

**APPENDIX L.3**  
**Project Information Materials**

DRAFT

# SCARBOROUGH WATERFRONT PROJECT

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

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.

## STUDY AREA

The Scarborough Waterfront Project study area extends across the shoreline from Bluffer's Park in the west to the mouth of the Highland Creek in the east. The northern boundary is Kingston Road/Lawrence Avenue (east of Morningside Avenue), and the southern boundary is Lake Ontario. In the regional context, the study area is located on the eastern border of the City of Toronto, and lies within the waterfront watershed. The Project study area provides context for the assessment of potential project effects at the local level.

The project works will be focused on the shoreline area including both top and base of the Bluffs (see red circle).

## PROJECT VISION

The vision of the Scarborough Waterfront Project is to create a system of greenspaces along the Lake Ontario shoreline 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.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVES

### Protect and enhance terrestrial and aquatic natural features and linkages

Habitat type, health, and sensitivity vary in the study area. There are opportunities to enhance existing terrestrial and aquatic habitat and create new greenspace.

### Manage public safety and property risk

There are varying levels of risk to the public and property in the study area. For example, risk of slope failure, loss of tableland, hazardous access routes, and risk from waves to users of the greenspace. Existing and future risks need to be identified and mitigated.

### Provide an enjoyable waterfront experience

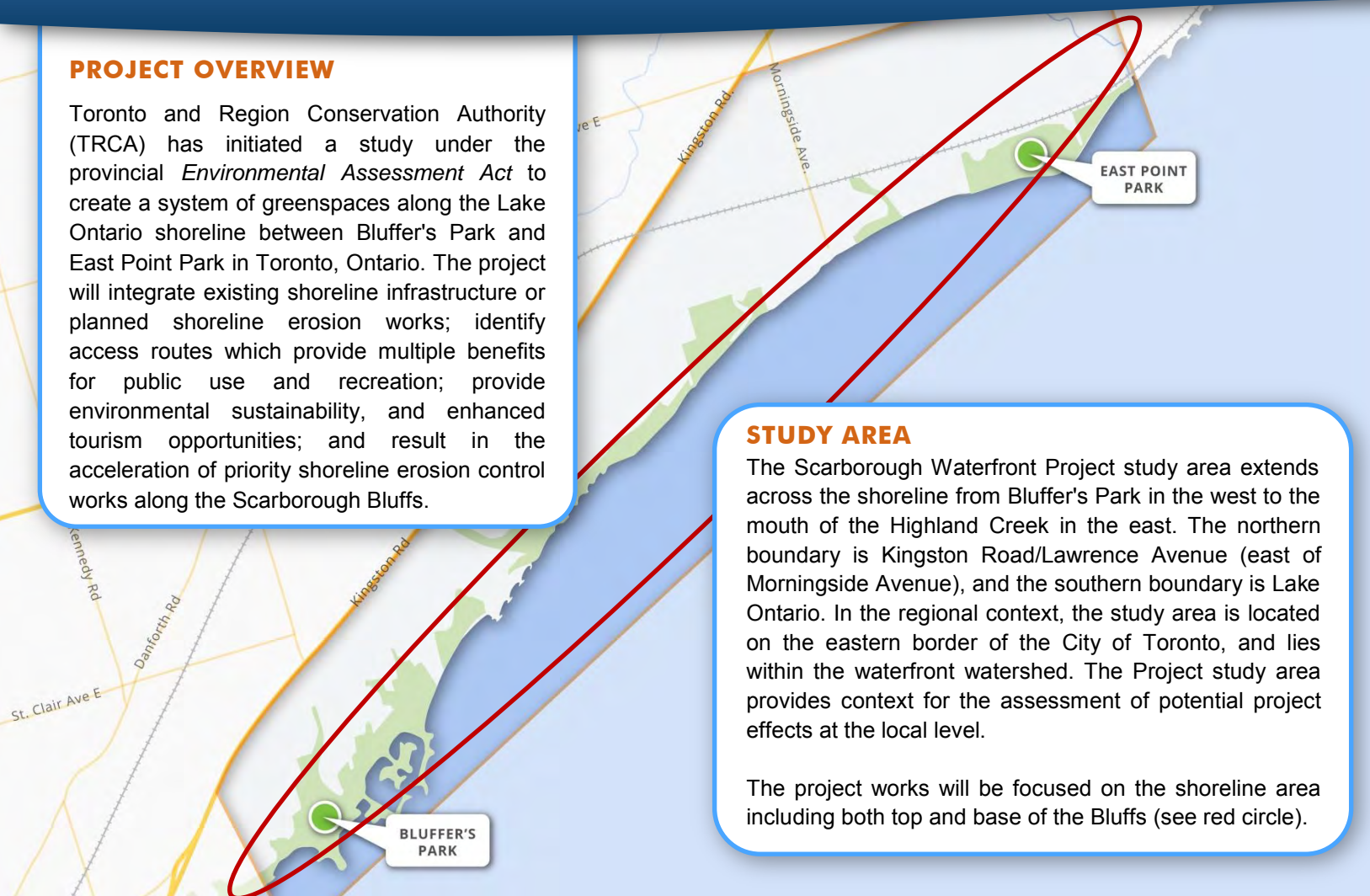
A number of factors contribute to an enjoyable waterfront experience. For example, diversity of experience, including, active/passive recreation; views and vistas; multi-season use; trail connections; and education/appreciation of the natural and cultural features of the bluffs.

