

TOWN OF PORTUGAL COVE-ST. PHILIP'S NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MUNICIPAL PLAN, 2014-2024 AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2014-2024

MUNICIPAL PLAN AMENDMENT No. 14, 2022 and DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AMENDMENT No. 23, 2022

The Town Council of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's is considering changes to the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Municipal Plan, 2014-2024 and Development Regulations, 2014-2024. In general terms, the purpose of these amendments are to update Schedule E-Environmental Protection Overlay and Map 3 - Environmental Protection Map to reflect new, more accurate data for defining the boundaries of environmentally sensitive areas; and to bring these into compliance with the *Urban and Rural Planning Act*, 2000.

Council encourages residents to view the Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Municipal Plan Amendment No. 14, 2022 and Development Regulations Amendment No. 23, 2022, which shall be on display from **October 22, 2022 to November 4, 2022**, during normal business hours at the Town Office or on the Town's Website at www.pcsp.ca.

The Town Council of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's wishes to receive any comments or representation on theses proposed changes. Anyone wishing to make a comment, objection, or representation should submit a signed statement outlining their concerns by mail, email or drop off at the Town Office during normal business hours.

The deadline for submissions is: 4:00 pm, November 4, 2022.

For further details on these amendments, please contact:

Planning and Development Department Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's 1119 Thorburn Road Portugal Cove-St. Philip's, NL A1M 1T6

Tel: 709-895-8000 ext. 9 Fax: 709-895-3780

Email: planning@pcsp.ca

TOWN OF PORTUGAL COVE-ST, PHILIP'S MUNICIPAL PLAN, 2014-2024

MUNICIPAL PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 14, 2022

(Environmental Protection – text and map)



OCTOBER, 2022



RESOLUTION TO APPROVE

TOWN OF PORTUGAL COVE-ST. PHILIP'S MUNICIPAL PLAN, 2014-2024

MUNICIPAL PLAN AMENDMENT No. 14, 2022

Under the authority of section 16, section 17 and section 18 of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000,* the Town Council of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's:

		on on targan core out time of		
a) adopted the Amendment No. 14, 2022 to the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Phil Plan on the day of, 20 .				
	 gave notice of the adoption of the Amendment No. 14, 2022 to the Town of Portice Cove-St. Philip's Municipal Plan [in conformance with the COVID-19 Planning Circ issued by the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs]; 			
	c)	set the day of, 20 , at for the submission of objections/submissions for the Commissioner responsible for the public hearing to consider objections and submissions.		
Portuga	al Cove-S	e authority of Section 23 of the <i>Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000</i> , the Town Council of St. Philip's approves the Amendment No. 14, 2022 to the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's as adopted.		
	SIGNED	AND SEALED this day of, 20 .		
	Mayor:			
	Clerk:			
		nicipal Plan/Amendment EGISTERED		
Nun	nber _			
Date	e			

Signature -

(Council Seal)

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT

TOWN OF PORTUGAL COVE-ST. PHILIP'S MUNICIPAL PLAN, 2014-2024

MUNICIPAL PLAN AMENDMENT No. 14, 2022

Under the authority of Section 16 of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, the Town Council of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's adopts the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Municipal Plan Amendment No. 14. 2022.

Adopted by the Town Council of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's on the day of, 20 .						
Signed and sealed this	_day of	_20 .				
Mayor:						
Town Clerk:		(Council Seal)				

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS CERTIFICATION

I certify that the attached Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Municipal Plan Amendment No. 14, 2022, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Urban and Rural Planning Act.

PLANNERS URBANISTES

MCIP: Anna Myers

Member of Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP)

TOWN OF PORTUGAL COVE-ST. PHILIP'S

MUNICIPAL PLAN AMENDMENT No. 14, 2022

BACKGROUND

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's proposes to amend its Municipal Plan regarding Environmental Protection provisions. The Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Municipal Plan 2014-2024 came into effect in 2014.

The purpose of this Amendment is to improve implementation of the Development Regulations, Schedule E: Environmental Overlay and Map 3-Environmental Protection Map by updating the policies in Section 3.3.2-General Environmental Policies to reflect new, more accurate data in defining the boundaries of these environmentally sensitive areas; and to bring the regulations into conformance with the Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000.

