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# The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

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To: Works Committee  
From: Commissioner of Works  
Report: #2025-W-27  
Date: September 3, 2025

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**Subject:**

Declaration of Surplus Lands Known as Durham Forest Tracts in the Township of Uxbridge

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**Recommendations:**

That the Works Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the seven Region owned properties, including six Durham Forest Tracts (see “Attachment #4 – Region Owned Lands”), located in the Township of Uxbridge, and legally described below as i) to vii), be declared as surplus to Regional requirements:
- i) Part of Lot 15, Concession 4, as in UX14446, Uxbridge, identified with the PIN 26826-0049;
  - ii) Part of Lots 24 and 25, Concession 3, Uxbridge, as in UX14204 and UX14320, subject to an easement in gross over Part Lot 25, Concession 3, Uxbridge, Part 6 Plan 40R-28016 as in DR1217208; Township of Uxbridge, identified with the PIN 26833-0039;
  - iii) Lots 11 and 12, Concession 7, Uxbridge; Part Lot 13, Concession 7, Uxbridge as in UX11625; Part Lot 14, Concession 7, Uxbridge as in UX11627 and UX11630; Part Lot 15, Concession 7, Uxbridge as in UX11602; Part Lots 11 and 12, Concession 8 and Road Allowance Between Concessions 7 and 8 as closed by By-law UX585 between Lot

- 13, Concession 8 and Road Allowance between Lots 10 and 11 Concession 8 (aka Houston Rd) Uxbridge as in UX15835; Road Allowance between Lots 11 and 12 Concession 8, Uxbridge as in UX2003; Road Allowance between Concessions 7 and 8, Uxbridge, lying South of the Westerly production of the Northern limit of Lot 11 Concession 8, being Road Allowance between Concessions 7 and 8, Uxbridge; Part Lot 12, Concession 8, Uxbridge, as in CO87045; Part Lot 13, Concession 8, Uxbridge as in UX14924; Uxbridge AND Part Lot 16, Concession 7, Uxbridge as in UX14537; Uxbridge; identified with the PINs 26822-0045 and 26839-0038;
- iv) Part of Lot 21, Concession 6, Uxbridge, as in UX13674, Uxbridge; identified with the PIN 26838-0175;
  - v) Part of Lot 16, Concession 6, as in UX14342, except Part 1 Plan 40R-9778; subject to CO60671, Uxbridge, identified with the PIN 26836-0077 (LT);
  - vi) Part of Lot 25, Concession 7, Uxbridge, as in UX13898, Except Part 1, 40R-3500; Uxbridge identified with the PIN 26840-0003;
  - vii) Part of Lot 11, Concession 6, Uxbridge, as in UX11771, Uxbridge; identified with the PIN 26393-0016;
- B) That the requirements in Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Regional Municipality of Durham By-law#52-95 establishing the procedures, including the giving of notice to the public governing the sale of the real property be waived;
- C) That Regional staff be permitted to convey the lands described above in Recommendation A, i) to iv) to His Majesty the King in Right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks (The "Province") with the conditions described herein, for incorporation into the Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park, at nominal value;
- D) That the lands as identified in Recommendation C be transferred to the Province, containing the following conditions to be captured in an Agreement of Purchase and Sale to be executed by the Commissioner of Works:
- i) The contribution of the lands and their inclusion in the UUPP must achieve a net ecological, economic, and community benefit for the local

- area municipalities, including additional investment, advertisement, and sustained maintenance by the Province;
- ii) Consideration is to be the nominal sum;
  - iii) Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) is responsible for all legal, survey and other costs related to the land conveyance, as well as any and all future costs associated with maintenance and/or ownership of the lands;
  - iv) Prior to the Lands being transferred to the Province, and managed by MECP, the Region will sever approximately 25 acres from the Main Forest Tract. These lands will be retained for future municipal infrastructure. See Attachment #6 for the approximate location of the lands to be retained;
  - v) The Province shall continue to grant access for Durham District School Board to the compound within the Main Tract of the Durham Region Forest space, at nominal rent, for their continued use towards educational purposes;
  - vi) The Province will fully indemnify the Region from any and all claims from injuries, damages or costs of any nature resulting in any way, either directly or indirectly, from this conveyance and future use of the lands;
  - vii) Land will be transferred on an “as is, where is” basis, with no representations or warranties;
  - viii) The park Management Plan must be approved by Regional staff;
  - ix) The Province acknowledges and agrees in writing that the Region’s contribution to the Urban Park will be recognized by the installation of a permanent monument identified by the Region’s name acknowledging the contribution at each forest tract, identifying the lands that were transferred;
  - x) In the event MECP proposes to sell, pledge or transfer to a third party any acquired lands or any interest in the acquired lands, the Region shall have the Right of First Refusal to purchase such interest on the same terms and conditions as the offer to purchase received by the Province, for nominal sum. Registration of a right of first refusal is to be registered

- on title at the time of transfer of the Lands from the Region to the Province;
- x) In the event that the Lands are transferred back to the Region, all costs associated with the transfer will be borne by the Province;
  - xii) Any additional reasonable terms and conditions as deemed appropriate by Region staff or its solicitor as may be required for an Agreement of Purchase and Sale including but not limited to the Region reserving rights or retaining ownership of portions of the lands as identified in Recommendation A, i) to iv) that may be required for current and future infrastructure needs.
- E) That Regional staff be permitted to convey the lands described above in Recommendation A, v) to vii), to the Township of Uxbridge with the conditions described in Recommendation F, at nominal value;
- F) That the Lands as identified in Recommendation E be transferred to the Township of Uxbridge under the following conditions as part of an Agreement of Purchase and Sale to be executed by the Commissioner of Works:
- i) Consideration is to be for nominal sum;
  - ii) The Township of Uxbridge is responsible for all legal, survey and other costs related to the land conveyance;
  - iii) That prior to the conveyance of the Trail Lands (identified in Attachment #5) to the Township of Uxbridge that the Township identify to the Region the land needed for the trail connection via a draft Reference Plan;
  - iv) Upon completion of the trail connection, the Township of Uxbridge agrees to transfer the balance of the Trail Lands, surplus to Uxbridge's needs, and declare it surplus and transfer to the Province for inclusion in the UUPP;
  - v) The Township of Uxbridge agrees to minimize the area of land required to facilitate the trail connection, thereby ensuring the maximum amount of land is eventually transferred to the Province for inclusion in the UUPP;

