

# CITY OF OTTAWA



**Total Land Area (Census 2016)<sup>1</sup>:** 279,030 ha  
**Area of Census Farms (2001)<sup>2</sup>:** 120,452 ha  
**Area of Census Farms (2016)<sup>2</sup>:** 102,151 ha  
**Gross Farm Receipts (2016)<sup>4</sup>:** \$224.6 Million  
**Gross Farm Receipts per Hectare of Census Farm:** \$2,198.71  
**Population (2016)<sup>1</sup>:** 934,243  
**Growth Rate 2006-2011<sup>5</sup>:** 8.8%  
**Growth Rate 2011-2016<sup>1</sup>:** 5.8%

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Development Designation (Including Urban, Residential, And Employment) 2000–2017 | <b>132 ha</b>    |
| Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Rural Designation 2000–2017  | <b>40.7 ha</b>   |
| Land Designated As A Prime Agricultural Area With A Site-Specific Amendment To Allow Additional Uses 2000–2017             | <b>5.53 ha</b>   |
| <b>Total Amount of Prime Agricultural Land Loss 2000–2017</b>  | <b>178.23 ha</b> |
| <b>Total Prime Agricultural Land Loss as a Percentage (Per Census Farm Area 2001)</b>                                      | <b>0.15%</b>     |

## Purpose of the Summary

This county summary is part of a wider study on farmland availability in Ontario. The study quantifies the conversion of prime agricultural areas based on Official Plan Amendments in upper and single-tier municipalities across the province over a 17-year study period from 2000–2017. This summary is meant to provide detail of the findings in The City of Ottawa. In conjunction with similar case studies from other counties/regions in Ontario, these findings will form the basis of the University of Guelph’s *Measuring Farmland Conversion* research project.

## Methods in Brief

The study involved the examination of Official Plan Amendments (OPAs) approved by The City Of Ottawa, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and/or the Ontario Municipal Board for The City of Ottawa during the years 2000–2017. The City Of Ottawa, now a single-tier municipality, amalgamated in 2001 and approved its first Official Plan (OP) for The City Of Ottawa in 2003. Prior to amalgamation, the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton consisted of the Cities of Ottawa and

Eastview, the Villages of Rockcliffe, Richmond and Stittsville, and the Townships of Torbolton, Fitzroy, Huntley, March, Goulbourn, Nepean, Osgoode, Marlborough, North Gower, Gloucester and Cumberland. Access to data for the entire region as it now exists was provided electronically by staff at the City of Ottawa's planning department. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

Changes in farmland availability have been captured in three categories:

- 1) Prime agricultural areas redesignated to a development designation (including but not limited to urban, residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational designations);
- 2) Prime agricultural areas redesignated to a rural designation;
- 3) Land designated as a prime agricultural area with a site-specific amendment to allow additional uses.

Housekeeping type amendments have not been tallied as contributing to farmland conversion. Housekeeping type amendments arise as OP schedules are updated to align land use designations with more accurate parcel lines, or to reflect existing physical features.

### **Agricultural Land Use Designations in The City of Ottawa**

The City of Ottawa protects prime agricultural land under the *Agricultural Resource* and *Rural* designations. Around 40 percent of Ottawa's rural lands are used for agriculture. Ottawa has also established their own 20,000-hectare National Capital Greenbelt that separates the urban area and the urban communities established just beyond it. This greenbelt designates *Natural Environment Areas* and *Agriculture Resource Areas* as well as large facilities including a sportsplex, hospital, detention centre, schools, and churches. Prime agricultural soils within these designations are identified based on the Ottawa Land Evaluation and Area Review (LEAR) evaluation system or by the National Capital Greenbelt Plan produced by the National Capital Commission. Policies within these designations are intended to strictly limit permitted land uses and lot creation on all lands identified as *Agricultural Resource Areas*.

### **Trends in Agricultural Land Conversion**

**Development Designations:** Only one OPA that is relevant to agricultural land within the study's timeframe were captured that move agricultural land to a development designation. OPA 77 redesignated 132 hectares to implement the land uses and transportation infrastructure established by the Fernbank Community Design Plan. This is reflected in category 1 of Table 1.

**Rural Designation:** Only one OPA was captured that is relevant to this category. OPA 46 redesignated 40.7 hectares from *Agriculture Resource Area* to the *General Rural Area* to support a future country estate lot development. This is reflected in category 2 of Table 1.

**Site-Specific Amendments:** One OPA was captured that placed a special policy on agricultural land within the time frame. OPA 75 permitted the establishment of a self-storage warehouse on a 5.53 hectare site. This is reflected in category 3 of Table 1.

**Table 1. Prime Agricultural Area Converted Through ROPAs In The City of Ottawa By Adoption Date (2000–2017)**

| Year of OPA adoption or approval by the OMB | Number Of OPAs Related To The Conversion Of Prime Agricultural Area | CATEGORY 1 Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Development Designation (ha) | CATEGORY 2 Prime Agricultural Area Redesignated To A Rural Designation (ha) | CATEGORY 3 Land Designated As A Prime Agricultural Area With Additional Site-Specific Permitted Uses (ha) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2000  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2001  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2002  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2003  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2004  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2005  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2006  | 1   | 0   | 40.7  | 0   |
| 2007  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2008  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2009  | 1   | 0   | 0   | 5.53  |
| 2010  | 1   | 132   | 0   | 0   |
| 2011  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2012  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2013  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2014  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2015  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2016  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| 2017  | 0   | 0   | 0   | 0   |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                          | <b>3</b>  | <b>132</b>  | <b>40.7</b>   | <b>5.53</b>   |

\*\*Totals may not add due to rounding.

### Provincial Land Use Plans:

The City of Ottawa Official Plan is subject to the Provincial Policy Statement, however Oxford County does not fall under the Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, the Niagara Escarpment Plan, or the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe. The National Capital Greenbelt is a federal initiative intended to protect agriculture.

1. Statistics Canada. 2017. *Ottawa, CV [Census subdivision], Ontario and Canada [Country]* (table). *Census Profile*. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017.  
<https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed April 26, 2020).
- 2 OMAFRA (adopted). 2017. Area of Census Farms (Acres) by County, Ontario: 1991, 1996,2001, 2006, 2011 and 2016. With data from Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture.
- 3 Statistics Canada. Table 004-0233 –Census of Agriculture, farms classified by total gross farm receipts in the year prior to the census, every 5 years (number of farms reporting unless otherwise noted), CANSIM (database).
- 4 Statistics Canada. 2012. Ottawa, Ontario (Code 3531) and Canada (Code 01) (table). Census 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012.
5. Statistics Canada. 2012. *Ottawa, Ontario (Code 3506008) and Ottawa, Ontario (Code 3506)* (table). *Census Profile*. 2011 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-XWE. Ottawa. Released October 24, 2012.  
<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2011/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed April 26, 2020).