

# New Brunswick Statements of Public Interest

USER GUIDE



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# Overview

Introduced by the Government of New Brunswick in 2021, local governance reform included land use planning as one of its four pillars of action. A significant part of the land use planning pillar was the development of the *Statement of Public Interest (SPI) Regulation* under the *Community Planning Act*. SPIs identify the public's interests and priorities for land use planning and align provincial, local, and regional land use planning across New Brunswick.

This is important because provincial legislation, policies, and programs for land use planning affect regional and local government interests; while in turn, provincial, local, and regional decisions affecting land use and development can impact:

- the success of provincial objectives designed for the benefit of all New Brunswickers.
- the cultural vision and economic success of the provincial and local governments.
- the protection and viability of natural resources and rural areas essential to New Brunswick's economy.
- the protection and conservation of important ecosystems and the environment.

The Department of Environment and Local Government is the provincial body responsible for land use planning in New Brunswick. As such, it is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the SPI Regulation in land use planning throughout the province.

## PURPOSE OF THE USER GUIDE

The purpose of this SPI User Guide is to assist land use planners and others to ensure adherence to the SPIs. Because SPIs will be applied through land use planning documents, municipal or rural plans, and zoning and other by-laws, the target audience for this User Guide is primarily land use planners and practitioners who prepare and implement those documents. This User Guide will also be valuable for local government decision-makers when they are considering land use decisions.

## THE STATEMENTS

The SPI Regulation includes five statements and their supporting policies. The statements are as follows:

1. **Settlement Patterns (SP)** – it is a public interest and priority to promote settlement patterns that enhance the well-being of the residents of the province, minimize impacts on the environment, and support vibrant rural and urban economies.
2. **Agriculture (AA)** – it is a public interest and priority to promote the agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture sectors and the production of food in the province.
3. **Climate Change (CC)** – it is a public interest and priority to engage in processes of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation.
4. **Flood and Natural Hazard Areas (FH)** – it is a public interest and priority to manage development in these areas to increase health and safety and limit social, environmental and economic costs to the province, local governments, and residents of the province.
5. **Natural Resource Development (NR)** – it is a public interest and priority to protect these areas for present and future generations while fostering a more consistent and predictable regulatory environment.

There are many cross-linkages between the Statements and their policies which illustrate how interconnected and equally important these policies are. These cross-linkages are hyperlinked throughout the User Guide.

# The Vision of SPIs

## PLANNING FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD

Protection of the public interest is not purely about restricting or regulating development. Land use planning seeks to achieve a balance among social (human welfare, culture), environmental (quality of air, water, and land), and economic (resource development, property rights) priorities.

SPIs set standards to ensure that all communities work to protect these overarching public interests while seeking to achieve local goals.

## LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

SPIs are enabled under the *Community Planning Act, 2017, c. 19, paragraph 124(1)(a)*.

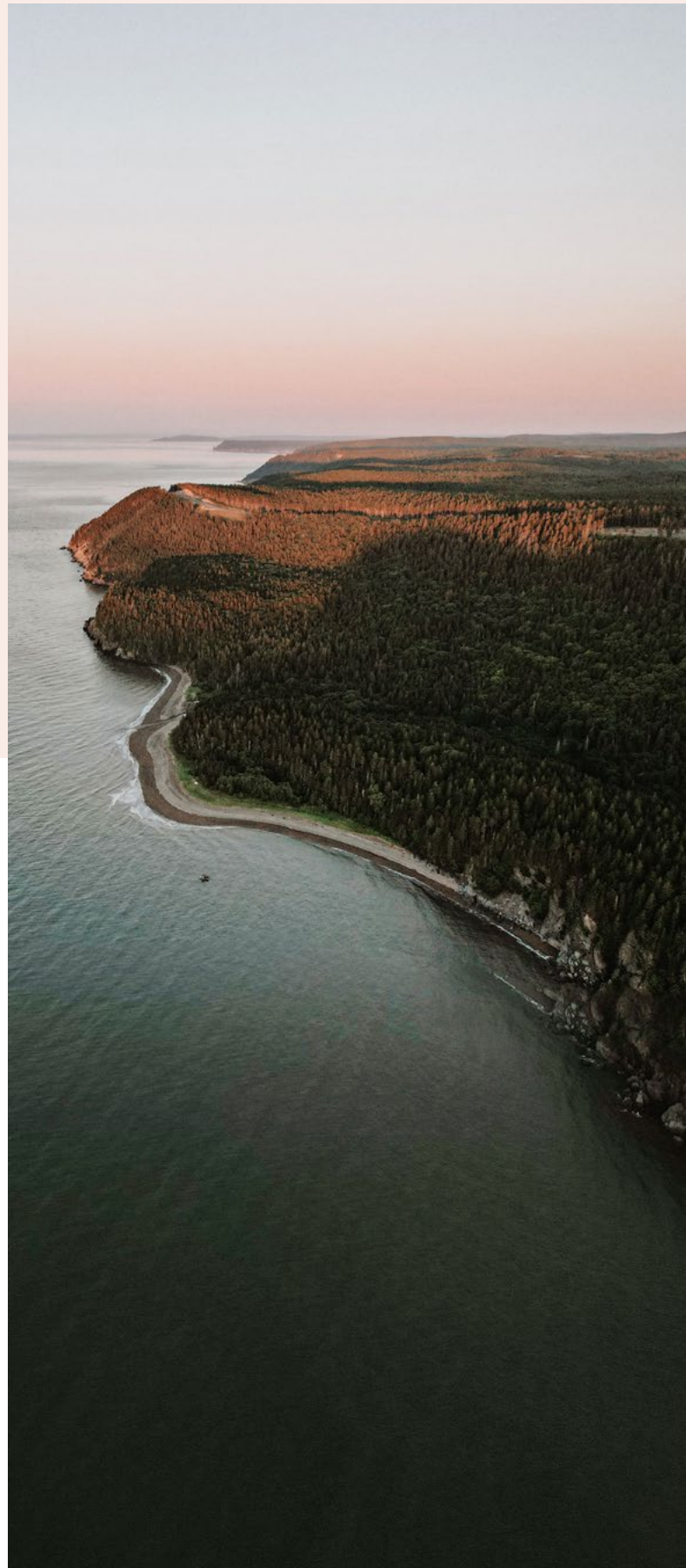
This guide is not intended to be a legal guide. If there is any conflict between this User Guide and the *Community Planning Act* or the SPI Regulation, the Act or Regulation prevails.

## Land Use Planning Principles

Land use planning principles help guide responsible land use planning. Important planning concepts include ensuring that local priorities reflect the interests of the public through the planning process, as well as guide decisions affecting land use and development.

### LAND USE PLANNING PRINCIPLES:

- Actions are **proactive** and have a **long-term vision**.
- Development is **efficient** and **sustainable**.
- Actions are **informed** and **innovative**.
- Activities are **coordinated** and **collaborative**.
- Decisions are **balanced**.
- Decisions are **respectful, fair, and equitable**.
- Decisions are **transparent** and **responsive**.



# Planning Process in New Brunswick

## ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

Land use planning is jointly administered in New Brunswick by the Province and local and regional entities. The administrative structure for land use planning in New Brunswick is illustrated in Figure 1:

- Minister of Local Government and Provincial and Community Planning Unit are responsible for the *Community Planning Act* and approving some land use by-laws.
- Some local governments provide their own land use planning services (development of municipal and rural plans and policies) as well as development and building inspection services (e.g. approving subdivision plans, administering development approvals and building permits).
- There are 12 Regional Service Commissions (RSCs) that provide land use planning, development, and building inspection services to rural districts and local governments who contract their planning services from the RSC.

The *Community Planning Act* establishes the foundation for land use planning in New Brunswick (Figure 1)<sup>1</sup>. The Act enables the province to create planning regulations that apply broadly across New Brunswick, including the SPI Regulation. Following regulation, local governments develop and adopt planning documents, such as municipal plans, or rural plans. These plans are implemented either directly or through by-laws that are tailored to each unique context. Importantly, any local land use planning document must follow the statements and policies that are articulated in the SPI Regulation.

RSCs also develop the rural plans for Rural Districts, with the Minister of Local Government responsible for approving these plans on the Rural District's behalf.

As of January 1, 2023, all local governments and rural districts in New Brunswick are required to have land use plans in place by January 1, 2028.

► Figure 1: Administrative Structure for Land Use Planning.







# SPI Implementation

**This SPI User Guide provides guidance, advice, and clarity on the intent of the SPI Regulation. However, it is not an inclusive list of ideas, methods, or practices. It is important for planners and decision-makers to understand the SPI Regulation and to ensure that it is applied in a balanced and practical fashion.**

## APPLYING THE STATEMENTS

SPIs are implemented through municipal or rural plans, by-laws (e.g., zoning and subdivision by-laws) and planning-related decisions (e.g., subdivision and development permit decisions, conditions or standards and decisions by the province).

While each SPI and the policies within it must be incorporated into local land use plans where they apply, no one policy or statement takes precedence over the other, nor is there an implied priority to the SPIs based on the order in which they are presented. The SPIs should be considered as a whole in addressing public interests in land use development. Not all SPI policies will apply to every site, feature, or area (e.g., a SPI statement on flooding would not apply to a property outside of a flood hazard area).

## MINIMUM STANDARDS

SPIs represent minimum standards that planning authorities and decision-makers may exceed. Importantly, the language used in the SPIs is aspirational. This allows flexibility in how the statements are incorporated into local plans and local decision-making.

## CONSISTENCY WITH THE SPI REGULATION

Planning documents must be consistent with the SPIs. Under authority of the *Community Planning Act*, the Minister of Local Government approves new planning by-laws before they can be enacted and, as such, will ensure they are consistent with the SPIs. If a planning by-law is not consistent with a SPI, the Minister may request that the by-law be revised.

SPIs will come into effect on the date they are enacted. The SPI are not retroactive; land use plans, by-laws or regulations that were in force prior to SPI enactment remain in effect until they are amended or replaced. SPIs will apply to new land use plans, new by-laws, and new amendments going forward from the date of the enactment of the SPI. This means some land use plans and by-laws will not be consistent with the SPIs until they are amended.

## SPI REVIEW PERIOD

The *Community Planning Act* requires the SPI Regulation to be reviewed by the province within 10 years after the commencement date.



## Statement of Public Interest on Settlement Patterns (SP)

It is a public interest and priority to promote settlement patterns that:



enhance the well-being of the residents of the Province,



minimize impacts on the environment, and



support vibrant rural and urban economies.

### CONTEXT

The purpose of this Statement of Public Interest on Settlement Patterns is to ensure New Brunswick communities in both urban and rural settings can thrive socially and economically within a healthy natural environment.

The way communities are designed and developed has a direct impact on those who live, work, visit, learn, connect, and play within them. The goal of planning communities is to ensure that there is an efficient, well-thought-out design to support the health and safety of people, ensure appropriate locations for economy-building to occur, and maintain a healthy natural environment.

Sprawl is haphazard development that can happen in both urban and rural settings. Low density residential development

on lots outside of municipal boundaries strains local government infrastructure and budgets. Sprawl requires significant public infrastructure for roads, bridges, culverts, as well as maintenance of those assets over many decades (see Residential Sprawl). Sprawl is expensive and inefficient to maintain and service (e.g., garbage collection, road maintenance, snow clearing, school buses, emergency services). Sprawl also degrades and fragments the natural environment and creates land use conflicts with resource-based activities that exist in rural settings (e.g., forestry, pits, quarries, agriculture).

In this section of the User Guide, options for both urban and rural communities will be considered.



## RESIDENTIAL SPRAWL

A development pattern that generally includes:

- low-density development with new growth appearing primarily on previously undeveloped or agricultural land.
- outward spread at the edge of a local government, despite there being adequate land for development within its serviced areas.
- emphasis on separation of major land uses (residential, commercial, industrial) and on single-use development (in contrast to mixed-use development).
- disconnected residential development where new subdivisions are not contiguous with each other or with the rest of the community, and where pedestrian connectivity (e.g., trails, sidewalks) is generally not available.

## BENEFITS OF GOOD PLANNING

- More vibrant rural and urban communities for New Brunswickers that have the right combination of uses to provide people with places to live, work and play.
- Fiscally sustainable development patterns for local and provincial governments.
- A range of housing options located in walkable communities and neighbourhoods that improve the health, safety, and well-being of residents; increase diversity; and create a welcoming place for everyone.
- Healthy built environments that focus on ways people get around, access services, buy necessities, and enjoy nature, thereby offering enhanced social, mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing to residents and visitors alike.
- Good quality and quantity of drinking water supply with fewer environmental impacts.
- Reduced land use conflict and protection of non-renewable resources and resource activities like agriculture, forestry, and aggregate development from encroachment.



## **SP.1 PROMOTE EFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT, AND LAND USE PATTERNS THAT ARE IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE PROVINCE, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND RESIDENTS IN THE LONG-TERM.**

This policy is intended to encourage communities to develop in ways that make efficient use of existing infrastructure and services.

There are many tools that communities can use to promote efficient development such as infilling on vacant lots in serviced areas and on existing roads, as well as creating complete communities where people can easily access work, school, retail needs, and services without depending on cars. In rural areas, this includes clustering residential developments near community centres, schools, or commercial uses that enhances community life.

Indeed, many forms of development are compatible with residential uses and can provide co-benefits when located in proximity such as parks, schools, and mixed-use commercial areas.

However, residential developments can also preclude certain types of development from locating nearby, such as industrial operations, natural resource extraction, or large-scale agriculture (See [AA.3](#) and [NR.4](#)). Consistent planning policies and procedures appropriate for the rural or urban context of a given location and throughout a region can benefit developers by establishing clear land use objectives and making development options clearly available.

### **What the local government and regional service commission need to know**

- Community's current growth pattern relative to its vision for future growth, as well as how its community plan aligns with existing and planned local servicing, the natural environment, and an appropriate mix of uses in the future.
- Community expectations for future development (residential or otherwise) such as type, scale, and intensity, as well as where that development should or should not be located.
- Potential impacts of increased development (residential, commercial, industrial, institutional, etc.) on infrastructure and servicing requirements as well as short and long-term affordability.
- Concerns for land use compatibility from the community.
- Number of undeveloped lots currently in the community.
- Location of existing farms or natural resource developments within the community (see [AA.1](#) and [NR.1](#)).

