

The Western Beaches Revitalization

Plan Options

Virtual Public Meeting
November 27, 2025

Land Acknowledgement

Ancestral Acknowledgement

Help us to create a respectful space!

To create a space that allows for dialog, productive feedback, and creativity, please:

- Approach conversations with **curiosity**
- Keep an **open mind**
- Treat others with **respect and kindness**
- **Critique ideas**, not people
- Abide by the City of Toronto's Human Rights and Anti-Harassment / Discrimination Policy and Hate Activity Policy.

As a project team, we hold ourselves to the same respectful engagement guidelines

If discriminatory, aggressive, or threatening language or behaviours are witnessed, and efforts are not made towards meaningful repair, those causing harm may be asked to leave.

If you have accessibility needs that are not being met, or if accommodations can be made please let a member of the project team know.



Agenda



- 1 Project Background
- 2 Summary of Previous Engagement
- 3 What We Heard
- 4 Revised Vision Statement & Guiding Principles
- 5 Big Moves & Draft Ideas
- 6 Workshop
- 7 Next Steps

The What: About the Project

To provide an updated vision for Toronto's Western Beaches, addressing evolving conditions and priorities since the 2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan. Key drivers for the update include **rising lake levels**, **shoreline erosion**, **aging infrastructure**, the **impacts of COVID-19**, the **adoption of the Reconciliation Action Plan**, and heightened awareness of the **historical and cultural significance of the Humber River's mouth**.



The Study Area



2009 Western Waterfront Master Plan (WWMP)

Vision

The vision of the WWMP recognizes the importance of this waterfront park space and its role as a destination, with extensive public open spaces that provide physical and visual connections to Lake Ontario with beaches, parks and natural areas, alongside its role as a major transportation corridor.

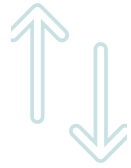


WWMP Objectives

- Improve public access to the waterfront
- Expand recreational options along the waterfront
- Interpret and celebrate the area's heritage
- Enhance the beauty and cohesiveness of the public realm



WWMP Key Initiatives



1

North-south pedestrian and cycling crossings



2

Enhancements to the Martin Goodman Trail



3

Expanded beaches with improved water quality



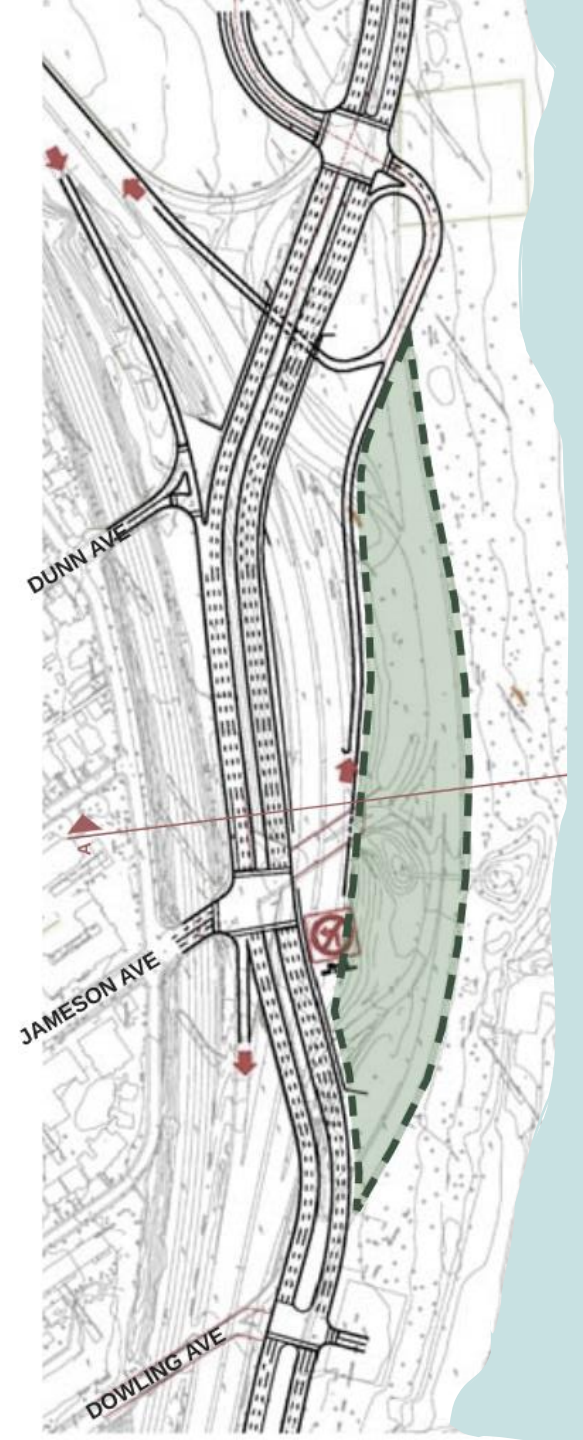
4

More opportunities for water-based recreation



5

Reconfiguration (realignment) of Lake Shore Boulevard West to consolidate parkland



Progress Since the 2009 WWMP (1)



Improved Access (10 Key North-South Connections):

- Signalized crossings added at **Palais Royale, Jameson, and Dowling**
- Interim geometric safety improvements at **Colborne Lodge** and **Ellis**
- Temporary pedestrian/cyclist bridges at **Dowling** and **Dunn**
- Recently completed studies: **High Park Movement Strategy** (implemented) and **Parkside Drive Study** (Council-endorsed)



Trail Enhancements (Martin Goodman Trail):

- **5+ km** of trail upgraded or realigned including Trail raised at **Boulevard Club** driveway and realigned near the **Legion**
- Separated paths, new signage, and safety railings
- Integrated into **Pan Am Path** and **65-km Loop Trail**



Parks & Public Realm

- **20+ park and facility upgrades**, including:
 - New playgrounds and accessible swings at **Budapest Park**
 - **Bike Park + Outdoor fitness equipment**
 - **Joy Station renovation and park improvement** for community use
 - **Sunnyside Beach** trail, pathway and boardwalk repairs
 - Washrooms and concession areas

Progress Since the 2009 WWMP (2)



Urban Forestry

- **500+ trees** planted
- **400+ native shrubs** naturalized
- Focus on climate-resilient Carolinian species



Water Quality & Resilience:

- **Western Beaches Tunnel upgrades** (pumps, flap gates, weirs)
- **High Park stormwater facility rehabilitation**
- **Spring Creek Ponds aeration program**
- **Study of Humber Bay landform** (at the time concluded not feasible)



Public Art

- Signature mural on **Roncesvalles Pedestrian Bridge** (Justus Roe, 2017)

The Why:

Why do we need to update the Public Realm Plan?

