



OAKVILLE

Bronte Waterfront Strategy

PUBLIC PRESENTATION

MARCH 24, 2026

Study Purpose

To develop a clear, actionable and achievable framework to guide improvements for the Bronte Waterfront area.

Maximize impact of improvements and ensure readiness for implementation.

To itemize capital projects.



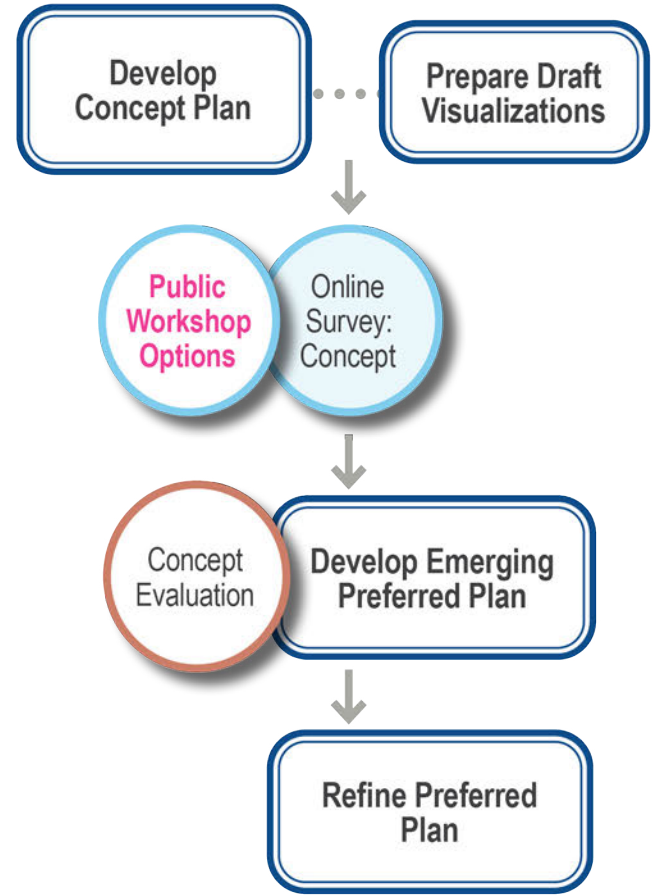
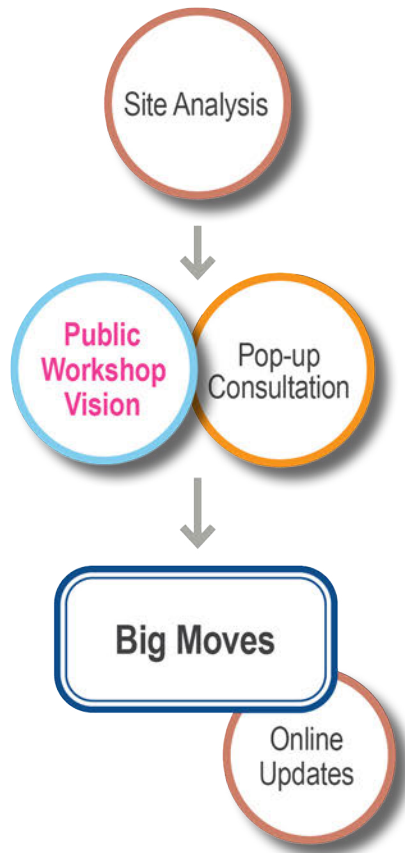
24 ha

4,254 m
of water's edge

Study Process - Phases 1 and 2

1 Understanding the Opportunities - July - September 2025

2 Exploring Options - October - November 2025



3 Developing the Preferred Plan and its Implementation - January - May 2026

We are here



Engagement Overview

August 22, 2025

One-on-Ones with Members of Council

August 27, 2025

One-on-Ones with Residents

August 23 & 30, 2025

Pop-up Engagement

August 2025 - March 2026

Conversations with Interest Holders

September 16, 2025

Public Workshop #1

November 18, 2025

Public Workshop #2

January - February 2026

Online survey and inputs by email

March 24, 2026

Oakville Heritage Committee

March 24, 2026

Public Session #3

- Bronte Village BIA
- Association of Oakville Harbour Stakeholders
- Bronte Harbour Yacht Club
- Bronte Historical Society
- Bronte Village Residents Association
- Northshore Boat Works
- OMSAR
- Catch Hospitality
- Conservation Halton
- Oakville Heritage Committee

What We Heard at Public Workshop #2

Bronte Inner Harbour

Metro Marine Activity Hub and Waterfront Promenade

- Support for community uses, pop-ups and other activities associated with the Metro Marine building
- Support for the promenade and the variety of uses that could go along it

Connections

- A pedestrian bridge over the mouth of the harbour:
 - FOR: would be a great connection
 - AGAINST: would eliminate sailboats
- A pedestrian bridge near Lakeshore Rd would be redundant; maybe in a better location
- Need to connect east and west sides of Bronte Creek
- Consider bicycling access

Bronte Bluffs and Beach

- Mixed response to new parkland at the foot of the bluffs, some agreement, more disagreement
- Strong concern with “development,” loss of natural habitat at the Bluffs
- Clean up the Beach water issues

Bronte Heritage Waterfront Park

Performance Pavilion

- Support for paved access and additional temporary seating
- Could be permanent seating
- Could include weather protection

Skating Loop

- Support for ice skating loop
- Great winter activity, promotes year-round use

Playground

- Support for revitalized playground
- consider accessible play equipment and multi-age groups



Emails since Workshop #2

Great ideas

- extend pier ends (i.e. where the proposed bridge across the channel is positioned) into the inner harbour to get more foot traffic to support the success of retail/food offerings
- proposal looks marvelous, hope it comes to fruition
- hope the privately owned area west of Bronte Road will either be purchased by the Town or force owner to develop/ clean up
- pedestrian bridge is important, Lakeshore Bridge has narrow sidewalks and not ideal
- support adventure playground, shaded areas, wayfinding signage
- preserve Metro Marine building where possible
- support kiosks
- add community basketball court for children to play
- consider kayak storage and launch
- unofficial toboggan hill at end of Riverview Street could be widened
- food/retail should be within existing buildings or along new boardwalk
- maintain strong connection to nature
- keep Ontario Street free of cluttered structures

Concerns

- impact on existing residents from suggestions for Bronte Bluff
- security and parking concerns for boaters storing at Bronte inner harbour with inviting the public to use the space
- concerns with pedestrian bridge – unnecessary construction near the marsh, pollution, damage to sensitive area
- suggestion for swing bridge
- plan is not practical, requires large volumes of people to work – suggest cost/benefit analysis for all ideas
- additional traffic and parking will significantly affect both the natural beauty of the area and also the walkability for community members while impacting safety of the street which is primarily local traffic only.
- too much concrete and built form in the plans
- new pedestrian bridge and additional seating are unnecessary because existing bridges and park benches are underutilized
- opposed to paid parking on narrow streets
- expanding the boat launch is unjustified - lack of parking
- skating loop would destroy year-round picnic space