- Location of environmentally sensitive areas (see [NR.1](#)).
- Location of developable areas near or adjacent to land where water and sewer lines can be efficiently extended.
- Location of any hazard areas (e.g., wetlands, flood hazards, steep slopes, contaminated sites) (see [FH.1](#)).
- Concepts around smart growth (see Smart Growth Principles), preserving the natural environment, sustainable development, and developing in existing or proposed growth areas.
- Ways to incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation, biodiversity, agricultural land, natural resources, affordable housing, and municipal servicing (e.g., water, wastewater, streets, side walks, trails, etc.) into the vision for the community.

### **SMART GROWTH PRINCIPLES**

- Mixed land uses.
- Compact building design.
- Range of housing opportunities and choices.
- Walkable neighbourhoods.
- Distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
- Preservation of open space, farmland, natural beauty, and critical environmental areas.
- Development directed towards existing communities.
- Variety of transportation choices.
- Development decisions are predictable, fair, and cost effective.
- Community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.



### Planning documents should consider

- Directing future industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential development to suitable locations in the community, such as those areas that are already serviced with local water and sewer systems or where there are plans for service expansions and connectivity.
- In communities without services, clustering uses near the traditional community core (usually characterized by community centres, places of worship, schools, post offices, and retail).
- Locating development that is incompatible with existing land uses or planned area (such as agriculture or industrial uses) to suitable areas in the community.
- Including policies that specify locations for industrial, commercial, residential, and natural resource land uses.
- Identifying land uses that are appropriate for mixed-use development in predominantly residential areas (e.g., certain commercial uses, institutional uses such as parks, schools, community centres, and places of worship).

### Planning decisions should consider

- Reducing land use conflicts by encouraging residential development outside of areas:
  - that are predominantly comprised of or intended for industrial, commercial, natural resource, or agricultural uses.
  - where natural hazards present a concern for the safety of people or property (see [FH.3](#)).
  - that are not serviced by local water and wastewater systems.
- A mix of land uses to provide a range of commercial and residential options within walkable neighbourhoods.
- Preserving open space, prime agricultural areas, and important environmental areas (see [AA.1](#) and [NR.3](#)).





## SP.2 PROMOTE A RANGE OF HOUSING OPTIONS SUCH AS SIZE, TYPE, DENSITY, AND DESIGN.

The purpose of this policy is to encourage establishment of adequate housing in New Brunswick communities. Accessing adequate housing is a challenge for many people in the province.

It is important for local governments to understand the entire housing continuum (see The Housing Continuum) and how the needs of various members of the community fit and move along that continuum at different points of their lives.



### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Housing continuum and where people of different ages, abilities and socio-economic status fit within the local community. Ideally, a community's land use policies will support a diversity of housing options along the continuum to meet the needs of all residents.
- Economic, population, and demographic trends of the community and surrounding region. These trends are needed to understand existing housing needs and to forecast future housing needs.
- Awareness of urgent and forthcoming residential housing needs for the community.

### Council may wish to consider

- Adopting policies on the importance of accessibility and inclusion and council's commitment to achieving these elements through planning.

- Finding ways to engage with any demographics that may be under-represented in the planning process. This can include, but is not limited to, seniors, persons with diverse abilities, newcomers, individuals in social housing, and those who are vulnerable or at-risk (see The Housing Continuum and Gender-Based Analysis Plus).
- Developing an engagement and communication strategy that can be used to proactively gather input and communicate the community's land use planning objectives and priorities.
- Working with other levels of government to prioritize and support the establishment of a variety of housing forms and mixed income housing developments to increase access to local, affordable, and diverse housing options (see [SP.3](#)).
- Seeking opportunities for partnership with local and provincial and federal governments, as well as the private, non-profit, and other public sector organizations to expand housing stock.
- Seeking out opportunities for multi-unit housing developments for infill and non-residential sites.

## **GENDER-BASED ANALYSIS PLUS**

GBA+ (gender-based analysis) is a tool designed to help ask questions, challenge assumptions, and identify potential impacts (both intended and unintended), by considering the diversity of all New Brunswickers.

The plus (+) indicates that gender-based analysis goes beyond considerations of sex and gender to also include a range of intersectional identity characteristics, including: race, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, geography, culture, income, sexual orientation, language, and education.

When GBA+ is used as a tool in the decision-making process, it leads to more effective public policy by ensuring that consideration is given to the realities of all residents.

### **Planning documents should consider**

- Permitting a range of residential housing types to meet the economic, social, and physical needs of current and future residents.
- Allowing for mixed residential densities in both urban and rural communities to encourage diversity and affordability. Ensure that by-laws allow for:
  - Various housing types to meet a range of housing needs.
  - Innovative tools that will support the availability of affordable housing in the community.
- Mixed use and mixed income neighbourhoods. This can diversify residential populations and create inclusive neighbourhoods. For example, this could include:
  - A range of residential development options as permitted uses in residential zones.

- A mix of residential districts within a secondary or neighbourhood plan.
- A variety of living options, including congregate and supportive housing.
- Emergency or transitional housing for at-risk groups (e.g., homeless).
- Housing within non-residential developments such as residential units on upper levels of main street commercial buildings.
- Special housing communities (e.g., tiny homes) in close proximity to services and other residential neighbourhoods.
- Where applicable, supporting development near transit hubs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (see [CC.1](#)).
- The development of energy and water efficient housing (see [CC.1](#)).
- Including clear development standards and criteria for discretionary uses within residential areas.
- Allowing for secondary suites or garden suites within existing and new residential developments (as of right), particularly in areas of the community that are serviced, and where there are few options to expand service boundaries.
- Providing for higher density developments within serviced areas of the community.
- Addressing the housing needs of vulnerable populations (e.g., seniors, persons with diverse abilities) such as barrier-free residential development and adopt accessible sidewalks, curb-cuts, street-crossings, and parks for persons with diverse abilities.

### **Planning decisions should**

- Consider supporting the development of various types of residential housing reflective of anticipated economic, population, and demographic trends.

### SP.3 PROVIDE A WIDE RANGE OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

The purpose of this policy is to recognize that affordable housing is a priority in all communities as housing is a basic human right. Accessing adequate and affordable housing can be a challenge for people of all ages, particularly those with lower incomes.

There are several approaches to addressing affordable housing. Local governments and planners can take a creative approach in developing zoning provisions and development approval processes that are appropriate to the respective community in ensuring that affordable housing options are available.

#### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Creating new affordable housing can improve neighborhood stability and appeal, and in doing so, actually increase nearby property values.<sup>2</sup>
- Strong support from local government is key to reducing or overcoming community opposition to affordable housing.
- Planning and zoning regulations aimed at fostering the construction of affordable housing, such as inclusionary zoning (see What Is Inclusionary Zoning), can help make affordable units a natural and accepted part of residential development over the long term.

#### Council may wish to consider

- Advancing attractive design, attention to details, and good community relations when introducing affordable and mixed income housing.
- Identifying locations in the community that could support affordable housing through infill and/or new development.
- Providing density bonuses to developers who incorporate affordable housing units into their builds.

#### Planning documents should consider

- Permitting a wide range of affordable housing options throughout the community such as accessory apartments within single detached dwellings.

- Permitting garden or secondary suites on the same property as an existing single detached dwelling (hookups to local services can be separate or combined with the main use; on-site services need to be adapted to accommodate additional bedroom(s)).
- Reducing or eliminating minimum housing sizes, while still ensuring that basic construction standards are met through the National Building Code.
- Reducing lot size requirements in serviced areas to allow for higher density or infilling.
- Including mobile and mini homes in the definition of a single detached dwelling, particularly in rural communities.

#### WHAT IS INCLUSIONARY ZONING?

Generally only used in larger urban centres, inclusionary zoning is a voluntary by-law that requires a set proportion (e.g., 10-20%) of new market housing developments to be affordable.

Characteristics:

- May be restricted to developments over a certain number of units.
- Typically includes below-market housing (both ownership and rental) for moderate-income households left out of the marketplace.
- Creates mixed-income development, with affordable housing integrated with the market units.
- Generally, regulatory concessions (e.g., height limits) are offered in compensation.





## SP.4 AVOID DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE PATTERNS THAT MAY CAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL OR HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUES.

The purpose of this policy is to balance the need for development with planning for development in safe and appropriate ways. It is less expensive to prevent or mitigate risk than reactively responding to disasters and to the unintended consequences of unplanned developments in at-risk areas. Allowing the placement of permanent structures and underground wastewater systems in areas prone to erosion, storm surge, or flooding puts the environment, residents, investments, and emergency personnel at risk (see [FH.3](#)).

Land uses can have significant environmental impacts on underground aquifers or watersheds. Effective land use planning can reduce or eliminate risks for local and provincial governments from incompatible or inappropriate development in hazard areas when extreme and natural events or disasters occur.

### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Current information on the location and extent of natural hazard areas in or near the community (see [FH.1](#)).
- Past information on the historical occurrence, location, and intensity of hazard events, such as flooding and wildfires. This information can be gathered by contacting provincial agencies and Emergency Measures Organizations (EMO) and by talking to the local community and gathering oral histories and photographs.

- Future projections regarding potential for environmental hazards or projected health and safety risks, taking into account climate change (see [CC.1](#)).
- Development on hazard lands can significantly impact design, cost, and liability for development and ability to provide safe and efficient services (e.g., transportation, public works).
- Capacity of the community's wellfields and water supply for serviced and non-serviced development.
- Legislated setbacks for certain land uses and developments (e.g., quarries, land fills).
- Triggers for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) (see Provincial Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Review).

### Planning documents should consider

- Identifying areas prone to natural hazards (see [FH.1](#)).
- Identifying appropriate areas for new development away from hazard lands on future land use maps.
- Creating appropriate development standards and mitigation measures to minimize risks to people, property, and the environment.
- Identifying appropriate uses for land too hazardous to develop, such as trail systems or open space.

## PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REVIEW

EIA review is a process through which the environmental impacts potentially resulting from a proposed project are identified and assessed early in the planning process. EIA identifies steps that can be taken to avoid negative environmental impacts or reduce them to acceptable levels before they occur. The EIA review process must be completed before any project subject to EIA can proceed. Anticipated impacts can be avoided or reduced to acceptable levels through careful attention to the location, design, and timing of a proposed undertaking and by ensuring that proponents follow specific terms and conditions identified by regulators. The EIA Regulation is administered in a way that gives the public, stakeholders, and First Nations the opportunity to learn about and comment on proposed projects.

Individuals, companies, or public sector agencies that propose an activity in the project list in [Schedule "A"](#) of the EIA Regulation are required to register information about the proposal with the Department of Environment and Local Government at an early stage in the planning schedule.

For additional information regarding the EIA process, please visit the [Environmental Impact Assessment web page](#).



### Planning decisions should consider

- Ensuring consistency with the local government's emergency plan, climate change adaptation plan, and referencing any plan and other risk documents in the local government's planning by-laws.
- Ensuring adequate escape routes for all landowners in or near hazard land areas.
- Reviewing access points for emergency services and include more than one access and egress point to multi-parcel subdivisions.
- Identifying the risks and benefits of proposed development adjacent to or near hazard lands. Some risks can be addressed by applying appropriate development permit conditions or mitigation measures.
- If risks cannot be addressed, direct development to elsewhere in the community or region.



## SP.5 PROMOTE AND PRIORITIZE DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS OF COMMUNITIES WITH EXISTING OR PLANNED PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES.

The purpose of this policy is to encourage efficient development by focusing in areas with existing services. Sprawl is a more expensive development pattern over the long-term compared to compact development because infrastructure (roads, sidewalks, etc.), and their maintenance over time is supported by a smaller population. Access by emergency services can also be an issue. Low population levels make service provision such as childcare, grocery stores, community centres, schools, and transportation (e.g., transit and school busing) non-viable. In comparison, compact development saves an average of 38% on upfront infrastructure costs, 10% on the ongoing delivery of services, and generates 10 times more tax revenue per acre compared with sprawl development.<sup>3</sup> Further, more compact development also reduces the length of roads and utility lines (such as water pipes and sewers) and distances travelled to provide public services such as garbage collection, policing, emergency response, and school transport.

Sprawl also includes non-resource based industrial, commercial, or institutional developments in both urban and rural areas.

Many urban centres have identified undeveloped land within their urban growth boundaries for future residential development that can be serviced cost-effectively with local water and sewer infrastructure. As well, there are usually some areas within existing neighbourhoods that can be infilled with new development, which is an efficient and economical use of land and infrastructure. Many local governments designate areas in their local plans for critical future infrastructure needs, such as school sites based on projected and planned neighbourhood growth trends and objectives.

### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Location of existing infrastructure and local services (water, wastewater, storm water, roads).
- Capacity of existing local services to expand.
- Consider available fire protection services.
- The cost of system upgrades to support additional development.
- Impact of new developments on local streets and/or the provincial highway network. See [Maps – Transportation and Infrastructure \(gnb.ca\)](#) for map books outlining highways and public non-maintained roads.
- How to use tools (e.g., servicing agreements) to capture the projected up-front and long-term capital and operating costs associated with new development.
- Whether a road is a designated highway (eligible for maintenance and upgrades) or public non-maintained roads (for public use, but not eligible for maintenance services or upgrades, unless built to a standard that allows for designation).

### Council may wish to consider

- Financing upgrades to community services as part of the planning process.
- How emergency services will be provided to new residential development.
- Determining and incorporating the true cost of infrastructure for growth and development to encourage long-term fiscal sustainability.
- Preparing a cost benefit analysis and/or infrastructure plan in conjunction with adoption of a new or amendment to an existing land use plan.



### Planning documents should consider

- An orderly progression of development (avoiding “leap-frogging” undeveloped land) in areas planned for residential or commercial growth.
- Including calculations for water, sewer, and solid waste collection and disposal methods for proposed new developments.
- Providing opportunities for adaptive re-use of buildings.
- In urban areas, setting and implementing minimum density targets for residential intensification in existing neighbourhoods.
- Providing the opportunity for innovative and/or compact building design, where services are provided.
- Compact neighborhoods to minimize the dependence on vehicular transportation.
- In urban areas, promoting higher density development that makes multiple modes of transportation viable in the community, such as transit, cycling, and barrier-free sidewalks and trails.

