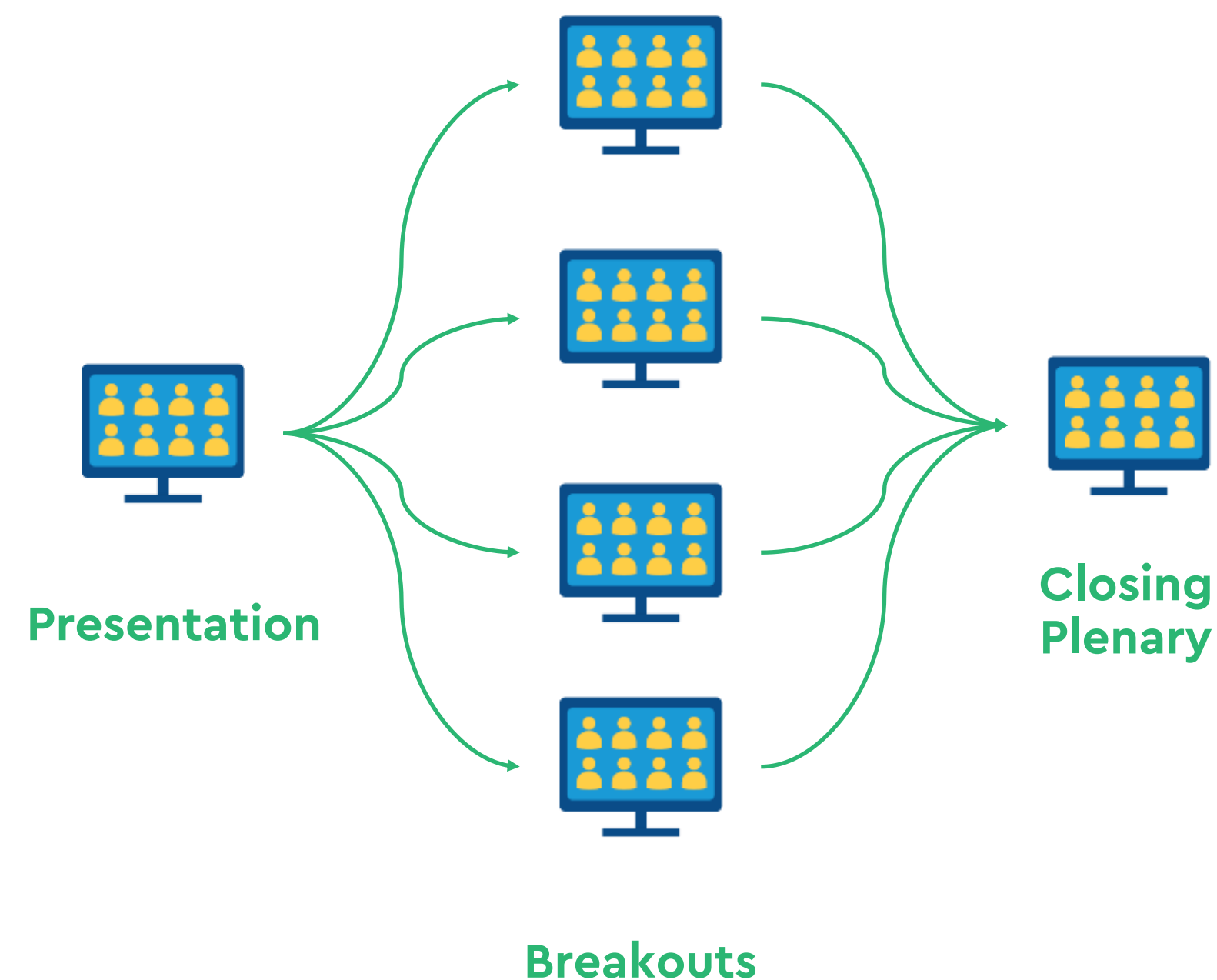




# Deep Dive Workshop

Supporting a Dynamic Environment

# Agenda



6:00 Welcome, land acknowledgement, agenda review

6:15 Overview: supporting a dynamic environment ideas

*Questions of clarification*

6:45 Discussion in breakout rooms

7:45 Report back and plenary discussion

7:55 Wrap up and next steps

8:00 Adjourn





# Land Acknowledgment



# House Keeping



## All Participants are muted upon entry.

This ensures that we are not getting feedback and that multiple people don't talk at the same time.



## Raise (and lower) hand.

If you'd like to talk to a member of the project team, simply raise your hand and the facilitator will unmute you. Don't forget to lower it when you're done.



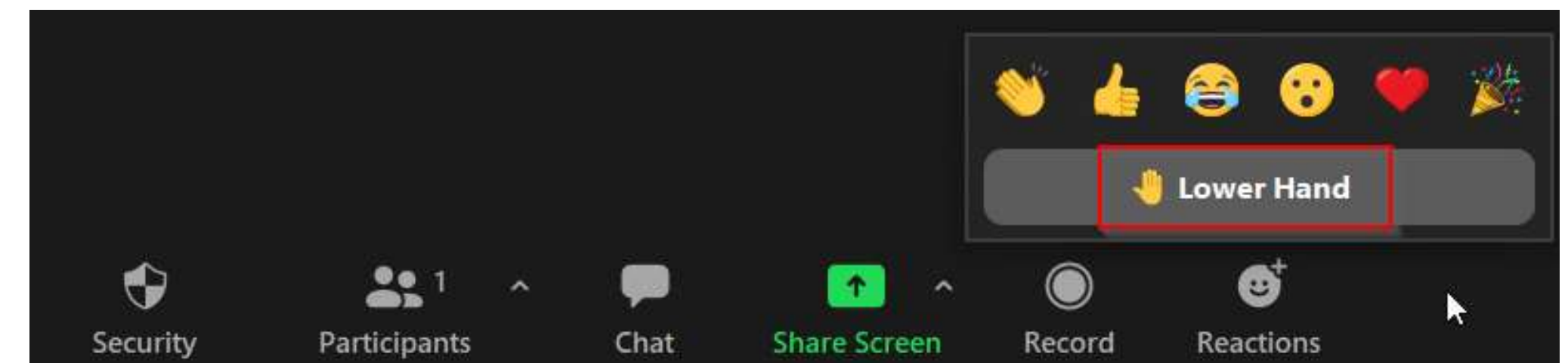
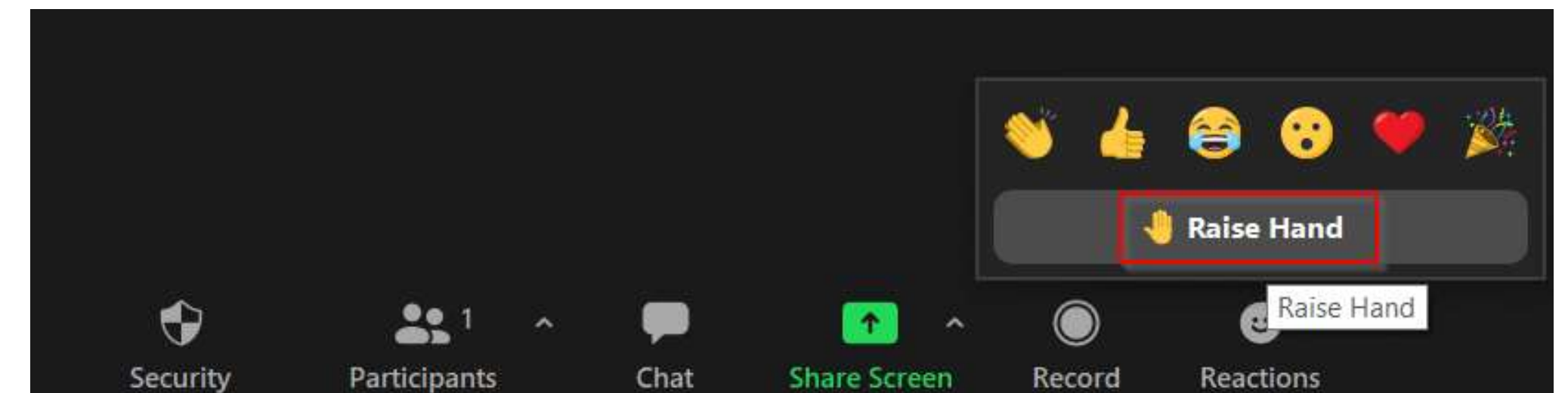
## Use the chat.

