

WELCOME

Scarborough Bluffs West Revitalization Study

Public Consultation Event
May 28, 2024



SCARBOROUGH BLUFFS WEST REVITALIZATION STUDY

Project Intent & Study Area



- Assess opportunities to improve access to and the long-term protection of **4.5 km of shoreline** between the Eastern Beaches (Silver Birch Ave) and Bluffer's Park.
- Focus on opportunities to conserve and enhance natural features and minimize hazards, while improving how the public accesses, moves through, and experiences the waterfront.

SCARBOROUGH BLUFFS WEST REVITALIZATION STUDY

Environmental Assessment (EA) Process

The study is proceeding as an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) (now called a Comprehensive EA) under the Ontario EA Act for which there are two phases:

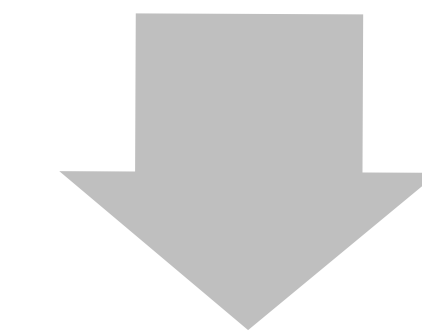
Phase 1 - Terms of Reference (ToR) (CURRENT PHASE)

- Provides a roadmap for how the EA is to be prepared
- The ToR will describe:
 - Project Purpose, Study Areas and Project Timelines
 - Problem/Opportunity Assessment
 - Existing Environment (Natural and Human)
 - Evaluation of “Alternatives To” – different ways to solve the problem or address the opportunity
 - Framework for Identification and Evaluation of “Alternative Methods” – different ways to implement the preferred “Alternative to”
 - Preliminary comparative evaluation criteria
 - Consultation plan for the EA

Phase 2 - EA Preparation

- Alternatives are generated that address the problems and opportunities and then evaluated using criteria and indicators which measure environmental effects and how well the alternative meets the project objectives
- EA ensures that governments consider environmental and socio-economic impacts of projects before construction begins.
- EAs identify issues and opportunities in an area, then develop and refine potential alternatives to address them.
- The provincial Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks will ultimately review and approve the ToR and EA.

**Terms of Reference
(2023-2024)**



**Environmental
Assessment
(2025 onward)**

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History of Waterfront Revitalization Plans and Policies

Long history of planning for and policies around Toronto Waterfront Revitalization provides the basis for the Scarborough Bluffs West Revitalization Project.

Some key studies are:

- The Waterfront Plan for the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Area, 1967
- Regeneration: Toronto's Waterfront and Sustainable City, 1991
- Integrated Shoreline Management Plan, 1996
- City of Toronto Accessibility Design Guidelines, 2004
- City of Toronto Official Plan (2023 consolidated)
- Toronto Waterfront Aquatic Habitat Restoration Strategy, 2007
- Fish Community Objectives for Lake Ontario, 2013
- The Living City Policies, 2014
- City of Toronto Bikeway Trails Implementation Plan
- Update on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization, 2022

