Coastal Resilience Action Plan Funding Announcement

The Long Point Biosphere Region was selected for funding by Environment and Climate Change Canada to develop a Coastal Resilience Action Plan for the north shore of Lake Erie, from Port Glasgow to Long Point. Our project was one of 50 selected across the Great Lakes region. Refer to the public announcement by Irek Kusmierczyk, Member of Parliament for Windsor—Tecumseh, and Terry Duguid, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and Special Advisor for Water, on behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change:

> Turning the tide: Federal dollars to clean pollution and deliver clean water for Great Lakes communities - Canada.ca

The first three years of the project, from September 2024 to March 2027, will focus on three key activities:

1) Engagement with stakeholders and landowners in the study area.
2) Develop a Coastal Resilience Action Plan, informed by technical studies and community feedback, to restore natural shoreline processes and increase resilience to coastal hazards.
3) Complete beach and dune restoration projects in the study area with nature-based solutions.

We will continue to explore other funding opportunities to advance the Action Plan beyond year three.

Several Frequently Asked Questions follow this announcement to provides additional details on the project. It is important to emphasize this is not a regulatory or land use planning project. The results of this investigation will not supersede existing local, provincial, and federal regulations and policies. We will focus our restoration efforts with willing partners and interested landowners.

If you have any immediate questions, please contact Sarah Emons at the Biosphere (conservation@longpointbiosphere.com).

Sarah Emons
Conservation Director, Long Point Biosphere Region

Frequently Asked Questions

Where is the project area?

The project area extends from Port Glasgow to Long Point, along the north shore of Lake Erie. This area is known as a littoral cell or sediment cell, which is a coastal segment that defines the supply, longshore transport, and deposition of sand and gravel. Within a littoral cell, there are erosional areas (e.g., bluffs), a net direction of longshore sediment transport, and a downdrift area where sediment accumulates (e.g., beaches). Refer to Figure 1 below for a map of the project area and littoral cell boundaries.

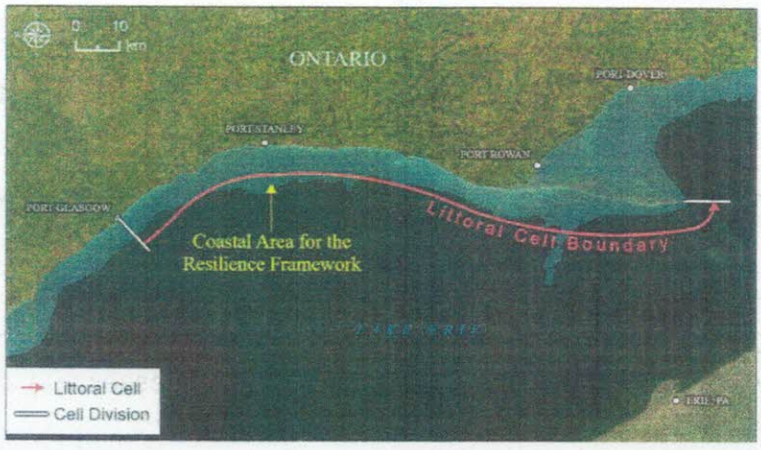


Figure 1 The project area extends from Port Glasgow to Long Point

How will the project be managed and how can the public participate?

The project will be managed by the Long Point Biosphere Region and guided by a Working Group, a Public Advisory Committee, and Technical Advisory Committee of independent experts. Public engagement and consultation will be continuous as highlighted in the Governance Model in Figure 2. The public and stakeholders will be invited to community workshops, represented on the Public Advisory Committee, and receive regular updates via a website.

Figure 2: Project governance includes a Working Group, a Public Advisory Committee, and a Technical Advisory Committee

What are the objectives of the Coastal Resilience Action Plan?

Develop Technical and Scientific Knowledge: Collect physical data and develop a sediment budget and transport model to determine how and where sand and gravel move in the nearshore of the coast between Port Glasgow and Long Point.

Produce a Coastal Resilience Action Plan: Develop an Action Plan that integrates the four dimensions of a resilient coast: social, economic, environmental, and physical processes as highlighted in Figure 3. The technical and scientific work completed will inform the management options developed to build resilience along the coast. The Action Plan will be co-developed by the Working Group, the Public Advisory Committee, community members at large and reviewed by the Technical Advisory Committee.

Complete Dune Restoration Projects: From 2024 to 2027 we will build coastal resilience through dune restoration. Sand dunes form at the back of beaches when sand is trapped by beachgrass and other native plants. Healthy dunes create a barrier against natural coastal hazards, such as flooding and erosion, and improve habitat.

