



BAY AREA RESTORATION COUNCIL

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Representing the public interest in the restoration of Hamilton Harbour since 1991.





NO TRESPASSING
HAMILTON HARBOUR COMMISSIONERS







WARNING

**BLUE-GREEN ALGAE
IS PRESENT IN
HAMILTON HARBOUR**

**THIS AREA IS NOT SAFE
FOR PEOPLE OR ANIMALS
TO SWIM OR WADE**

**DO NOT EAT
FISH CAUGHT FROM
THIS AREA**



For more
information
call
905-546-2424
Ext. 2189



WARNING

**UNSAFE FOR
SWIMMING**

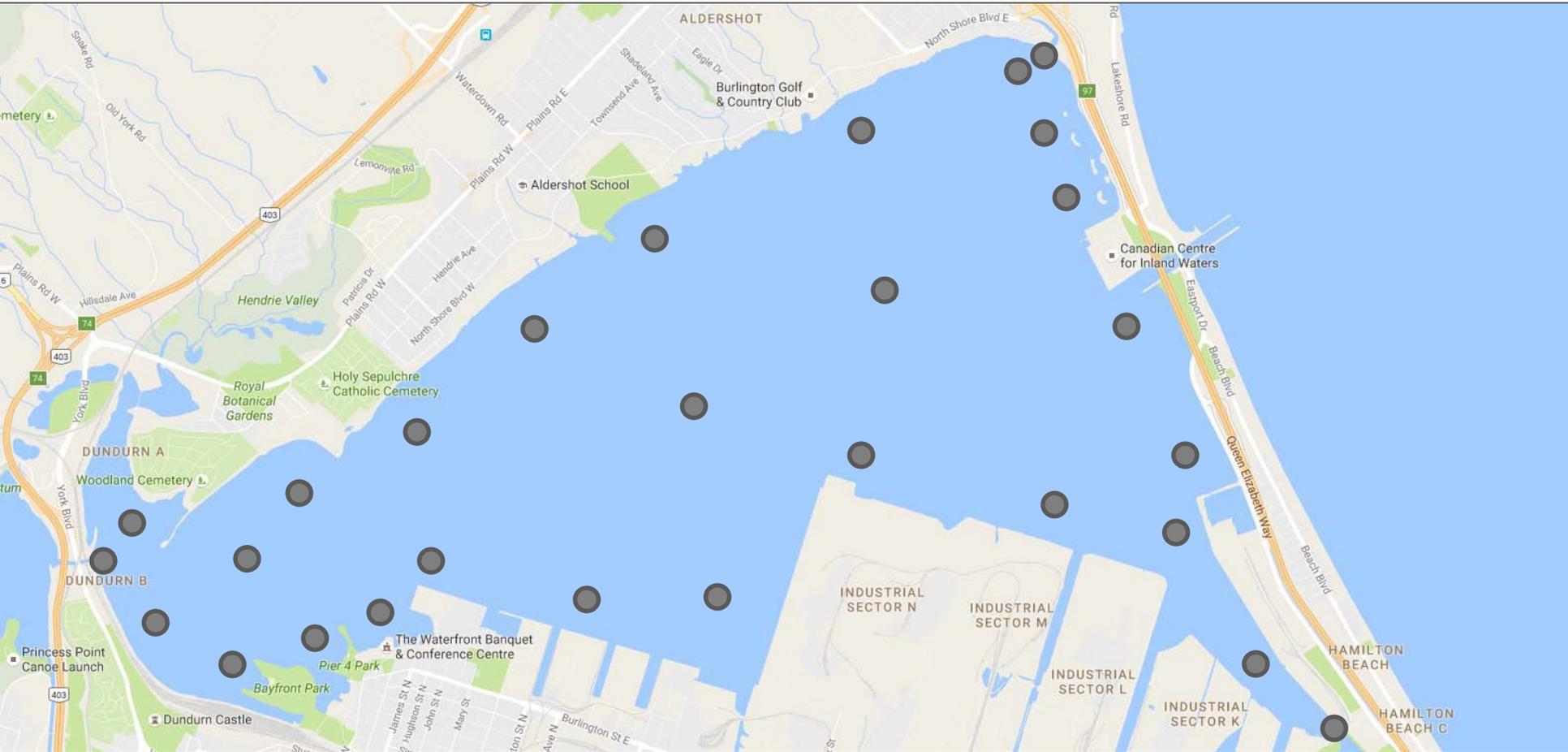
Water temporarily **POLLUTED**
because of high bacteria levels
which may pose a risk to your health