The changes are consistent with the following Municipal Plan policies: In Section 3.3.2-General Environmental Policies, the proposed amendment is consistent with the Intent and Polices GE-2, GE-3, GE-4, GE-7, and GE-8 (Note: GE-1, 5, 6 and 9 are amended below). The amendment is consistent with the other Municipal Plan policies that reflect on this topic, as follows: GLU-4, RES-20 and RUR-5.

The following overlays will be removed from Map 1: Generalized Future Land Use Map: Coastal buffer (30 m), River Buffer (15 m) and Lakes and Ponds buffer (30 m). All environmental protection overlays will be shown only on Map 3: Environmental Protection Overlay Map in the Development Regulations.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

At a future date, individuals and groups shall also have another opportunity for submissions at a Public Hearing chaired by an independent Commissioner.

ST. JOHN'S URBAN REGION REGIONAL PLAN

The proposed Municipal Plan Amendment No. 14, 2022 consists of text and map changes to 2014-2024 Municipal Plan and Generalized Future L:and Use Map and conforms to the St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan.

It is concluded that no Regional Plan Amendment is required.

MUNICIPAL PLAN AMENDMENT No. 14, 2022

• TEXT AMENDMENT:

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Municipal Plan is amended as shown below with the strikeout indicating text to be deleted and bold font indicating the text to be added.

- Policy GE-1 Council shall establish an overlay Schedule E-Environmental Protection Overlay in of the Municipal Plan Development Regulations and Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay Zoning Map as an area designated for Environmental Protection. All land that falls within this Schedule Map 3, regardless of its land use designation in Section 3.4 Specific Land Use Policies and on the Generalized Future Land Use Map of this Plan, and Schedule C and the Development Regulations map of the Development Regulations shall be subject to the terms and conditions mapped and detailed in the overlay Schedule E-Environmental Protection Overlay.
- Policy GE-5