- vi) The Township of Uxbridge agrees that the future use of the Dog Park Lands (identified in Attachment #5) will be for a public dog park or other public uses;
  - vii) The Township of Uxbridge agrees that the Regional Forest West Tract (identified in Attachment #5) will be used to facilitate a land swap with LaFarge Canada Inc. for their lands identified with PINs 263930014 and 263930015. The Township of Uxbridge further agrees that should any benefit, financial or otherwise be obtained as a result of the swap, that said benefits be conveyed to the Regional Municipality of Durham.
  - viii) In the event the Township of Uxbridge proposes to sell, pledge or transfer to a third party any acquired lands or any interest in the acquired lands, the Region shall have the Right of First Refusal to purchase such interest on the same terms and conditions as the offer to purchase received by the Township of Uxbridge, for nominal sum. Registration of a right of first refusal is to be registered on title at the time of transfer of the Lands from the Region to the Township of Uxbridge.
  - ix) That the proposed Agreement of Purchase and Sale and the proposed conditions as described in Recommendation F of this report be adopted by the Township of Uxbridge Council prior to any transfer of the identified lands.
- G) That the Commissioner of Works be authorized to execute all documents associated with the transactions along with the Agreements of Purchase and Sale as described in Recommendations D and F;
- H) That Regional Council receive and adopt the Township of Uxbridge Council resolution 2025-05 dated July 14, 2025, included as Attachment #7 to this report and authorize Regional staff to incorporate the conditions as contained therein as maybe be relevant to include in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale as described in Recommendation F; and,
- I) That a copy of this report and the accompanying Regional Council direction be provided to the Township of Uxbridge and to Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks.

**Report:****1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to declare property owned by the Regional Municipality of Durham (Region) surplus to the Region's requirements, and to obtain approval for staff to convey the said lands to His Majesty the King in right of Ontario as represented by the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (the "MECP") and the Township of Uxbridge under the recommended conditions, for nominal value.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 In the 2023 Ontario Budget: Building a Better Ontario, the Province committed \$19 million over three years for the creation of the Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park. On May 7, 2024, a Private Member's Bill was introduced in the Ontario legislature to add urban classification of provincial park to the provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, making the Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park the first Urban class provincial park in the province.
- 2.2 The vision for the urban provincial park is built on the legacy of conservation to weave and protect diverse lands from multiple sources from the Rouge National Park and other urban areas such as Pickering, to downtown Uxbridge. This would provide increased natural and cultural heritage protection and contribute to ecological, economic and public health benefits to the Region.
- 2.3 The proposed Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park would complement nearby trails and public landholdings and build community support for land conservation and outdoor recreation. By providing recreational opportunities and access to nature, the Park would inspire residents and visitors to explore the rural landscape and learn more about Ontario's natural and cultural heritage, including the Oak Ridges Moraine and the Greenbelt.
- 2.4 On April 22, 2023, the province announced details around the creation of the province's first urban provincial park in Uxbridge that could include up to 532 hectares of provincial lands, 609.45 hectares of Durham lands (Durham Regional Forest), and possible 120 hectares from the Township of Uxbridge.
- 2.5 In April 2023, subsequent to the Province's announcement, the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks, the Regional Municipality of Durham, the

- Township of Uxbridge, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, Lake Simcoe Region conservation authority, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, the Schad Foundation, Green Durham Association, Community land conservation and recreation groups and others committed via a Letter of Intent to work together to realize the creation and management of the Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park.
- 2.6 Between June and September 2023, the province conducted a survey to solicit feedback on urban provincial parks and specifically the idea of creating an urban provincial park within the Township of Uxbridge. Over 4,200 submissions were received, with approximately 75 per cent in support for the creation of such a park.
  - 2.7 On September 15, 2023, the Province requested the Region to identify land parcels owned or managed by the Region within or adjacent to the proposed park boundary that could potentially be added to the proposed park boundary (see “Attachment #1 – Map: Uxbridge Study Area”). The province also asked that the Region identify any needs or dependencies associated with the transfer of such lands to the province for the establishment of the park.
  - 2.8 On October 18, 2023, the Region responded to the province advising that any conveyance of Regional-owned lands in the Durham Forest for the Urban Park must result in a net ecological and community benefit, including investment and sustained provincial funding equivalent to or greater than the value of the lands conveyed, and that the province must undertake Indigenous consultation as an initial step in the creation of this park. Staff also provided a list of the Region-owned land parcels within or adjacent to the general study area of the proposed park (See “Attachment #2 – Correspondence to Minister Khanjin”).
  - 2.9 On December 1, 2023, on invitation from the province, staff commented on the province’s proposal to amend Ontario Regulation 316/07 under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 to create a recreational class provincial park in the Township of Uxbridge. The letter outlined recommendations that will be provided to Regional Council for endorsement as it relates to the proposed park. (See “Attachment #3 – Region of Durham staff comments on proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 316/07”).
  - 2.10 On June 13, 2024, the province officially announced the opening of the Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park which was available for public use effective July 1, 2024. The MECP will be incorporating and regulating additional lands, as they become available over the coming years.

- 2.11 In November 2024, the TRCA Board of Directors carried a motion to convey approximately 3,800 acres of land to the MECP for inclusion in the park (subject to numerous conditions) for a nominal sum.

