

---

**GRIDS 2 / MCR – SCREENING CRITERIA AND  
EVALUATION TOOL**

**(WATERDOWN AND BINBROOK)**

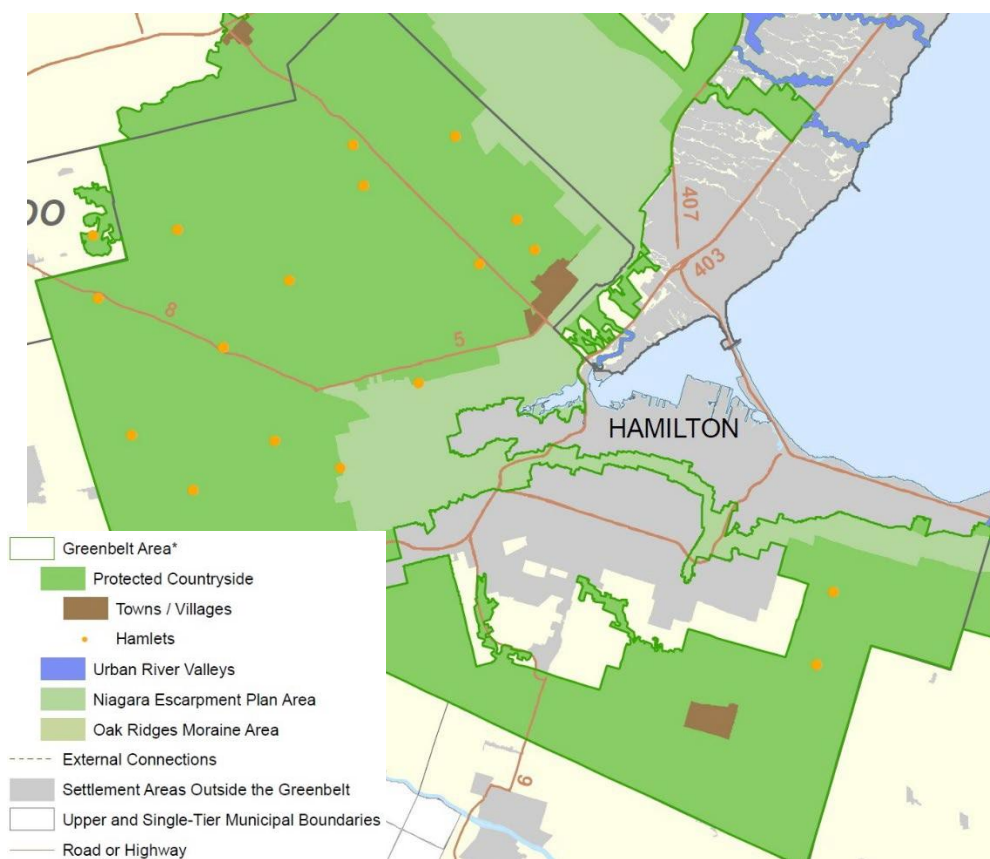
---



## URBAN BOUNDARY EXPANSION EVALUATION – WATERDOWN AND BINBROOK

The Provincial Growth Plan 2019, as amended, allows for minor expansions of a settlement area boundary into the Greenbelt Plan Protected Countryside from areas that are identified as a Town or Village in the Greenbelt Plan. Within the City of Hamilton, both Waterdown and Binbrook are classified as ‘Towns’ within the Greenbelt Plan.

The expansion permitted by the Growth Plan policy in these areas, as noted below, is minor in size, being restricted to only 10 ha of land in total, with a maximum of 50% of that area permitted to be used for residential development. Because of the size restriction on expansions from these areas, the City has developed a special evaluation tool to be used for the consideration of expansions from Binbrook or Waterdown.



Source: Province of Ontario, Greenbelt Plan, 2017

The tool is a scaled down version of the GRIDS 2 / MCR Planning for Growth to 2051: Evaluation Framework and Phasing Criteria being used as part of the evaluation of the City’s whitebelt growth areas. Certain criteria that are included in the whitebelt evaluation are not appropriate for the evaluation of the small expansion requests from Waterdown and / or Binbrook due to

the size restriction, including the restriction on residential development, the Growth Plan policy direction, and the existing conditions in these areas.