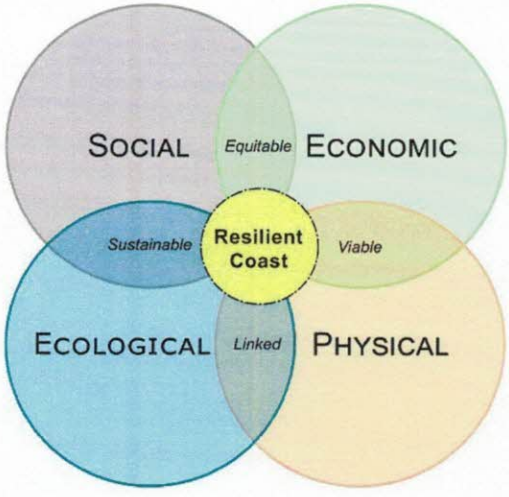


Figure 3: Balancing social, economic, environmental and physical processes promotes a long-term and sustainable approach to improve coastal resilience

Will there be any regulatory, policy, or legislative changes associated with the Coastal Resilience Action Plan project?

No. This is not a regulatory or legislative project. Our goal is to improve coastal resilience with willing community partners and landowners from Port Glasgow to Long Point.

Can the funding to be used for new infrastructure or infrastructure modifications?

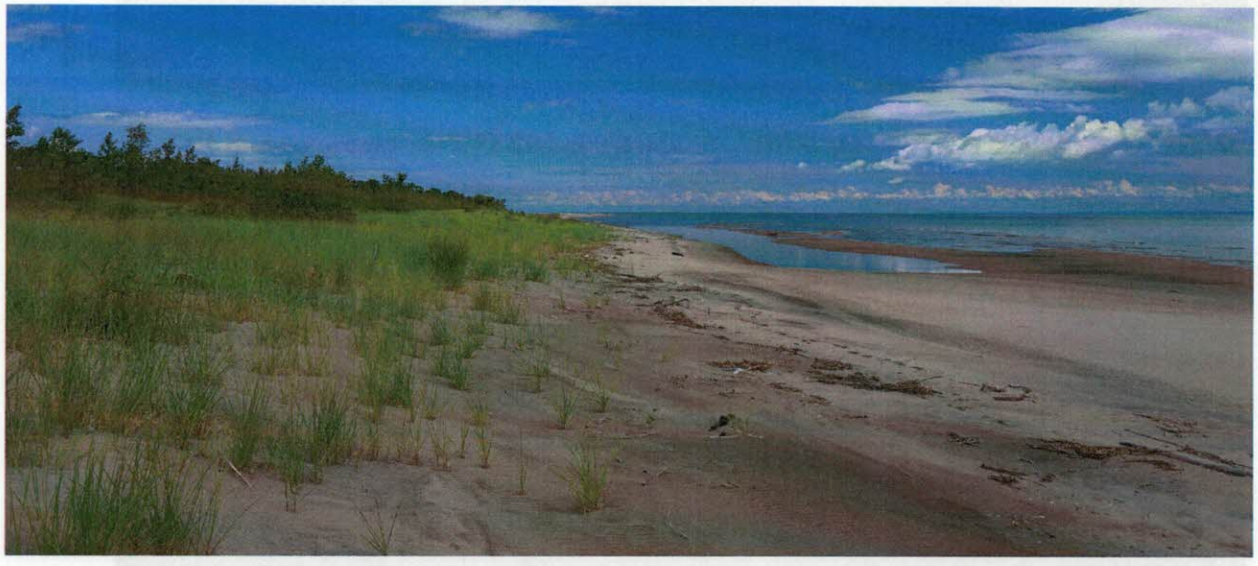
No. This funding is focused on technical investigations in the littoral cell, beach and dune restoration, and the development of a Resilience Action Plan that focuses on long-term nature-based approaches to increase coastal resilience.

FREE FOREDUNE RESTORATION

The Long Point Biosphere Region received funding to complete free foredune restoration on a select number of private properties and beach access pathways along Woodstock Avenue and Beach Avenue in Long Point. The restoration will occur in early November 2024 or the spring of 2025, pending government permits.

The location of the proposed restoration areas is noted on the page 3 map. The proposed planting areas could be expanded in the future.

Foredunes stabilized with native beachgrass plants, shrubs, and trees trap wind-blown sand and reduce spring cleanup around cottage foundations. They also provide a natural buffer to coastal erosion and flooding events on Lake Erie. A picture of a natural foredune at the tip of Long Point stabilized with beachgrass and cottonwood trees is provided below. Dedicated pathways through vegetated foredunes provide access the open beach and lake.

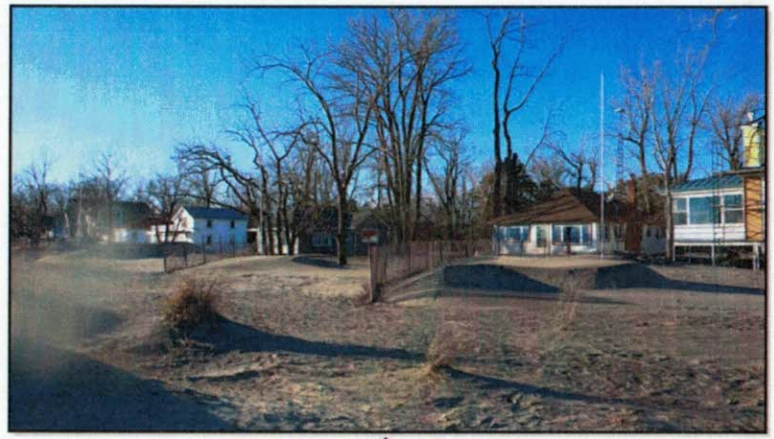


If you are interested in participating in the project, please contact Sarah Emons at the Biosphere (conservation@longpointbiosphere.com). Your property will be added to the list and we will share more details of the plan. We anticipate future foredune restoration projects in Long Point in 2025 and 2026 if you are not available or interested at this time.