### **3. Durham Regional Forest**

- 3.1 Durham Regional Forest was transferred to the Region of Durham (via its predecessor the County of Ontario) in 1926 and continues to be managed primarily for forest values, including timber harvest. As a managed forest, harvesting of lumber and replanting are a continual cycle. The forest tracts also provide outdoor recreation space for activities such as, mountain biking, hiking, dog walking and nature-based education programs.
- 3.2 The Regional Forest consists of six (6) tracts of mixed-wood and conifer plantation forests in the Township of Uxbridge totaling approximately 609.48 hectares (1,506 acres), (Attachment #4 – Map of Region Owned Lands) which are the following:
- a. The Main Tract – 386.9 hectares (956 acres)
  - b. The Roseville Tract – 80.94 hectares (200 acres)
  - c. The Brookdale Tract – 40.47 hectares (100 acres)
  - d. The Timbers Tract – 40.47 hectares (100 acres)
  - e. The Norton Tract – 20.23 hectares (50 acres)
  - f. The West Tract – 40.47 hectares (100 acres)
- 3.3 The Regional Forest tracts are managed and operated by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) via a formal agreement with the Region that was last renewed in 2024 and set to expire on December 31, 2025. Management is guided by the following long-term objectives, as well as the LSRCA's responsibilities under the Professional Forestry Act:
- a. Application of best forest management practices and provincial silvicultural guidelines to maintain a healthy forest, including periodic silvicultural interventions (harvesting and planting), to promote the transition of the plantation stands back to stands that are more representative of the historical conditions prior to clearing for European settlement. Over the term

of our involvement, the Regional Forest tracts have always been considered a working forest first, being a provision to provide resources in priority to its recreational utility;

- b. Maintenance of significant natural heritage cover, promoting high quality habitat for resident and migratory wildlife species, interior forest habitat and corridor connectivity;
- c. Maintenance of forest cover to protect the fragile soils from wind and soil erosion;
- d. Maintenance of forest cover to protect the headwaters of river systems flowing into both Lake Simcoe and Lake Ontario, as well as drinking water source protection;
- e. Adaptation of forest management practices in consideration of changing climatic conditions in the region;
- f. Adaptation of forest management practices to accommodate public use;
- g. Provision of high quality passive recreational activities to the community (e.g. mountain biking, hiking, trail walking and running, nature appreciation, dog walking meditation and forest bathing), maintaining all trails as multi-use;
- h. Engagement and partnerships with local public agencies, like-minded partners and community stakeholders;
- i. Support for academic research and educational activities (e.g. High school/ university tours, DDSB education center) to explore various issues relating to forestry and public use; and
- j. Generation of revenues through sales of standing timber and special use permits to secure revenues that may be invested back into the ongoing management of this public resource.

#### **4. Durham Forest Annual Operating Cost**

- 4.1 The Region incurred annual cost of \$166,287 paid to Lake Simcoe Regional Conservation Authority for the management of the Forest Tracts in 2023, \$175,679 in 2024, and \$219,123 committed for 2025. This amount is offset by

revenue from permits and sale of forest products/timber. In the last two years there has been a significant increase in operating cost/clean-up cost associated with weather events.

- 4.2 The Durham District School Board (DDSB) has leased for nominal rent a compound within the Main Tract of the Durham Region Forest, approximately 2.02 hectares in size, since 1990 for educational purposes. The site includes a dormitory building with a maximum residential capacity of 39 people, a kitchen/dining room building, a staff residence/office building and a curriculum/display building. The last formal lease with DDSB expired on December 31, 2023, and DDSB is currently overholding on a month-to-month tenancy.

## **5. Future Requirement of Durham Forest properties**

- 5.1 An Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed in 1997 relating to the requirement for increased wastewater capacity at the Uxbridge Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP). The dated EA indicated that the preferred solution for provision of additional plant capacity is expansion of the existing plant. Treated effluent will be discharged to Uxbridge Brook. In addition, the EA indicated that treated effluent could possibly be discharged by supplementary subsurface disposal in the Durham Regional Forest. The EA indicated that the infiltration basins are technically feasible, though they do require a financial analysis. While we have yet to reach a threshold where an alternative discharge location is required, it is necessary to keep as many options as possible available to the Region. With the projected population increase in the Township of Uxbridge an expansion of the capacity of the treatment facility may be required in the future. Therefore, one of the conditions of transfer will be that the Region retains a portion of the Main Forest Tract in the event lands are or may be required for future infrastructure.

- 5.2 The Province shall continue to grant access for DDSB to the compound within the Main Tract of the Durham Region Forest space, at nominal rent, for their continued use towards educational purposes.

## **6. Conditions for Transfer of Lands**

- 6.1 It is recommended that the lands identified in Recommendation A, i) to iv) be transferred to the Province, under the following conditions to be captured in an Agreement of Purchase and Sale:

- a. The contribution of the lands and their inclusion in the UUPP must achieve a net ecological, economic, and community benefit for the local area municipalities, including additional investment, advertisement, and sustained maintenance by the Province;
- b. Consideration is to be the nominal sum of \$2.00 where the Region acquired the lands for nominal consideration;
- c. MECP is responsible for all legal, survey and other costs related to the land conveyance, as well as any and all future costs associated with maintenance and/or ownership of the lands;
- d. Prior to the Lands being transferred to the Province, and managed by MECP, the Region will sever approximately 25 acres from the Main Forest Tract. These lands will be retained for future municipal infrastructure (see “Attachment #6 Map – Lands to be Retained by the Region” for the approximate location of the lands to be retained);
- e. The Province shall continue to grant access for DDSB to the compound within the Main Tract of the Durham Region Forest space, at nominal rent, for their continued use towards educational purposes;
- f. The Province will fully indemnify the Region from any and all claims from injuries, damages or costs of any nature resulting in any way, either directly or indirectly, from this conveyance and future use of the lands;
- g. Land will be transferred on an “as is, where is” basis, with no representations or warranties;
- h. The park Management Plan must be approved by Regional staff;
- i. The Province acknowledges and agrees in writing that the Region’s contribution to the Urban Park will be recognized by the installation of a permanent monument identified by the Region’s name acknowledging the contribution at each forest tract, identifying the lands that were transferred;
- j. In the event MECP proposes to sell, pledge or transfer to a third party any acquired lands or any interest in the acquired lands, the Region shall have the Right of First Refusal to purchase such interest on the same terms and conditions as the offer to purchase received by the Province, for nominal

sum. Registration of a right of first refusal is to be registered on title at the time of transfer of the Lands from the Region to the Province;

