

# Proposal to return lands to the Greenbelt - Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023

**ERO number**

019-7739

**Notice type**

Act

**Posted by**

Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing

**Notice stage**

Proposal

**Proposal posted**

October 16, 2023

**Comment period**

October 16, 2023 - November 30, 2023 (45 days) Open

**Last updated**

October 16, 2023

This consultation closes at 11:59 p.m. on:

**November 30, 2023**

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## Proposal summary

The Ministry is seeking feedback on a proposal to introduce legislation that would restore the 15 parcels of land that were redesignated or removed from the Greenbelt in late 2022.

The *Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023*, if passed, would ensure any future boundary changes are made through an open, public and transparent legislative process.

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## Proposal details

In December 2022, in order to accommodate Ontario's expected growth and support the building of more homes, the government removed or redesignated 15 areas of land totaling approximately 7,400 acres from the edge of the Greenbelt Area ([ERO Posting 019-6216: Proposed Amendments to the Greenbelt Plan](#)). At the same time, a portion of the Paris Galt Moraine was added to the Greenbelt, along with 13 Urban River Valley areas ([see ERO Posting 019-4485: Growing the size of the Greenbelt](#)), totaling 9,400 acres, for an overall expansion of approximately 2000 acres.

The government has acknowledged that the process for the 2022 Greenbelt removals was too fast and not sufficiently transparent.

In response to the feedback from Indigenous communities, the public, municipalities and stakeholders the government has introduced proposed legislative amendments that would:

Add 15 sites back to the Greenbelt that were removed/redesignated in December 2022 by incorporating the description of the Greenbelt Area and Oak Ridges Moraine Area boundaries directly into the legislation

- Eliminate the authority to add or remove lands to/from the Greenbelt Area and Oak Ridges Moraine Area by regulation so that any future amendments to these Areas would require legislative change to the *Greenbelt Act* or the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act*
- Revoke the existing *Greenbelt Area boundary regulation (Ontario Regulation 59/05)* and the existing regulation that designates the Oak Ridges Moraine Area (*Ontario Regulation 1/02*)
- Undo the redesignation of lands to Settlement Area in the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan
- Provide for a concurrent amendment to the Greenbelt Plan's land use schedules to restore the same protections to lands that they had before the 2022 amendment
- Continue to provide that no Plan amendments can be made that would reduce the total area in the Greenbelt Plan
- Reverse the repeal of the *Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act, 2005*
- Restore the same protections for easements and covenants on the lands in the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve that they had before the 2022 amendment, and
- Strengthen immunity provisions.

The amendments, if passed, will maintain the lands added to the Greenbelt in 2022, which includes a total of 9,400 acres (13 additions of Urban River Valley areas and lands in the Paris Galt Moraine area). This bill would fulfill the government's commitment to fully restore these lands and provide protections to the Greenbelt moving forward. At the same time, the government remains committed to addressing Ontario's housing supply crisis and working with municipalities to achieve our shared housing targets.

Further information on the legislative proposal can be found on the Environmental Registry of Ontario (ERO) at:

- [ERO # 019-7735 – New Act regarding the Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve easements and covenants. | Environmental Registry of Ontario](#)

Information on and mapping related to the 2022 decision to amend the Greenbelt Plan and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan can be found here:

- [ERO # 019-6216 - Amendments to the Greenbelt Plan](#)
- [ERO # 019-6218 - Proposed redesignation of land under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan O. Reg.140/02](#)

## **Summary of Proposed Changes**

### *Greenbelt Act, 2005*

The proposed changes would:

- Re-enact section 2 of the *Greenbelt Act, 2005* so that the Greenbelt Area would be specified in legislation and would include the lands that had been removed from the Area on December 14, 2022. The authority to make regulatory amendments for future additions/removals of lands from the Greenbelt Area by the Lieutenant Governor in Council would also be repealed. Going forward, any proposed changes to the Greenbelt boundary would require the approval of the Ontario Legislature through an open, public and transparent legislative process.
- Introduce a new section to the Act, 14.1, to restore the application of the Greenbelt Plan to the 15 areas of land that were removed or redesignated in 2022, while maintaining the 2022 lands that were added at the same time.
- Re-enact and enhance section 19 of the *Greenbelt Act, 2005* to ensure the province has no legal liability for matters related to the *Greenbelt Act*.

### ***Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing Act***

The proposed changes would expand protections from liability.

### ***Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001***

The proposed changes would:

- Re-enact section 2 of the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001* so that the authority to make regulatory amendments for future additions/removals of lands from the Greenbelt Area by the Lieutenant Governor in Council would be repealed. Going forward, any proposed changes to the Oak Ridges Moraine boundary would require the approval of the Ontario Legislature through an open, public and transparent legislative process.
- Re-enact and enhance section 20 of the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001* to ensure the province has no legal liability for matters related to the *Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act*.

- Introduce a new section to the Act, 26, to restore the designation of land that was redesignated in 2022.

## Analysis of Regulatory Impact

There is minimal direct compliance or reporting requirements associated with this proposal, and these are limited to municipal staff costs to update official plans to reflect the proposed changes to provincial plans. This proposal would support the continuation of a consistent regulatory environment for people and businesses in the Greenbelt Area.

## Supporting materials

### Related filesClick to Expand Accordion

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 1](#)

pdf 924.67 KB

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 2](#)

pdf 698.48 KB

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 3](#)

pdf 854.76 KB

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 4](#)

pdf 682.32 KB

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 5](#)

pdf 783.21 KB

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 6](#)

pdf 929.43 KB

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 7](#)

pdf 854.47 KB

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 8](#)

pdf 860.98 KB

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 9](#)

pdf 740.54 KB

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 10](#)

pdf 733.49 KB

#### [Proposed Modifications 2023 Maps 11](#)

pdf 956.03 KB

## Related linksClick to Expand Accordion

- [Bill 136, Greenbelt Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023](#)
  - [Greenbelt Act, 2005](#)
  - [Greenbelt Plan](#)
  - [Greenbelt Maps](#)
  - [Greenbelt Area boundary regulation O. Reg. 59/05](#)
  - [Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan](#)
  - [Oak Ridges Moraine Maps](#)
  - [Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001](#)
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- [Proposal to return lands to the Greenbelt \(Amendment to the Greenbelt Plan\)](#)
  - [Proposal to return lands to the Greenbelt \(Amendment to Greenbelt Boundary Regulation O. Reg. 59/05\)](#)
  - [Proposed Amendments to the Greenbelt Plan](#)
  - [Decision on proposed amendments to the Greenbelt Area boundary regulation](#)
  - [Decision on proposed redesignation of land under the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan](#)
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## View materials in person

Some supporting materials may not be available online. If this is the case, you can request to view the materials in person.

Get in touch with the office listed below to find out if materials are available.

Provincial Land Use Plans Branch

### Address

13th Flr, 777 Bay St  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3  
Canada

## Comment

Let us know what you think of our proposal.

Have questions? Get in touch with the contact person below. Please include the ERO number for this notice in your email or letter to the contact.

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