Visitor's Experience

Indigenous Placekeeping

Climate Change



Extensive + Inclusive Engagement

Summary of Previous Engagement

1

Indigenous Engagement

- IAC – May 29th, 2025
- MCFN – June 12th, 2025

2

Community Advisory Committee

- Intro Meeting – June 26th, 2025
- CAC Workshop – July 3rd, 2025

3

Pop Up #1

- Location #1 Sunnyside Pavilion – July 6th, 2025
- Location #2 Budapest Park – July 6th, 2025

4

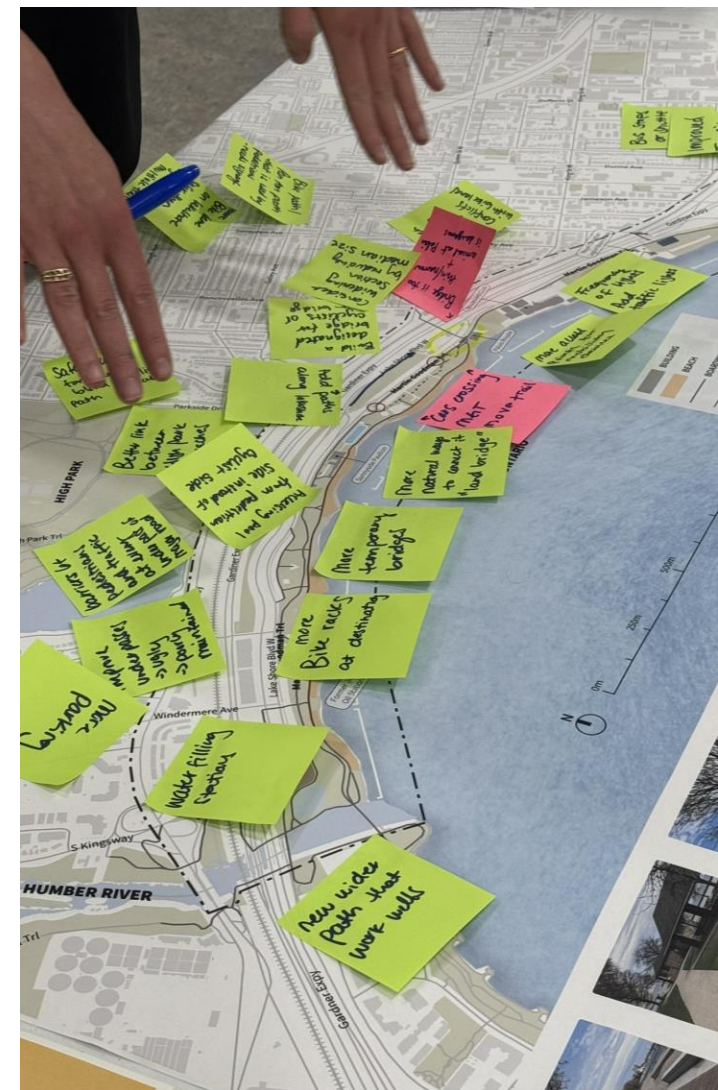
Pop Up #2

- Location #1 Sir Casimir Gzowski Park – July 15th, 2025
- Location #2 Marilyn Bell Park – July 15th, 2025

5

Online Survey

- July 11 to 27, 2025



May and June: Indigenous Engagement

WATER AS SACRED & CENTRAL

- Water is alive, emotional, and essential. Honour, protect, and learn from it.

LAND-BASED KINSHIP & ECOLOGY

- Nature is our relative. Design with seasonal cycles, native species, and balance. Respect rivers, forests, and animals.

CULTURAL PROTOCOLS & PLACEKNOWING

- Honour traditions without tokenism. Include sacred fires, spirit plates, and treaty recognition.

YOUTH, ELDERS, & EDUCATION

- Ensure intergenerational access. Gather youth voices early. Provide spaces for learning and sharing knowledge.

COMMUNITY & CEREMONY

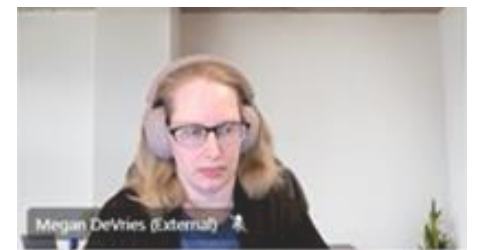
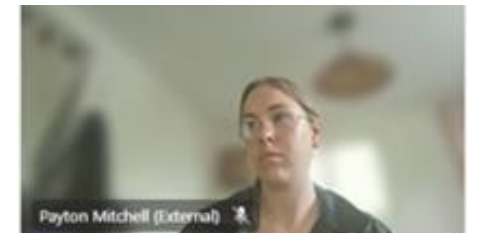
- Design for gathering, ceremony, and reflection. Celebrate life cycles, spirit, and story. Welcome all beings.

DECOLONIZATION & LAND RETURN

- Reclaim land and power. Involve Indigenous leadership from the start.

GOVERNANCE, CONSULTATION, & INCLUSION

- Engage treaty holders, knowledge keepers, and youth directly. Prioritize consent, funding capacity, and transparency.



July 3: Community Advisory Committee Workshop

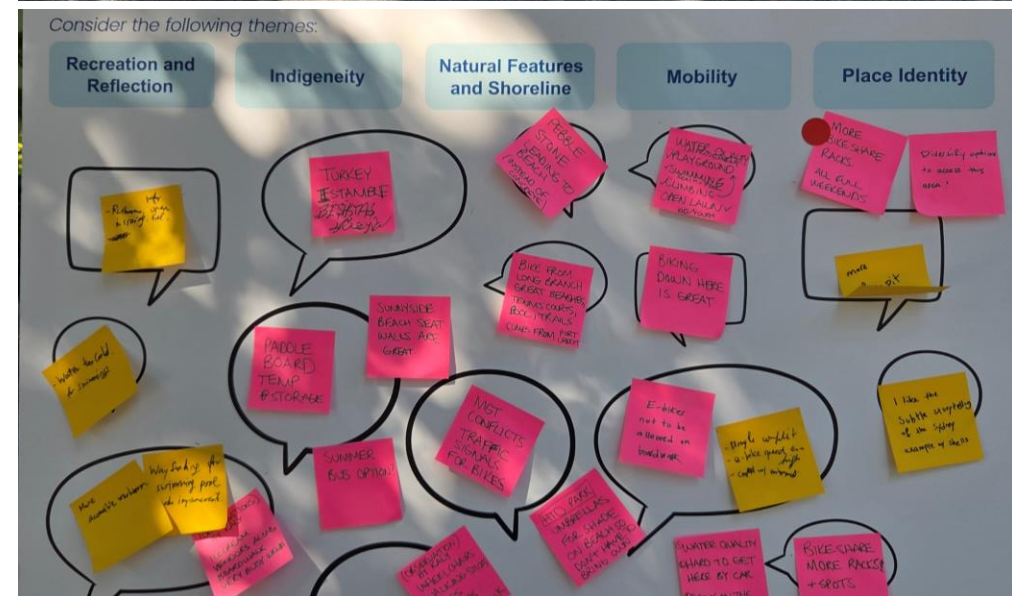


19+
Participants

July 6: Pop-up #1 (Weekend)