The chat will be open for you to chat with participants. Keep in mind the facilitator might not catch all comments that go by.



## Use reactions!

Virtual events can feel so impersonal. Feel free to use any of the emojis available to communicate with the project team and all participants.



On your  
phone



Press \*9 to raise hand



Press \*6 to unmute

# Engagement by the Numbers

1,268+



## Synchronous Engagement

(number of people who attended "in person" events)

12,632+



## Digital Tools

(Number of people who responded to surveys and digital engagement tools)



Over 4.3 Million

## Social Media Reach

(unique IP addresses that saw our social media posts)

# Indigenous Engagement by the Numbers

## Pre-Engagement Meetings

First Nations  
Indigenous-serving agencies  
2-Spirit Peoples  
Indigenous Youth  
Indigenous Women

## Phase 1 Meetings

Meetings with First Nations  
Indigenous Placemaking Advisory Circle  
Indigenous Community Sharing Meeting  
2-Spirit Peoples Focus Group  
Indigenous Women Focus Group  
Indigenous Youth Focus Group



**15 Meetings**  
(87 Attendees)

**1**  
**Ceremony**

(315 attendees and viewers)

**1**  
**Placekeeping  
Forum**

(432 attendees and viewers)

# Join Us – [Toronto.ca/IslandMasterPlan](https://toronto.ca/IslandMasterPlan)



Supporting a  
Dynamic  
Environment

Deep Dive

March 7, 2022

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.



Enhancing Visitor Experience

Deep Dive

March 3, 2022

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Improving Access and Connection

Deep Dive

March 10, 2022

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.



Elevating Equity and Belonging

Deep Dive

March 24, 2022

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.



Indigenous Sharing Meeting

Mar 9, 2022

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.



Demonstration  
Plan Survey

March 7 – 25 2022

# Important Links

**Web Page:** <https://toronto.ca/IslandMasterPlan>

**Island Stories:** <https://toronto.ca/IslandStories>

**Social Pinpoint:** <https://toronto.mysocialpinpoint.ca/toronto-island-park-wayfinding-map>

**Survey:** <https://s.cotsurvey.chkmkt.com/IslandDemonstrationPlan>





# Overview



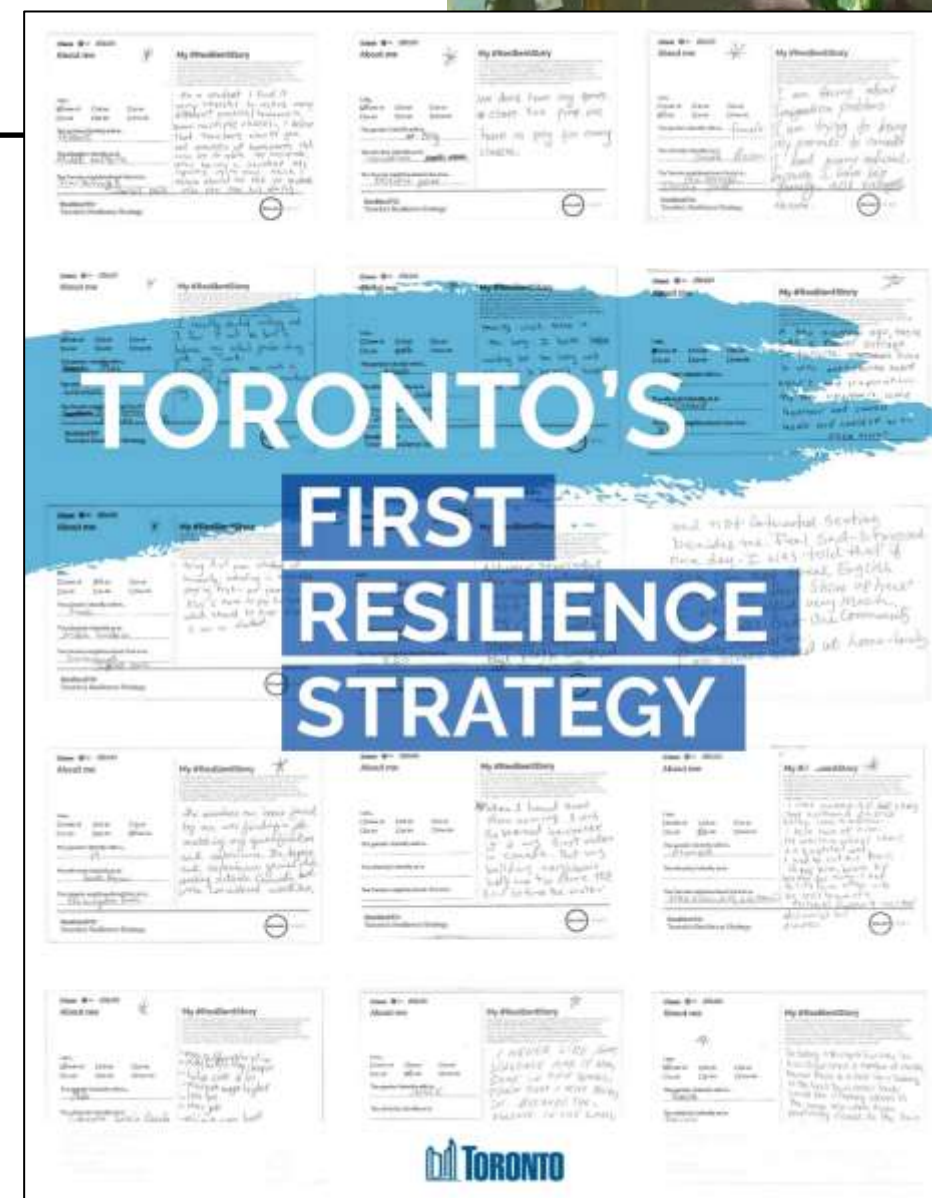


Toronto Island Park Study Area



# Guiding Strategies

## Down- town Parks and Public Realm Plan



## City-wide Policy & Initiatives:

Official Plan

Parkland Strategy

Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Toronto's First Resilience Strategy

