

Lake Drive East Realignment
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment

Public Information Centre

September 10, 2026

6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

GEORGINA

Welcome!

While you are here, please:

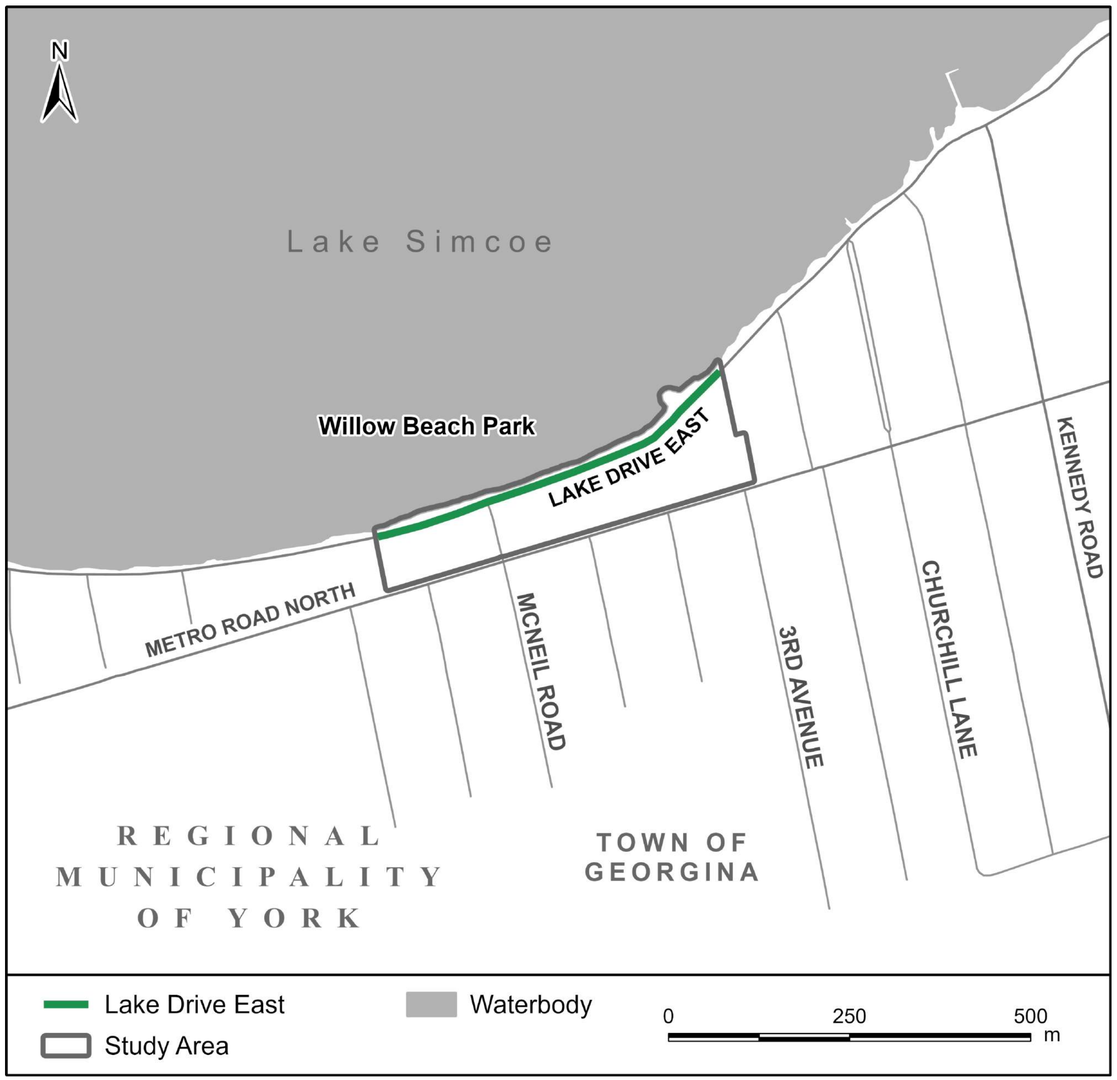
- Sign in at the entrance
- Join us for a short presentation at 7:00 PM
- Review the display boards
- Share your thoughts with the study team
- Complete a comment form and deposit it within the Comment Box

Why is this study being done?

The Town of Georgina (Town) is undertaking a Schedule B Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed realignment of Lake Drive East, as recommended in the 2023 Waterfront Parks Master Plan (WPMP).