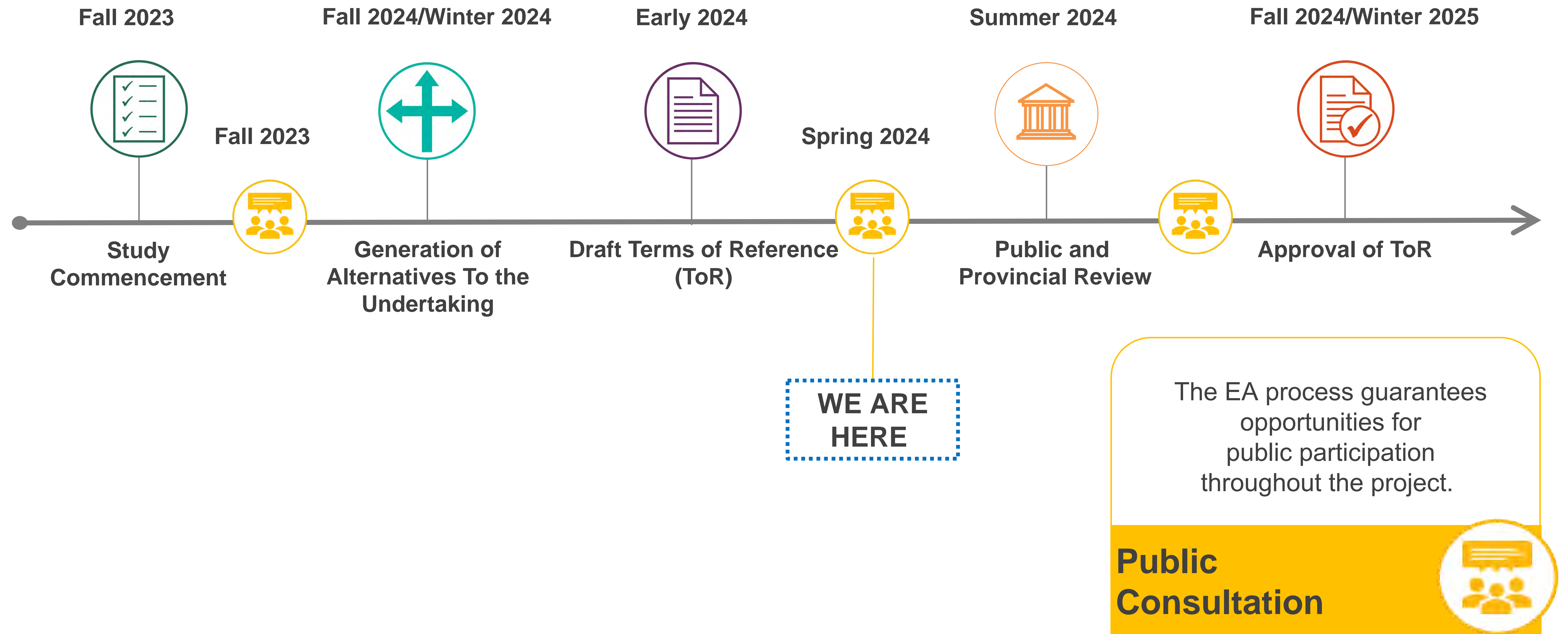
In summary, many of these reports speak to the need for access to the waterfront for all users and closing the gap in the Waterfront Trail.



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Environmental Assessment (EA) Timeline

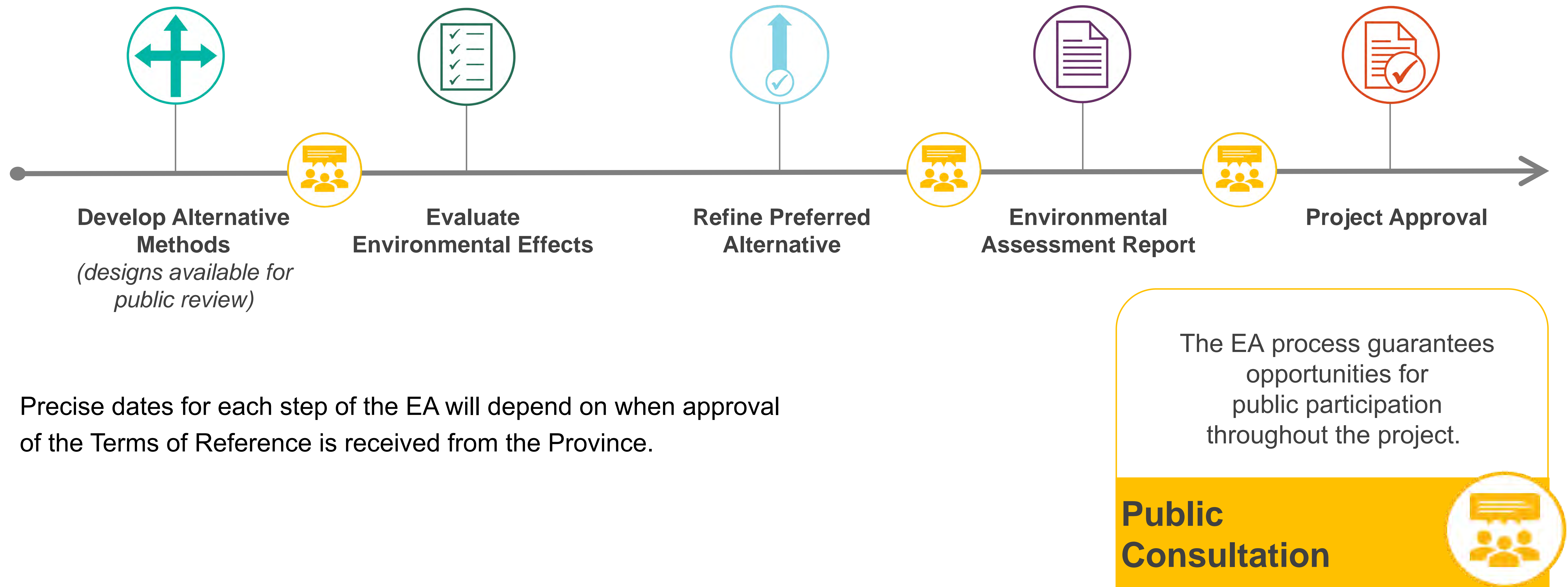
Phase 1 – Terms of Reference



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Environmental Assessment (EA) Timeline

Phase 2 – Environmental Assessment



Precise dates for each step of the EA will depend on when approval of the Terms of Reference is received from the Province.