Toronto Biodiversity Strategy

Public Art Strategy

Toronto Parks and Trails Wayfinding Strategy

## Downtown-specific Policy & Initiatives:

TOCore: Downtown Parks & Public Realm Plan

Central Waterfront Secondary Plan

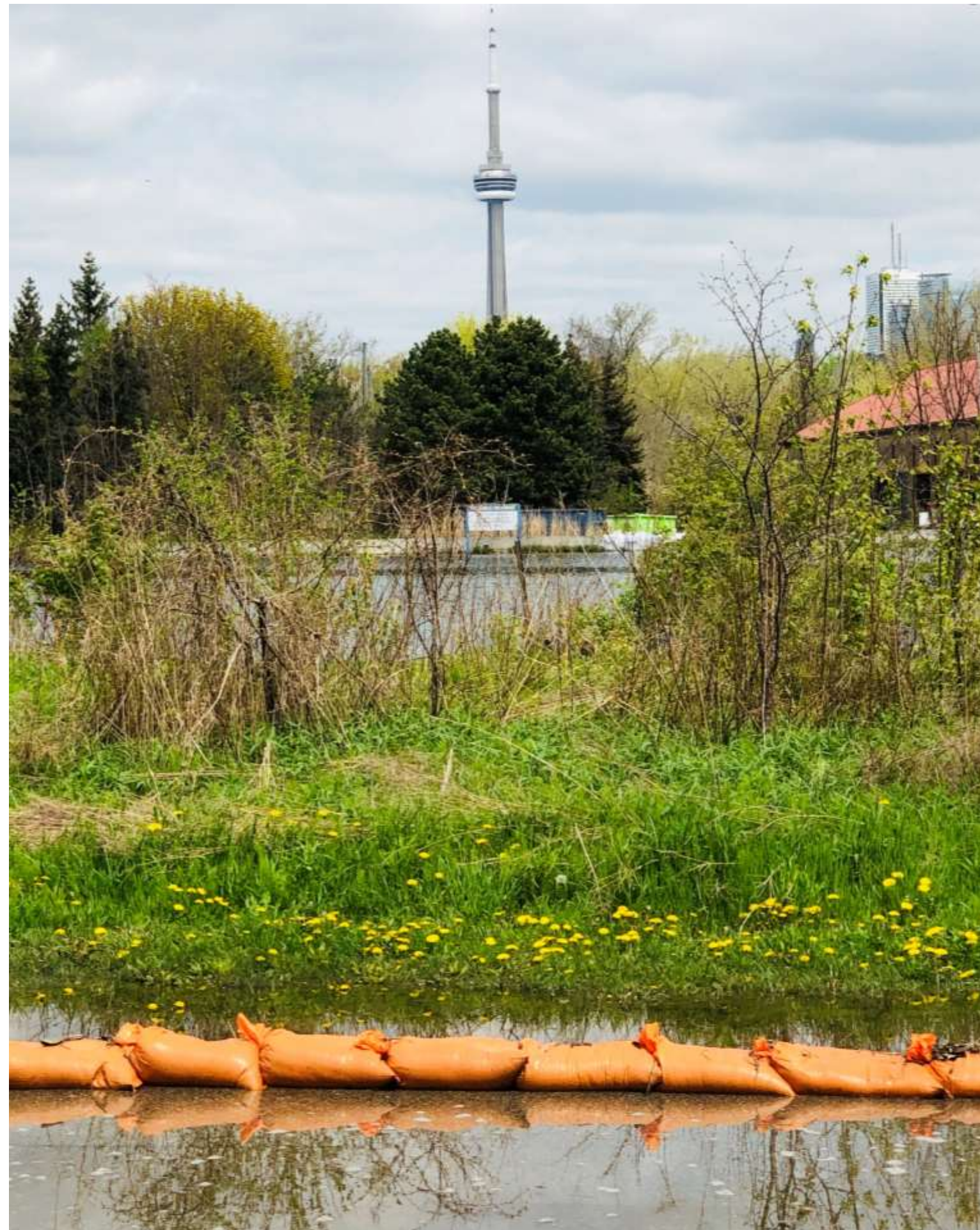
Waterfront Toronto Resilience Strategy

Waterfront Toronto Marine Use Strategy

Billy Bishop Airport Master Plan Update



