

Humber Bay Park East Shoreline Recreation Enhancement Study

Project Overview

Engagement Purpose

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) and the City of Toronto are seeking feedback on shoreline enhancement options at Humber Bay Park East aimed at improving recreational use while maintaining shoreline protection.

Project Background

Humber Bay Park East was built in the 1970s through lakefilling operations. Over time, wave action, high lake levels, and storm events have caused erosion along the park shoreline. In 2024, shoreline maintenance was completed to protect the park long-term from erosion.

As part of this work, the shoreline between the two park headlands was resurfaced using cobble material which is highly resistant to waves and storms. This approach has proven effective at protecting the shoreline from erosion. However, park users have shared feedback regarding access and recreational use of the space.

What We Heard

Following construction, park users let us know that the cobble shoreline has made it more difficult to use the area for activities they previously enjoyed, such as lounging along the shoreline, dog walking, and accessing the water.

What Enhancements Are Being Explored

In response to feedback, a recreation enhancement study is being undertaken to explore ways to improve user experience. The study is exploring opportunities to:

- Maintain effective shoreline erosion protection
- Enhance recreational use by improving shoreline access, safety, and comfort
- Reuse existing shoreline materials where possible

The goal is to develop a shoreline design that balances recreation, shoreline protection, and environmental considerations.

What the Shoreline Looked Like Before



What the Shoreline Looks Like Today



Humber Bay Park East Shoreline Recreation Enhancement Study

Developing the Concepts

Concept Development and Evaluation Process

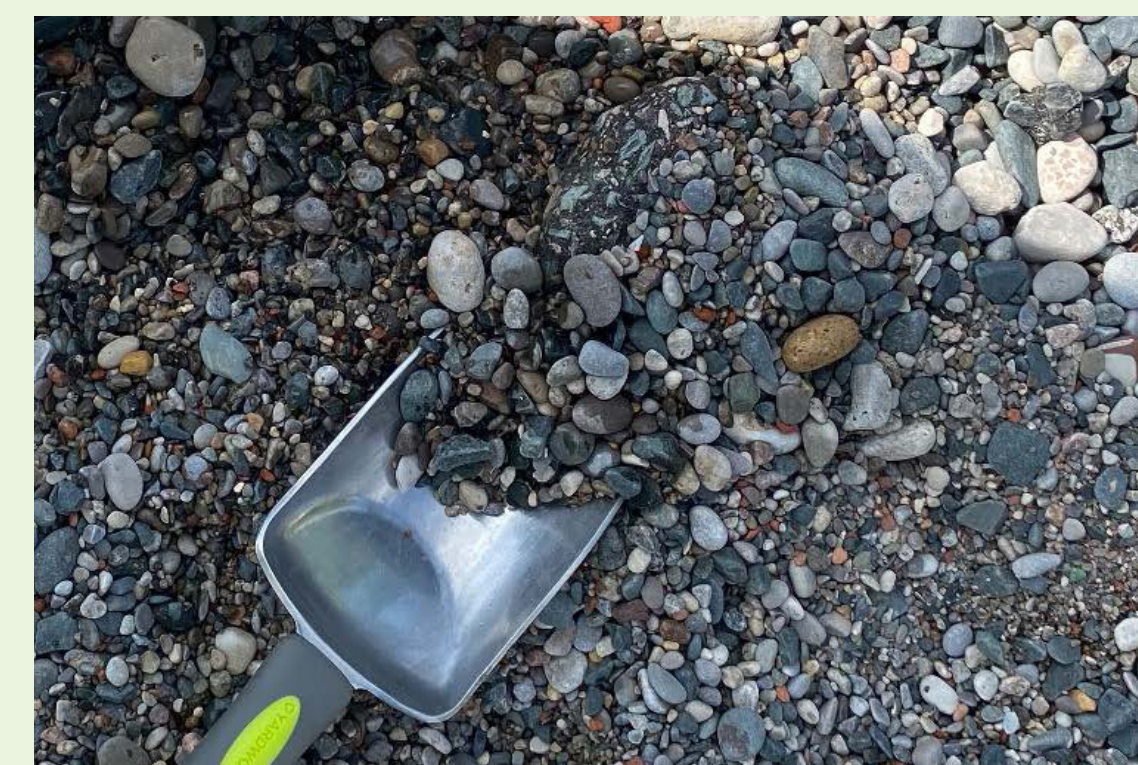
The design team developed and evaluated four concepts for enhancing recreational use of the shoreline while maintaining erosion protection. Based on public feedback received to date and technical requirements, each concept was assessed against the following priorities:

- Recreational use and access
- Ease of construction (cost and complexity)
- Level of shoreline protection
- Environmental performance
- Long-term maintenance needs

The concepts differ in how they balance these considerations.