Online Survey

450+
responses

Top 5 Preferences

1. Pedestrian connectivity
1. Bronte Harbour promenade
1. Walkway along the base of the Bronte Bluffs
1. Metro Marine building revitalization
1. Skating loop

Bronte Inner Harbour

Most Supported

- Walkability, beautification, activation
- Promenade encourages everyday community and family use
- Metro Marine building and pop-ups are great activities, year-round
- Keep the parking where possible
- Connect the harbour better (bridge, connect to Bronte Road)

Reconsider

- Bridge over the creek (north of Lakeshore) expensive and unnecessary
- Loss of space for boat storage and parking, too busy

Bronte Beach & Bluffs

Most Supported

- Bridge over the creek (mouth of creek) connects both sides, makes longer walks, attracts people
- New park at bluffs adds more parkland and natural area, improves accessibility
- Expanded boardwalk will be scenic, relaxing and more accessible

Reconsider

- Bridge over the creek (mouth of Bronte Creek) blocks sailboats
- Prefer the bluffs to be natural
- Safety concerns for new boardwalk; there are similar facilities elsewhere

Heritage Waterfront Park

Most Supported

- Skating loop is family-friendly, year round use
- East beach will spread crowds out and increases waterfront access
- Nice to have better viewing opportunities at the performance tent

Reconsider

- Concern with expense of skating, should be sheltered from wind
- Concern with water quality in Lake Ontario; don't need another beach
- Remote control boats don't need a dedicated space

Preferred Plan

1. Metro Marine Building
2. Flexible Space: Pop-up, Boats, Parking
3. Bronte Harbour Promenade
4. Potential Cultural Use
5. Council-Endorsed Streetscape Concept (separate study; plans are coordinated)
6. Opportunity for Pedestrian Connection
7. Bronte Bluffs New Parkland
8. Bronte Creek West Boardwalk
9. Upgraded Washrooms
10. Canoe/Kayak Launch
11. Additional Viewing at Performance Tent
12. Adventure Play
13. Skating Loop
14. Pavilion
15. Urban Beach
16. Pop up commercial, movable chairs
17. Water-based Programming
18. Expanded Winter Boat Storage



Conceptual design for illustrative purposes only. Subject to Environmental Assessment

Preferred Plan - 3 Areas

1 Bronte Harbour



2 Bronte Bluffs



3 Bronte Heritage Park



1 Bronte Harbour: Key Design Objectives



- Provide clear **public access** to the waterfront
 - provide multiple ways in and out
 - connect both sides of Bronte Creek
- Upgrade Metro Marine building and create a **community hub** and anchor point for this side of the harbour
- Provide a **water's edge promenade** along the Inner Harbour
- Use a **flexible** space approach
 - mix of parking, boating and amenities in the parking area
 - pop-up uses and cultural uses in the parking area and along the promenade

