



Fact Sheet 4 Environment

The natural environment in the municipality is not only a significant part of the cultural identity, but it plays an important role in the ecological integrity and ecosystem services that make it a spectacular place to live and visit. These areas include beaches, wetlands, coastal habitats, nature reserves, among many others.



What We Heard

The environment was a major topic of discussion during the initial phase of engagement for Plan Inverness County. The Municipality of the County of Inverness is situated in a remarkably beautiful natural environment, and residents and community members are deeply connected to the landscape and environment.

Images on this fact sheet have been sourced from www.tourismns.ca



Access to beaches, trails and rivers was of great importance to residents across all engagement methods.



There is a desire to see protections around development on waterbodies, such as lakes and rivers, as well as proper setbacks from the coast.



Access to and the quality of water were frequently cited as concerns during the engagement phase.



Protecting environmental resources in the Municipality was also important to many for the economic opportunities it brings. Eco-tourism is growing in the area and residents want to ensure that the new planning documents do not hinder the sector's ability to grow and prosper.

For more information or to share your feedback on the draft documents, please visit www.planinverness.ca or email the project team at hello@planinverness.ca



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What is Being Proposed

The proposed planning documents include policy support and regulations for the protection of the many natural assets present in the region.



Lakeshore Protection

Recognizing the impacts of human development on water quality and wildlife habitat, the proposed planning documents introduce the Lakeshore Zone to help mitigate the impacts of development on the surrounding environment. This zone takes a careful approach to development around lakes by introducing setbacks from the lake, limiting high-impact developments while permitting residential, recreational, and commercial uses; and requiring larger minimum lot sizes. This zone is only applied to Lake Ainslie.



Wetland Protection

Wetlands provide or support a wide range of important ecological, social and economic functions and services in our watersheds that are beneficial to everyone. Wetlands from a provincial database have been mapped and assigned with the Conservation Zone to receive extra protection under the planning documents.



Coastal Protection

Coastal areas have historically been a popular and attractive place to develop, but they also pose a number of risks both to humans and the environment. With storm events intensifying and becoming more frequent, coupled with sea level rise, the development of coastal areas needs to be carefully considered. The Province passed the *Coastal Protection Act* in 2019 which provides legislation around coastal development. The Act has not yet been implemented through regulations, but it is expected to be in the near future, and is expected to include both a minimum vertical and horizontal setback from the coast for new development. The municipal planning documents will defer to the provincial regulations and will not draft separate regulations.



Water Source Protection

The draft planning documents include the Source Water Protection Zone to protect and preserve the drinking water supply in the municipality. No development is permitted within this zone.