



# MANITOULIN PLANNING BOARD

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Thank you to those that attended our information session regarding the preparation of a Natural Heritage System (NHS), on Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019 at the Mindemoya Community Centre, 6032 Highway No. 542/King Street, Mindemoya Ontario.

The format of the Information Session included a number of display boards with DRAFT mapping to assist in informing the public of what is involved in the creation of a NHS, a presentation by Staff Member J. Diebolt explaining what a NHS is, and a question and answer period where participants asked questions regarding the project. A handout sheet was provided at that meeting with the following information:

Due to the unusually long time period taken for the development and approval of our Official Plan (OP) the Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) 2014 came into effect when the draft OP was nearly complete. It was agreed upon between the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) staff and the Manitoulin Planning Board (MPB) that provision would be made for the Planning Board to designate a Natural Heritage and Open Space System (NHOSS) after the approval of the Draft OP, rather than attempting to implement it and further delaying completion of the document.

The District of Manitoulin Official Plan has been approved by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing on October 29, 2018 and is available on our website [www.manitoulinplanning.ca](http://www.manitoulinplanning.ca)

As per section D.4(a) Natural Heritage Systems of the Official Plan, the Planning Board is to prepare an Area-Wide Natural Heritage System Strategy to be completed by October 29, 2022.

The Province defines a Natural Heritage System (NHS) as:

*'a system made up of natural heritage features and areas, and linkages intended to provide connectivity (at the regional or site level) and support natural processes which are necessary to maintain biological and geological diversity, natural functions, viable populations of indigenous species, and ecosystems. These systems can include natural heritage features and areas, federal and provincial parks and conservation reserves, other natural heritage features, lands that have been restored or have the potential to be restored to a natural state, areas that support hydrologic functions, and working landscapes that enable ecological functions to continue. The province has a recommended approach for identifying natural heritage systems, but municipal approaches that achieve or exceed the same objective may also be used.'*

To achieve our OP objectives, data collected will be used to monitor and control development and will allow for additional information and mapping not presently identified in our current OP.

We encourage written submissions in order to assist in the preparation of an Area-Wide Natural Heritage System Strategy.

Thank you.

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