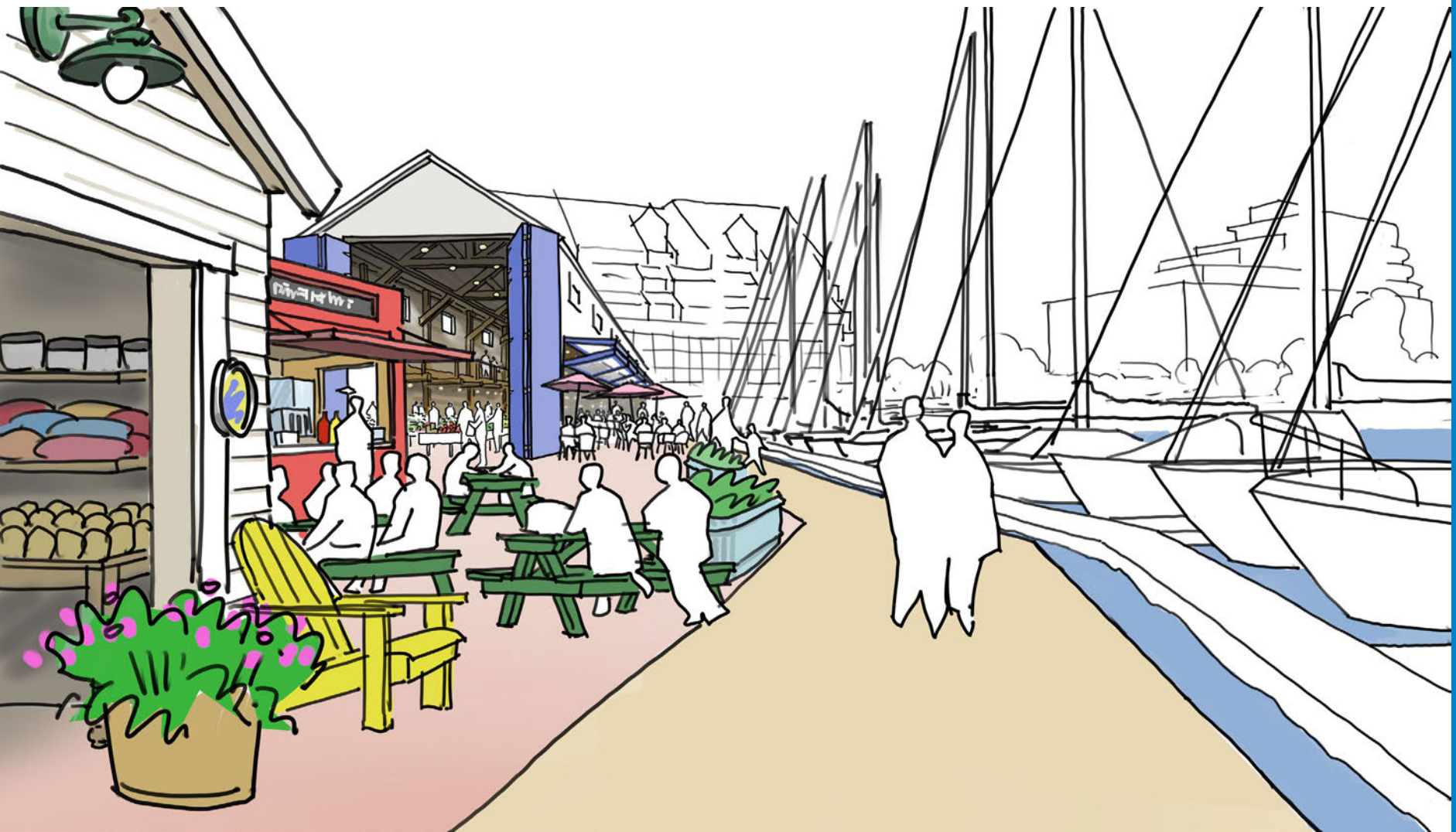
1 Bronte Harbour



Metro Marine Building



Metro Marine Building with Events and Pop-ups

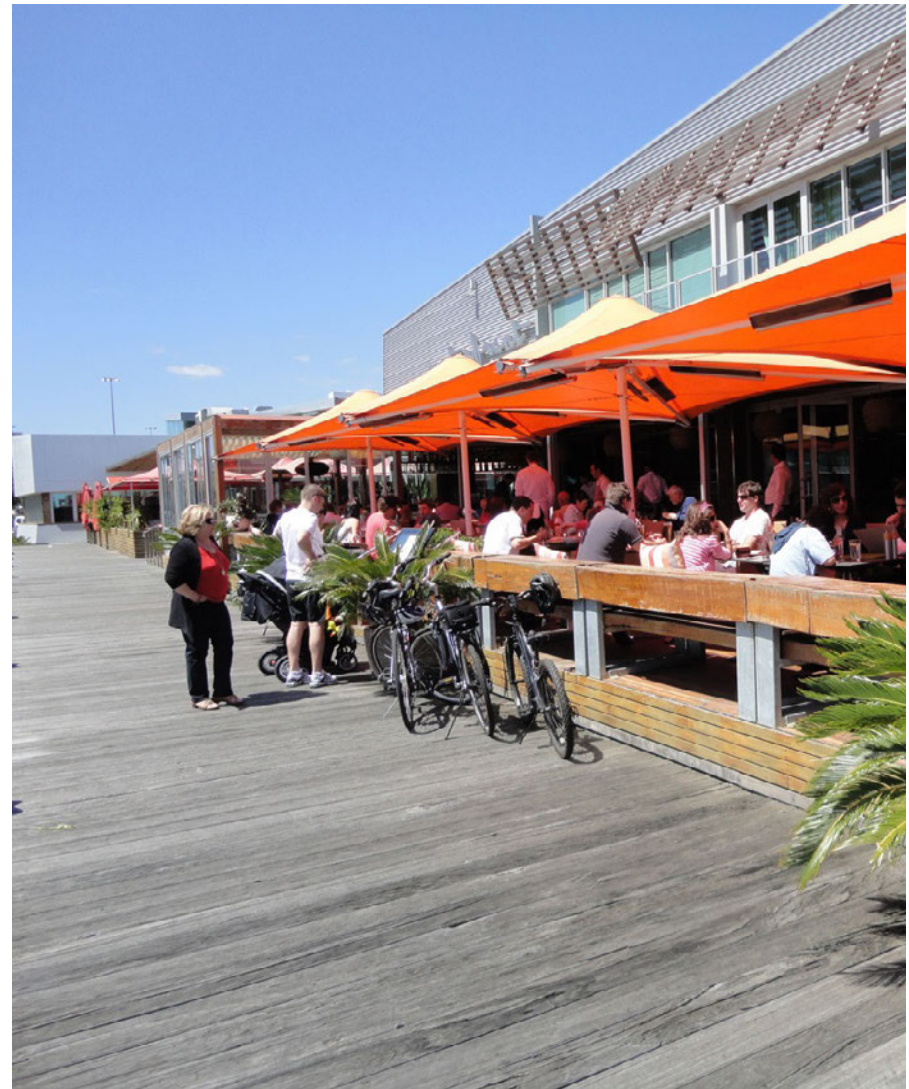


Metro Marine Building – Flexible Approach

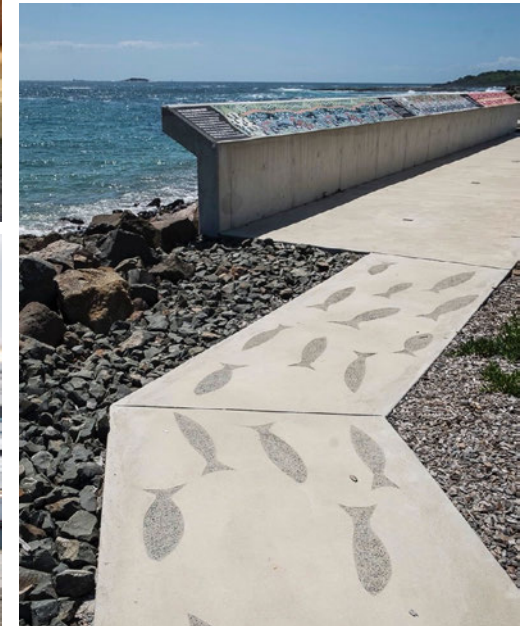
- Upgrade the building to address **deterioration and foundation issues**, and comply with Building Code
- Maintain key **heritage attributes** – tall doors, catwalk, interior wood structure
- **Rotate the building** and create a plaza space along the harbour side
- Use main boat shed (3,000 square feet) for **community uses**:
 - flexible event space
 - small meeting room
 - public and boater washrooms
- Offices for Town’s Harbour Offices, and other potential harbour uses within the 2-storey side-shed



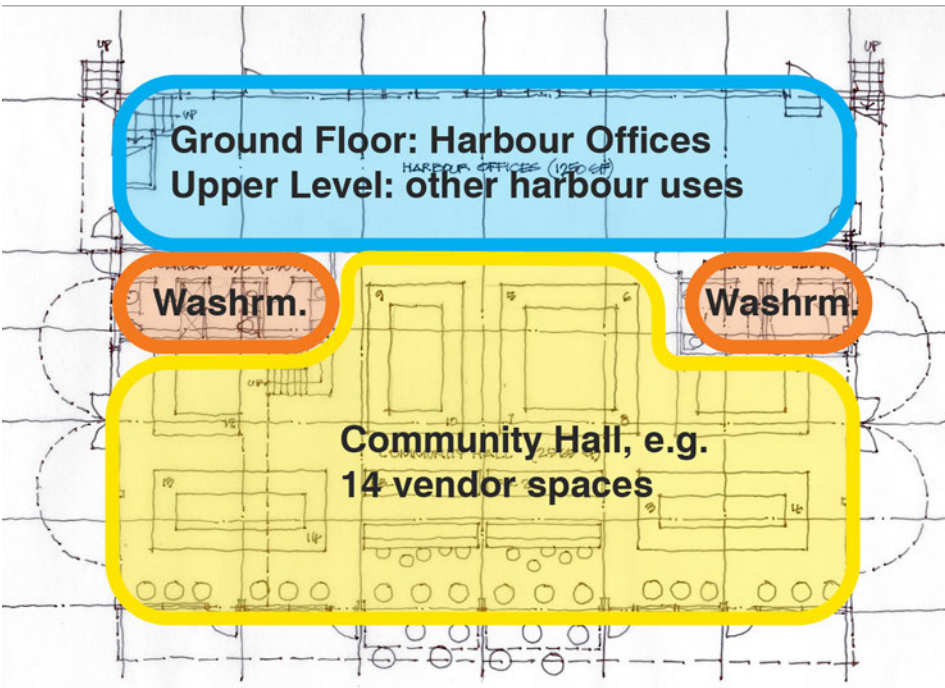
Flexible Community Space with Spill Out



Heritage Interpretation



Program Testing



The main shed (3,000 square feet) can support public washrooms, boater washrooms, and space for community uses/events

