivers within the current Greenbelt? How are the rivers chosen? Is there specific criteria for a river valley to be included? Lack of consultation again is a concern.

As the people of the Six Nations of the Grand River get their drinking water from the Grand River, we would like to see that included in the Urban River Valleys protection area.

Question 4:

- **Do you have suggestions for other potential areas to grow the Greenbelt?**

As protection, improvement or restoration of the quality and quantity of ground and surface water and the hydrological integrity of watersheds is within the mandate of the Greenbelt, we would like to see the entire Grand River watershed placed under the protection of the Greenbelt plan. As potable drinking water is a concern for many First Nation communities including the Six Nations of the Grand River, stringent protection of the water that our community uses for both drinking and cooking must be a priority.

Also, the Grand River has been designated a Heritage River and it states right in the Greenbelt Plan:

Natural Heritage and Water Resource Systems – The Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow are aligned with and build on the Provincial Policy Statement to provide policy protection for natural heritage and water resource systems, features and areas, including habitat for endangered and threatened species. Both the Greenbelt Plan and A Place to Grow contain policies supporting and protecting a Natural Heritage System that is made up of these natural features and areas along with the linkages that connect them together. Similarly, policies in these plans protect water resource systems on a watershed basis, with the Greenbelt incorporating significant headwaters, river corridors, wetlands and other features.

Question 5:

- How should we balance or prioritize any potential Greenbelt expansion with the other provincial priorities mentioned above?

All water sources should be protected and that should be a priority for the province. Water is a sustainer of all life and should be protected from all pollutants.

Question 6:

- Are there other priorities that should be considered?

The natural environment, including all species and their habitats should also be a priority.

Thank you for taking our comments and concerns into consideration.

Robbin Vanstone

Consultation Supervisor,
Six Nations of the Grand River.