

Proposed New Policy in Response to NPCA Board Resolution No. FA-161-19

8.1 What are Wetlands

With the ever-evolving pressures of development expanding on our landscapes, wetlands continue to be threatened and removed. These losses could have substantial long-term impacts in our community.

While the Province designates and delineates Provincially Significant Wetlands, the NPCA Board of Directors is supportive of these designations and delineations, expanding wetland designations and delineations and is supportive of not removing any wetlands that have been designated as PSW.

It is the opinion of the NPCA Board Provincially Significant Wetlands throughout our watershed should be protected and allowed to remain in a natural state. NPCA Board letter to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is included as Appendix E.

Proposed changes relating to septic systems in wetland buffers:

Current Policy:

8.2.3.5 Proposed New Development within 30 metres of a Wetland

Where no new development exists within 30m (98 feet) of any wetland:

- a) For new residential development, no new septic systems are permitted within 30m of any wetland.
- b) For replacement septic systems where residential development is already established, septic systems shall not be permitted within 30 metres of any wetland, except where no alternative location outside of 30 metres exists in proximity to the residence. In this case the replacement septic system shall be placed as far from the wetland as possible.
- c) For major development (as determined by the NPCA) including, but not limited to; plans of subdivision; extensions of draft approval for existing plans; and, major commercial, industrial, or institutional uses, no new development is permitted within 30m of a PSW. Reductions will only be considered based on a site specific evaluation by NPCA staff to determine whether a reduction is warranted, depending on scale, nature and proximity of the proposed development, the following may be taken into consideration:
 - i. The nature of the proposed development/site alteration;
 - ii. The proximity to the wetland;
 - iii. Adjacent land use;
 - iv. The condition of the 30 metre Regulated area;
 - v. The extent of existing natural buffer;
 - vi. Restoration of buffer functions;
 - vii. Presence of existing roads;
 - viii. Removal of invasive species;
 - ix. Presence of sensitive ecological features; and,
 - x. Other ecological or hydrological function considerations specific to the site; and,
 - xi. Other items as required.

Proposed Policy (proposed changes in red):

8.2.3.5 Proposed New Development within 30 metres of a Wetland

Where no new development exists within 30m (98 feet) of any wetland:

- a) For new residential development, no new septic systems are permitted within 15 metres of any wetland.
- b) For replacement septic systems where residential development is already established, septic systems shall not be permitted within 15 metres of any wetland, except where no alternative location outside of 15 metres exists in proximity to the residence. In this case the replacement septic system shall be placed as far from the wetland as possible.
- c) For major development (as determined by the NPCA) including, but not limited to; plans of subdivision; extensions of draft approval for existing plans; and, major commercial, industrial, or institutional uses, no new development is permitted within 30 metres of a PSW. Reductions will only be considered based on a site specific evaluation by NPCA staff to determine whether a reduction is warranted, depending on scale, nature and proximity of the proposed development, the following may be taken into consideration:
 - i. The nature of the proposed development/site alteration;
 - ii. The proximity to the wetland;
 - iii. Adjacent land use;
 - iv. The condition of the 30 metre Regulated area;
 - v. The extent of existing natural buffer;
 - vi. Restoration of buffer functions;
 - vii. Presence of existing roads;
 - viii. Removal of invasive species;
 - ix. Presence of sensitive ecological features; and,
 - x. Other ecological or hydrological function considerations specific to the site; and,
 - xi. Other items as required.