

Community Advisory Committee Meeting 3 Summary Report

Western Beaches Public Realm Plan Update
Community Engagement Phase 2: Exploring Options
November 19, 2025





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Introduction

The City of Toronto is working with local residents, community groups, and waterfront users to refresh the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan — a long-term vision for how this cherished stretch of the waterfront can better serve the people who live, work, and play here.

Phase 2 engagement focused on validating the community-led vision and exploring potential “Big Moves”. Activities included a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, an Indigenous Advisory Circle meeting, an online public meeting, and an online survey.

This summary report captures feedback from the third CAC meeting, held on November 19, 2025, at Swansea Town Hall, from 6:00-9:00 PM. The meeting introduced the revised draft Vision and Guiding Principles and provided an opportunity for CAC members to review, discuss, and provide input on emerging draft ideas for the Western Beaches Plan.

Meeting Format

The meeting was held in person at Swansea Town Hall and was attended by 28 people in total, including 14 CAC members, 13 City staff and consultants as well as City Councillor for Ward 4 (Parkdale-High Park).

The session began with sign-in, refreshments, and an informal welcome, followed by opening remarks from City Councillor for Ward 4 and an overview of the evening’s objectives. The project presentation then summarized engagement to date and introduced the revised draft Vision and Guiding Principles, which had been updated based on feedback received to date. Participants were invited to review and validate the revised Vision and Guiding Principles.

Following this, a second project presentation introduced 14 draft Big Moves that had emerged based on what had been heard to date and explained how these were organized into four main themes. The themes were Water Quality and Access; Mobility, Access and Connectivity; Visitor Experience and Park Amenity; and Climate Resilience and Natural Environment.

For the remainder of the session, participants took part in facilitated breakout discussions. Participants rotated between four themed stations, each dedicated to one

theme, where they reviewed draft Big Moves and associated draft ideas, discussed opportunities and concerns, and shared ideas. The session concluded with a brief group report back outlining key discussion highlights, followed by an overview of next steps and closing remarks.

The evening followed a structured agenda, outlined below:

1. Sign-in & Registration

- Welcome, name tags, and refreshments

2. Welcome & Introductions

- Overview of the evening's goals
- Councillor's remarks

3. Project Presentation

- Summary of Engagement
- Revised Vision and Guiding Principles

4. Break and Validation Exercise:

- Short break with an opportunity to validate revised Vision and Guiding Principles

5. Big Moves: Workshop Introduction

- Short presentation introducing the Themes, Big Moves, and how to navigate the discussion materials

6. Breakout Activity: Exploring Draft Ideas

- Four breakout tables, each focused on one theme
- Participants will rotate between tables in small groups to review and discuss draft ideas

7. Group Report Backs

- Each group shares key ideas and highlights (approximately 2 minutes per group)

8. Next Steps & Closing Remarks

- How input will be used
- Upcoming Engagement
- Thank you and adjourn

What We Heard

Discussion Highlights

Participants remained highly engaged throughout the evening, with conversations that were thoughtful, constructive, and solution-oriented. The tone of the meeting was positive and collaborative, reflecting a shared commitment to shaping a vibrant, inclusive, and well-functioning waterfront.

Discussion across both the Vision and Principles review and the Big Moves workshop focused on practical implementation. Participants asked how ideas would translate into on-the-ground actions, how priorities would be set, what timelines might look like, and how short-term improvements could be balanced with long-term transformation. There was strong appreciation for seeing how earlier community input had been reflected in the updated materials, along with continued interest in ensuring proposals remain realistic, phased, and coordinated with City initiatives.

Across themes, participants emphasized safety, water quality, access to the lake, protection of natural systems, year-round comfort, and maintaining the unique character of the Western Beaches. Many comments reflected a desire to balance activation and programming with preservation of open space and naturalized areas.

Vision & Guiding Principles Feedback

Participants were invited to review and provide feedback on the refined Vision Statement and Guiding Principles. Large-format panels displaying the updated Vision and Guiding Principles were set up around the room, and participants discussed them in small groups, with members of the project team available to answer questions and provide clarification as needed.

Refined 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.

Refined Guiding Principles

1. 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, including planning, design, construction, and operation, through 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.