- Location #1 Sunnyside Pavilion
- Location #2 Budapest Park

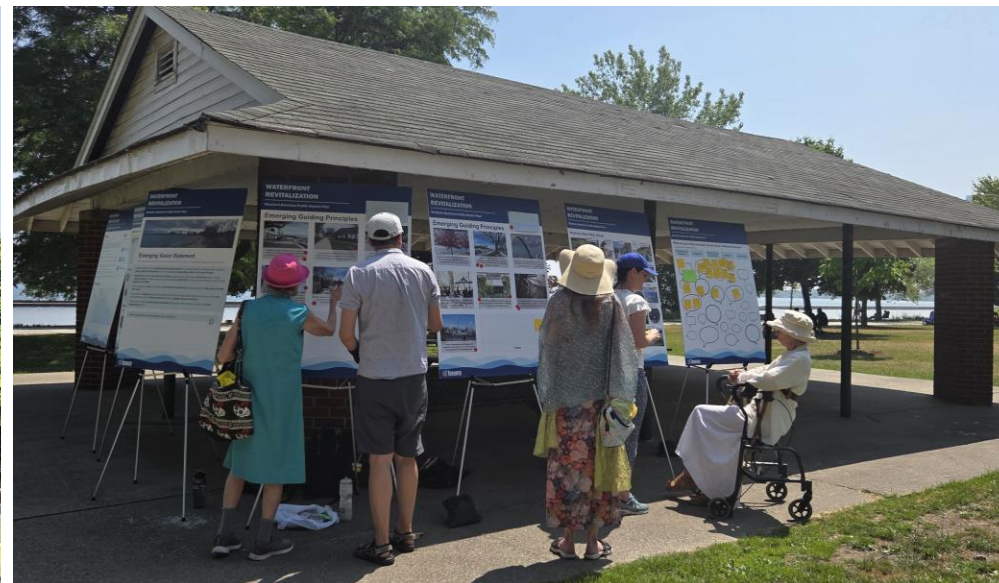
100+
Participants



July 15: Pop-up #2 (Weekday)

- Location #1 Sir Casimir Gzowski Park
- Location #2 Marilyn Bell Park

60+
Participants



July 11-27: Online Survey



1400+
Respondents



What We Heard

Through Engagement

What we asked:



Feedback on Vision Statement



Feedback on Guiding Principles



Prioritization of Guiding Principles



Big Moves

Feedback on Vision Statement

Comments on Vision Statement



1

Strengthen environmental and ecological focus — explicitly reference biodiversity, wildlife corridors, shoreline habitat restoration, and clean, swimmable water.



2

Elevate the role of the water — position the Western Beaches as both a landscape and a waterscape, celebrating inclusive, year-round water-based recreation and its identity as a premier waterfront destination.



3

Integrate Indigenous presence — weave Indigenous history, culture, and teachings into the vision as a defining element, not an add-on.



4

Emphasize all-season vibrancy — imagine a place that is comfortable, active, and inviting in every season through design, programming, and natural features.



5

Balance active and passive experiences — combine spaces for quiet reflection and nature appreciation with areas for lively events, sports, and social gatherings.



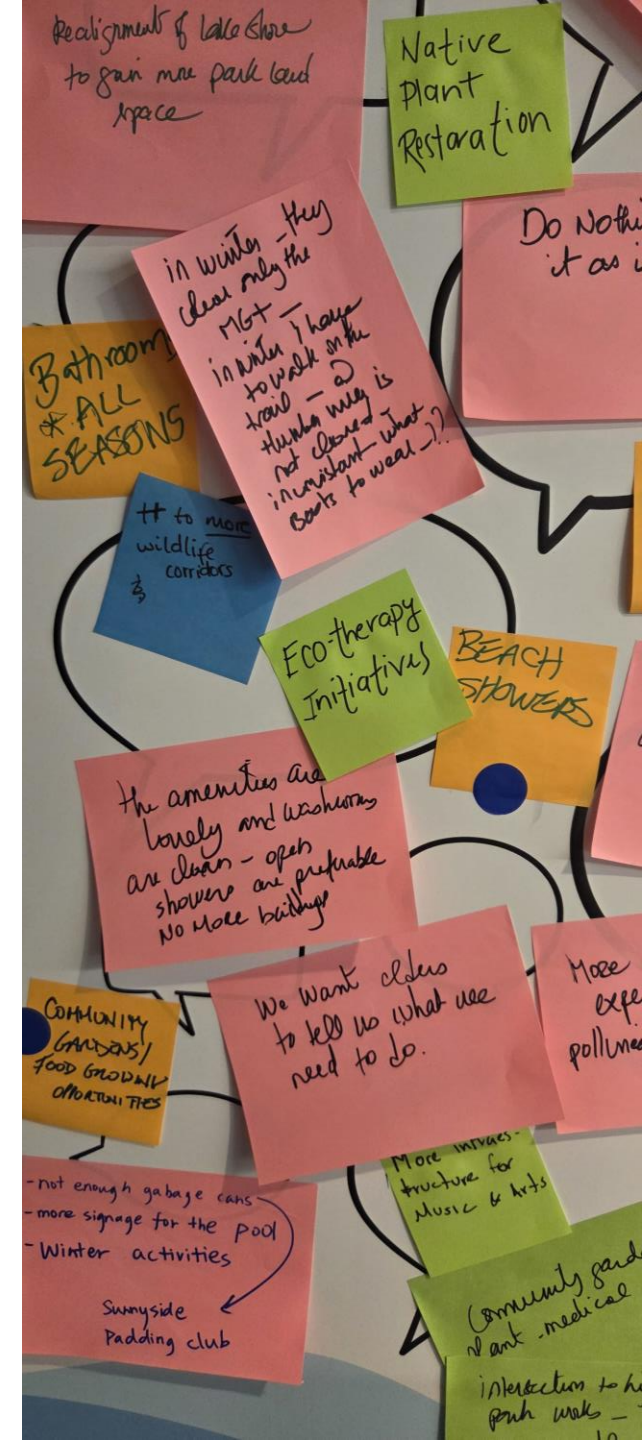
6

Use more concrete language where helpful (e.g., naming swimming, boating, and transit) and explicitly acknowledge safety and access/connectivity.



7

Champion inclusivity and accessibility — ensure all ages, abilities, and communities can experience the Western Beaches fully and comfortably.



Revised Vision Statement:

Western Beaches will be many things at once – offering a multitude of experiences **on land and water, welcoming all users in every season.**

It will continue to be a beloved and adaptable stretch of Toronto's western shoreline, **safe and easy to get to**, with a series of **parks, paths, naturalized areas, beaches, and waterways** that invite people to linger, play, reflect, and move through.

Movement will feel easy and intuitive, **comfortable for all modes of active transportation**, supported by meaningful connections, **universal accessibility**, and a strong sense of place. It will be a vibrant and welcoming destination **for everyone**, animated by spaces for **quiet reflection, lively gathering, and active recreation.**

More than just a view, it will **offer a true waterfront experience**, where people can see, touch, and feel the water, **and enjoy clean, swimmable shores alongside inclusive opportunities for water-based recreation.**

Grounded in Indigenous ways of knowing, it will honour deep relationships with the land and water, **celebrate Indigenous presence**, and reflect the Western Beaches' place within a larger living system, connected to the lake, river, and surrounding watershed where people, nature, and place are deeply intertwined.

Above all, it will be a sustainable, and resilient landscape where **all lives, species, and future generations thrive.**



Feedback on Guiding Principles

Comments on Guiding Principles



1

Language clarity and accessibility — simplify wording, avoid jargon, and use short, active phrases.