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Project Objectives

The project objectives listed below will be used to structure the evaluation of alternatives:

Conserve and enhance habitats and natural features on land and in the water

- Balance habitat loss with habitat creation and enhancement of existing habitats

Manage public safety and property risk

- Provide safe access to and along the waterfront, manage risks from erosion to users and property, and provide access for emergency services vehicles.

Provide an enjoyable waterfront experience

- Provide trail connections to and along the waterfront along with a diversity of recreational experiences

Consistency and coordination with other initiatives

- Ensure consistency with local, regional, provincial and national plans and policies including climate change policies and on the compatibility with adjacent projects

Achieve value for cost/cost effectiveness

- Ability to deliver value for cost

Input from the first round of Consultation confirmed these objectives.

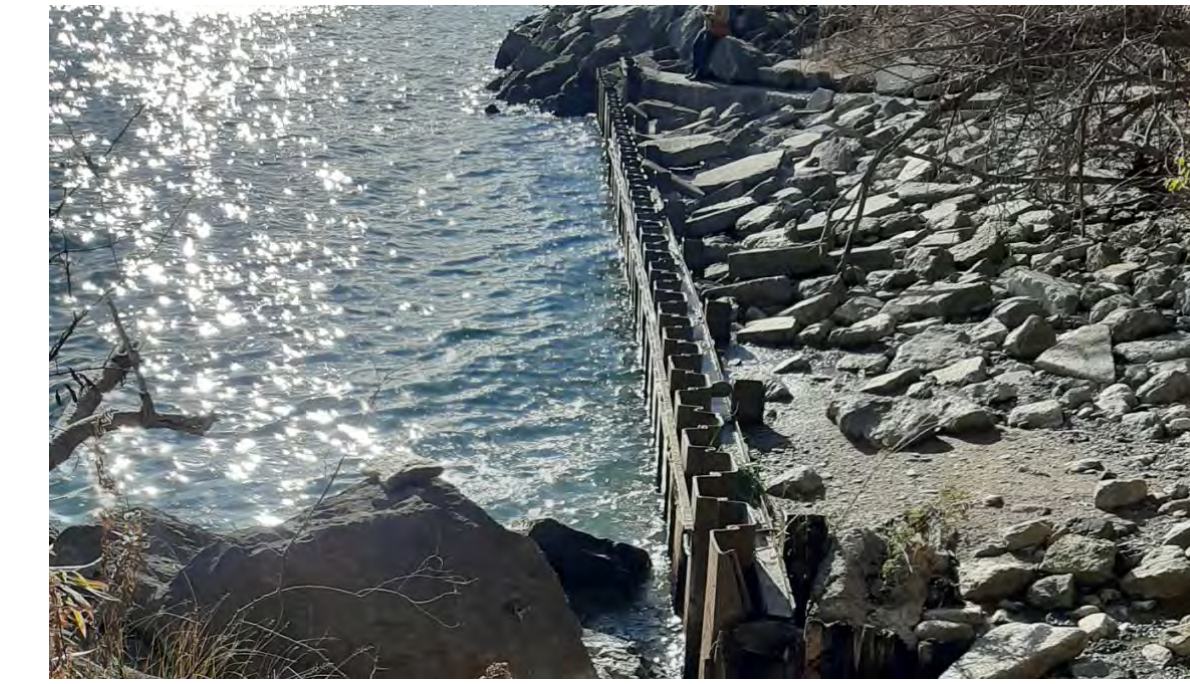


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Existing Coastal Conditions – Protected Shoreline