- k. In the event that the Lands are transferred back to the Region, all costs associated with the transfer will be borne by the Province; and
  - l. Any additional reasonable terms and conditions as deemed appropriate by Region staff or its solicitor as may be required for an Agreement of Purchase and Sale.
- 6.2 The Township of Uxbridge Council passed Resolution 2025-05 dated July 14, 2025 included as Attachment #7 to this report.
- 6.3 In response to Resolution 2025-05, it is recommended that the Lands identified in Attachment #5 be transferred to the Township of Uxbridge under the following conditions as part of an Agreement of Purchase and Sale:
- a. Consideration is to be the nominal sum of \$2.00;
  - b. The Township of Uxbridge is responsible for all legal, survey and other costs related to the land conveyance;
  - c. That prior to the conveyance of the Trail Lands (identified in Attachment #5) to the Township of Uxbridge that they identify to the Region the land needed for the trail connection via a draft Reference Plan;
  - d. Upon completion of the trail connection, the Township of Uxbridge agrees to transfer the balance of the Trail Lands, surplus to Uxbridge's needs, be declared surplus and transferred to the Province for inclusion in the UUPP;
  - e. The Township of Uxbridge agrees to minimize the area of land required to facilitate the trail connection, thereby ensuring the maximum amount of land is eventually transferred to the Province for inclusion in the UUPP.
  - f. The Township of Uxbridge agrees that the future use of the Dog Park Lands (identified in Attachment #5) will be for a public dog park or other public uses;
  - g. The Township of Uxbridge agrees that the Regional Forest West Tract (identified in Attachment #5) will be used to facilitate a land swap with LaFarge Canada Inc. for their lands identified with PINs 263930014 and

263930015. The Township of Uxbridge further agrees that should any benefit, financial or otherwise be obtained as a result of the swap, that said benefits be conveyed to the Regional Municipality of Durham; and

- h. In the event the Township of Uxbridge proposes to sell, pledge or transfer to a third party any acquired lands or any interest in the acquired lands, the Region shall have the Right of First Refusal to purchase such interest on the same terms and conditions as the offer to purchase received by the Township of Uxbridge, for nominal sum. Registration of a right of first refusal is to be registered on title at the time of transfer of the Lands from the Region to the Township of Uxbridge.
- 6.4 Regional By-law #52-95 established the procedures governing the sale of real property. Section 3 “Notice Requirements”, Section 4 “Proposed Method of Sale”, and Section 5 “Appraisal Requirement” of the By-law are waived in these circumstances.
- 6.5 Internally, notice has been circulated and responses have confirmed that the Region would like to retain a portion of the Main Forest Tract for future municipal infrastructure, but otherwise does not require these lands. Therefore, the said lands can be declared surplus and offered to the Province along with such lands recommended for transfer to the Township of Uxbridge for their use, and inclusion in the UUPP.

## **7. Relationship to Strategic Plan**

- 7.1 This report aligns with the following objectives within the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
- a. Objective C1, Align Regional infrastructure and asset management with projected growth, climate impacts and community needs;
  - b. Objective C7, Create accessible, lively, and culturally welcoming public spaces, including opportunities to access nature;
  - c. Objective E5, Respect the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, and agricultural lands;
  - d. Objective R5, Cultivate and promote local arts, culture, quality of place, and tourism that embrace urban excitement and country charm; and

- e. Objective S3, Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.

## **8. Conclusion**

- 8.1 Regional staff recommend the lands described in Recommendation A, i) to iv), be declared surplus to Regional requirements and be transferred to the MECP for inclusion in the UUPP under the conditions outlined in this report.
- 8.2 Staff further recommend that the land described in Recommendation A, v), be declared surplus to Regional requirements and be transferred to the Township of Uxbridge to facilitate a trail connection before being transferred to the MECP for inclusion in the UUPP under the conditions outlined in this report.
- 8.3 Staff further recommend that the land described in Recommendation A, vi), be declared surplus to Regional requirements and be transferred to the Township of Uxbridge to facilitate the creation of a public dog park under the conditions outlined in this report.
- 8.4 Staff further recommend that the land described in Recommendation A, vii), be declared surplus to Regional requirements and be transferred to the Township of Uxbridge to facilitate a land swap with LaFarge Canada Inc. for the lands identified with PINs 263930014 and 263930015 under the conditions outlined in this report.
- 8.5 This report has been reviewed by the Community Growth and Economic Development Department, Finance Department and Legal Services Department.
- 8.6 For additional information, contact: David Dunn, Director, Transportation and Field Services at 905-668-4113, extension 3422 or Chidinma Amobi, Manager, Financial Services and Corporate Real Estate at 905-668-4113, extension 3841.

## **9. Attachments**

- Attachment #1: Map - Uxbridge Study Area
- Attachment #2: Correspondence to Minister Khanjin
- Attachment #3: Region of Durham staff comments on proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 316/07

- Attachment #4: Map – Region Owned Lands
- Attachment #5: Map – Region Lands to be transferred to Uxbridge
- Attachment #6: Map – Lands to be Retained by the Region
- Attachment #7: Township of Uxbridge Council Resolution 2025-05 dated July 14, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

**Original signed by:**

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Ramesh Jagannathan, MBA, M.Eng., P.Eng., PTOE  
Commissioner of Works