2

Inclusivity and accessibility — be explicit about mobility devices, strollers, and cognitive accessibility; include affordability as a dimension of access.



3

Environment and climate resilience — strengthen emphasis on stormwater management and nature-based climate adaptation.



4

Movement and connectivity — ensure separation or continuous parallel pedestrian routes where appropriate; call out north-south links to neighbourhoods; recognize the breakwater and water access/water quality as guiding considerations.



5

Culture, heritage, and Indigenous placekeeping — embed Indigenous presence throughout planning, design, construction, and programming, not only as features. Note that emphasis differed by method, with CAC and pop-ups elevating this more than the survey overall.



⑤ + ⑫
Very close
clarify now!

Revert
sunside
parking
park -
tablets
tablets as a destination

Barrier
from
car traffic
- noise
- safety
- visual

How do you
implement indigenous
beyond to tables
out. → food?

it a
ation to
drink
cultures of
(indigenous)

Clarify
indigenous seasonal
calendars

① & ⑪ to
be more separated
& distinct as
they read the same

to cent
community
All cultures
such as Kensington
linked

tents on
waterfront?
raising issue
challenge

Break out -
artificial islands?

OT

Revised Guiding Principles (1)

1



Design Diverse and Inclusive Spaces

Design a range of spaces that support diverse activities—from quiet reflection to active play—for people of all ages and abilities.

2



Year-Round Flexibility

Incorporate flexible programming and infrastructure that embraces all seasons, including Indigenous seasonal calendars.

3



Indigenous Placekeeping

Celebrate and restore Indigenous presence, values, and teachings through all phases — planning, design, construction, and operation — including naming, art, storytelling, and cultural interpretation, reflecting the teaching of *All Our Relations*.

4



Naturalization and Habitat Restoration

Restore shoreline habitats, enhance biodiversity, and protect ecological systems through nature-based solutions and considering Indigenous stewardship.

Revised Guiding Principles (2)

5



Climate Resilience and Adaptation

Strengthen resilience to climate change by designing landscapes that can adapt to changing conditions — from rising temperatures to fluctuating lake levels and more frequent extreme weather — while supporting comfort, safety, and ecological health over time.

6



Water Quality

Ensure ongoing improvement of water quality is prioritized through measures that protect public health and support safe recreation, contributing to a clean and healthy waterfront.

7



Lakefront Access and Recreation

Create immersive lakefront experiences that allow people to safely touch, see, and feel the water, while expanding access to water-based recreation such as swimming, paddling, and beach activities.

8



Identity and Character

Strengthen and reveal the distinct identity of the Western Beaches through design that reflects its cultural history, natural character, and diverse communities.

Revised Guiding Principles (3)

9



Mobility and Connectivity

Improve safety for all road, trail and watercraft users by providing clear, continuous, and universally accessible paths for walking, cycling, and rowing, with an emphasis on managing conflicts among various users, and enhancing the experience for all.

10



Access to the Western Beaches

Explore opportunities to strengthen connections between communities and the waterfront and improve access to the Western Beaches by active transportation, public transit, and water-based modes.

11



Gathering and Social Connection

Create welcoming places to gather that encourage social connection, cultural exchange, and celebration that reflect Toronto's diversity.

12



Food and Beverage Diversity

Enhance opportunities for improved hospitality and food experiences by offering diverse, high-quality, and culturally rich food and beverage options that encourage people to linger and return.

Revised Guiding Principles (4)

13



Cultural Storytelling

Incorporate public art, interpretation, and storytelling that encourages learning about the history of the place and its cultures, including Indigenous, local, and immigrant narratives.

14

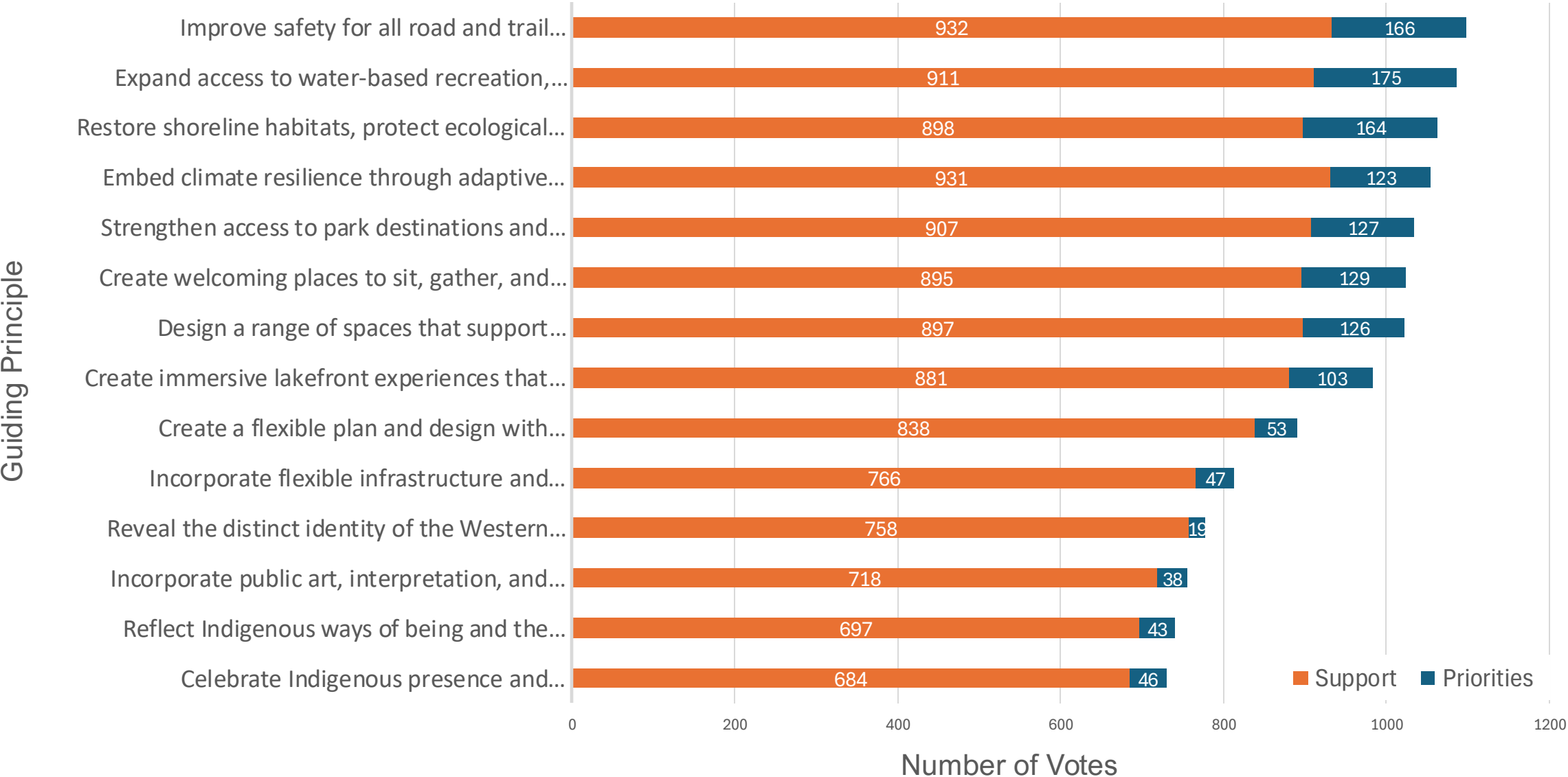


Flexibility for the Future

Create a flexible plan with phased implementation to accommodate future growth, evolving community needs, and changing environmental conditions.