1 Sheet Pile Wall



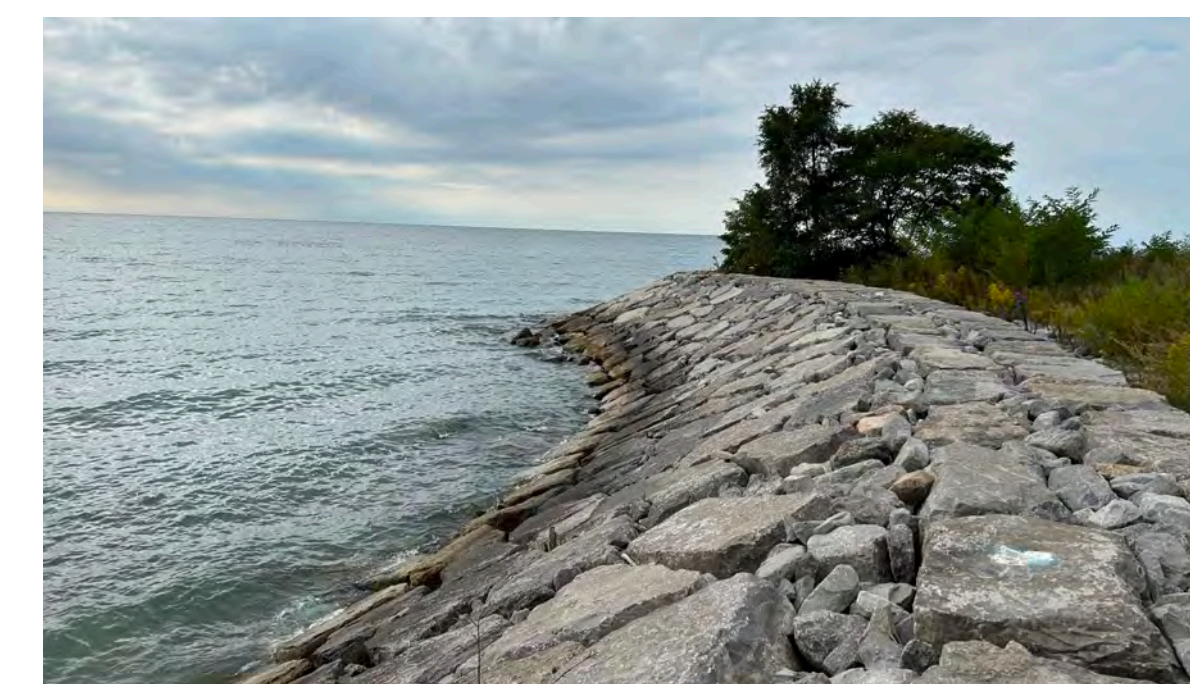
A metal or vinyl structure that use interlocking edges to create a continuous wall parallel to the shore.

2 Concrete Seawall



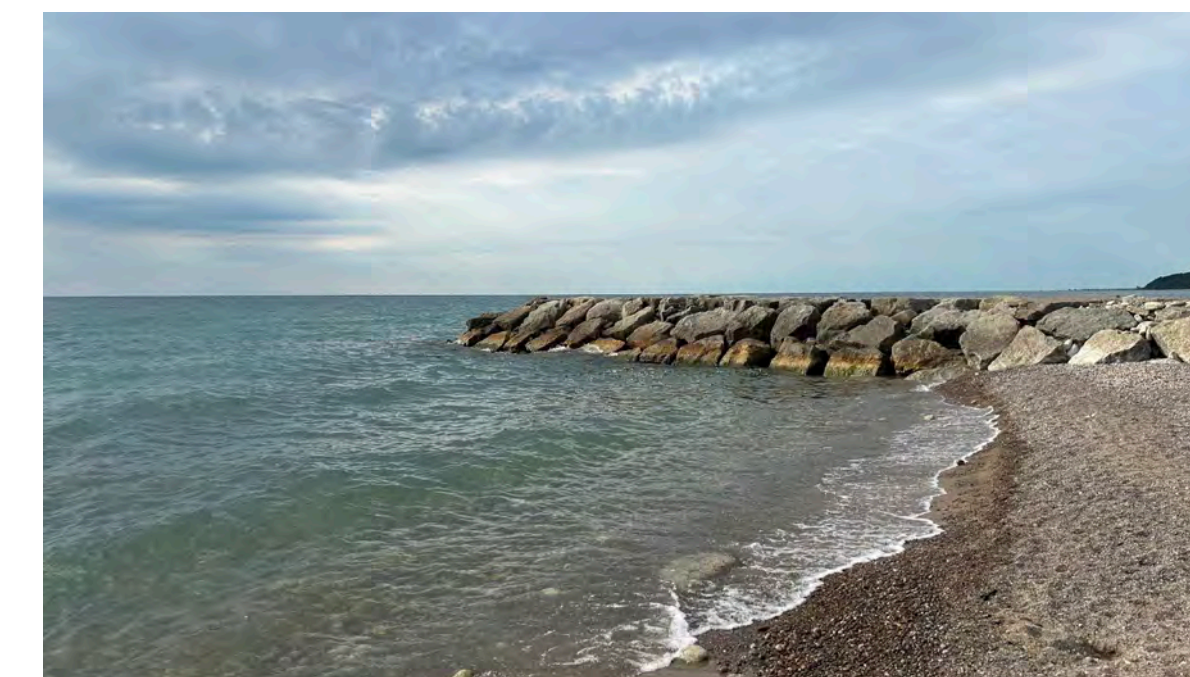
A concrete structure used to protect inland areas from wave action and prevent coastal erosion.