### Planning decisions should consider

- Determining residential growth patterns and phasing of residential growth based on the capacity and efficient use of local services.
- Ensuring the availability, capacity, and efficient use of local government services when establishing new commercial, industrial, or large-scale institutional development.
- New or infill residential development that increases residential density where local services capacity and facilities exist.





## SP.6 PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT IN COMMUNITIES WITHOUT PUBLIC WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS TO BE LOCATED ON ACTIVELY MAINTAINED ROADS.

The purpose of this policy is to encourage efficient development along existing roads which already receive services such as solid waste collection, snow removal, school bus service and emergency services. Currently there are existing vacant lots and existing services available for development in communities throughout New Brunswick.

### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Number of existing vacant, undeveloped lots that are located along existing roads in the community.
- Types and classification of roads, setback and access requirements, and permits required from the province.
- Location of existing or potential resource-based uses in the community (agriculture, aggregate, mining, forestry, coastal-based aquaculture) that may cause conflict with proposed residential uses.

### Council may wish to consider

- The true short and long-term costs of development (per metre) of un-serviced lots in terms of local and/or provincial services.
- The value of the current use of the land that is being developed.

- The location of proposed residential development in conjunction with other non-residential uses that may create conflict.
- The proximity of development to key amenities and services including community centres, schools, parks, etc (see [SP.1](#)).

### Planning documents should consider

- Subdivisions in un-serviced lots with access onto existing roads.
- Compatible development of land near to existing or planned resource activities (agriculture, aggregate, etc.) (see [NR.1, AA.3](#)).
- Specifying primary uses for areas of the community to clarify where resource or residential uses are expected (and protected) (see [NR.2](#)).
- Including, where necessary, language to address exceptions to policies such as infilling in particular areas.
- Ensuring that balance is sought between individual wants and broader community interests.



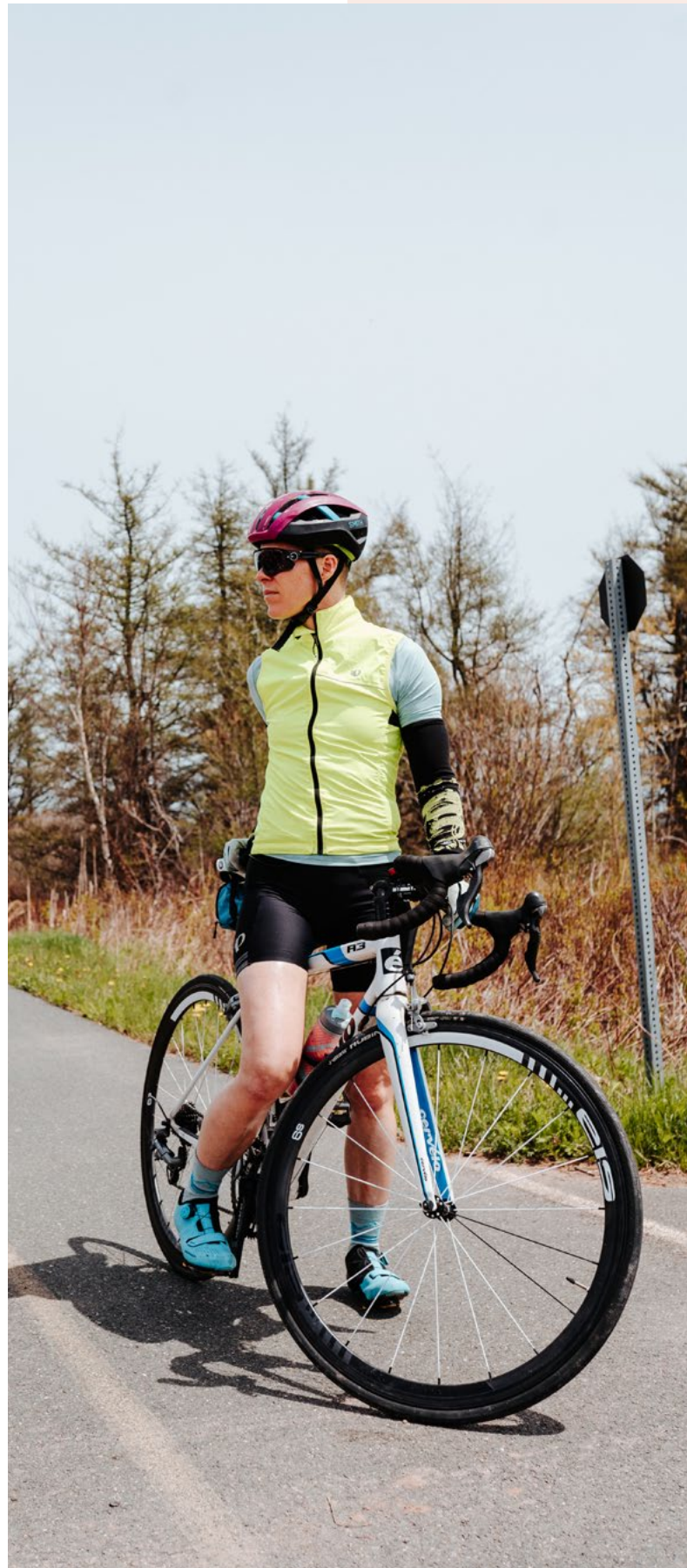
## SP.7 PROMOTE A RANGE OF TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS, INCLUDING PUBLIC, REGIONAL AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION.

The purpose of this policy is to encourage communities to promote a variety of transportation options in their communities and allow residents various options.

When transportation networks are designed to include a variety of transportation options, such as active transportation, mobility for all residents is encouraged. This leads to improved health outcomes, better physical and mental well-being, and greater opportunities for social connectedness.<sup>4</sup> Moving away from cars and toward active transportation also lends itself to positive benefits for the environment, greenhouse gas reductions, and reduced levels of harmful carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, and particulate matter. A healthy transportation network is safe, affordable, and accessible to all levels of mobility, and prioritizes active transportation options like walking, cycling, and public transit.

### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Location and length of off-street trail network within the community.
- Key trail and sidewalk connection points into and within the community between neighbourhoods and commercial centres.
- Safety requirements for active transportation lanes alongside streets (e.g., bike lanes).
- Ownership of roads and what is permissible on roads managed/maintained by the province.
- Commuting patterns of residents (Census profiles contain basic information on commuting distances for each census subdivision).
- Commuting departure locations and destination of residents, including frequency of travel.
- Opportunities for integrated regional transportation and active transportation under the regional service commission (RSC) mandate.
- Active transportation connections between communities on provincial roads/highways may require collaboration between local governments, RSCs, NGOs, and the province to facilitate appropriate design standards and safety measures.





### **Council may wish to consider**

- Developing a regional and active integrated transportation strategy, in collaboration with the RSC, to facilitate people moving from home to where they need to be using a range of transportation options. Specifically, this includes continuous and connected pathways for pedestrians and cyclists that are readily accessible to residential areas and connected to common areas of work, play, and learning.
- Identifying points of connectivity between communities, transportation corridors through rural areas, and urban street networks that facilitate access to essential services including grocery stores, pharmacies, etc.
- Exploring concerns around traffic safety with the cycling community.
- In urban centres, making active transportation options safer by separating cyclists from vehicle traffic by developing creative ways to establish bike lanes including painting or structural or vegetation barriers where appropriate.
- Where appropriate, reducing the number of lanes (and sometimes the width of those lanes) available to motor traffic and converting that space to pedestrian walkways, cycle lanes, etc.

- Using traffic calming methods such as narrower traffic lanes and residential traffic diversion to reduce traffic speeds and volume.
- Linking efforts to climate change mitigation (see [CC.2](#)).
- Exploring the diversity of populations who are most likely to benefit from access to active transportation and ensuring their needs are met regarding language, affordability, and connection to health services and schools.

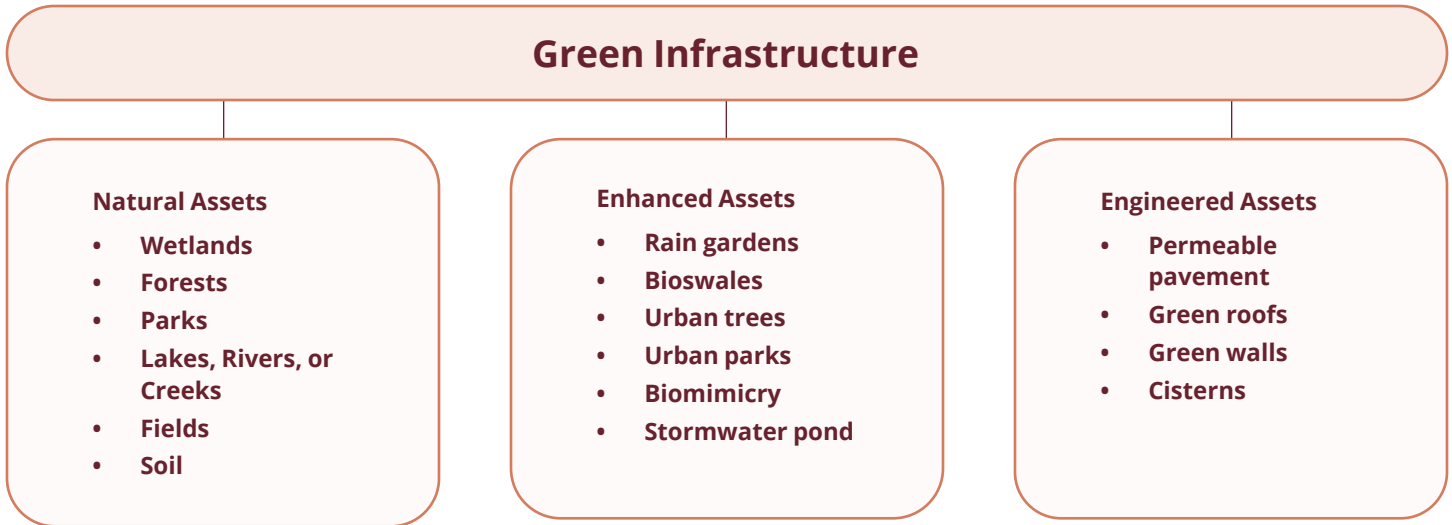
### **Planning documents should consider**

- Development that accommodates walking and cycling pathways and interconnectivity between neighbourhoods.
- Collaborating with the RSCs and other local governments to determine needs and opportunities for establishing regional transportation hubs/connection points and commuter parking areas.
- Managing growth in a way that reduces overall dependence on private vehicle use and facilitates increased alternative modes of sustainable transportation (e.g., walking, cycling, and transit).

## SP.8 PROMOTE THE USE OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND CLIMATE RESILIENT LANDS.

Green infrastructure (see Figure 2) has emerged as an effective and affordable alternative to expensive engineered solutions. It is more resilient and adaptable to climate change, and often results in co-benefits for the environment and community.

► Figure 2: Distinction between green infrastructure and its components<sup>5</sup>



Green infrastructure can provide a range of services, including regulating services (e.g., temperature moderation, air and water filtration, flood management/protection, carbon sequestration), provisioning services (e.g., food, energy), and cultural services (e.g., recreational, and spiritual experiences). Climate resilient lands are spaces with green infrastructure features that are specifically able to support the ability to recover quickly from impacts associated with climate change (see [CC.2](#)). Natural assets are naturally occurring features and include Environmentally Significant Areas (see [NR.3](#)), while enhanced and engineered assets mimic natural systems.

### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Location and function of any natural assets in the community (e.g., flood protection, erosion mitigation).
- Value of natural assets within the community.
- Comparative construction and maintenance costs for traditional and green infrastructure, including the co-benefits of each (e.g., a wetland mitigates flooding as well as provides habitat, recreational space, water filtration services, etc.).

### Council may wish to consider

- Including natural assets in its Asset Management Plan which involves conducting a valuation of natural assets as it would other engineered assets (see Natural Asset Management).

### Planning documents should consider

- The use of innovative stormwater management solutions such as 'net zero' stormwater run-off for new development (particularly for industrial, commercial, institutional, or large-scale residential) where feasible.
- Permitting the use of green infrastructure on site to reduce stormwater run off such as green roofs, rain gardens, bioswales, and rain barrels.
- Providing flexibility for development and conservation efforts that encourage the adoption of green infrastructure options on site.

### Planning decisions should consider

- The life-time costs of engineered versus green infrastructure, including ongoing maintenance, materials, and repair, based on requirements of the National Building Code.
- Reflect the co-benefits provided by green infrastructure (see Municipal Natural Assets Initiative).

## NATURAL ASSET MANAGEMENT

Natural asset management provides a structure by which existing natural assets in communities are given monetary value for the services they provide. This gives a quantifiable measure to value natural assets. While monetary valuation is not the sole measure of a natural asset's importance, this mechanism provides important data to be considered within the larger local government capital funding context. It enables natural assets to be integrated with traditional asset management.

## MUNICIPAL NATURAL ASSETS INITIATIVE

The Municipal Natural Assets Initiative (MNAI) is a process where local governments work with experts to identify, value and account for natural assets in their financial planning and asset management programs, allowing them to develop sustainable and climate-resilient infrastructure using nature. As of 2021, five New Brunswick communities have taken part in MNAI processes. Click the links below to read the reports.

- [District of Carleton North](#)
- [City of Moncton](#)
- [Tantramar](#)
- [Town of Riverview](#)
- [Village of Fundy Albert](#)



## SP.9 PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT IN DOWNTOWNS AND URBAN CORES THROUGH INCREASED DENSITY, INFILL, AND BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT.

This policy is intended to promote development in downtown areas and urban cores, and to encourage locating new development in areas already developed through infill on existing lots, increasing density of development (build up, rather than out), and building on reclaimed industrial sites and brownfields. Further to [SP.1](#), communities can avoid or limit sprawl and reduce driving time by using infill development and brownfield reclamation close to transit infrastructure, places of work, and other commercial and community services. Ideal community centres are compact, walkable, mixed-use areas that bustle with commerce, people, and culture.

Within these busy core areas, the built environment supports complete communities (see Complete Communities), which are more convenient, socially engaging, and encourage physical activity. Community core development can be facilitated by increased density, infilling vacant lots, and redeveloping abandoned building sites or unused parking lots.