# Parallel Studies



## **City of Toronto-led:**

Toronto Island Park Business Strategy

Toronto Island Cultural Heritage Resource Assessment

Toronto Island Public Life Study

Island Stories

Ferry Fleet Replacement Strategy

## **TRCA-led:**

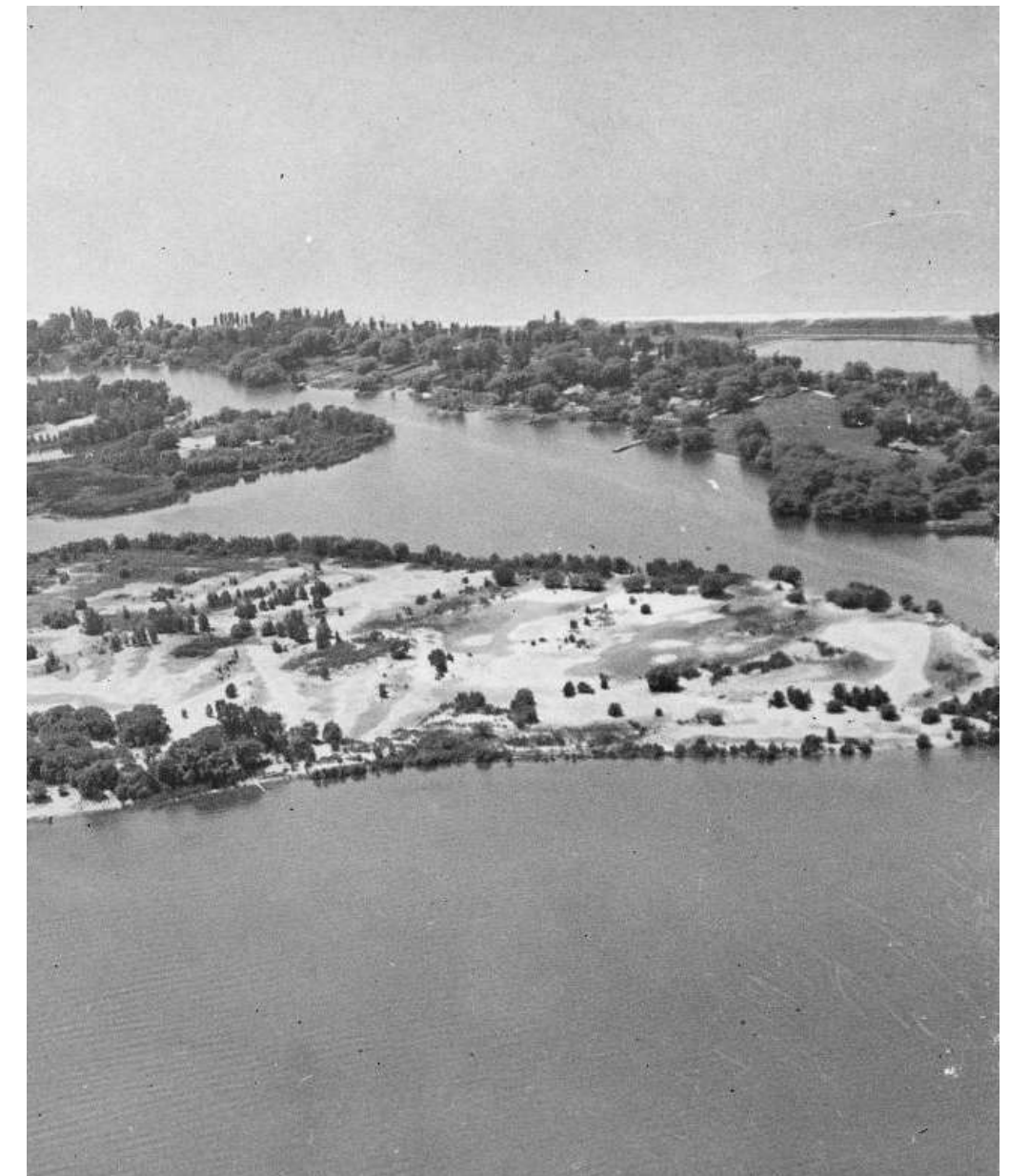
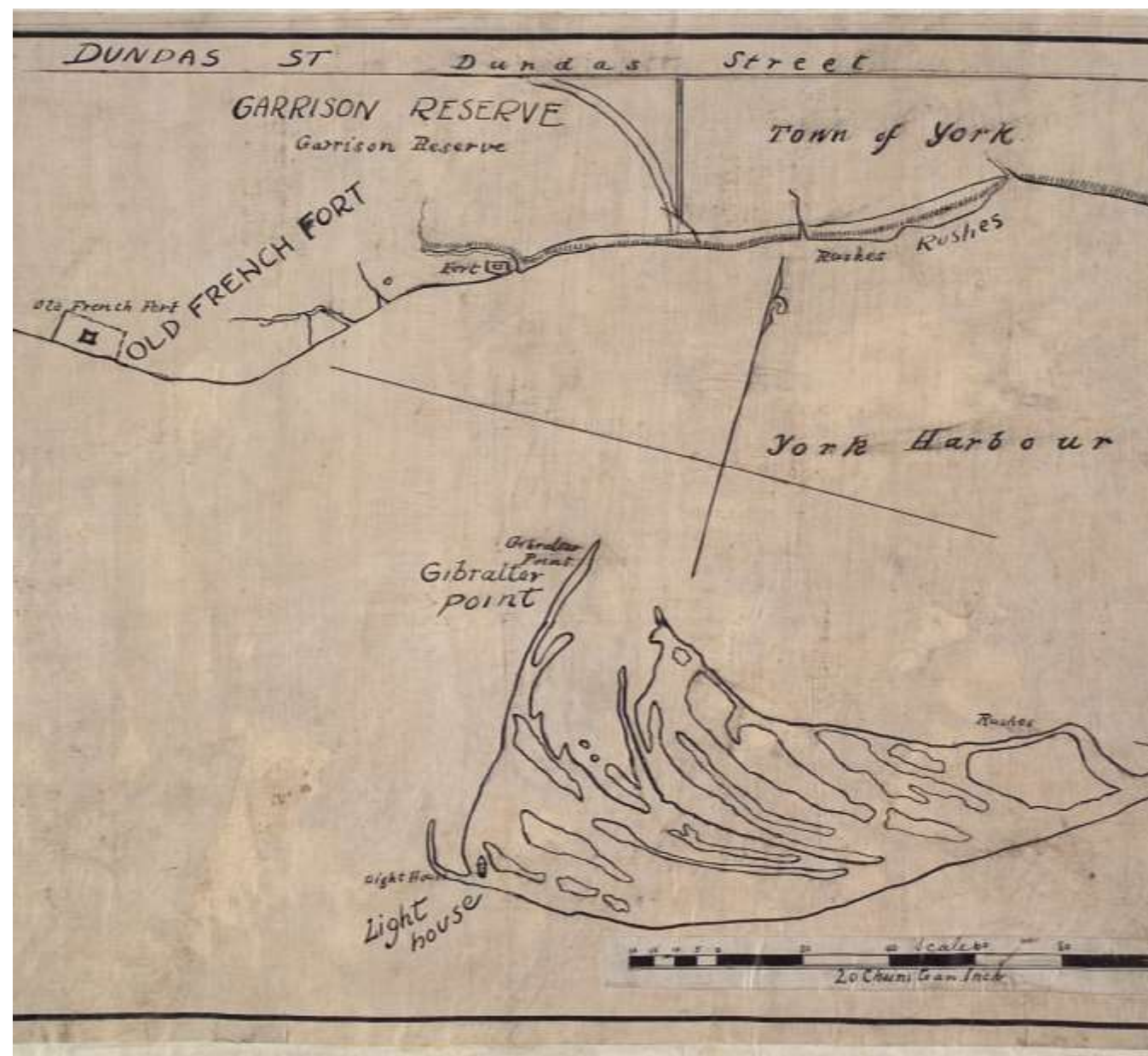
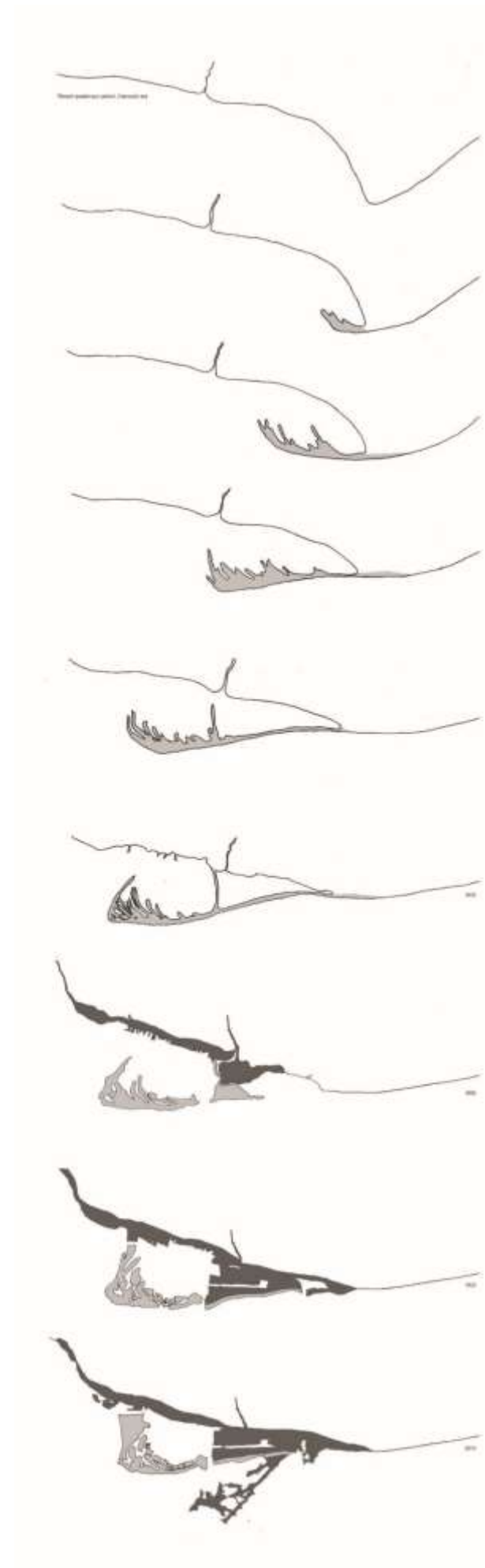
Gibraltar Point Erosion Control Project

