

Oxford County

# Community & Urban Design Strategy

Public Open House / Workshop

March 9, 2011

## EVENING SCHEDULE:

6:15 - 6:35 Presentation

6:35 - 6:45 Post it Note Exercise

6:45 - 7:45 Workshop

7:45 - 8:00 Reporting Back



## Meeting Agenda

1. Purpose of the Study
2. Draft Goals
3. Project Schedule
4. Policy Overview & Implementation
5. County Maps
6. Draft Urban Design Approach
7. Next Steps



## Purpose of the Study

- Ensure an overall high standard of design throughout the County that reflects the unique character of the County
- Develop an urban design policy framework and implementation strategy
- Implement provincial policy directions
- Update urban design policy directions into the Official Plan



## Draft Goals

1. Ensure Oxford County has an **urban design vision** that represents the character of each unique community
2. Define a community's character by its **architecture, open spaces and natural features**
3. Acknowledge, foster and protect Oxford County's **cultural and built heritage**



## Draft Goals

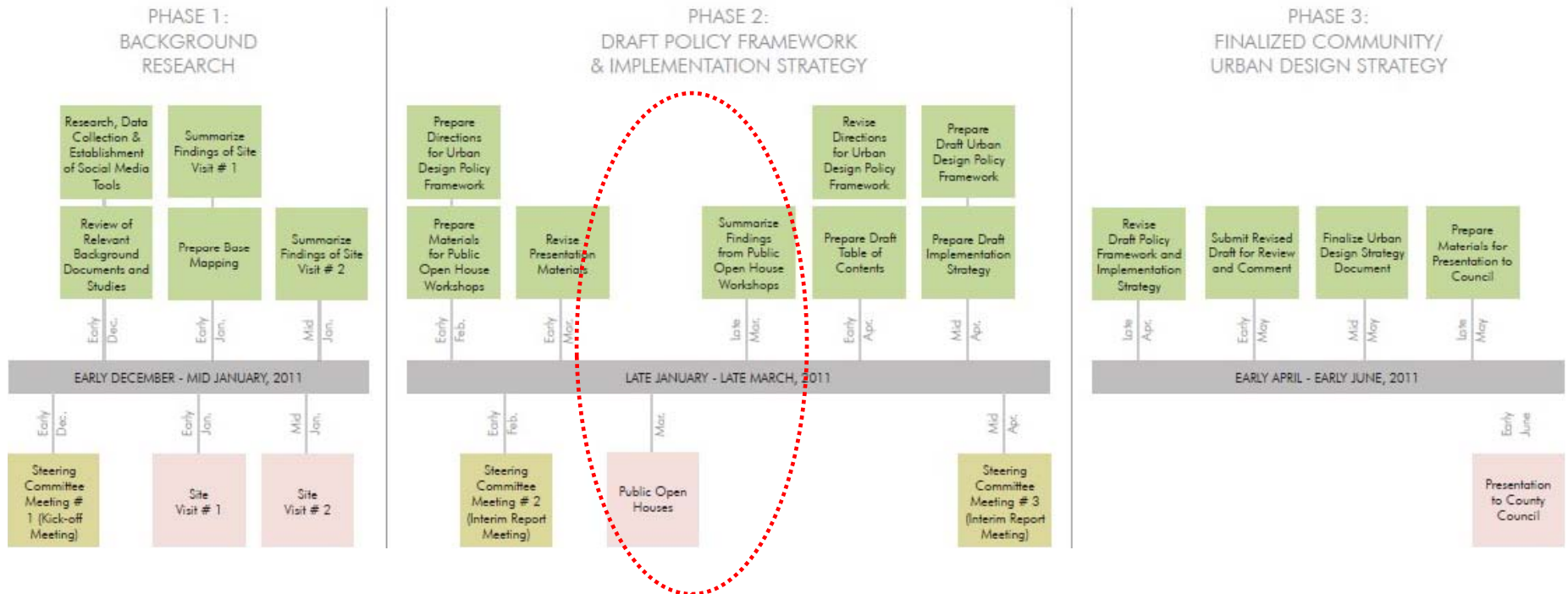
4. Create **vibrant places** by supporting a **mix of uses** where appropriate
5. Prioritize **sustainability** in design and construction of communities and buildings
6. Promote **compact built form** in urban areas



## Draft Goals

7. Preserve **farmland and other natural resources**
8. Ensure **positive transitions** between different land uses as well as urban and rural areas
9. Focus on **public health** by creating accessible, walkable and complete communities
10. Support a variety of **transportation choices** with a priority on pedestrians

# Project Schedule





## Policy Overview & Implementation

- Official Plan provides overarching goals for entire community
- Zoning Bylaws provides a property-by-property guide that implement goals of Official Plan
- Urban design guidelines provide more detailed design direction of the vision for a specific land use or area



