

Environmental Assessment

EA Info Sheet #4

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) has initiated a study under the provincial Environmental Assessment Act to create a system of greenspaces along the Lake Ontario shoreline between Bluffer's Park and East Point Park in Toronto, Ontario, which respect and protect the significant natural and cultural features of the Bluffs, enhance the terrestrial and aquatic habitat, and provide a safe and enjoyable waterfront experience.

The Project is following an objectives-based approach focused on improving overall benefits. In such an approach the Project Vision and Objectives set the framework for the decision making process. Established early in the process and refined based on public input, the Objectives set the stage for picking the Preferred Alternative(s) and are further broken down into a series of Evaluation Criteria and Indicators against which the Alternatives are evaluated.

Evaluation of Alternatives

Alternatives explore different ways of carrying out the Project. Alternatives, including the "Do Nothing", are evaluated and ranked to determine which one best meets the Project Vision and Objectives and is the Preferred Alternative. As the Project Study Area has been separated into three Shoreline Segments, Alternatives will be evaluated by Segment and a preferred will be selected for each Segment called the Preferred Segment Alternative. This info sheet provides details on the Evaluation Criteria and Indicators and the process used to determine the Preferred Segment Alternative for the Scarborough Waterfront Project.

Evaluation Criteria and Indicators

Evaluation Criteria were developed and refined for each of the Project Objectives, based on input received from the public and agencies. For each Criterion there is a subset of Indicators, created to rank specific parameters.

Evaluation Criteria and Indicators may consider: aquatic and terrestrial habitat, public safety, water quality, public access, climate change, compatibility with planned and existing initiatives, archaeological and heritage sites, and project cost.

The purpose of the Criteria and Indicators are to:

- Measure the ability of the Alternatives to meet the Project Objectives; and,
- Measure differences between the various Alternatives.

Selection Of The Preferred Segment Alternative

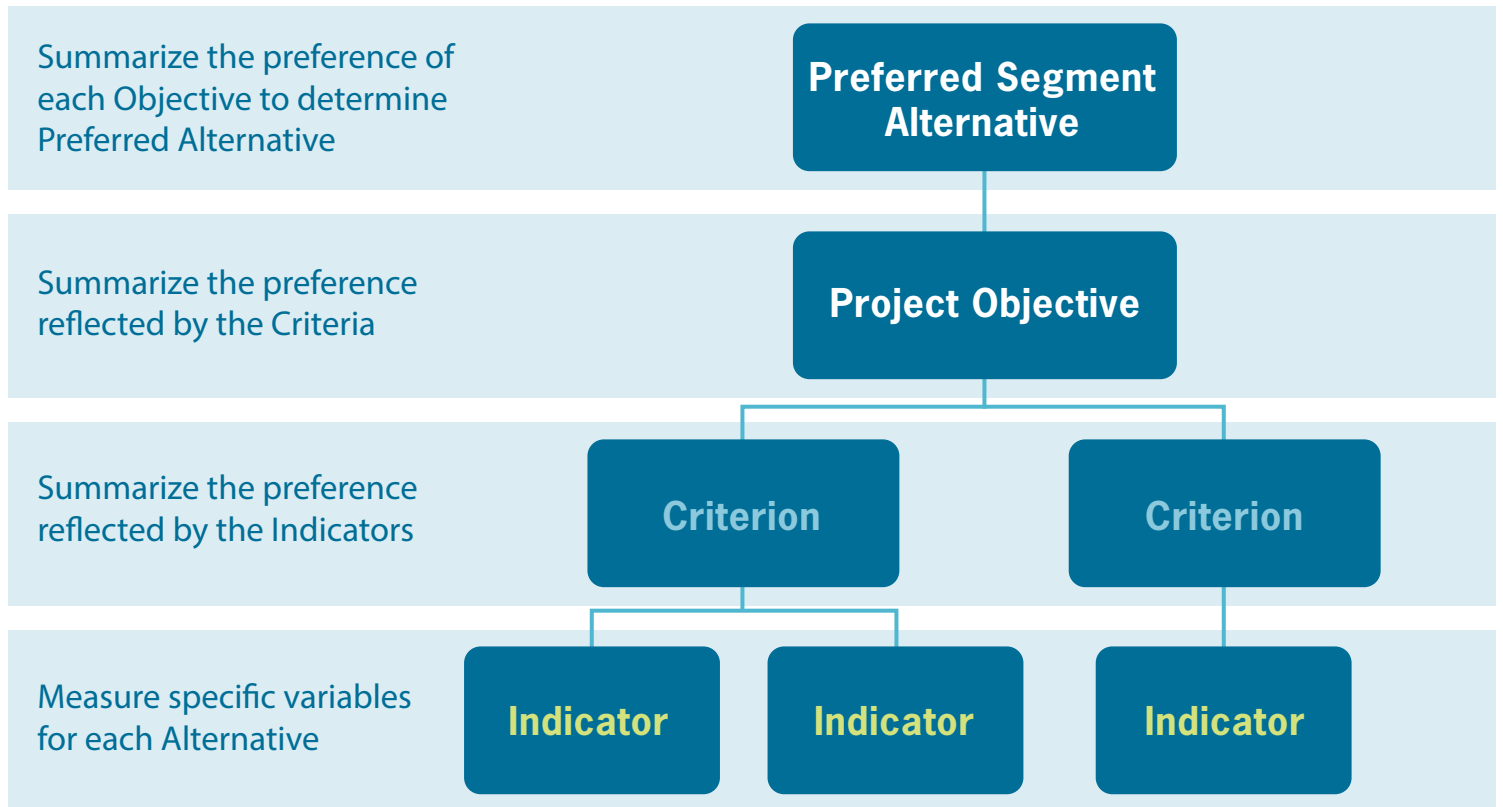
Alternatives for each shoreline segment are assessed using the same Objectives, Criteria and Indicators and are assigned one of the following rankings:

- Most Preferred = MP
- Preferred = P
- Intermediate Preferred = IP
- Least Preferred = LP

Evaluation of Alternatives starts at the Indicator level and is summarized into a decision at the Objectives level as outlined in the next column and graphic below.

Evaluation of Alternatives:

- Alternatives are assigned a ranking at the Indicator level.
- Indicators level rankings are summarized into Criteria level ranking to identify how well each Alternative meets that Criterion.
- Criteria level rankings are summarized into Objectives level rankings to identify how well each Alternative meets that Objective.
- Each of the Objective level rankings are summarized to determine the Preferred Alternative for each segment, called the Preferred Segment Alternative.



Next Steps

The Preferred Segment Alternatives are integrated to create the Preferred Overall Alternative. A Detailed Effects Assessment is conducted on the Preferred Overall Alternative and compared against the "Do Nothing" option.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Visit the project website:
www.trca.ca/swp