



RED ROCK
A Superior Treasure

Could Red Rock Have a Swimming Area Again?



NIPIGON BAY WATERFRONT / MARINA

The Township of Red Rock has hired Warrior Engineering to study whether a public swimming area could work along the waterfront. We're evaluating five possible sites to find one that's safe, accessible, and right for the community.

We want to share what we've learned so far and hear what matters most to you before we move into the next phase of fieldwork.

No site has been chosen yet.
That decision is still ahead of us, and your feedback helps shape it.



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Study Timeline

1

JULY 2026

Project Kickoff

Warrior Engineering begins work with the Township

2

SUMMER 2026

Desktop Review & Survey

All five sites reviewed; 176 of you shared your views

3

TONIGHT

Open House

We share our findings and listen to you

4

DECEMBER 2026

Council Decision

Council reviews Phase 1 findings and next steps

5

EARLY 2027, IF APPROVED

Detailed Field Investigations

Survey crews study the selected site in detail

6

LATER 2027

Preliminary Design

A design is developed for the chosen site



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The Five Candidate Sites

Five spots. Which one works best?



1	The Old Swimming Area Used in the 1990s	4,372 m ²
2	Sheltered Bay The community's preferred spot	3,495 m ²
3	Dock Access A possible new spot	6,024 m ²
4	Bark Bay By the campground	4,192 m ²
5	Off the Breakwater Where most people swim now	1,759 m ²

Each site has different strengths, and potential obstacles. We're looking at all five with the same checklist:

- Is it safe to swim?
- Is the water clean?
- Can it be built without harming the bay?



What We Heard From You



176 responses told us what matters most

176

survey responses

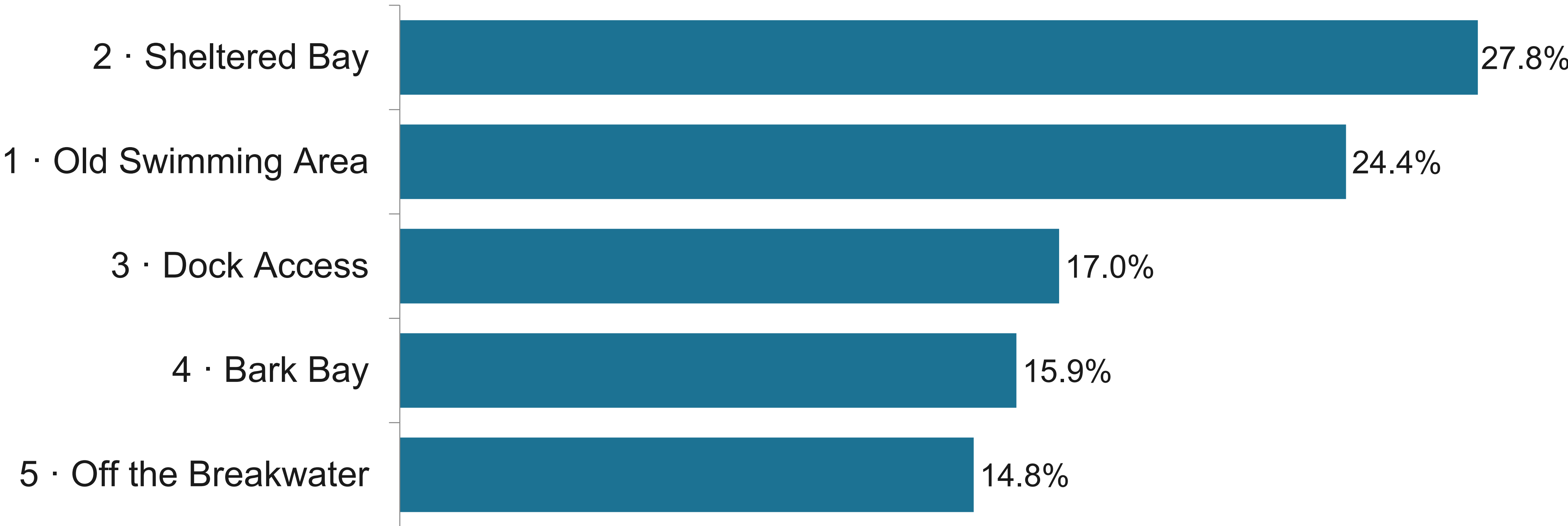
64%

would swim if there were a proper spot

46%

of households have a child who'd use it

Which site would you most like to see?