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.

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.

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.

Summary of Discussion

Discussion focused on how the Vision and Guiding Principles would be translated into on-the-ground actions, including questions about implementation approaches, phasing, and anticipated timelines. Feedback was generally positive, with participants expressing continued support for the overall direction of the project and appreciation for seeing how earlier input had been reflected in the updated materials.

Draft Ideas Breakout Workshop

Project Themes and Big Moves

During the session, participants were introduced to 14 draft Big Moves, organized under four overarching project themes. These Big Moves were developed based on clear patterns in the ideas, hopes, and goals expressed through community engagement to date, and build upon the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles. The Big Moves are outlined below, organized by theme.

Water Quality and Access

1. Make the water clean & swimmable
2. Reimagine & repair the breakwaters
3. Improve access to the lake
4. Protect and enhance boating & rowing culture

Mobility, Access and Connectivity

5. Create safe pedestrian & cycling flow

6. Strengthen access to Western Beaches
7. Enhance navigation & wayfinding

Visitor Experience and Park Amenity

8. Deliver year-round amenities and comfort
9. Create a food & beverage strategy
10. Re-imagine play on the waterfront for all ages
11. Revitalize heritage destinations
12. Honour Indigenous presence & storytelling

Climate Resilience and Natural Environment

13. Restore natural systems & habitats
14. Plan for climate-ready, resilient design

Workshop Discussion Format

Participants reviewed and discussed the draft ideas under each of the 14 Big Moves. Small-group discussions were held at tables, each dedicated to one of the four themes. Groups spent approximately 20 minutes at each table, allowing participants to provide input across all themes. At each table, facilitators introduced the relevant Big Moves and draft ideas. Participants shared ideas, provided comments, and indicated whether they supported or did not support each draft idea. Notes and support counts were recorded throughout the session.

Summary of Participant Feedback

Participant comments and support percentages are summarized below and organized by theme. Support percentages reflect the combined responses collected across all workshop discussion tables, based on the participation of 14 CAC members.

Water Quality & Access

Participants expressed strong, consistent support for making the water cleaner, safer, and more accessible. There was clear enthusiasm for real-time water quality monitoring, improved stormwater management, and restoring natural systems that would enable safe swimming. While participants supported exploring pilot projects such as floating wetlands, they raised questions about scale, location, and ensuring interventions do not feel piecemeal or obstruct views. Draft ideas about the breakwaters generated mixed feedback: participants recognized their protective purpose but were concerned about height, visual impacts, cost, and whether redesigns might unintentionally limit access or water flow. Across all discussions, the desire to maintain a natural shoreline character,

expand safe access to the water, and include Indigenous ceremonial access in a respectful, co-designed manner emerged as clear priorities.

Below is a detailed breakdown of participant comments for each draft idea. Level of support percentages reflect the proportion of participating CAC members indicating support during workshop discussions.

1.0 - Make the Water Clean & Swimmable

1.1 - Promote City's progress on improving combined sewer overflows (CSOs)

Support: 100%

Participants asked whether this work could delay other projects and noted the importance of coordinating with other initiatives. Comments included "should be promoted more," and "good to hear."

1.2 - Pilot floating wetland systems

Support: 58%

Participants asked about specific locations, suggesting areas near southwest outfalls. There was support for a pilot and for short-term, implementable actions. Concerns were raised about tight space between breakwaters, not impeding specific locations, and avoiding piecemeal approaches. Several suggested larger interventions over many small ones. Participants questioned why floating wetlands were proposed, cautioned against overdevelopment, and emphasized "less is more" and "dilution is the solution."

1.3 - Implement real-time water quality and CSO monitoring system

Support: 100%

Strong support for transparency and real-time information. Participants noted a 24-hour delay is too long and that less-accurate but timely information is better. Suggestions included combining monitoring with direct water testing. Concerns were raised about breakwaters affecting water flow and circulation. Some questioned why breakwaters are needed at all.

1.4 - Advance ongoing cleanout of High Park stormwater management (SWM) facilities

Support: 100%

Participants expressed support and asked how frequently cleanouts occur. Concerns included nearby pipes as an eyesore, odour near the pond, and slow water circulation.

