

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

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. The project will integrate existing shoreline infrastructure or planned shoreline erosion works; identify access routes which provide multiple benefits for public use and recreation; provide environmental sustainability, and enhanced tourism opportunities; and result in the acceleration of priority shoreline erosion control works along the Scarborough Bluffs.



MEADOWCLIFFE TO SOUTH MARINE SHORELINE

SYLVAN SHORELINE

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The project is subject to the requirements of an Individual Environmental Assessment (EA) under the provincial *Environmental Assessment Act*. The Act sets out a planning and decision-making process to ensure that potential environmental effects are considered before a project begins. Individual EAs are prepared for large-scale, complex projects with the potential for significant environmental effects. There are two steps in the process:

STEP 1: Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference is a framework or a work plan for the planning and decision-making process that TRCA will follow to realize the vision of the Scarborough Waterfront Project. The Terms of Reference undergoes review by the public and agencies and must be approved by the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change (MOECC).

The scope of the Terms of Reference includes:

- Preliminary purpose and description of the proposed project including vision and objectives
- Description of the environment that may be potentially affected by the project
- Preliminary alternatives that meet the Scarborough Waterfront Project vision and objectives
- Preliminary criteria for evaluating alternatives and the evaluation process for selecting the preferred alternative
- Consultation Plan, with agencies, Aboriginal communities and the public, that will take place during the EA
- Proposed project schedule
- Other approvals that may be required

STEP 2: Environmental Assessment

The EA focuses on assessing positive and negative environmental effects. Key components include the comparison of alternatives and selection of a preferred alternative to realize the vision; and identify ways to enhance positive environmental effects & minimize potential negative environmental effects. The EA will also be reviewed by the public and agencies and must be approved by MOECC.

The scope of the EA includes:

- Final purpose statement, project description, vision and objectives
- Description of the environment that may be affected by the project
- Further definition of alternatives and description of how they were developed
- Comparison of alternatives using finalized evaluation criteria and selection of the preferred alternative
- Identification of mitigation measures to reduce negative effects and/or enhance positive effects
- Refinement of the preferred alternative
- Record of Consultation summarizing engagement with agencies, Aboriginal Communities, any interested persons and members of the public

CONSULTATION IS A KEY PART OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

There are many different perspectives, priorities and interests that will need to be considered as we complete the project. The EA consultation process is intended to ensure there are opportunities for individuals and organizations, with a broad range of interests, to participate by informing the EA work. Key stakeholders that have been invited to participate in the consultation process include those depicted on the stakeholder consultation graphic below.

Public Information Centres

Members of the public, agencies, Aboriginal communities and other interested persons are encouraged to actively participate in the planning process by attending Public Information Centres for the project. Public Information Centres are public meetings held throughout the terms of reference phase and EA phase of the project. The purpose of these meetings is to inform the public about the project, and allow the public to provide input. These meetings and other public consultation opportunities are advertised on the project website, in local newspapers and through the project mailing list.

Members of the public are also encouraged to have their say by contacting project staff directly with comments or concerns. All comments are considered as part of the EA and are included in the public record.

Stakeholder Committee

As part of the consultation plan, the Scarborough Waterfront Project has formed a Stakeholder Committee. The Stakeholder Committee is comprised of various interest groups, with the goal of helping the Project Team understand different perspectives and address various opportunities and issues that arise. The Stakeholder Committee acts in an advisory capacity to the EA Project Team.

Technical Advisory Committee

Another important component of the consultation process is the formation of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The primary function of the TAC is to provide technical input and advice from various experts to the Project Team, and to streamline various agencies' involvement in the project. The Scarborough Waterfront Project's TAC includes technical experts from the City of Toronto, TRCA, government agencies, and various engineering consultants - environmental, coastal & marine, hydrogeological and geotechnical.



Aboriginal Engagement

Consulting with First Nation communities is also an important element of the Terms of Reference and Environmental Assessment processes. Various Aboriginal communities that have an interest in the project, or that may be affected by the proposal must be identified and consulted. The Scarborough Waterfront Project has identified 14 communities that have established or asserted rights/and or interests in the study area. There is an Aboriginal community representative on the Scarborough Waterfront Project Stakeholder Committee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Visit the project website:

- www.trca.on.ca/swp