What would help

- ✓ Safe, easy access into the water
- ✓ Good footing on the lake bottom
- ✓ Clean water

What's stopping people

- ✗ Rocky, steep or awkward entry
- ✗ Weeds and vegetation in the water
- ✗ Not knowing where it's safe to go in

“It would be wonderful to see our beautiful marina being used as it should.”

— survey respondent



Sheltered Bay, Dock Access & the Old Swimming Area

1

The Old Swimming Area

The main spot a generation ago. It's grown wild since. The big question: can the old sandbar be safely brought back? Our crews found it sitting about 200 m offshore, near where gulls now nest.



PHOTO - THE OLD SWIMMING AREA (SEPT. FIELD VISIT)

2

Sheltered Bay

Named the community's favourite back in 2022. There's bulrush and aquatic plants along the shore that we'd need to look at closely, and likely clear in places, before it could work as a swimming area.



PHOTO – SHELTERED BAY (SEPT. FIELD VISIT)

3

Dock Access

The biggest of the five sites. People already swim and access the breakwater here informally. No dock has been designed yet, that would come later, if this site moves forward.



PHOTO – DOCK ACCESS (SEPT. FIELD VISIT)



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Bark Bay & Off the Breakwater

4

Bark Bay

A sheltered spot, but there's old wood and bark on the shore and lake bed that would likely need to be cleared. Before we recommend that, we want to understand how water moves through the bay - clearing debris without knowing that first could do more harm than good.



PHOTO - BARK BAY (SEPT. FIELD VISIT)

5

Off the Breakwater

This is where most people already swim. Shallow, sandy bottom close to shore. It sits right next to fish habitat built in the 1990s, so any changes here get planned carefully around that. The rock-wall access point is steep - we're looking at a safer way down, like a staircase or small dock.



PHOTO - OFF THE BREAKWATER (SEPT. FIELD VISIT)



Looking After Nipigon Bay



A healthy bay and a great swimming spot can go together

NIPIGON BAY IS OFF THE AREA OF CONCERN LIST

As of August 2026, Nipigon Bay has been officially removed from the list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern. Nearly 40 years of cleanup work by Ontario, Canada, and local partners has restored its water quality and fish habitat. This study builds on that progress.

- ✓ Any work near the water will be reviewed by federal and provincial agencies (fisheries, natural resources, environment) before it proceeds.
- ✓ The Red Rock Indian Band and Métis Nation of Ontario were partners in the bay's restoration and will remain engaged as this project moves forward.
- ✓ The 1990s fish habitat structures near the Breakwater (spawning shoals and log shelters) are a good-news example of how recreation and habitat protection have coexisted here before.



PHOTO — INVASIVE SPECIES & FISHERIES SIGNAGE / MARINA SHORELINE



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Who's Working On This

The team and agencies guiding this study

1

Township of Red Rock

Owens the project and will decide on next steps, including whether to move into Phase 2.

2

Warrior Engineering

The engineering and environmental team carrying out the study, site visits, and design work.

3

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)

Reviews any work that could affect fish and fish habitat in the bay.

4

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)

Issues permits for work below the high-water mark and reviews species at risk.

5

Ministry of the Environment (MECP)

Oversees water quality. Nipigon Bay was delisted as a Great Lakes Area of Concern in August 2026 after decades of restoration this study builds on.

6

Red Rock Indian Band & Métis Nation of Ontario

Engaged partners in the bay's restoration and remain consulted throughout the project.

*Every step of this study is reviewed with these partners
before anything is built.*



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How We're Evaluating Each Site