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

**Original signed by:**

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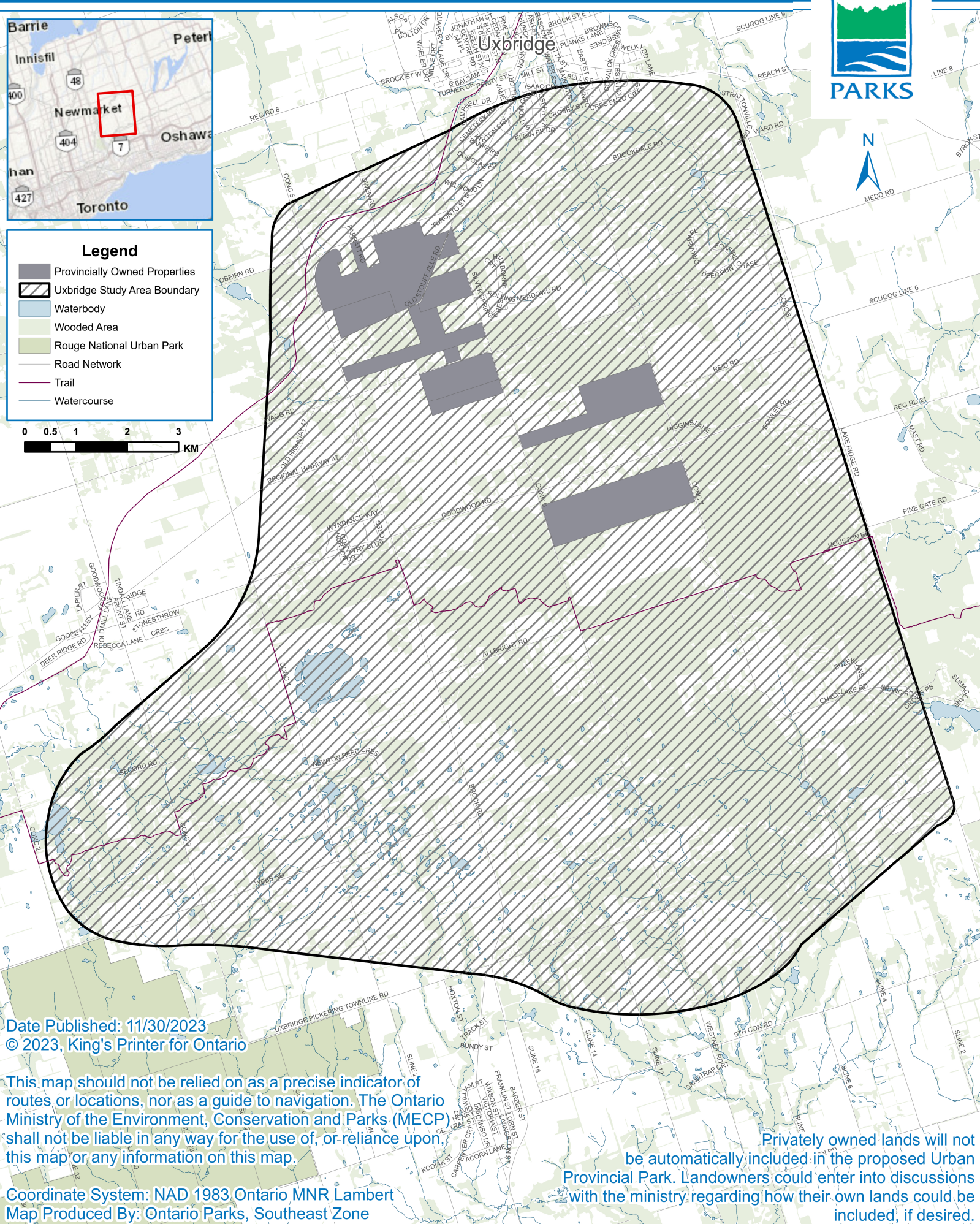
Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer

# Attachment #1 - Map - Uxbridge Study Area



**Legend**

- Provincially Owned Properties
- Uxbridge Study Area Boundary
- Waterbody
- Wooded Area
- Rouge National Urban Park
- Road Network
- Trail
- Watercourse



Date Published: 11/30/2023  
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This map should not be relied on as a precise indicator of routes or locations, nor as a guide to navigation. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) shall not be liable in any way for the use of, or reliance upon, this map or any information on this map.

Privately owned lands will not be automatically included in the proposed Urban Provincial Park. Landowners could enter into discussions with the ministry regarding how their own lands could be included, if desired.

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 Ontario MNR Lambert  
Map Produced By: Ontario Parks, Southeast Zone

Attachment #2 - Correspondence to Minister Khanjin



Sent via email: [minister.mecp@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.mecp@ontario.ca)

October 18, 2023

Honourable Andrea Khanjin  
Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks  
College Park 5th Floor  
777 Bay St. Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**The Regional  
Municipality of  
Durham**

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Administrative Officer

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**Elaine Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative  
Officer**

Dear Minister Khanjin:

**RE: Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park**

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Thank you for your Ministry's letter of September 15, 2023, regarding the Regional Municipality of Durham's contribution and support for the proposed Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park. The Region appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Uxbridge Partners Network exploring the creation of this park.

The Durham Regional Forest is 596 hectares (1,473 acres) of forested property managed by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority. These lands contain important headwater areas and regionally significant forests. For nearly 100 years since this land was reforested in the 1920s to prevent soil erosion, the Regional Forest has supported sustainable forest management, provided exceptional outdoor recreational opportunities for residents and supported biodiversity and climate resilience in the broader regional context. These ecosystem and community services will become increasingly critical in the next 100 years in the context of intensifying climate and biodiversity crises. As such, it is important to the Region that any conveyance of Regional-owned lands in the Durham Regional Forest results in a net ecological and community benefit, including investment and sustained provincial funding that is equivalent to, or greater than, the value of the conveyed lands.

It is critical that the province undertake respectful, meaningful and appropriate Indigenous consultation as an initial step in the creation of this park.

Regional staff will provide a list of Regional-owned land parcels within or adjacent to the general study area of the park that could be added to the proposed park boundary. As requested, we will provide that information through Jason Travers in the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks (MECP). The Region will include information on any encumbrances associated with said lands. MECP can work directly with the Region's Corporate Infrastructure and Strategic Business Services Unit, via Christine Dunkley, Director, to collect the required information.

Regional staff will also develop a report to Regional Council to seek direction and approval for the prospective conveyance of the lands to the province.

Sincerely,

Brian Bridgeman  
Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development

on behalf of

Elaine Baxter-Trahair  
Chief Administrative Officer  
Regional Municipality of Durham

cc: Jason Travers, Director, Ontario Parks Operations Branch, MECP  
Ian McVey, Manager Sustainability, Regional Municipality of Durham  
Christine Dunkley, Director, Corporate Infrastructure & Strategic Business Services, Regional Municipality of Durham



December 1, 2023

Sent via Email

**The Regional  
Municipality  
of Durham**

Planning and Economic  
Development Department

Planning Division

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**Brian Bridgeman,**  
**MCIP, RPP, PLE**  
Commissioner of Planning  
and Economic Development

Kendra Couling  
Ontario Parks – Southeast Parks Zone  
Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks  
300 Water Street  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor North  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9J 3C7

**RE: Region of Durham staff comments on proposed amendments to Ontario Regulation 316/07 under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 to create a recreational class provincial park in the Township of Uxbridge (Environmental Registry of Ontario Posting #019-7733)**

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Dear Ms. Couling,

On October 19, 2023, a proposal to amend Ontario Regulation 316/07 under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006 to create a recreational class provincial park in the Township of Uxbridge was posted for comment on the Environmental Registry of Ontario. Comments are invited until December 3, 2023.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. Please note that the following comments are those of Durham Regional staff, which will be provided to Regional Council for endorsement at an upcoming Council meeting. Regional staff will advise the province of any changes made to these comments by Council following the meeting.