2.0 - Reimagine and Repair the Breakwaters

2.1 - Explore options to integrate nature-based design approaches into breakwaters

Support: 42%

Participants raised concerns about blocking horizon views, cost, safety, and whether people could walk on breakwaters. Discussion included opportunities for aquatic versus terrestrial habitat, bird nesting, aesthetics, and height. Some preferred concrete. Risks of people accessing breakwaters were noted. A question was raised about whether this relates to Indigenous reconciliation.

2.2 - Advance work to repair existing breakwaters

Support: 75%

Participants questioned why all breakwaters are needed and discussed shoreline protection and erosion. Eastern beaches protected by the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority were noted. Concerns included visibility over new breakwaters, not building new ones too high, and that breakwaters benefit some users and not others.

3.0 - Improve Access to the Lake

3.1 - Improve opportunities to overlook and experience the water's edge

Support: 100%

Participants responded positively to circular gathering spaces and highlighted the importance of winter use. Comments also suggested exploring inlet swimming areas, the importance of water quality improvements, maintaining a natural character, and a potential pier near Sunnyside.

3.2 - Expand and improve the beach between the Legion and Boulevard Club

Support: 100%

Participants described this as a beautiful stretch that needs to be more accessible.

3.3 - Create opportunities for ceremonial water access

Support: 100%

Participants emphasized that design should be done in consultation with Indigenous communities and requested more clarity.

4.0 - Protect and Enhance Boating and Rowing Culture

4.1 - Establish safe rowing and paddling corridors, separate from swimming zones

Support: 92%

Participants felt separation from swimming zones would improve safety. Signage for new paddlers was suggested. Concerns included rowers travelling fast and backwards, and enforcement. Support was conditional on enforcement.

4.2 - Add public dock amenities for paddlers and swimmers

Support: 100%

A pilot on private waterfront property was suggested.

4.3 - Strengthen on-water safety protocols and enforcement

Support: 100%

No additional comments.

4.4 - Evaluate and refine approach to paddle craft rentals based on current pilot

Support: 92%

Some participants disliked shipping containers on the beach and supported improved rental pavilions.

Mobility, Access & Connectivity

Participants emphasized the need to improve safety and reduce conflicts between pedestrians, cyclists, and vehicles. There was strong support for better-defined pedestrian-only routes, slow zones on the Martin Goodman Trail, improved secondary paths, and safer intersections, particularly where driveways and parking areas meet the trail. Enhancing connections across Lake Shore Boulevard West, the rail corridor, and the Gardiner Expressway was seen as essential to ensuring the Western Beaches feels welcoming and accessible for all. Participants also supported clearer wayfinding, improved lighting, and better connections to High Park and Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) routes. Overall, mobility discussions consistently reflected a desire for safe, intuitive movement throughout the site, with solutions grounded in both design and enforcement.

Below is a detailed breakdown of participant comments for each draft idea. Level of support percentages reflect the proportion of participating CAC members indicating support during workshop discussions.

5.0 - Create Safe Pedestrian and Cycling Flow

5.1 - Extend the boardwalk for the entirety of the study area

Support: 92%

Participants generally supported improved waterfront continuity. A specific concern was raised about how extending the boardwalk could affect boating club access and operations by creating a physical barrier between clubs and the water. Examples from Hamilton and Quebec City were noted. Participants emphasized assessing the feasibility, balancing cost, safety, and overall benefit, and carefully managing interfaces with existing boating uses.

5.2 - Identify segments to continue/extend a pedestrian-only path parallel to MGT

Support: 100%

Participants supported a safe, accessible pedestrian path and preferred this over boardwalk expansion.

5.3 - Turn Aquatic Drive Trail portion of MGT into a slow zone

Support: 85%

Participants supported formalizing a slow zone with signage. Some noted it already functions as a slow zone. Confusion at westbound MGT splits was highlighted. Suggestions included reviewing trail alignments, clarifying messaging, and considering pedestrian-only zones on the boardwalk.

