



## SCARBOROUGH WATERFRONT PROJECT – PROJECT SUMMARY

### PROJECT BACKGROUND

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), in partnership with the City of Toronto, has initiated a study under the *Environmental Assessment (EA) Act* to create a system of greenspaces along the Lake Ontario shoreline, between Bluffer's Park and East Point Park in Toronto, Ontario, which respect and protect the significant natural and cultural features of the Bluffs, enhance the terrestrial and aquatic habitat, and provide a safe and enjoyable waterfront experience. The Scarborough Bluffs are an iconic feature of the Lake Ontario shoreline; however, due to limited access and existing public safety hazards, the water's edge along this section of the waterfront is not formally accessible to the public.

The Project's Objectives are to:

1. Protect and enhance terrestrial and aquatic features and linkages (**natural environment**);
2. Manage public safety and property **risk**;
3. Provide enjoyable waterfront **experiences**;
4. Achieve consistency and **coordination** with other initiatives; and,
5. Achieve value for **cost**.

The Project will fulfill the strategic recommendations of previous planning processes and the City of Toronto Council direction to address the existing risk to public safety and public infrastructure due to erosion along the shoreline, and provide for increased public space while improving and enhancing the natural heritage system. The Project also supports and advances TRCA's Living City Policies, and the City of Toronto policies laid out in the Official Plan, which recognize the need to balance waterfront revitalization, public access, and an open space "aesthetic" with natural heritage and natural hazard protection and management.

### THE PROCESS

The EA for the SWP was completed in two stages as required by the *EA Act*. Stage one included the completion and approval of a Terms of Reference (ToR). The purpose of the ToR was to describe how the EA should be carried out and to provide the public, agencies and Aboriginal communities with an opportunity to comment prior to proceeding with the study. TRCA completed the ToR and it was approved by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) on December 15, 2015. Stage two of the Project, which is currently underway, includes the completion of the EA and preparation of the EA Report in accordance with the approved ToR.

### SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION AND COMMENTS

Consultation is an integral component of the EA process, and was a core principle of the SWP. Consultation activities were initiated early in the process, and engaged with a range of interested stakeholders through a variety of forums and avenues.

A Stakeholder Committee, representing the various recreational users, interests, community groups, associations, and local residents from across the Project Study Area, was established early on. To date, a total of 12 Stakeholder Committee meetings have been held, with four (4) as part of the ToR phase, and eight (8) as part of the EA phase.

A total of five (5) Public Information Centres (PICs) have been held, with two (2) as part of the ToR phase, and three (3) as part of the EA phase, with the most recent held on June 28, 2017. PICs were held at key milestones to present new information, and seek feedback from the broader public.

Further, direct community engagement activities were undertaken, which included individual meetings with landowners, community associations and groups, interested stakeholders, as well as outreach at Bluffer's Park and East Point, organized events (including shoreline tours), and attendance at local community events.

The Project has received significant public interest, with 150+ participants at each of the PICs and over 2,400 public comments received through 400+ submissions and the PICs. Additionally, the Draft EA was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MOECC) on August 17, 2017 for a 45-day public review period, with another 100+ public comments received to-date. Comments received reflect a wide range of viewpoints, including a desire for a formal, continuous trail along the full length of the shoreline, a desire for no additional formal access along the waterfront, and support for the Refined Preferred Alternative as presented at the third PIC on June 28, 2017 and in the Draft EA. All comments and feedback received to-date were considered and are documented as part of the Final EA. The Final EA submission will provide further opportunities for public and agency review and comment.

### **OVERVIEW OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE**

The Preferred Alternative was identified as meeting the Project Vision and Objectives to the best extent. In response to public, agency, and stakeholder consultation, refinements were undertaken to the proposed shoreline protection which reduced the overall footprint; further enhanced the aquatic habitat; increased the length of sand shoreline maintained; and minimized the size of cobble required along the proposed cobble beaches (see Figures 1 to 3 at the end of this document).

Overall, the SWP results in improvements to aquatic and terrestrial habitat, improved public access to the water's edge which is removed from the risk associated with bluff erosion, a waterfront experience accessible to more people of all abilities, and a project compatible with local, regional and lake-wide plans and policies related to the natural and human environment.

The total capital investment for the SWP is estimated to be \$170 million, over a 12-year implementation period, and additional post-implementation reporting and monitoring. Given the conceptual level of detail considered in the EA, and annual inflation over the course of the Project, the estimated capital investment includes a healthy contingency of 50%. The total capital investment will continue to be refined during the Detailed Design process, as concepts are further refined.

### **FINANCIAL DETAILS**

There are no additional costs anticipated with the completion of the Scarborough Waterfront Project EA process, as remaining costs associated with the submission and review process are anticipated to be accounted for within the existing budget provided by Toronto Water.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The Draft EA was submitted to the MOECC on August 17, 2017 for a 45-day public and agency review period, ending on October 2, 2017. Comments received as part of the draft review period have informed the finalization of the EA Report.

It is anticipated that approval to submit the final SWP EA will be sought from the City of Toronto Executive Committee and City of Toronto Council in May 2018, with a final EA submission to MOECC in Spring 2018. MOECC approval is anticipated to take up to 12-15 months.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Visit the Project web page at [trca.ca/swp](http://trca.ca/swp) for updates and to review the EA. For additional Project information, please contact Nancy Gaffney, Waterfront Specialist, by phone at (416) 661-6600 ext. 5313, or by email at [ngaffney@trca.on.ca](mailto:ngaffney@trca.on.ca).



## Scarborough Waterfront Project

Refined West Segment Preferred Alternative

### Legend

- Risk Line
- Proposed Trail
- - - Proposed Berm Location
- · · Proposed Interim Groyne Location
- Headland



0 100 200 m



Figure 1 Refined West Segment Preferred Alternative





**Figure 2** Refined Central Segment Preferred Alternative



Figure 3 Refined East Segment Preferred Alternative