Gravel Size Options

To improve user comfort and access for recreational use, the concepts explore introducing smaller gravel materials along the shoreline. Three gravel size options were considered across all the concepts. In general, smaller gravel feels easier to walk and sit on, but it is also more likely to move or change shape during large storm events.



6 mm gravel



12 mm gravel



25 mm gravel

EXAMPLE OF SIMILAR SHORELINE MATERIAL

At Humber Bay Park West, recent shoreline protection work included the installation of 25 mm stone along the south beach. This is the largest stone size being considered through this study and provides a useful local reference for the scale and appearance of the material.



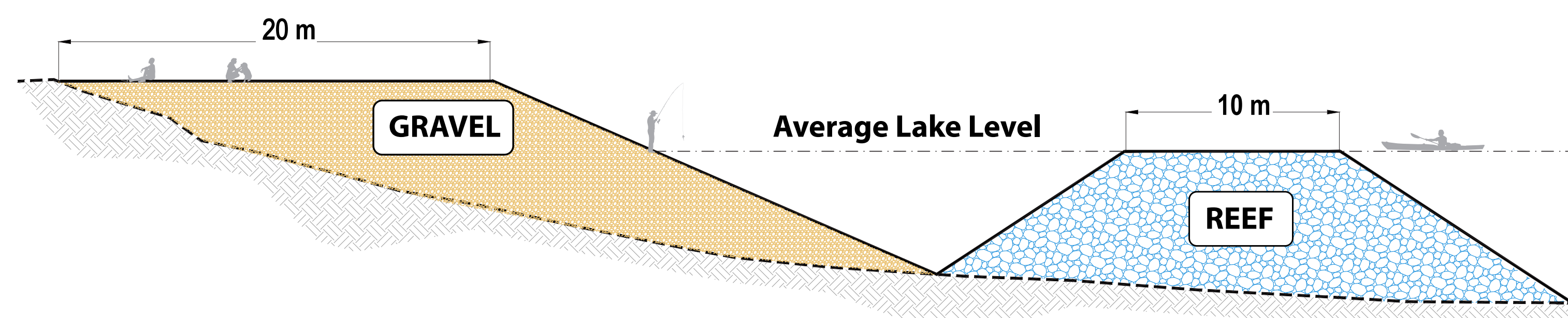
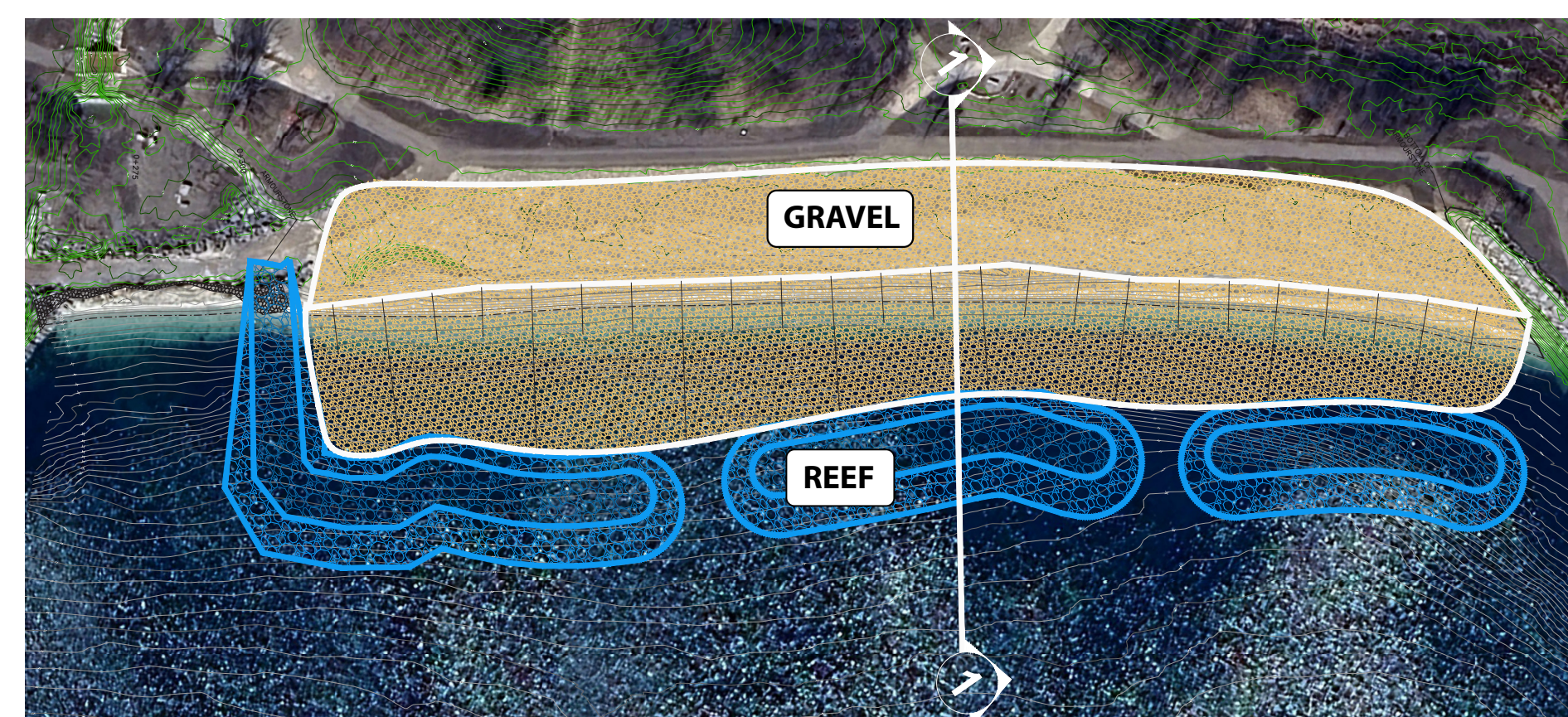
Humber Bay Park East Shoreline Recreation Enhancement Study

