

## **Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy | 2008-2058**

**A community oriented strategy with a focus on preserving and enhancing the unique, culture, charm, and environment of the Dundas Valley area.**

# **Enhancing the Economic Sustainability and Vibrancy of Dundas Valley Communities**

**Goal: Instill agricultural stewardship, protect the viability of agriculture and encourage local food production in the Dundas Valley community**

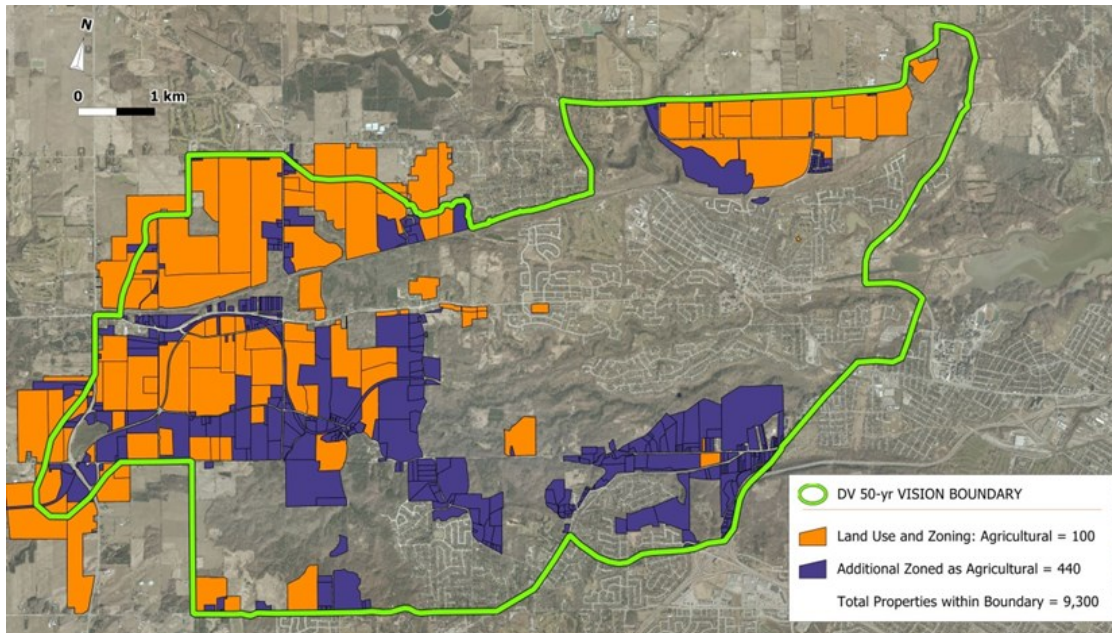


## **Strategic Directions**

- **Develop farmer-generated mechanisms to develop public support for agriculture**
- **Increase awareness of the importance of local agriculture as both an activity and a lifestyle**
- **Support the promotion of locally grown and processed crops in close proximity to residents**

## Summary

Hamilton is an area with a long standing history of agriculture, which is still present in much of its rural communities. One of the largest challenges for the agricultural community is to ensure that there is informed understanding of modern agriculture in society. As Canada has moved from a rural to an urban-based society the general understanding of rural lifestyle has declined. The decline in the number of farms, increased developmental pressure, and decreased understanding for the importance of agriculture represents threats to the agricultural industry as a whole.



(Base Mapping: MNRF & City of Hamilton)

Dundas Valley area farms and food producers provide essential food supplies to the surrounding urban areas. The agricultural industry provides nurseries and sod, cash crops, poultry, fruit, vegetables, livestock, equine, and greenhouse operations to the local and Ontario economy. Pressures in the Dundas Valley area, such as increasing land value, have threatened the viability of the agricultural industry. The Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy seeks to encourage, and promote the importance of a strong local agricultural community and industry.



## Actions

- Provide incentives for farmers to use sustainable and green agricultural practices
- Strengthen and promote the Environmental Farm Plans and agricultural leadership
- Strengthen and promote Environmental Stewardship Programs
- Promote low impact, organic agriculture
- Promote the Greenbelt and participate in its programs
- Educate the public about the importance of agricultural land, farming as a lifestyle and as a profession
- Promote urban food production and hobby farms
- Incorporate opportunities for agricultural knowledge and best practice sharing between youth and seniors
- Reintroduce a farmers' market in the Valley's adjacent communities
- Develop a marketing strategy for locally grown food
- Expand agriculture and encourage people to grow food in their yards
- Promote low carbon farming

For the Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy to be realized and its actions fulfilled the community needs to take on a leadership role. Below and on the back page are a few links, of established resources and organizations currently working on, or with the potential to work on, the fulfilment of these actions, and the realization of the Dundas Valley 50-Year Vision and Strategy's strategic direction of promoting agriculture as an industry or lifestyle.

## Notes

## Resources





## Resources



**Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation;** [www.greenbelt.ca](http://www.greenbelt.ca)

A charitable grant-making organization working to help keep farmers successful, strengthen local economies and protect and grow natural features.

**Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA);** [www.ontariosoilcrop.org](http://www.ontariosoilcrop.org)

Facilitate responsible economic management of soil, water, air and crops through the development and communication of innovative farming practices.

**Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA);** [www.omafra.gov.on.ca](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca)

Focuses on the representation of agriculture, rural, and food related issues and programming.

**Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA);** [www.ofa.on.ca](http://www.ofa.on.ca)

Canada's largest voluntary farm organization representing the interest of Ontario farm families. Championing the interests of Ontario's farming community with governments and the public, acting as the voice of Ontario farmers for a sustainable farming and food sector.

**Environment Hamilton;** [www.environmenthamilton.org](http://www.environmenthamilton.org)

Working to inspire people to protect our environment through leadership, education and advocacy.

**Farm Crawl Hamilton;** [www.farmcrawlhamilton.ca](http://www.farmcrawlhamilton.ca)

Local farmers who open their doors and farms to the public for a rural experience and educational opportunity.

**Farm Start;** [www.farmstart.ca](http://www.farmstart.ca)

Encourage and support a new generation of entrepreneurial ecological farmers.

**Farm Link;** [www.farmlink.net](http://www.farmlink.net)

A matchmaking tool bringing together new farmers who are looking for farms or mentorship with farm owners who have land available or expertise to share.

**Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario (EFAO);** [www.efao.ca](http://www.efao.ca)

To support and promote a vibrant community of ecological farmers through education, training and knowledge sharing.

The Dundas Valley 50 Year Vision and Strategy 2008-2058 has been supported and funded by:

