



RECREATION BAY RESTORATION PROJECT

The Recreation Bay Restoration project will soon become a reality. After years of effort to understand the causes of the problems at the bay, designing a sustainable long-term solution and consulting with the community, the Kahnawà:ke Environment Protection Office will be moving forward with project implementation starting in fall 2019. This restoration project is a tangible way for Kahnawà:ke to address our responsibility to peacefully co-exist with the natural world around us.

HISTORY OF THE BAY

The construction of the seaway in the 1950's led to the creation of the artificial Tekakwitha Island and Recreation Bay. The Seaway disturbed the natural balance of the river resulting in significant immediate and long-term environmental damage. The loss of land and direct access to the river also had devastating impacts on Kahnawà'kehrónon.

Despite these detrimental effects, the community has found ways to use the island and bay for paddling, fishing, swimming, jogging, and many other recreational activities. Even these activities are now threatened as sediment and aquatic plants have been accumulating in the bay making it difficult to navigate and has created further challenges for resident fish and turtles. The rocky soil on the island and uniform landscape limits the potential for wildlife and presents hazards for community members.

GOALS OF THE PROJECT

- **Improve water flow in the bay and diversify wildlife habitat.**
- **Naturalize the shoreline to improve the landscape for wildlife and community members.**
- **Protect and enhance existing natural wetlands.**



Kahnawà:ke natural shoreline 1949



Kahnawà:ke - Present Day

IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT



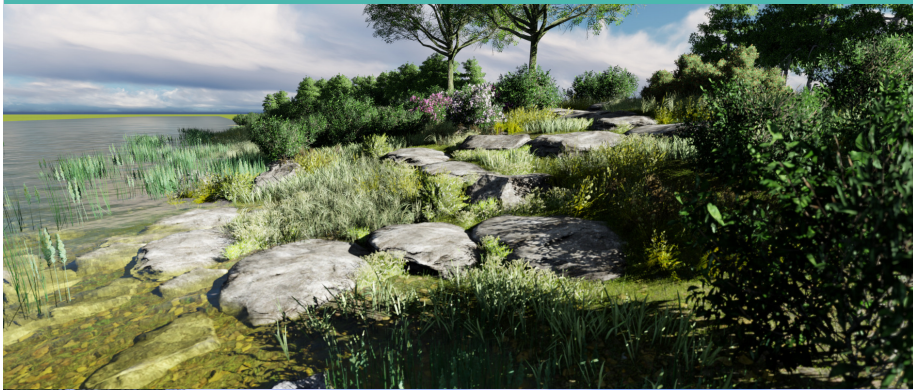
1. The creation of a turtle nesting site and a wetland complex will diversify habitats.



2. Increased waterflow from dredging and aquatic plant harvesting will enhance year round navigation while maintaining and improving fish habitat.



3. Rest areas, river access points, and a beach will allow community members to enjoy the bay in balance with the natural environment.



WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Phase I** of construction is scheduled to begin in Fall 2019 with the creation of two natural zones.
- **Phase II** is scheduled to begin in late Spring 2020 through to Fall 2020 when the remaining construction activities will take place including dredging, construction of rest areas, and shoreline enhancements.

During construction some areas may be temporarily closed to pedestrian traffic but we will strive to ensure the work has minimal impact on the use of the island.

To stay up to date on the Recreation Bay Project check out
www.kahnawakeenvironment.com
or follow us at
facebook.com/kahnawakeenvironment



For more information contact
Kahnawà:ke Environment
Protection Office at:
450-635-0600
environment.protection@mck.ca