

# SCARBOROUGH BLUFFS WEST PROJECT TERMS OF REFERENCE CONSULTATION RECORD

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT



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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The Scarborough Bluffs West (SBW) Project will establish a long-term vision to guide the renewal of approximately 4.5 km of Lake Ontario shoreline from the Eastern Beaches (Silver Birch Avenue) to Bluffer's Park. The Project will explore the enhancement and protection of sensitive shoreline and natural areas, in addition to opportunities for improved waterfront experiences and access to and along the shoreline. The Study Area is located along the Lake Ontario shoreline, stretching from Silver Birch Avenue in the west to Bluffer's Park in the East.

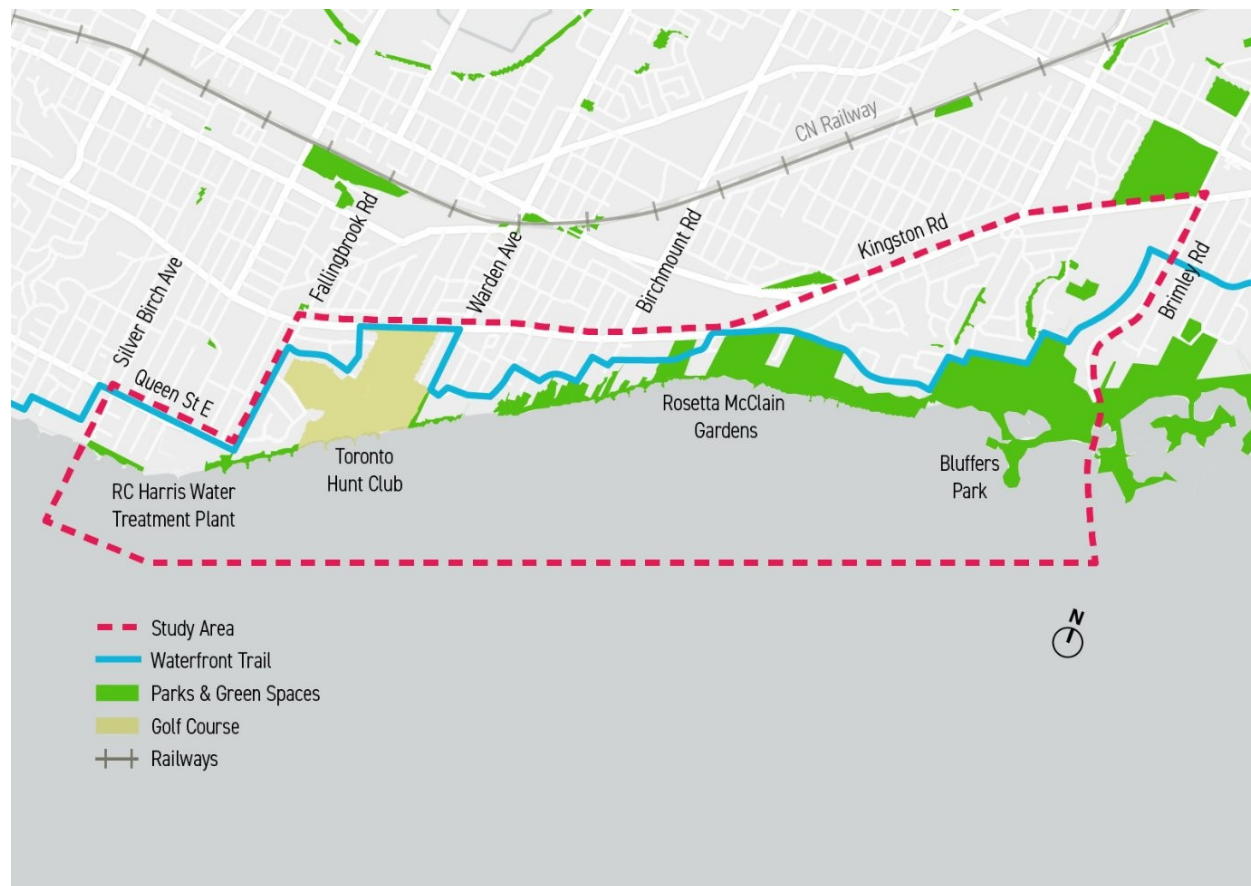


Figure 1: SBW Study Area Map

The study is following the approved planning process for projects under the *Environmental Assessment (EA) Act* (1990) that includes a commitment to an open and consultative process. Given the interest in waterfront projects, it is critical to develop a responsive yet flexible consultation strategy that builds on the lessons learned from other waterfront projects and seeks to engage members of the public and interest groups beyond the local area. Engagement and consultation with Indigenous communities, both rights holders and those who identify as Indigenous living in the City, is a critical component. Finally, engagement and discussions with the regulatory community has been a component of the planning work to date.

This record summarizes consultation activities and feedback received during Round One and Two of consultation, taking place from November 2, 2023, to June 11, 2024, and includes Treaty Holder and

Indigenous Communities, and urban Indigenous engagement, public consultation, and agency consultation.

## 2. CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

This report details the activities and feedback received during the Terms of Reference (ToR) phase of the SBW Comprehensive (formerly Individual) EA.

Round One of consultation was aimed at informing the public, landowners and interest groups about the study and identifying concerns and opportunities. During Round One of Consultation, members of the public and interest groups were provided with information and opportunities to provide feedback on:

- The consultation activities
- Existing conditions
- Project objectives
- Problem/opportunity assessment
- Types of Alternatives to be considered

During Round Two of Consultation, members of the public, landowners, and interest groups were provided with information and opportunities to provide feedback on:

- Existing conditions
- What was heard during Consultation Round One
- Evaluation of Alternatives to the Undertaking
- Framework for Identification of Alternative Methods
- Preliminary Evaluation Criteria

Interest groups, agencies, and the public (including landowners) were notified of the study through newspaper notices, the project website, direct mail, emails, on-site signage, and social media posts.

A Community Advisory Group (CAG) was also formed made up of interest groups relevant to the study.

Consultation with Treaty Holders and Indigenous Communities and urban Indigenous people and organizations is outlined in **Section 6**.

Public consultation activities engaged individuals through virtual surveys, virtual meetings, an online mapping tool (Social Pinpoint), narrated videos, an in-person pop-up event, an in-person drop-in event, and two virtual Information Sessions.