# Policy Overview & Implementation

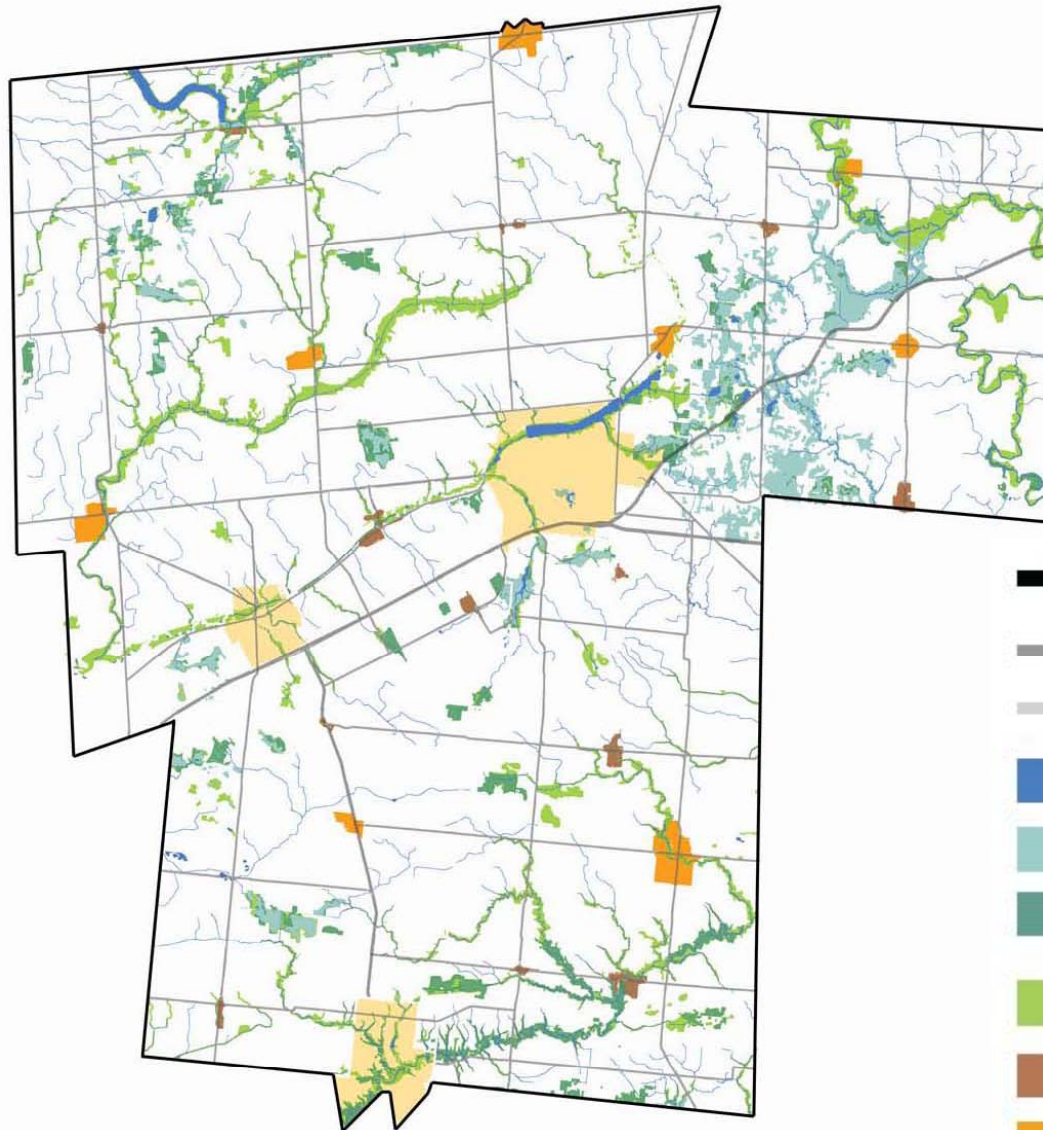
## Potential Study Outcomes

1. Urban Design Official Plan Policies
2. Identify key studies to achieving the urban design goals
3. Identify Zoning Bylaw amendments and other implementation measures
4. Provide specific design directions for urban centres, villages, rural clusters, and rural areas
5. Identify implementation timelines and other considerations