Priorities

How many votes of support or priority did each guiding principle receive through community engagement?



Big Moves

Emerging Big Moves



Plan for
Climate-ready,
Resilient
Design



Reimagine &
Repair the
Breakwaters



Revitalize
Heritage
Destinations



Ensure Safe
Pedestrian &
Cycling
Movement



Protect &
Enhance
Boating &
Rowing
Culture



Create a Food
& Beverage
Strategy



Enhance
Navigation &
Wayfinding



Deliver Year-
round
Comfort &
Amenities



Strengthen
Access to
Western
Beaches



Re-imagine
Play on the
Waterfront for
All Ages



Improve
Access to the
Lake



Honour
Indigenous
Presence &
Storytelling



Restore
Natural
Systems &
Habitats



Make the
Water Clean &
Swimmable

Emerging Big Moves + Common Themes



Plan for
Climate-ready,
Resilient
Design



Reimagine &
Repair the
Breakwaters



Revitalize
Heritage
Destinations



Ensure Safe
Pedestrian &
Cycling
Movement



Protect &
Enhance
Boating &
Rowing
Culture



Create a Food
& Beverage
Strategy



Enhance
Navigation &
Wayfinding



Deliver Year-
round
Comfort &
Amenities



Strengthen
Access to
Western
Beaches



Re-imagine
Play on the
Waterfront for
All Ages



Improve
Access to the
Lake



Honour
Indigenous
Presence &
Storytelling



Restore
Natural
Systems &
Habitats



Make the
Water Clean &
Swimmable

Big Moves Grouped by Themes



Make the
Water Clean &
Swimmable



Reimagine &
Repair the
Breakwaters



Improve
Access to the
Lake



Protect &
Enhance
Boating &
Rowing
Culture



Create Safe
Pedestrian &
Cycling
Movement



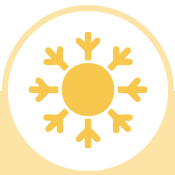
Strengthen
Access to
Western
Beaches



Enhance
Navigation &
Wayfinding

Water Quality & Access

Mobility, Access & Connectivity



Deliver Year-
round
Comfort &
Amenities



Create a Food
& Beverage
Strategy



Re-imagine
Play on the
Waterfront for
All Ages



Revitalize
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Destinations



Honour
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Restore
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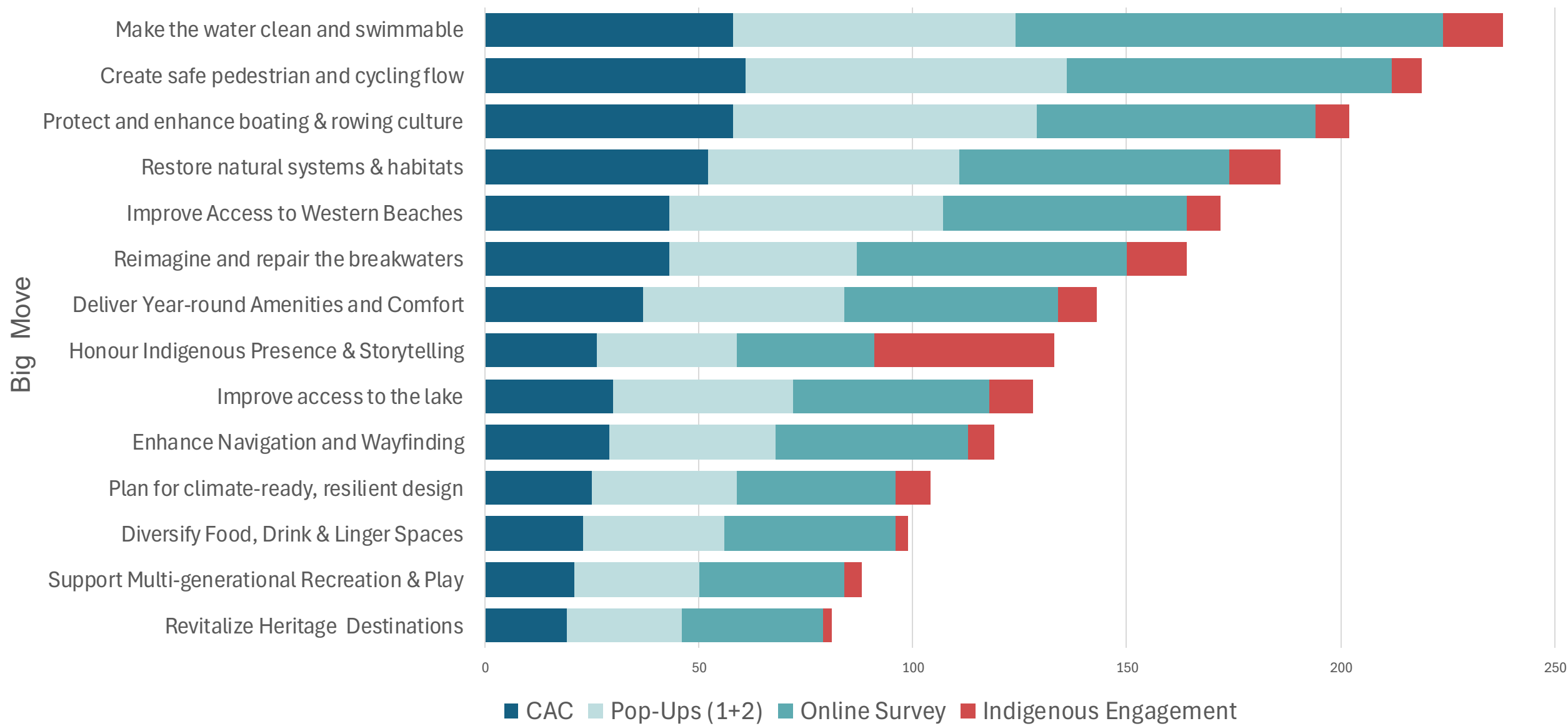
Plan for
Climate-ready,
Resilient
Design

Visitor Experience & Park Amenity

Climate Resilience & Natural Environment

Indigenous Placeknowing

Number of Comments Received Related to Each Big Move



How We Are Responding

Draft Ideas for the Big Moves

Toronto Parkland Strategy: Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

Four guiding principles support the vision for Toronto's parks system and form the foundation of the Parkland Strategy. These principles will guide the work of the City staff, City Council, and other stakeholders as the Parkland Strategy is implemented.

