



Vision 2050

Protecting Georgian Bay's Future

Wah Wah Taysee Association
August 2025

*Bringing communities and stakeholders together
to develop a vision for protecting the Georgian Bay coast
and natural environment into the future.*

Mission & Objectives

- ❖ *To conserve and protect the unique natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity of the eastern and northern coastlines of Georgian Bay in perpetuity while supporting sustainable communities.*
- 1. Preserve the natural and cultural heritage of the region.
- 2. Develop a discussion paper to review current conservation plans + the threats, gaps and opportunities to strengthen protection of the area.
- 3. Identify the important principles to guide conservation plans, protection of lands & waters.
- 4. Engage governments, First Nations, communities & NGOs to develop a consensus on a vision and actions for enhanced protection.
- 5. Expand natural and environmentally valuable protected areas.



Stakeholder Engagement & Coalition Building

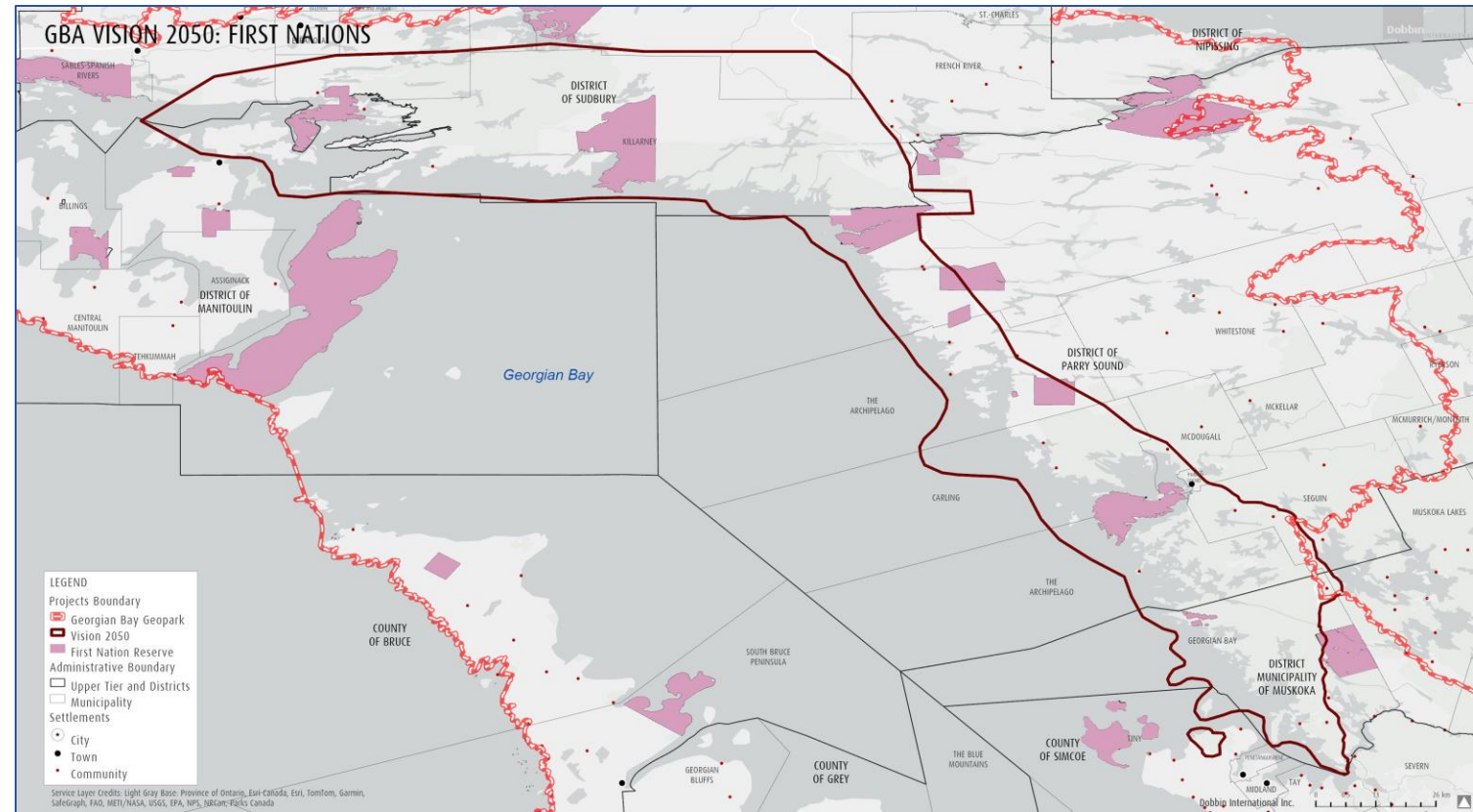
- ❖ **Extensive outreach** to engage communities and stakeholders.
- ❖ **Collaborating** with major partners to align goals and priorities.
- ❖ **Two rounds of consultations** with stakeholders in phase 1:
 - 1) Collect input to inform the discussion paper
 - 2) Discussion of the paper's content and proposals
- ❖ Developing a **coalition for conservation** of stakeholders to present a stronger voice to governments.