Further, expanding the use of vegetation and natural elements across the built environment creates carbon sinks, mitigates air pollution and the heat island effect. As well, investment in public and active transportation options reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves air quality and reduces generation of heat in downtown core areas as a result of lower dependence on cars (see [CC.2](#)).

### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Current density of downtown or neighbourhoods within the greater urban core or growth boundary (e.g., how many residential units per square kilometre, how many residents/metre of road) (see Growth Boundaries).
- Location, number, and lot size of vacant lots in the greater urban core of the community.
- Location, number, and lot size of brownfield areas in the core of the community.
- Previous use(s) of all brownfield sites to determine if there is potential for contamination (may require soil testing to determine appropriate alternate use on site).

- Density targets for the downtown core of the community, to be achieved through infill or building up. Targets can be set through public engagement to determine appropriate scale based on resident input. Densification (i.e., more people living in a concentrated location) requires complimentary green space development such as more parks, trails, and trees.

### COMPLETE COMMUNITIES

Complete communities are designed for all residents, regardless of income. The defining elements are:

- Densification (access to services within a 5-minute walk).
- Diverse housing mix (not just single-detached dwellings).
- Diverse land use mix (housing and services are co-located).
- Employment options (labour force lives and works within the community).
- Transportation options exist (not car-dependent).

### GROWTH BOUNDARIES

Land inside the growth boundary supports community services such as roads, water and sewer systems, parks, schools and fire and police protection. The boundary is one of the tools to protect farms and forests from sprawl and promote the efficient use of land, public facilities, and services inside the boundary.





### **Council may wish to consider**

- Promoting the downtown core as a place to live, work, shop, eat, and be entertained.
- Offering financial incentives for developing new or repurposing old structures within the downtown business district.
- Establishing green public spaces to encourage people to gather (e.g., parkettes).
- As climate change is making urban centres hotter with the incidence of heat islands, development of:
  - a tree canopy policy focused on preservation of existing tree canopy, where appropriate and in alignment with the community's growth objectives, and
  - a shade policy that includes natural shade (increased tree canopy) as well as built shade structures along sidewalks, at bus stops, along parking lot walkways, and in open space areas.
- Landscaping standards in zoning by-laws to place requirements on developers to mitigate climate change (see [CC.1](#) and [CC.2](#)).
- Opportunities to plan for improvements to overall community health and safety through community design, including the healthy and safe movement of people and connectivity within existing and future developments (see [SP.7](#)).

### **Planning documents should consider**

- Using zoning tools to:
  - Enable reuse of existing buildings.
  - Encourage higher density through reduced building setbacks and contextually appropriate residential density standards.
  - Introduce bonus zoning for development in core.
- Consider incentives such as reduced development fees for downtown development.
- Ensuring the community core and urban neighbourhoods host a mixture of commercial, residential, and institutional uses to create space for people to live, work, and recreate within walking distance.
- Including active transportation elements in any new high-density development (e.g., bicycle storage).
- Facilitating opportunities to develop outdoor green space in conjunction with high density development.

### **Planning decisions should consider**

- Facilitate redevelopment and infill, while ensuring that the expansion of the urban core aligns with growth objectives (e.g., new development uses existing servicing, is within the planned growth boundary, is within planned neighbourhood growth areas, etc.).





# Statement of Public Interest on Agriculture (AA)

**It is a public interest and priority to promote the agriculture, fishery and aquaculture sectors and the production of food in the Province.**

## CONTEXT

Prime agricultural land is a valuable, non-renewable natural resource that is the foundation of all agricultural and food source production activities in the province. In 2022, only 4% of land in the province was being used to produce food. Incompatible land uses are contributing to the loss and fragmentation of prime agricultural areas and land use conflicts, limiting the expansion of existing operations and preventing the development of new operations. Between 2011 and 2021, there has been a 27% reduction in lands being farmed. Some of this loss is due to non-agricultural development.

In 2018, New Brunswick's agriculture sector, as well as value-added agri-food, seafood, and beverage sectors, contributed to the economic viability of local communities, First Nations, and the province by employing more than 17,000 people and delivering over 50 commodities to local and export markets.

New Brunswick is known for quality land at relatively affordable prices with access to water – three key elements required for continuation and growth of the agriculture and land-based aquaculture sectors. Further, there is a growing interest in and demand for locally produced food and beverages which are dependant upon healthy agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and value-added production. Ensuring there is an adequate land base for continued and growing food production is essential.

## BENEFITS OF GOOD PLANNING

Prime agricultural land is a finite resource. Planning and managing the use of these lands ensures the long-term protection of agricultural activities and ensures there is land available on which to produce food for the province.

## AA.1 IDENTIFY PRIME AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND PRIORITIZE THEM FOR AGRICULTURAL USES AND OTHER COMPATIBLE LAND USES.

The purpose of this policy is to recognize that prime agricultural land is a finite resource that needs to be identified in communities. Incompatible land uses (e.g., residential subdivisions) is a contributing factor in the loss and fragmentation of Prime Agricultural Areas. It also creates increased land use conflicts that can limit the expansion of existing agricultural operations and prevent the development of new ones. Once agricultural land is taken out of production, it is seldom returned. By removing agricultural land from production, over time fragmentation can have significant long-term effects.

### What the local government and regional service commission may consider

About the planning area:

- Location of Prime Agricultural Areas within and around the planning area (see Identifying Prime Agricultural Areas (PAAS)).
- Location of value-added agri-businesses in the community that support the viability of ongoing agricultural uses.
- Location(s) of potential land use conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural activities.
- Areas of the community most suitable for expansion of non-agricultural uses so as to avoid impacting Prime Agricultural Areas.
- Non-compatible uses currently established in areas meeting the definition of “Prime Agricultural Area.”
- How and where to accommodate future growth and development for non-agricultural uses.

About land use planning in general:

- Access to transportation infrastructure and utilities are often required for agricultural operations and value-added agri-businesses.
- The *Agricultural Operations Protections Act* regulates acceptable farm practices being carried out as part of an agricultural operation in New Brunswick, which is explained [here](#).
- Land use planning strategies to reduce agricultural land fragmentation can be used to support non-agricultural development in rural areas.

## IDENTIFYING PRIME AGRICULTURAL AREAS (PAAS)

The process of identifying PAAs is not an exact science and will likely require a cooperative effort between planners, local communities, and provincial authorities. Below are recommended steps:

- [Mapping Canada Land Inventory \(CLI\) 2, 3, and 4](#) land that is currently in agricultural use or that is cleared for agricultural use.
  - Use Agriculture and Agri-food Canada CLI mapping as well as other resources including historical maps, aerial mapping, and Farmland Identification Program (FLIP) data.
- Mapping areas used for, being prepared to be used for, or that have been identified for the future development of the production of wild blueberries, cranberries, or maple sugar products.
  - Contact the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries for available maps.
- Mapping existing woodlots that are associated with agricultural operations and that are part of land areas that include CLI 2, 3, or 4 land that are currently in agricultural use or that are cleared for agricultural use.
  - Contact the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries for available maps.
- Agriculture and Agri-food Canada CLI Mapping 5, 6, or 7 land that is part of an area that includes land that is CLI 2, 3, or 4 land that is currently in agricultural use or cleared for agricultural use.
  - Use Agriculture and Agri-food Canada CLI Mapping as well as other resources including historical maps, aerial mapping, and Farmland Identification Program (FLIP) data.
- Ground truthing the mapping, including working with non-governmental organizations, the local farming community, and the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries.



### **Council may wish to consider**

- Directing non-agricultural development away from Prime Agricultural Areas.
- Mapping Prime Agricultural Areas based on the concentration of agricultural uses and not spot zoning individual parcels or portions of existing lots that display characteristics of prime agricultural land.
- Using zoning tools to protect land in Prime Agricultural Areas.
- Allowing food production outside of Prime Agricultural Areas such as pasture and forage land which are often found on CLI 5, 6 or 7 land.

### **Planning documents should consider**

- Prioritizing agricultural uses and compatible uses for Prime Agricultural Areas in the permitted uses section of the municipal or rural plan by-law.
- Identifying areas with high value aggregate potential (e.g., Bedrock geology maps) before finalizing prime agricultural area mapping.
- Proactively protecting Prime Agricultural Areas in semi-urban settings (e.g., through zoning provisions such as the size of housing located on agricultural land).
- Directing non-agricultural development to lands zoned for the appropriate use (e.g., residential, commercial, industrial).
- Introducing policies that address how and when the conversion of land in Prime Agricultural Areas is permitted for other types of development such as when:
  - There are unique physical circumstances such as roads, railways, or topographical features that reduce the viability of agriculture.
  - There is a specific community need that cannot be met elsewhere in the community.
  - There are existing adjacent non-agricultural uses that have already introduced compatibility issues and land use conflict.

- Outlining standards that protect agricultural land. For example:
  - Developing criteria for when small parcel sizes will be considered for removal from a larger Prime Agricultural Area.
  - Outlining maximum parcel sizes for non-agricultural uses in Prime Agricultural Areas that would be applied during subdivision.
- Permitting food production in zones not strictly designated for agriculture (e.g., rural use zones, industrial zones) such as residential or community gardens and food forests.
- Particularly in more urban areas of the community, encouraging food production in all zones at the smallest scale, including residential gardens, community gardens, and food forests.
- Allowing for farmers markets and enabling local farmers markets to build permanent or temporary market infrastructure through zoning provisions and/or by-laws.

### **Planning decisions should consider**

- Supporting diversity in agricultural and value-added activities.
- Assessing the impacts to agricultural activities when reviewing development applications in any areas where there are active agricultural operations.
- Ensuring consistency with community goals and policies regarding prime agricultural area fragmentation.



## AA.2 IDENTIFY CURRENT AQUACULTURE AND FISHERY USE AREAS AND AREAS FOR EXPANSION AND PRIORITIZE THEM FOR AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES USES AND OTHER COMPATIBLE USES.

The purpose of this policy is to recognize that fisheries and aquaculture are an important aspect of life for much of coastal New Brunswick. The majority of aquaculture and fisheries activity can only take place in specific coastal areas, so identifying and protecting this area to ensure that fisheries and aquaculture can continue and expand is important for all New Brunswickers.

### What the local government and regional service commission may consider

- Coastal and land-based aquaculture and fisheries activities require specific locations, infrastructure, and services.
- Land-based aquaculture facilities may require approximately 5 to 10 hectares of land<sup>6</sup>, access to large volumes of suitable water, and transportation corridors.
- As with other types of development, land-based aquaculture facilities may be subject to Environmental Impact Assessments (see SP.4).
- Fisheries uses need access to coastal areas, including wharves, for packaging, processing, storage, and off-loading catches.

- Incompatible uses with land-based aquaculture developments include residential developments (seasonal or year-round), quarries, or other uses that can impact the quality and/or quantity of water in the supplying aquifer.

### Planning documents in appropriate communities should consider

- Assessing the role that aquaculture plays in local community economic development.
- Grouping similar uses together (e.g., industrial fisheries, aquaculture, and wharves marinas) to reduce future land use conflicts.
- Including land-based aquaculture as a permitted or conditional use in industrial, commercial, or resource zones. Ensuring that a range of fisheries uses are permitted along lands abutting coastlines.

### Planning decisions should consider

- The long-term impact of all types of developments in coastal areas.
- Balancing the interests of year-round and seasonal residents with industry opportunities.

## AA.3 CONSIDER SETBACKS, AND RECIPROCAL SETBACKS WHERE APPROPRIATE, BETWEEN AREAS WITH AN AGRICULTURAL USE, FISHERY USE, OR AQUACULTURE USE AND AREAS USED FOR INCOMPATIBLE PURPOSES.

The purpose of this policy is to recognize that separation of large-scale food production from other incompatible uses reduces conflict and protects both communities and industry. Historically, resource uses like farming and fisheries were the primary uses in rural and coastal communities. However, recent changes in land uses in rural and coastal communities has led to conflicts (see [SP.1](#)). Given the priority to protect Prime Agricultural Areas (see [AA.1](#)) and fishery and aquaculture uses, it is important to ensure that resource uses are protected where non-resource development is also permitted.

### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Normally accepted agricultural practices – as defined in the *Agricultural Operations Practices Act* – are permitted and should be expected in agricultural areas.
- The ways that normally accepted agricultural practices can impact adjacent land uses such as through noise, odour, dust, smoke, slow moving farm vehicles on local roads, and early/late times of operation.
- Location of existing and potential agricultural operations and value-added agri-businesses in the community.
- All aquaculture developments require certain amounts of water. Establishing an aquaculture use in an area that already has water quality and quantity challenges may contribute to cumulative impacts on the water supply. Equally, for an existing aquaculture facility, protection of its water resources is crucial. As such, other development (including residential) that requires the same water supply should only be considered based on the impact of the existing demand.

### Council may wish to consider

- Potential impacts of planning proposals on agriculture, aquaculture, or fisheries activities.
- Real and perceived land use compatibility concerns from farmers and agri-businesses as well as non-farm residents and businesses.
- Easily understood rules and processes guiding development for developers. These can include clearly defined:
  - Locations suitable and/or not suitable for new or expanded agricultural activities.
  - Development standards and conditions.
  - Municipal costs associated with development.
  - Application requirements.
  - Decision timelines.

### Planning documents should consider

- Separating incompatible land uses through zoning and directing non-resource development away from agriculture, fisheries, and aquaculture areas to help reduce land use conflicts.
- Discouraging non-agricultural development in Prime Agricultural Areas unless development is deemed compatible with the agricultural use.
- Including development standards or conditions on development permits, when appropriate, to help avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential land use conflicts between uses. These could include visual screens or landscaping, buffers, and setbacks.
- Establishing reciprocal setbacks between livestock facilities and non-agricultural development. Setbacks are intended to reduce, not eliminate, potential nuisances and should not be used to effectively prohibit a particular use (see Reciprocal Setbacks).
- Establishing separate zones along the coastline that permit industrial fisheries and aquaculture uses. Such land may be pre-zoned based on existence of wharves and other access requirements.
- Establishing setbacks between existing land-based aquaculture facilities or fisheries uses and new residential developments that are appropriate to the local area.
- Establishing setbacks between existing residential uses and proposed new land-based aquaculture facilities that are appropriate to the local area.
- Containing policies that provide direction to Council when considering a potential rezoning of a property to accommodate a non-resource use. Development that is incompatible with future resource operations or value-added resource businesses should be encouraged to locate elsewhere in the community.
- Establishing setbacks and buffers, where possible and appropriate, between new fisheries uses and other incompatible uses along coastlines.
- Establishing siting requirements (see Inland Aquaculture Siting Considerations).
- Undertaking a hydrogeological assessment of the proposed water draw for a new development that proposes to use the same water supply as that used by an existing land-based aquaculture facility if the proposed development does not require and Environmental Impact Assessment review.