The purpose of this PIC is to gather your feedback on:

- Study background information and process
- Existing study area conditions
- Problems and Opportunities
- Evaluation of alternative solutions and the recommended solution.
- Next steps in the study process



Why is this study being done?

This Municipal Class EA study focuses **specifically on the proposed changes to Lake Drive East.**

Once the Municipal Class EA is complete, its findings will guide the design for the improvements to the parklands**.**



Municipal Class EA Process

The Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) process is approved under the Ontario Environmental Assessment Act. It provides the framework for Municipalities to plan, design, and construct municipal infrastructure projects.

This project is classified as a Schedule B undertaking and is therefore required to follow Phases 1 and 2 of the process.

Phase 1
Problems & Opportunity

- Information gathering
- Identify Problems and Opportunities

We Are Here →

Phase 2
Alternative Solutions

- Identify and Evaluate Alternative Solutions

Project File Report

- Document the decision-making process within a Project File Report
- 30-day comment period

Continuous Consultation

Study Background – Waterfront Parks Master Plan

The Waterfront Parks Master Plan (WPMP) was completed in 2023 and established a long-term vision for 16 waterfront parks along the Lake Simcoe shoreline. Willow Beach Park was identified as a flagship revitalization project in the WPMP. Recommended improvements included:

- Realign Lake Drive East to Metro Road North to improve the connection between the park and the shoreline
- Transform the existing road corridor into a public waterfront space
- Improve pedestrian safety by separating recreational users from vehicles



Study Background - Policy Context

This study considers the relevant policy direction outlined in the following documents:

Town of Georgina Active Transportation Master Plan (In-Progress)

- Guides infrastructure investment that supports active transportation.
- Establishes a better-connected network that links key destinations.

Town of Georgina Official Plan (2016)

- Provides the framework for land use planning in the Town.
- Includes policies that support enhanced access to Lake Simcoe, increased recreational opportunities, and continued development of the waterfront trail system.

York Region Transportation Master Plan (2022)

- Long term plan for the regional transportation system up to 2051.
- Recommends infrastructure improvements that increase safety, accessibility, and expand the active transportation network, including 121 km long Lake to Lake Cycling Route and Walking Trail Network, linking Lake Simcoe to Lake Ontario.

York Region Official Plan (2022)

- Framework for growth and development up to 2051.
- Recognizes the importance of parks, trails and recreational facilities and the role that they play in supporting healthy communities.



Existing Transportation Conditions

- Existing active transportation connections to Willow Beach Park are limited.
- There are no dedicated sidewalks. A seasonal multi-use path is installed between May - October from Civic Centre Road to South Drive.
- Pedestrians and cyclists share the roadway with vehicles between November - April.
- Lake Drive East separates the park from the waterfront. It creates a barrier between park users and the Lake Simcoe shoreline.
- Park users must cross Lake Drive East to access the narrow beach and shoreline.





Problem and Opportunity Statement

The Town’s Waterfront Parks Master Plan establishes the long-term vision for the improvement of Willow Beach Park. This vision is founded on strengthening the connection between the park and the Lake Simcoe shoreline and ensuring safe and accessible connections to the water for park users. Lake Drive East currently bisects the park, separating it from the shoreline. The realignment of Lake Drive East provides an opportunity to implement the Council-endorsed concept for Willow Beach Park by connecting the park's green space directly to the shoreline.



Source: WPMP (2023)