5.4 - Improve safety conditions at driveways and parking access points along the MGT

Support: 100%

Suggestions included trail realignment to reduce conflicts, improved lighting, highlighted pavement at intersections, right-turn lane access, and enforcement to address gridlock. Participants also discussed the need for traffic lights and pedestrian crossings to better control vehicle speeds along Lake Shore Boulevard West.

5.5 - Improve secondary paths to meaningfully connect to destinations

Support: 100%

Participants supported improved connections but noted it is not a top priority. Preferences included natural paths, fewer paved surfaces, stronger west connections, and ensuring links lead to meaningful destinations.

5.6 - Improve safety and connectivity at the Humber Bay Arch Bridge

Support: 100%

Suggestions included improved pavement markings, signage, traffic calming, and measures to reduce conflicts between cyclists, pedestrians, and visitors.

5.7 - Communicate that MGT is a shared path

Support: 100%

Participants stressed reminding users that MGT is a shared path and reinforcing speed limits. They noted a lack of enforcement and that some users do not know it is shared.

5.8 - Improve bridge landings

Support: 100%

Support for bridge replacement, including planned work at Dowling.

6.0 - Strengthen Access to Western Beaches

6.1 - Improve underpasses

Support: 100%

Participants requested better lighting, high-contrast finishes, improved separation from roadways, and added greening.

6.2 - Reimagine parking areas as welcoming gateways

Support: 100%

Support for permeable surfaces, off-season uses (food trucks, ice skating), and improved wayfinding.

6.3 - Enhance connection to High Park

Support: 100%

Support for a land bridge with vehicle underpass at Colborne Lodge. A zipline connection was suggested.

6.4 - Work with TTC to consider transit improvements to Western Beaches

Support: 100%

Participants supported improved transit access, better signage to transit, and a possible CNE-to-west-end route serving Western Beaches.

7.0 - Enhance Navigation and Wayfinding

7.1 - Initiate a Western Beaches wayfinding plan

Support: 100%

Participants noted the system should not be overly complicated and suggested improving digital information.

Visitor Experience & Park Amenity

Participants consistently emphasized the importance of functionality, durability, and ongoing maintenance, and cautioned against overly elaborate or decorative design interventions. Comments stressed that amenities should support year-round use while avoiding excessive infrastructure, permanent buildings, or commercialization that could erode green space. There was repeated caution against over-programming and a desire to preserve the waterfront's natural character. Participants highlighted the need for accessible, well-maintained washrooms, durable materials, and amenities that work in winter as well as summer. Food options were supported, but only if affordable, community-oriented, and carefully located. Overall, comments reflected a preference for practical improvements that enhance comfort and usability without compromising openness or ecological value.

Below is a detailed breakdown of participant comments for each draft idea. Level of support percentages reflect the proportion of participating CAC members indicating support during workshop discussions.

8.0 - Deliver Year-Round Amenities and Comfort

8.1 - Identify a unifying standard for park amenities in the Western Beaches

Support: 100%

Participants supported having a consistent approach to park amenities, while noting that some variation is important to preserve the distinct character of different areas. They emphasized that durable, high-quality materials are more important than highly decorative or elaborate design features. Support for biking amenities was high, though less focus on BikeShare specifically.

8.2 - Improve the cycling experience with more consistent and supportive amenities

Support: 100%

Support for improved cycling amenities, with emphasis on function over form, supply management for BikeShare, and dedicated staff to rebalance bikes.

8.3 - Upgrade quality and quantity of visitor amenities

Support: 100%

Strong support, particularly for fire pits and dog water fountains.

8.4 - Integrate thermal comfort consideration into all future park design

Support: 100%

Participants supported integrating thermal comfort but cautioned against over-building and over-using electricity. Emphasis on clean energy, seasonal variation, and natural spaces.

8.5 - Deliver accessible, year-round washrooms

Support: 100%

Strong support for accessible, year-round washrooms with longer hours. Comments included doors opening outward, larger stalls, and emphasis on maintenance.

9.0 - Create a Food & Beverage Strategy

9.1 - Expand and diversify food and beverage options

Support: 100%

Participants supported expanded, affordable, and community-oriented food options. Food trucks were strongly supported, with preference for clustering away from the beach edge. Suggestions included shared kitchens, a coordinated strategy across Western Beaches, composting, limiting plastics, fairness in vendor access, and giving the area a Toronto identity. Examples included Base31, Market 707, and STACKT. Concern about not adding permanent buildings in the park.

