

Growing the Greenbelt Criteria:

This reference sheet provides a summary of the Growing the Greenbelt criteria used by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to consider municipal requests to expand the Greenbelt. The full text of the criteria, including process and principles, is available in the document *Growing the Greenbelt* (August 2008) and should be referenced for more details.

When a formal submission is received, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, with technical support from partner ministries, will review the submission to determine how the municipality has addressed all of the criteria. Based on this review, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing may initiate the process to amend the Greenbelt Plan, in accordance with the provisions of the *Greenbelt Act, 2005*.

- 1. Municipal Request** - The request is from a regional, county or single-tier municipality and is supported by a council resolution.
In a region or county, the lower tier host municipality (or municipalities) in the proposed expansion area supports the request through a council resolution.
The municipality documents how it has addressed the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing's expectations for:
 - Engagement with the public, key stakeholders, and public bodies such as conservation authorities, including notification of affected landowners.
 - Engagement with Aboriginal communities.
- 2. Additions to the Greenbelt** – The request identifies a proposed expansion area that is adjacent to the Greenbelt or demonstrates a clear functional relationship to the Greenbelt area and how the Greenbelt Plan policies will apply.
- 3. Embraces the Greenbelt Purpose** – The request demonstrates how the proposed expansion area meets the intent of the vision and one or more of the goals of the Greenbelt Plan.
- 4. Connections to Greenbelt Systems** – One or more of the Greenbelt systems (Natural Heritage System, Agricultural System and Water Resource System) is identified and included in the proposed expansion area and their functional relationship to the existing Greenbelt system is demonstrated.
- 5. Complements the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe** – A municipality's request to expand the Greenbelt may be considered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing while the municipality is engaged in its associated Growth Plan conformity exercise. The proposed area for expansion cannot impede the implementation of the Growth Plan. The municipality must demonstrate how the expansion area supports the goals, objectives and targets of both the Greenbelt Plan and the Growth Plan.
- 6. Timing and Relationship to Other Provincial Initiatives** – A municipality's request to expand the Greenbelt may be considered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing while complementary provincial initiatives are being developed. The request has to demonstrate that the proposed expansion area will not undermine provincial interests, or the planning or implementation of complementary provincial initiatives.

This information is taken from a factsheet prepared by Ontario's Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing (14th Floor, 777 Bay Street, Toronto, ON, M5G 2E5, TEL: (416) 585-6014). For more information on the Greenbelt and the complete criteria, visit: Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Greenbelt - www.greenbelt.ontario.ca.

For more information about community-level discussions about the potential to grow the Greenbelt in Hamilton, contact Lynda at Environment Hamilton at contactus@environmenthamilton.org or (905) 549-0900.