



ontario greenbelt alliance

Ontario's Greenbelt Vision

*We need the Greenbelt,
more than ever.*




The Greenbelt is Key to Ontario's Security

The Greenbelt is Ontario's foundation for a **secure and prosperous future**. It protects what hardworking Ontarians rely on: **clean water, affordable food, and good jobs**. By supporting local food systems, preserving water supplies, and maintaining natural defences against extreme weather, the Greenbelt **keeps Ontario competitive** and ready for the challenges ahead. To sustain these benefits, we must **protect, strengthen, and expand** the Greenbelt to keep Ontario self-reliant, secure, and ready to meet future challenges.

The Greenbelt contributes in many ways to Ontario, but with looming changes on the global stage, it's important to highlight key ways that it contributes to Ontario's economic, food and water security.





Supports 177,000 jobs

\$9.6 Billion added annually
to Ontario's GDP


Draws 76 million visitors
annually which puts money
into local businesses

Economic Security

Supports the development
of affordable, livable
communities

Reduces infrastructure
costs

The Greenbelt plays a crucial role in strengthening Ontario's economy. By supporting local food systems, it reduces the province's reliance on imported agricultural products, helping farmers compete globally while keeping food affordable for Ontario families. The Greenbelt also drives regional growth through investments in eco-tourism and conservation industries, fostering entrepreneurship and creating sustainable jobs across the province. Strengthening, protecting, and expanding the Greenbelt ensures Ontario remains economically competitive and resilient, securing a brighter future for all.



Protects 750,000 acres of
rich agricultural land

53% of Ontario's fruit
acreage & 11% of its
vegetable acreage is in
the Greenbelt

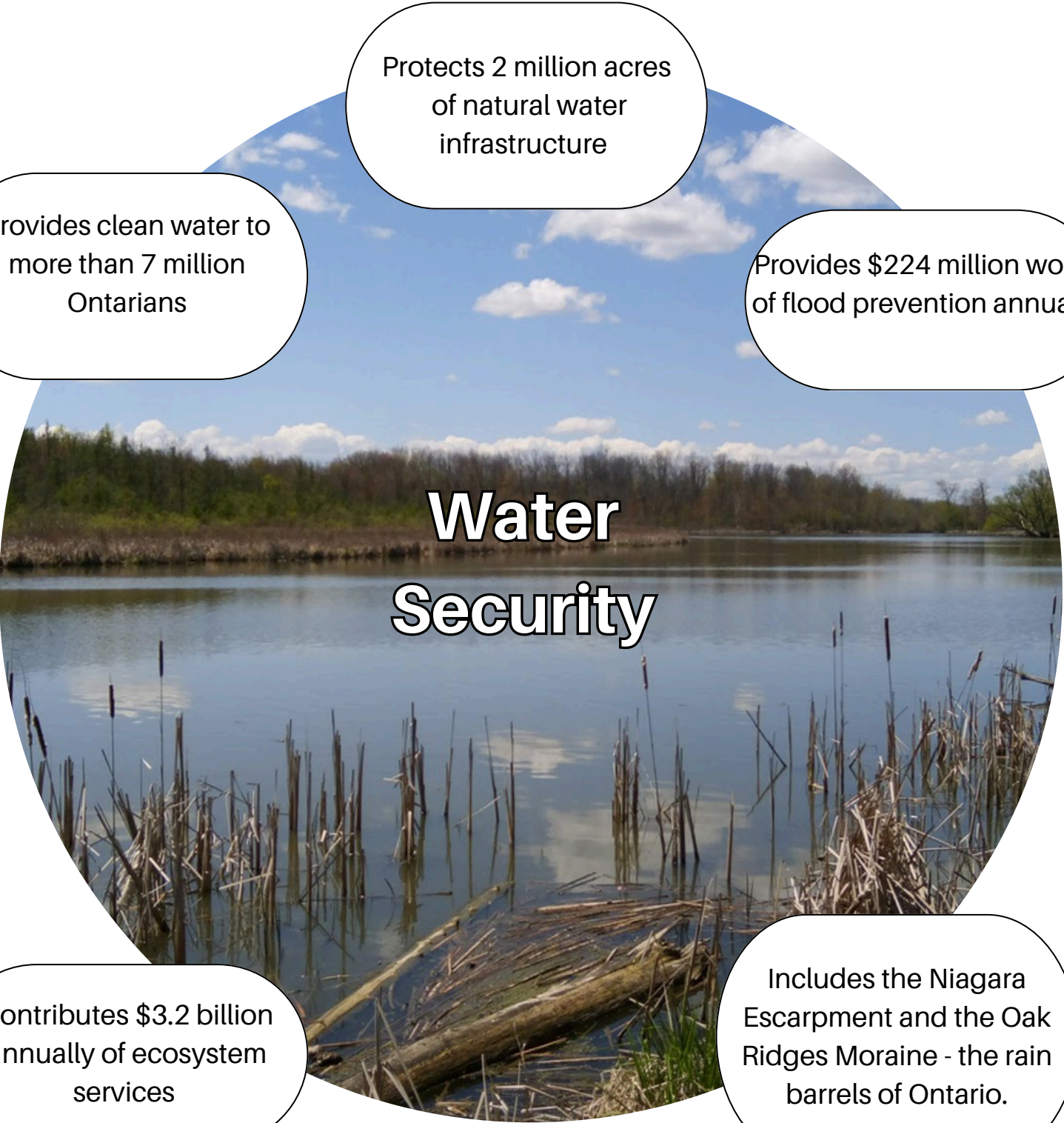
60% of Ontario's food
processing capacity is
located in the Greenbelt's
immediate vicinity