## Planning decisions should consider

- Prioritizing agricultural activities in areas zoned and designated for agricultural land use.
- Balancing the interests of residents and developers against the goals and objectives of prioritizing Prime Agricultural Areas in the community as set out in the municipal or rural plan.
- Recognizing that aquaculture and fisheries uses can only be established in particular areas of the province.
- Prioritizing fisheries and aquaculture uses in areas where there are no alternatives for such development.

### RECIPROCAL SETBACKS

Setbacks are used to separate potentially incompatible uses. For example, under the *Livestock Operations Act (LOA)*, new livestock operations are required to be setback from residential uses on neighbouring properties by a minimum separation distance as established in Schedule A of the regulation. A reciprocal setback could use a similar calculation to determine a minimum separation distance of a new residential use from an existing livestock operation on a neighbouring property. Ultimately, separation between livestock facilities and neighbors can compensate for normal odour production, thereby reducing potential nuisance conflicts. Setbacks do not need to be equal and can be employed to mitigate potential conflicts.

There are a number of factors to keep in mind when a local government is considering adoption of reciprocal setbacks for agriculture or fisheries and aquaculture uses:

- The minimum separation distances noted above in the LOA are not from lot lines, but between structures (e.g., a livestock building or manure facility and a neighbouring house). Establishing the required setback on the ground may entail surveying between
- two properties. Alternatively, high resolution aerial images may provide enough information to establish the required setback.
- Residential parcels are often quite small (1 acre) and requiring setbacks of 250m or more between an existing livestock operation and a new residential use on a neighbouring lot may render the lot unbuildable. Consideration may need to be given to exempt or restrict certain proposed developments that are adjacent to existing livestock operations.
- Most livestock operations established prior to 1999 are exempt from the LOA requirements. Reciprocal setbacks adopted in local land use plans could be used to establish minimum separation distances for new livestock buildings in these existing agricultural operations and existing neighbouring residences.
- Horses are not covered under the LOA. Local governments may want to specifically include them when considering minimum separation distances between farm and non-farm uses related to noise or odour associated with all livestock.

### INLAND AQUACULTURE SITING CONSIDERATIONS

- Site plan, including property boundary and location of buildings and structures, rearing tanks, ponds, and settling ponds.
- Water sources for the aquaculture facility (e.g., groundwater, spring, river, or lake to be used by the site and distances to water sources).
- Allowances for intake and discharge structure and waters receiving discharges (refer to provincial requirements).
- Appropriate access to the proposed site.
- Directional lighting.
- Nuisance mitigation (e.g., noise, odours, pests).
- Visual aesthetics.



## Statement of Public Interest on Climate Change (CC)

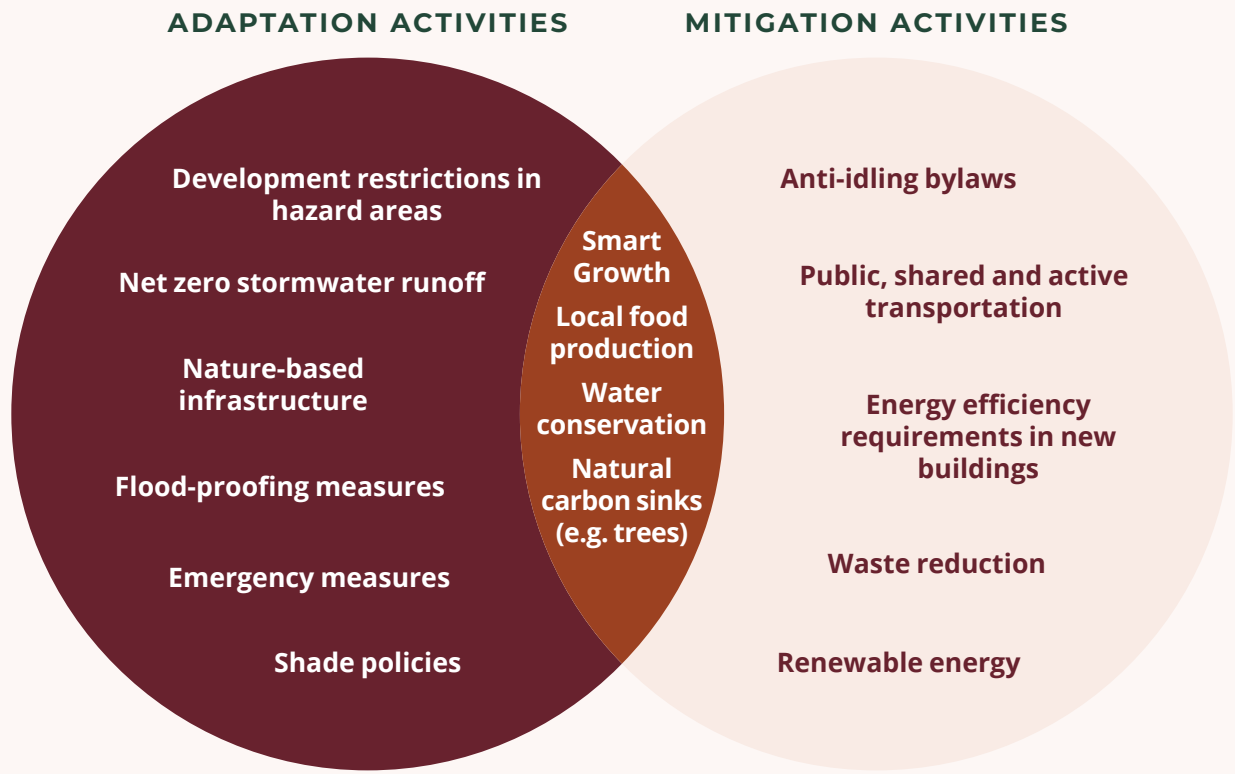
**It is a public interest and priority to engage in processes of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation.**

### CONTEXT

The purpose of this statement is to recognize and work to reduce the current and future impacts of climate change in communities. Climate change is occurring in New Brunswick, presenting both challenges and opportunities in terms of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation actions reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Adaptation actions help communities prepare for climate change impacts that are unavoidable.

New Brunswick's communities are directly affected by the impacts of climate change. Because these impacts are not evenly distributed across New Brunswick's landscape nor population, a concerted effort is required to proactively identify and support those most at risk. Therefore, it is recognized that local governments and communities are best positioned to understand their unique strengths, values, and capacities and incorporate climate change realities into their decision-making and planning processes that fit their circumstances.

► Figure 3: Examples of Adaptation and Mitigation Activities



### **BENEFITS OF GOOD PLANNING**

Climate adaptation actions make communities more resilient over the long-term, meaning that communities are better equipped to withstand and recover from extreme weather events. Mitigation actions proactively lower the release of climate change causing GHGs, thereby reducing future climate change impacts and related adaptation pressures. Mitigation efforts can range from reducing energy waste, increasing energy efficiency, and reducing reliance on fossil fuels to preventing the loss of carbon sinks (i.e., a carbon sink is anything that absorbs

more carbon than it releases, such as forests and natural or created wetlands) (see Figure 3). It is easier and more cost effective to create sustainable and climate resilient communities with thoughtful planning than it is to rehabilitate degraded natural systems, build protective infrastructure for vulnerable communities, or attempt to relocate residents or businesses in high-risk areas. Therefore, it is important for incorporating climate change considerations into decision-making processes to inform the planning and design of built environments.



## CC.1 PROMOTE ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY, IMPROVED AIR QUALITY, CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION THROUGH DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE PATTERNS.

The purpose of this policy is to encourage land use planning and development in communities that effectively mitigates and adapts to threats from climate change. New Brunswick communities contribute more than 40 percent of the province's overall GHG emissions (See Greenhouse Gas). The way a community has developed and continues to grow dramatically affects energy use, air quality, and greenhouse gas emissions.

### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- The location of climate risks within the planning area (see [FH.1](#) and [FH.2](#)).
- Type(s) and location(s) of local services (e.g., water, wastewater, stormwater, local roads, etc.) that may be at risk due to climate change hazards.
- Areas with the potential for cumulative impacts relating to climate change (e.g., how a new development might alter streamflow, thereby altering or introducing flooding/erosion issues on other properties; how new developments might place pressure on existing and already limited water supplies; etc.).
- Existing green infrastructure that supports improved air quality (e.g., forests, urban trees), reduced greenhouse gas emissions (e.g., carbon sinks), and climate change adaptation (e.g., wetlands that mitigate flooding, trees that provide shade and cooler temperatures).
- The way in which communities grow and transport people (i.e., its settlement pattern) has a major impact on overall environmental sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions (see [SP.1](#)).
- [New Brunswick's Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027](#) outlines actions for the Province and local governments.

### GREENHOUSE GAS

"Greenhouse gas" (GHG) as defined in the [Climate Change Act](#):

- a. carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>),
- b. methane (CH<sub>4</sub>),
- c. nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O),
- d. hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs),
- e. perfluorocarbons (PFCs),
- f. sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>),
- g. nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>), or
- h. any other gas prescribed by regulation or of a category prescribed by regulation.

### Council may wish to consider

- Aligning with provincial climate action goals, undertaking strategic planning, hazard mitigation, and risk management including:
  - Risk and Vulnerability Assessments to identify community-specific climate hazards and risks.
  - Local Climate Change Adaptation Plans (CCAPs) that identify actions to implement adaptation measures aimed at addressing specific vulnerabilities while reducing climate risk and building climate resilience within the community (e.g., flood management, infrastructure adaptations, and natural asset protection and restoration, etc.).
  - Natural asset assessments within Asset Management Plans (see [SP.8](#)).
- Developing partnerships with neighbouring local governments, regional service commissions, non-governmental organizations, universities, and First Nations since effective climate change adaptation and mitigation projects often require cooperation beyond local boundaries.
- Renewable energy planning and preparing GHG reduction plans to address energy needs at the community level instead of just at the household level.

### Planning documents should consider

- Providing climate change adaptation and mitigation priorities, objectives, and requirements as guided by up-to-date climate data, maps, and information.
- Identifying projected climate change impacts (e.g., flooding, storms, extreme heat, high winds) and their anticipated effects on the local environment and services.
- Including green infrastructure in policies and zoning provisions to reduce climate change impacts and GHG emissions (see [NR.3](#)). For example:
  - Requiring the installation of native deciduous trees that are resilient to climate change in parking lots, between buildings, and along streets to increase the shade canopy.
  - Encouraging best practices on cooling systems for buildings such as reflective roofs and green roofs.
  - Developing green design or landscaping standards to increase green spaces in developments.
- Developing policies and standards to ensure the protection, maintenance, restoration, and/or enhancement of natural assets in the community such as, dunes, beaches, floodplains, wetlands, dunes, beaches, riparian areas, and forests.
- Enhancing policies for the protection of natural assets and biodiversity and ensuring ecological and functional connectivity of habitats (see [SP.8](#)).
- Recognizing that GHG emissions can be reduced through effective land use decisions such as:
  - Encouraging infill or the use of land within a built-up area for further construction. This makes travel by foot or bicycle easier and makes transit service more viable.

### Planning decisions should consider

- Including an analysis of climate change impacts on the land and the community in terms of potential hazard and degree of possible impact based on up-to-date climate data, mapping, and other relevant information, as available.
- Including an analysis of the GHG impact of land use and changes to land use.
- Assessing both the opportunities and challenges that climate change may present, as determined through climate change adaptation plans or risk assessments.
- That new developments are constructed in a way that ensures they:
  - are adapted to projected climate impacts through construction or site design,
  - contribute to climate change resilience, and
  - do not contribute to additional vulnerabilities.
- Considering, where appropriate, energy and water technologies.
- Inclusion of green building materials and technology.
- Maximizing the tree canopy, particularly in urban settings.
- Where development is permitted in or close to flood and erosion hazard areas, promote flood proofing and erosion-related standards (see [FH.3](#)).
- Fire mitigation approaches in accordance with applicable standards in the National Building Code for development in areas that are adjacent to forested areas.

## **CC.2 CONSIDER HOW THE SITING AND DESIGN OF INFRASTRUCTURE CAN IMPROVE AIR QUALITY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY, MINIMIZE THE HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND INCREASE CLIMATE RESILIENCY.**

The purpose of this policy is to recognize that how communities are designed and serviced can significantly impact community resiliency. As communities of all sizes face challenges from climate change, investment in climate-resilient infrastructure will help protect communities in the long-term. New technologies including green infrastructure (see [SP.8](#)) provide local governments with options to be proactive and are often the most cost-effective way to increase community resiliency.

### **What the local government and regional service commission need to know**

- Impacts of previous extreme weather events on public works systems and if any mitigation measures were undertaken following those events.
- Potential vulnerabilities – built, natural and human – within the planning area and how these vulnerabilities can be addressed.
- Different communities have different challenges, so a locally tailored climate change response is needed for each community.
- There are many mapping resources available to help communities consider climate change impacts in planning for public infrastructure (see [NR.1](#)).

### **Planning documents should consider**

- Ensuring that findings and proposed/required actions use the most up-to-date climate data and information.
- Planning for how climate change, including extreme weather, may impact infrastructure lifespan.
- Identifying how the climate is expected to change and the types of impacts that climate change could have on local services. These climate considerations can be integrated across infrastructure plans as well as wildfire, erosion, and flood risk assessments and local planning documents.

