

Fundamental Premises

1. The Greenbelt will remain a large, rural green space running in a continuous belt in roughly its present shape and location and it will accommodate natural linkages to regional natural systems and expansion of the Greenbelt area.
2. The Greenbelt will be an environmental showcase for Canada’s Capital, balancing favourable ecological, social and economic factors, demonstrating leadership in environmental stewardship and facilitating use of environmental best management practices in all activities, facilities and land uses throughout the Greenbelt.
3. The Greenbelt will remain in the public domain.
4. The Greenbelt will be an integrated, recognizable and relevant feature in the Capital and for Canadians that:
 - a. Provides a gateway to the Capital;
 - b. Preserves and connects natural ecosystems within and outside the Greenbelt;
 - c. Buffers and connects human activities;
 - d. Promotes sustainable agriculture;
 - e. Protects and promotes cultural resources; and
 - f. Contributes to a healthy environment and to quality of life in Canada’s Capital.
5. The Greenbelt will support federal facilities that require space, seclusion and a location within Canada’s Capital Region.
6. The Greenbelt will continue to play an important national research role in the Capital.
7. Outreach, education, co-operation and multi-sector partnerships with citizens, organizations and governments are essential to the Greenbelt’s success.
8. The Greenbelt will provide various opportunities for public education and promotion about Canada’s natural, agricultural and cultural heritage and of the importance of ecosystem and resource conservation.

January 12, 2012

2067 Greenbelt Vision Statement

“The Greenbelt will forever protect natural systems, agriculture and opportunities for outdoor recreation and education that will inspire Canadians and contribute to the sustainability and quality of life in Canada’s Capital Region.”

Mission *The Greenbelt contributes to the identity and enhancement of Canada’s Capital through its provision of natural and rural setting, valued ecological and cultural resources, sustainable agriculture, support selected federal facilities, and a diversity of uses, activities and experiences for Canadians.*

R O L E S

G O A L S

Primary

Natural Environment

Protect and enhance natural areas, ecosystems and habitats which are integral to the larger natural environment of Canada’s Capital Region as the primary priority, in harmony with Canadians' aspirations for a healthy and resilient environment.

1. **Biodiversity:** Protect, restore and maintain high-value ecosystems and natural habitats by encouraging management approaches that consider the broader Greenbelt ecosystem and regional natural areas.
2. **Linkages:** Preserve and establish functional connections and corridors between and around buffer zones and significant natural areas within and beyond Greenbelt boundaries.
3. **Water Resources:** Protect water resources through ecosystem management to guide land uses, activities and facility design and operation within the Greenbelt and on lands adjacent to the Greenbelt.
4. **Land Resources:** Protect significant geological, landform and soil features in the Greenbelt.
5. **Vegetation:** Sustain and restore the long-term composition, structure, and dynamics of vegetation communities.

Secondary

Sustainable Agriculture

Provide opportunities for sustainable agriculture, providing economic returns now and for future generations without interfering with natural processes and by realizing benefits for Canada’s Capital Region.

1. **Greenbelt Agriculture:** Encourage modern, diversified, sustainable and viable agriculture, rooted within the legacy of Canada’s past.
2. **Support for Farming:** Support and partner with Greenbelt farmers to protect farm assets, to implement best management practices and to provide for long-term opportunities in agricultural and food production.
3. **Relevance to the Community:** Engage passionate people with the knowledge needed to increase farm diversification, visibility and the contribution of Greenbelt agriculture to local food, and agricultural experiences, resulting in greater relevance for the community.

Secondary

Capital Experiences & Recreation

Offer a rich and diverse array of outdoor activities and Capital experiences that respect and promote the other roles of the Greenbelt.

1. **Recreation:** Encourage Canadians to experience the Greenbelt through a variety of low impact recreational activities that ensure protection of the natural environment and are delivered through a Greenbelt-wide system of amenities and programs that optimize internal and partnership resources.
2. **Cultural Resources:** Protect and promote the significance and contributions of past and current representations of Canada’s rural roots and national institutions to the existence and health of our Greenbelt.
3. **Public Access:** Manage public access to the Greenbelt in a way that respects and protects its integrity, provides a variety of recreational experiences and promotes public health, safety and enjoyment.
4. **Interpretation, Education and Research:** Enhance visitor understanding of natural, agricultural and federal places and activities and cultural resources in the Greenbelt and their contribution to the Capital Region and Canada.

Tertiary

Facilities

Support a range of federal facilities with seclusion requirements and maintain existing community facilities, limiting new facility development to current built areas. Minimize infrastructure intrusions in the Greenbelt.

1. **Federal Facilities:** Support environmentally sound built federal facilities of national significance that require space, seclusion and location within the Capital and which align with the other Greenbelt roles; phase out existing federal facilities over time.
2. **Non-Federal Facilities:** Encourage existing built facilities to be environmentally sound and to adapt their structure and operations to support the other Greenbelt roles; do not allow new non-federal facilities and phase out existing facilities over time.
3. **Sustainable Transportation and Infrastructure:** Ensure that environmental best management practices are applied in the design, operation and maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Do not permit new infrastructure unless there is demonstration that there are no alternatives outside of the Greenbelt and no net loss will result to ecological or overall Greenbelt integrity.