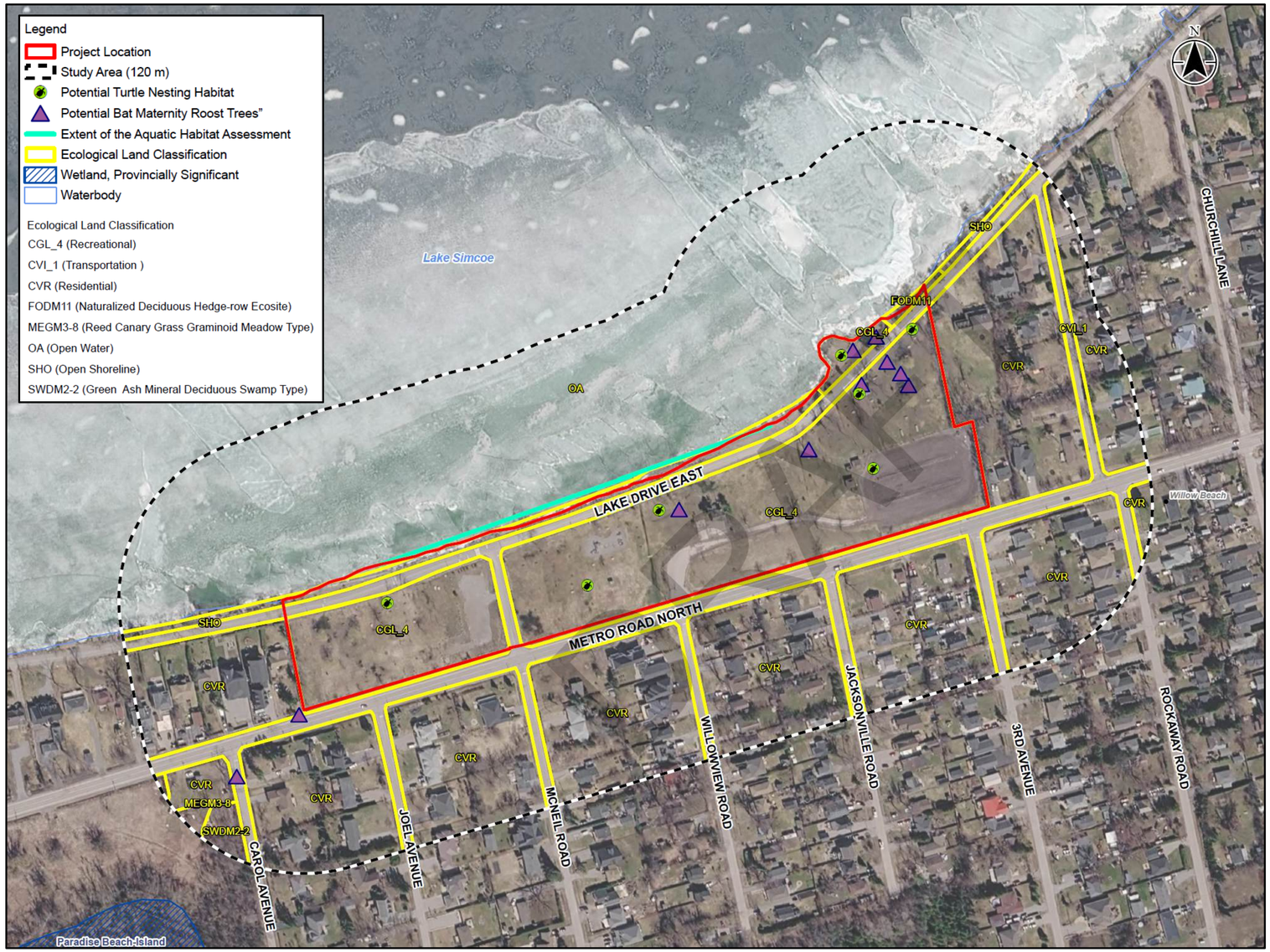
Existing Conditions – Natural Environment

Terrestrial Environment:

- No designated natural heritage areas
- Provincially Significant Wetland located to the southwest
- Potential habitat for 7 wildlife Species-at-Risk (SAR) and 3 Species of Conservation Concern (SOCC)
- Potential bat maternity roost trees and turtle nesting habitat

Aquatic Environment:

- Lake Simcoe may support habitat for 1 fish SAR



Existing Conditions – Cultural Heritage

- 17 properties ≥ 40 years old
- 1 property identified as having potential Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (CHVI)