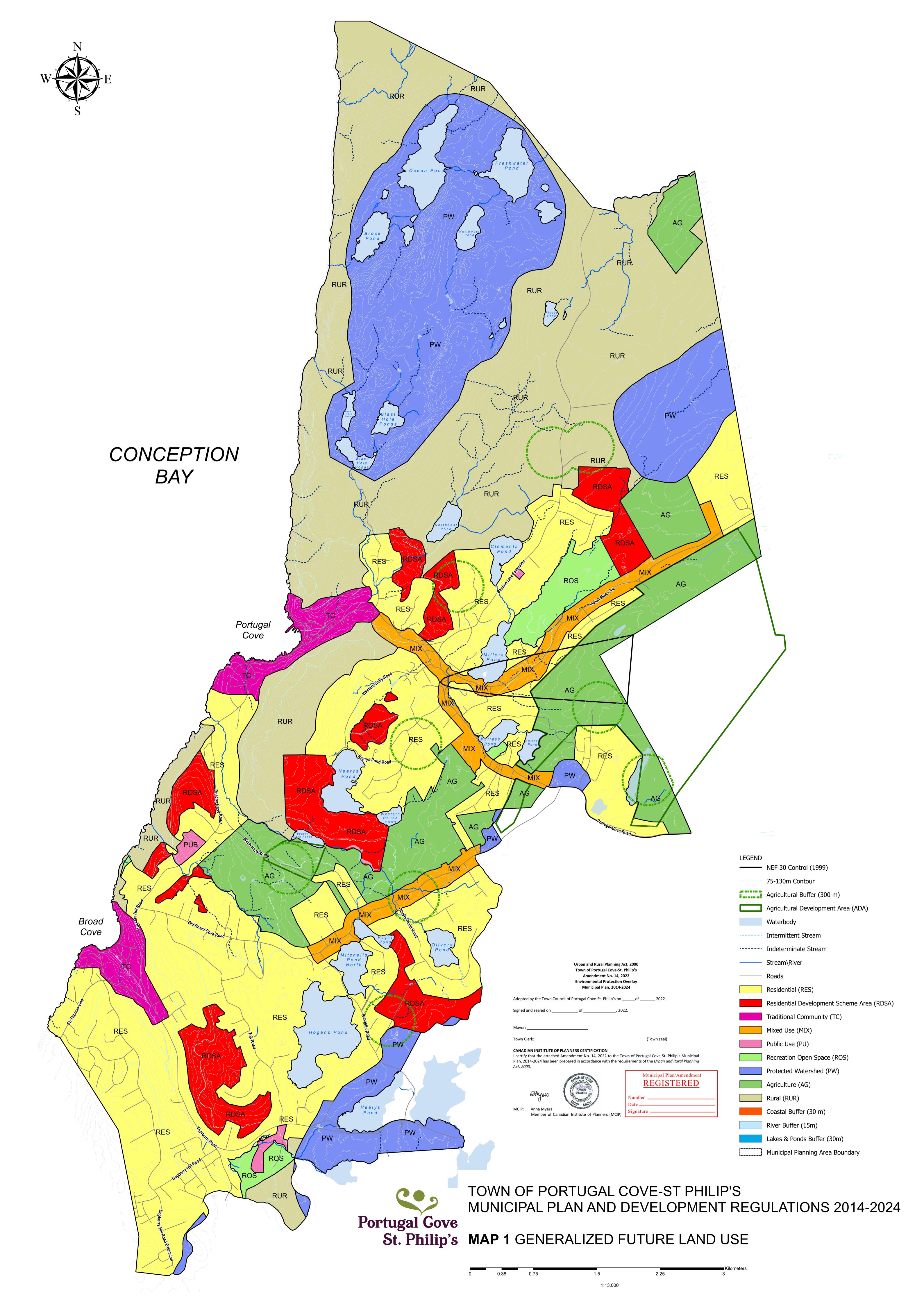
 Council shall strive to protect rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands and shorelines from pollution including the coastline of Conception Bay. Shoreline buffers will be maintained along banks and shorelines where possible, including a 30-metre buffer along coastlines and waterbodies, and a 15-metres buffer on watercourses and surrounding wetlands. Development in these areas may require approval by the necessary provincial authorities, such as the Water Resource Management Policy Directives (W.R. 97-1, W.R. 97-2, W. R. 91-1, W. R. 96-1, and W. R. 95-01) as detailed in the Terms and Conditions of the overlay Schedule E-Environmental Protection Overlay contained in the Development Regulations Municipal Plan. The environmentally sensitive features, including steep slopes and a steep slope buffer of 10-metres, will be mapped according to the most up-to-date data available.
- Policy GE-6 Where Council believes that a proposed development may affect a wetland, it shall be a policy of Council to, at its discretion:
 - (a) Require the developer to have the wetland delineated by a qualified environmental consultant;
 - (b) Establish a sufficient buffer from the edge of the wetland, in which development will not be permitted;
 - (c) Require other conditions or restrictions to protect the wetland; and/or
 - (d) Refuse to approve the development if it believes that identified impacts cannot be sufficiently minimized or mitigated.
 - (e) Classify wetlands as High, Medium and Low Protection Wetlands and set out associated professional technical requirements regarding geophysical site characteristics and habitat assessments.
- Policy GE-9 Council shall seek to protect designated flood risk areas, as defined in the Town's Stormwater Management Plan and Schedule E of the **Development Regulations**Municipal Plan, from the adverse impacts of built-up development. Areas within the

overlay Schedule E and Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay Map- that are identified as designated flood risk areas entitled Floodways and Floodway Fringe on the most recent mapping provided by the Water Resource Management Division, and shall be subject to the Department of Environment and Conservation's Water Resources Management Division Policy for Floodplain Management W.R. 96-1 and the Water Resources Act, 2002.

Policy GE-10 Council shall set out the requirements regarding Habitat Assessments in Schedule E as follows: Mandatory Habitat Assessments for Watercourses, Waterbodies and High Protection Wetlands; and Discretionary Habitat Assessments for Intermittent and Indeterminant watercourses, Medium Protection Wetlands, and Low Protection Wetlands.

MAP AMENDMENT

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Municipal Plan is amended by replacing the existing Map 1: Generalized Future Land Use Map with the attached version of Map 1: Generalized Future Land Use Map.



