

Development application guidelines

Natural features restoration plan

What is the purpose of this?	The <i>natural features restoration plan</i> is used to identify mitigation measures to be taken as recommended in an <i>environmental impact study</i> . It is also used to visually demonstrate an implementation strategy that will return any affected natural feature and its ecological function to its original and/or equivalent condition with no net environmental loss.
Who should prepare this?	The <i>natural features restoration plan</i> should be prepared by a qualified environmental specialist who is familiar with the natural feature(s) and system(s) being affected.
When is this required?	A <i>natural features restoration plan</i> may be required for development applications within or adjacent to a significant natural area, system and/or feature which is reasonably expected to have adverse impacts on the natural area, system, feature or function.
Why do we need this?	The <i>natural features restoration plan</i> should: ▪ provide a visual assessment of the mitigation techniques brought forward in an <i>environmental impact statement/study</i> and/or <i>tree vegetation study and tree protection plan</i> ▪ provide a clear understanding by visually illustrating in plan view: - the development proposal - all existing natural features and systems - all mitigation measures being taken - the preferred plan which optimizes mitigation initiatives ▪ assist staff with their analysis and report preparation
How should this be prepared?	A <i>natural features restoration plan</i> should contain: ▪ the location of the site, project name, address, applicant's and owner's name, file number ▪ existing and proposed development ▪ existing and proposed grades ▪ existing and proposed natural features, systems and areas including any relevant ground materials such as soil and rock ▪ existing and proposed vegetation including their species name, size and condition ▪ construction access routes and material stockpile locations ▪ other requirements as indicated through consultation with the conservation authority/region/municipality
What else should we know?	It is not the intent of the <i>natural features restoration plan</i> to duplicate other study requirements. If this plan is required, it is advised that it be coordinated with other environmental studies, analyses and recommendations so that they can be addressed through one streamlined study process.

The ***natural features restoration plan*** is most often coordinated with the *environmental impact statement/study* and/or the *tree vegetation study and tree protection plan*. Please see the terms of reference for these studies for further information.

This plan may also work to fulfill requirements of the Ontario Provincial Policy Statement and the Greenbelt Plan for natural heritage evaluations.

What other resources are available?

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Provincial Policy Statement:
<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page215.aspx>

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – The Greenbelt Plan:
<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page189.aspx>