Overall, public feedback identified several main themes including safer access to the shoreline, erosion, environmental conservation, active transportation facilities, and consultation/project timeline.

## 3. CONSULTATION MECHANISMS

### 3.1 Notices

#### 3.1.1 Notice of Study Commencement

A Notice of Commencement was distributed to notify interest groups, members of the public, Treaty Holders and Indigenous Communities, and the urban Indigenous community about Project Commencement in November 2023. The Notice of Commencement was published in the Bluffs Monitor in their December 2023 issue. The notice was also published on the project's website and emails with the Notice of Commencement attached to interest groups (including residents' associations, community groups, advocacy groups, and other organizations), institutions, elected officials, Treaty Holders and Indigenous Communities, and the urban Indigenous community were sent on November 2, 2023. The Notice of Study Commencement can be found in **APPENDIX A**.

#### 3.1.2 Notice of Consultations

##### 3.1.2.1 *Notice of Consultation Round One*

A variety of methods were used to notify members of the public of Round One of consultation, which launched January 29, 2024, and closed February 28, 2024. These methods are described in **Table 1**. The project website was also updated with information regarding the virtual information session. The notice provided information on the project, and consultation activities including the online survey, Social Pinpoint mapping tool, and virtual information session.

##### 3.1.2.2 *Notice of Consultation Round Two*

Similar methods were used to notify members of the public of Round Two of consultation. The project website was updated with information regarding the Round Two consultation events and materials.

Table 1: Notifications

Notification	Contact	Number of Individuals and Method of Contact	Date
Notice of Consultation Round One	Local Residents	13,000 by Direct Mail	January 29, 2024
	Project Mailing List	428 by Email	January 29, 2024
	Interest Group List (residents' associations, community groups, organizations, businesses, institutions, elected officials, CAG members)	74 by Email	January 29, 2024
	Agencies and Utilities	63 by Email	January 29, 2024
	Treaty Holders and Indigenous Communities and the urban Indigenous community	29 by Email	January 29, 2024

Notification	Contact	Number of Individuals and Method of Contact	Date
	Posters and Postcards	Posted at Birchmount Community Center and Albert Campbell Library	January 29, 2024
	Outdoor Signage	Posted at 9 locations (Bluffer's Park, Scarboro Crescent Park, Scarborough Heights Park, Fishleigh Access Road, Rosetta McClains Gardens, Harrison Properties, Crescentwood Park, Silver Birch Beach)	January 29, 2024
	Social Media	Information shared on X (formerly Twitter), Instagram and Facebook. Posts were made on City of Toronto's accounts and shared by TRCA.	Various dates from January 31 – February 13
Notice of Consultation Round Two	Local Residents	16,000 postcards by Direct Mail	May 14, 2024
	Project Mailing List	678 by Email	May 14, 2024
	Interest Group List (residents' associations, community groups, organizations, institutions, elected officials, and CAG members)	76 by Email	May 14, 2024
	Agencies (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism)	3 by Email*	May 14, 2024
	Treaty Holders and Indigenous Communities	12 by Email**	May 16, 2024
	Posters and Postcards	Posted at Birchmount Community Center and Albert Campbell Library and handout during May 25 pop up event.	May 16, 2024 May 25, 2024
	Outdoor Signage	Posted at 9 locations (Bluffer's Park, Scarboro Crescent Park, Scarborough Heights Park, Fishleigh Access Road, Rosetta McClains Gardens, Harrison Properties, Crescentwood Park, Silver Birch Beach)	
	Social Media	Information shared on X (formerly Twitter), Instagram and Facebook. Posts were made on City of Toronto's accounts and shared by TRCA.	Various dates from May 19 – June 11

\* Only agencies that expressed an interest in the project from previous correspondence were provided details of this session.

\*\* During Round Two, urban Indigenous peoples/organizations were engaged through a parallel process documented in **Section 6.2**.

In addition to participating in consultation activities, interest group representatives and residents were invited to share comments and ask questions via phone, email, or written letter. A total of about 40

comment submissions were received between November 3, 2023, and March 1, 2024, during Round One of Consultation and 26 comment submissions were received between May 14, 2024, and June 11, 2024, during Round Two of Consultation. All comments were recorded and reviewed for consideration and response by the project team. The Notices for both rounds of consultation events can be found in **APPENDIX A**.

### 3.2 Project Website

At the beginning of the ToR phase, a dedicated project website was launched on the City of Toronto's website on behalf of TRCA and the City to provide project information. The project website contains a description of the project, information on the project background, consultation materials from both rounds of consultation, various document links, and common questions.

During Round One of consultation, the website was updated with a copy of the presentation materials and a pre-recorded presentation. During the consultation period the project website received around 1,730 unique visitors, with an average of 7.4 minutes spent on the site from January 29, 2024, to March 2, 2024. The Round One consultation summary was posted to the website in April 2024.

During Round Two of consultation, the website was updated with information regarding the drop-in information session, the survey link, and the pre-recorded presentation. During Round Two of consultation, the project website received around 8,160 unique visitors, with an average of 4.5 minutes spent on the site from May 13, 2024, to June 11, 2024. The Round Two consultation summary was posted to the website in July 2024.

#### 3.2.1 Social Pinpoint and Surveys

During Round One, an interactive map and online survey using the program Social Pinpoint was available from January 29, 2024, to February 28, 2024, on the project website. The online survey received 210 responses, while the map received 657 comments. 883 people visited the map during the consultation period and spent an average of 8.41 minutes. Participation was anonymous. The Social Pinpoint map allowed participants to suggest an idea, improvement, issue, or concern and place it on the Project Study Area map, as well as respond to other comments.

The survey included background information on the project and asked a series of questions of participants to understand their relationship to the Study Area and priorities for future improvements (see Online Survey section below for more information).

During the second round of consultation an online survey was available from May 14, 2024, to June 11, 2024. The online survey received 999 responses. A few print copies of the survey were made available at the drop-in information session. Participation was anonymous.

The survey included background information on the project and asked a series of questions of participants to understand current relationships to the Study Area and reactions to the evaluation of Alternatives To and proposed evaluation criteria (see Online Survey section below for more information).