Food Security

Contributes to Ontario's
\$7.4 billion agri-food export
industry

The Greenbelt's agri-food
sector alone contributed
\$4.1 billion to Ontario's
GDP in 2020

Global trade issues, including tariffs and disrupted supply chains, place significant stress on Ontario's food supply, often leading to higher prices or shortages of certain items. Expanding the Greenbelt to protect farmland ensures that Ontario's agri-food sector has the land base it needs to grow and meet the demands of a growing population. A stronger and more expansive Greenbelt reduces the province's reliance on imports, making local food more affordable and accessible. This is especially crucial in times of rising food costs and global trade challenges. By continuing to support and expand the Greenbelt, we can boost local food production, create jobs, and improve affordability, fostering greater resilience for Ontarians.



Protects 2 million acres
of natural water
infrastructure

Provides clean water to
more than 7 million
Ontarians

Provides \$224 million worth
of flood prevention annually

Water Security

Contributes \$3.2 billion
annually of ecosystem
services

Includes the Niagara
Escarpment and the Oak
Ridges Moraine - the rain
barrels of Ontario.

The Greenbelt plays a vital role in protecting Ontario's water security by preventing floods, improving water quality, and reducing the impacts of extreme weather. By supporting the Greenbelt, we not only save money on costly water treatment and flood damage repairs, but we also make our communities safer. Expanding and protecting the Greenbelt ensures a reliable water supply for future generations, while also allowing for responsible growth across the province.



With more support, our Greenbelt can be Ontario's...

Sustainable economic engine

providing good jobs for farmers, agricultural businesses and recreational businesses

Climate crisis lifejacket

protecting key ecosystems that help us store carbon, prevent flooding, mitigate rising temperatures and keep our water and air clean

Food security safety net

protecting local farmland and engaging new farmers to ensure food systems stay intact and that Ontario will be able to feed itself

Nature haven

permanently protected greenspaces ensuring we have beautiful places to enjoy and where ecosystems can thrive now and into the future

Natural rain barrel

a protected place where natural water systems can purify and provide water for generations of Ontarians and nature

Safeguard for liveable communities

Stopping expensive suburban sprawl and guiding municipalities to build homes people can afford in existing towns and cities



Recommendations

The Greenbelt has become our last line of defence to protect our farmland, natural areas, stop urban sprawl and create liveable, affordable communities. It needs to be protected, strengthened and expanded.

- **Protect the Greenbelt by ensuring all Greenbelt decisions, especially Greenbelt policy review:**
 - Maintain or expand current Greenbelt boundaries - no removal of any land currently protected.
 - Protect against the loss and fragmentation of agricultural land
 - Maintain or increase protection for natural heritage and water resource systems that sustain ecological and human health
 - Are grounded in climate science and take particular care for carbon sinks, climate mitigating landscapes, flood plains and other natural features that build resilience to climate impacts
 - Honour Treaty Rights and uphold the principles of UNDRIP regarding consent.
 - Limit sprawl and focus on making existing communities more complete and dense
 - Maintain existing settlement boundaries within the existing Greenbelt
- **Strengthen the Greenbelt** to further protect the Greenbelt from urban development, aggregate extraction and inappropriate infrastructure and include rehabilitation targets for watersheds and ecosystems
- **Expand the Greenbelt** to include key hydrological and agricultural areas across Ontario as suggested by the 2015 Coordinated land use review panel

GREENBELT IMPACT SNAPSHOT

2M

acres of land balancing
nature and growth

\$9.6 B

annual economic impact

\$3.2 B


annual worth of
ecosystem services

\$224 M

annual worth of flood
prevention services

71 M

tonnes of carbon offsets
annually

A map of Ontario, Canada, showing the Greenbelt. The Greenbelt is highlighted in green and covers a large portion of the province, including areas around Lake Simcoe, Lake Huron, and Lake Erie. Major cities like Toronto, Hamilton, and Niagara are visible. The map also shows various roads and water bodies.

The Greenbelt is a cornerstone of Ontario's security, directly supporting the health of our economy, water supply, and food systems. Committing to the Greenbelt is not only a promise to preserve Ontario's natural heritage but also a strategic investment in the long-term strength and sustainability of the province. Your support of this pledge will help build a secure, thriving Ontario for generations to come.

Our pledge for a secure and prosperous Greenbelt and Ontario...

"I pledge to protect, strengthen, and responsibly expand the Greenbelt as the cornerstone of a sustainable, prosperous Ontario. I commit to preserving its boundaries, protecting it from unnecessary development, and expanding it to safeguard vital resources like farmland and clean water systems. This pragmatic approach is necessary to ensure long-term economic, food, and water security in Ontario, while building a thriving, sustainable province for generations to come."



Protect

**No land removals, no major highway projects
and no land swaps.**

Strengthen

**Create stronger regulations to stop
destructive practices in the Greenbelt. Set
rehabilitation targets.**

Expand

**Add more lands to Greenbelt protection
based on science.**

Want to help the Greenbelt?

Visit www.greenbeltalliance.ca

to sign the pledge, connect and download resources