Policy 2.2.8.3 (k) of the Growth Plan 2019, as amended, identifies the following criteria for the consideration of settlement area boundary expansion within the Greenbelt Plan area:

- k. within the Protected Countryside in the *Greenbelt Area*:
  - i) the *settlement area* to be expanded is identified in the Greenbelt Plan as a Town/Village;
  - ii) the proposed expansion would be modest in size, representing no more than a 5 per cent increase in the geographic size of the *settlement area* based on the *settlement area* boundary delineated in the applicable official plan as of July 1, 2017, up to a maximum size of 10 hectares, and residential *development* would not be permitted on more than 50 per cent of the lands that would be added to the *settlement area*;
  - iii) the proposed expansion would support the achievement of *complete communities* or the local agricultural economy;
  - iv) the proposed uses cannot be reasonably accommodated within the existing *settlement area* boundary;
  - v) the proposed expansion would be serviced by existing *municipal water and wastewater systems* without impacting future *intensification* opportunities in the existing *settlement area*; and
  - vi) expansion into the Natural Heritage System that has been identified in the Greenbelt Plan is prohibited

To assist the City with evaluation requests to expand the urban boundary in Waterdown and / or Binbrook, the evaluation framework on the following pages will be used.

The first phase of the evaluation is a screening tool. Each proposed expansion area will be evaluated against screening criteria based on the Growth Plan policy 2.2.8.3(k). Any expansion areas that cannot meet the screening criteria will not be considered further for expansion.

Expansion requests that pass the screening criteria will be evaluated in phase two against a series of criteria representing both provincial and local priorities to identify the preferred expansion option, if any.

It is noted that there is no requirement for the City to expand the urban boundary from Waterdown and / or Binbrook. Consideration of such an expansion will only be undertaken if there is a demonstrated need for the expansion (eg. logical rounding out of the boundary or recognition of existing uses), including an identified need for the non-residential portion of the expansion area.

## PHASE ONE: INITIAL SCREENING:

All potential expansion areas from Waterdown and Binbrook will be screened against the Growth Plan criteria identified in Policy 2.2.8.3(k).

Any areas that do not pass ALL of the screening criteria will be excluded from consideration in the second phase of the evaluation.

This phase of the evaluation is an individual evaluation of each potential expansion area.

## PHASE ONE: SCREENING CRITERIA:

THEME	SCREENING CRITERIA	AREA 1	AREA 2	AREA 3
<b>Size / Use</b>	Is the proposed expansion area less than 10 ha in size?	✓	✓	✗
	Is residential development restricted to a maximum of 50% of the expansion area?			
	Is there a demonstrated use / need for the non-residential portion of the expansion area?			
<b>Complete Communities</b>	Does the proposed expansion support the creation of a complete community or the local agricultural economy?			
	Has it been demonstrated that the proposed uses cannot be reasonably accommodated within the existing urban boundary?			
<b>Servicing Infrastructure</b>	Can the proposed expansion area be serviced by existing water / wastewater systems without impacting future intensification opportunities in the existing urban area?			
<b>Natural Heritage</b>	Does the proposed expansion area avoid the natural heritage system?			