### 3.3 Community Advisory Group (CAG) Committee

The CAG has been formed to provide a forum for interest groups to provide feedback and comments to the project team throughout the study. Membership is made up of representatives from groups who are



likely to have the greatest influence on the success of the project or who are likely to have a long-term interest in the project. Representatives from 13 local organizations signed up to join the CAG, and are listed below:

- Black North Initiative
- Bluffers Park Boating Foundation
- Cliffcrest Scarborough Village SW Residents Association
- Cycle Toronto
- Scarborough Centre for Healthy Communities
- Scarborough Greenway Network Project
- Surfer Community
- Swim Drink Fish
- Toronto Field Naturalists
- Toronto Lakefront Community
- Unbounded
- Waterfront for All
- Waterfront Regeneration Trust

The first CAG meeting was held virtually on January 11, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and covered topics including the project vision, intent, and objectives, the EA process, the draft problems and opportunities, the existing Study Area conditions, and the generation and evaluation of Alternatives.

The CAG meeting for the second round of consultation was held virtually on April 30, 2024, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and covered topics including the project intent, and objectives, the EA process, the project area segments, the existing Study Area conditions, the evaluation of Alternatives to the Undertaking and the framework for the generation and evaluation of Alternative Methods, and preliminary evaluation criteria. A summary of what was heard can be found on the project website ([toronto.ca/ScarboroughBluffsWest](https://toronto.ca/ScarboroughBluffsWest)).

### 3.4 Landowner Meetings

#### 3.4.1 Round One Consultation

Three landowner meetings were held virtually from November 20 to December 6, 2023. 152 landowners were invited to attend via letters mailed to their homes and 21 attended.

The meetings included a presentation which covered the project vision, intent, and objectives, described the EA process, the draft problems and opportunities, the existing Study Area conditions, and explained the generation and evaluation of Alternatives. Participants were asked to share their issues and concerns about the project area. Opportunities for questions and feedback followed the presentations.

#### 3.4.2 Round Two Consultation

A landowner meeting was held virtually on April 24, 2024. Landowners were notified of the meeting via letters mailed to their homes. Email invitations were also sent to 19 landowners who previously registered for an information session in fall 2023. Of the 172 invites sent, 14 landowners attended the meeting.

The presentation discussed the project intent, objectives, described the EA process, the project area segments, project objectives and what was heard in the first round of consultation, the existing Study Area conditions, the preliminary evaluation criteria, and explained the framework for the generation of Alternative Methods. Participants were asked to share their issues and concerns about the evaluation of Alternatives To, the framework for the identification of Alternative Methods, and any concerns they had with the evaluation criteria. Opportunities for questions and feedback followed the presentations.

### 3.5 Public Events

#### 3.5.1 Round One Events

Round One consultation events included a prerecorded presentation, and a virtual live presentation. The materials prepared for the public event were posted to the project website on January 31, 2024, and hard copy materials were made available upon request. The live presentation was held on February 15, 2024, from 7 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. on WebEx which was attended by approximately 165 people. The pre-recorded presentation was posted onto the City’s website on February 1 for those unable to attend, which received 116 views. Materials for Information Session #1 can be found in **APPENDIX B**.

#### 3.5.2 Round Two Events

Round Two consultation events included a pre-recorded presentation, an in-person pop up event, and drop-in information session.

The pre-recorded presentation was 30 minutes and covered the project material in more detail and was viewed by 212 individuals.

The pop-up event was held on May 25, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the R.C. Harris Water Treatment Plant. Staff spoke with approximately 30 residents and distributed over 300 postcards to encourage completion of the online survey and participation at the drop-in information session.

The drop-in event was held on May 28 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Birchmount Park Collegiate Institute Gymnasium on 3663 Danforth Avenue and was attended by approximately 93 people. The drop-in event provided an opportunity to view the project information panels and speak with members of the project team one-on-one.

Materials for Information Session #2 can be found in **APPENDIX B**.

### 3.6 Draft Terms of Reference Review

The draft ToR was made available for review and comment by the public and agencies from July 8 to August 7, 2024. The document was made available electronically on the City of Toronto’s project website at: [toronto.ca/ScarboroughBluffsWest](https://toronto.ca/ScarboroughBluffsWest). Comments have been responded to and addressed, where feasible, in the Final ToR (see **APPENDIX A** of the Final ToR). For simplicity, comments from the public have been grouped into themes and similar comments have been combined to eliminate repetition with a single response provided. Agency comments have been reproduced verbatim. No comments were received from Indigenous Communities.

### 3.7 Other Stakeholders

A meeting was held with an interested group of residents on October 9, 2024, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Birchmount Community Centre in the Bluffs Room. The meeting was attended by 35 participants and aimed to respond to comments provided by the group on the draft ToR. The meeting included a presentation to respond to the list of concerns circulated on October 1, 2024. Throughout and following the presentation, attendees had the opportunity to ask questions or points of clarification.

Comments from the meeting have been integrated with all other comments on the draft ToR (see Section 1.5 of the ToR). Meeting minutes have also been included in **APPENDIX C**.

## 4. AGENCY CONSULTATION

Agencies and utilities that may have an interest in the project were sent the Notice of Commencement on November 2, 2023. The list of agencies includes 31 organizations, including:

- Telecommunications Utilities (i.e., Bell, Rogers, etc.)
- Energy Utilities (i.e., Enbridge, Hydro One, local distributors, etc.)
- Provincial Government Ministries, including:
  - Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks
  - Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism
  - Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
  - Ministry of Natural Resources
  - Ministry of the Solicitor General
- Other agencies/utilities, including:
  - Fisheries and Oceans Canada
  - Canada Post
  - CN and CP Rails
  - Metrolinx

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism and Ministry of Natural Resources expressed an interest in the project and were also provided Notice of Round 2 Consultation.

A meeting was held with MECP on April 11, 2023, to inform MECP on the project overview, context, Study Area, and high-level milestones and timeline prior to formally commencing the project. A second meeting was held with MECP on April 10, 2024, to inform them of the project vision, project objectives, ToR, and the results of Consultation Round One.

## 5. SUMMARY OF COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Comments received from both rounds of consultation are summarized below. Several of the same themes from Round One of consultation were expressed in Round Two, such as Access to the Shoreline,

Environmental Conservation, and Project Timeline, as well as other themes such as Traffic Concerns and the Consultation Process.

### **Access to the Shoreline**

Mixed feedback was received regarding increased access to and along the shoreline.

