

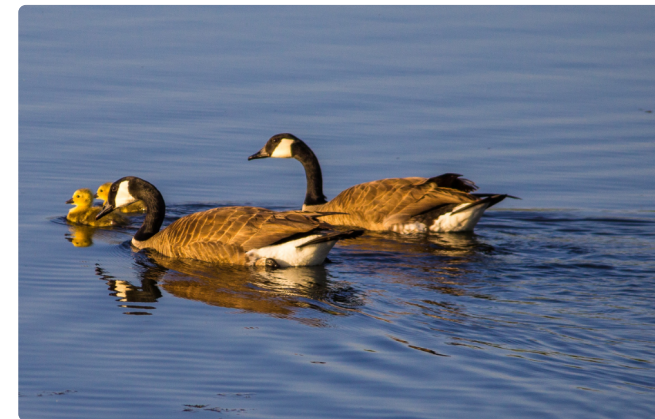


Discussion Paper Rural Areas

Rural areas are vital to the economic success of the Province and the quality of life of its residents. Rural areas include, rural settlement areas, rural lands, prime agriculture areas, natural heritage features and area and other resources areas.

Provincial Policy

The Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) and the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario provide direction on specific issues. The Township Official Plan must conform to the PPS which sets out the following policies:



Viable Rural Areas

Healthy rural areas should be supported by building upon rural character, promoting regeneration, promoting diversification of the economic base, providing opportunities for sustainable tourism, and conserving biodiversity.

Direct Growth to Settlement Areas

The Province recognizes the diversity of settlement areas, including cities, towns, villages, and hamlets. Rural settlement areas are the

focus of growth, development, and intensification in the Township. Growth is directed towards settlement areas and may be expanded only at the time of a comprehensive review. New development in rural areas should be appropriate to the infrastructure which is planned or already available.

Permitted Uses on Rural Lands

Permitted uses on rural lands include: management or use of resources, resource based recreational uses (including recreational dwellings), residential development, including lot creation that is locally appropriate, home occupations/home industries, cemeteries, and other rural uses. Development that is compatible with the rural landscape and can be supported by rural service levels should be supported.

Section A of the Official Plan sets out the goals of the Rural/Resource Areas (Section A.2.5.) in Seguin Township. It is the goal of this Plan to protect, maintain and enhance the rural open space character of lands outside of Settlement Areas.

Current Township Policies

Section C.1.3 Rural and Resources Area contains more detail in the objective of the Township in Rural Areas. The township specifies what Rural and Resource Area designation accommodates;

"A range of uses including agriculture, forestry, linear open space, rural residential, small-scale commercial and industrial operations, aggregate extraction, and mining. Over the lifetime of this Plan, the rural area will experience limited development and is intended to maintain its rural and resource character and preserve the natural environment."

For more details on specific objectives see Section C.1.3.1. in the Official Plan.



What changes would you like to see?

Your opinion matters! Visit the Official Plan Website to give your input on what changes you would like to see by answering the questions below on the [forum](#) or [private comment](#).

1. What does rural character mean to you?
2. Do you think that the current Official Plan policies supporting rural character are working?
3. What changes might be required to the policies continue to support rural character?
4. Please provide any other comments you may have for consideration in the development of new policies.