TOWN OF PORTUGAL COVE-ST, PHILIP'S DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2014-2024

DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AMENDMENT NO. 23, 2022

SCHEDULE E- ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OVERLAY MAP 3-ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MAP

(Amendment to text and maps)



OCTOBER, 2022



RESOLUTION TO APPROVE

TOWN OF PORTUGAL COVE-ST. PHILIP'S DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2014-2024

DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AMENDMENT No. 23, 2022

Under the authority of section 16, section 17 and section 18 of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000*, the Town Council of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's:

the rowi	n Coun	cii oi Portugai Cove-st. Philip S.			
a	a)	adopted the Amendment No. 23, 2022 to the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip' Development Regulations on the day of, 2022.			
t	b) gave notice of the adoption of the Amendment No. 23, 2022 to the Town of Port Cove-St. Philip's Development Regulations in conformance with the COVID-19 Plan Circular issued by the Department of Municipal and Provincial Affairs;				
C	c)	set the day of, 2022, at for the submission of objections/submissions for the Commissioner responsible for the public hearing to consider objections and submissions.			
Portugal	Cove-S	authority of Section 23 of the <i>Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000,</i> the Town Council of the Portugal Cove-St. Philip's approves the Amendment No. 23, 2022 to the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip'egulations as adopted.			
S	SIGNED	AND SEALED this day of, 20.			
N	Mayor:				
	Clerk:				
David	.1	unt Describtions/American			
Deve	-	ent Regulations/Amendment GISTERED			
Numbe	er				
Signat	ure _	(Council Seal)			

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT

TOWN OF PORTUGAL COVE-ST. PHILIP'S DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AMENDMENT No. 23, 2022 DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS, 2014-2024

Under the authority of Section 16 of the Urban and Rural Planning Act, the Town Council of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's adopts the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Development Regulations Amendment No. 23. 2022.

Adopted by the Town Council of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's on the day of, 2022.						
Signed and sealed this	_day of	_ 20.				
Mayor:						
Clerk:		(Council Seal)				

CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF PLANNERS CERTIFICATION

I certify that the attached Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Development Regulations Amendment No. 23, 2022, has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Urban and Rural Planning Act.

PLANNERS URBANISTES

MCIP: Anna Myers

Member of Canadian Institute of Planners (MCIP)

TOWN OF PORTUGAL COVE-ST. PHILIP'S

DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AMENDMENT No. 23, 2022

BACKGROUND

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's proposes to amend its Development Regulations, Schedule E-Environmental Protection Overlay and Map 3-Environmental Protection Map of the Development Regulations, 2014-2024. There is an associated Municipal Plan Amendment No. 14, 2022.

In general terms, the purpose of this amendment is to update Schedule E-Environmental Protection Overlay and Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay Map to reflect new, more accurate data for defining the boundaries of environmentally sensitive areas; and to bring these into compliance with the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000*. The text to Regulation 70 is amended for consistency with Schedule E-Environmental Protection Overlay.

The following overlays will be removed from Map 2: Development Regulations Map: Coastal buffer (30 m), River Buffer (15 m) and Lakes and Ponds buffer (30 m). All environmental protection overlays will be shown only on Map 3: Environmental Protection Overlay Map in the Development Regulations.

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

At a future date, individuals and groups shall also have another opportunity for submissions at a Public Hearing chaired by an independent Commissioner.

ST. JOHN'S URBAN REGION REGIONAL PLAN

The proposed Development Regulations Amendment No. 23, 2022 consists of text and map changes to 2014-2024 Development Regulations Map and conforms to the St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan.

It is concluded that no Regional Plan Amendment is required.

DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AMENDMENT No. 23, 2022

TEXT AMENDMENTS

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Development Regulations is amended by amending text in Regulation 70 and replacing the existing Schedule E-Environmental Protection Overlay, as set out below:

 AMENDMENTS TO REGULATION 70: New text in bold font and text to be removed identified with strikeout:

70. SOIL REMOVAL AND DEPOSIT AND SITE GRADING

- (1) A development permit is not required for removal, deposit, or grading of soil, sand, gravel, rock, or other aggregate material if the activity is part of an approved development project or affects less than 125 cubic metres of material, except for such work occurring in overlay areas identified in Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay Map where a permit shall be required for all such work;
- (2) No other excavation, removal, or depositing of material, or site grading, shall be carried out unless a development permit under these Regulations has been issued by Council.
- (3) Any excavation, removal and depositing of soil, sand, gravel, and rock, that requires a development permit may be issued a temporary permit provided the work is based on a grading plan, will result in an improved site for permitted uses, while retaining as much of the natural features of the land as possible. The following conditions shall be met:
 - (a) The landscape shall be preserved in its natural state, insofar as practicable, by minimizing tree and soil removal and any grade changes shall be in keeping with the general appearance of neighbouring developed areas;
 - (b) Land intended for the activity or grading has a slope of less than 25%. Lands with a slope greater than 25% over a distance of five (5) or more metres, shall be protected and shall not be developed except for infill residential single dwelling development proposals, at the discretion of Council, as a discretionary use within the Traditional Community zone, and except on the further conditions that such proposals are accompanied and supported by a qualified geotechnical or other engineering certified and stamped report and recommendations, such land is not designated by the St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan as 'Restricted', and all such proposals are approved by Council;