- Planning for infrastructure (roads and buildings) in a way that reduces the number and length of vehicle trips and makes other transportation options more viable.
- Incorporating policies for green infrastructure (including natural assets, enhanced assets, and engineered assets) where appropriate.
- Planning for the maintenance, restoration, or enhancement of natural assets in the community such as, wetlands, riparian areas, and forests.
- Locating infrastructure and emergency facilities away from areas at risk of extreme weather events (See [FH.2](#)).
- Developments that do not require the construction of new public infrastructure particularly in light of the impacts of climate change which are expected to reduce the lifespan of infrastructure and increase the costs of adapted infrastructure (See [SP.5](#) and [SP.6](#)).

### **Planning decisions should consider**

- Designing proposed infrastructure for extreme weather events (such as flooding, storm surges, extreme heat, high winds, etc.).
- Development to areas outside of areas prone to flooding, erosion, and other impacts (See [SP.9](#)).
- Evaluating capacity of stormwater systems to handle forecasted demand, including full neighbourhood development as well as increased frequency of extreme precipitation events.
- Implementing innovative tools, strategies, and mechanisms to build resilience to climate change in public works projects.





Credit: Vanessa Levesque

# Statement of Public Interest on Flood and Natural Hazard Areas (FH)

**It is a public interest and priority to manage development in these areas to increase health and safety and limit social and economic costs to the Province, local governments and the residents of the Province.**

## CONTEXT

New Brunswick contains approximately 60,000 kilometres of streams and rivers, about 2,500 lakes<sup>7</sup>, more than 5,500 kilometres of coastal shoreline,<sup>8</sup> and 80 kilometres of marshland dykes<sup>9</sup>. In that context, New Brunswick has a long history of flooding with more than 300 floods having been recorded since the 17<sup>th</sup> century. With so many kilometres of shoreline and a settlement history that often depended on water-based industry and transportation, many New Brunswick communities were established in areas that are prone to flooding. Inland flooding events are generally caused by snowmelt runoff, storm surge, heavy rain events, ice jams, and spring freshets, all of which are likely to increase with climate change. In coastal areas, a conservative estimate for rising sea levels is one metre higher by the year 2100 compared to 2010 levels.<sup>10</sup>

Importantly, natural hazards are not limited to flooding, but also include erosion, wildfire risk, excessively steep slopes, as well as weather-related events such as ice storms, extreme wind events, storm surge and hurricanes. New development in the province should accommodate long-term threats to health and safety from these natural hazards in combination with climate projections for extreme weather (see [CC.1](#)). Further, nature-based solutions and the natural functions provided by certain habitats and the retention of features like wetlands and dunes help to mitigate the effects of climate change and natural hazards (see [SP.8](#) and [CC.2](#)).

Despite the risk that these natural hazards present, flood plains and coastal areas are in high demand for residential, economic and recreation activities. As a result, more people and investments are exposed to hazards than ever before. Past and on-going development in flood and natural hazard areas, coupled with increasing frequency and severity of storm events, mean that hazard-related costs and consequences will continue to grow unless risks from the natural hazards are appropriately managed.

## BENEFITS OF GOOD PLANNING

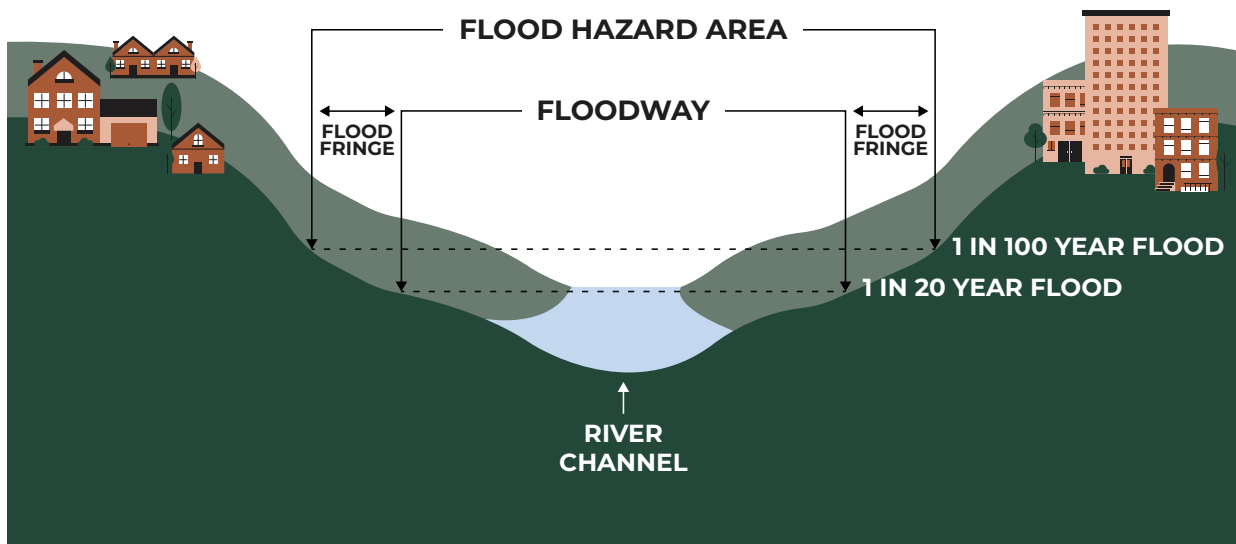
- Zoning and development that takes into account natural hazards is one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to reduce financial impacts on individuals and government.<sup>11</sup>
- Natural assets already exist on the landscape providing natural functions, such as water absorption, that protect against natural hazards. Retaining and protecting these features can offset climate hazards and support more biodiverse and resilient ecosystems (see [SP.8](#)).
- Prevention and mitigation can lead to fewer injuries and mortality and other health impacts associated with flood events.

## FH.1 IDENTIFY FLOOD AND NATURAL HAZARD AREAS USING THE PROVINCIAL FLOOD HAZARD MAPPING, PROVINCIAL EROSION MAPPING, AND OTHER RESOURCES.

The purpose of this policy is to recognize New Brunswick’s long history of flooding and encourage use of the right tools and information to properly plan for flood events. Provincial flood hazard and erosion maps can help identify areas that are at risk. Steep slopes can also be identified where they exist in the community as development along them may create hazards not only for the subject property, but also for the lands below. Should a comprehensive natural hazard risk assessment be undertaken, it would combine this information for the local

area. The results of a natural hazard risk assessment can be useful in helping local governments make decisions about the location and design of buildings, roads, and other important infrastructure, and to inform emergency planning.

The province has established Provincial Flood Hazard Maps based on the concepts depicted in Figure 4. Key definitions are outlined below.



► Figure 4: Depiction of Flood Hazard Area

### KEY DEFINITIONS

**Floodway** – that portion of the flood plain, including the area normally occupied by the waterway, in which most of the floodwaters are conveyed. This is the area where water velocities are typically high during a flood and where damages are often greatest. The floodway is defined as that area flooded on average once in 20 years (or an area which has a 5% chance of being flooded in any given year).

**Flood Hazard Area** – that area flooded on average once in 100 years (or an area which has a 1% chance of being flooded in any given year). In areas with no flood hazard mapping, the area in a specific community which was inundated by a major flood in the past may be designated as the Flood Hazard Area.

**Flood Fringe** – that portion of the flood plain between the floodway and the outer limit of the Flood Hazard Area.

## What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Existing and projected flood and natural hazard areas within the local government's boundaries.
  - The province develops and maintains flood hazard mapping that is available to the public and local governments (see New Brunswick's Flood Hazard Maps).
  - A flood hazard map shows where a flood is anticipated to occur based on a projected time scale.
  - Erosion maps are available from GeoNB and can be used to assess the threat of erosion and retreat of land along the coastline.
  - Storm surge projections have been mapped for coastal communities in New Brunswick.
  - Digital elevation models identify steep slopes, for which there are particular development constraints and any development in such an area may require engineered design.
  - Forest cover maps are available through the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development to help local governments determine where forest fire risk is highest.
  - The provincial WAWA reference map can be used to help identify mapped wetlands and watercourses.
- Many features located within natural hazard areas are managed through provincial regulations and policies that promote or require the protection of these features.
- A natural hazard risk assessment considers the value of property and infrastructure that would be affected if a flood or other natural hazard event were to occur.
- Communities can use natural hazard maps to assess local situations and avoid increasing risk by undertaking vulnerability assessments as part of their Climate Change Adaptation Plans (see Resource section below).
- Flood risk increases when a property is developed and/or when development is not built to withstand or accommodate flooding, or through adverse impacts to established developments within flood hazard areas when fill is added to floodplains to facilitate new development.
- The cost of adapting to future flood risk is significantly less than the cost of waiting to repair damages after an event has happened.

- Natural hazard areas often have important natural functions. Wetlands, riparian areas, dunes, and floodplains all function to reduce hazard vulnerability for other areas.
- In situations where development exists in or near a flood or natural hazard area, appropriate tools (e.g., development standards) can be used to manage new development or expansions of existing structures.

### NEW BRUNSWICK'S FLOOD HAZARD MAPS

The mapped flood hazard areas for New Brunswick are represented by four mapping layers. Each flood hazard map layer is presented for both present day flooding and flooding that is projected to occur at year 2100 and incorporates the future impacts of climate change.

- **Present-Day Flood, 1 in 20 year (5% Annual Probability)** – This is a present-day flooding event that has a 5% chance of occurring in any given year. This is also known as a 1 in 20-year return period flood event. This area is considered the present-day floodway.
- **Present-Day Flood, 1 in 100 year (1% Annual Probability)** – This is a present-day flooding event that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year. This is also known as a 1 in 100-year return period flood event. This is considered the present-day flood hazard area and includes both the floodway and flood fringe.
- **2100 Flood with Climate Change, 1 in 20 year (5% Annual Probability)** This is a flooding event that will have a 5% chance of occurring in any given year, when adjusting for climate change impacts to the year 2100. This is also known as a 1 in 20-year return period flood event, adjusted for climate change. This is anticipated to be the floodway in 2100.
- **2100 Flood with Climate Change, 1 in 100 year (1% Annual Probability)** – This is a flooding event that will have a 1% chance of occurring in any given year, when adjusting for climate change impacts to the year 2100. This is also known as a 1 in 100-year return period flood event, adjusted for climate change. This is anticipated to include both the floodway and flood fringe in 2100.





### **Council may wish to consider**

- Understanding the costs of the disruption to households and businesses that would be impacted by a natural event in the absence of mitigation activities as well as potential risk to emergency personnel should they undertake a vulnerability assessment.
- Adopting in local by-laws a flood and natural hazard map based on provincial resources, local knowledge, and ground-truthing.
- Assessing the value of undertaking extensions to public services (water and sewer) to lands located within flood hazard areas or erosion areas.
- Developing and adopting minimum standards for construction in natural and flood hazard areas.
- Employing nature-based solutions like wetland and buffer protection to mitigate flood events.
- Including climate projections for extreme weather (storm surge, precipitation, etc.) in review process when determining if the type of development proposed is appropriate in a natural hazard area.
- Ensuring a wide-range of partners participate in land use plan development and reviews for natural hazard management – including increased greenspace, water and energy conservation measures, more permeable landscapes and improved storm water management.

### **Planning documents should consider**

- The location of flood and natural hazards areas, established by adopting high quality and accurate maps using geographic information systems (GIS), using provincial map resources, local knowledge and ground-truthing.
- Establishing policies related to development in flood and natural hazard areas.
- Identifying flood and natural hazard areas in zoning.
- Identifying appropriate land uses with flood or natural hazard areas.
- Establishing measures to reduce the risks of developing in flood or natural hazard areas.

### **Planning decisions should consider**

- Assessing if a proposed development is in a flood or natural hazard area.
- Assessing if risks can be mitigated if the development is proposed in a flood or natural hazard area.
- Assessing the value (and potential costs) of requiring provisions for floodproofing existing structures and new developments compared with the value of avoiding future flood damages by prioritizing land uses that have reduced flood risk.

## FH.2 PROMOTE LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT IN AREAS OTHER THAN FLOOD AND NATURAL HAZARD AREAS.

The purpose of this policy is to protect people and investment from natural hazards in the long-term. Flood and natural hazard events result in significant direct costs for all levels of government, as more frequent events lead to more applications for disaster financial assistance and the replacement of buildings and costly infrastructure such as roads, culverts, and bridges. Beyond flood-related damage to property and infrastructure, indirect costs are incurred such as loss of sales by retail businesses, interruptions to manufacturing, transportation, and other industrial activities.

The financial impacts of flooding and natural hazards have been increasing over recent decades, with the average insured losses in Canada from water-related severe weather events at \$143 million (between 1983 – 2008), dramatically increasing since 2009 to \$595 million per year.<sup>12</sup> In the early 2000s, federal payouts under disaster financial assistance arrangements (which can be mirrored by the province) totalled about \$400 million annually. By 2014 this had risen to \$1.5 billion. These liabilities are expected to continue to increase, with around 75% of them due to floods.<sup>13</sup>

The costs to provincial taxpayers include the provincial share of disaster financial assistance payouts, private property buy-outs, as well as the cost to repair public infrastructure such as roads, culverts, bridges, wharves, and public buildings. This is becoming an increasingly costly endeavour which will continue to worsen if new development is continued in known flood hazard areas.

### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- The estimated risks and costs to the local government:
  - To undertake rescue operations for people who are trapped in a flood or natural hazard area during an event.
  - To repair local roads and bridges and other infrastructure damaged in extreme weather events.
  - For interruption of its own services while infrastructure is impacted.
  - For interruption to private businesses and other government services while infrastructure is impacted.
- The ownership structure and maintenance plans for infrastructure (including roads) on which members of the community depend (i.e., provincial, local government, or private).

- The costs, potential benefits, and funding sources (i.e., grant programs) associated with proactively planning for and implementing strategies to reduce flood impacts in the community.

### Council may wish to consider

- Asset management planning and pro-active hazard planning mitigation solutions designed to reduce costs of infrastructure development and ongoing maintenance (see [SP.8](#)).
- Working with provincial partners and other local governments to prioritize maintenance and repair of roads, culverts and bridges based on risk to public safety, outside of emergency response periods.
- Proactive maintenance of local infrastructure and community buildings (flood-proofing) for those assets within known flood or natural hazard areas.

### Planning documents should consider

- A policy that public buildings be built in areas outside of projected flood or natural hazard areas in the community unless appropriate mitigation measures are in place to protect the assets over long-term.
- Promoting flood-proof existing development in known or projected flood hazard areas.
- Directing new development away from natural hazard areas.
- Existing developments in or near natural hazard areas to undertake additions or expansions in a way that does not further encroach on a land-based natural hazard.