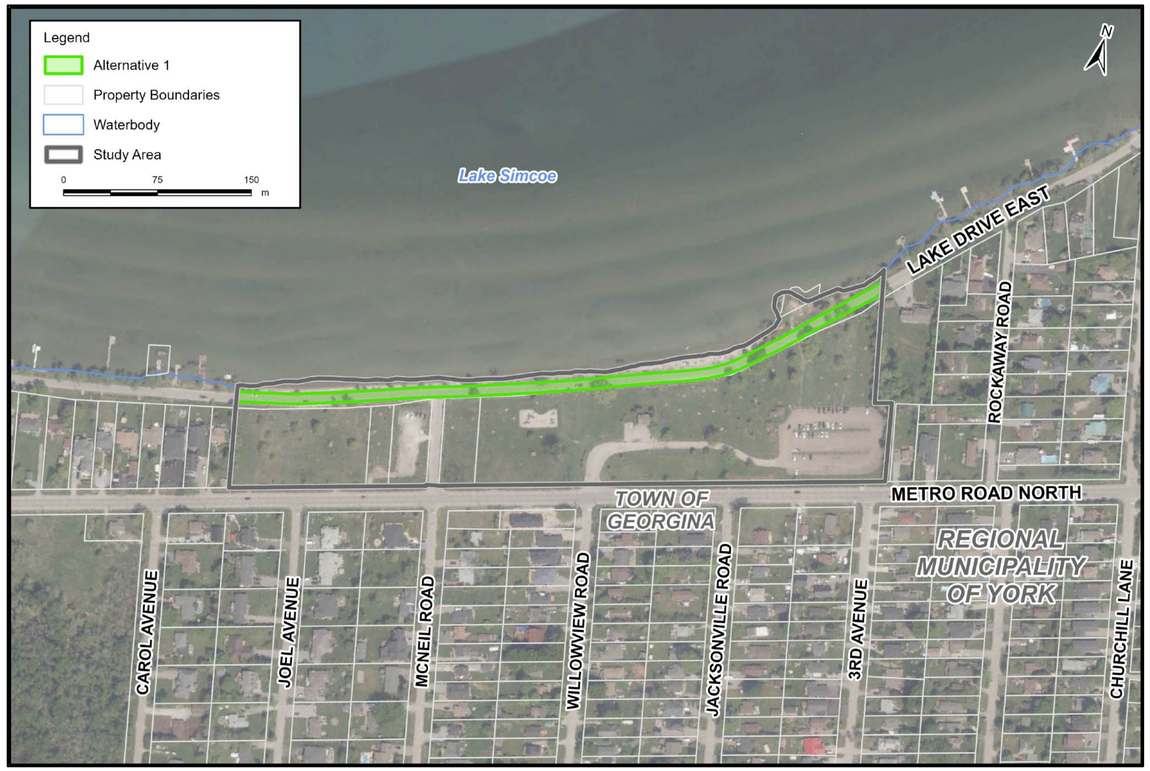
Existing Conditions – Archaeology

- Approximately 62% of study area retains the potential for the recovery of archaeological resources

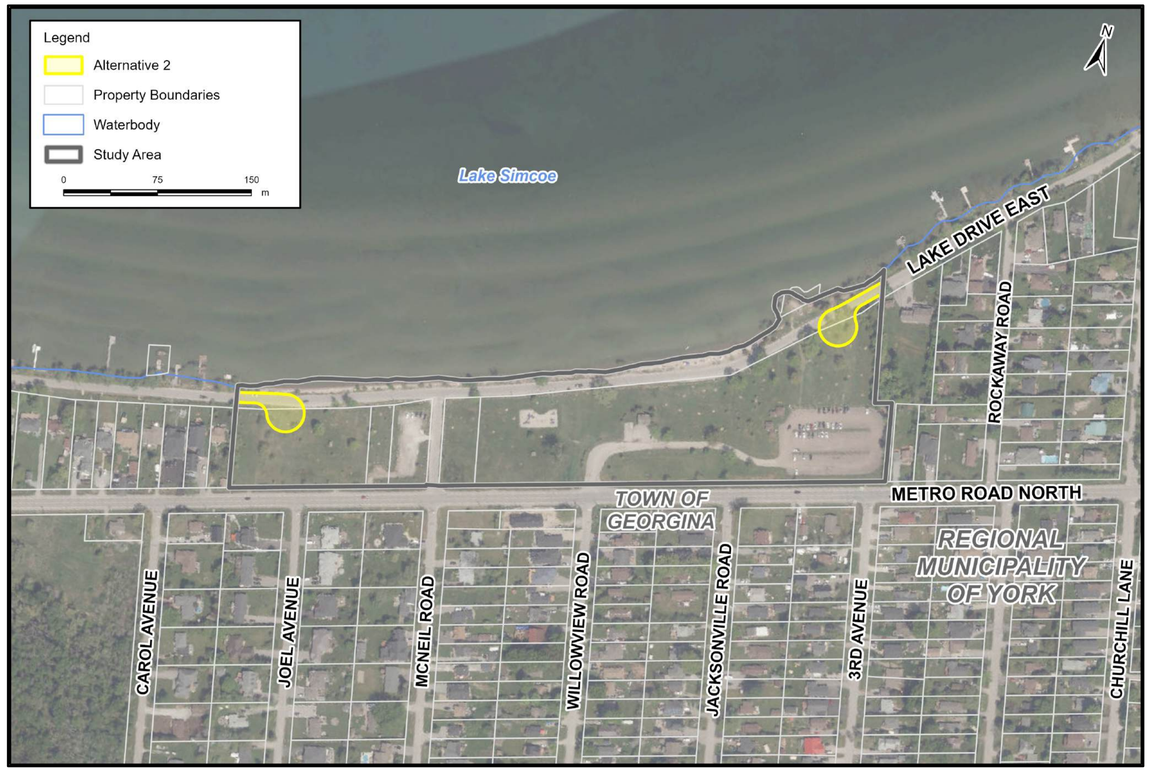


Preliminary Alternative Solutions

Alternative 1 – Do Nothing (no changes to Lake Drive East)