 REPLACE THE EXISTING SCHEDULE E-ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OVERLAY WITH THE NEW SCHEDULE E AS SET OUT BELOW

SCHEDULE E

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OVERLAY

INTENT

The intent of this Schedule is to enable the policies of the Municipal Plan to preserve the natural environmental integrity of the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's by defining the necessary terms and conditions within the Town's Development Regulations to protect environmentally sensitive areas from the negative impacts and influences of development.

INTERPRETATION

All Land Use Zones, as defined in the Town's Development Regulations and identified on the Development Regulations Map, are subject to the terms and conditions of this Schedule. The permitted and discretionary uses on the Use Zone Tables apply within the zone identified on the Development Regulations map subject to any restrictions on the types of use as set out in this Schedule for land that falls within the overlays identified on Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay map.

The PDF of Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay map is the signed and certified, registered map representing the data contained in GIS format registered under the requirements of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000*.

Where any property and lands in an area fall within the environmentally sensitive areas identified on the Map 3: Environmental Protection Overlay map, the terms and conditions set out in this Schedule shall apply. Council may impose additional conditions in addition to those set out in this Schedule; and, if Council deems that the mitigative measures associated with any proposed development are insufficient to address identified impacts to the satisfaction of Council, then Council may refuse the application.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION OVERLAY MAP

Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay map forms part of Schedule E-Environmental Protection Overlay. It identifies the following environmental protection overlays:

Coastal Buffer (30 m)	
Watercourse	
Watercourse Buffer (15 m)	Data source: 2022 Hydrology mapping prepared
Intermittent Stream	by EnFor Consulting Services, based on 2014 LIDar Data and 2019 digital aerial imagery.
Indeterminant Stream	
Waterbody (excluding wetlands)	
Waterbody (excluding wetlands) Buffer (30 m)	
Wetland-High protection	
Wetland-Medium protection	
Wetland-Low protection	
Wetland Buffer (15 m)	
Floodway (1:20 year)	Data source: Designated Flood Risk Areas as
Floodway Fringe (1:100 year)	defined by the Water Resources Management
	Division of the Government of Newfoundland and
	Labrador in 2015, and incorporating the Town's
	Stormwater Management Plan;
Steep Slope (>25%)	Data source: Based on from the 2016 high
Steep Slope Buffer (10 m)	resolution mapping provided by EnFor Consulting
	Services, based on 2014 LIDar Data and 2019
	digital aerial imagery.

AMENDMENTS

Where there is uncertainty regarding the extent of an environmental protection overlay boundary identified on Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay map, field verification by a qualified consultant shall be required at the expense of the developer or land owner. In additional, for waterbodies as defined under the *Water Resources Act, 2002* (including lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, brooks, and wetlands), the Town shall refer the request to the Water Resources Management Division for comment and recommendations.

Amendments to Schedule E-Environmental Protection Overlay and Map 3- Environmental Protection Overlay map shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the *Urban and Rural Planning Act, 2000.*

(1) Coastlines

The coastal buffer shall be established as follows:

- Where a cliff's edge exists, the 30-metre buffer shall be established from the top of cliff.
- Where no cliff's edge exists, the 30-metre buffer shall be established from the ordinary high water mark of the ocean.

No development shall be permitted within thirty (30.0) metres of the ocean (Conception Bay) except as set out in the Use Zone Table in the Town Development Regulations for the zone in which the land is

situated and the Water Resources Management Division Policy Directive: W.R. 97-1: Policy of Development in Shore Water Zones and, as applicable, W. R. 91-1: Policy for Infilling Bodies of Water.