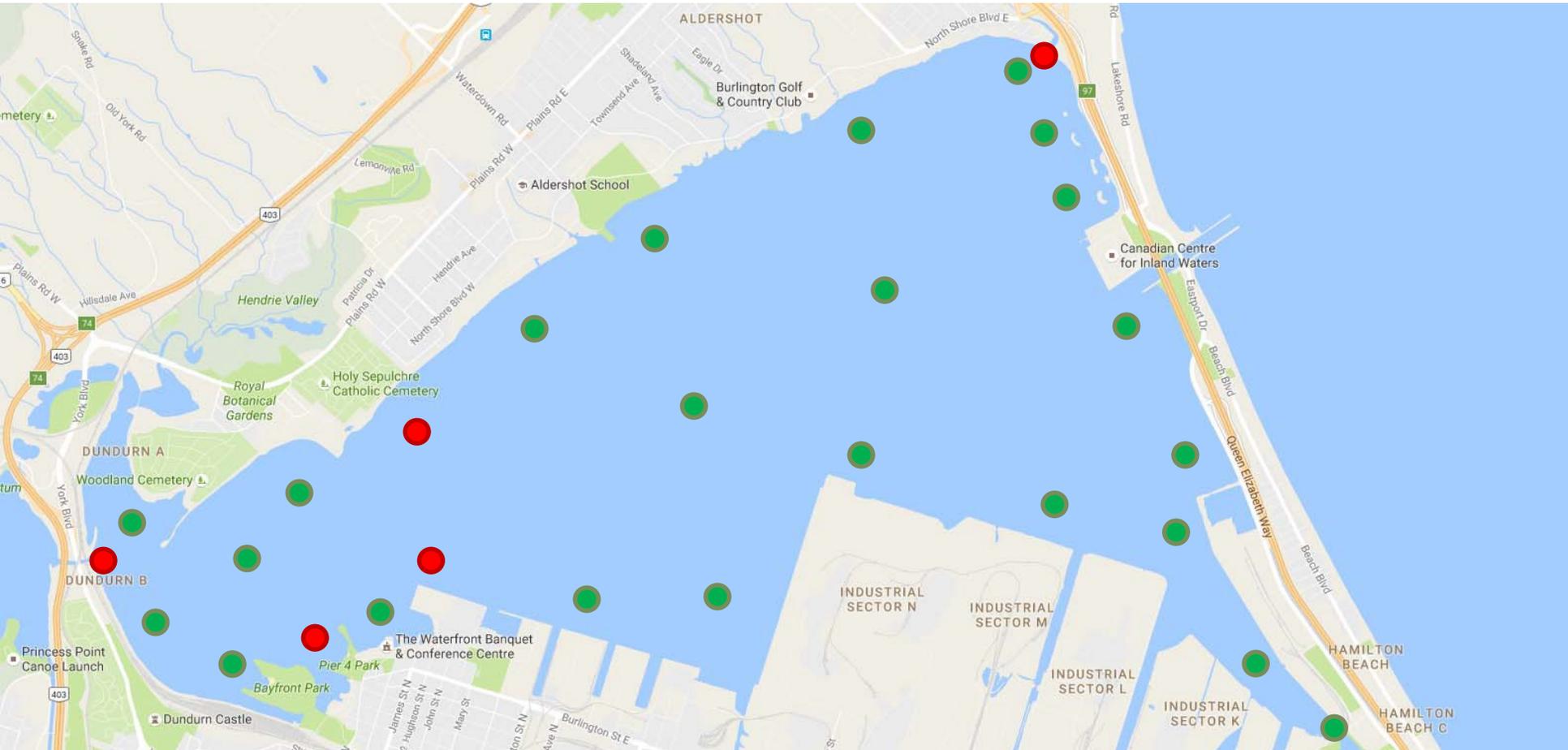
SAFE WATER HOTLINE
905-546-2189
www.hamilton.ca/beaches