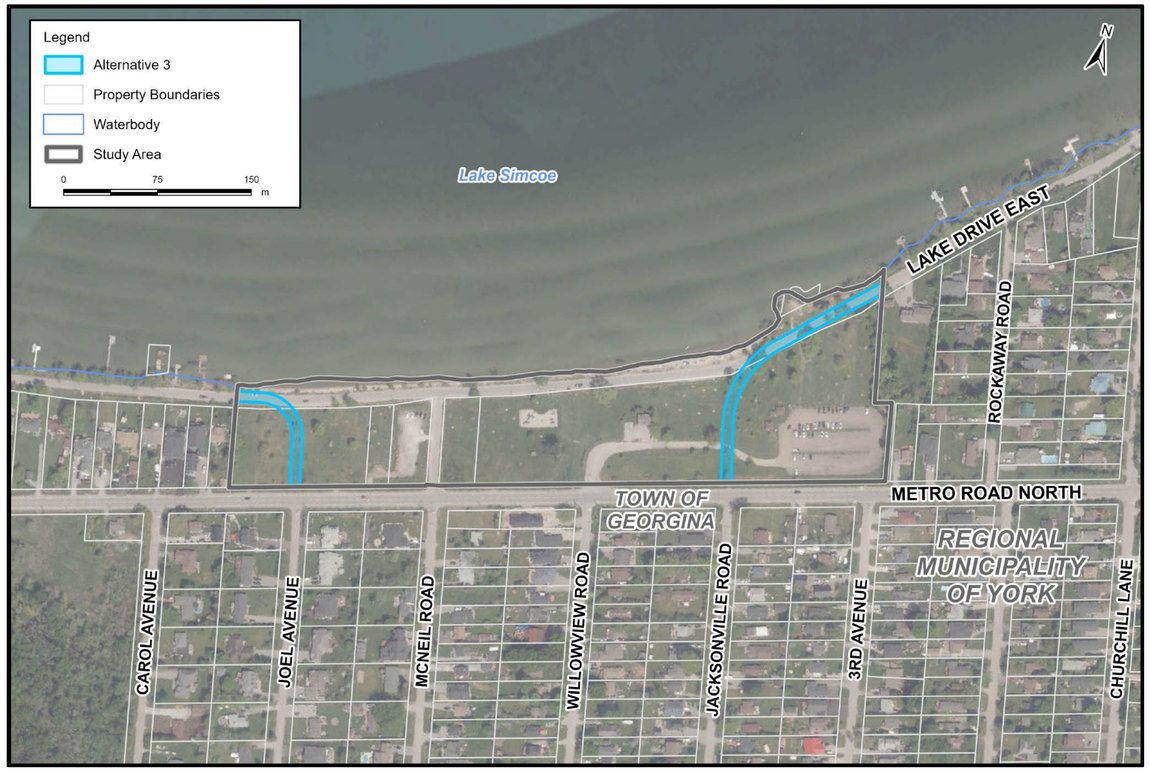


Alternative 2 – Cul-de-sac / Close Lake Drive East between Joel Avenue and 3rd Avenue