9.2 - Expand picnic & barbecue areas in key locations

Support: 77%

Participants urged caution to avoid loss of green space and commercialization. Support for expanded picnic areas, possible liquor licensing, sustained maintenance funding, and capacity considerations. Sunnyside Pavilion was suggested as a focal area.

10.0 - Re-Imagine Play on the Waterfront

10.1 - Introduce a nature play zone

Support: 100%

Support for replacing dinosaur play structures and introducing nature-based, risk-tolerant play. Some asked what “nature play” means.

10.2 - Improve and expand the existing outdoor fitness zones

Support: 92%

Support for improving and expanding outdoor fitness, preferably near the water but not on the beach. Comments included noise concerns, enhancing existing zones rather than adding many new ones, making equipment more diverse, and exploring women-only programming.

10.3 - Enhance and better integrate the existing BMX facility

Support: 100%

Suggestions included user focus groups, adding skate elements, promotion, and inviting new users to try BMX. Some questioned popularity and investment value.

10.4 - Introduce a multipurpose sports zone

Support: 33%

Concerns about over-programming park space. Support for courts if space remains for passive use. Comments included not placing active uses on the beach, balancing naturalized areas, maintaining Caribana dragon boat space, and considering access and agencies.

10.5 - Refurbish existing playgrounds

Support: 100%

Strong support and high priority. Interest in introducing natural elements.

11.0 - Revitalize Heritage Destinations

11.1 - Reinforce Sunnyside Pavilion as a community hub

Support: 100%

Very strong support for reinforcing Sunnyside as a community hub. Suggestions included re-imagining the entrance and courtyard and bringing back the pier.

11.2 - Reimagine the Joy Oil Station as a visitor centre

Support: 100%

Strong support for a visitor centre. Emphasis on careful integration of interior and exterior design.

11.3 - Reveal Western Beaches' stories through an interpretive plan

Support: 100%

Support for heritage interpretation and interpretive signage.

12.0 - Honour Indigenous Presence and Storytelling

12.1 - Advance place-knowing through art and signage

Support: 100%

Support for Indigenous art and signage, with preference for natural integration. Caution against signage clutter and overdesign. Stanley Park in Vancouver was noted as precedent.

12.2 - Establish a narrative trail: "walking with story"

Support: 100%

Support for naturalized trails. Concerns raised about QR codes (viruses and smartphone access). Preference for non-digital or inclusive approaches.

12.3 - Celebrate the mouth of the Humber River as an Indigenous place of significance

Support: 100%

Support for celebrating existing Indigenous art as part of a loop and engaging "Talking Treaties."

12.4 - Cultivate Indigenous teaching landscapes to support Indigenous programming

Support: 100%

Support for Indigenous programming spaces, with caution about size and avoiding oversaturation or excess paving.

Climate Resilience & Natural Environment

Participants expressed strong support for restoring natural systems and emphasized working with natural processes rather than relying on hard infrastructure. Comments consistently favoured nature-based approaches, native planting, and shoreline strategies that improve ecological health while remaining accessible to people. Participants stressed the importance of resilience to seasonal water, flooding, and climate change, with attention to long-term maintenance and adaptability. While some interest was expressed in sensory or soundscape experiences, several participants questioned their effectiveness in addressing traffic noise and felt priorities should remain on clean water, habitat restoration, and shoreline protection. Overall, comments reflected a preference for ecological integrity and climate-ready design, with caution against overbuilding, excessive hard infrastructure, or unnecessary design interventions that could compromise natural character.

The following section provides a detailed breakdown of participant comments organized by each draft idea. Level of support percentages reflect the proportion of participating CAC members indicating support during workshop discussions.

13.0 - Restore Natural Systems and Habitats

13.1 - Restore ecological systems at the Humber River mouth

Support: 100%

Strong support for ecological restoration. Participants noted the Humber River banks are natural north of the Queensway and suggested extending this south. Concerns about impacts to infrastructure and human needs. East side identified as needing attention.