All development occurring within this buffer is subject to the approval of the Water Resources Management Division, the Crown Lands Administration Division, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, and Council. Where fish habitat may be affected, approval shall also be required by the Federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

(2) Watercourses

Watercourses includes rivers, brooks and streams, including intermittent and indeterminant streams. The location of watercourses and an environmental watercourse buffer of fifteen (15.0) metres from the ordinary high water mark of all watercourses is mapped on the Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay map. No development shall be permitted within the fifteen (15..0) metre buffer except as set out in the Use Zone Table in the Town Development Regulations for the zone in which the land is situated and the Water Resources Management Division Policy Directive: W.R. 97-1: Policy of Development in Shore Water Zones and, as applicable, W. R. 91-1: Policy for Infilling Bodies of Water.

All development activity undertaken in watercourses and within the watercourse buffer is subject to the approval of the Water Resources Management Division, the Crown Lands Administration Division, Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture, Council, and where fish or fish habitat are affected, the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

Habitat Assessment requirements (as defined below in provision 6).:

- Watercourses: Council shall require the preparation of a Habitat Assessment, for proposed development along watercourses and within the watercourse buffer, except for Infill Development areas, where Council may, at their discretion, apply this requirement.
- Intermittent streams: Council may, at their discretion, require the preparation of a Habitat Assessment;
- Indeterminant streams: Council may, at their discretion, require the preparation of a Habitat Assessment.

(3) Waterbodies (excluding wetlands and watercourses)

The location of Waterbodies and an environmental Waterbody Buffer of thirty (30.0) metres from the high water mark of waterbodies has been established on Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay map.

No development shall be permitted within thirty (30.0) metres of a Waterbody except as set out in the Use Zone Table in the Town's Development Regulations for the zone in which the land is situated and the Water Resources Management Division Policy Directive: W.R. 97-1: Policy of Development in Shore Water Zones and, as applicable, W. R. 91-1: Policy for Infilling Bodies of Water.

All development activity undertaken within this buffer is subject to the approval of the Water Resources Management Division, Council, and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.

• Habitat Assessment requirements:

Waterbodies: Council shall require the preparation of a Habitat Assessment (as defined below in provision 6), for proposed development along Waterbodies and within the Waterbody Buffer, except for Infill Development areas, where Council may, at their discretion, apply this requirement.

(4) Steep Slopes

Definitions:

- a. Steep Slopes: Steep slopes are naturally occurring slopes with a gradient of greater than 25% over a minimum distance of five (5.0) metres;
- b. Steep Slope Buffer: The steep stope buffer consists a ten (10) metre buffer surrounding a steep slope as defined above in 4 (a);

The following restrictions shall apply:

- 1. No buildings, structures or placement or removal of fill shall be permitted on any lands designated as Restricted by the St. John's Urban Region Regional Plan, 1976;
- 2. No buildings, structures or placement or removal of fill shall be permitted on a Steep Slope with the following exceptions:
 - a. Council may, at their discretion, allow activity or grading work required in these areas for the safety and protection of existing properties, where Council may require a qualified professional to determine and certify the necessity and safety regarding the activity; and,
 - Single dwellings within the Traditional Community Zone, at the discretion of Council, where Council may require a report from a qualified professional to determine and certify the suitability of the site for this type of development only;
- 3. Steep Slope Buffer: Development may be permitted within ten (10.0) metres of the top or bottom of a steep slope, at the discretion of Council, where Council may require a qualified professional to determine and certify the suitability of the site for development;

(5) Designated Flood Risk Areas

The Water Resources Management Division (WRMD) of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is responsible under the *Water Resources Act, 2002* to map flood risk areas in the province. The most recent Flood Risk mapping for the Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's was completed in 2015 and sets out the Floodway and Floodway Fringe areas in the town. The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's also identified areas that are subject to flooding in its *Stormwater Management Plan, 2010*. These areas are located within the Floodway and Floodway Fringe areas mapped for the WRMD updated Flood Risk mapping published in 2015.

The Floodway and Floodway Fringe areas identified on Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay map are defined as follows:

- Floodway: this is the portion of a flood plain where the most frequent flooding occurs, and where the flow of water is fastest. This 'Floodway' area is determined on the basis of the 1 in 20 year (1:20) return flood period.
- Floodway Fringe: This is the portion of a flood plain where less frequent flooding occurs and where the flow of water is considered to be tranquil. The 'Floodway Fringe' area is determined on the basis of where flooding occurs up to 1 in 100 years (1:100) on average.