Toronto Island Park Flood and Erosion Mitigation EA

Class I Archaeological Assessment



# Understand how the Island formed





# Understand the Island's past



... and the hidden stories



# Promote protection and value of natural areas





# Identify opportunities in existing built heritage







Existing Natural Heritage Areas - ESAs, PSW, and ANSIs



# Environmentally Significant Areas: Criteria

ESA	Habitat for Significant Species	Landform	Size and/or diversity	Ecological Function
Hanlan's Beach	43 flora 12 vegetation communities	Beach / dune	85 species	Notable songbird stopover
Ward's Island	47 flora 10 vegetation communities 1 fauna	Longshore drift and beach formation	87 species	Notable songbird stopover
Mugg's Island	26 flora 4 vegetation communities	Shallow water sediment deposition	49 species	Notable songbird stopover
Centre Island Meadows	43 flora 7 vegetation communities 4 fauna	Shallow water sediment deposition	73 species	Notable songbird stopover
West Algonquin Island	11 flora 4 vegetation communities	Shallow water sediment deposition	-	Notable songbird stopover
Snake Island	36 flora 5 vegetation communities 1 fauna	Shallow water sediment deposition	61 species	Notable songbird stopover





# Environmentally Significant Areas: Conditions

ESA	2012 Condition	Reasoning	2020 Condition	Reasoning
Hanlan's Beach	Good	Informal trails; fragmentation & species loss	Good or Excellent	Controlled access & barriers; reduced informal trails
Ward's Island	Fair or Good	Informal trails; some non-native species	Fair or Good	Reduced informal trails; presence of invasive non-native species
Mugg's Island	Fair or Good	Extensive recreational trails; non-native species	-	Further investigation required
Centre Island Meadows	Fair or Good	Adjacency to Works Yard (disturbance); non-native species abundance	-	Further investigation required
West Algonquin Island	-	Not observed	Poor or Fair	Abundance of non-native species; frequent disturbance
Snake Island	Fair or Good	Non-native species; frequent disturbance; significant deadfall	Poor or Fair	Increased abundance of non-native species; significant deadfall





# Island Flora

- **20 Vegetation Communities** assessed within ESAs (field work conducted from 1993 to present)
  - **4 Provincially Rare Communities:**  
Tallgrass Meadow Marsh (MAM6); Treed Sand Dune (SDT1); Dry Tallgrass Woodland (TPW1); and Fresh-Moist Tallgrass Woodland (TPW2)
- **377 Plant Species identified** (238 are native to Ontario, 139 are non-native)
  - **85 Locally Rare Species**
  - **12 Provincially Rare Species** presently or historically observed within study areas:  
Short-fruited Rush (*Juncus brachycarpus*); Purple Agalinis (*Agalinis purpurea* var. *purpurea*); False Pimpernel (*Lindernia dubia*); Cup Plant (*Silphium perfoliatum*); Hairy Evening-primrose (*Oenothera villosa*); Schweinitz's Flatsedge (*Cyperus schweinitzii*); Low Nutrush (*Scleria verticillata*); Nuttall's Waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*); Sharp-fruited Rush (*Juncus acuminatus*); American Beachgrass (*Ammophila breviligulata*); Beach Cinquefoil (*Potentilla paradoxa*); and Common Hoptree (*Ptelea trifoliata*)



# Island Fauna – Species At Risk





# Confirmed Significant Wildlife Habitat (SWH)

*Assessed using the SWH Criteria Schedules for Ecoregion 7E (MNR, 2015)*

- **Seasonal Concentration Areas of Animals:**

Waterfowl Stopover and Staging Areas; Raptor Wintering Area; Turtle Wintering Area; Migratory Butterfly Stopover Area; and Landbird Migratory Stopover Area

- **Specialized Habitat for Wildlife:**

Bald Eagle and Osprey Nesting, Foraging and Perching Habitat

- **Habitat for Species of Conservation Concern:**

Habitat for Special Concern and Rare Wildlife Species

**As a result, most development or site alteration projects, regardless of whether they are directly resulting from this master plan, will have to demonstrate how potential impacts to SWH will be mitigated.**

# Recommendations to inform Master Plan

- Protection and creation of **nearshore fish spawning habitat** to protect the "fish nursery of the waterfront".
- **Protection of SAR habitat and PSWs** from harmful development or interference
- **Careful management of ESAs** to maintain ecological integrity and protect rare and unique species and habitats from the effects of invasive species, climate change and other stressors.
- Implementation of a **tree planting program** and careful management of existing trees outside of ESAs in order to maintain a resilient urban forest canopy.
- Provision of **low-impact trails and interpretive features** to connect residents and visitors with the island's unique ecological features.
- Establish **Island-specific policy towards domestic animals** (e.g. dogs and cats) to support protection of important habitat and nesting areas across the Island.







# Sand Dune Stewardship with Fleming College



13 years

519 participants

3,114 participant hours

5,982 native trees and shrubs planted

10,000+ m<sup>2</sup> habitat enhanced





# Gibraltar Point Erosion Control – Beach Dune





# Sustainable Beach Access



A trail can be planned and managed as a means to help protect and enhance a natural area. If planned and built correctly, a trail will:

- Keep trail users on a designated path; and
- Introduce visitors to natural areas, encouraging a sense of ownership and stewardship