13.2 - Design with seasonal water

Support: 100%

Support for flexible approaches and softened, nature-based shoreline edges. Emphasis on accessibility and addressing rising water levels.

13.3 - Create soundscape and sensory water experience

Support: 67%

Mixed views were expressed. Participants noted that soundscape ideas will not address traffic noise from Lake Shore Boulevard West, the Gardiner Expressway, and the rail corridor. Some opposed sound walls, while others supported sound and visual buffering through earth mounding and planting. Several felt noise reduction and clean water

should be higher priorities, and that sensory experiences should focus on swimming and water access.

13.4 - Support wildlife and habitat networks

Support: 89%

Concerns about conflicts between wildlife and human use. Questions about prioritizing people versus naturalized areas.

13.5 - Support aquatic habitat networks

Support: 100%

Support for aquatic habitat networks as they avoid human-wildlife conflicts. Interest in salmon and trout return and keeping beaches clean.

13.6 - Cultivate native plant habitats

Support: 100%

Strong support for replacing lawns with native, low-maintenance plantings.

13.7 - Celebrate medicinal and Indigenous planting practices

Support: 100%

Strong support for planting species native to the area.

14.0 - Plan for Climate-ready, Resilient Design

14.1 - Design for water retention and filtration

Support: 100%

Suggestions included dune grasses, bioswales, expanded beaches, mounding, naturalized breakwaters, and hidden infrastructure. Some opposed additional hard breakwaters.

14.2 - Capture and treat snowmelt runoff

Support: 77%

Support for reducing salt use, exploring alternatives, treating runoff from roads and rail corridors before entering parkland, and allowing natural flooding cycles.

14.3 - Protect shorelines

Support: 100%

Support for natural and locally sourced materials, wetlands, pocket beaches, dune grasses, islands, and naturalized breakwaters. Participants emphasized that shoreline protection should also improve user access to water.

Group Report Back

At the conclusion of the breakout workshop, brief report back sessions were held, with each table sharing key discussion points and notable comments. Overall feedback remained positive, with participants expressing appreciation for the opportunity to review detailed draft ideas and provide direct input.

One recurring topic raised during report back related to potential noise and visual mitigation along Lake Shore Boulevard West and adjacent rail corridors. Noise impacts were the primary concern, with participants emphasizing the need to address traffic and rail noise. At the same time, concerns were raised about introducing large or visually intrusive concrete sound barriers. Questions focused on what alternative approaches could address both noise and visual impacts, including landscape-based solutions such as berms, planting, or integrated design features that soften views while maintaining openness.

Post-Meeting Feedback

Following the workshop, a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) member shared additional feedback and precedent examples related to swimming access and pier infrastructure.

One participant highlighted examples of public piers in seaside towns in Germany that extend beyond breakwaters and are used by people of all ages for strolling, fishing, swimming, and relaxing. They suggested that a similar pier at Sunnyside Pavilion, extending past the breakwater, could provide meaningful access to clean water and enable safe swimming.

Additional precedent examples of outdoor lake and open-water swimming areas in Canada and internationally were also shared, including projects in Ottawa, Kingston, Quebec, and North Vancouver.

A participant raised concerns about combined sewer overflows associated with the Ontario Place redevelopment and the length of time before planned diversion infrastructure is expected to be operational. In response, City staff confirmed that Infrastructure Ontario is developing a plan to modify and re-align the combined sewer overflow at 955 Lake Shore Boulevard West as part of the Ontario Place project, and that this work is being coordinated by Infrastructure Ontario.

Next Steps

Feedback from CAC Meeting #3 will inform refinement of the draft Western Beaches Public Realm Plan Update. The project team will incorporate what was heard into a draft plan in early 2026.

Following additional refinement, the draft plan will be finalized and presented to City Committee and Council in the first half of 2026.

Acknowledgements

City of Toronto

Parks & Recreation

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Community Members

We appreciate all the community members who engaged with us during the third Community Advisory Committee meeting for the Western Beaches Public Realm Plan Update. Your questions, insights, and feedback have been invaluable in refining our materials and enhancing the overall experience for all participants.

To learn more about the project, visit toronto.ca/WesternBeaches