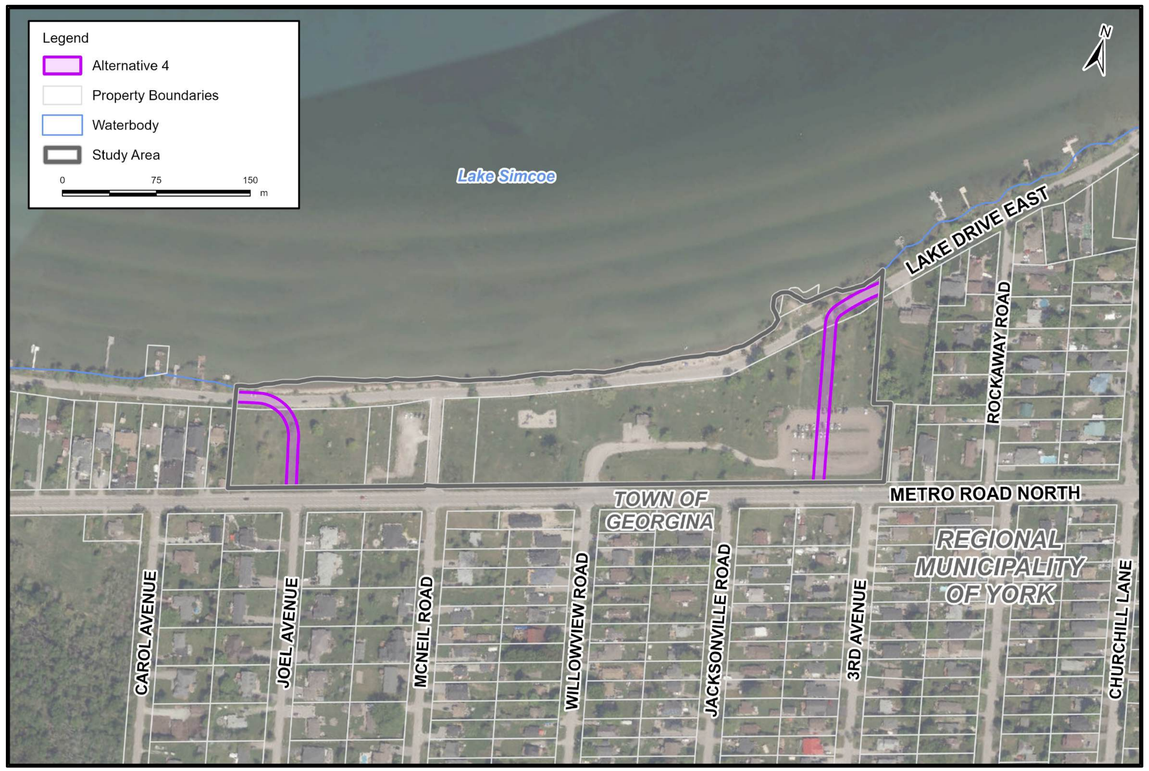


Preliminary Alternative Solutions

Alternative 3 – Realign Lake Drive East to Joel Avenue and Jacksonville Road



Alternative 4 – Realign Lake Drive East to Joel Avenue and Midblock, between Jacksonville Road and 3rd Avenue



Preliminary Evaluation Criteria

The alternative solutions were evaluated against the following criteria:

Transportation

- Local, Regional and Provincial Design Standards
- Traffic Operations and Maintenance
- Emergency Response Times
- Future Transportation Needs
- Parking
- Active Transportation and Safety

Technical and Cost

- Utilities
- Construction Feasibility
- Technical Sustainability
- Costs

Cultural Environment

- Archaeological Resources
- Cultural Heritage
- First Nations Rights and Interests

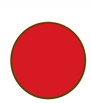
Socio-Economic Environment

- Consistency with Local and Provincial Planning and Policies
- Existing Land Use
- Construction Effects
- Recreational Amenities
- Local Business and Tourism
- Aesthetics
- Noise
- Air Quality

Natural Environment

- Trees
- Wildlife and Significant Wildlife Habitat
- Fish and Fish Habitat
- Species at Risk
- Groundwater
- Stormwater Management
- Climate Change