Community Hall (2,500 sq. ft. on ground floor)

- Town rental fee for space to third parties
- Hall could also be used mid-week for community groups, and other third-party use

Town's Harbour Offices (1,250 sq. ft. on ground floor)

- no rent paid as these are Town offices

Public Washrooms (235 sq. ft. on ground floor)

- no revenue potential

Boater Washrooms (230 sq. ft. on ground floor)

- showers and laundry included in membership fees

Other Harbour Uses (1,300 sq. ft. on upper floor)

- potential to pay market rent for Class B space

Facility Office (120 sq. ft. on upper floor)

- no rent paid as this is a Town office

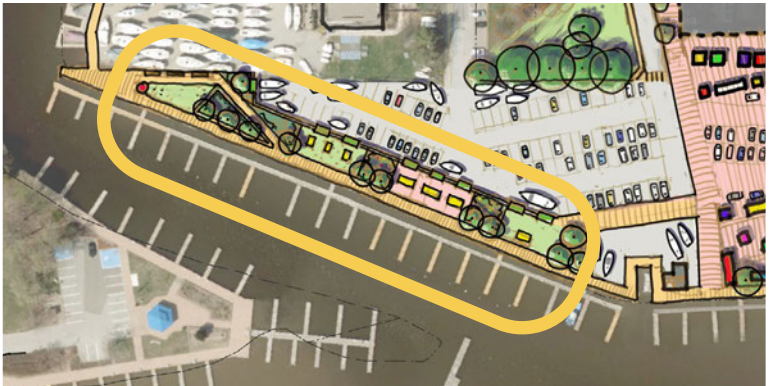
Meeting Room 365 sq. ft. on upper floor)

- assume is rentable by Town as well as community groups and others

Pop-up kiosks in Inner Harbour



Bronte Inner Harbour Promenade



Bronte Inner Harbour Promenade: wide walkway at water's edge, seating, landscape, activity area



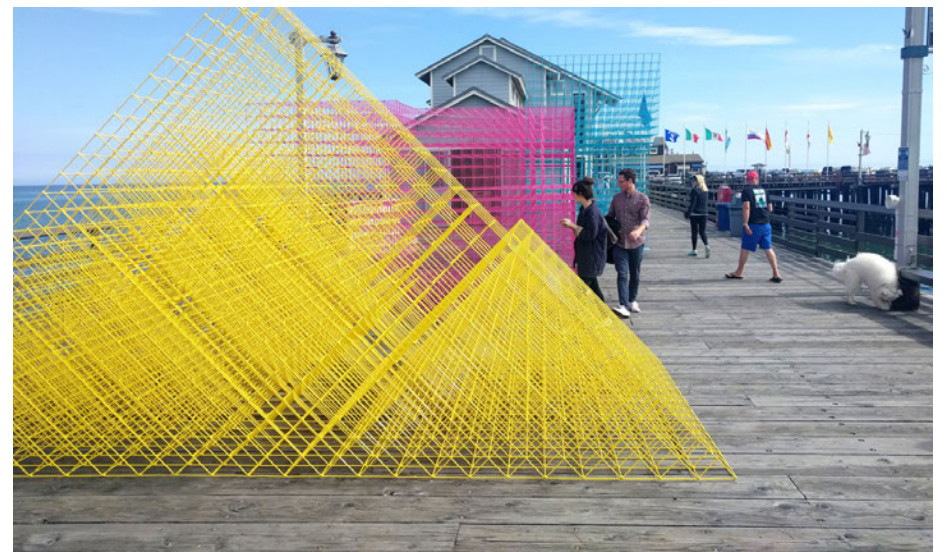
Waterfront Promenade



Pop-up Programming

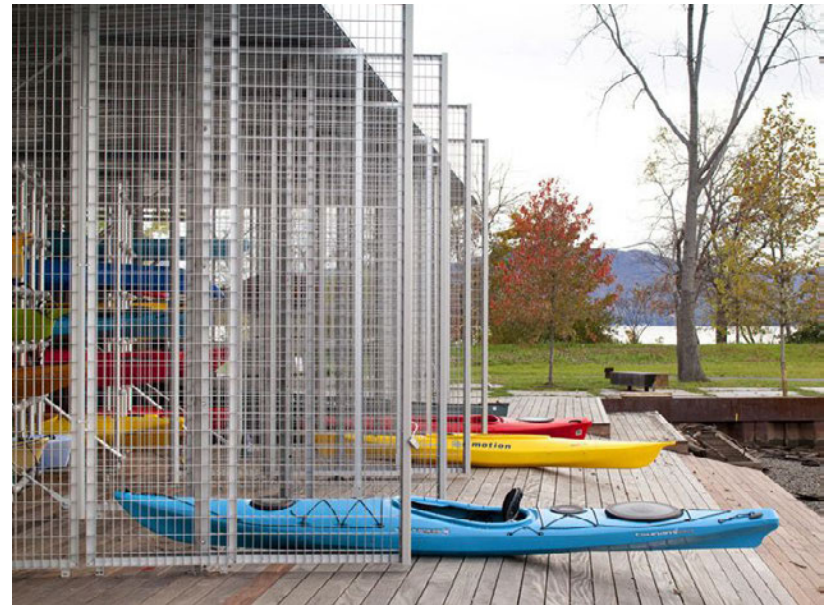


Pop-up Programming



Canoe/Kayak Launch and Storage

- Dedicated to small human-powered watercraft – canoes, kayaks, SUPs, paddleboats, etc.
- launch dock and ramp
- secure covered storage



Potential Pedestrian Bridge connecting Heritage Park to Inner Harbour/Beach



Red arrow north of Lakeshore Rd W:

- Was considered as part of this study but is not being recommended (too close to Lakeshore Rd W)

Yellow arrow at mouth of creek:

- Longer term consideration
- Connects the two sides of the harbour, has been reflected in plans for many years
- Accommodation of current harbour operations with respect to the sailing school and sail boat owners has implications on the height and infrastructure required for a bridge
- Infrastructure has an impact on public space (ramps, abutments)
- A swing bridge could be investigated. Challenges would include the volume of boating and pedestrian traffic

2 Bronte Bluffs: Key Design Objectives



- Provide **clear public access** to the waterfront
 - provide multiple ways in and out
 - connect both sides of Bronte Creek
- **Expand the usable waterfront** space
 - add new parkland at the foot of Bronte Bluffs
 - clean up the beach area
 - new boardwalk along Bronte Creek
 - improve access to the pier

2 Bronte Bluffs

Forecourt to Sovereign House at end of W River st

Conceptual design for illustrative purposes only. Subject to Environmental Assessment