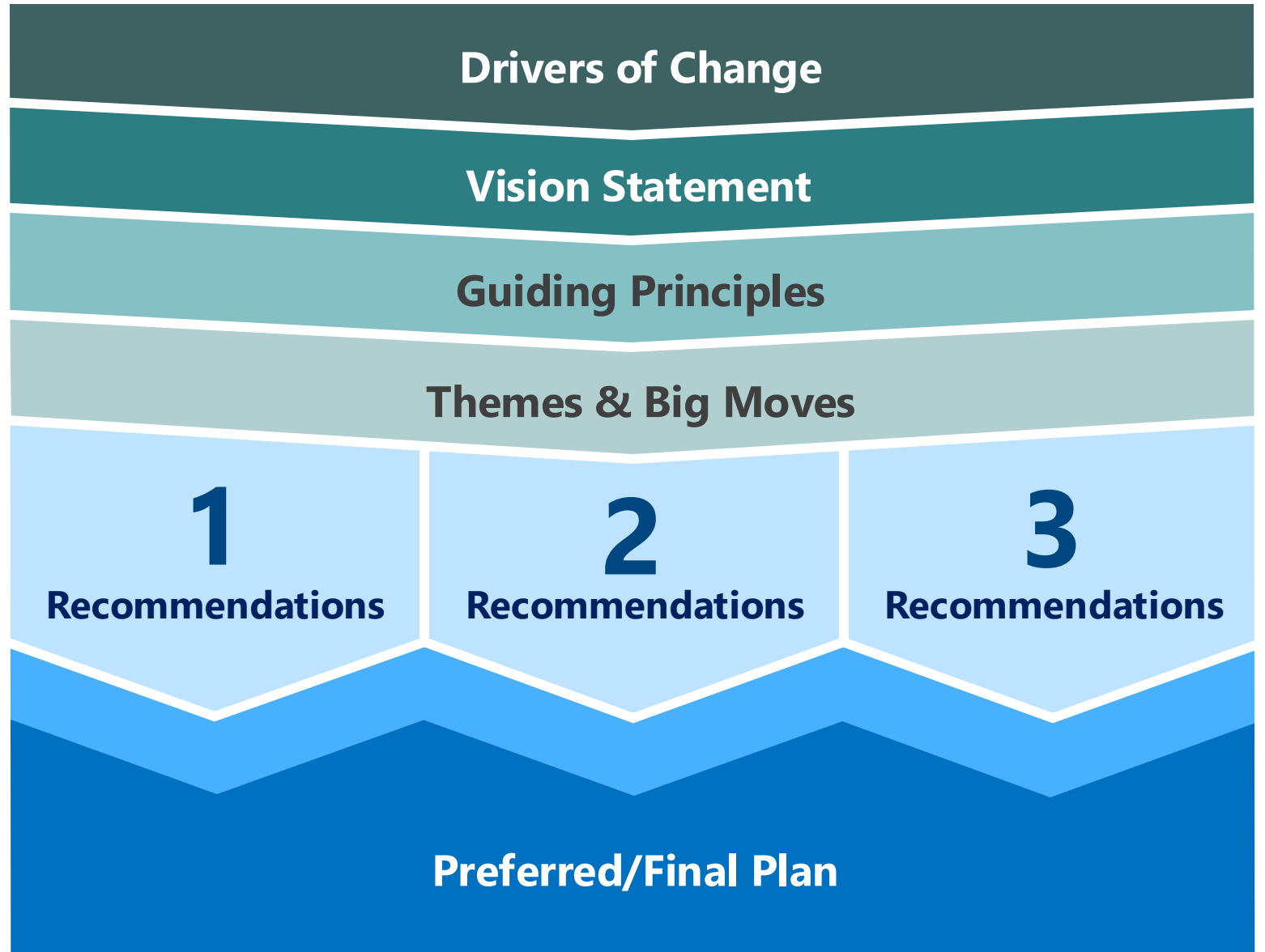
EXPAND the parks system by creating new parks to support growth and address gaps to ensure an effective parks system that will support the needs of a livable, diverse city.

IMPROVE the function of existing parks to promote community cohesion, ecological sustainability, and health and wellbeing through the active living, access to nature, and the provision of spaces for rest, relaxation, and leisure.

CONNECT parks and other open spaces, physically and visually, and leverage opportunities to use other open spaces so that people, communities and wildlife have abundant access to parks and open spaces and can seamlessly navigate to and through the parks and open space system.

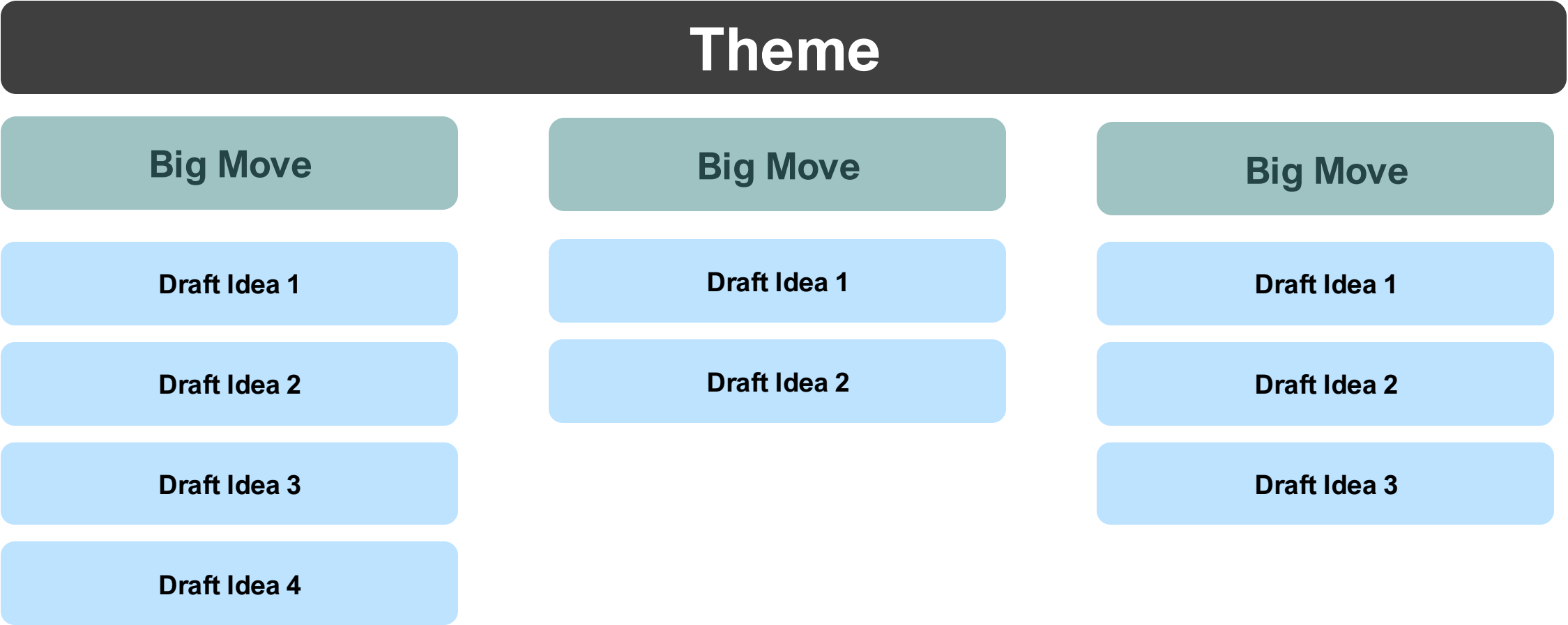
INCLUDE everyone by removing barriers so that parks and other open spaces are inclusive and inviting places that are equitably accessible for people of all ages, cultures, genders, abilities, and incomes.