### Planning decisions should consider

- The lifetime maintenance costs inclusive of potential hazard response expenses for any new public infrastructure required in known or projected flood or natural hazard areas before approving development in such a location.
- The increasing risk from natural hazards may impact public safety over the long-term and should be weighed against land development opportunities for individual short-term interests.

### **FH.3 PROMOTE LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT THAT IS NOT EXPECTED TO INCREASE THE IMPACTS ON SAFETY AND COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH FLOODING AND NATURAL HAZARDS.**

The safety of people, property, and the environment is of primary importance. Flooding and other natural hazard events can impact the health and wellbeing of New Brunswickers. Flooding and extreme weather events can be deadly, or cause injuries to those directly affected by the natural hazard. This threat to mental and physical wellbeing extends to emergency workers involved in helping in rescue and repair during and following an event. Indirectly, flood waters can affect soil quality, contaminate crops and wild foods, and pollute drinking water systems. Natural hazard events also have significant affects on mental health when homes and property are damaged or lost.

#### **What the local government and regional service commission need to know**

- Understand the possible impacts – direct and indirect – from flooding and other natural hazards to the community (see New Brunswick’s Flood Hazard Maps).
- Land use planning, flood hazard awareness and infrastructure asset management decisions can reduce damage and protect public safety in the event of a flood.

#### **Council may wish to consider**

- Development in areas less prone to flooding, erosion, and other natural hazards.
- Locating critical infrastructure (emergency shelters, special care homes, transportation corridors, etc.) and dangerous goods outside of flood hazard and natural hazard areas to mitigate risk.

- Planning to protect public safety, including evacuation routes for people and livestock in advance of a natural hazard or flood event, and emergency access routes to flooded areas.

#### **Planning documents should consider**

- Establishing policies that limit the risk to life, property and the environment and increases a community’s climate resiliency to impacts from flooding or other natural hazards.
- Providing alternative permitted uses for lands in flood hazard areas such as passive agriculture, recreation and conservation uses (see [NR.3](#)).
- Ensuring new development is situated in such a way that emergency rescue can take place during an event.
- Where development is permitted, ensuring that water and septic/sewer infrastructure is located in such a way to minimize risk of damage due to flooding and other natural hazards.
- Including flood-proofing measures for expansions to existing buildings in flood hazard areas.

#### **Planning decisions should consider**

- Focus on public safety (e.g., ensure there is emergency access to any new land use in a flood hazard area to facilitate escape or rescue during an extreme event).
- Consider long-term climate change projections for locating flood extent as land uses last for decades and will be impacted differently in the future than they are now.



## **FH.4 PROMOTE LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT THAT INCORPORATE MITIGATION MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO FLOODING AND NATURAL HAZARDS OR THAT ARE APPROPRIATE FOR AREAS SUBJECT TO NATURAL HAZARDS.**

The purpose of this policy is to reduce risk by promoting use of land in hazard areas where risk can be reduced. Natural hazard areas maintained in their natural state can help reduce impacts to neighbouring areas during extreme events.

### **What the local government and regional service commission need to know**

- Natural areas can absorb excess water more quickly than developed lands (see [NR.3](#)).
- Passive recreation (trails, playfields) and agricultural activities (pasturing, forage crops) allow hazard lands to continue to be used without high levels of investment of protective measures.
- Property owners have a right to use their properties, and must adhere to all applicable municipal, provincial, and federal legislation when undertaking development and land-use activities. Land use plans identify appropriate types of development as well as placement of structures to protect people and property in the long-term.

### **Planning documents should consider**

- Flooding impacts can be reduced through the planting of vegetative buffers between development and waterbodies and strategic use of natural assets and green infrastructure (see [SP.8](#)).

- Coastal flooding and erosion impacts can be reduced with the re-establishment of wetlands and salt marshes along coastal areas, which decrease wave action and reduce wave run-up.
- Establishing a list of permitted land uses in flood hazard areas that are resilient to flooding (e.g., in urban areas, such uses might include parking structures or sports fields and trails; in rural areas, such uses might include open space, conservation uses, passive agriculture (pasture or hayfields), or passive recreation (trails).
- The retention or addition of vegetation (trees, plants, etc.) on properties that are subject to flooding to prevent slumping, erosion, and loss of soil.
- For any type of development in or adjacent to a flood hazard area, including zoning provisions or establishing terms and conditions that include adding appropriate vegetation and landscaping to encourage water infiltration.

### **Planning decisions should consider**

- Prioritizing public safety over individual interests.
- Being forward thinking.



## Statement of Public Interest on Natural Resources (NR)

**With respect to natural resource development areas and environmentally sensitive areas, it is a public interest and priority to protect these areas for present and future generations while fostering a more consistent and predictable regulatory environment.**

### CONTEXT

Natural resource development areas are important to the province and its communities. This Statement of Public Interest intends to balance the needs of the provinces interest in natural resource development such as forestry, aggregate (pits and quarries), peat, and mineral extraction and renewable energy with protecting the natural environment and ensuring environmentally important areas of the province are maintained.

### BENEFITS OF GOOD PLANNING

Proactive and effective planning for natural resource development areas and environmentally sensitive areas can help:

- Reduce future land use conflicts between resource development uses and incompatible uses.
- Ensure continued access to valuable resource development areas and their economic benefits.
- Protect the environment by ensuring that resources are managed to prevent negative effects on surface water, groundwater, drainage patterns, soil and slope stability, air quality, plant and animal life, and habitat, especially for rare or at-risk species.

Protecting the environment and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources contributes to a strong, healthy economy, society, and environment.

## **NR.1 IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS.**

The purpose of this policy is to reduce land use conflicts related to natural resource use as well as to identify and protect those vitally important natural and environmentally sensitive areas of the province. This includes recognizing that resource development areas are bound to the location of the resource itself and these resources provide important functions to society and the environment (See Natural Resource Development Areas). Mapping natural resources is key to preventing land use conflict between natural resource development and other forms of development (e.g., residential uses) and supporting the balance between resource development and environmental protection.

Broadly defined, environmentally sensitive areas include a range of natural landscapes and features (see Environmentally Sensitive Areas). They deliver a variety of goods and services, ranging from habitat, biodiversity, and clean water to pollination, the management of floodwaters, temperature moderation, and air purification (see [SP.8](#)). In addition, environmentally sensitive areas provide natural protection from climate change by moderating climate change impacts.

### **NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS**

As defined in the SPI Regulation, “natural resource development areas” means lands where an operation is carried on for gain or reward or in the expectation of gain or reward and includes:

- a. Lands identified for potential future development and/or the production of natural resources, and including any associated infrastructure.
- b. Forested lands used for reforestation, silviculture, and harvesting.
- c. Lands used for the development and extraction of aggregates, peat, oil and natural gas, and mineral resources.
- d. Lands used for the development, and production of renewable electrical energy such as wind, solar and tidal.

### **ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS**

As per the SPI Regulation, “environmentally sensitive areas” are:

- a. a Provincially Significant Wetland, Designated Watershed Protected Area or Designated Wellfield Protected Area published on the GeoNB website or a watercourse or other wetland, and
- b. lands that are federally or provincially designated for environmental protection or conservation.



### **What the local government and regional service commission need to know**

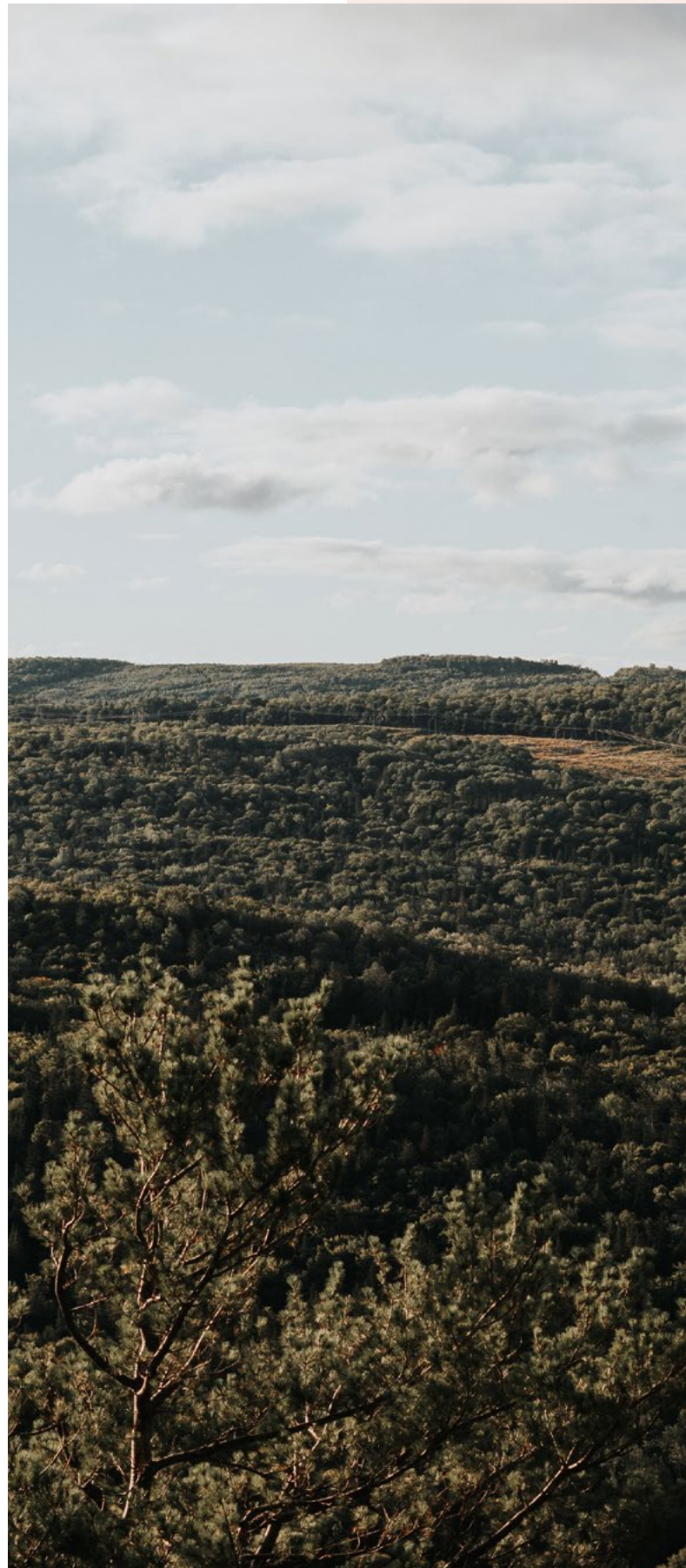
- Location and extent of natural resource development areas and environmentally sensitive areas in the community relative to:
  - Watercourses, water bodies, and wetlands.
  - Urban boundaries, rural settlements, provincially designated lands.
  - Adjacent land use activities and developments.
- Location and extent of existing and planned future natural resource extraction activities.
- Characteristics of the environmentally sensitive areas and any potential impacts of new development on them (e.g., water extraction, contamination, siltation, etc.). Proactively identifying and protecting natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas within the planning area can prevent land use conflicts between natural resource operations and residents and ensure future access.

### **Council may wish to consider**

- Using provincial mapping to establish baseline maps for natural resources.
- Creating natural resource mapping to identify key areas for future natural resource development.
- Working with subject matter experts to map environmentally sensitive areas, including conservation corridors within the community.

### **Planning decisions should consider**

- Balancing the goals and objectives of the local government, the health of the environment, the interests of residents, and natural resource development and environmentally sensitive areas.
- Addressing issues such as pollution, erosion, nuisances, and stormwater management in resources developments to prevent further land use conflicts.



## **NR.2 PRIORITIZE NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE EXTRACTION AND DEVELOPMENT.**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that given that the location of natural resource developments are somewhat fixed and site-specific, communities consider their use and function as a critical part of the New Brunswick environment and economy.

### **What the local government and regional service commission need to know**

- Natural resource development potential within the planning area.
- Potential safety concerns with regards to natural resource development area and tools for mitigating the concerns (see [SP.4](#)).
- Potential locations appropriate for large-scale wind and solar development.
- The province has established guidelines for sand and gravel extraction on both Crown and private properties. For private property, these guidelines include minimum setbacks from property lines, existing wells, watercourses, and public roads and can be used as a reference for local governments looking to develop their own standards.
- Quarries (aggregate extraction requiring the use of explosives) must receive an Approval to Operate from the Department of Environment and Local Government. This Approval comes with requirements for public notification on the timing of the use of explosives, as well as annual reports and mitigation plans for any issues.

### **Council may wish to consider**

- The degree of compatibility of any proposed non-resource development in proximity to existing natural resources operations.

- The location of existing non-resource activities in relation to the high potential areas to be developed for natural resources.
- Prioritizing natural resource development where there are resources and directing non-resource development to other areas of the community.

### **Planning documents should consider**

- Recognizing the provincial government's right to manage natural resources on Crown lands, and conservation, wildlife, and biodiversity across the whole of the Province.
- Recognizing the provincial government's responsibility to regulate activities related to the protection of provincial forest resources, including fire, insects, diseases, and invasive species.
- Including natural resource extraction and development as permitted land uses in appropriate locations, including ancillary uses such as stockpiling, crushing, milling, etc. to reduce land use conflicts between natural resources uses and other non-compatible land uses.
- Including policies surrounding the establishment of renewable energy developments, appropriate in size and scale, to designated locations within the community.
- Allowing appropriate temporary permitted uses related to natural resources.

## NR.3 PRIORITIZE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS FOR CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that environmentally sensitive areas are protected from development and conserved for their environmental functions. New Brunswick has developed several tools to identify and conserve valuable habitats. These include, but are not limited to, Protected Natural Areas, Nature Legacy Protected Areas, Provincial Parks, Provincially Significant Wetlands, Environmentally Significant Areas, and Critical Habitats for Species At-Risk. The long-term preservation of these natural resources supports a healthy ecosystem.

### What the local government and regional service commission need to know

- Provincial regulations exist to protect many types of environmentally sensitive areas, including watersheds, wellfields, and wetlands (see Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Wellfield Protection Program, and Watercourse and Wetland Alteration (WAWA) Program).