Seating along lake edge

Accessible trail connection from W River St to beach

Lookout and seating

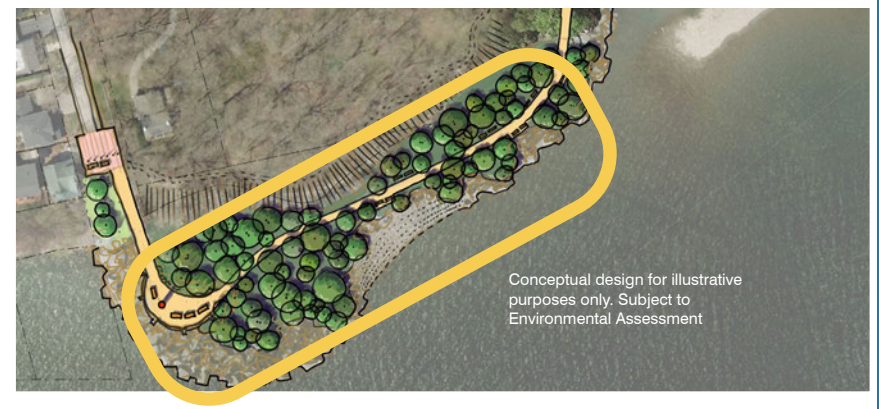
Lake fill at the foot of Bronte Bluffs to create new parkland

Steps/terrace at water's edge

Boardwalk

Upgrade access to pier, potential public art

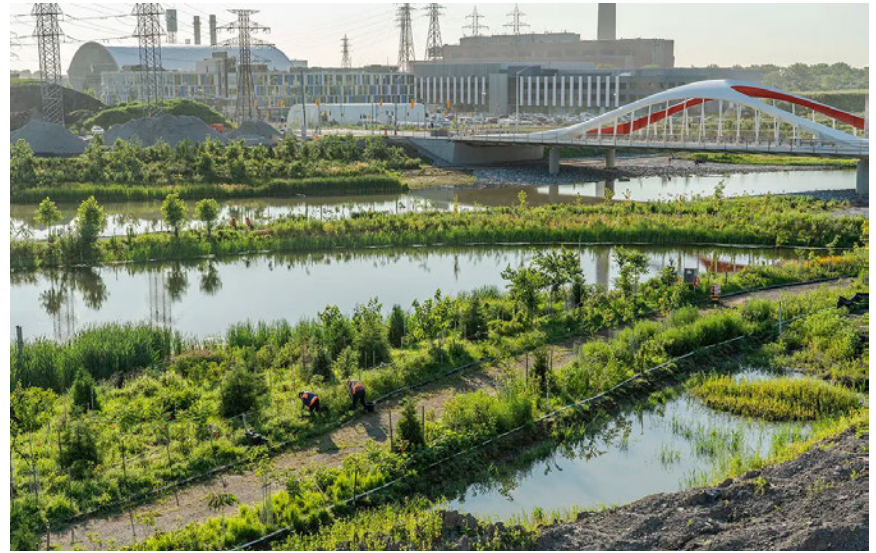
Tannery Park – example of new parkland at lake edge



Water's Edge Parkland at the foot of Bronte Bluffs

- Like Tannery Park, new parkland at the foot of Bronte Bluffs will require an **Environmental Assessment (EA)**
- The EA process will include **public consultation, as well as approval authorities** including:
 - Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)
 - Conservation Halton
 - Transport Canada under the Navigable Waters Act
 - Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO)
 - First Nations
 - Potentially, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) under the Public Lands Act
- The EA process will assess design scenarios to **prevent or mitigate impacts** while providing **public benefits**.
- An important objective of the EA work is to have no negative impacts to the existing bluffs and vegetation. The new parkland will stabilize the shoreline and provide a safe **waterfront trail** – part of a long-term strategy to increase connectivity along the Town's waterfront
- The creation of additional **terrestrial and aquatic habitat** will be required
- The scope of the EA study will include the entire stretch of this shoreline, including the beach area, and will seek ways to **mitigate odour-causing algae accumulation**

Water's Edge Parkland at foot of Bronte Bluffs - Precedents



Boardwalk on west side of Bronte Creek



West River Lookout and Access



- Pedestrian and cyclist improvements to public road end and public space
- No vehicular parking

West River Lookout and Access - Proposed



3 Bronte Heritage Park: Key Design Objectives



- **Continue to enhance** the Bronte Heritage Waterfront Park
 - maintain the event space
 - expand seating around the performance pavilion
 - add pop-up uses and movable chairs
- Expand **seasonal uses and diversity of uses**
 - new urban beach area
 - new winter skating loop
 - enhanced playground

3 Bronte Heritage Park

Multi-use trail per Bronte Village Streetscape

Adventure playground

Winter skating loop

Urban beach and picnic area

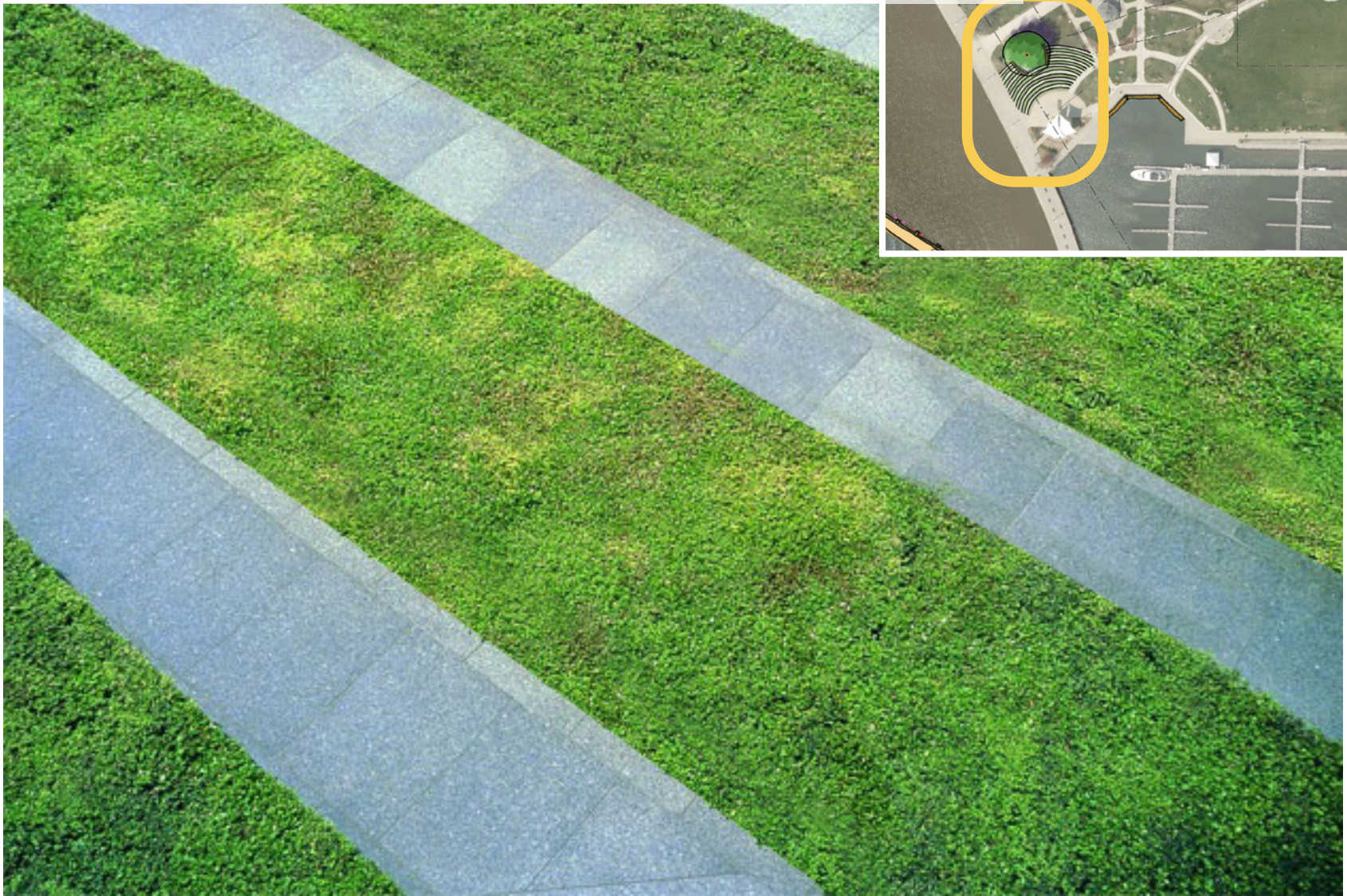
Paved areas to delineate additional seating at performance pavilion