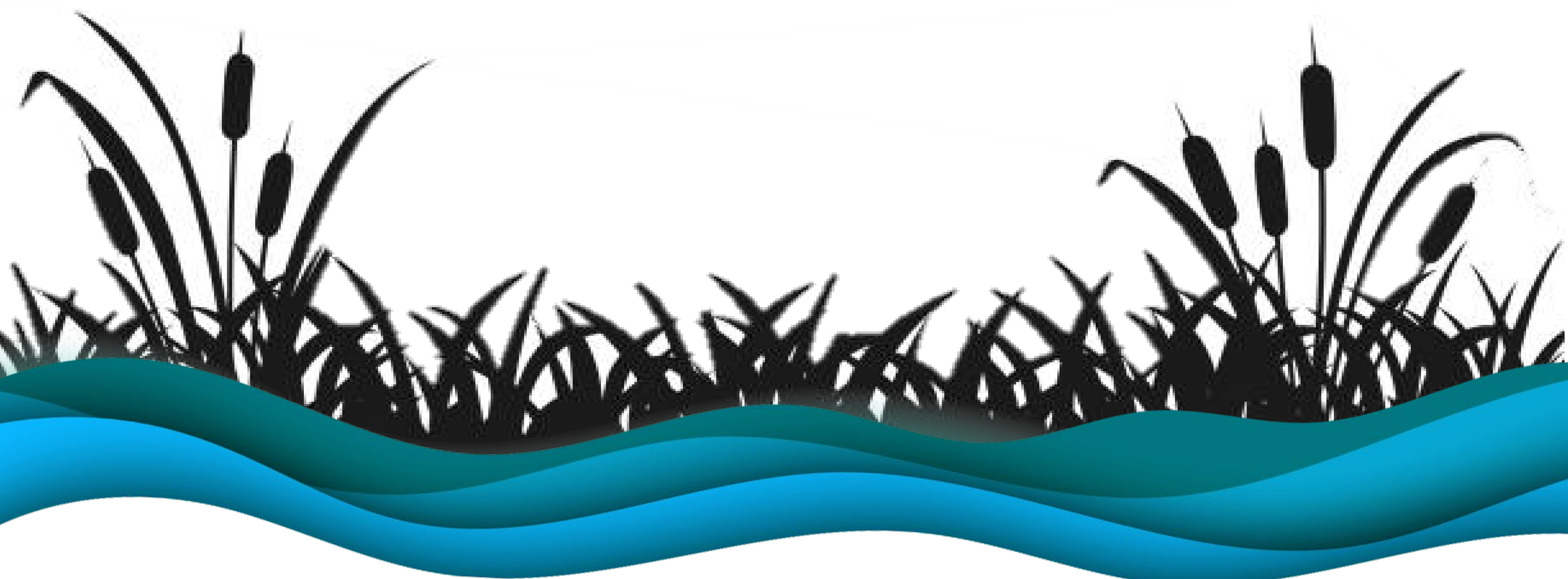
Every site is measured against the same four criteria before a recommendation goes to Council:

Safety & Access: how easy and safe it is to get in and out of the water, with good footing and clear entry points.

Water Quality: whether the water meets health standards for swimming, and how well water moves through the area.

Environmental Impact: effects on fish habitat, aquatic vegetation, and other species living in the bay.

Feasibility & Cost: how complex the site would be to build, and what permits and approvals it would need.





What Our Environmental Review Found So Far

- 1 **Old Swimming Area:** has grown wild since the 90s. We need to account for the renaturalization that has occurred
- 2 **Sheltered Bay:** some aquatic vegetation along the shore to assess
- 3 **Dock Access:** mostly about how a future dock would be built, not existing habitat
- 4 **Bark Bay:** closest to the marina's water-flow. We want to understand circulation here before any debris is cleared
- 5 **Off the Breakwater:** right next to documented fish habitat structures, so any changes here are planned carefully around that

Every site will go through review by fisheries, environment, and land-use agencies before anything is built.

What We Still Need to Learn

How water moves through the bay near Off the Breakwater and Bark Bay. This area has been reshaped before to help fish habitat, so before any work happens here, we want to understand how it flows today.

What's growing along the shore at Sheltered Bay. A closer look at the aquatic plants there will tell us what, if anything, needs to be cleared.

What's happened at the Old Swimming Area since the 90s. The site has grown wild since then, so we need to see what's there now before bringing swimming back.

Site visits this fall will help confirm what we've found so far and fill in the details our desktop review couldn't answer alone.



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The Work Happening Behind the Scenes

Our survey team has been out at all five sites with GPS survey equipment, mapping the shoreline, water depth, and anything already built there - walls, docks, breakwaters. This gives our design team accurate, to-scale information to work from.