CITY OF HAMILTON
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

Harbour Sampling Locations

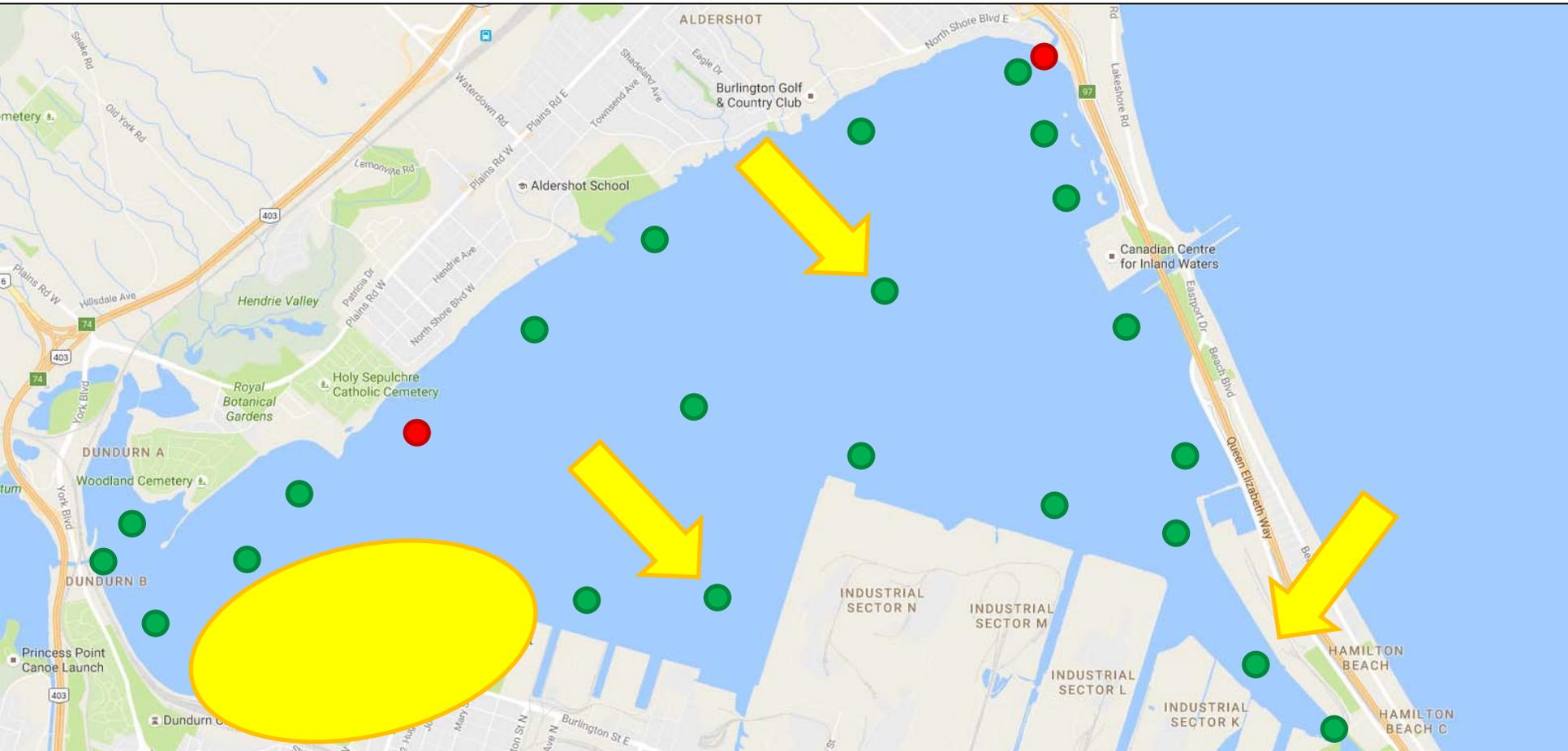
September 8, 2016





September 8, 2016