Water based programming

Movable chairs and pop-ups throughout park

Pavilion for equipment rental, skate changing, chillers, zamboni

Delineated Seating at Performance Pavilion



Winter Skating Loop



Adventure Playground - Slide 1



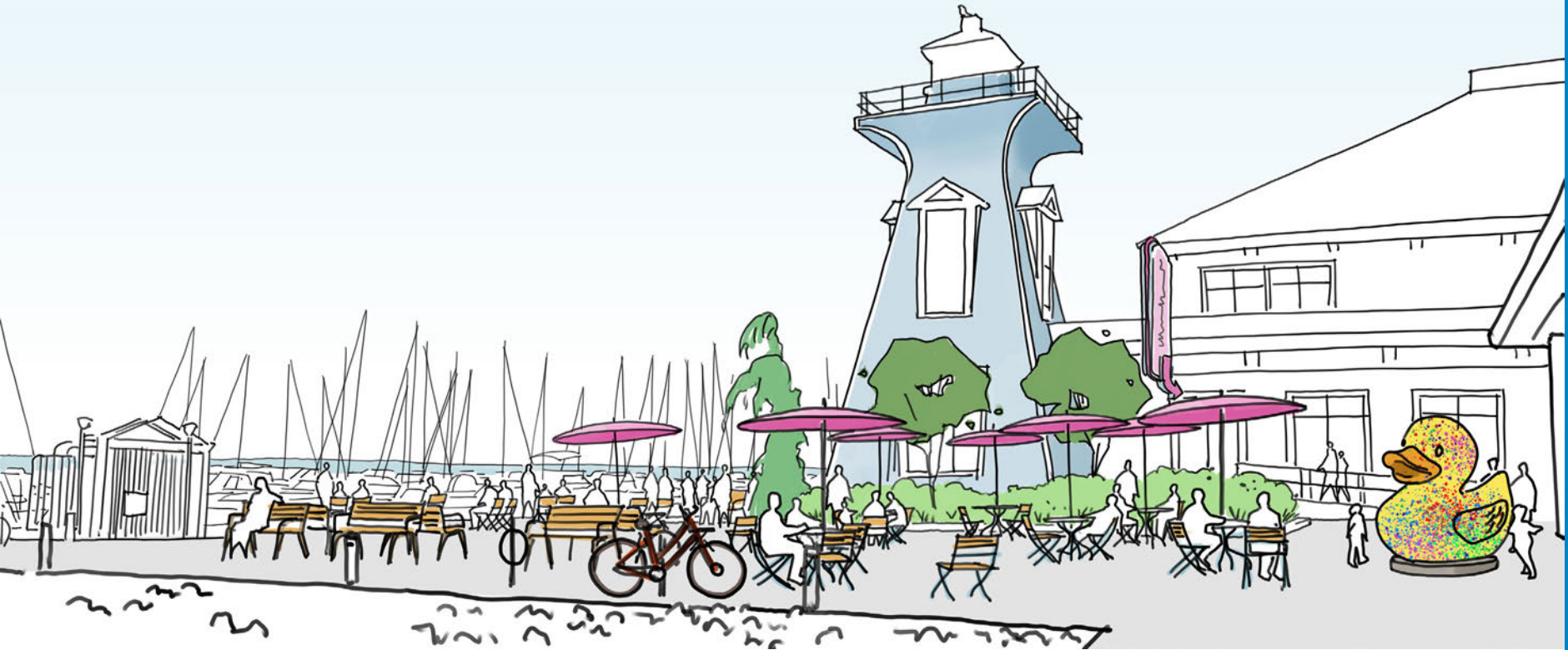
Adventure Playground - Slide 2



Waterfront Promenade at Bronte Lighthouse



Waterfront Promenade at Bronte Lighthouse – movable seating and public art



East Beach

- Concerns about the **smell of algae** in Reflection Bay at the foot of East Street, particularly during hot days in July and August
- The Town has **managed the removal of algae** in the Bay for years. Accumulation depends on the weather and the lake temperature
- The Town does not remove algae from private property. **Information should be shared with waterfront property owners** on how to manage algae
- **Confirm** the source of the smell
- **Pilot project:** nourish the beach with sand, rake it regularly, and monitor it (e.g. storms may redistribute). Determine effectiveness over time
- If the beach is to be nourished, will need **coordination/approvals** from Conservation Halton, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and Ministry of Natural Resources
- The urban beach concept is **dependent on algae mitigation**