3 Armourstone Revetment



Sloped or unsloped structure built parallel to the shore, made of an impact resistant material. Armourstone is broken quarried rock often used in coastal engineering.

4 Beach & Groyne System



A low wall of armourstone or other material extending out into the lake. A series of groynes act together to create and protect beaches.

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Erosion

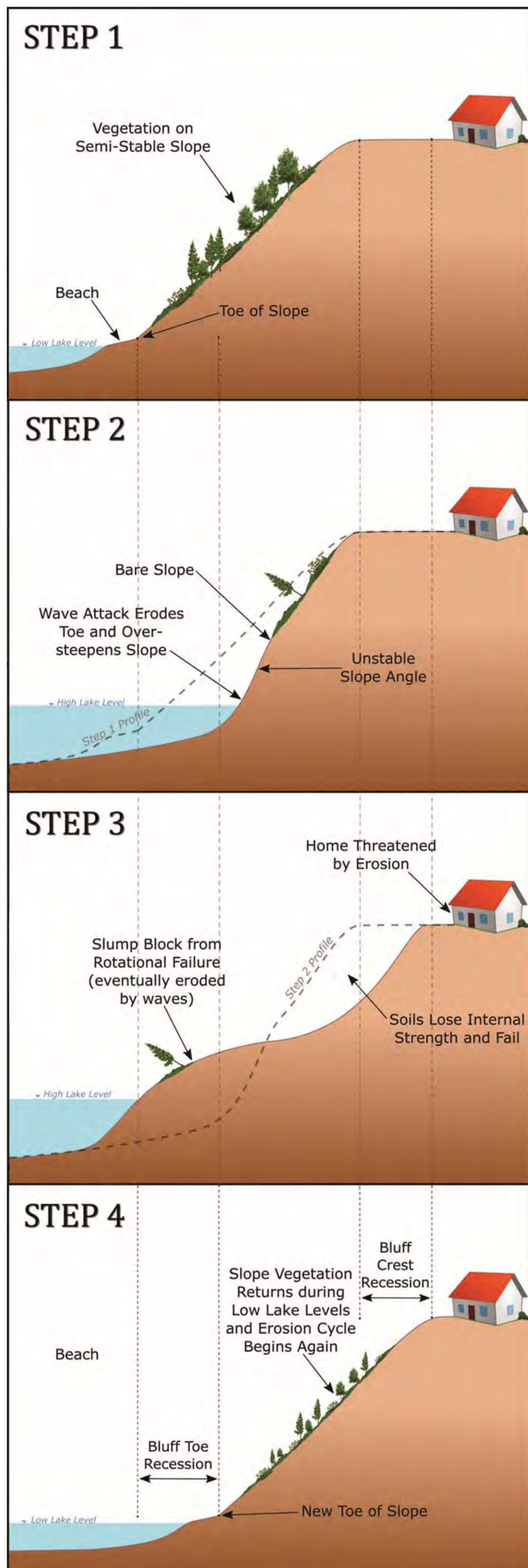


Image from: Maitland Conservation. 2022. Shoreline Bluff Erosion Cycle.

- Erosion refers to the loss of material (soil, rock, etc.) due to wind, water, or other processes.
- The erosion process along the Bluffs is complex and is related to multiple factors, such as: ground water seepage, over land run-off, freeze-thaw cycle, wave conditions and water levels.
- Throughout the study, reference will be made to existing erosion management structures already in place to help manage shoreline erosion along the Bluffs West area.
- TRCA is responsible for installation and monitoring and the maintenance of these shoreline structures.
- Future improvements or additions to these shoreline structures are part of what will be explored in the Environmental Assessment.



The Bluff Erosion Process

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Existing Conditions

- 94% of the shoreline has some form of protection. The only natural shore is at the Needles on the west side of Bluffers park
- Certain areas along top of Bluffs are at high risk of failure
- The Kingston Road corridor will see intensified use as development occurs
- Denser communities cause more people to rely on parks for recreation and relaxation
- No extensive designated bikeway network through the project site
- There is a lack of formal access to the shoreline that links to transit, active transportation and parking
- Tableland parks have no programming and few facilities
- No marine archaeology sites identified. Land based archaeological studies to be conducted for any ground disturbing activities