Concept Designs - Options 1 & 2

The shoreline shape shown in each concept represents the starting condition following construction. Shoreline materials are expected to naturally shift and reshape over time in response to waves and storm events, with the amount of movement varying by concept and selected gravel size.

CONCEPT 1 – Offshore Reef with Finer Gravel Shoreline

Smaller gravel would be placed along the shoreline to create a finer surface at the water's edge. The existing cobble would be moved and reused as a submerged reef. The reef would sit directly in front of the shoreline, just below the water surface, to help reduce wave energy.

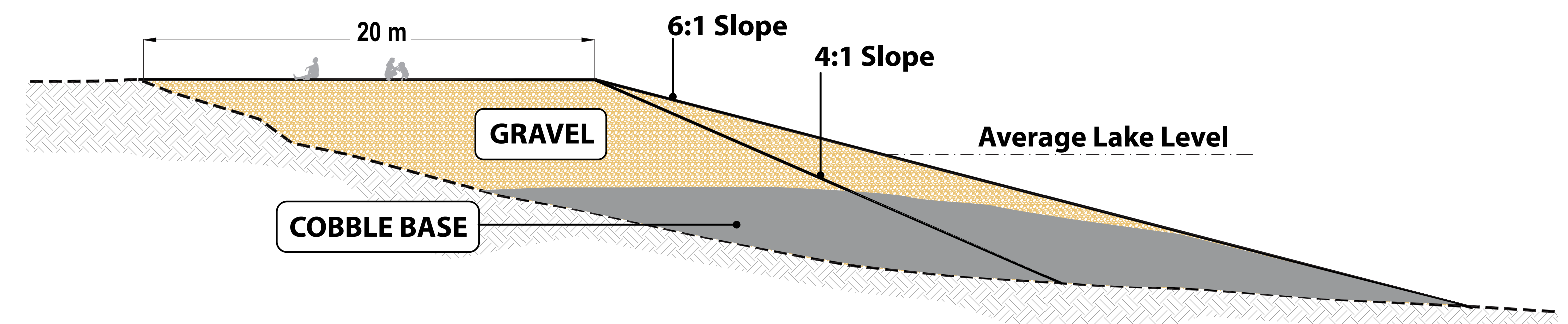
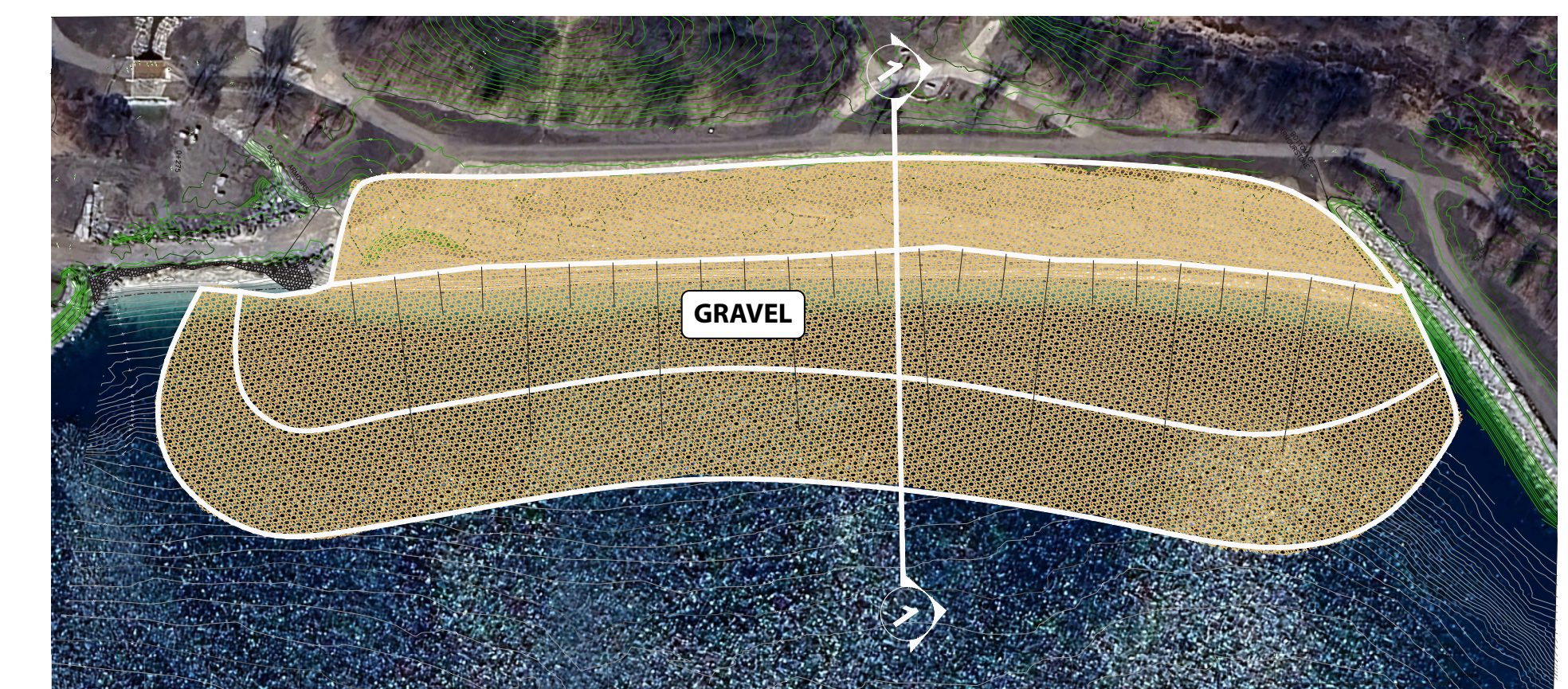


CONCEPT 1 – Key Considerations

- Improves shoreline comfort and access along the water's edge but may affect some in-water activities, as the submerged reef is located close to shore.
- Reuses existing cobble as an offshore reef that helps absorb wave energy and provides additional aquatic habitat benefits.
- Gravel and cobble are expected to naturally shift and reshape over time, including the potential for some cobbles to move back onto the shoreline.
- Moderate construction complexity and maintenance requirements.
- Estimated cost: \$2.7M–\$4.0M

CONCEPT 2 – Cobble Base with Finer Gravel Shoreline

Smaller gravel would be used across most of the shoreline, replacing the existing cobble to form a wider and more gradually sloped shoreline. The existing cobble would be reused as a base layer below the water to help support the shoreline structure.