### Consistency and coordination with other initiatives

Significant community planning has occurred in this area. The project will be consistent with, and coordinate with other initiatives, including the Lake Ontario Greenway Strategy (WRT), Urban Fish Management Plan; Guild Park & Gardens Management Plan; and local community initiatives.

### Achieve value for cost

Maximize the benefits achieved through the project in relation to the estimated project cost (capital and maintenance).



## PLANNING CONTEXT

The *Waterfront Plan for the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Area* (1967) introduced a shoreline management approach to limit shoreline erosion while creating a number of large parkland areas and public marinas connected by a waterfront trail system. In 1971, TRCA was designated as the principal implementing agency of the *Waterfront Plan*.

In 1996, TRCA developed the *Integrated Shoreline Management Plan* (ISMP) “to provide an ecosystem-based framework to ensure that shoreline management activities result in a clean, green, accessible, diverse, connected, open, affordable, attractive and useable waterfront”. The ISMP looked at opportunities to apply this framework within its study area, the shoreline between Tommy Thompson Park and Frenchman’s Bay. The ISMP set out recommendations for shoreline regeneration, public access and safety, natural heritage targets, aquatic habitat restoration and public use. The ISMP sought input and direction from agencies and the public to guide waterfront planning priorities.

Following recommendations of the ISMP, the shoreline treatment below Sylvan Park and Sylvan Avenue east of the Bellamy Ravine was the first section of the Scarborough waterfront designed utilizing an ecosystem approach, combining shoreline erosion protection works with public accessibility and habitat restoration.

Regarding the Scarborough Waterfront Project study area, some key recommendations from the ISMP were to:

- improve aquatic habitat along existing revetments;
- develop Bellamy Ravine as a local gateway with appropriate trailhead infrastructure;
- establish a waterfront trail loop between Bellamy and Guildwood ravines;
- develop a beachwalk trail between Bluffer’s Park and Bellamy Ravine; and
- establish a waterfront trail from Guildwood Parkway to the Highland Creek Trail (at East Point Park).

### “PASSAGE” AT BELLAMY RAVINE



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## 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. The first step in the EA process is to prepare and submit a Terms of Reference to the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change. The Terms of Reference sets out the framework and work plan for preparing the EA including the alternatives that will be considered and the public consultation activities that will be carried out. A key component of developing the Terms of Reference will be public consultation, providing opportunities for the public (including, affected stakeholders, public interest groups and any other interested parties) to learn about and provide input on the proposed project, the environmental assessment process, development of the EA Terms of Reference and studies to be undertaken.

# 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.



SYLVAN SHORELINE

MEADOWCLIFFE TO SOUTH MARINE SHORELINE

## ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS

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### 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.

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# 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

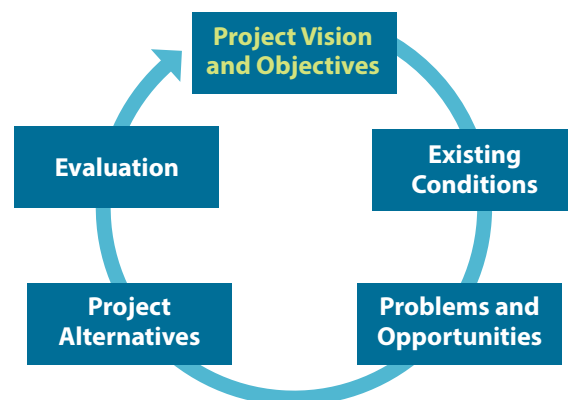
The Preferred Alternative is the preferred method of carrying out the project. It is the Alternative that best meets the Project Vision and Objectives.