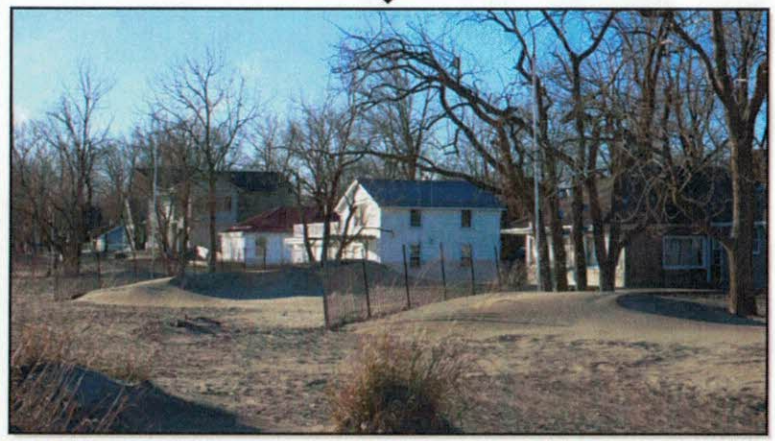
The photographs below provide an example of a foredune restoration project at Wasaga Beach completed by our partners at Zuzek Inc. between 2021 and 2023, to help understand how naturalizing your property can reduce future maintenance associated with wind-blown sand and increase resilience to coastal storms.

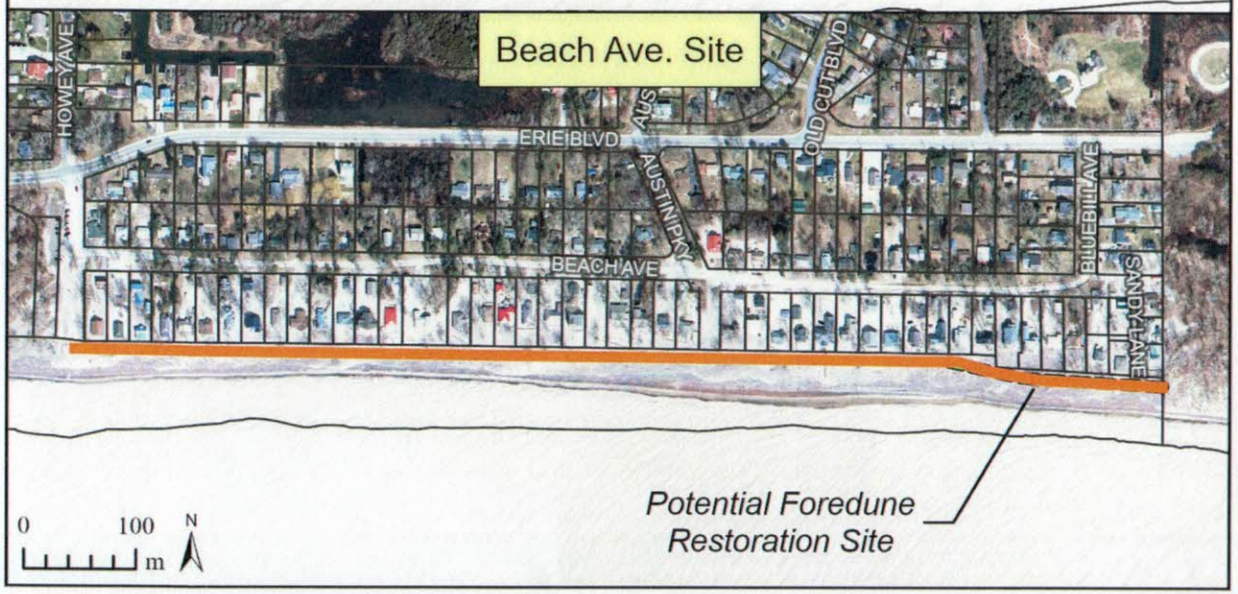
WASAGA BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK, NOVEMBER 5, 2021 (before restoration)

WASAGA BEACH PROVINCIAL PARK, AUGUST 7, 2023 (after two growing seasons)



Existing Snow Fencing is Trapping Sand and Provides a Good Location for Restoration with Beachgrass and Cottonwoods.





Potential Foredune Restoration Sites at Long Point

North Shore Resilience Study

Map Imagery: SWOOP 2020 provided by Canadian Wildlife Service.

Ground photos taken Feb. 19, 2024 by Zuzek Inc.

LONG POINT BIOSPHERE REGION

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ONE WORLD