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Impacts of Unmanaged Use

- Study area has been impacted by past and on-going human use
 - Informal trails
 - Unmanaged access
 - Garbage and litter
- Wildlife is generally urban tolerant and present in surrounding neighbourhoods and parks
- Many vegetation communities are dominated by exotic species (e.g., dog strangling vine)
- Fish habitat has been altered by past shoreline works



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Problems and Opportunities Assessment

Input during Consultation Round 1 refined the problems and opportunities to be addressed:

- Improve how people access, move through and experience the waterfront
- Balance conservation of natural features and habitat with sensitive revitalization
- Protect Toronto Water infrastructure along the shoreline and ensure outfalls continue to flow unimpeded
- Address shoreline erosion and slope stability
- Explore feasibility of a connected trail along the Lake Ontario shoreline



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Public Consultation Round 1: What We Heard

What we heard during consultation with residents and interest groups from November 2023 – February 29, 2024:

Access to Shoreline

- Strong desire for safe and formal access for all abilities to and along the waterfront
- Concerns about the inability for EMS and City workers to access the site
- There are already sufficient areas of the shore that could be accessed, and this area should be left alone

Erosion

- Concerns regarding the impacts of climate change and fluctuating lake levels
- Desire for greater erosion protection measures to prevent landslides
- Questions about addressing immediate erosion concerns and damage to existing shore protection works, as well as erosion on private property

Environmental Conservation

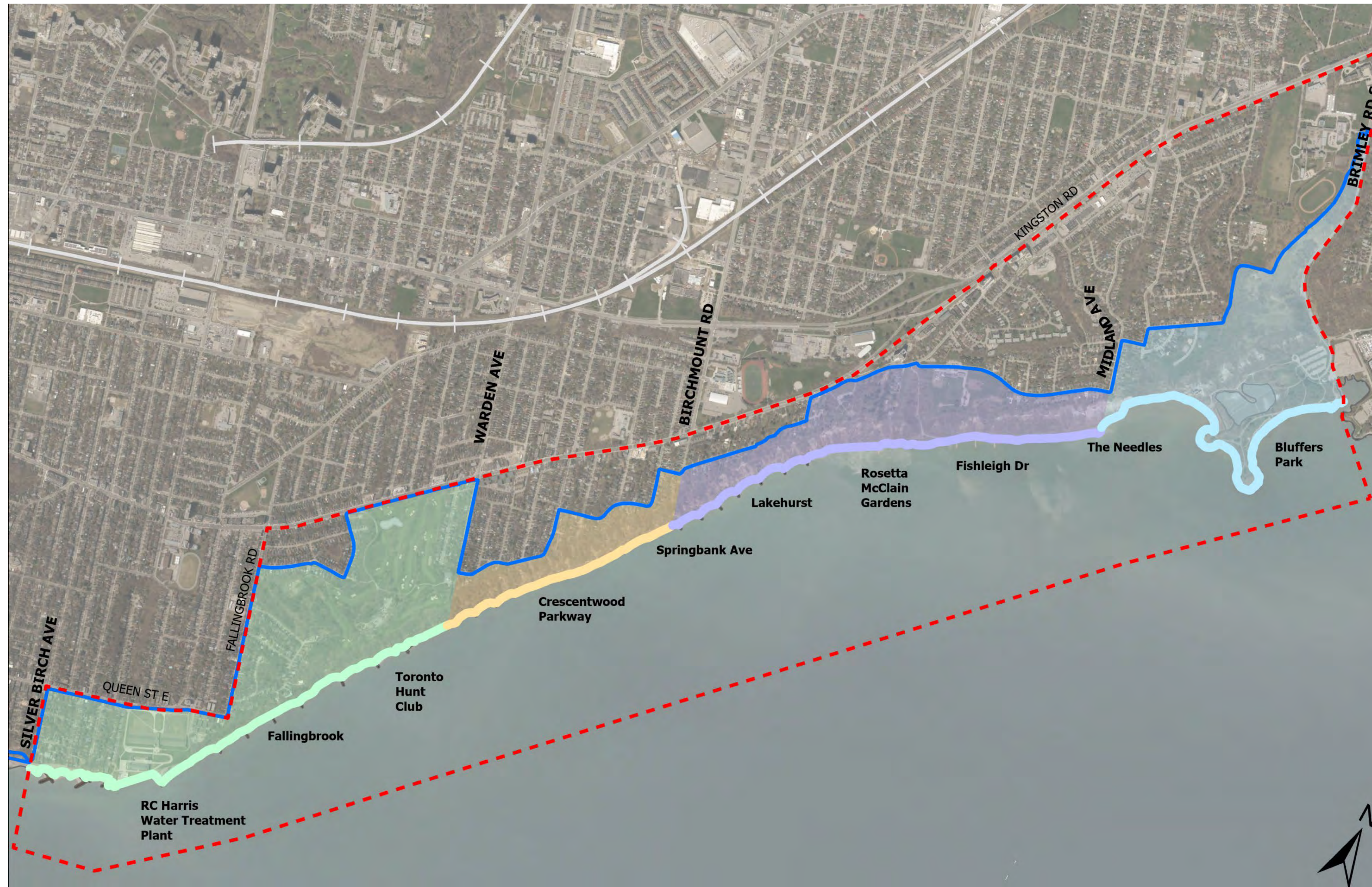
- Strong desire to conserve green space, and plant, wildlife, and fish habitat
- Some people have the impression that the area is untouched and would like to keep “wild” and “isolated nature” of the bluffs and shoreline
- Concern regarding increased human use and trash leading to greater stress on the environment