### 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.



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# Environmental Assessment

## *EA Info Sheet #4*

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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.

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## *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

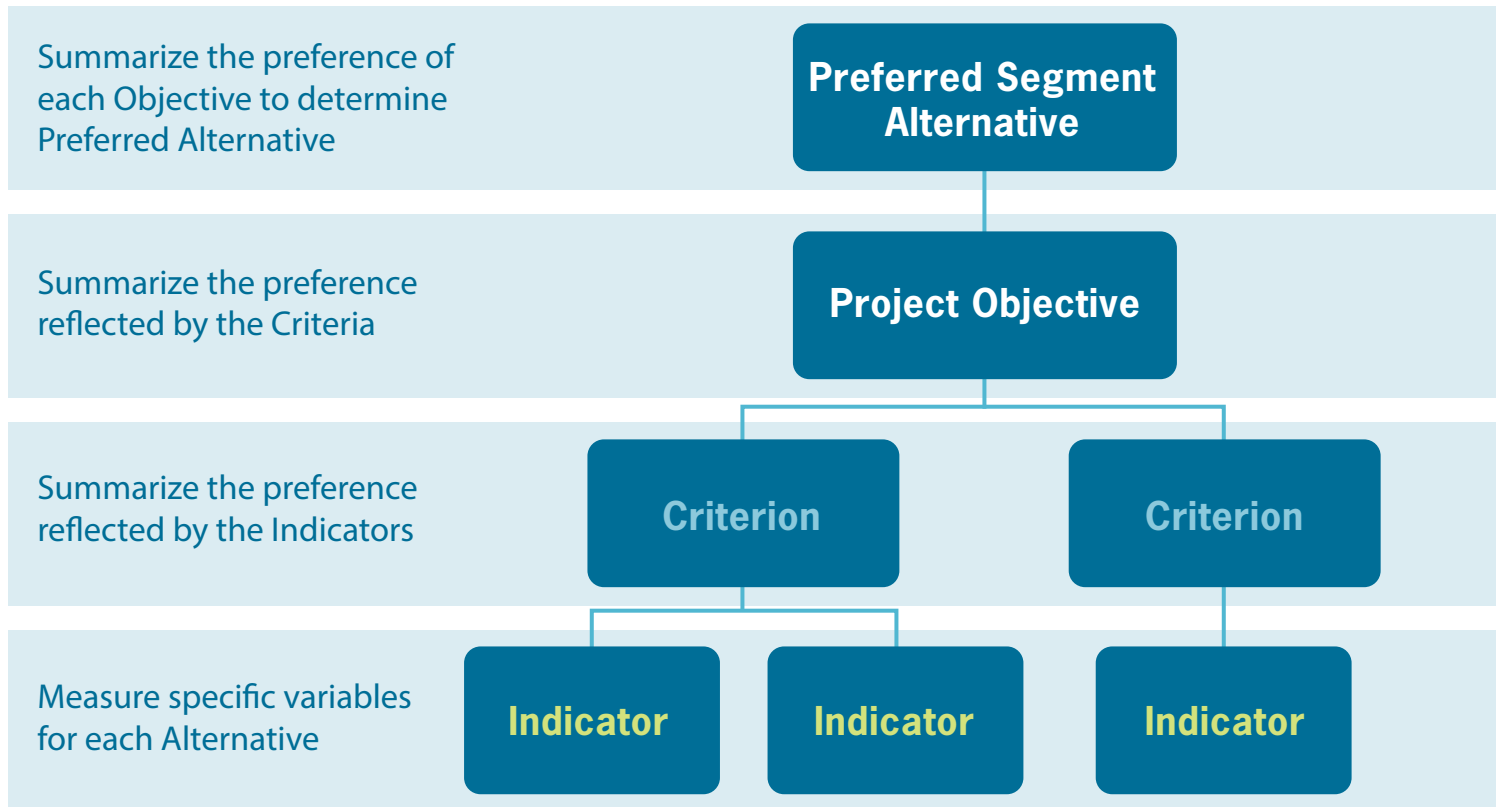
Alternatives for each shoreline segment are assessed using the same Objectives, Criteria and Indicators and are assigned one of the following rankings:

- 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.

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