CONCEPT 2 – Key Considerations

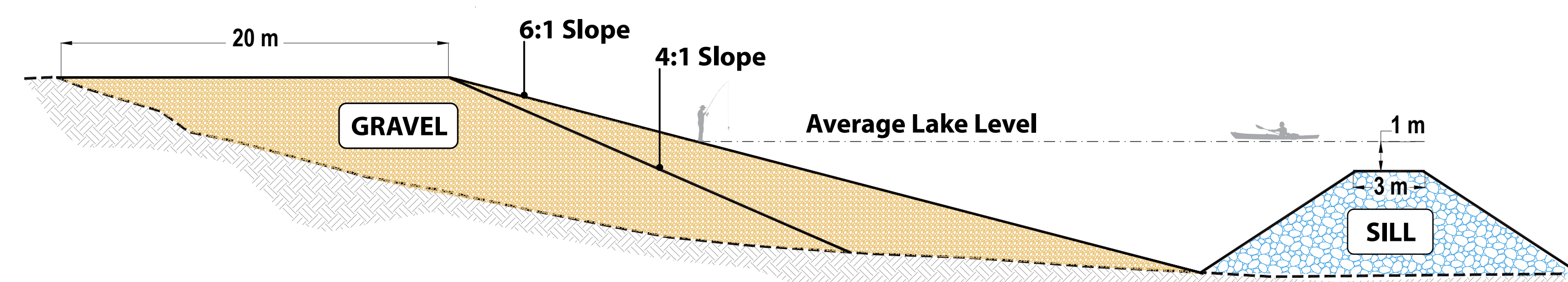
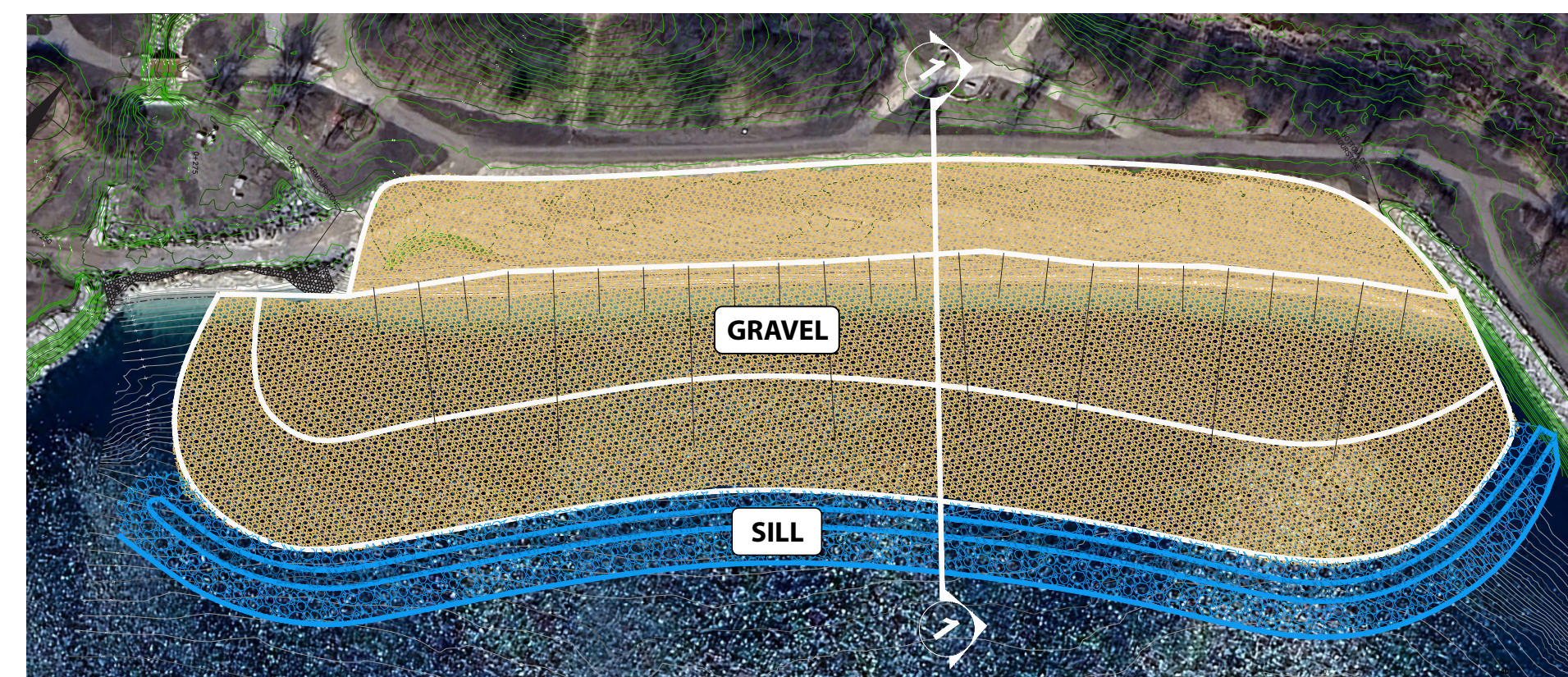
- Provides strong improvements to shoreline access and recreational use both on land and in the water.
- Reuses existing cobble as a foundation layer beneath the shoreline and provides strong shoreline performance without requiring an offshore reef or sill feature.
- Gravel is expected to naturally shift and reshape over time, resulting in ongoing changes to the shoreline profile.
- Moderate construction complexity and maintenance requirements.
- Estimated cost: \$4.2M–\$5.7M