Some respondents expressed a strong desire for safe and formal access for people of all abilities to and along the waterfront. Other respondents expressed concerns about providing additional access to and along the shore, suggesting that there are already sufficient areas of the shore that can be accessed, and that this area should not be further modified, and that increased access should not be encouraged. Several respondents spoke about the need for access to the shoreline for people of differing abilities.

Some respondents also expressed concerns about the current inability of emergency services and City workers to access the site in case of emergencies or to conduct maintenance work, suggesting that enhanced access to the area would help with this issue.

### **Environmental Conservation**

Many respondents expressed a strong concern for conservation of plant, fish, and wildlife habitats in the Study Area, including how increased access may negatively impact these habitats both due to an increase in the number of users and due to construction of trails and access points. These respondents feel that the area currently feels untouched and ‘wild’ and would like to maintain this experience. Some respondents raised concerns about increased human use and trash leading to greater stress on the environment. In addition, some respondents expressed a desire to conserve greenspace, wildlife and fish habitat, and plant species. Some respondents inquired about the status of various technical studies particularly with respect to species at risk.

### **Erosion**

Respondents raised several concerns regarding erosion of the bluffs, including whether the impacts of climate change and fluctuating lake levels would exacerbate or accelerate erosion in the area. Several expressed a desire for greater erosion protection measures to prevent landslides. Some residents of the area also expressed concerns about erosion at Crescentwood Park and the potential for collapsing groynes, as well as erosion within private property lines.

### **Traffic Impacts and Active Transportation**

Respondents expressed concern regarding the potential for increased vehicular traffic to the area that might accompany increased access to the shoreline. Many expressed a desire to see improvements to public and active transportation routes to reduce the number of people travelling to the area by car. Residents of the local area also expressed concern about potential increased demand for limited parking spots at area parks, and whether this might lead to an increase in parking on residential streets.

However, many respondents also expressed general support for new or improved active transportation connections.

### **Cost/Project Timeline/Consultation Process**

Respondents shared feedback pertaining to the cost and timeline of the project, including a desire to expedite the ToR and EA process, and overall concerns regarding the advertising of consultation materials/events and desire for a greater number of consultation activities in future phases. Respondents also provided suggestions to connect with residents and organizations.

### **Evaluation of Alternatives to the Undertaking**

Most survey respondents indicated that they understood the evaluation and the choice of the “Do Something” Alternative. Respondents provided input on the recommendation itself, with some respondents commenting that the “Do Nothing” Alternative is more appropriate as there are already sufficient opportunities to access the waterfront and that this section should be left alone. Some questioned if the Alternatives were too vague to be the basis for the Alternative Methods. There were also questions about why the “Do Nothing” Alternative would be considered for both Alternatives To and Alternative Methods.

### **Other**

Some respondents raised concerns about potential changes to existing parks. There were several respondents who do not wish to see changes to the off-leash dog park at the base of Silver Birch Road. Other respondents suggested more accessible paths to the shoreline parks and more amenities within the existing parks such as play structures for children.



Table 2: Consultation Summary of Comments

Topic	Question/Comment	Response
Process & Cost	Concern this is not a good allocation of City funds.	Currently, only the ToR and EA phases are funded. Funding for detailed design and construction has not yet been allocated. The decision to allocate future funds will be made by City Council.
	Concern regarding greater taxpayer cost with longer timelines required by an IEA. Can we make use of existing studies to reduce timelines?	Complex projects like the SBW require significant and extensive technical assessment and consultation to meet legal requirements. Where possible, the team is using existing studies to reduce timelines.
	Desire for action in advance of EA approval to mitigate critical issues.	Erosion and other related maintenance or emergency works that are minor and do not require EA approval can be addressed outside of the EA process for the shoreline.
	How are accessibility groups being consulted? How can the public be engaged further?	The study will involve multiple phases of consultation and will be advertised through the project's website, digital and print advertising, social media, and signage near the site. The team has reached out to accessibility groups and organizations to solicit their participation and will continue to do so throughout the process. Interested participants can register for the mailing list on the project's website.
	Concern for length of construction and potential disruptions on the community.	Information about construction length and impacts is not yet available. How the project will be constructed and the potential for construction activities to disrupt local neighbourhoods will be assessed during the EA.
	Desire to expedite the ToR process.	The provincial government is responsible for the ToR review process and while they have regulated timelines for their review (4-6 months), this timeline is at their discretion. The project team is trying to complete the process as quickly as possible.
	Will the costs of trail and park maintenance and enforcement of City by-laws be factored into the assessment?	At the EA stage the coarse level costs of constructing the project are assessed. The costs for maintenance are calculated at the future detailed design stage.
	Suggestion to rename the Scarborough Bluffs Project to include the Beaches due to confusion that the project does not impact Beaches residents.	Comment noted.

Topic	Question/Comment	Response
	Suggestion to split Study Area into smaller segments.	The Project Study Area has been initially divided into four segments to facilitate the development of Alternatives recognizing the distinct characteristics along each shoreline segment. As the development of the Alternatives proceeds the number and extent of segments may be refined.
	Why are the 'Alternatives To' ("Do Something" and "Do Nothing") so broad and how can they inform the development of 'Alternative Methods'?	The Alternatives to the Undertaking for a waterfront project are not discrete. As such, and as has been done for other similar waterfront projects, we are relying on previous studies to support if we should do something or do nothing. Pursuant to the EA Act this is referred to as 'focusing'. Previous planning for the waterfront has confirmed the need for a holistic solution that addresses access, improved experience, erosion, and habitat improvements. The Alternative Methods will be holistic solutions that provide specific ways to implement the "Do Something" Alternative.
	How is it that "Do Nothing" is both an Alternative To and an Alternative Method?	The EA Act requires proponents to assess the "Do Nothing" Alternative for both the Alternatives To (identified during the ToR phase) and Alternative Methods (identified during the EA phase). Therefore, during the EA phase, when Alternative Methods have been developed, the "Do Nothing" Alternative will be assessed against these other Alternatives.
	Have additional studies been undertaken to describe the natural environment including species at risk, social-cultural environment, etc.?	The information shared with the public during the first round of consultation (available on the project website) included a list of the studies being undertaken and during Round Two we shared a high-level summary of the findings of these studies. The ToR will include a detailed summary of existing conditions which reflects the results of these studies. The technical studies will be updated as we move into the EA phase of the project.
	Questions and comments regarding private property within the Study Area.	If the EA recommends an Alternative that requires private property, discussions will be had with those landowners.
Project Objectives	Study should include concerns about safety and increased traffic.	Concerns regarding safety and increased traffic will be looked at in the EA study.
	Design excellence should be incorporated in project objectives.	Typically design issues are dealt with after EA approval; however, the team is defining design considerations during the EA.
Access	Support for developing safer/more accessible access to the shoreline and the water.	The EA will examine various Alternatives to improve access to the shoreline and access into the water.