### WELLFIELD PROTECTION PROGRAM (WELLFIELD PROTECTION DESIGNATION ORDER – CLEAN WATER ACT)

A wellfield protected area is the area (surface and subsurface) surrounding a water well or wellfield providing a public water supply system. The Wellfield Protection Program safeguards local drinking water supplies by prohibiting or limiting chemical storage and land use activities within designated wellfield protected areas. In 2023, there are over 55 municipalities in New Brunswick using approximately 200 production wells as their source of potable water. The wellfield protected areas associated with these wells cover approximately 0.25 percent of the total area of the province, yet serve over 150,000 people (20 percent of the population of New Brunswick) with drinking water. For more information on wellfield protection, please visit the [Department website](#).

### WATERCOURSE AND WETLAND ALTERATION (WAWA) PROGRAM (WATERCOURSE AND WETLAND ALTERATION REGULATION – CLEAN WATER ACT)

The [Watercourse and Wetland Alteration Regulation](#) under the [Clean Water Act](#) requires that anyone carrying out an alteration in or within 30 metres of a watercourse and/or wetland present on the ground and that meet the [definitions](#), must obtain a WAWA permit from the Department of Environment and Local Government before the commencement of any alteration(s). All applications for a WAWA permit can be submitted to the Department through an [online application system](#). For more information on the permitting process, please visit the [Watercourse and Wetland Permitting Guidelines](#) or contact the Department of Environment and Local Government's Source and Surface Water Management Branch.



### **Council may wish to consider**

- Establishing clear goals and objectives for environmentally significant areas and conservation within land use plans.
- Identifying and protecting environmentally sensitive areas in their land use plans.
- Where appropriate, consider the adjacent land uses to minimize impact.
- Adopting policies on the exchange of land for public purposes to ensure lands are protected by local governments and set aside for public use and benefit. Lands for public purpose are often required from a developer based on a percentage of land to be developed (5-10% of the developable land base is typical). Either a specific land parcel within the development is set aside (usually after negotiation with the local government) or the monetary value of the land is transferred to the local government.

### **Planning documents should consider**

- Identifying environmentally sensitive areas in zoning to prioritize protection and conservation.
  - As a starting point for conservation zoning, planners can identify lands that are already designated for conservation such as those held by non-governmental organizations (e.g., Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature Trust, Ducks Unlimited), as well as specially designed lands such as provincial and federal parks and Protected Natural Areas.
- Establishing policies regarding the preservation and management of environmentally sensitive areas during the development process.
- Development outside of areas where there are sensitive environmental features, particularly where the impact cannot be removed or mitigated.
- Recognizing the provincial government's responsibility to regulate activities related to the protection of watercourses and wetlands, air quality, biodiversity, and species at risk.



#### **NR.4 CONSIDER SETBACKS, AND RECIPROCAL SETBACKS IF APPROPRIATE, BETWEEN NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AREAS OR ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS AND AREAS USED FOR INCOMPATIBLE PURPOSES.**

The purpose of this policy is to identify opportunities to minimize conflicts and protect the natural environment and its functions from other uses. Setbacks and separation distances between incompatible land uses reduce the impacts from one to the other.

##### **What the local government and regional service commission need to know**

- Locations of environmentally sensitive areas within the planning area and their unique sensitivity to various types of development (e.g., sensitivity to noise, light, odour, dust pollution, sediment runoff, microclimate, etc.).
- Provincial regulations for wellfields, watersheds, Species At-Risk, as well as watercourses and wetlands established minimum setbacks from designated features; however, these setbacks provide minimum standards and local planning efforts may establish larger required setbacks as needed.

##### **Council may wish to consider**

- Following provincial setback guidelines for aggregate extraction.
- Proactively managing potential nuisances (e.g., noise, light, odour, dust, traffic) and safety concerns (e.g., water supply impacts affecting firefighting operations) related to natural resource development.

- Establishing a reciprocal setback standard that can be realistically implemented within the community that will protect both resource activities as well as nearby non-resource activities (see Reciprocal Setbacks).

##### **RECIPROCAL SETBACKS**

Reciprocal setbacks are mirrored setbacks based on existing standards or guidelines. These setbacks ensure that a particular distance is established between given uses, regardless of which use is established first. A common resource development in rural areas of New Brunswick are gravel pits. The Province has developed guidelines for [Sand and Gravel pits](#). If a municipality used these guidelines to establish separation between uses, there would be a minimum 150m setback between new gravel pits and an existing residential structure. A reciprocal setback might require that new residential dwellings be constructed at least 150m from the area of exploitation planned for an existing gravel pit.



## Planning documents should consider

- Outlining criteria required for natural resource development areas siting and permitting such as:
  - Appropriate access and egress;
  - Setbacks from neighbouring properties/uses;
  - Water, wastewater, or drainage works;
  - Tailings storage;
  - Onsite fire suppression infrastructure, as required;
  - Visual screening or landscaping of the site;
  - Reclamation or rehabilitation plan;
  - Lighting restrictions; and
  - Signage, fencing or other safety measures.
- Ensuring roadways within the hauling routes of natural resource development operations are developed sufficiently to accommodate increased use and vehicle weight. A local government has several options to ensure roadways can accommodate the needs of a development including:
  - Servicing agreements entered into at the time of subdivision, and
  - Road maintenance agreements with the developer and /or the province and/or neighbouring municipalities as appropriate.
- Establishing appropriate development standards and mitigation measures for development in the vicinity of environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., buffers, screens, setbacks).
- Factoring conservation corridors into zoning efforts to prevent habitat fragmentation.





# Appendix A

## Resources and endnotes

### RESOURCES

#### Statement of Public Interest on Settlement Patterns

##### SP. 2

- [Premier's Council on Disabilities \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [Disability Action Plan - DAP-APFEO-2020.pdf \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [Resources - Emergency Preparedness \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [Barrier-Free Design Building Code Regulation – \*Building Code Administration Act\*](#)
- [Gender-based Analysis Plus \(GBA Plus\) - Women and Gender Equality Canada](#)

##### SP. 3

- [NB Housing Strategy - Housing for All](#)

##### SP. 5

- [Designated Highways Maps - NB Department of Transportation and Infrastructure \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [2023 Municipal Maps \(gnb.ca\)](#)

##### SP. 7

- [From Surfaces to Services Report \(GNB, 2017\)](#)
- [The Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit \(BC CDC, 2018\)](#)

##### SP. 8

- [International Guidelines on Natural and Nature-Based Features for Flood Risk Management – Engineering With Nature \(dren.mil\)](#)
- [Lorne Street Naturalized Stormwater Management Pond — Canada in a Changing Climate](#)
- [Climate Change Adaptation Resource Pathway \(ARP\): Natural and Nature-based Solutions \(naturalinfrastructurenb.ca\)](#)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas information can be made available by contacting [elg.egl-region5@gnb.ca](mailto:elg.egl-region5@gnb.ca) or 506-453-2690
- EOS Eco-Energy resources on green infrastructure for communities:
  - [Rain gardens](#)
  - [Urban forests](#)
  - [Natural infrastructure](#)

## Statement of Public Interest on Agriculture

### AA. 1

- Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Canada Land Inventory Mapping
- Farmland Identification Program (FLIP) data (Contact the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries, 506-453-3826 or [DAAF-MAAP@gnb.ca](mailto:DAAF-MAAP@gnb.ca))
- [NB Agricultural Lands Policy](#)
- [Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Action Plan: Improving Food Self-Sufficiency in New Brunswick](#)
- [Agricultural Operation Practices Act](#)
- [Agriculture Site Suitability Maps](#)

### AA. 2

- [Aquaculture – New Brunswick](#)
- [Marine Aquaculture Site Mapping Program](#)
- Provincial contacts are working to develop resources to identify suitable sites for land-based aquaculture in the province, particularly along the Bay of Fundy. For more information, contact 506-453-3826 or [DAAF-MAAP@gnb.ca](mailto:DAAF-MAAP@gnb.ca)

### AA. 3

- Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries (e.g., Livestock Branch for Animal Unit calculations; Aquaculture Division to establish potential locations for new inland aquaculture), 506-453-3826 or [DAAF-MAAP@gnb.ca](mailto:DAAF-MAAP@gnb.ca)
- Schedule A of the [Regulation 99-32 – Livestock Operations Act](#)
- [Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries Action Plan: Improving Food Self-Sufficiency in New Brunswick](#)
- [Fisheries – New Brunswick](#)
- [Inland Aquaculture Licence Application Guide](#) (includes a sample site layout diagram in Appendix 1).

## Statement of Public Interest on Climate Change

### CC. 1

A set of climate change resources such as historic and projected flood mapping, climate change projections, and GHG mitigation actions can be found at GNB's [Climate Change webpage](#).

Specifically, for community-level climate change projections, planners can use:

- [Adapt-Action \(csrno.ca\)](#)
- [ClimateData.ca \(ECCC et.al. 2021\)](#)
- [Climate Atlas of Canada](#)

The [Government of New Brunswick's Environmental Trust Fund](#) has been used to help communities develop Climate Change Adaptation Plans and Climate Mitigation Plans.

## CC. 2

- For funding options related to infrastructure see the Federation of Canadian Municipality's [Green Municipal Fund](#)
- For case studies and information on use of natural assets, see:
  - [Municipal Natural Assets Initiative](#)
  - [Natural and Nature Based Climate Change Adaptation Community of Practice](#)
  - [Southeast Regional Service Commission's Natural Assets Initiative Understanding Living Shorelines](#)
  - [Understanding Living Shorelines](#)
  - [Centre for Coastal Resource Management](#)
- For New Brunswick resources on climate change and health, see [Climate change and your health](#)
- For high level wind capability mapping, see the [Global Wind Atlas](#) or for localized average annual wind speeds see [Adapt-Action \(csrno.ca\)](#)
- For additional resources on adaptation actions, check out the resources compiled by the Canadian Institute of Planners and Climate Risk Institute in the [Adaptation Resource Pathway for Planners](#)

## Statement of Public Interest on Flood and Natural Hazard Areas

### FH. 1

- [Flooding in New Brunswick \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- [Flood Map Index / Indice de carte de zones inondables \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- [Coastal Erosion Database Map](#)
- [Sea Level Rise and Flood Estimates for coastal communities in NB \(including storm surge\)](#)
- [LiDAR and Digital Elevation Models at GeoNB](#)
- [Forestry Cover Maps - NRED](#)
- [WAWA reference map](#)

### FH. 2

- [New Brunswick Emergency Measures Organization \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [Disaster Financial Assistance - River Watch \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [Health Risks of Flooding \(gnb.ca\)](#)

### FH. 3

- [Floodproofing \(snb.ca\)](#)

## Statement of Public Interest on Natural Resources

### NR. 1

- [GeoNB Data Catalogue](#) (contains access to data on: bedrock geology, crown lands, flood map index, forest, forest soils, mineral occurrence, peatland, PNAs, wildlife management zones, wetlands, etc.)



- [GeoNB Map Viewer](#)
- [GeoNB Applications](#) (contains access to data on: flood hazard mapping, potential PNAs, protected watersheds, WAWA reference map)
- [Trails, Rivers, Parks \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [Designated-crown-roads-map.pdf \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [Minerals and Petroleum – Energy and Mines \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [NB e-CLAIMS \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [Resource Maps - Energy and Mines \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- [Mineral Exploration Map \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- [Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre](#) (contains data on rare and at-risk species occurrences)
- [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database \(CPCAD\)](#)
- [Critical Habitat for Species at Risk National Dataset](#)
- [Pathway Public Feedback Map \(arcgis.com\)](#)
- [New Brunswick's Crown Land Conservation Areas - GeoNB \(snb.ca\)](#)
- [Explore New Brunswick's Protected Natural Areas \(PNA\) - GeoNB \(snb.ca\)](#)
- [Department of Natural Resources: Species at Risk Public Registry \(gnb.ca\)](#)
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas information can be made available by contacting [elg.egl-region5@gnb.ca](mailto:elg.egl-region5@gnb.ca) or 506-453-2690
- Natural Resources & Energy Development General Information: [dnr\\_mnrweb@gnb.ca](mailto:dnr_mnrweb@gnb.ca), 506-453-3826

#### **NR. 4**

- [NB Sand and Gravel Guidelines](#)
- [Standard Conditions for Operating a Pit or Quarry in New Brunswick](#)
- [Wind Development SAR setbacks \(500m\)](#)
- [Allocation of Crown Lands for Wind Power Projects](#)
- [Camp Lot Lease Policy](#)
- [Commercial and Industrial Leasing Policy](#)
- [Crown Reserved Road Policy](#)
- [Land Exchange Policy](#)
- [Maple Sugary Leasing Policy](#)
- [Crown Peat Policy](#)
- [Non-recreational use of former railway](#)
- [Storage of Petroleum Products on Crown Lands Policy](#)
- [Shooting Range Policy](#)

# Endnotes

- <sup>1</sup> Additional provincial statutes (e.g., *Clean Water Act*) and regulations (e.g., *Wetland and Waterway Alteration Regulation*), are also considered in the development of local land use plans (municipal and rural plans).
- <sup>2</sup> Mixed-Income Housing – Myth and Fact (Urban Land Institute) <http://inclusionaryhousing.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2010/01/ULI-Mixed-Income-Hsg-2003.pdf>
- <sup>3</sup> BC Centre for Disease Control. Healthy Built Environment Linkages Toolkit: making the links between design, planning and health, Version 2.0. Vancouver, B.C. Provincial Health Services Authority, 2018.
- <sup>4</sup> BCCDC, 2018
- <sup>5</sup> Municipal Natural Assets Initiative report (2017)
- <sup>6</sup> Land size recommended from the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries staff.
- <sup>7</sup> State of Water Quality of NB lakes and rivers (2019)
- <sup>8</sup> Coastal Mapping
- <sup>9</sup> Marshland maintenance
- <sup>10</sup> Climate Change Secretariat
- <sup>11</sup> Public Safety Canada. “Evaluation of the National Disaster Mitigation Program” 2019 <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/vltn-ntnl-dsstr-mtgtn-prgrm-2019/index-en.aspx>
- <sup>12</sup> Insurance Bureau of Canada
- <sup>13</sup> Office of the Parliamentary Budget Officer, 2016.