Public Realm Plan Framework



How Themes, Big Moves, and Draft Ideas Connect

Each Theme includes several Big Moves, each supported by a set of Draft Ideas we'll review in today's workshop.



Theme

Water Quality & Access

Big Move



Make the water clean & swimmable

- Promote City's progress on improving combined sewer overflows (CSOs)
- Pilot floating wetland systems
- Implement real-time water quality and CSO monitoring system
- Advance ongoing cleanout of High Park stormwater management (SWM) facilities

Draft Ideas



Reimagine & repair the breakwaters

- Explore options to integrate nature-based design approaches into breakwaters
- Advance work to repair existing breakwaters



Improve access to the lake

- Improve opportunities to overlook and experience the water's edge
- Expand and improve the beach between the Legion and Boulevard Club
- Create opportunities for ceremonial water access



Protect and enhance boating & rowing culture

- Establish safe rowing and paddling corridors, separate from swimming zones
- Add public dock amenities to support paddlers and swimmers
- Strengthen on-water safety protocols and enforcement
- Evaluate and refine approach to paddle craft rentals based on current pilot

Mobility, Access & Connectivity



Create safe pedestrian & cycling flow

- Extend the boardwalk for the entirety of the study area
- Identify segments to continue/extend a pedestrian-only path parallel to MGT
- Turn Aquatic Drive Trail portion of MGT into a slow zone
- Improve safety conditions at driveways and parking access points along the MGT
- Improve secondary paths to meaningfully connect to destinations
- Improve safety and connectivity at the Humber Bay Arch Bridge
- Communicate that the MGT is a shared path
- Improve bridge landings (e.g., wayfinding, landscaping, paving, lighting)



Strengthen access to Western Beaches

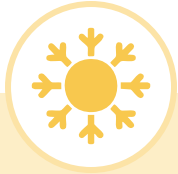
- Improve underpasses (e.g., lighting, public art, maintenance)
- Reimagine parking areas as welcoming gateways (e.g., wayfinding, landscaping, incl. PUDOs)
- Enhance connection to High Park
- Work with TTC to consider transit improvements to Western Beaches



Enhance navigation & wayfinding

- Initiate a Western Beaches wayfinding plan

Visitor Experience & Park Amenity (1)



Deliver year-round amenities and comfort

- Identify a unifying standard for park amenities in the Western Beaches
- Improve the cycling experience with more consistent and supportive amenities
- Upgrade quality and quantity of visitor amenities
- Integrate thermal comfort consideration into all future park design
- Deliver accessible, year-round washrooms



Create a food & beverage strategy

- Expand and diversify food and beverage options
- Expand picnic and barbecue areas in key locations



Re-imagine play on the waterfront for all ages

- Introduce a nature play zone
- Improve and expand the existing outdoor fitness zones
- Enhance and better integrate the existing BMX facility
- Introduce a multipurpose sports zone
- Refurbish existing playgrounds

Visitor Experience & Park Amenity (2)



Revitalize heritage destinations

- Reinforce Sunnyside Pavilion as a community hub
- Reimagine the Joy Oil Station as a visitor centre
- Reveal Western Beaches' stories through an interpretive plan



Honour Indigenous presence & storytelling

- Advance place-knowing through art and signage
- Establish a narrative trail: "walking with story"
- Celebrate the mouth of the Humber River as an Indigenous place of significance
- Cultivate Indigenous teaching landscapes to support Indigenous programming

Climate Resilience & Natural Environment



Restore natural systems & habitats

- Restore ecological systems at the Humber River mouth
- Design with seasonal water
- Create soundscape and sensory water experience
- Support wildlife and habitat networks
- Support aquatic habitat networks
- Cultivate native plant habitats
- Celebrate medicinal and Indigenous planting practices



Plan for climate-ready, resilient design

- Design for water retention and filtration
- Capture and treat snowmelt runoff
- Protect shorelines

How Recommendations Become Reality Over Time



1. **A Plan to Guide Decision-Making:** A long-term guiding document to coordinate work, build momentum and inspire action.



2. **Prioritization:** Feedback from this process will inform prioritization of ideas. Final priorities and sequencing will be set by City divisions in collaboration with Councillors, aligned with complementary work and funding.



3. **Further Review and Additional Studies:** For some recommendations, further vetting will be required before projects are initiated and may include additional studies.



4. **Project Scoping:** Recommendations will become individual projects, each requiring its own detailed design process, including technical review and community engagement.