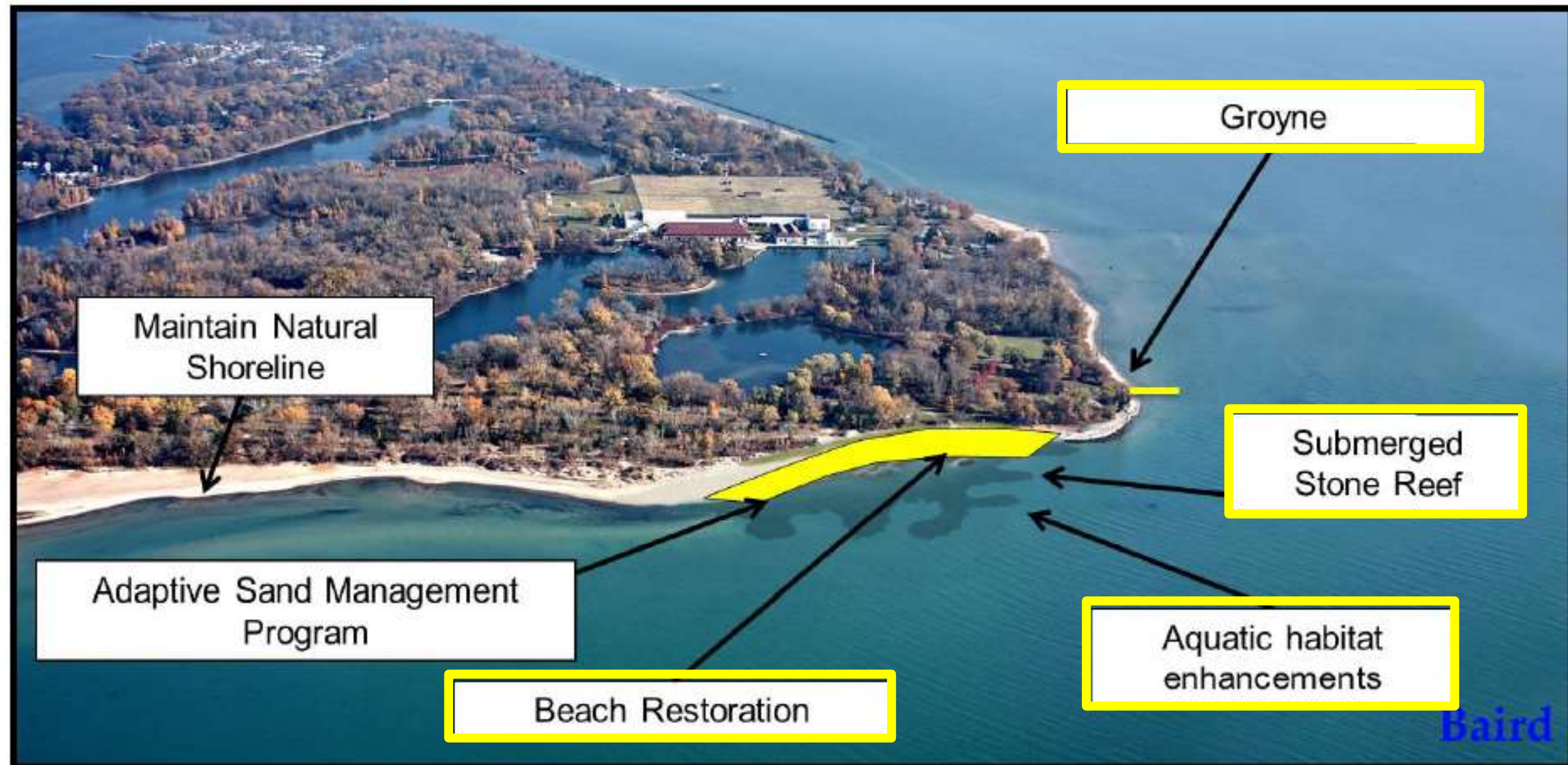
In highly sensitive and dynamic areas like sand dunes, the design of new trails considers:

- Prevailing wind
- Transport of sand
- Lake levels & wave action
- Sensitivity of surrounding natural features
- Amenities, points of interest
- Accessibility