Preliminary Evaluation of Alternative Solutions

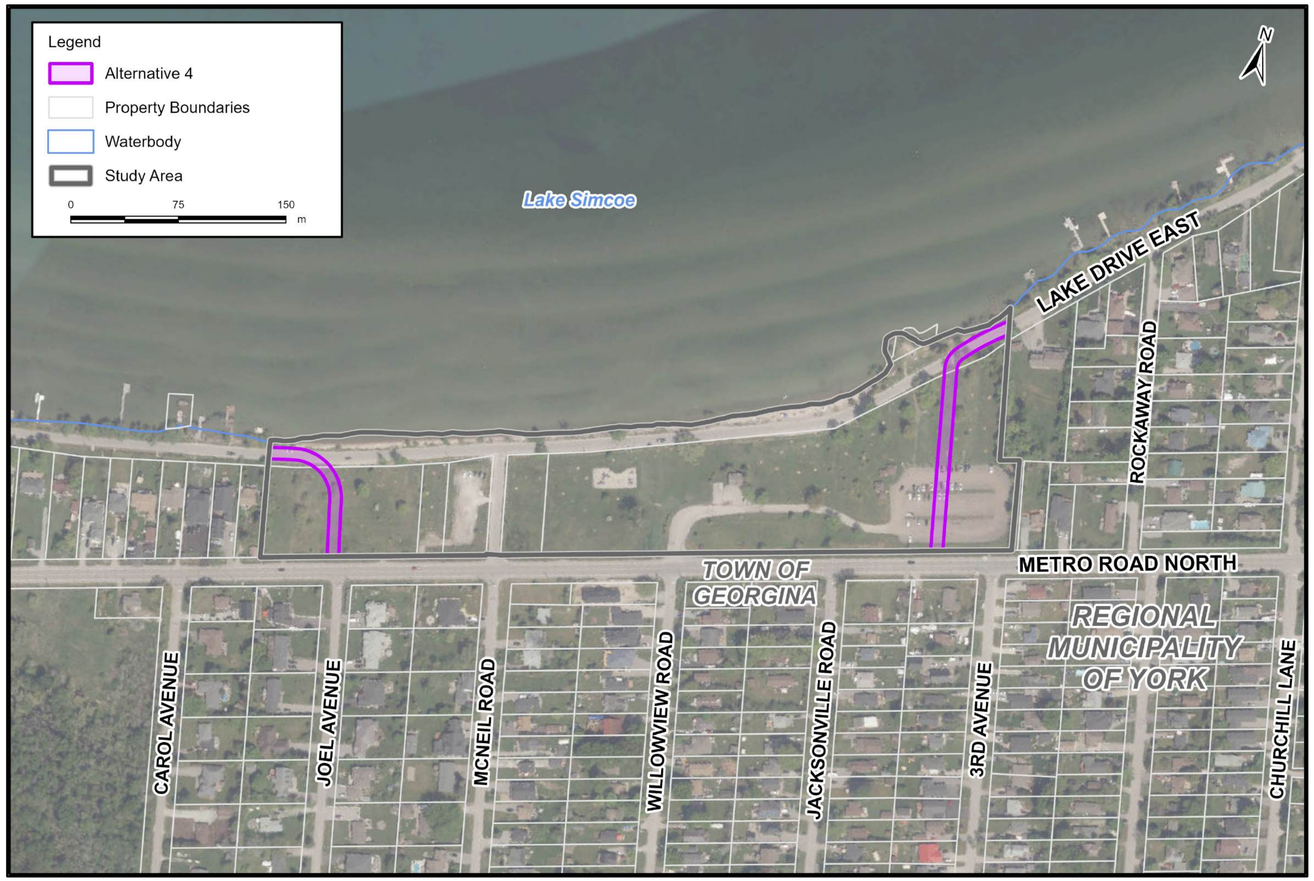
Criteria	Alternative 1 Do Nothing	Alternative 2 Cul-de-sac / Close Lake Drive East between Joel Avenue and 3rd Avenue	Alternative 3 Realign Lake Drive East to Joel Avenue and Jacksonville Road	Alternative 4 Realign Lake Drive East to Joel Avenue and midblock between Jacksonville Road and 3rd Avenue
Transportation				
Technical and Cost				
Cultural Environment				
Socio-Economic Environment				
Natural Environment				
Conclusion	Not Recommended	Not Recommended	Not Recommended	**Recommended**