# County Map

## Urban / Rural Structure

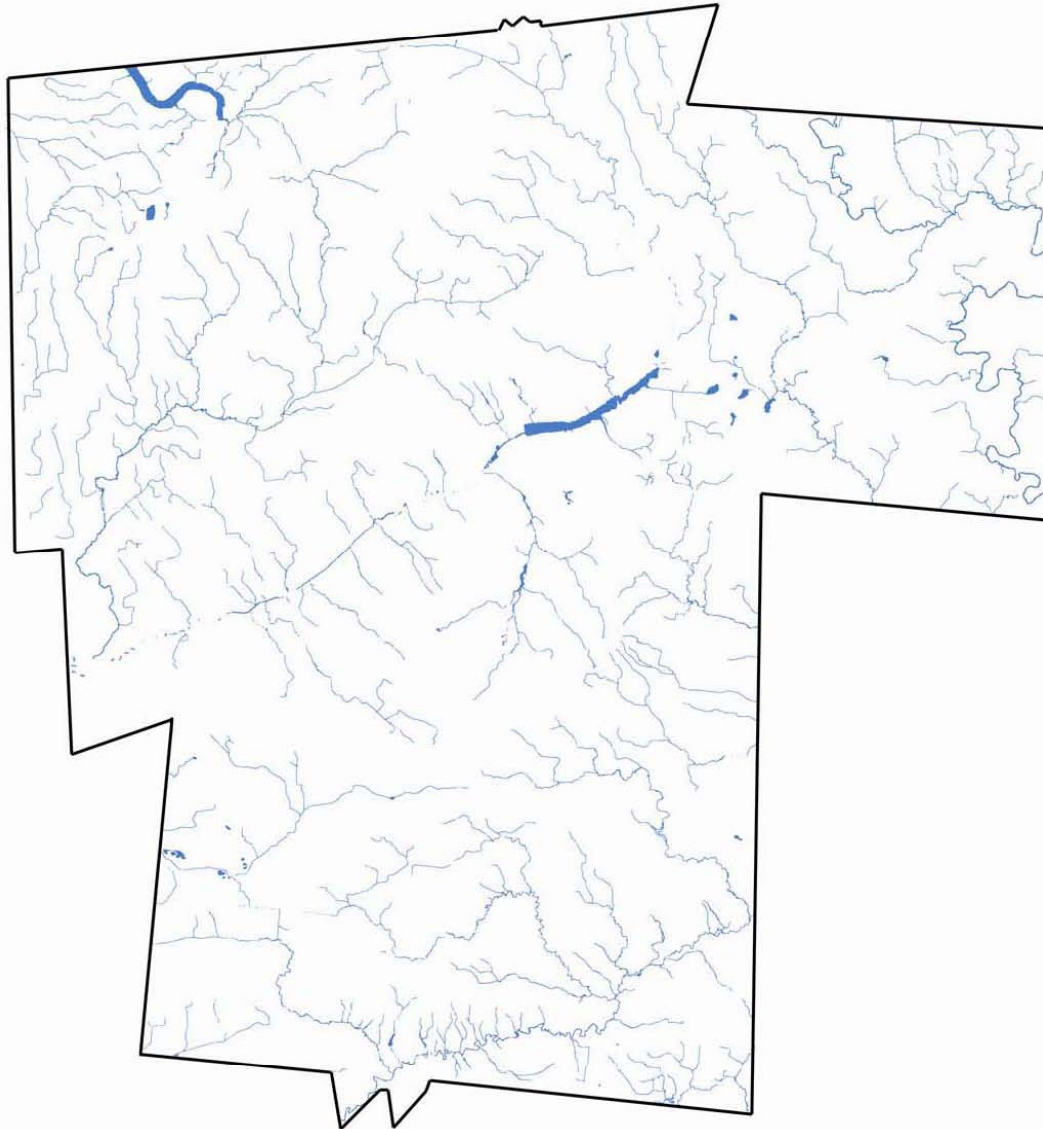


- Subject Area Boundary
- Provincial Highway
- County Road
- River / Stream
- Provincially Significant Wetland
- Locally Significant Natural Heritage Feature
- Significant Valley Land
- Village
- Serviced Village
- Large Urban Centre



