

Environmental Assessment

EA Info Sheet #3

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 an objectives-based 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) by further breaking out the Objectives into a series of Evaluation Criteria in which Alternatives are evaluated against.

What is an Alternative?

To determine the best approach for creating a system of greenspaces along the Lake Ontario shoreline from Bluffer's Park to East Point Park while meeting project objectives, a number of different options, or "Alternatives" were explored. These Alternatives were developed taking into consideration the existing natural features of the Study Area and the concerns of the local community. This Info Sheet provides details on what Alternatives are and how they were developed for the Scarborough Waterfront Project.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternatives are different ways of carrying out the Project to solve the identified problem and/or of addressing the identified opportunities, essentially different ways of meeting the Project Objectives. For the Scarborough Waterfront Project, a range of Alternatives were explored that meet the following Project Objectives:

- Improve habitat integrity via enhancements to terrestrial and aquatic habitat.
- Remediate erosion and decrease risk to property and public safety.
- Provide improved, safe public access to and along water's edge.

THE DO NOTHING ALTERNATIVE

As part of the Scarborough Waterfront Project a "Do Nothing" Alternative is being explored for each Project Shoreline Segment. "Do Nothing" does not necessarily mean that nothing will happen in the area, it means the area will continue as status quo. For the "Do Nothing" Alternatives the following will continue to occur:

- Implementation of existing approved plans.
- Continued erosion of unprotected Bluffs.
- Continued monitoring activities by TRCA.
- Ongoing park management by the City of Toronto.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALTERNATIVES

The Alternatives developed explore different methods of carrying out the Project, and were developed in a series of three (3) steps outlined below. Throughout the process of developing the Alternatives, input was received from technical experts, agencies, the public and the Stakeholder Committee leading to refinements of the draft Alternatives.

The Project Study Area was divided into three (3) Shoreline Segments to help facilitate the development and evaluation of the Alternatives.

West – Bluffer’s Park to Meadowcliffe

Central – Meadowcliffe to Grey Abbey

East – Grey Abbey to East Point Park

1. Existing Conditions

The existing conditions for the Project Study Area were obtained and analyzed, through new and existing studies, research, and information from the public. The existing conditions included: the natural environment (terrestrial and aquatic habitat), the physical environment (bluff and erosion), stormwater flow and outflows, hazard areas, existing access to and along the shoreline, and archaeology.

2. Confirmed Problems and Opportunities

Existing conditions were used to confirm the problems the project is seeking to address and the opportunities that exist to address them. The Project presents an opportunity to enhance the terrestrial and aquatic natural features, while addressing erosion/risk prone areas, and improving access to, and along, the shoreline between Bluffer’s Park and East Point Park.

3. Developed Alternatives by Segment

Draft Alternatives were developed for the 3 Segments by analyzing the existing conditions, problems and opportunities and input from a range of stakeholders for each of the segments. As part of the development of the Alternatives, opportunities for habitat enhancements and public access to and from the water’s edge were explored. These are further refined in detail for the Preferred Alternative (once selected).

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

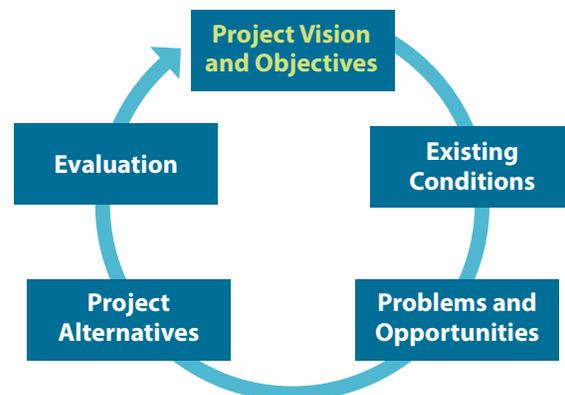
The Preferred Alternative is the preferred method of carrying out the project. It is the Alternative that best meets the Project Vision and Objectives.

Selection of the Preferred Alternative

Comparison of the Alternatives is done by assessing each Alternative, including the “Do Nothing”, against the same Evaluation Criteria. The Evaluation Criteria are based on the Project Vision and Objectives; hence the Preferred Alternative selected will best meet the Project Vision and Objectives.

Evaluation of the Alternatives, including the “Do Nothing”, for the Project occurs in two steps:

1. Evaluation and selection of Preferred Alternatives within each shoreline segment, (may be more than one Preferred Alternative per segment).
2. Integration of the Preferred Alternatives as determined in step 1, and the evaluation and selection of the Integrated Preferred Alternative.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority:
waterfront@trca.on.ca

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