Cost Effectiveness/Project Timeline

- Desire to expedite the Terms of Reference and Environmental Assessment process
- Concerns regarding the cost of the project versus other City priorities

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Project Study Area – Segments



To facilitate the Alternatives development and evaluation process, the Project Study Area has been divided into **four shoreline segments**:

- Segment 1 — Silver Birch Avenue to Warden Avenue
- Segment 2 — Warden Avenue to Birchmount Road
- Segment 3 — Birchmount Road to the East end of Fishleigh informal access
- Segment 4 — East end of Fishleigh informal access to Bluffers Park (the Needles)

- - - Study Area

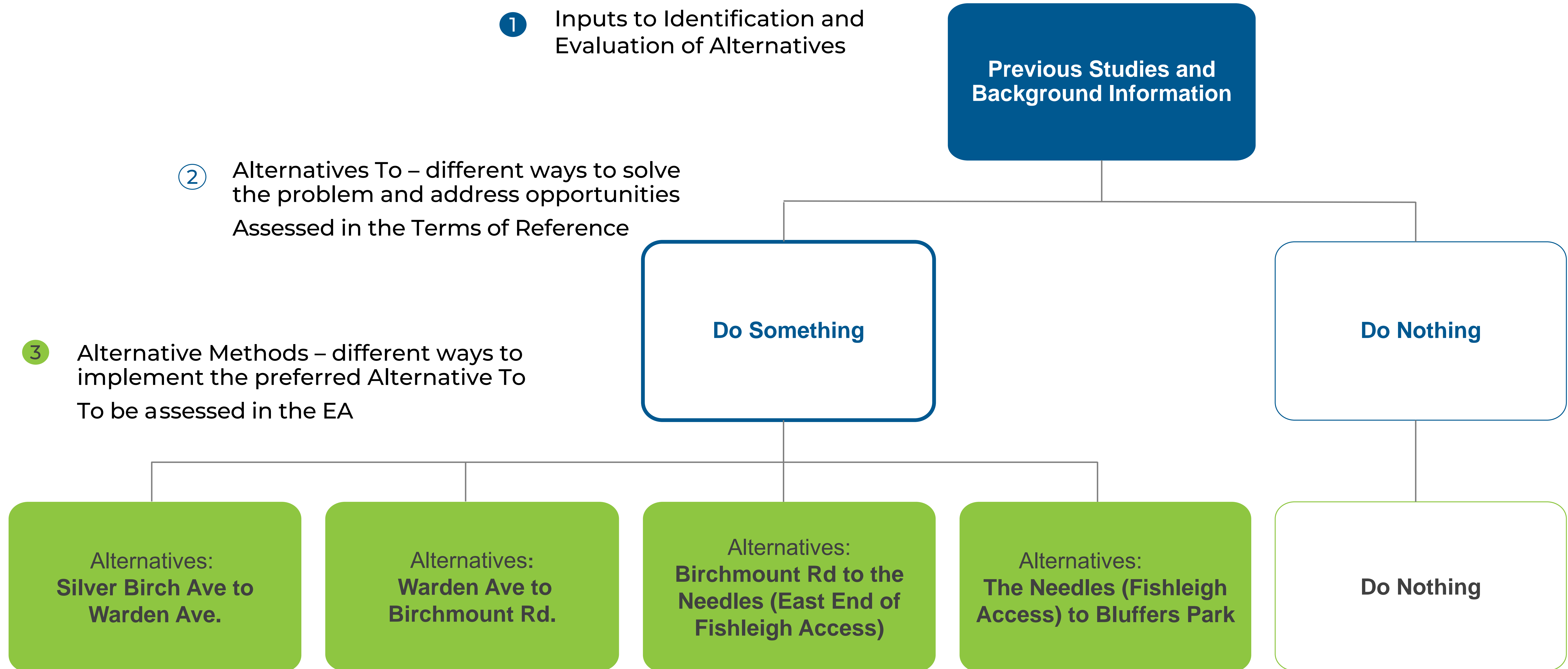
— Waterfront Trail

— Railways

0 0.25 0.5 1 km

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Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives



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Evaluation of Alternatives To The Undertaking

Two Alternatives to solve the Problem and address the Opportunity

DO NOTHING

- Avoidance of new construction costs and environmental effects during construction
- No resolution of long-term erosion risk
- No extensive designated bikeway network through the project site
- Lack of proper access to the shoreline for EMS, City staff, and the public will remain
- Continued impact to ecological integrity of site due to unmanaged use (e.g., garbage, foot paths, etc.)

DO SOMETHING

- Consistent with City, TRCA, and Provincial planning and policies with respect to the waterfront and the need to integrate erosion protection works with habitat improvements and improved public access
- Addresses long-term erosion risk
- Addresses unmanaged use along the waterfront and lack of access for EMS, City staff and users
- Additional waterfront parkland and public access
- Opportunity to enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats

In summary, the “Do Something” alternative will be carried forward to the development of ‘Alternative Methods’ during the EA.

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Identification and Evaluation of Alternative Methods

Alternative methods will be identified by segment based on following steps:

Step 1 - Determine Footprint for Alternatives

Footprints are different configurations of shore protection works, area requirements for public spaces and access to and along the waterfront.

Step 2 - Identify Desired Design Elements

Each alternative will include trail connections, recreational attributes, aquatic and terrestrial habitat enhancements and toe and/or slope erosion protection measure.

Step 3 - Comparative Evaluation of Alternatives

Alternatives will be compared by segment to choose a preferred alternative. Criteria and indicators will be used to assess effects and identify trade-offs which will guide the decision making.

Step 4 - Detailed Assessment of Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative will be described in more detail and how it will be constructed will be described such that a detailed assessment of environmental effects can be undertaken.

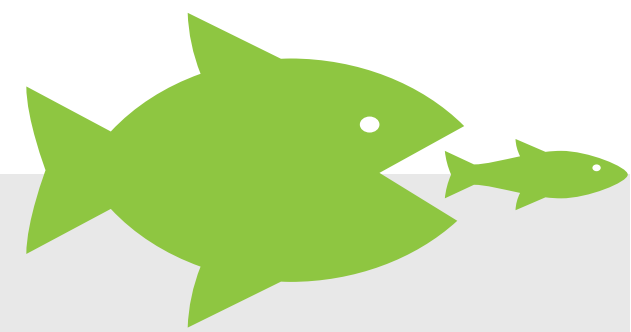
Alternative Methods are different ways to implement the preferred Alternative To

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Preliminary Evaluation Criteria

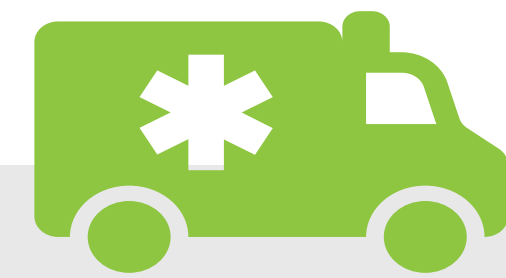
The evaluation criteria measure the ability of each alternative **to meet the project objectives**.

Naturalization



- Extent of aquatic habitat enhanced or diminished
- Extent of terrestrial habitat created, enhanced, or diminished
- Potential impact on Species at Risk

Risk



- Ability to minimize public safety risk and property loss as a result of slope and shoreline erosion/failure
- Ability to improve Emergency Services access to the waterfront
- Ability to minimize public safety risk for trails along water's edge

Access and Experience



- Improve public access to the waterfront
- Potential for changes to the use of the waterfront for recreation
- Ability to integrate within community
- Opportunities for viewsheds or scenic lookouts

Consistency and Compatibility



- Ability to integrate with City and other agency plans and initiatives
- Ability to protect source water protection areas
- Potential impact on archaeological resources, built heritage resources, and cultural heritage landscapes

Fiscal Viability



- Estimated capital costs
- Maintenance and operations costs (shoreline works only)

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Next Steps

Activities

Consultation Round 2

Notice of Draft ToR – Agency,
Public, and Indigenous Review

Issue Notice of Submission –
Agency, Public, and
Indigenous Review

Notice of Commencement for
EA

Timeline

April to June 2024

Summer 2024

Fall 2024

Winter 2025



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**Complete the survey and
sign up for email
updates:**

toronto.ca/ScarboroughBluffsWest

Comment Deadline:
June 11, 2024



**Questions?
Comments?**



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