1. The ERO posting indicates that park management planning processes will include public and Indigenous consultation. It is requested that the Region also be included in any stakeholder advisory committees and/or working groups related to park management planning, to ensure that regional interests are recognized.
2. The proposed park includes a series of disconnected parcels. It should be made clear how the province envisions the connections between these individual parcels to be made, as this will likely require coordination on implementation and maintenance between the Region, Province, Township of

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact Planning Reception at 1-800-372-1102, extension 2548.

Uxbridge, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and private landowners.

3. The Region is planning for new and expanded water and wastewater infrastructure in the Township of Uxbridge to meet the population growth targets in the new Region Official Plan. Some of the lands identified for the park area may be required to accommodate future Regional infrastructure projects. Establishment of the park area should not restrict the Region's potential future use of these lands, if the need arises. The Region requests that the province consult with the Region on potential land rights that may be required to accommodate potential future Regional infrastructure projects in the park area.
4. The proposed park is located within the Greenbelt and Oak Ridges Moraine and benefits from existing protections. Establishing the area as a provincial park could add an additional layer of environmental protection for various significant natural heritage features on-site and ensures long-term management of the land. It is critical that permitted uses within specific locations in the park be clarified to ensure no negative impacts on these features.
5. The location of the proposed provincial park is not far from other significant tourism locations, including the Rouge National Urban Park, Durham Region Forest, and CN Rail Trail that connects the Township of Uxbridge to Lindsay, and beyond. It is requested that the province, in partnership with the Region and Township of Uxbridge, investigate trail and cycling connections between the proposed provincial park and these other areas to support and strengthen sustainable tourism and active transportation initiatives within the Township and wider region.
6. Access points for the proposed park should be identified, to assist Regional staff in understanding alignment with current and future plans for active transportation connectivity and cycling tourism.
7. An analysis of increased traffic volumes from various modes and road users from within and outside Durham should be conducted to determine required modifications to planned and existing transportation infrastructure, as identified through the Regional Transportation Master Plan, Regional Cycling Plan

and Regional Official Plan. This analysis should also address potential impacts and mitigation measures on the Regional road network, Strategic Goods Movement Network, and on the surrounding community.

8. Protection and conservation of the land as a publicly accessible provincial park supports resident wellness and economic prosperity in many ways, including:
  - a) enhancing biodiversity and air and water quality;
  - b) providing increased access to green space and opportunities for physical activity and social connection; and
  - c) providing a new opportunity to attract tourism and generate increased visitor spending at locally owned and operated businesses, generally contributing to job creation and economic growth in Durham's tourism industries.

The Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks has requested that the Region assess our land holdings surrounding the proposed park. Regional staff are currently doing so, and a response will be sent separately.

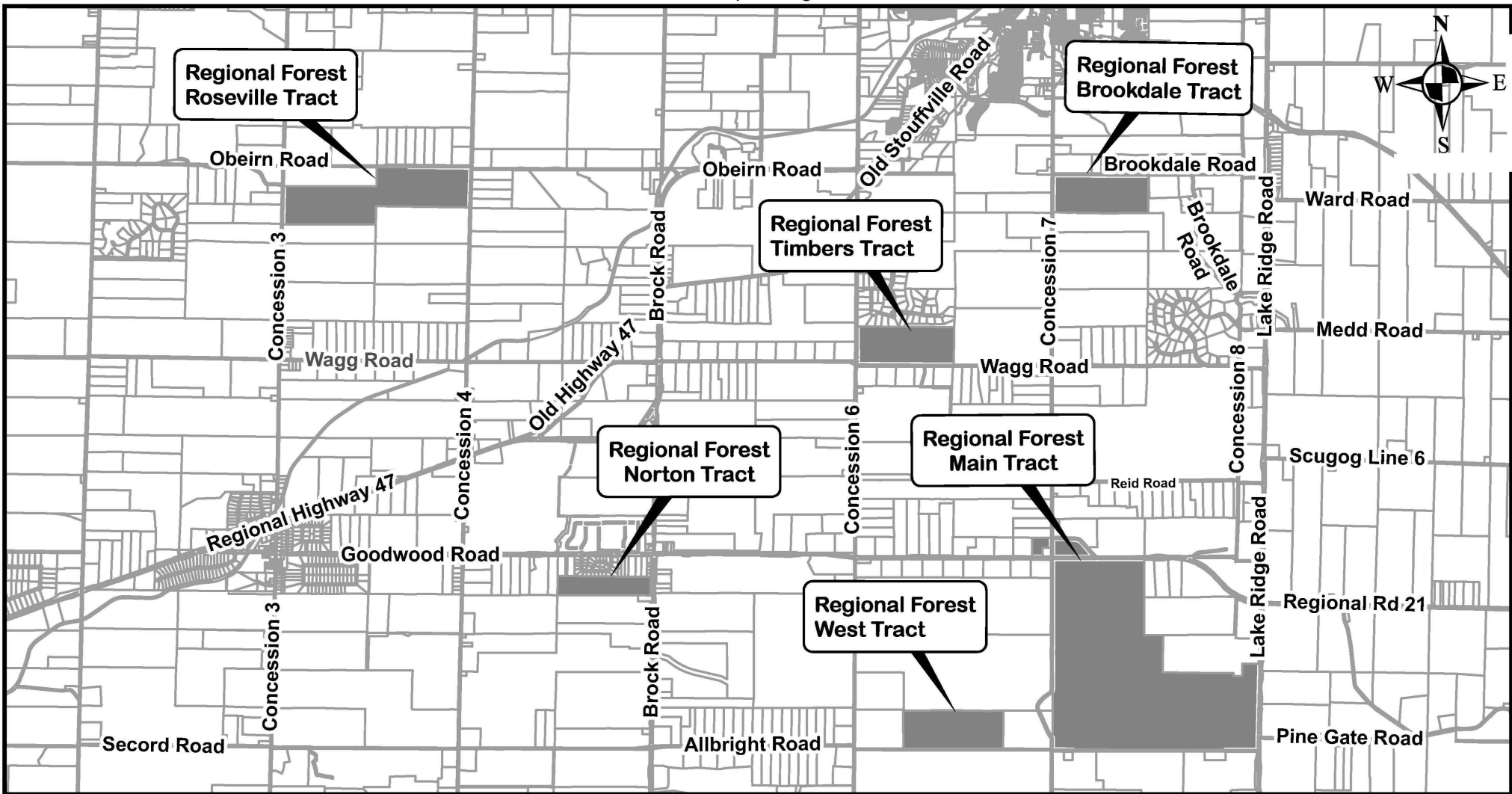
The Region is looking forward to our continued collaboration with the province as the park management planning process continues. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Amanda Bathe, Senior Planner at [amanda.bathe@durham.ca](mailto:amanda.bathe@durham.ca).