# County Map

## Rivers and Streams

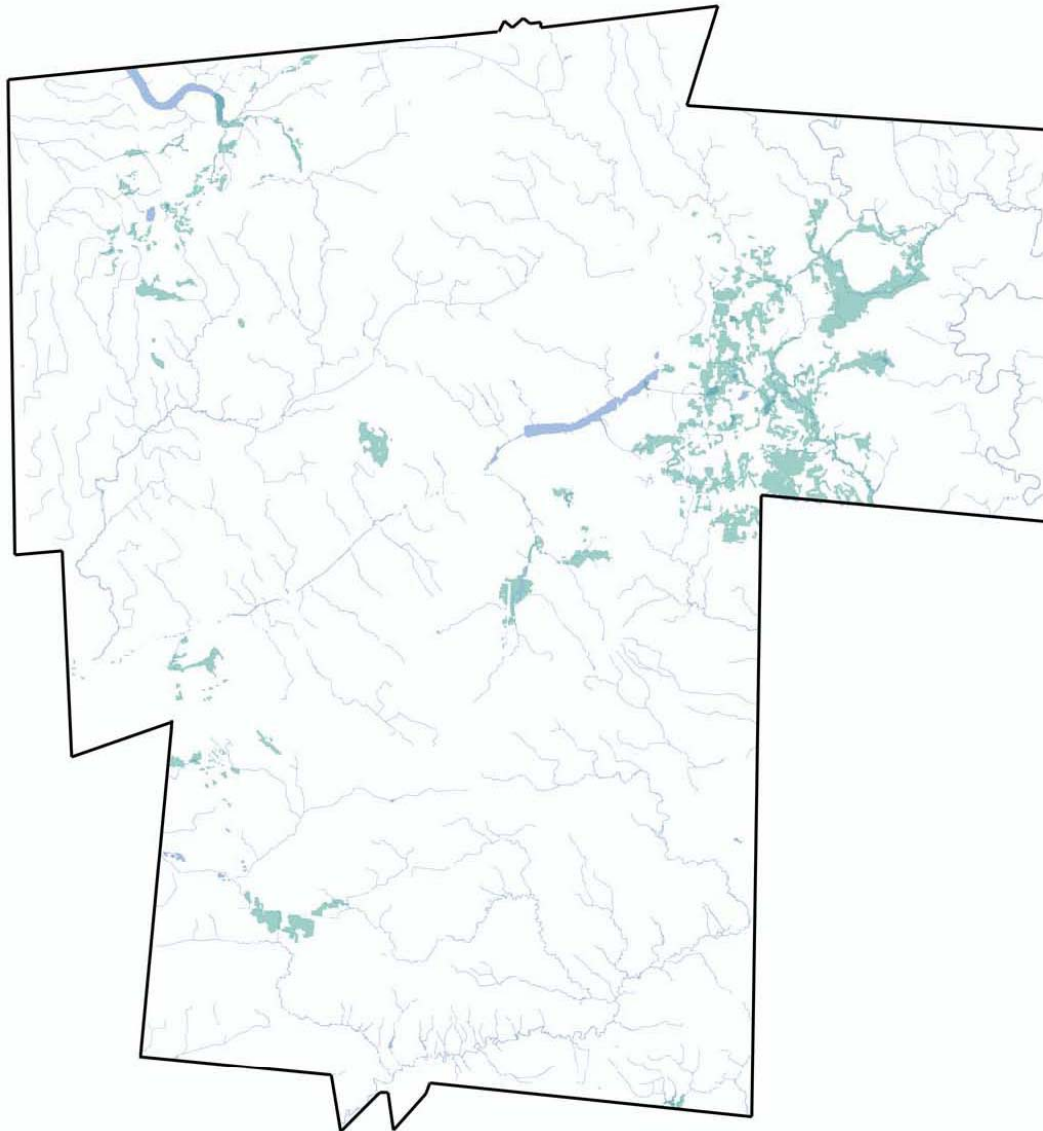


 River / Stream

  
**NORTH**  
not to scale

# County Map

## Provincially Significant Wetlands

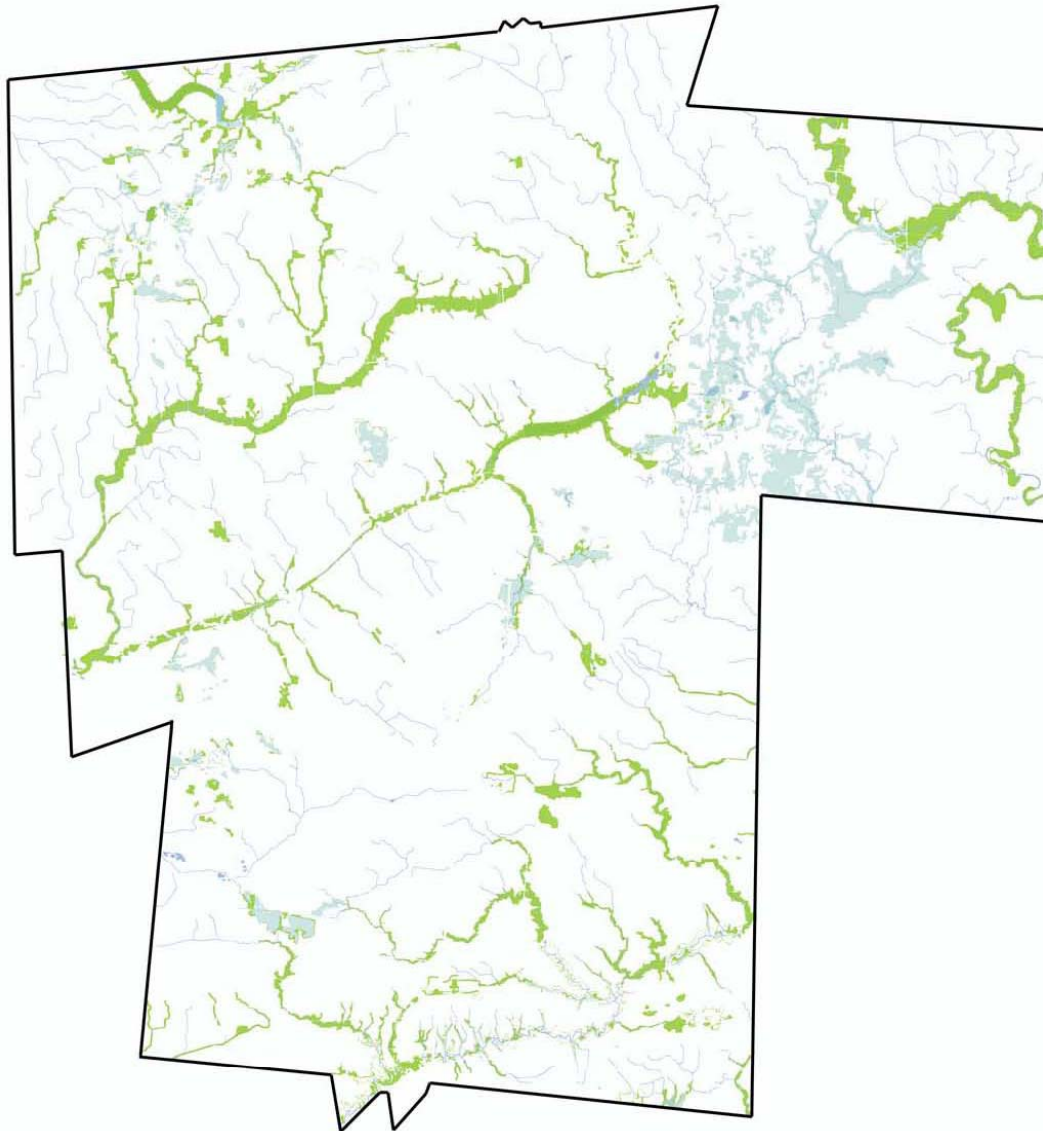



Provincially Significant Wetland



# County Map

## Significant Valley Lands

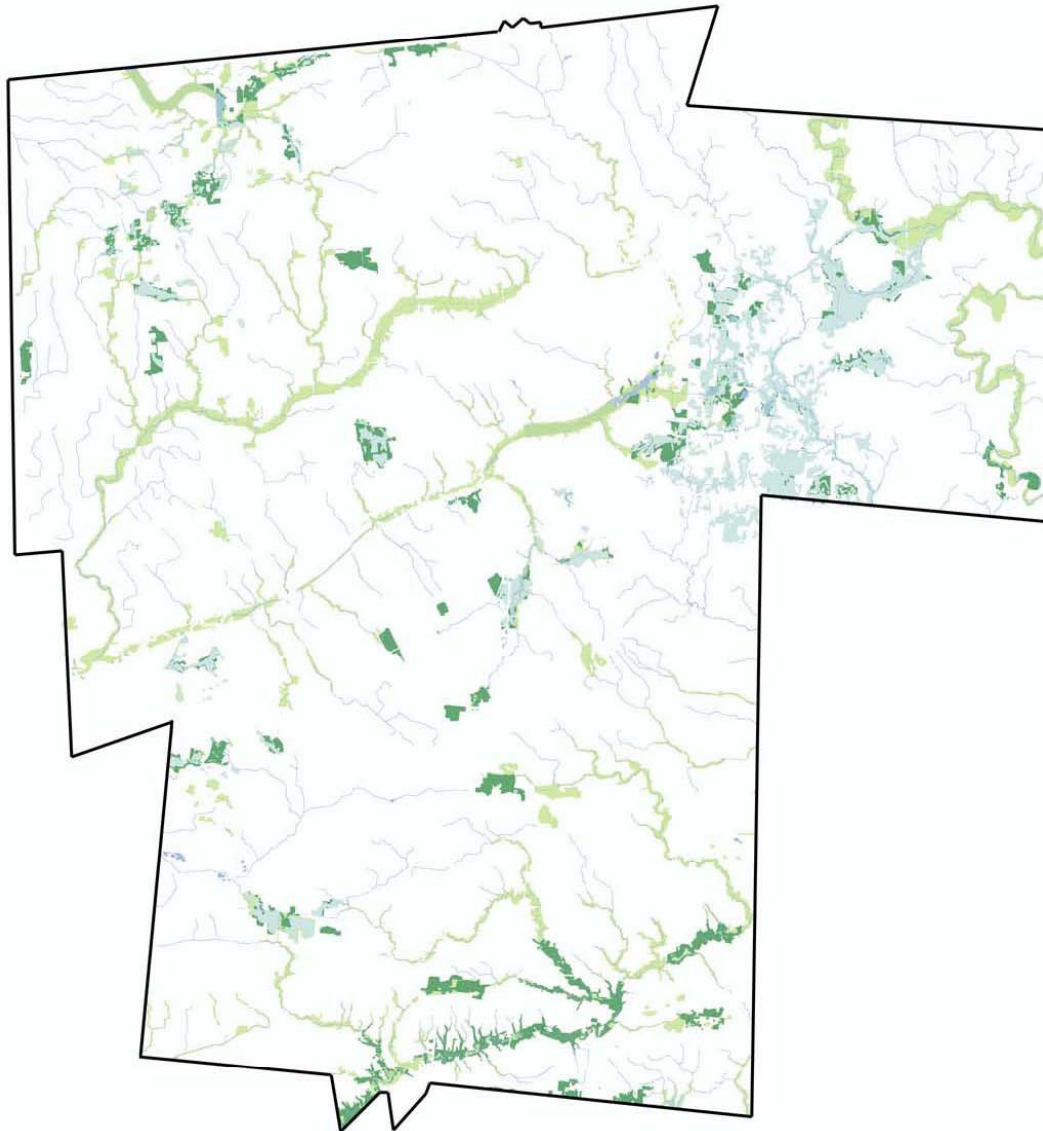


 Significant Valley Land



# County Map

## Locally Significant Natural Heritage Features

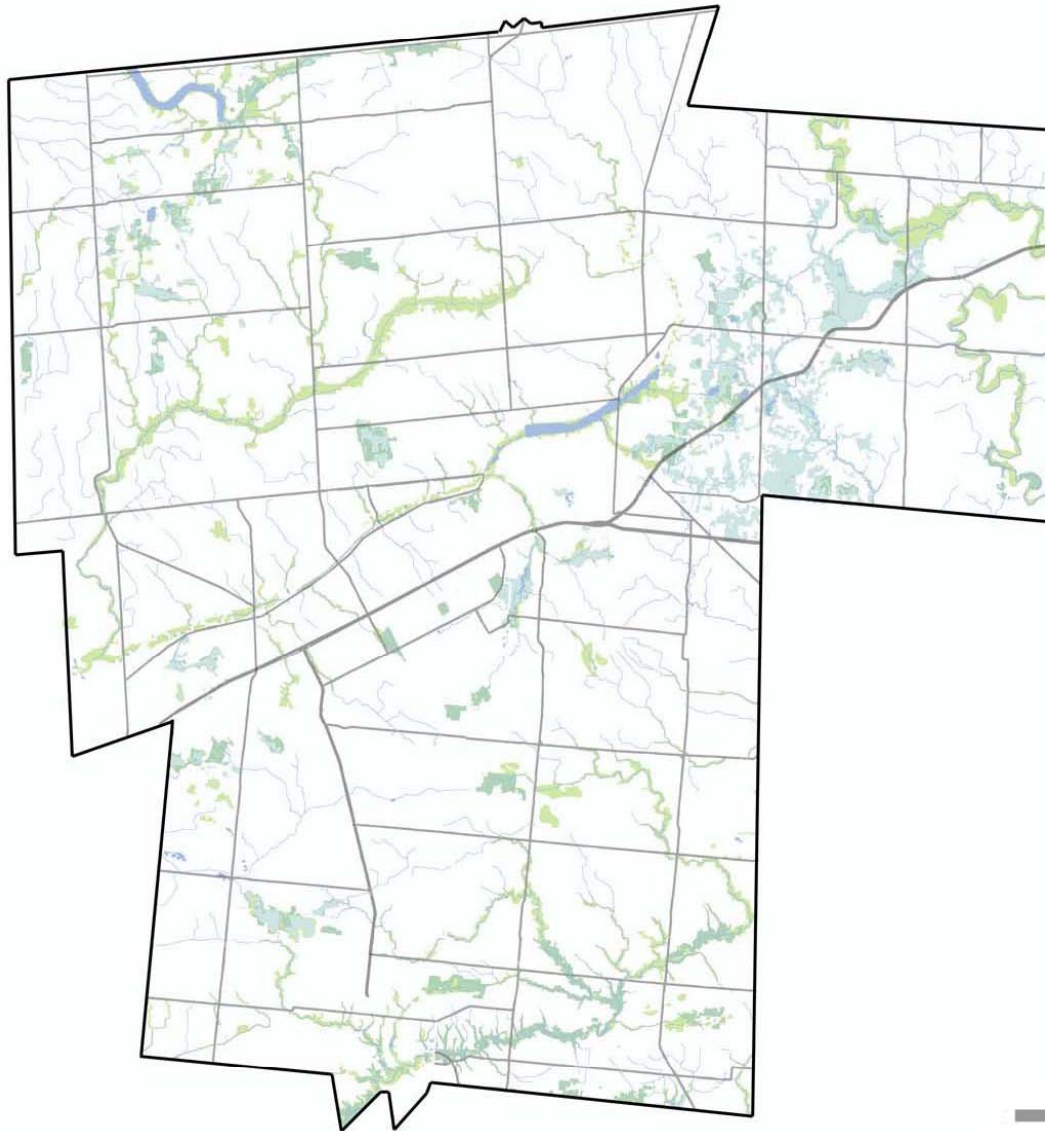