Topic	Question/Comment	Response
	Concern regarding providing improved or additional access to the shoreline and impacts on neighbours and wildlife.	The EA will examine various Alternatives and consider potential impacts on the surrounding neighbourhoods and on wildlife. Currently, people are accessing the shoreline via informal paths and trails. Formal access to the shoreline in this area is limited and inaccessible for many users, including emergency service providers.
	Consider accessibility for people with different abilities including consideration of both physical and cognitive abilities.	Accommodation of different abilities will be one of the criteria to evaluate Alternatives.
	The current conditions on the shoreline should be maintained as they reward the more adventurous with a unique experience.	There is a long history of planning and public engagement with respect to the City of Toronto waterfront, including the most recent 2022 report on the Next Phase of Waterfront Revitalization. The results of these processes have indicated that the waterfront should be accessible to all.
	Concern for how future trails might be maintained (snow clearing, garbage, etc.).	Creation of formal access to and from the shoreline will allow greater access for the City to maintain the trails. Maintenance is an operational issue and will not be addressed in the EA.
	Why does this area need more access?	Policy and planning studies (which have been endorsed by City Council) indicate that the waterfront is for all and that it should be accessible. The extent of the shoreline from Silver Birch Avenue in the Eastern Beaches to Bluffer's Park currently has limited access. The SBW EA, which is being undertaken at Council direction, will study whether improved access to and along the shoreline, at the bottom or top of the bluffs is feasible and what the impacts would be. Even without formal trail access, this area is currently being accessed and used sometimes to the detriment of the environment and local community.
	Desire to make the beaches on private lands open to the public.	The need for private lands will be determined as part of the identification of Alternatives. Meetings will be held with potentially affected landowners to discuss the project.
	Consider increased access to the shoreline for docking kayaks.	This issue can be examined as part of programming the public realm once the EA is approved.
Erosion Management	Concern for erosion, especially about impact of climate change on rates of erosion.	Climate change is an important aspect of project planning, and we are required to look at both the impact of climate change on the project, as well as potential impact of the project on climate change as part of the EA. A number of technical studies will ensure that the project is designed to be resilient to climate change over the long-term.

Topic	Question/Comment	Response
	Desire for protection from landfalls/landslides.	The study will look at additional measures to help stabilize the shoreline and bluff face through the development of Alternatives, building off the existing erosion protection measures that are already in place within the project area.
	How will erosion falling within a homeowner's property line be dealt with?	Currently, the City and TRCA do not undertake the construction or maintenance of upper slope stabilization work on private property along the waterfront. As part of the EA, Alternatives will be evaluated that may propose bank stabilization and/or shoreline protection infrastructure to support project infrastructure on private and public property.
	Concern for collapse of fence at Crescentwood Park.	City Parks, Forestry and Recreation replaced the fence at Crescentwood Park in March 2024.
	Suggestion for the beach surface to be extended to prevent erosion from shoreline receding.	The beaches are part of a dynamic system in Lake Ontario where sediment is continually transported and deposited along the shoreline through storm events. As part of the geotechnical and coastal studies in the SBW EA, sand transport and deposition will be some of the components investigated.
	Concern regarding condition of existing groynes and ability to protect against changing lake levels.	TRCA has an Erosion Risk Management Program (ERMP), which involves annual assessments of the condition and deficiencies of erosion control structures along the Lake Ontario waterfront and along ravines within TRCA's jurisdiction. The shoreline structures are in fair condition and are maintained through a major maintenance program on a priority basis and based on the level of funding available.
	Will groundwater flows and vegetation loss be considered when studying erosion?	The geotechnical existing conditions report that will be prepared as part of the EA will assess slope stability, including groundwater seepage and vegetation loss. The Alternatives that are developed as part of the EA will be designed to address those and other slope stability issues.
Habitat Integrity	Concern for the protection of wildlife habitat (bank swallow nests, muskrats, deer, skunks, raccoons, coyotes, pollinators) and fish habitat.	As part of the EA process, terrestrial and aquatic impacts are part of the evaluation and selection of Alternatives, and opportunities for further conserving and enhancing natural and aquatic habitats will be explored.

Topic	Question/Comment	Response
	Concern that greater use will lead to greater stress on the environment. Desire to preserve the shoreline in its current form and maintain the “wild”, “isolated nature”, and “natural beauty” of the area.	The Study Area has been impacted by past and on-going human use. Currently, people are accessing the shoreline via informal paths and trails, which impacts local flora and fauna. The EA will explore opportunities to formalize the trail network along the shoreline thus minimizing the impact of unmanaged use.
	Desire to prioritize Indigenous approaches to preservation and protection.	First Nations and urban Indigenous organizations are actively being consulted with and their input will be incorporated into the ToR and EA process.
	Are water pollution impacts being considered?	As part of the EA process, impacts to water quality as a result of project construction will be studied and factored into the evaluation and selection of Alternatives.
	Desire for greater reforestation plans along the waterfront.	As part of the EA process opportunities for further conserving and enhancing natural and aquatic habitats will be explored.
	Concern for invasive species management.	Comment noted.
	Suggestion to fence any new trails to prevent people from going off trail and damaging habitat.	Comment noted.
Trails & Active Transportation Facilities	Desire to see a continuous trail from Balmy Beach to Bluffer’s Park. A continuous trail will encourage users to move through the area as opposed to stopping.	The project will explore the feasibility of a shared, multi-use trail that meets the City of Toronto Multi-use Trail Guidelines (2015). Several trail alignments will be explored based on site constraints and impacts, including continuous shoreline trails, top of bluff alignments, and a combination of both.
	Suggestion for improvements to conditions of cycling trails.	Upgrades to existing bikeways and trails will be considered as part of this EA. If upgrades to existing bikeways or trails are not included as part of the preferred Alternative, such upgrades may be considered as part of the City’s Cycling Network Plan.
	Desire for a more “naturalized” trail as opposed to asphalt.	Design elements such as the type of trail that will potentially be implemented will be considered during detailed design, however, to make the trail accessible to all, a suitable material must be chosen.
	Desire to improve sidewalks within adjacent neighbourhoods.	Maintenance of existing sidewalks is outside the scope of this EA. Your comment will be passed on to appropriate City departments.