Sincerely,

*Brian Bridgeman*

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE  
Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development

cc. Elaine Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer, Durham Region  
Ramesh Jagannathan, Commissioner of Works, Durham Region  
Debbie Leroux, Clerk, Township of Uxbridge

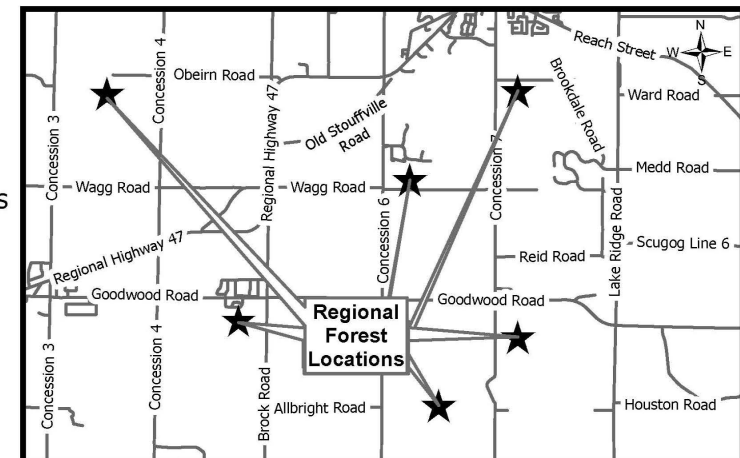


# Durham Region Forest Tracts Township of Uxbridge



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- Durham Region Forest Tracts
- Ownership Parcels
- Durham Roads



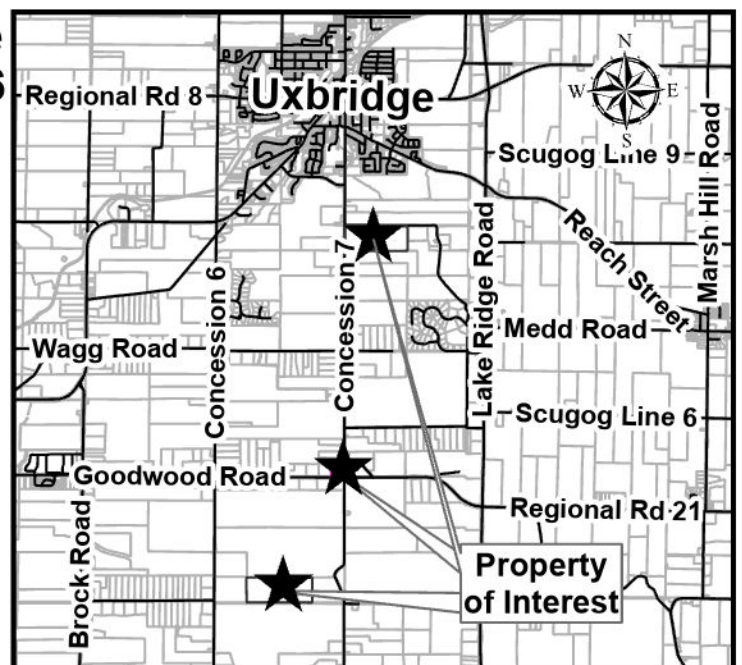


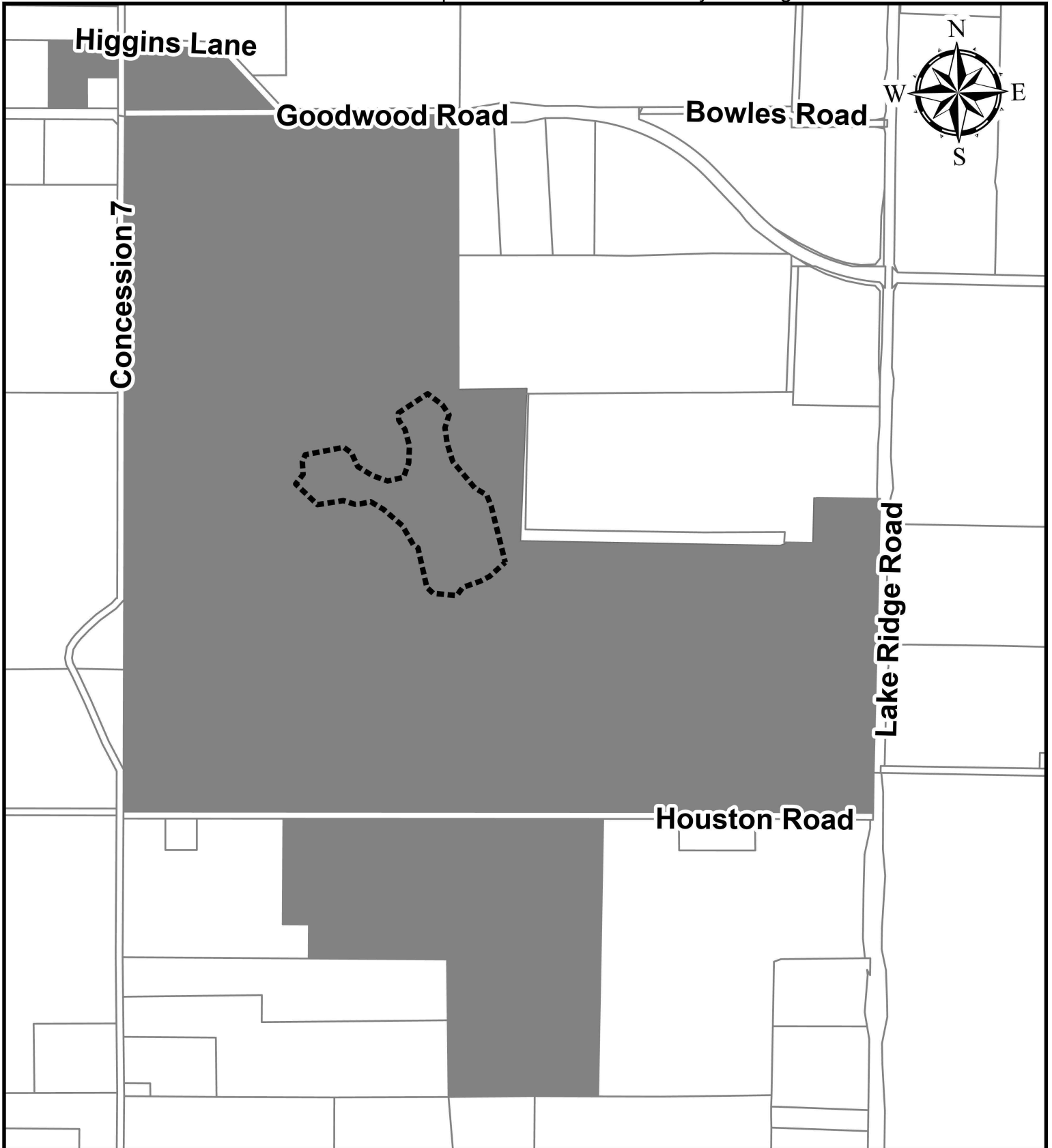
**Regional lands for transfer to Uxbridge**  
**Ownership Pin # 268360077, 263930016**  
**& 268400003**  
**Township of Uxbridge**