Locally Significant Natural  
Heritage Feature



# County Map

County Roads and  
Provincial  
Highways

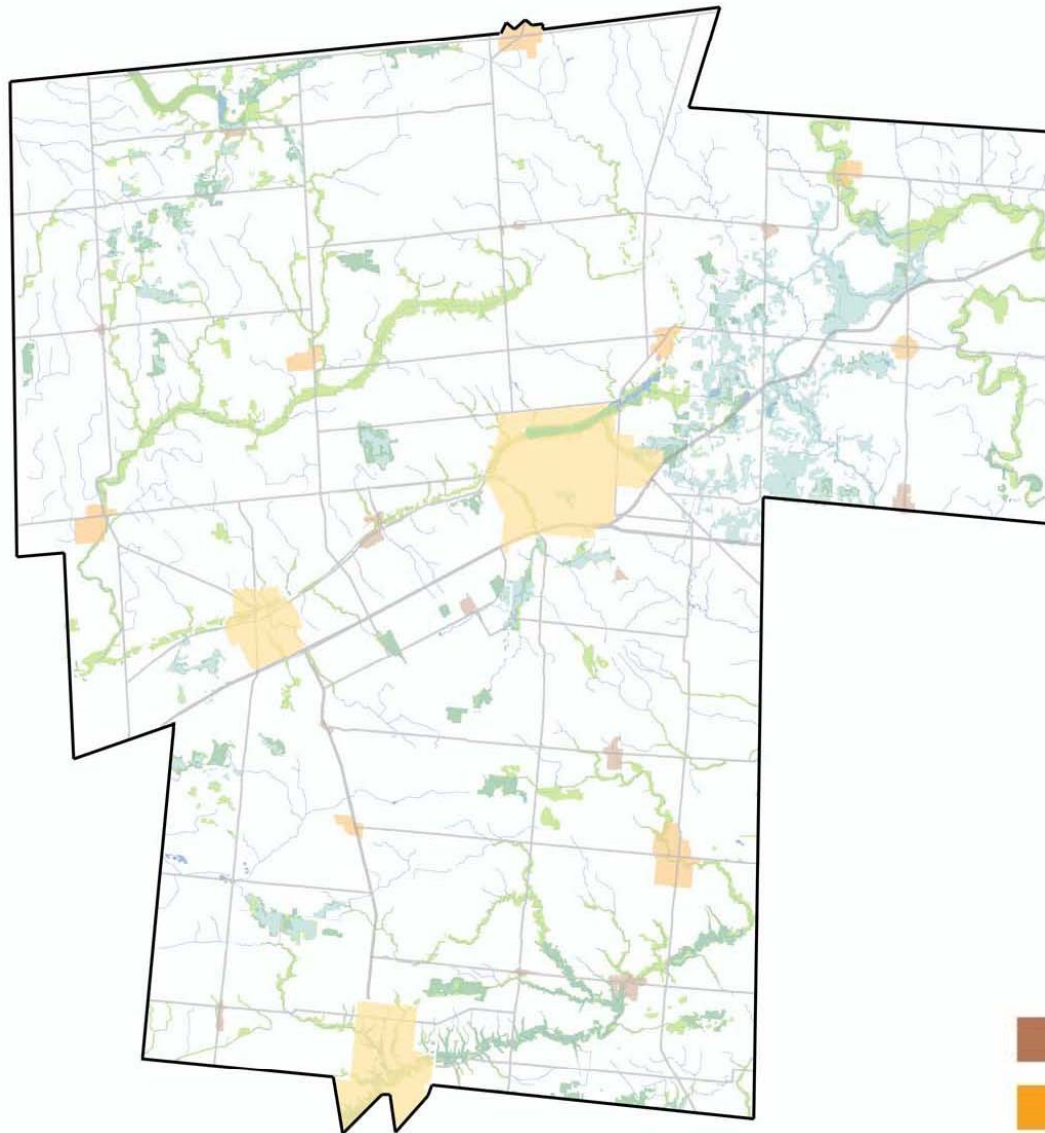





- Provincial Highway
- County Road



# County Map

Service and Un-Serviced  
Village and Large  
Urban Areas



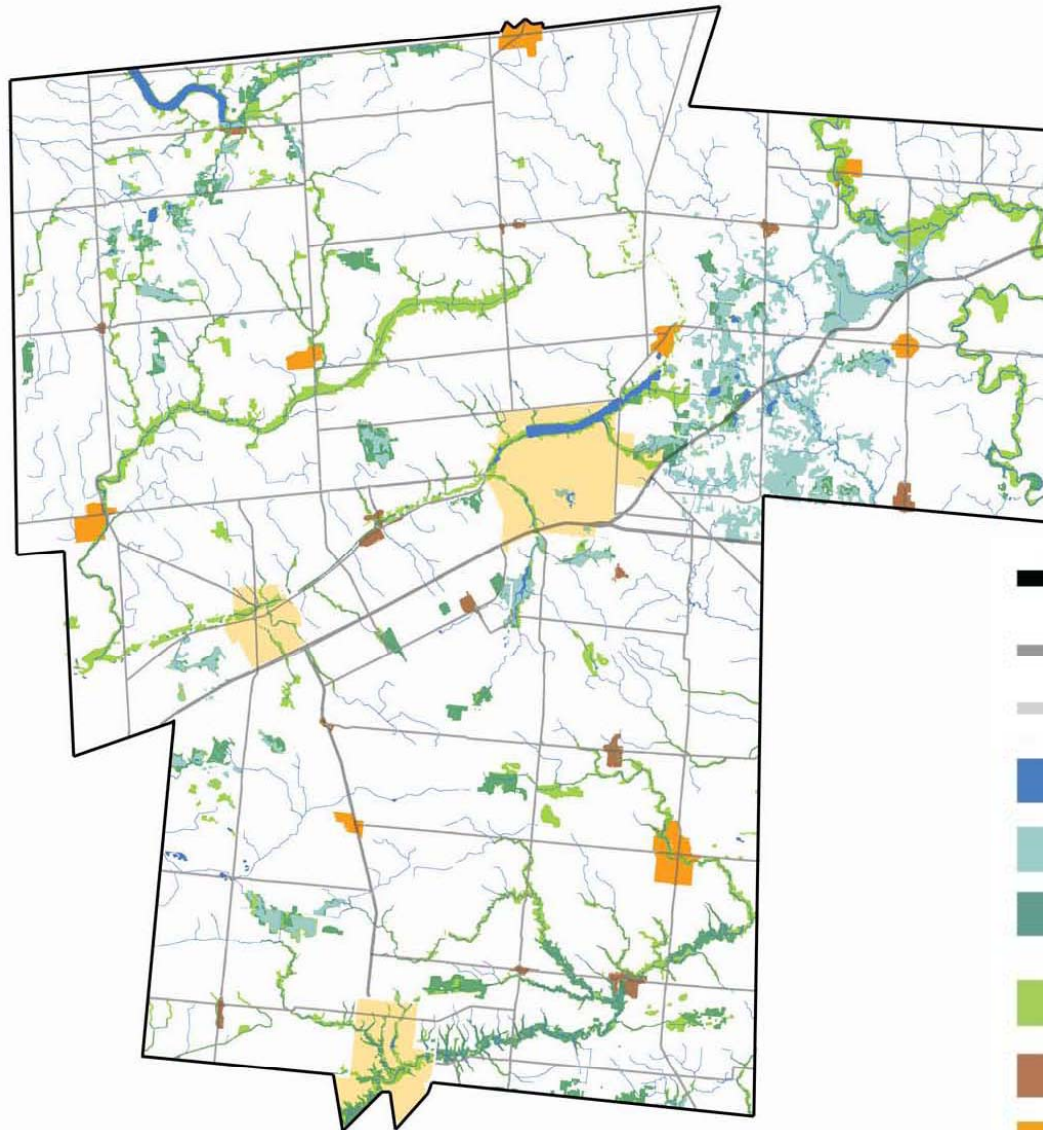
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# County Map

## Urban / Rural Structure



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## Draft Urban Design Approach

### Downtowns and Rural Settlements

- Promote community improvement programs
- Beautify the rear facades of main street buildings and explore redevelopment opportunities
- Build on the strengths of the large inventory of heritage properties
- Ensure context-sensitive and sustainable renovations, additions, and developments
- Define and protect the unique character our each area



## Draft Urban Design Approach

### Existing and New Communities

- Organize new communities to prioritize active forms of transportation
- Provide a healthy mix of housing options suitable for all ages, incomes and lifestyles
- Create a sense of community identity through the design of new buildings, streets, parks and open spaces
- Prioritize sustainable community design
- Design residential buildings to address the street and to encourage a safe and vibrant pedestrian environment