East Beach - Existing



Urban Beach and Picnic Area



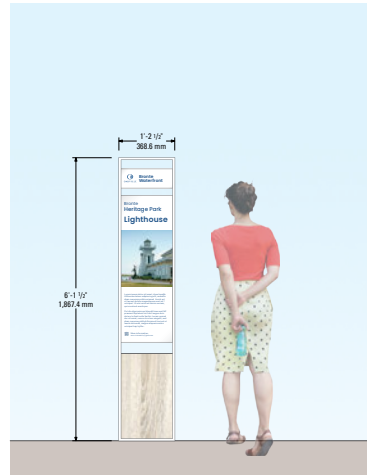
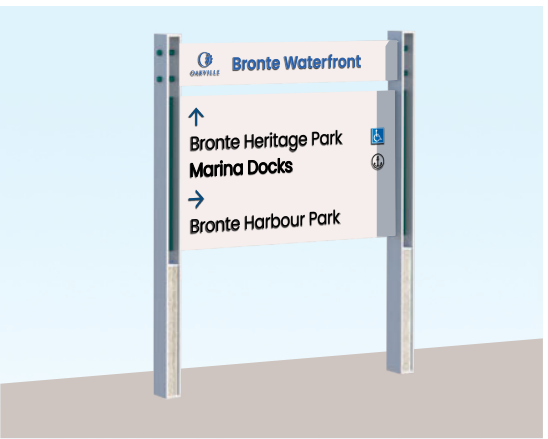
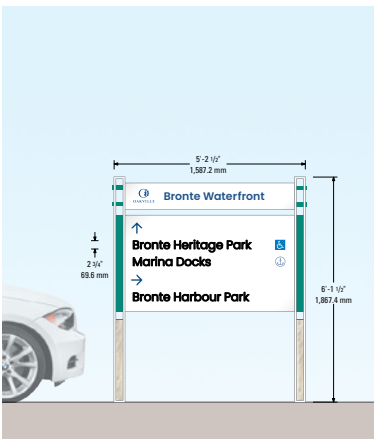
Urban Beach



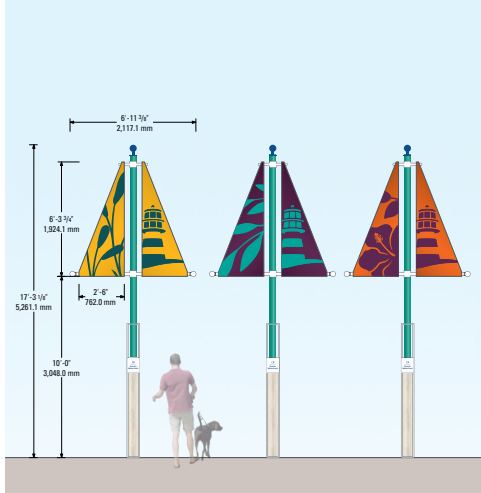
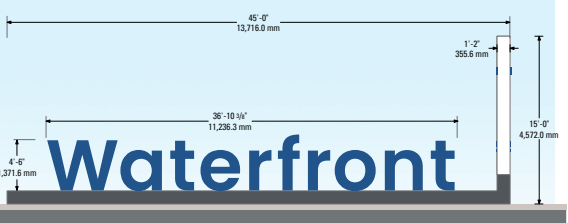
Signage and Wayfinding

