

# faculty of environmental studies

## Graduate Students in Regional Planning| Studies of the Greater Golden Horseshoe Greenbelt Plan

Contemporary regional planning issues include: governance, growth management, transportation, food security, social justice, marketing and ecological values.

Social justice is a key component in understanding the costs and benefits of the Greenbelt Plan.

### The "costs" of Greenbelt Plan benefits

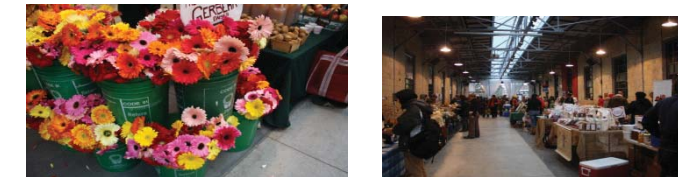
There are many costs associated with the benefits conferred by the Greenbelt Plan, however issues of social equity and food accessibility are key concerns.

Locally grown and organics are more expensive than more typically sourced food in the Greater Toronto Area. It is not socially just that only the upper classes can afford or access the food grown in the Greenbelt. There are also barriers in terms of making this more socially and economically just and expanding access and affordability.

Healthy food produced in the Greenbelt is an environmental and health benefit for the region, but its access is limited by income.

#### Comparison of basic weekly food supply for a family of four:

Farmer's Market (basic Toronto-area grocery store)	No Frills
\$297.69	\$204.95



#### Some examples of price differences:

Farmer's Market	No Frills
Red Fife pasta \$2 X 20 bags = \$40	Italpasta \$ 1.59 x 9 boxes = \$14. 31
Moncton Bakery \$ 5 x 6 loaves = \$30	Country Harvest \$ 1.89 x 5 = \$9.45
St John's Bakery \$7 x 1 loaf = \$7	Old Mill bread (on sale) \$1x 1 = \$1.00
Carrots \$4 x 13 baskets = \$ 52	Carrots \$1.29 x 3 bags = \$3.87
Squash \$4.25 x 5 = \$22.25	Squash \$2 x 5 = \$10.00
Garlic \$1.50 x 3 heads = \$4.50	Garlic \$ 1 x 3-pack = \$1.00

A challenge for Ontario's Greenbelt is to reach those communities that are currently not able to afford greenbelt grown food.

### Challenges of the Greenbelt Plan to social justice

#### 1| Employment

In terms of employment in the Greenbelt, social justice is required to achieve sustainability. Further you must involve different kinds of people in the employment opportunities of the greenbelt in order to suggest any degree of social justice. The greenbelt however has several barriers to inclusion of increased diversity among employment.

#### 2| Housing

Protecting areas for environmental conservation limits housing and settlement areas which will increase housing costs. The Fraser Institute has written a study citing the increasing costs of housing which will be associated with this plan. As shown in this case, achieving environmental justice goals does not necessarily mean that social justice goals are also achieved.

#### 3| Tourism and Recreation

The forms of recreation and tourism which are protected and promoted are privileged (e.g. B&Bs, winery tourism, eco-tourism, etc). The problem in terms of recreation areas protected by the Greenbelt is that the Greenbelt Plan does nothing to restrict population growth in the region which will eventually put capacity pressures on these resources.

### How social justice applies to the Greenbelt

#### Procedural Justice

##### 1| Procedural Fairness

- Rules are applied equally to all situations
- Rules are applied equally across time and space

##### 2| Perception of Procedural Fairness

- Rules are not going to arbitrarily change

#### Distributive Justice

##### 3| Formal Equity

- Benefits are enjoyed by everyone equally
- Burdens are shared by everyone equally

##### 4| Substantive Equity

- Outcomes are equal (net total of burdens and benefits)

#### Equal Opportunity

##### 5| Equal Choice

- Freedom of choice
- Equal access to resources to enable this freedom of choice

#### Justice Based on Merit

##### 6| People are not created equally

- "good" people deserve more rewards
- "Bad" people deserve more punishment

#### Justice Based on Rights

##### 7| Rights

- Justice is when everyone has their rights protected

#### Justice Based on Needs

##### 8| Needs

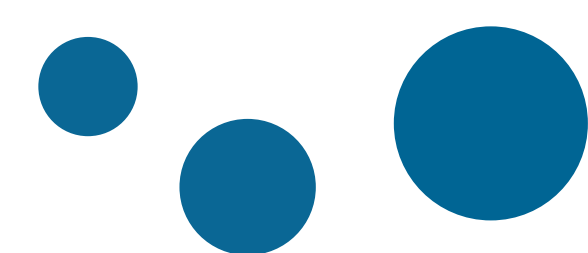
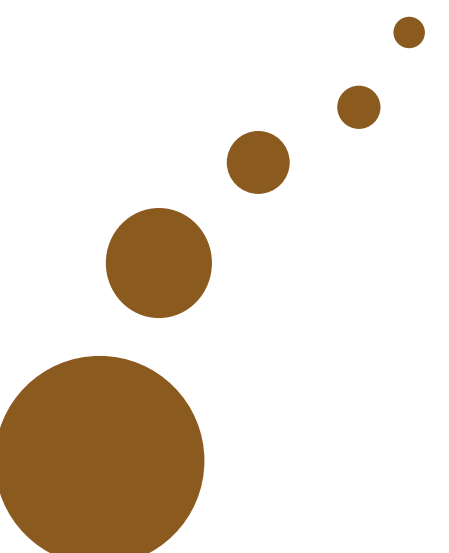
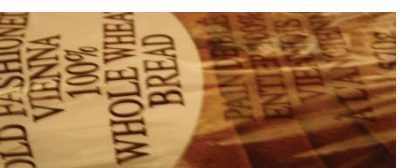
- Justice is when everyone has their needs met

#### Claims of the Greenbelt

"The Greenbelt permanently protects precious lands and supports a healthier environment for all Ontarians. By protecting 1.8 million acres of sensitive land from development, the Greenbelt protects the water we drink and the air we breathe. It also means that farmers can continue to grow the food we eat closer to home. Ontarians and visitors alike enjoy the Greenbelt's many recreation opportunities, including its trails and parklands."

The Greenbelt Plan promotes: prevention of (urban sprawl) development; protection of the environment; support for local food; and promotion of recreation and tourism.

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SOCIAL JUSTICE