Topic	Question/Comment	Response
Safety & Operations	Desire for City services such as Emergency Medical Services and police to access the shoreline to mitigate concerns about litter, encampments, raves/parties, public nudity, and unlawful use of land.	Creation of formal access to and from the shoreline will allow emergency service providers, police, and garbage collection to access the area.
	Suggestion for crowd control measures like fences and increased police presence.	Creation of formal access to and from the shoreline will allow police and EMS to better access the area. This is an operational issue and beyond the scope of the EA.
Parks & Recreation	Desire for park amenities such as garbage bins, washrooms, water fountains, etc.	Design elements such as landscape features and garbage bins will be considered during detailed design.
	Desire to incorporate more children play areas.	Children play areas and other design elements will be considered during detailed design.
	Avoid impacts to existing off-leash dog area at Silver Birch Beach from potential extension of the boardwalk.	The evaluation of Alternatives will consider any impacts to the existing off-leash dog park.
	Desire for greater access to the water for recreation (swimming, paddling).	Comment noted.
	Recognition of this area being frequented by the LGBTQ+ community and desire to consider a clothing-optional beach.	Comment noted.
	Desire to encourage increased tourism and commercial opportunities within the area.	Comment noted.
	Suggestion for separate access road for boaters at the Bluffs to decrease wait times to enter the park.	Improvements to Brimley Road and access to Bluffer's Park were approved in the adjacent Scarborough Waterfront Project. These improvements are currently being finalized and will be under construction within the next several months. There are a number of constraints in the area making it impossible to construct a separate access road for boaters.
Placemaking	Suggestion for viewing stations at the top of bluffs, signage for visitors and better wayfinding for the Waterfront Trail.	As part of the study, active transportation and multi-use trails will be studied along with potential lookout locations. Issues like wayfinding will be dealt with during detailed design.

Topic	Question/Comment	Response
	Desire for Indigenous education/acknowledgement installations.	Indigenous communities will be consulted as part of the study and discussions regarding Indigenous education and installations will be explored during detailed design.
Traffic and Parking	Desire for increased public transit to Bluffer's Park to lessen the demand for parking.	Decisions around transit routes and frequencies are determined by the TTC and are not within the scope of the EA, however, this feedback can be shared with the TTC.
	Will traffic issues related to increased access be studied and mitigated?	A traffic impact study will be undertaken as part of the study, which will consider the impact of construction traffic on local communities.
	Concerns about increased demand on parking and potential for overflow parking and increased congestion on local roads.	Exploring new access and trail connections will provide users with different transportation options besides driving and may alleviate congestion pressures within the area. The City will continue to examine parking mitigation strategies for local neighbourhoods.
	Suggestion to close local residential roads to public parking on weekends.	The comment is noted, however, parking restrictions on local streets are out of the scope for this EA. Comment will be passed on to appropriate City department(s).
	Suggestion to implement traffic calming measures from the increased traffic from greater use.	Comment noted. The City has a process to investigate opportunities for traffic calming in local neighbourhoods. Learn more on the City's <a href="#">website</a> .
	Desire to improve conditions of roads and parking lots within Study Area.	Maintenance of existing roads and parking lots is outside the scope of this EA. Your comment will be passed on to appropriate City departments.
	Extending the trail would increase traffic and number of parked cars on local streets in the eastern beaches.	Comment noted. The City will continue to examine parking mitigation strategies for local neighbourhoods.
Consultation Process	Advertising for the public event was lacking or not available for long enough.	The public event was advertised through a wide variety of mechanisms including direct mail to 16,000 residents, outdoor signs, social media posts, email newsletters, and outreach to organizations. Please sign up for email notifications for all future events.
	Suggestions for alternative methods for attending meetings or different day options for meetings.	The study will involve multiple phases of consultation and future opportunities to review project materials, ask questions, and provide input. Consultation materials and opportunities to provide input are available virtually as well as in-person at <a href="https://toronto.ca/ScarboroughBluffsWest">Toronto.ca/ScarboroughBluffsWest</a> .

Topic	Question/Comment	Response
	Desire for prioritization of Indigenous knowledge. Indigenous consultation occurred in the middle of the workday – could not attend.	Comment noted. The study includes an Indigenous Engagement Plan, which is a comprehensive plan for meaningful engagement with First Nations, Inuit, Métis, and the broader urban Indigenous community throughout the project.
	Desire to gain access to technical studies.	Technical studies will be undertaken during the EA phase. When complete, the EA will be available for public review.
	Confusion regarding what is being proposed, the Alternatives, and comment that too much technical jargon was used in the consultation materials.	Comment noted.

## 6. INDIGENOUS CONSULTATION

The City of Toronto and TRCA consulted with Treaty Holders or those with asserted or established interests and rights and with the urban Indigenous population which includes those people living in Toronto of Indigenous descent and organizations serving or representing urban Indigenous peoples. Given the differences in engagement techniques they are described separately below.

### 6.1 Treaty Holders/Indigenous Communities Consultation Overview

This section details the activities and feedback received from Treaty Holders and Indigenous communities during the ToR phase of the SBW Project.

Prior to the delivery of any notifications, the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation, and Parks (MECP) was contacted for advice and information on the Treaty Holders and Indigenous Communities that should be contacted during the Indigenous engagement process. Additional Indigenous community contact lists were also considered, including ones held by TRCA. The following communities and agencies were engaged based on asserted or establish rights and interest:

- Alderville First Nation
- Beausoleil First Nation
- Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
- Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- Curve Lake First Nation
- Haudenosaunee Confederacy (c/o Haudenosaunee Development Institute)
- Hiawatha First Nation
- Huron-Wendat Nation
- Kawartha Nishnawbe First Nation
- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation
- Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
- Six Nations of the Grand River
- Coordinator, Williams Treaties First Nations

Consultation was aimed at providing information about the study and identifying concerns and opportunities. Consultation activities included virtual and in person meetings and emails.