# Draft Urban Design Approach

## Rural Areas and Agricultural Uses

- Build on the strengths of valuable agricultural resources
- Protect agricultural uses from outward urban expansion
- Encourage agri-tourism and other agriculturally related business opportunities
- Support sustainable farming practices and ensure the protection of existing natural features
- Protect rural heritage elements





## Draft Urban Design Approach

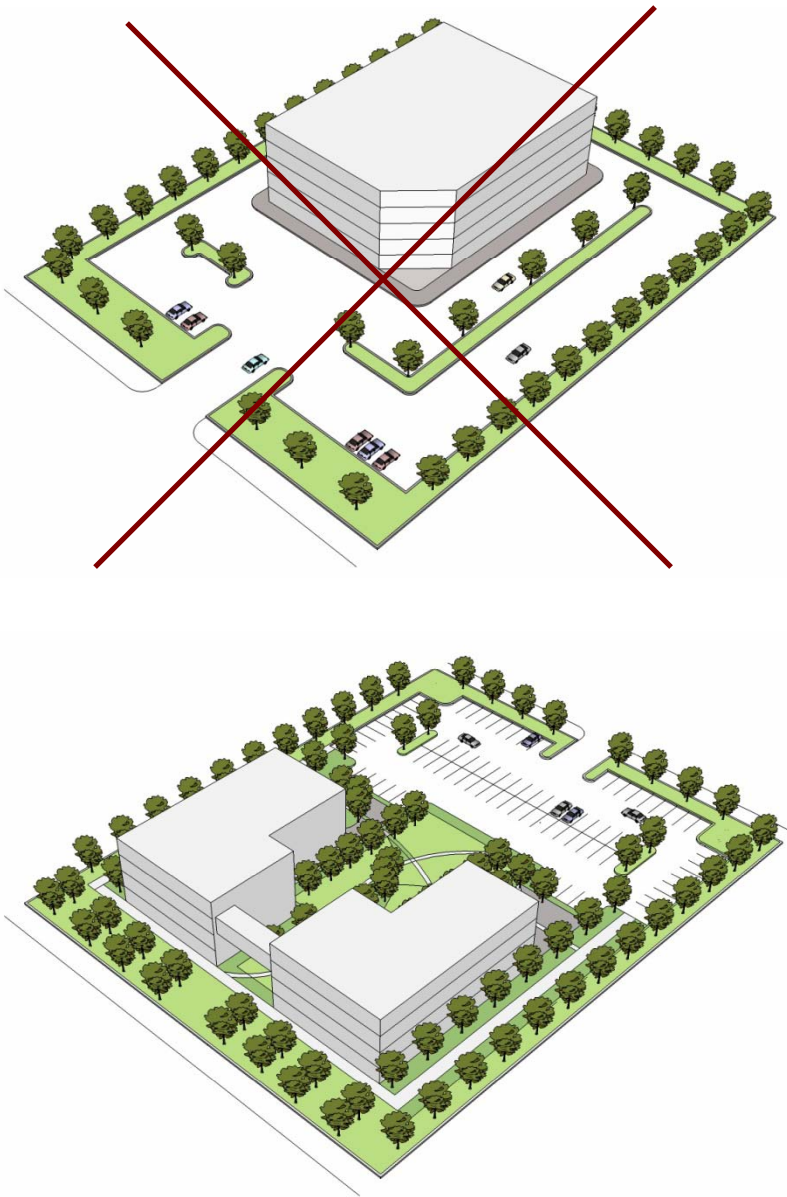
### Commercial Uses

- Improve the relationship between buildings and the street
- Improve streetscape conditions and create clear circulation paths for pedestrians
- Encourage multi-storey commercial buildings
- Emphasize the visual prominence of building entrances
- Improve landscaping and signage
- Follow sustainability best practices for site design and construction

## Draft Urban Design Approach

### Employment Uses

- Respect the historic significance of existing downtown employment buildings and better integrate them with their surroundings
- Ensure that buildings address adjacent streets
- Explore opportunities for appropriate screening
- Provide an appropriate interface between employment buildings and sensitive land uses
- Follow sustainability best practices for site design and construction including access to transit and support alternate modes of transportation



# Draft Urban Design Approach

## Institutional Uses

- Build on the strengths of existing institutional uses, and encourage their expansion
- Consider the adaptive reuse of vacant institutional buildings
- Direct new institutional uses to existing serviced areas
- Design major institutional buildings to be of the highest standards



## Draft Urban Design Approach

### Streets

- Design urban streets to support active transportation and to incorporate furnishings and landscaping
- Design rural streets to reflect the surrounding context while meeting the transportation needs of the County
- New communities should be constructed with an inter-connected grid of streets







## Draft Urban Design Approach

### Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas

- Expand upon existing natural features through the integration of parks and open spaces
- Ensure that parks and open spaces are placed and sized appropriately
- Encourage an appropriate balance of active and passive recreational uses
- Protect natural heritage areas and ensure sustainable uses

# Draft Urban Design Approach

## Cultural Heritage

- Preserve heritage assets within existing communities
- Respect the original historic character and preserve original fabric where appropriate
- Discourage the alteration of any historic architectural or landscape features
- Adaptive reuse should be considered as part of the conservation and restoration of heritage buildings





## Next Steps

- Open House / Workshop #2 – Tillsonburg, (March 29)
- Open House / Workshop #3 – Ingersoll (March 30)
- Prepare draft urban design policy framework (Mid. April)
- Prepare draft implementation strategy (Mid. April)
- Final document submission of document (Mid. May)