Humber Bay Park East Shoreline Recreation Enhancement Study

Concept Designs - Options 3 & 4

CONCEPT 3 – Nearshore Sill with Finer Gravel Shoreline

Smaller gravel would be placed along the shoreline to create a finer surface at the water's edge. The existing cobble would be moved offshore and reused as a submerged sill which forms an outer edge to help keep the gravel in place.

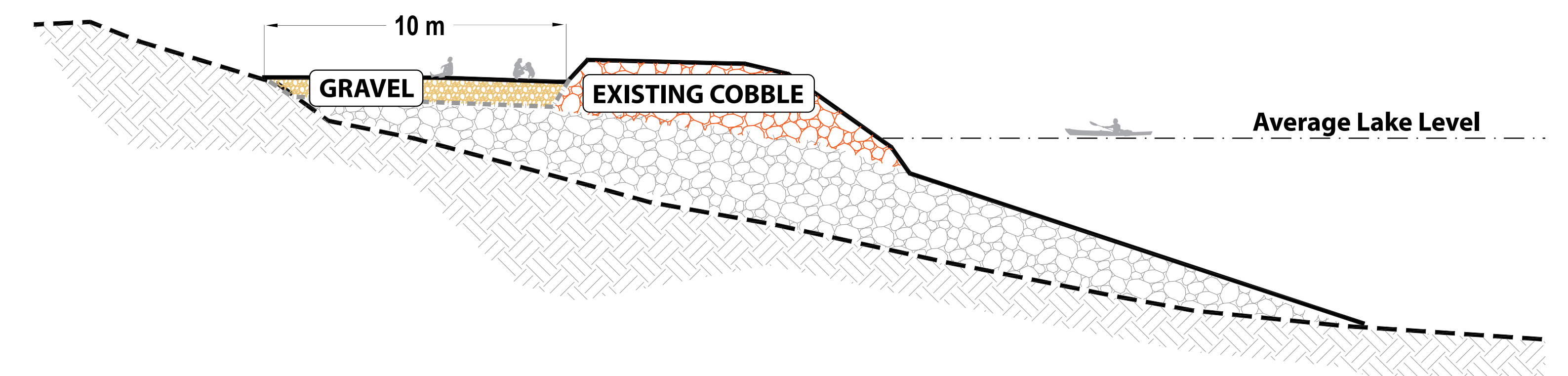
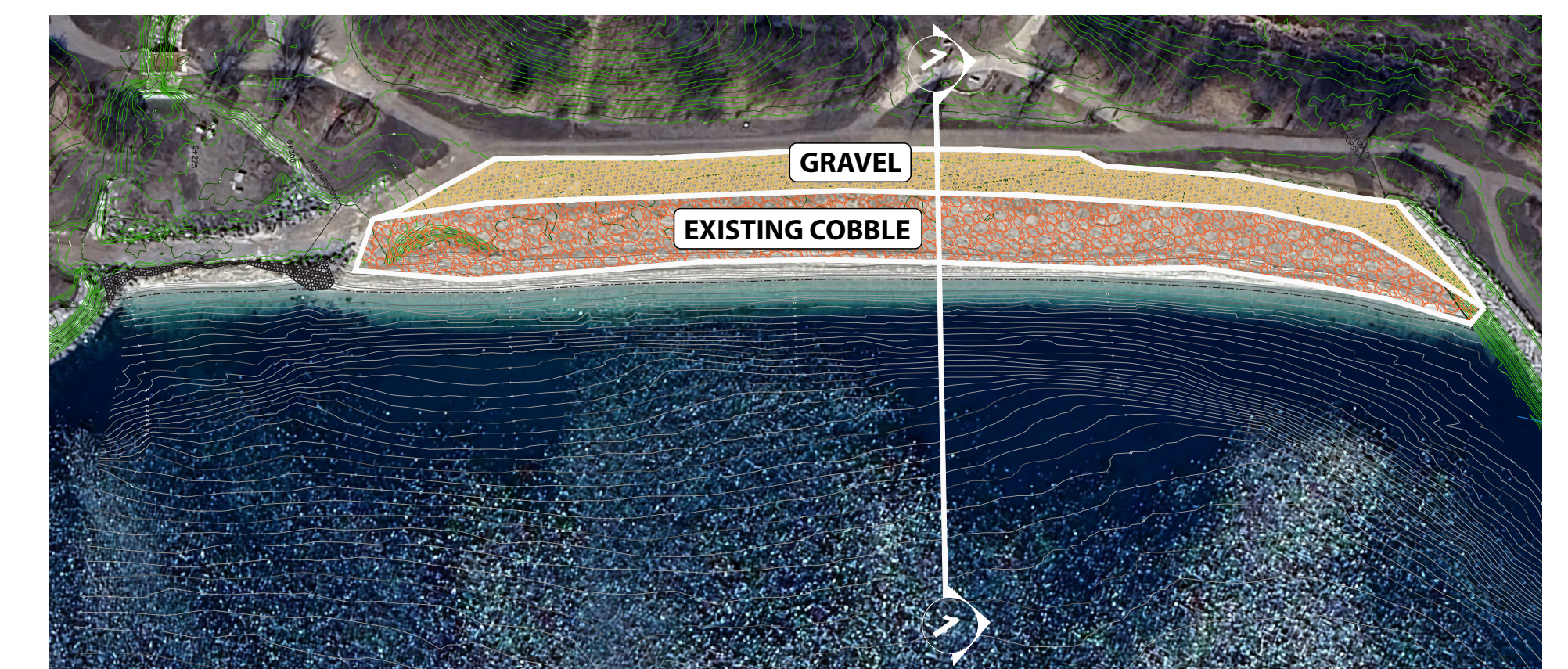


