



## Protecting What We Value

### What is Protecting What We Value

The County of Brant is home to a variety of natural assets. For the protection and management of our assets, it's important that the County has a plan with policies that support County values.

The County of Brant's natural assets include:

- Natural Water Resource Systems
- Natural Heritage Systems
- Mineral Aggregate and Petroleum Resources
- Agricultural Systems
- Cultural Resources

As the County continues to grow, it will face opportunities and challenges in the protection of assets such as agricultural land, water resources, and cultural heritage. The Official Plan will need to give consideration that will best protect the County's resources.

How do we protect these assets?



Wetlands



Forests



Rivers



Valleys



Fish



Wildlife

### What do I need to know?

The protection of the quality and quantity of water in the County of Brant and beyond, is essential to the wellbeing of humans for uses such as drinking water, farming, fishing and recreational activities.

**The County of Brant is rich with diverse natural features.** These features include forests, wetlands, rivers, valleys, and fish and wildlife habitats providing many well-known benefits to residents, businesses and visitors.

### Did you know?

"The region has some of Canada's most important and productive farmland. Its fertile soil, moderate climate, abundant water resources, and proximity to markets support agricultural production that cannot be duplicated elsewhere in the country."

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe ii

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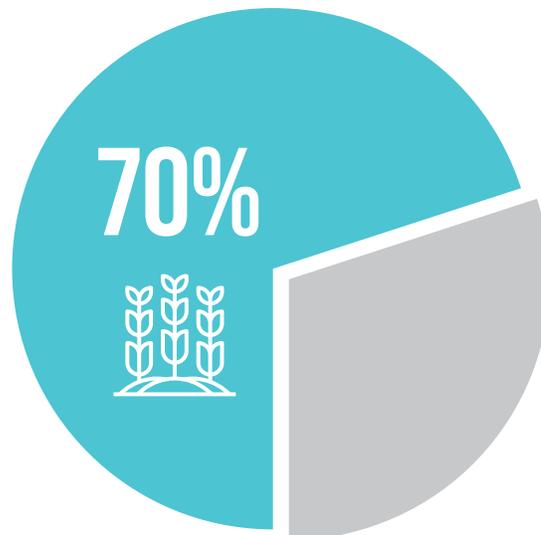
## Agriculture

The County's agricultural system of is one of the longest running and most important economic sectors of the County's history and identity. **Over 70% of agricultural lands within the County of Brant are classified as prime agricultural land.** This prime agricultural land classification refers to lands where soil has been classified to support crop growth. Our rural and agricultural areas are key components to the economic success and quality of life in the County of Brant.

## Cultural Heritage

The County is also rich in cultural heritage resources. Cultural heritage resources provide a sense of place and identity, promote well-designed built form and support a vibrant tourism industry. Historical villages and old farm houses are examples of cultural heritage in the County.

Over 70% of the agricultural land in the County is PRIME agricultural land.



## How can I get involved?

*Engage with us! Tell us what you think.*

- What are the most important elements of the identity of the County of Brant that must remain strong as we plan for our future?
- How can the County of Brant work to make its important rivers and water resources available for benefits like recreation and education opportunities, while protecting these resources from harmful impacts?
- How can the County of Brant protect its environmental biodiversity? How can we protect and improve the tree canopy in urban areas? What about protecting greenspace?
- What ideas do you have to make aggregate operations more compatible with surrounding uses? How do we best encourage sustainable extraction to protect our resources and benefit from the products produced?
- How can the County limit consumption of agricultural lands while supporting a financially viable agricultural sector?
- Where are the County's most significant cultural heritage buildings? Should we allow these building to be removed and replaced, or encourage adaptive reuse and revitalization of historic structures?

Visit [www.brant.ca/NewOfficialPlan](http://www.brant.ca/NewOfficialPlan) for details on the New Official Plan process.

**Sign up** for Official Plan update e-mails, attend virtual town hall sessions and submit your questions and feedback anytime to [officialplan@brant.ca](mailto:officialplan@brant.ca)