Applications processing: Only the permitted and discretionary uses from the Use Zone Table for each Land Use Zone within the Floodway and Floodway Fringe areas are allowed subject to the uses set out in the Policy Directive W.R. 96-1: Policy for Flood Plain Management. The development requirements set out in Policy Directive W.R. 96-1 are also required in addition to any conditions set by Council.

Developers and/or property owners must have approval under Section 48 of the *Water Resources Act,* 2002 for work proposed within Floodway and Floodway Fringe areas.

(6) Wetlands

Wetlands are mapped on Map 3-Environmental Protection Overlay map as classified in the 2022 Hydrology report as follows:

- High protection: wetland contains a stream and/or other water bodies that are interconnected or directly adjacent to one of the significant river/stream systems;
- Medium protection: an isolated wetland that has an area of 2,500 m² of greater; and,
- Low protection: an isolated wetland that has an area less than 2,500 m².

Wetlands means land that has the water table at, near or above the land surface and includes bogs, fens, marshes, swamps and other shallow open water areas. They perform varied integral ecologic al functions such as: collect and store runoff, moderate and attenuate downstream flood flows, reduce downstream flooding and erosion, clean and purify water, recharge groundwater zones, and provide unique habitat for plants and animals.

Wetland development means the carrying out of an activity or operation which includes the construction of ditches, mechanical disturbance of the ground, alteration of normal water level fluctuations, infilling, drainage, dredging, channelization, and removal of vegetation cover and/or organic matter on a wetland for social or economic benefits, or the making of any change in the use or the intensity of use of any wetland which affects its hydrologic characteristics or functions.

The Province's *Water Resources Act*, 2002 has provisions within Sections 30, 48 and 64 that directly address wetlands. Developers and/or property owners must apply under Section 48 of the *Water Resources Act*, 2002 for work proposed within wetland areas. The following Water Resources Management Division policies apply with regard to wetlands: W.R. 97-2: Policy for Development in Wetlands and W.R. 97-1: Policy of Development in Shore Water Zones.

The Wetland buffer of fifteen (15.0) metres is mapped for all identified wetlands on Map 3. Council has the following requirements regarding development within Wetlands and the Wetland buffers:

- 1. High Protection Wetlands and Wetland Buffer:
 - a. Council shall require a qualified professional to determine and certify the safety regarding the activity, except for Infill Development areas where Council may, at their discretion, apply this requirement;
 - Council shall require the preparation of a Habitat Assessment (as defined below), except for Infill Development areas, where Council may, at their discretion, apply this requirement.
- 2. Medium Protection Wetlands and Wetland Buffer:
 - a. Council may, at their discretion, require a qualified professional to determine and certify the safety regarding the activity;
 - b. Council may, at their discretion, require the preparation of a Habitat Assessment (as defined below).
- 3. Low Protection Wetlands and Wetland Buffer:
 - a. Council may, at their discretion, require a qualified professional to determine and certify the safety regarding the activity;
 - b. Council may, at their discretion, require the preparation of a Habitat Assessment (as defined below).

Definition of Habitat Assessment: A Habitat assessment shall address following matters: Current representation of habitat, plant and wildlife species, or natural features in the area, including abundance, diversity and complexity of species and habitat (land and water), presence of species of conservation concern (e.g. rare, vulnerable, threatened, endangered, declining, uncommon, sensitive, endemic species), condition/quality of site, potential for long-term protection of site/habitat, description of habitat/site (size, shape, location), evidence of use, and other perceived values, such as value of a site to the larger ecosystem in which it is found (maintenance of hydrological and nutrient cycles, erosion control) and value of a site to humans (scientific and educational studies, aesthetic and recreational values). The Habitat Assessment shall be undertaken by a Professional Biologist, with accreditation to the satisfaction of Council.

DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS AMENDMENT No. 23, 2022

MAP AMENDMENTS

The Town of Portugal Cove-St. Philip's Development Regulations is amended by replacing the existing Map 2: Development Regulations Map and Map 3-Environmental Protection Map with the updated attached maps:

- o Map 3 -Environmental Protection Overlay Map
- o Map 2: Development Regulations Map