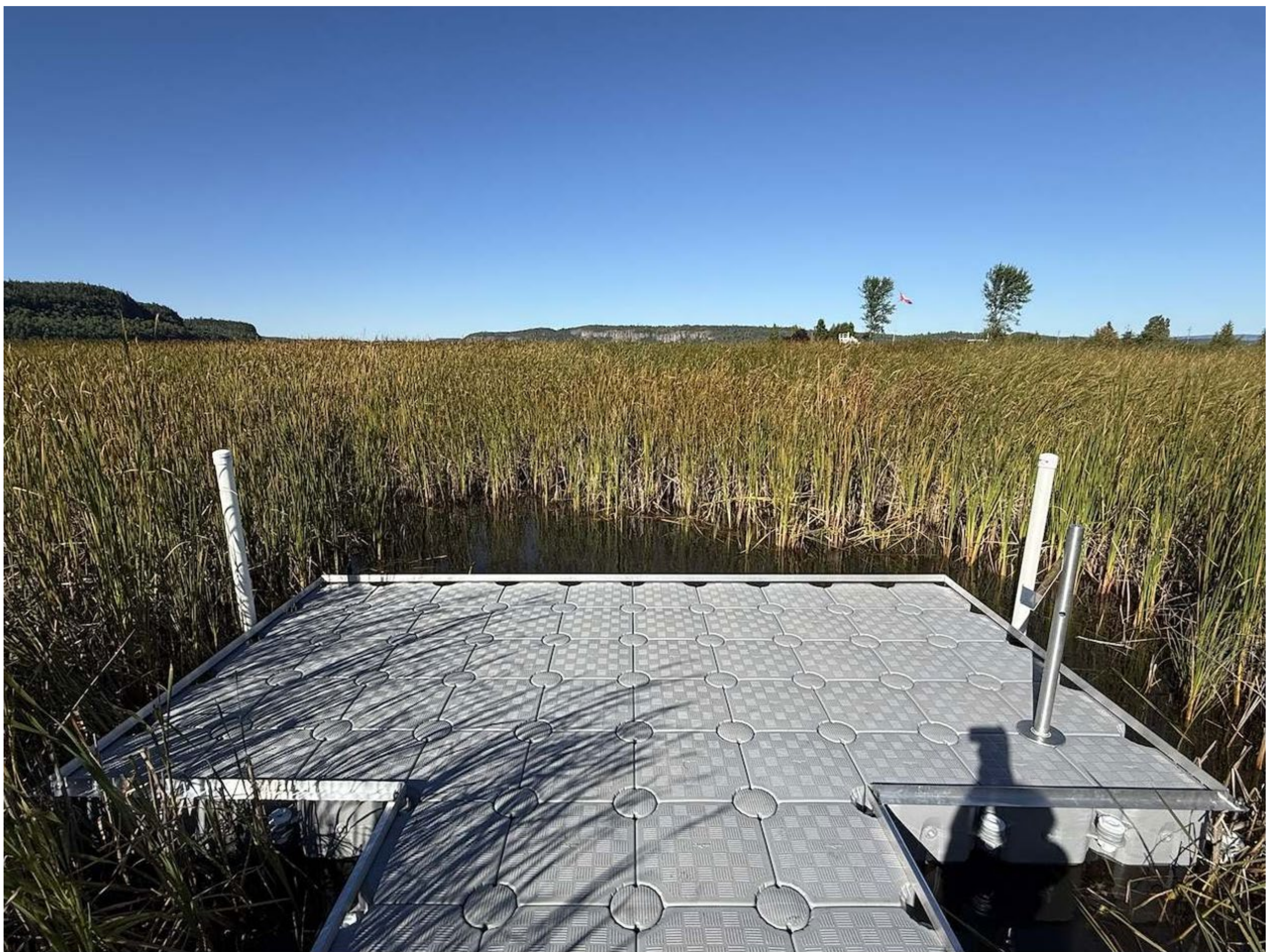


Photo: Existing Infrastructure at the Waterfront

The same visits are checking for invasive species like zebra mussels and looking for signs of fish habitat at each site, so nothing gets missed before decisions are made.



Next Steps & Have Your Say

What's next



WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK AND THOUGHTS ON THIS PROJECT. FILL OUT A COMMENT CARD AND TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.

Haven't filled out our online survey yet?

Scan the code to share your thoughts. Every response helps us understand what matters most to your community.



Questions after tonight? Reach out through the Township office, or to the Warrior Engineering project team.

Thank you to the 176 people who already shared their thoughts through our survey!