Preliminary Recommended Solution

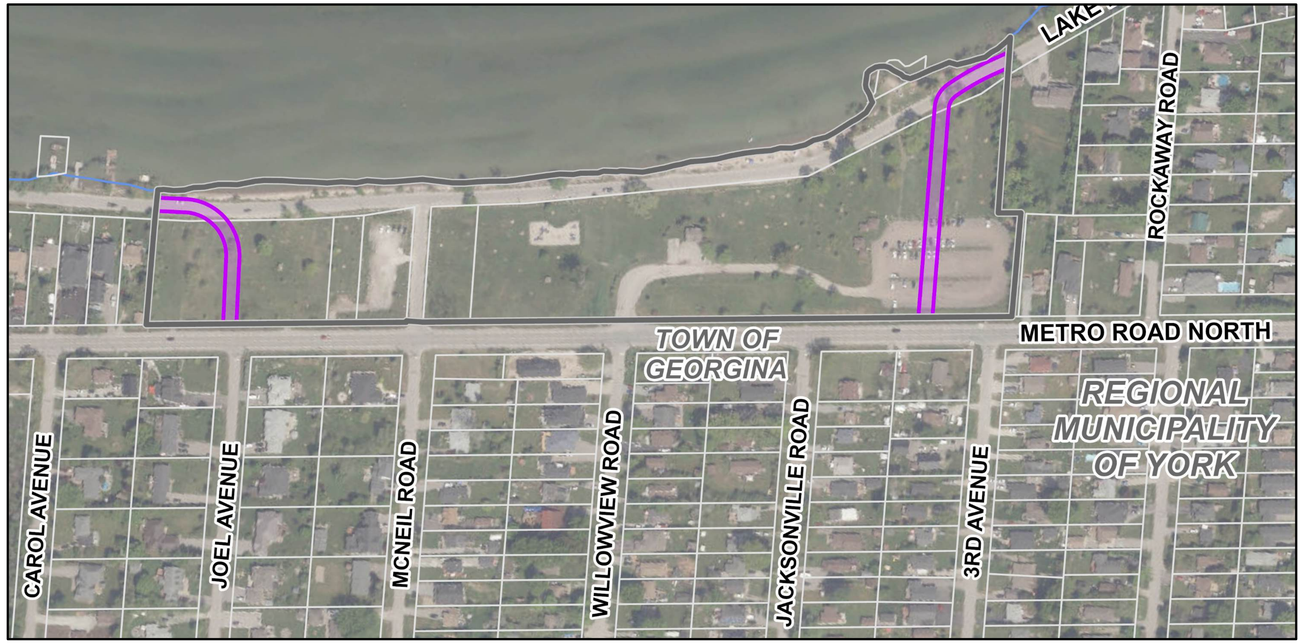
Alternative 4 is recommended because:

- Best aligns with the Waterfront Parks Master Plan vision.
- Relocates traffic away from the shoreline while maintaining east-west connectivity.
- Maximizes opportunities for beach expansion, waterfront access, and park revitalization.
- Supports enhancements to tourism, recreation, and overall visitor experience.
- Provides opportunity to improve resilience to flooding, erosion, and other shoreline hazards.
- Achieves these benefits with fewer environmental and cultural impacts than Alternative 3.



Traffic Operations

- Anticipated traffic changes can be safely accommodated without creating capacity issues.
- The realigned roadways will provide good visibility for drivers, supporting safe travel throughout the area.
- No significant traffic or safety concerns are associated with the proposed road extensions.
- Minimal traffic infiltration on local residential streets, helping maintain the character and livability of surrounding neighbourhoods.
- Overall, residents can expect minimal traffic-related impacts from the proposed changes.



Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Potential Impact	Preliminary Mitigation Measures
Natural Environment • Fish, wildlife and SAR habitat • Potential removal of trees and vegetation	• Detailed surveys to confirm presence/absence of bats and turtles • Tree/vegetation removals to be completed outside of breeding bird and bat maternity roost seasons (April 1 to November 30) • Wildlife exclusion fencing installed during turtle nesting season (late April to late August)
Cultural Heritage • Construction activities within 50 m of 1 property having potential Cultural Heritage Value or Interest (CHVI)	• Property's CHVI to be confirmed • Heritage Impact Assessment will be completed to outline mitigation measures
Archaeology • Areas having archaeological potential may disturbed by road reconstruction	• Stage 2 AA investigation required prior to construction to confirm presence or absence of archaeological resources
Property, Access and Traffic • Changes to traffic operations and access to the park/shoreline and private property during construction	• Maintain access to private property during construction • Develop and implement Traffic Management Plan • Maintain safe/accessible pedestrian detour routes during construction
Construction Noise • Temporary construction noise	• Satisfy municipal noise by-law requirements during construction • Minimize idling and maintain equipment in good working order

Next Steps

- Review and consider all feedback received

- Confirm the Preferred Solution

- Document the decision-making process within a Project File Report



- Publish the Notice of Study Completion to indicate that the Project File Report is available for a 30-day public comment period (winter 2027)

- Proceed with detailed design and construction of the project (2027)

Thank you for participating!

Your feedback is very important to us! There are several ways for you to provide your comments:

Please complete and submit a comment form

Contact the study team:

Courtney Rennie, PMP
Project Manager, Project Lead
Town of Georgina
Tel: (905) 955-1887
Email: cerennie@georgina.ca

Hellen Scott, P. Eng.
Project Manager
Stantec Consulting Ltd.
Tel: (905) 944-6204
Email: Hellen.Scott@stantec.com

We would appreciate receiving any comments or questions that you may have by **October 1, 2026**.

For additional study information, please visit the study website: georgina.ca/**WillowBeach**