# Gibraltar Point Erosion Control – Near-Shore Reef





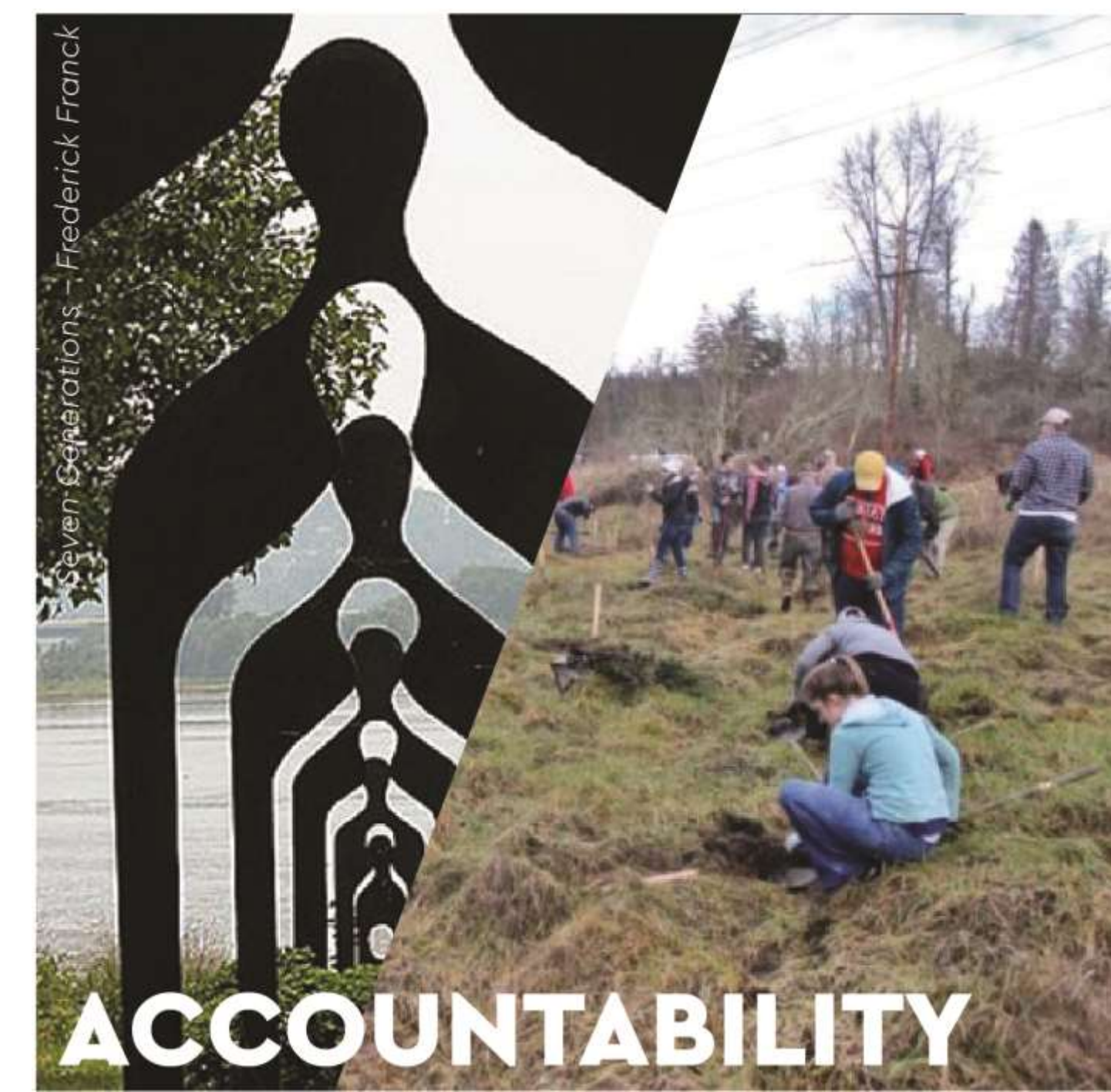
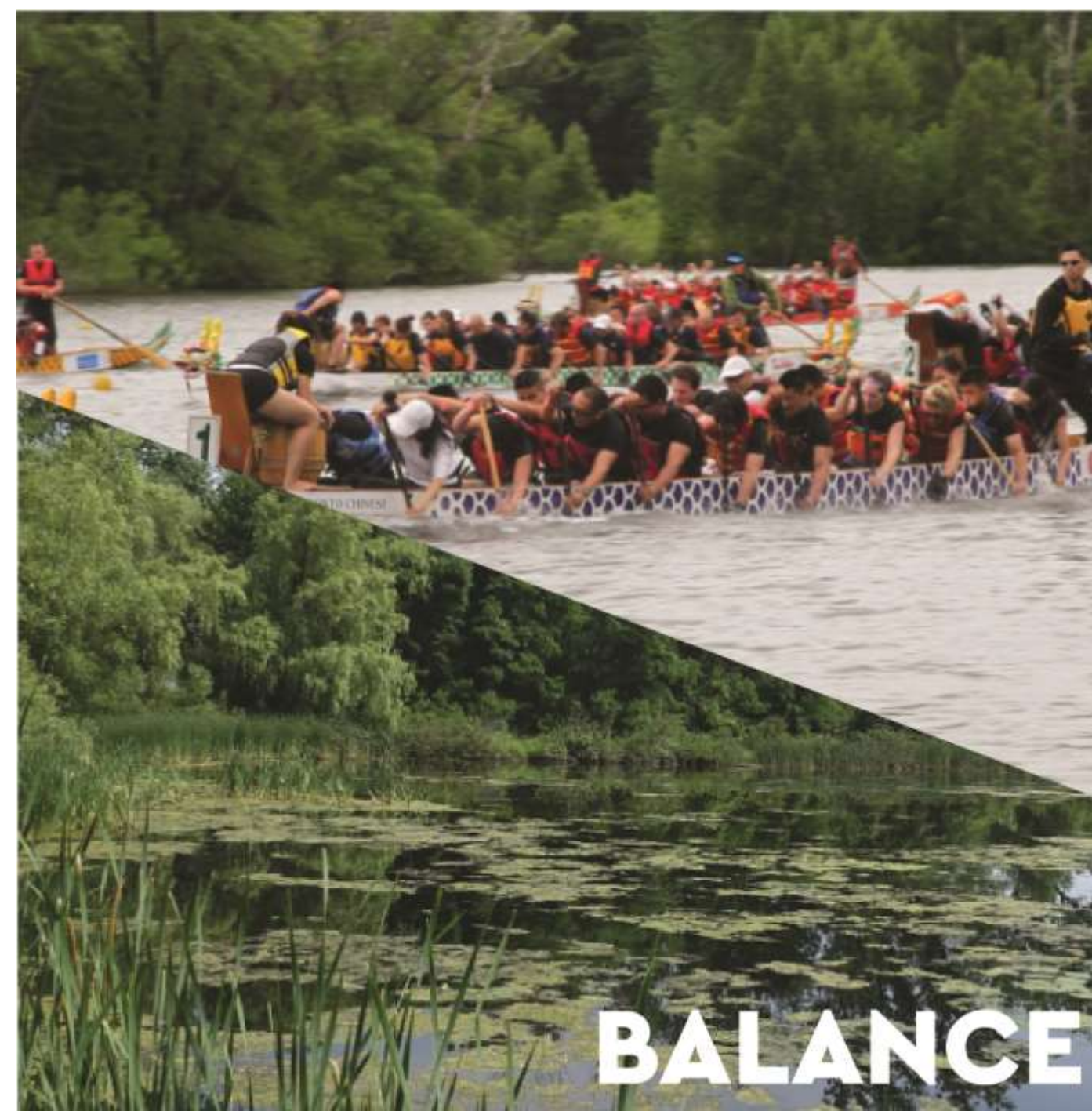
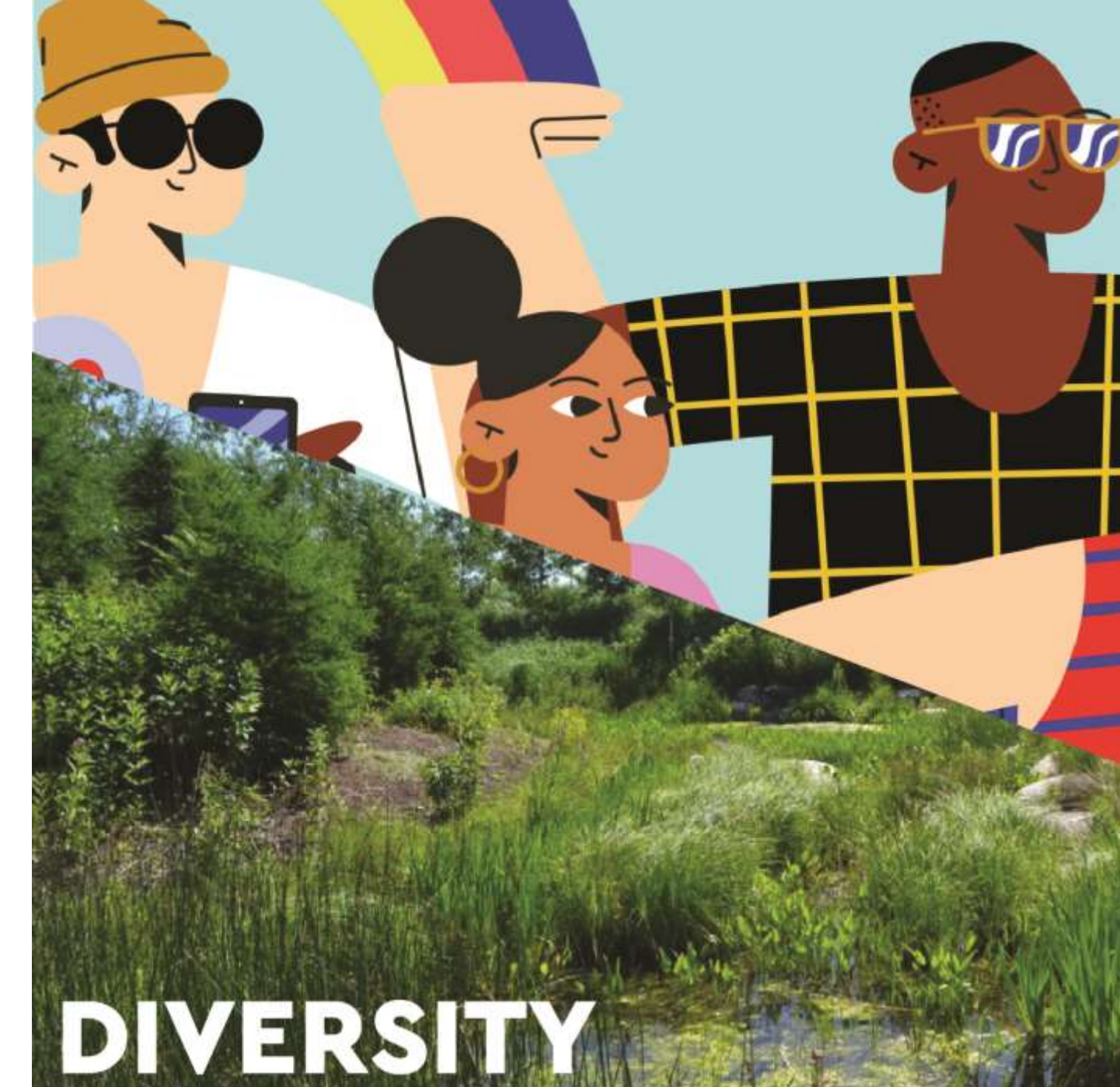
# Understand the current drivers\*

*\* A challenge or opportunity that is driving the need to improve Toronto Island Park*

- The Island's **one-of-a-kind identity** is uncelebrated.
- The **Indigenous history and significance** of the Island is not well known.
- The Island's **cultural and natural heritage** are undervalued.
- The Toronto Island **visitor experience** could be improved.
- The Island has unrealized and **under-realized business opportunities** that should be explored and improved to advance a holistic visitor experience.
- **Access and Accessibility** – It can be difficult to get to the Island.
- Toronto Island is a **dynamic natural environment** that is constantly changing.
- Toronto Island and its supporting **infrastructure is aging**.
- **Population Growth** is placing increasing demands on Parks.