#### 6.1.1 Milestone Correspondence

Correspondence at specific project milestones were sent to the above noted Treaty Holders and Indigenous Communities.

Table 3: Milestone Correspondence

Notification	Date	Method
Notice of Commencement	2-Nov-2023	Email, courier
Notice of Consultation Round One	14-Feb-2024	Email
Letter with details on the Urban Indigenous Engagement Plan	2-Apr-2024	Email
Letter offering an Extended ToR Review Period	25-Apr-2024	Email
Notice of Consultation Round Two	16-May-2024	Email
Notice of Draft ToR Review Period	8-Jul-2024	Email
Notice of Submission	20-Jun-2025	Email

Specific correspondence with each Treaty Holders and Indigenous Community is detailed in **APPENDIX D**.

#### 6.1.2 Meetings

##### **Alderville First Nation (May 15, 2024)**

A meeting with Alderville First Nation was held on May 15, 2024. This meeting was the first opportunity for TRCA staff to provide more detailed information about the project. Alderville First Nation provided valuable feedback regarding their areas of interest and how best to work with them on this project. Alderville First Nation suggested TRCA work with them to develop an ‘Engagement Strategy’ which would guide the consultation process for this project. TRCA has never created an ‘Engagement Strategy’ for a project like the SBW Project but will reflect if this is something that can be done.

Alderville First Nation also provided feedback about flora and fauna that they and other Williams Treaties Nations may have an interest in. These species may be different than those TRCA is required to report on during the EA process. TRCA will continue to speak to the Williams Treaties Nations and look for information about these species.

##### **Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (May 22, 2024)**

A meeting with Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation (MCFN) was held virtually on May 22, 2024. This meeting was the first opportunity for staff at MCFN and TRCA to discuss the project and begin conversations about MCFN’s interests and/or concerns regarding the project. MCFN expressed interest in the project and in the identification of opportunities for direct involvement in the project. TRCA will continue to work with MCFN and look for specific ways to address their interests.

#### 6.1.3 Archaeology

Huron-Wendat Nation and Alderville First Nation requested information about archaeological assessments and want to participate in archaeological assessments. The Stage 1 Archaeological



Assessment was provided and TRCA will continue to inform both nations as further archaeological assessments are planned.

#### 6.1.4 Extended Terms of Reference Review Period

Treaty Holders and Indigenous Communities were provided with an offer to review an advance copy of the ToR. Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Alderville First Nation, and Six Nations of the Grand River accepted the opportunity and were provided with a copy of the document on June 10, 2024.

### 6.2 Urban Indigenous Engagement

#### 6.2.1 Initial Organizations of Interest

The City of Toronto and TRCA identified a number of urban Indigenous organizations that may have interest in the SBW project. Many of these organizations have participated in City-led engagement with respect to reconciliation and the Vision for Waterfront Revitalization. These organizations include:

- Anishnawbe Health
- ENAGB Indigenous Youth Agency
- Kapapamahchakwew - Wandering Spirit School
- Métis Nation of Ontario
- Miziwe Biik Development Corporation
- Miziwe Biik Employment and Training
- Native Canadian Centre of Toronto
- Native Women's Resource Centre
- Na-Me-Res
- Thunder Woman Healing Lodge
- Toronto Aboriginal Support Services Council
- Toronto and York Region Métis Council
- Toronto Council Fire Native Canadian Centre
- Toronto Indigenous Community Advisory Board
- Toronto Inuit Association
- Tungasuvvingat Inuit
- Two Spirited People of the First Nations
- Urban Indigenous Education Centre – Toronto District School Board

Each organization was invited to indicate interest in participating in an engagement event. Information was also circulated through Indigenous social media channels to reach community members who may not be affiliated with one of the organizations. Based on the feedback received an engagement session for the urban Indigenous community was organized.

#### 6.2.2 Engagement Session

A Water Walking Ceremony and Indigenous engagement event occurred on May 21, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Scarborough Heights Park. The event encouraged participation in the study which would allow

the City of Toronto and TRCA to better understand how urban Indigenous people use and value the Study Area. Indigenous organizations and individuals were contacted through email and phone, and through online circulation which included: an event webpage, video defining the area and project, a high-level survey to gather preliminary feedback, and a circulation through Indigenous social media channels.

The purpose for this engagement event was to introduce Indigenous participants to the SBW study, which included providing an overview of the study process and purpose, specifically the study's ToR phase. The event explored how cultural considerations identified by urban Indigenous community members might help define important aspects of the Study Area to be prioritized and/or enhanced.

The event was facilitated by Innovation Seven (i7), a 100% Indigenous owned engagement and advisory service, that are headquartered on the Traditional Territory of the Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation. Project team members from the City, TRCA and consultant team were also present for the event.

The Water Walking Ceremony was attended by 30 urban Indigenous community members and took place on the Bluffs shoreline. The Ceremony afforded attendees a second perspective of the area before using tobacco to make personal offerings and prayers along the shoreline. A discussion period was held in a Traditional Talking Circle to allow for more concentrated conversations related to the Scarborough Bluffs. Elder teachings on the importance of water, as well as the Water Walking Ceremony, set a healthy context for engagement and helped ensure all participants were aware that the reason for discussion was not related to any specific development, but rather a chance for the Project Team to hear which aspects of Scarborough Bluffs are important to urban Indigenous community members. Discussion questions included:

- How do you currently use the Scarborough waterfront?
- Looking ahead, how might waterfronts like SBW be a space that better supports urban Indigenous communities?
- How would you like to stay involved in the SBW Project?

### 6.2.3 Summary of Major Themes

The engagement feedback from participants during the Talking Circle portion of the in-person engagement event and through participant responses to the survey on SBW revealed a wide array of themes, reflecting the diverse needs and values of Indigenous participants. Outlined below are a high-level overview of major themes heard.