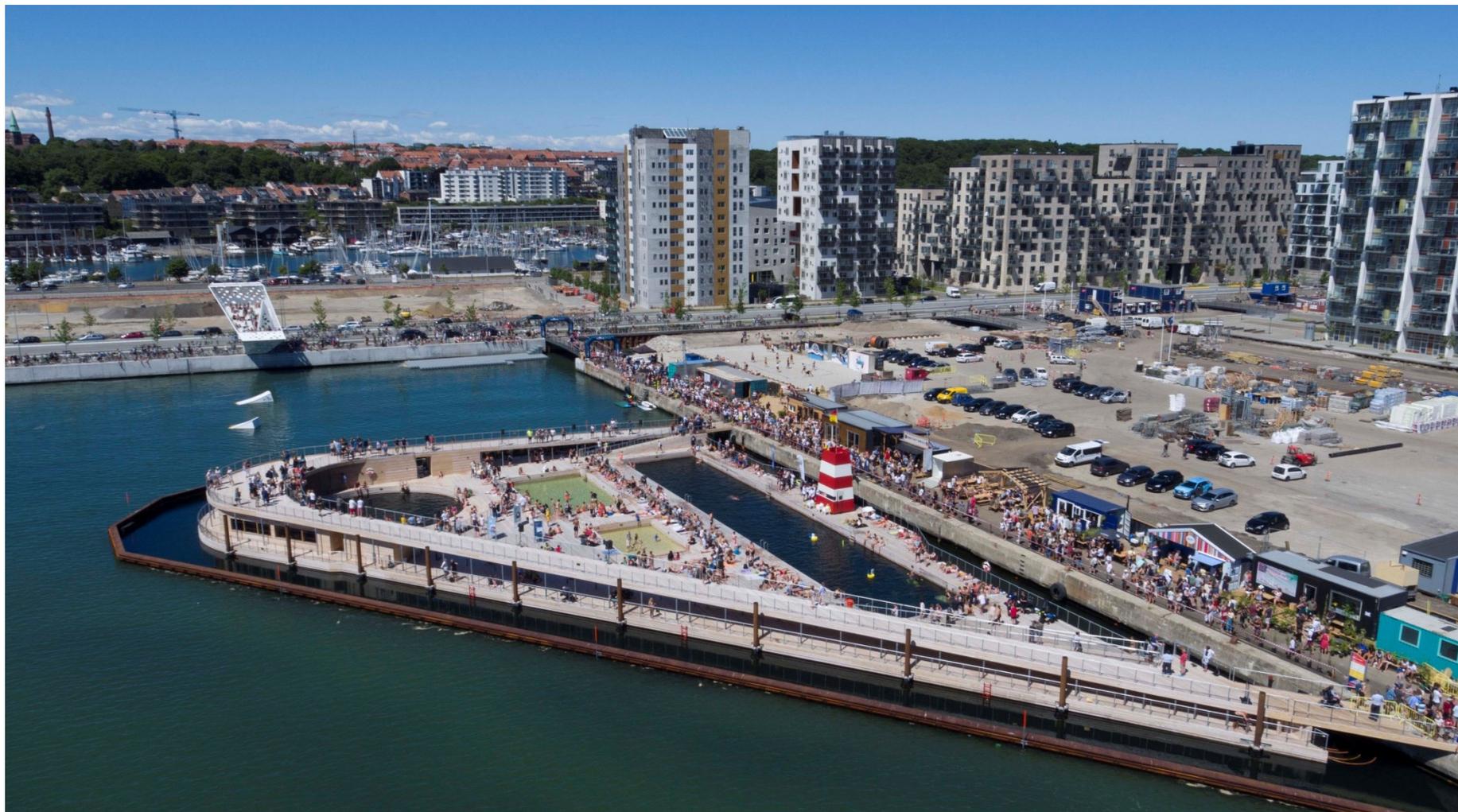
Harbour Sampling Locations September 8, 2016



Data are for *Escherichia coli* where the PWQO is $>100\text{CFU}/100\text{mL}$.