CONCEPT 3 – Key Considerations

- Provides strong improvements to shoreline access and recreational use both on land and in the water.
- Reuses existing cobble as a submerged sill that helps retain gravel material and provides additional aquatic habitat benefits.
- Gravel is expected to naturally shift and reshape over time, while the submerged sill helps retain shoreline materials and improve long-term stability.
- Requires the most extensive shoreline reshaping and in-water construction, increasing implementation complexity.
- Estimated cost: \$5.6M–\$8.4M

CONCEPT 4 – Veneer Layer on the Existing Shoreline

A contained layer of smaller gravel would be added along the upper portion of the shoreline. Some cobble would be reshaped to form a berm to hold the gravel in place. The remaining cobble would stay in place beneath this area and along the slope, continuing to provide shoreline protection.



CONCEPT 4 – Key Considerations

- Provides modest improvements to recreational use compared to the other concepts.
- Improves comfort in upper shoreline areas, but in-water access and shoreline conditions remain largely unchanged.
- Retains the existing cobble shoreline and existing level of shoreline protection.
- Shoreline materials are expected to naturally shift and reshape over time, but less movement is anticipated due to the larger cobble material.
- Requires minimal modification to the existing shoreline, minimal new material placement, and is simple to construct.
- Estimated cost: \$0.43M–\$0.51M

Humber Bay Park East Shoreline Recreation Enhancement Study

Next Steps

Evaluation Summary

Based on public feedback received to date, technical evaluation, and cost considerations, **Concept 2 – Cobble Base with Finer Gravel Shoreline** is currently considered the concept that best balances the project's recreation, shoreline protection, environmental, cost, and constructability objectives.

We Want Your Feedback

We are seeking your feedback to help confirm this assessment reflects community priorities and to identify any refinements that should be considered before a final recommendation is made. The project team will use feedback from this session to inform the final evaluation and recommended shoreline design approach.



We Want to Hear From You:

Your feedback will help shape the future of Humber Bay Park East.

How to participate:

- Scan the QR code to complete our online survey
- Survey responses will be accepted until August 11, 2026

Have questions or want to learn more?

Visit trca.ca/humber-bay-park-east or contact the Project Team at hbpe.shoreline.study@trca.ca

PROJECT TIMELINE

