

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

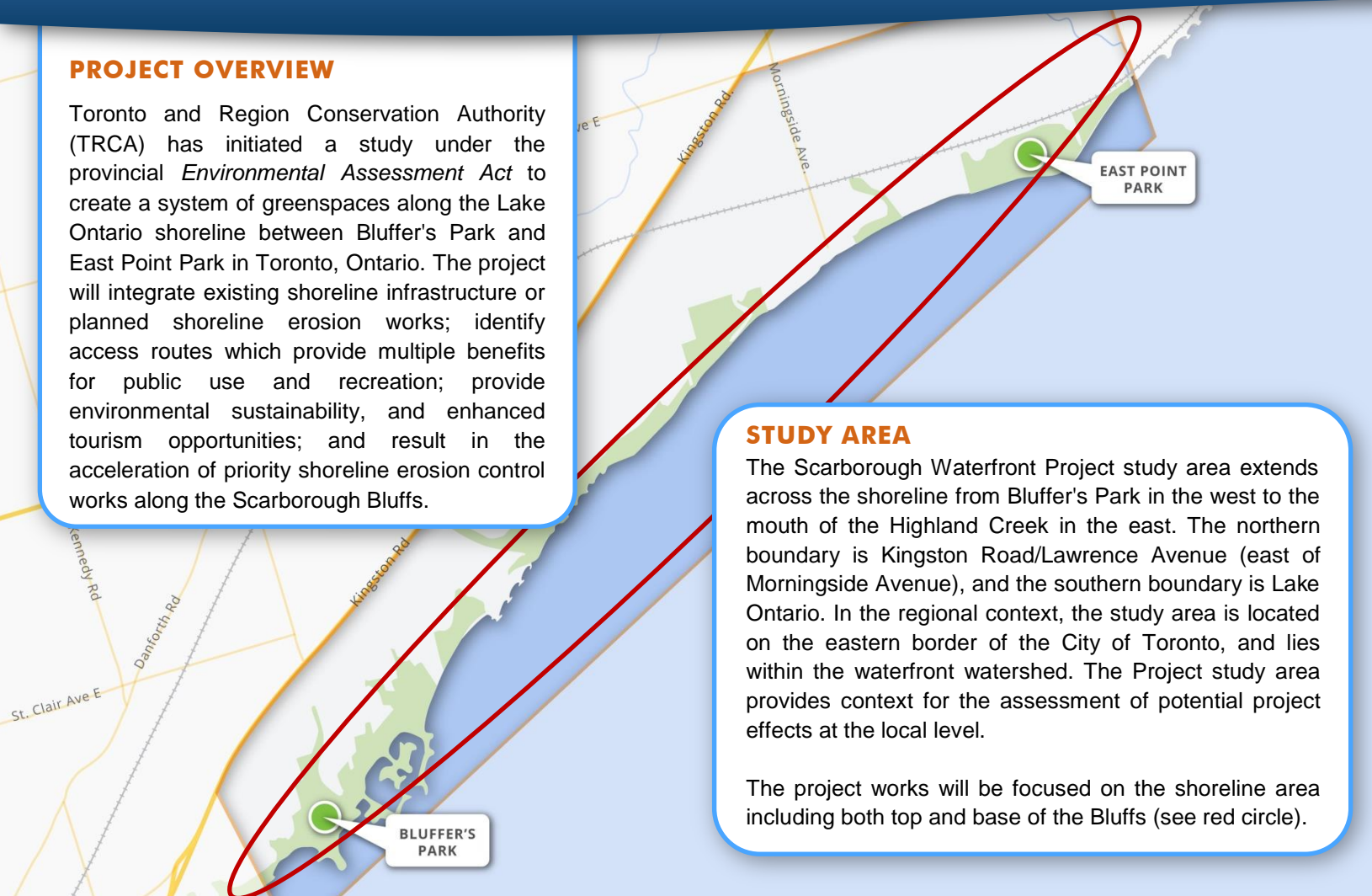
A number of factors contribute to an enjoyable waterfront experience. For example, diversity of experience, including, active/passive recreation; views and vistas; multi-season use; trail connections; and education/appreciation of the natural and cultural features of the bluffs.

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



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Visit the project website:

- 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 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.