Copenhagen



Aarhus, Denmark

Berlin





Paris



Boston



New York City



Kingston



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HARBOR
MAINE

WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN

GREAT LAKES
WISCONSIN & ALL OF US

WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN

2017 Towards Safe Harbour REPORT CARD

The 2017 Towards Safe Harbour Report Card provides citizens from across the watershed with a brief but informed and comprehensive indication of the progress and challenges in completing the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan.



BAY AREA RESTORATION COUNCIL

ECOLOGY • INDUSTRY • RECREATION

Is Hamilton Harbour a healthy place for things to live?

Do things actually live there? Are those things contaminated?

These three grades reflect our collective progress in meeting the measurable goals of the Hamilton Harbour Remedial Action Plan (RAP). The forecasts are an indication of where we're going to be in another few years.

Healthy Water and Habitat

FORECAST: *Up*

C+

The benefits of our success in addressing specific issues such as wastewater management and the restoration of riparian habitat are being overshadowed by the negative impacts of larger, system-wide challenges. As a community, our ability to improve Harbour water quality has never been stronger, but our technology and processes must keep up with challenges posed by regional population growth, land development and climate change.

Fish and Wildlife Populations

FORECAST: *Up*

C+

The health of the Harbour's fish and wildlife populations continues to vary dramatically from species to species. Initial success in re-introducing walleye, a top native predator, is countered by a nearshore fish community dominated by non-native and pollution-tolerant species. Colonial waterbird communities are doing relatively well, but poor water quality threatens native fish population recovery. We anticipate more positive developments as we continue to improve water quality, invest in species re-introduction efforts, control invasive species and restore additional habitat.

Toxic Contaminants and Sediment

FORECAST: *Up*

B-

The construction of the Randle Reef containment facility is the single most significant step forward in containing toxic sediment in the Harbour. It is not, however, the only step. There are still areas beyond Randle Reef that are contaminated, but there is progress being made on other known sediment sources and deposits. Importantly, the contamination of fish and wildlife is slowly declining overall, and continuing clean up will lead to further reductions in exposure to and the effects of toxic deposits.

Achieving progress in the Harbour demands that we manage human activity around the Harbour, by gathering and sharing adequate information, engaging and educating citizens and by acting on new ideas. These three measures reflect the collective learning and work habits of the RAP community in meeting the challenges of restoring Hamilton Harbour.

Research and Monitoring

EFFORT: *Very Good*

Compared to other badly polluted bays and rivers on the Great Lakes, research and monitoring of Hamilton Harbour have been extraordinary and have benefited from recent investment in the science behind restoring habitat, water quality, aquatic plants and fish and wildlife. However, there are still significant gaps in research and monitoring related to several restoration goals. Closing these gaps and coordinating a wider range of research and monitoring will be necessary to generate the information and the informed action required for completing the RAP. Monitoring nonpoint sources may require new approaches not currently in use in the Harbour.

Watershed Management

EFFORT: *Good*

Recent RAP emphasis on source reduction of sediment and phosphorus in the watershed is promising, but corresponding changes in public policy and management strategies remain uncertain. Numerous management plans related to the RAP have been developed or updated recently, although challenges remain in linking these specifically to the RAP's completion. The impact of positive steps – like evolving farming practices and Hamilton's improved control of its combined sewers in real time – are contributing to better water quality, but those benefits are reduced by the influence of changing land uses and development across the watershed.