# Identify the values





# Outline a vision to inspire



## **PROTECT + RESTORE**

Integrating stewardship and resilience into managing sensitive environments; creating safe, welcoming spaces for all living beings; and preserving the sense of refuge and escape from urban life.



## **HONOUR + CELEBRATE**

Respecting the values and traditions of Indigenous peoples; making space for diverse perspectives to nurture a sense of belonging for all visitors; and sharing broad stories of this complex place.



## **PLAY + EXPLORE**

Embracing the joy and wonder of this place; delivering unique and accessible activities that are Island-specific; and creating a culture of collaboration and sharing to reveal new ways to experience the park.



# Establish guiding principles grounded in the values

- Honour and respect Indigenous communities, placekeeping, and their rights and responsibilities to the islands and water
- Celebrate and protect the unique cultural identity and spirit of the islands
- Prioritize, protect, and advocate for the ecological integrity of the islands
- Leverage the dynamic nature of the islands and waterways to support adaptive and flexible uses
- Demonstrate resilience, sustainability, and responsible landscape and water management
- Prioritize equitable access and inclusion and correct the perception of private and public spaces within the park's limits
- Enhance visitor experience for all seasons
- Provide diverse amenities and experiences to encourage exploration, sharing, and discovery
- Support opportunities for diverse and sustainable businesses to thrive
- Develop evidence-based strategic investments to ensure long-term and continued success, and plan in a financially sustainable manner
- Prioritize the enhancement and adaptation of undervalued assets to support new uses
- Ensure any new development embodies the spirit of the Island's character



# Understand the Island in the context of the Downtown, Core Circle and Waterfront parks





# Understand the Island in the context of future city and connected park systems





# Master Plan Lenses

*High-level themes that are used to evaluate and compare outcomes and proposals within the dual workstream framework and identify gaps that need further consideration and study*

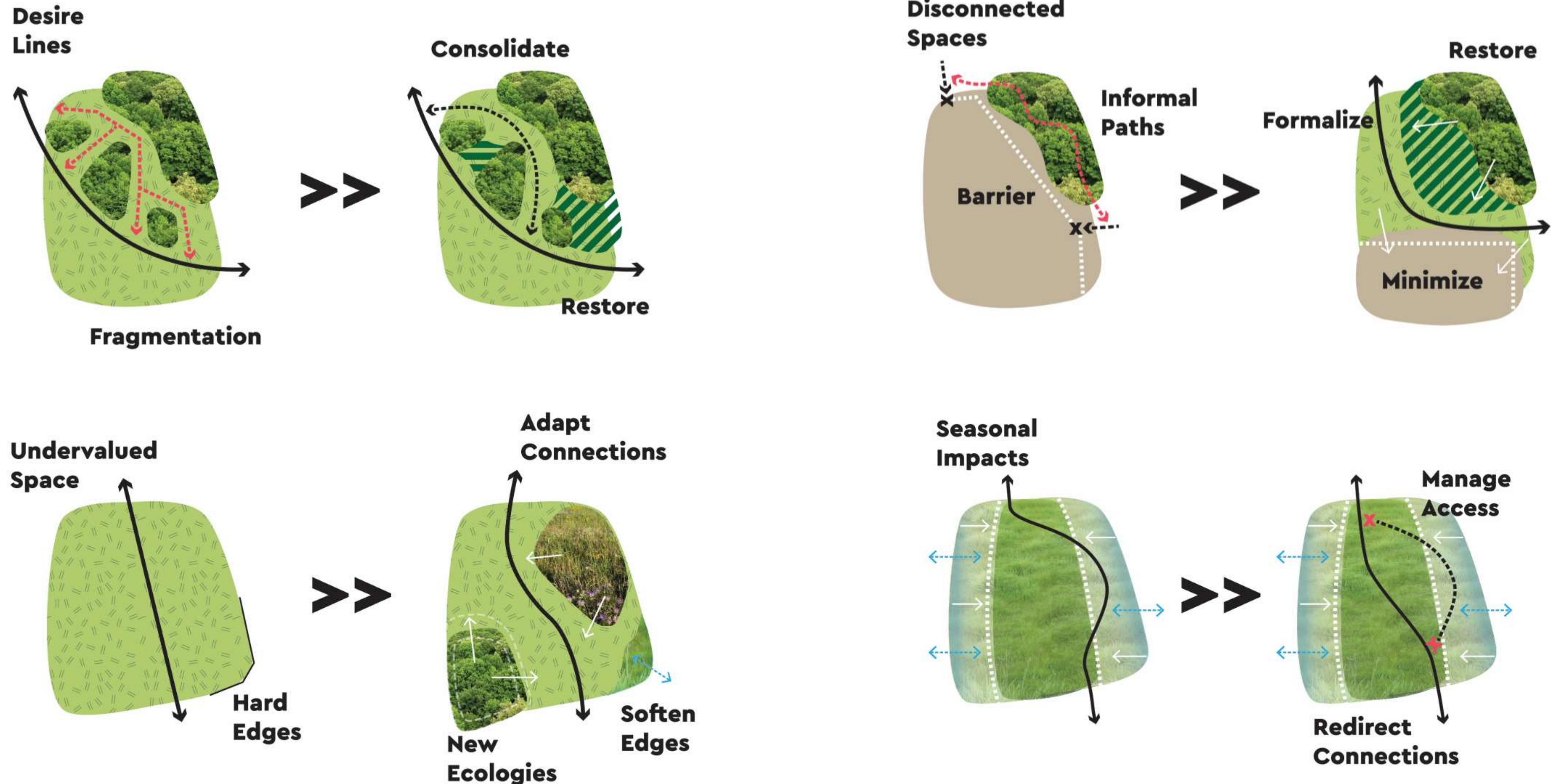




# Supporting a Dynamic Environment



# Light Touch + Informed Implementation







Promoting stewardship and resilience

















Enhancing visitor experience in nature





Ontario



A green-tinted photograph of a park path. In the foreground, several people are walking and cycling away from the camera. The path is lined with lush green trees. In the background, the CN Tower is visible against a clear sky. The word "Discussion" is written in white, underlined text across the center of the image.

# Discussion





***Your insights and comments are appreciated!***

**Thank you!**