- **Indigenous Cultural Integration and Education:**
  - **Inclusion of Indigenous Plant Knowledge:** Emphasizing the incorporation of traditional healing plants along the pathways to highlight their significance.
  - **Signage and Storytelling:** Multi-language signage (English and Indigenous languages) to identify natural aspects, convey Indigenous history, and provide educational "lesson stops."
  - **Educational Programs:** Incentivized gardening programs and cultural activities to educate the public on Indigenous plant life and traditions.
  - **Cultural Recognition:** Establishing spaces for cultural activities, such as ceremonies and firepits, and incorporating narratives of Indigenous history via QR codes.
- **Emphasizing Spiritual and Physical Connection to Land and Water:**

- **Spiritual Significance of Land and Water:** Highlighting the importance of the natural environment as a place of spiritual connection and healing for Indigenous Peoples.
- **Protection of Natural Environment:** Advocating for the protection of the forest and shoreline from urban development to maintain the area's spiritual and healing values.
- **Accessibility and Safety Improvements:**
  - **Pathway Enhancements:** Recommendations for rest stops, seating areas, water fountains, and railings to support accessibility along the pathway.
  - **Physical Supports:** Installation of railings, lighting, and safety signage along paths and trails to improve safety and ease of passage.
  - **Access to Lake Ontario:** Creating a ramp or path for easier entry into the water, especially for Elders, and establishing ceremonial spaces close to the water.
- **Community Engagement and Inclusivity:**
  - **Public Participation:** Encouraging public involvement through educational materials, signage and QR codes to gather input and educate visitors.
  - **Additional support for Indigenous Women and Children:** Creating support groups, such as a Mother's Circle, to facilitate access for Indigenous (and non-Indigenous) mothers with infant children.
  - **Listening and Integrating Indigenous Voices:** Emphasizing the need for continued engagement and genuine listening to Indigenous community members by the City and related authorities.
- **Environmental Conservation and Cleanliness:**
  - **Maintaining Natural Environment:** Ensuring the area remains clean and free from urban development to preserve its peaceful and healing qualities.
  - **Flora and Fauna Awareness:** Educating park users about local wildlife, including invasive and non-invasive species, to promote appropriate interactions and awareness.
  - **Infrastructure and Amenities:**
    - **Essential Facilities:** Installation of water stations, garbage cans, and simple railing systems along the service road and pathways to enhance the visitor experience.
    - **Traffic and Overcrowding:** Addressing access difficulties and overcrowding issues to improve the overall experience for Indigenous Peoples at Scarborough Heights Park and the Bluffs.

#### 6.2.4 Thunder Woman Healing Lodge Engagement Session

As a follow up to the May event, a second Water Walking Ceremony and Indigenous engagement event occurred on September 17, 2024, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Scarborough Heights Park for Thunder Woman Healing Lodge (TWHL). A representative from TWHL attended the previous engagement event in May and inquired about a closed engagement event for members of the TWHL community. The event encouraged participation in the study which would allow the City of Toronto and TRCA to better understand how members of the TWHL community uses and values the Study Area. The event was facilitated by i7 and project team members from the City and TRCA were also present for the event.

The purpose for this engagement event was to introduce the TWHL community to the SBW study, which included providing an overview of the study process and purpose, specifically the study's ToR phase. The

event explored how cultural considerations identified by TWHL community members might help define important aspects of the Study Area to be prioritized and/or enhanced.

The engagement event followed similar format to the May event, where an Opening Ceremony, Water Walking Ceremony and Traditional Talking Circle took place. The engagement event was attended by 19 TWHL community members and took place on the Bluffs shoreline. During the Walking Water Ceremony, attendees afforded a second perspective of the area before using tobacco to make personal offerings and prayers along the shoreline. A discussion period was held in a Traditional Talking Circle to allow for more concentrated conversations related to the Scarborough Bluffs. Elder teachings on the importance of water, as well as the Water Walking Ceremony, set a healthy context for engagement and helped ensure all participants were aware that the reason for discussion was not related to any specific development, but rather a chance for the Project Team to hear which aspects of Scarborough Bluffs are important to urban Indigenous community members. Discussion questions included:

- How do you currently use the Scarborough waterfront?
- Looking ahead, how might waterfronts like SBW be a space that better supports urban Indigenous communities?
- How would you like to stay involved in the SBW Project?

#### 6.2.5 Summary of Major Themes

The engagement feedback from participants during the Talking Circle portion of the in-person engagement event revealed a wide array of themes, reflecting the diverse needs and values of Indigenous participants. Outlined below are a high-level overview of major themes heard.

- **Indigenous Cultural Integration and Education:**
  - **Inclusion of Indigenous Plant Knowledge:** Emphasizing the incorporation of traditional healing plants along the pathways to highlight their significance.
  - **Signage and Storytelling:** Multi-language signage (English and Indigenous languages) to identify natural aspects, convey Indigenous history, and provide educational "lesson stops". Education signage could provide teachings of bluff features and consideration for QR codes for language translations.
  - **Cultural Recognition:** Establishing spaces for cultural activities, such as ceremonies and firepits, and incorporating narratives via QR codes.
- **Emphasizing Spiritual and Physical Connection to Land and Water:**
  - **Spiritual Significance of Land and Water:** Highlighting the importance of the natural environment as a place of spiritual connection, reflection and healing for the intergenerational use of the water as connection with water through sound, touch and smell is therapeutic and healing.
  - **Protection of Natural Environment:** Advocating for the protection of the forest and shoreline from urban development to maintain the area's spiritual and healing values. Consideration to keep in natural state and leave some sections untouched so reconnect with the land and leave grandfather rocks that lead to the water.
- **Accessibility and Safety Improvements:**
  - **Pathway Enhancements:** Recommendations for rest stops, seating areas, lighting and railings to support accessibility along the pathway.

- **Access to Lake Ontario:** Creating a ramp or path for easier entry into the water, especially for Elders and small children, and establishing ceremonial spaces close to the water.
- **Community Engagement and Inclusivity:**
  - **Public Participation:** Encouraging public involvement through educational materials, signage and QR codes.
- **Environmental Conservation and Cleanliness:**
  - **Maintaining Natural Environment:** Ensuring the area remains clean and free from urban development to preserve its peaceful and healing qualities.
  - **Flora and Fauna Awareness:** Educating park users about local wildlife, including invasive and non-invasive species, to promote appropriate interactions and awareness and consideration for education signage.
  - **Infrastructure and Amenities:** Look out points at the top of the bluffs and along the shoreline and consideration for dedicated spaces for healing and ceremonies.
  - **Essential Facilities:** Installation of garbage cans to promote keeping the area clean and pathways to enhance the visitor experience and allow access to everyone.