## PHASE TWO: EVALUATION CRITERIA AND IDENTIFICATION OF PREFERRED EXPANSION OPTION

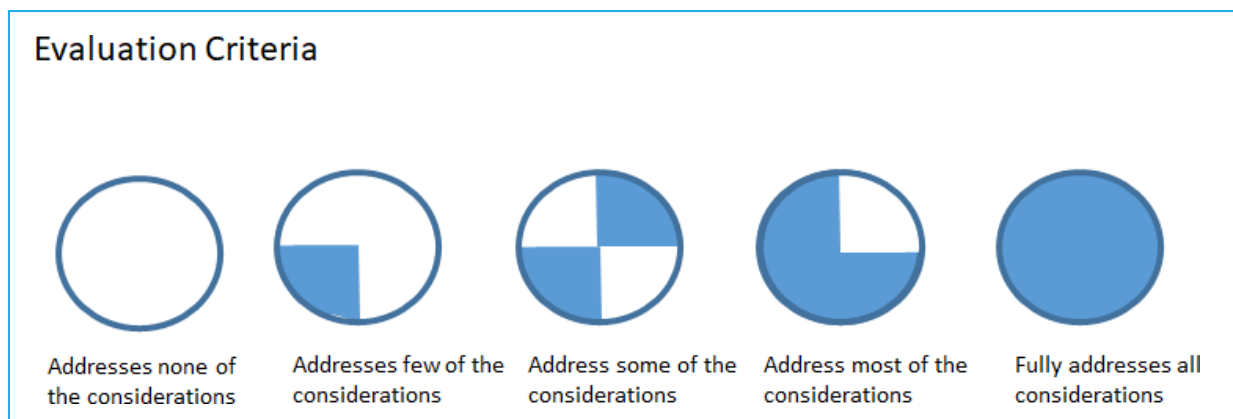
The second phase of the evaluation will evaluate each proposed expansion area that remains after the initial screening against a series of criteria which represent local and provincial planning priorities, including the GRIDS 2 10 Directions to Guide Development.

Each expansion area will be evaluated against the criteria and identified as fully addressing, mostly addressing, partially addressing or not addressing the criteria. Following the evaluation, the areas will be ranked against each other, and the expansion area that best satisfies the criteria will be identified as the preferred expansion option. If deemed necessary, proposed expansion areas may be divided into smaller areas for the purposes of evaluation.

If no expansion areas perform well against the criteria (i.e. only partially address or do not address all or most of the criteria), no areas will be identified as the preferred expansion area.




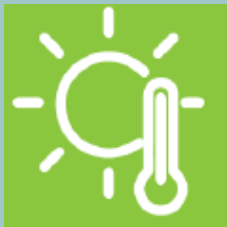
Only one expansion may take place from each of Waterdown and Binbrook.




The following is an example of the proposed evaluation tool:





The chart on the next page summarizes the criteria to be considered in relation to the Phase 2 evaluation of expansion areas from Waterdown and Binbrook.

PHASE 2 EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Theme	Criteria	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
<b>Efficient Servicing</b> 	Can the expansion area be efficiently serviced based on existing water / wastewater and stormwater infrastructure?			
<b>Transportation</b> 	Does the expansion area align well with existing and planned road and active transportation networks?			
	What is the impact of the expansion area on the capacity of the road network?			
<b>Complete Communities</b> 	Does the expansion area contribute to the surrounding area's completeness?			
	Does the expansion area have access to community facilities or address gaps in currently available facilities?			
	Would the expansion area impact the scenic resources of the Niagara Escarpment?			
<b>Climate Change</b> 	Does the expansion area present any significant opportunities or risks associated with climate change?			

Theme	Criteria	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
<b>Natural Heritage and Water Resources</b>  	Does the expansion area demonstrate avoidance and / or mitigation of potential negative impacts on watershed conditions?			
	Does the expansion area avoid key hydrologic areas?			
	Does the expansion area maintain, restore or improve the functions and features of the area including diversity and connectivity of natural features and the long term ecological function of natural heritage systems?			
<b>Natural Hazards</b>  	Does the Candidate Expansion Area contain any natural hazards?			
	Does the Candidate Expansion Area contain a significant amount of hazardous lands that would make the area unfeasible for future development?			
<b>Agriculture</b>  	Does the expansion area minimize / mitigate impacts on the agricultural system, including the agri-food network, to support local food security?			
	Does the proposed expansion minimize land fragmentation?			
	Is the proposed expansion in compliance with MDS guidelines?			

Theme	Criteria	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
<b>Finance</b> 	<p>Does the proposed expansion have an unreasonable or unexpected financial impact on the City?</p>			
<b>Cultural Heritage</b> 	<p>Does the Candidate Expansion Area contain significant cultural heritage resources including designated heritage properties and can they be conserved?</p>			
	<p>Does the Candidate Expansion Area contain significant archaeological resources and can they be conserved?</p>			