

# 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 public spaces 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.

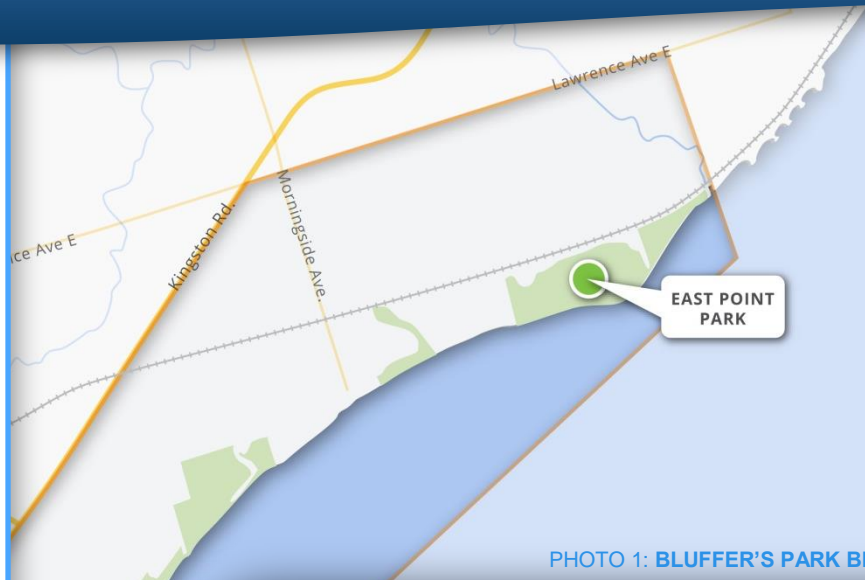


PHOTO 1: BLUFFER'S PARK BEACH



## 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.

## PRELIMINARY PROJECT

### VISION AND OBJECTIVES

The vision of the Scarborough Waterfront Project is a system of linked scenic landscapes along the water's edge providing a safe and accessible waterfront experience with opportunities to actively enjoy the outdoors, to relax and reflect, and to learn about and appreciate the natural and cultural heritage of the bluffs.

#### OBJECTIVE 1 – Public Safety

Integrate existing shoreline infrastructure with future shoreline and slope stabilization works to reduce public risk and provide safe public access to and along the waterfront.

#### OBJECTIVE 2 – Visitor Experience

Provide sweeping views and vistas of the bluffs and the lake; improve aquatic and terrestrial habitats to allow for a range of enhanced nature appreciation and fishing; improve trail connections to and along the waterfront; and provide passive recreational and cultural amenities.

## 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 in 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, key recommendations from the ISMP were to:

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

PHOTO 2: “PASSAGE” AT BELLAMY RAVINE



### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority

- [waterfront@trca.on.ca](mailto:waterfront@trca.on.ca)
- [www.trca.on.ca/swp](http://www.trca.on.ca/swp)

## 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, studies to be undertaken, and public consultation activities that will be carried out. A key component of developing the Terms of Reference is 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.