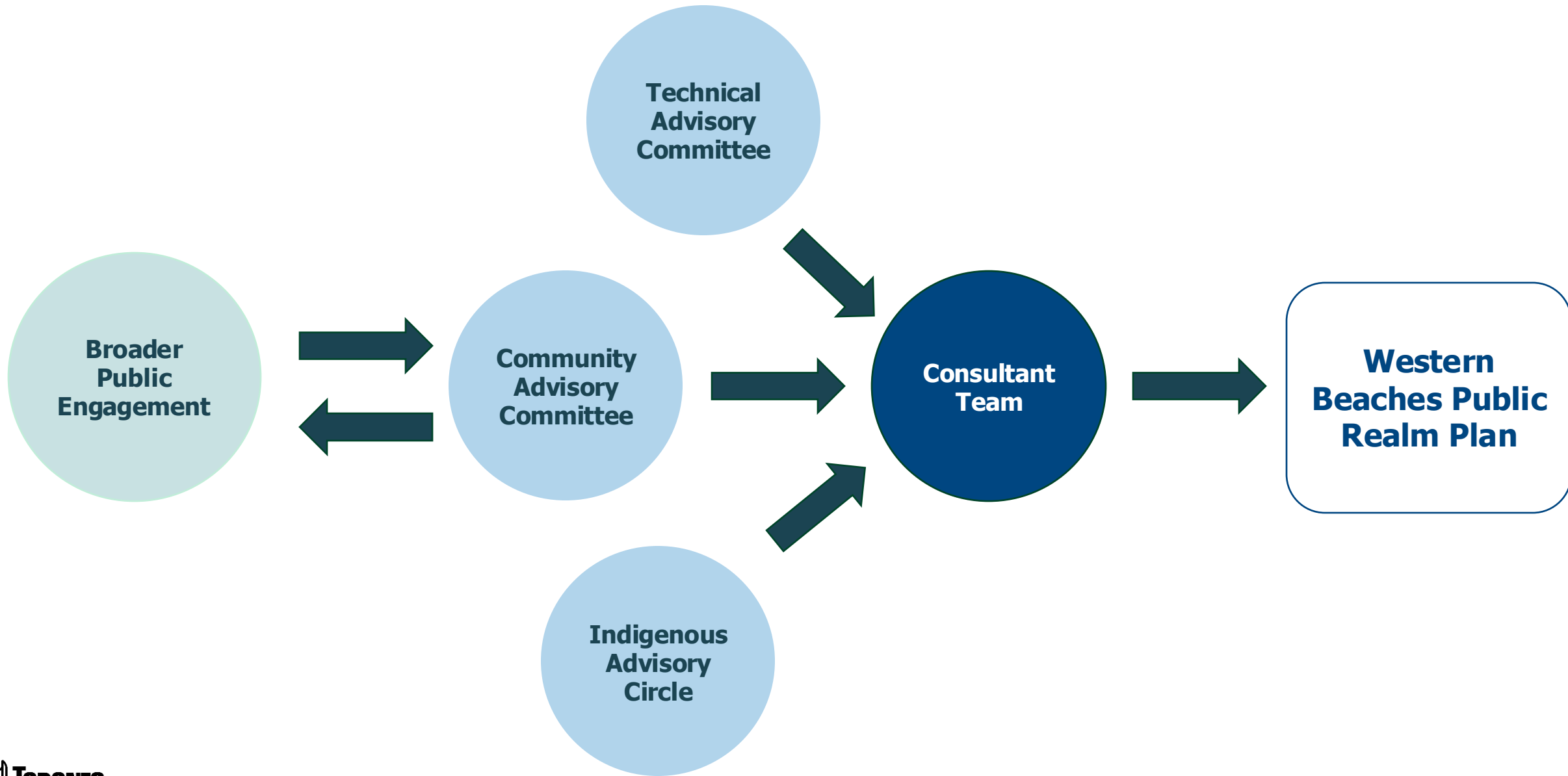


5. **Project Budgeting:** Each project will go through its own budgeting process, shaped by current and complementary work, available funding, resources and partnership consideration.



6. **Phased Implementation:** Changes will occur over time and be coordinated with other work to maximize outcome and community benefit.

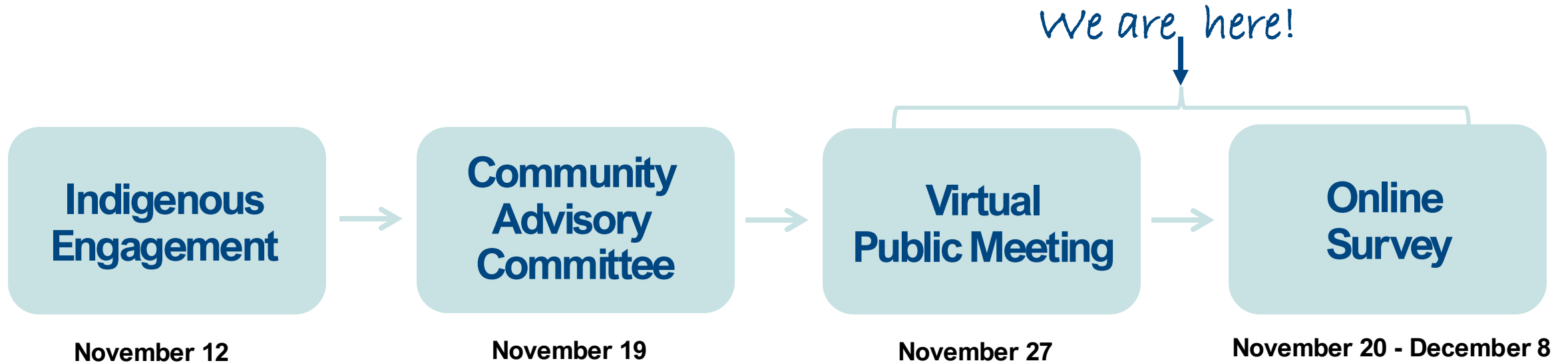
Inputs into the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan



Next Steps

Where do we go from here?

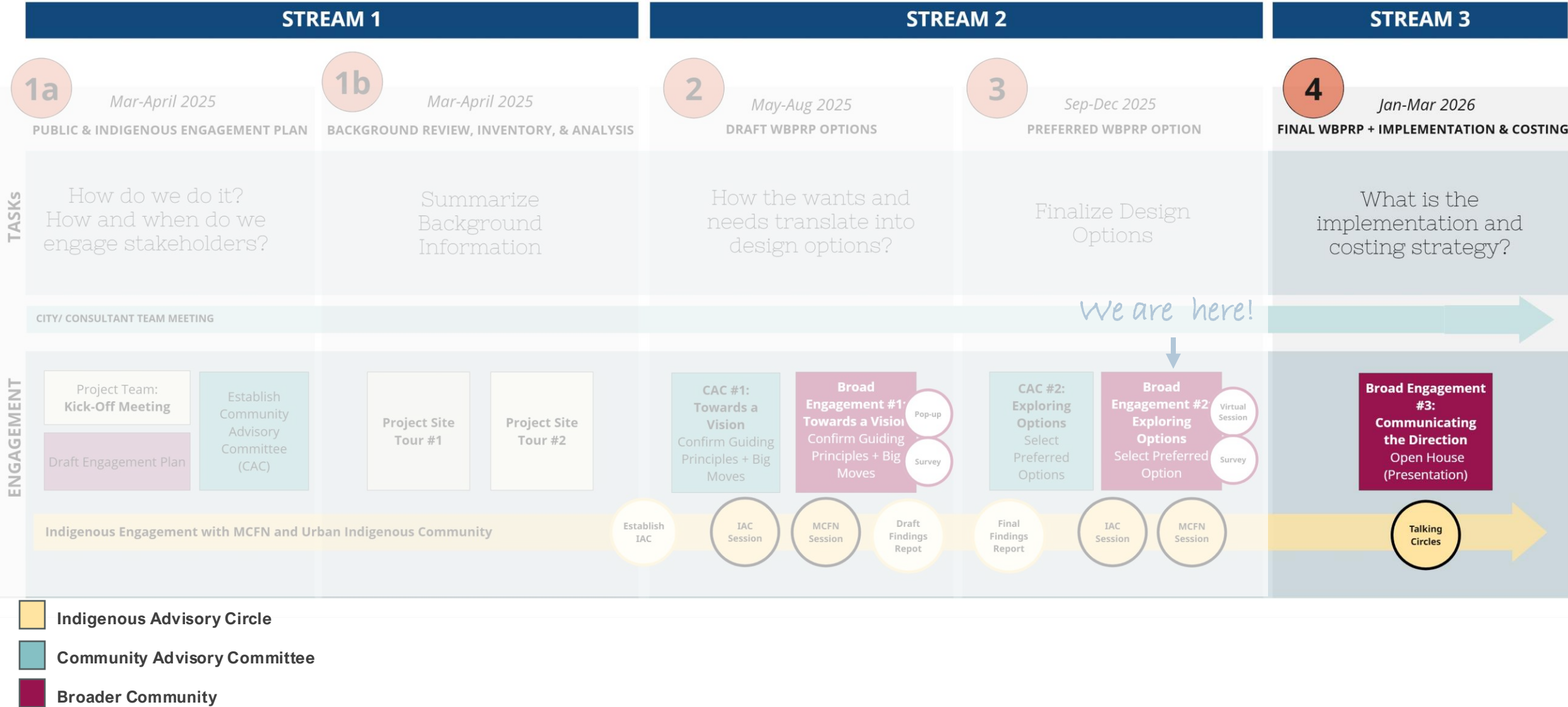
Upcoming Community Engagement



Next Steps: Work Plan



Looking Ahead



Thank you!

Take the Online Survey

- [Toronto.ca/WesternBeaches](https://toronto.ca/WesternBeaches)

For additional questions:

- WesternBeachesPlan@toronto.ca