- Trail Lands
- Regional Forest West Tract
- Ownership Parcels
- Dog Park Lands



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Ownership Parcel



Durham Region Forest Properties



Durham Region Lands to be retained

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF UXBRIDGE

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION NO.**            **2025-05**  
**DATE:**                        **July 14, 2025**  
**MOVED BY:**                **Regional Councillor Garrod**  
**SECONDED BY:**            **Councillor Beach**

WHEREAS the Region of Durham owns several properties located within the geographic boundaries of the Township of Uxbridge;

AND WHEREAS the following properties are of strategic importance to the future expansion and improvements of the Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park, and the Township's environmental, recreational, and land management goals:

1. The Durham Region property at the northwest corner of Concession 7 and Reg. Rd. 21 legally described as PT LT 16, CON 6, UXBRIDGE AS IN UX14342, EXCEPT PT 1, 40R9778; S/T CO60671 UXBRIDGE (PIN 268360077);
2. The Brookdale Tract located on the intersection of Conc. 7 and Brookdale Rd. legally described as PT LT 25 CON 7 UXBRIDGE, AS IN UX13898; EXCEPT PT 1, 40R-3500; UXBRIDGE (PIN 268400003);
3. Approximately 100 acres of the Regional Forest West Track lands known as Durham Forest located west of the Township of Uxbridge-owned gravel pit. Two parcels are legally described as PT LT 11 CON 6 UXBRIDGE AS IN UX11771; UXBRIDGE (PIN 263930016) and PT LOT 11 CON 6 UXBRIDGE AS IN CO108523; S/T CO108523 (PIN 2639302017).

AND WHEREAS the Township of Uxbridge has an interest in assuming temporary ownership and stewardship of these lands to facilitate the expansion and critical trail connections prior to the transfer of these lands to the Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park (UUPP).

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. THAT the Council of the Township of Uxbridge formally requests that the Region of Durham transfer ownership of the following properties to the Township of Uxbridge at nominal or no cost:

- The Durham Region property at the northwest corner of Concession 7 and Reg. Rd. 21 legally described as PT LT 16, CON 6, UXBRIDGE AS IN UX14342, EXCEPT PT 1, 40R9778; S/T CO60671 UXBRIDGE (PIN 268360077);
  - The Brookdale Tract located on the intersection of Conc. 7 and Brookdale Rd. legally described as PT LT 25 CON 7 UXBRIDGE, AS IN UX13898; EXCEPT PT 1, 40R-3500; UXBRIDGE (PIN 268400003);
  - Approximately 100 acres of the Regional Forest West Tract lands known as Durham Forest located west of the Township of Uxbridge-owned gravel pit. Two parcels are legally described as PT LT 11 CON 6 UXBRIDGE AS IN UX11771; UXBRIDGE (PIN 263930016) and PT LOT 11 CON 6 UXBRIDGE AS IN CO108523; S/T CO108523 (PIN 2639302017).
2. AND THAT Staff be directed to enter into discussions with Regional staff to determine the process, terms, and conditions for such transfers;
  3. AND THAT the Township will acquire 100 acres of the Regional Forest West Tract Lands known as Durham Forest to be transferred to Amrize (formerly known as Lafarge) for the purposes of aggregate operations in a proposed land swap, with the Township acquiring 400 acres of Amrize-owned aggregate property adjacent to the Regional Forest West Tract Lands after Amrize has fully remediated the 400-acre site. The Township is leveraging the temporary use of the 100 acres to secure the long-term goal of incorporating the entire 400-acre site into the park following aggregate extraction, with portions of the 400 acres to be transferred into public use in stages as rehabilitation of each area is completed;
  4. AND THAT Staff negotiate with Amrize (formerly known as Lafarge) as part of the proposed land swap to ensure that, upon completion of aggregate operations on the Regional Forest West Tract Lands, Amrize shall fully remediate and transfer the Regional Forest West Tract Lands to the Province for inclusion in the Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park (UUPP);
  5. AND THAT the Township direct Staff to negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Province for the formation of the UUPP in exchange for a transfer of the Regional Forest West Tract Lands to the Province.
  6. AND THAT the Township direct staff that any lands transferred to the Province for the purposes of the UUPP be done for a nominal value;
  7. AND THAT a report be brought back to Council with the results of these discussions and any agreements or documents necessary to facilitate the transfer of these lands along with any conditions that may be related to the proposed land transfers as approved by Regional Council.

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MAYOR