

From: [Lee Bull](#)
Subject: NVCA - Achieving Net Gains Through Ecological Offsetting Document
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Dear Stakeholder

The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority has recently completed a second draft of the guideline and policy document entitled "Achieving Net Gains Through Ecological Offsetting". This document outlines the direction of the Authority with regards to offsetting for the loss of regulated natural heritage features and areas through the development process, and takes into consideration comments that were received through the first round of stakeholder engagement.

The intention of these guidelines is to ensure that, natural heritage offsetting in the watershed is conducted using clear standardized criteria and metrics and is consistent for all *Planning Act* applications that qualify to implement offsetting as part of the development. Although unique to the Nottawasaga Valley watershed, the proposed policy is generally consistent with similar policies implemented by other Conservation Authorities within the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.

As a stakeholder within the Nottawasaga Valley watershed, your input on the second draft of this document is important to us. The document promotes ecological 'net gains' within the watershed in limited situations where offsetting is determined to be an appropriate tool. This approach attempts to balance growth with the protection of the natural features to ensure that development remains sustainable for the long term.

The document and supplementary reference material can be accessed by using the link below:

<https://www.nvca.on.ca/Pages/Ecological-Offsetting-Guideline-Stakeholder-Review.aspx>

Please take the time to review the document and provide us with your feedback. Please direct comments to ecologicaloffsetting@nvca.on.ca.

The document will be available at the above-noted link for 30 days. After the 30 day review period, NVCA staff will finalize the document incorporating your input where feasible and present it to our Board of Directors for Approval. You will receive a follow-up email when the final document is posted on our website.

We appreciate your input on this matter.

Regards,

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I am currently working remotely as the Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is taking preventative measures to limit the spread of COVID-19. You may experience some delays or disruptions as we follow recommendations of health professionals to slow the virus from spreading.

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NVCA reviews new proposal for changes to Conservation Authorities Act

UTOPIA, Ontario (May 20, 2021) – The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority (NVCA) is currently reviewing the Regulatory Proposal Consultation Guide, the first of two phases in finalizing the changes to the *Conservation Authorities Act*.

Part of the guide details the mandatory and non-mandatory programs and services conservation authorities will implement, along with the timelines to establish service agreements with municipalities.

Under the proposed regulations guide, NVCA will be able to continue integrated watershed management work such as protecting and enhancing water quality and quantity, identifying flood and erosion risks and managing stormwater systems. This process helps NVCA manage human activities and natural resources on a watershed basis while taking into account social, economic and environmental issues, as well as impacts of growth and climate change.

"I am extremely proud of the collaborative work that the Conservation Authority Working Group (CAWG) was able to do to assist the development of this regulations guide," said Doug Hevenor, CAO at NVCA. "On behalf of NVCA, I would like to thank the Province for including a wide range of stakeholders in the development of the guide.

CAWG was established by the Province of Ontario in January 2021, and is made up of representatives from conservation authorities, Conservation Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, and the development and agricultural sectors. Their first task included looking at the first phase of proposed regulations that impact conservation authorities and their participating municipalities.

"I'm so pleased the Province has recognized a watershed-wide approach to management as the best way to approach conservation issues," commented Mariane McLeod, NVCA Chair. "I'm grateful that our staff will have sufficient time to work with our 18 member municipalities to develop Memorandums of Understanding for the services our conservation authority provides."

Later in the year, the Province will consult on the second phase of the proposed regulations, which will include details on municipal levies related to mandatory and non-mandatory programs and service standards for the delivery of non-mandatory programs and services.

Feedback on the proposed regulations is due June 27, 2021 and can be submitted to the [Environmental Registry of Ontario](#).

About NVCA: The Nottawasaga Valley Conservation Authority is a public agency dedicated to the preservation of a healthy environment through specialized programs to protect, conserve and enhance our water, wetlands, forests and lands.

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