Outreach so far

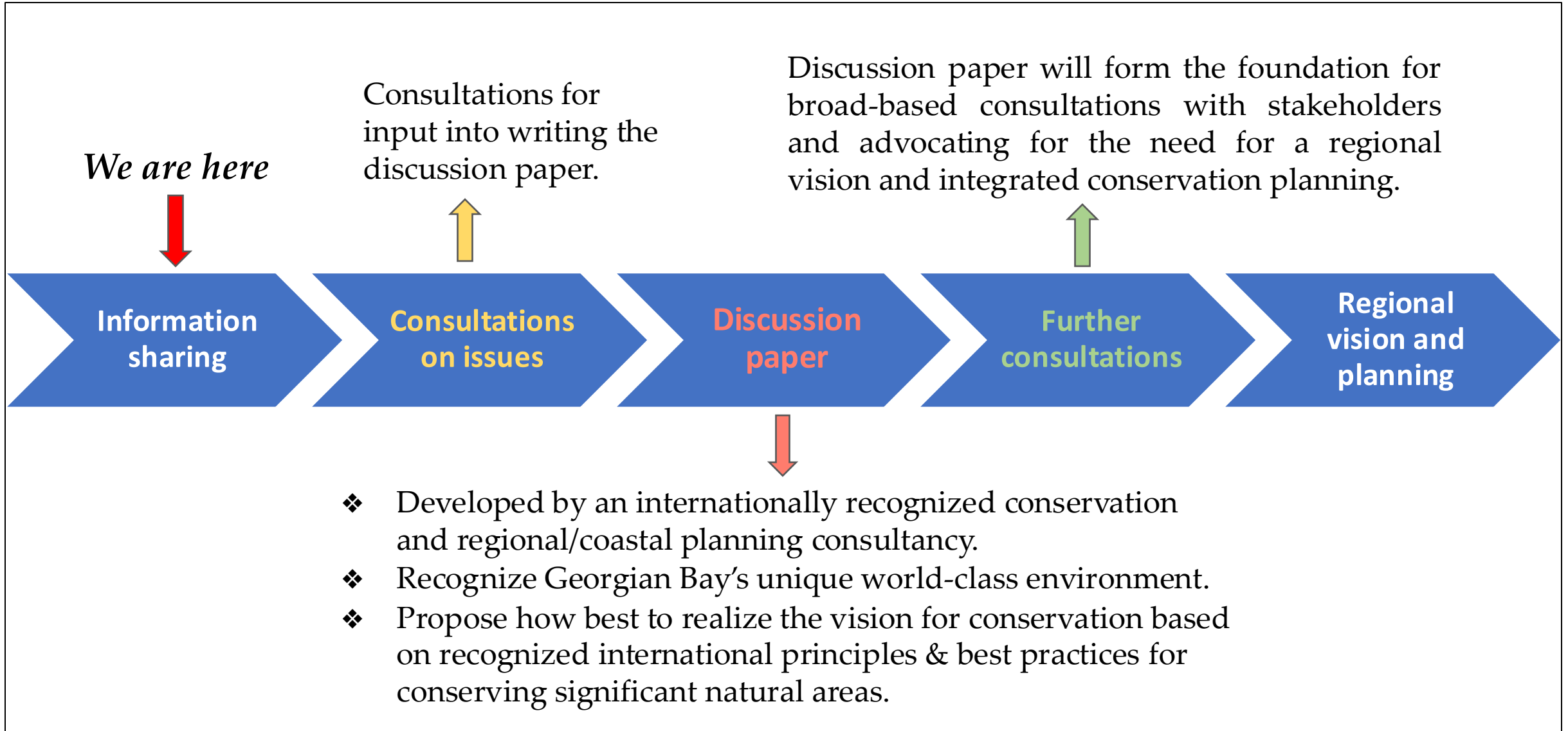
Georgian Bay Biosphere
Georgian Bay Forever
Georgian Bay Land Trust
Georgian Bay Aspiring Geopark
Georgian Bay Great Lakes Foundation
Severn Sound Environmental Association
Eastern Georgian Bay Preservation Society
GBA member associations
Township of Georgian Bay
Township of The Archipelago
Township of Carling
Town Parry Sound
Town of NEMI
Municipality of Killarney
Moose Deer Point First Nation
Environment Canada
International Joint Commission
Escarpment Corridor Alliance
Planning & environment experts

First Nations Engagement

- ❖ First Nations play an important role in the wider Georgian Bay region. Their deep connections to the land and water are central to the area's history, culture, and future.
- ❖ Indigenous communities bring valuable traditional knowledge and stewardship practices that are important to conservation.
- ❖ First Nations hold sovereign jurisdiction over their reserves. Their inclusion in any conservation strategy must be rooted in mutual respect, shared values, and jointly established principles of stewardship.
- ❖ Collaborating with partners to identify respectful and effective ways to engage Indigenous communities.



Project steps



Progress Tracker

- ✓ Communications plan implemented
- ✓ Broad stakeholder outreach
- ✓ Funding in place
- ✓ Regular contributor update newsletters
- ✓ Project coordinator retained
- ✓ Delegations to 6 regional municipalities
- ✓ Collected significant science & data on GB natural assets, threats and conservation priorities
- ✓ Completed initial thematic mapping
- ✓ Advisory Council of experts providing influential guidance and expertise
- ✓ Conservation models report released
- ✓ GBA member survey launches this week

Next steps

- Meetings with First Nations
- Engage provincial & federal governments
- Scoping of discussion paper with consultants
- Meeting of Advisory Council at Ojibway Club
- Collect details of existing protected areas, conservation programs & plans from governments, NGOs, etc.
- Roundtable of experts on conservation of Bay region from NGOs, Governments, Parks to inform discussion paper

Advisory Council

- ❖ Neil Davis (Chair) - Planning and Development Lawyer, former Chair, GBLT
- ❖ Peter Cooper- Area & District Councillor, TGB
- ❖ Peter Frost- Councillor & Planning Director, ToA
- ❖ Bill Loughed - Advisor to and former ED, GBLT
- ❖ Greg Mason - Director of Operations, GBB
- ❖ Michael Rieder- Mayor, Municipality of Killarney
- ❖ David Sweetnam – ED, GBF