IP - Interpretive Sign Wall Plaque

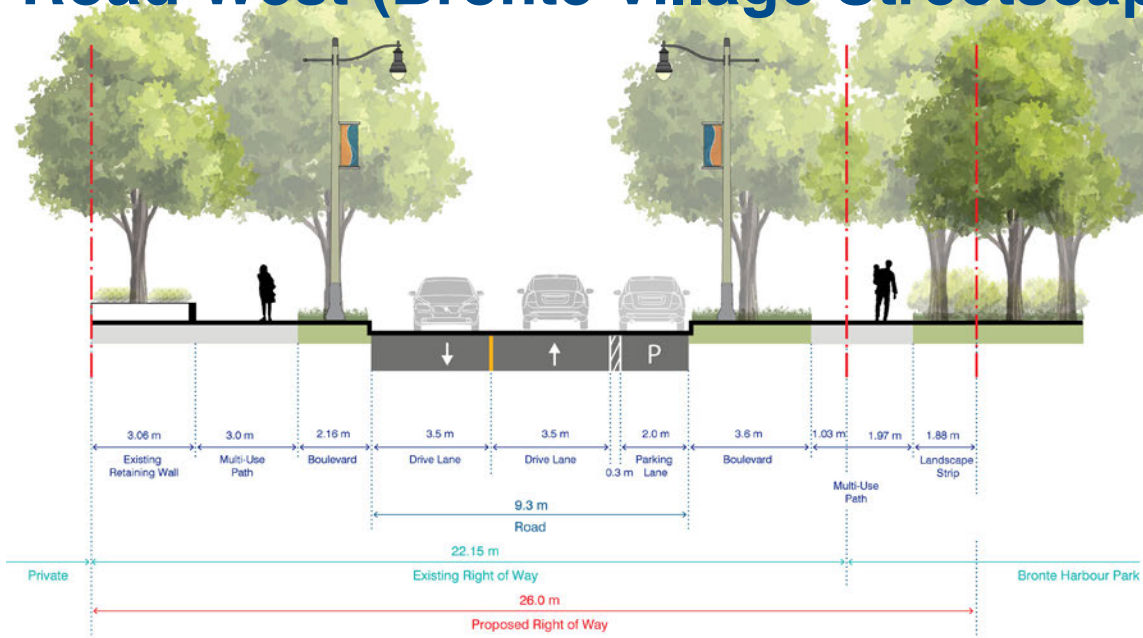
IS Interpretive Sign QTY 3



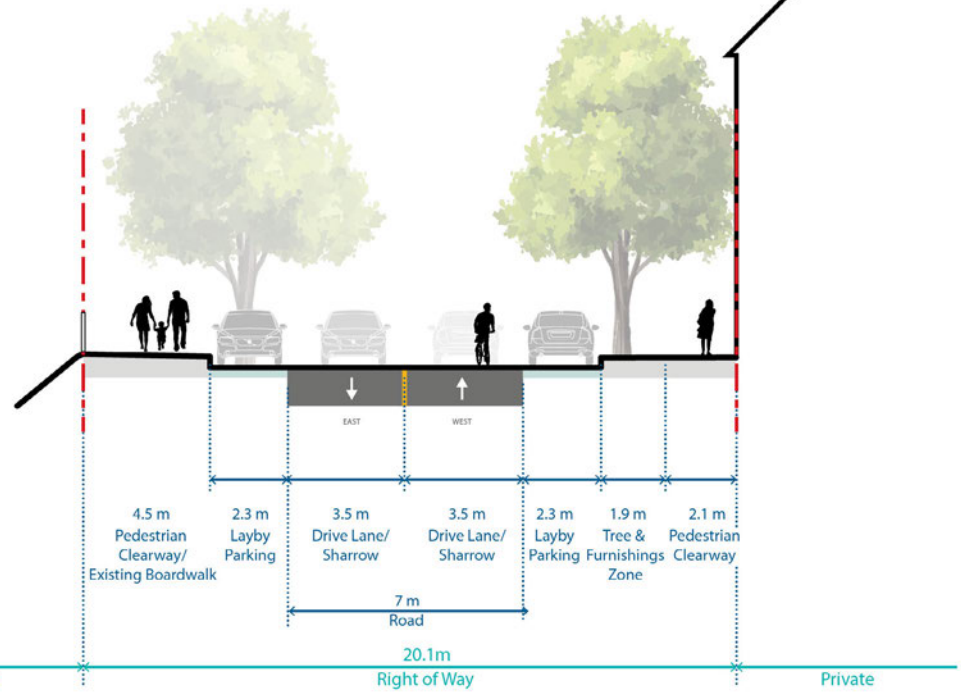
Context Render



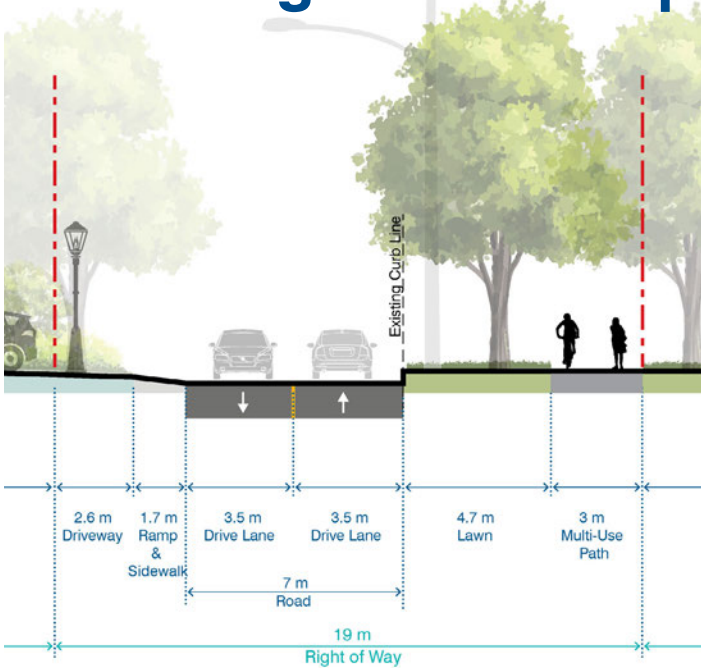
Lakeshore Road West (Bronte Village Streetscape Project)



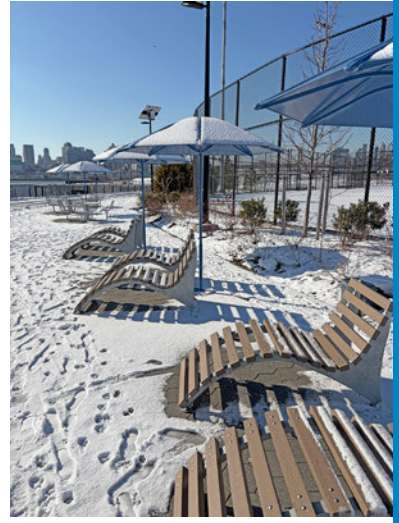
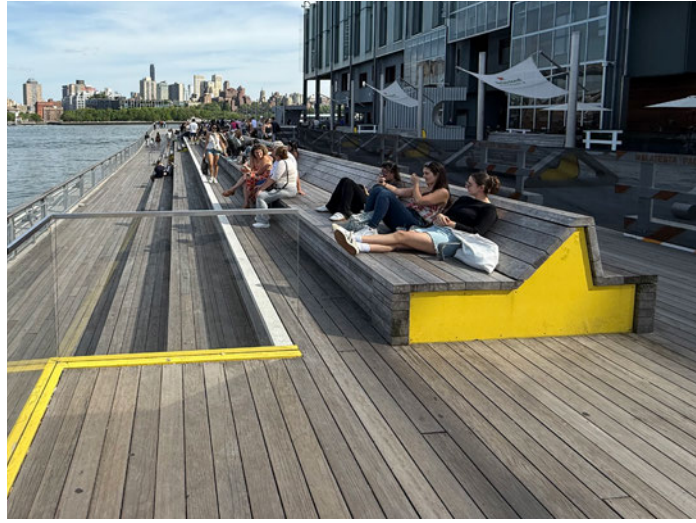
Bronte Road - Marine to Ontario (Bronte Village Streetscape Project)



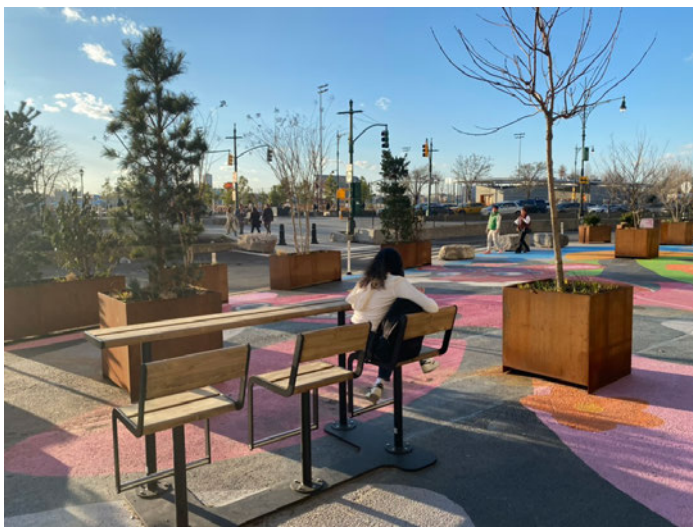
Ontario Street (Bronte Village Streetscape Project)



Furnishing - Slide 1



Furnishing - Slide 2



Public Art Strategy

Site-specific



Temporary



Integrated



Estimated Project Timing

Subject to funding and Town budget allocation

- Short Term (1-3 years)**
- Medium Term (4-7 years)**
- Long Term (8+ years)**



Walkway under Lakeshore Rd W



Inner Harbour Promenade



Metro Marine Building



Wayfinding



Flexible Plaza



Playground



Skating Loop



Canoe/Kayak Launch



West River St Improvements



Bronte Bluffs New Parkland



Bronte Creek West Side Boardwalk



Enhanced Seating at Pavilion



Furnishing



Urban Beach

Funding and Project Implementation - Slide 1

Potential funding sources include:

- Federal/Provincial grants for infrastructure
- Partnerships with community organizations
- Fundraising
- Piggy back on upcoming projects such as the north wall reconstruction in the Bronte Harbour
- Town of Oakville Development Charges, Community Benefits Charge
- Town of Oakville budget allocation in 2027 and ongoing

Funding and Project Implementation - Slide 2

Project timing needs to be responsive to funding opportunities:

- Many grant programs require shovel-ready projects and have short windows of opportunity
- Need to initiate detailed design in readiness for potential funding

Further public and stakeholder consultation will be undertaken to implement projects:

- Public consultation on the design of individual projects, e.g. skating loop, new parkland at Bronte Bluffs, playground
- Approvals will be required from authorities having jurisdiction, e.g. Conservation Halton approvals within hazard zones

Next Steps

- Consider inputs at this final public session
- Prepare report summarizing the Bronte Waterfront Strategy, recommendations and implementation
- Presentation of draft Bronte Waterfront Strategy to Council late May 2026