Public Information, Education and Access

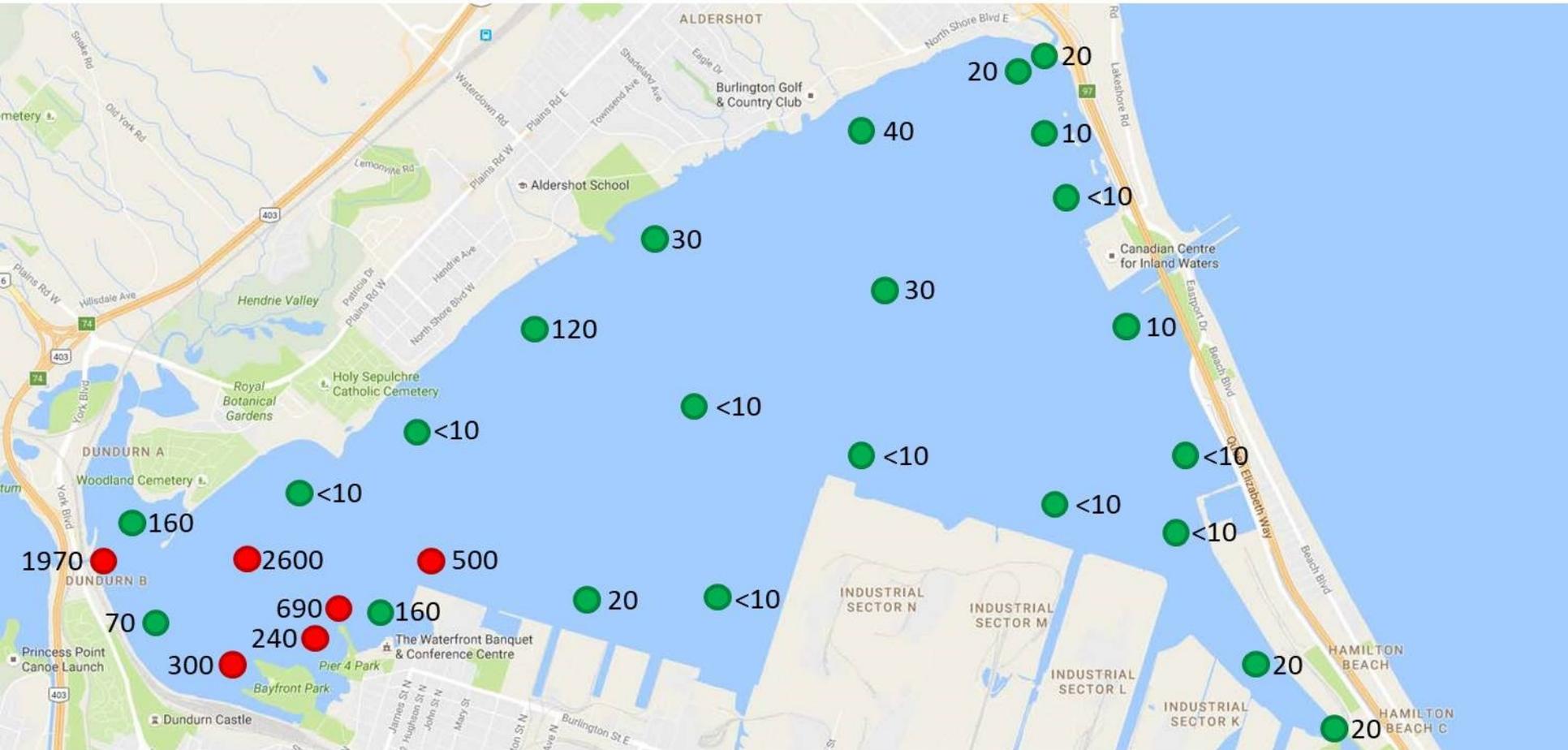
EFFORT: *Very Good*

Area residents know more about and have more ways to get to and enjoy Hamilton Harbour than ever before. Educational programs continue to expand, including enhanced subwatershed report cards and multi-agency public outreach, while projects at Windermere Basin and the West Harbour along with future residential and commercial development at Pier 8 are enhancing recreational shoreline access. Key challenges include fostering excellence in design and accurate public perceptions of RAP progress and challenges, as well as ensuring that the public connects downstream water quality issues with their own upstream activities.



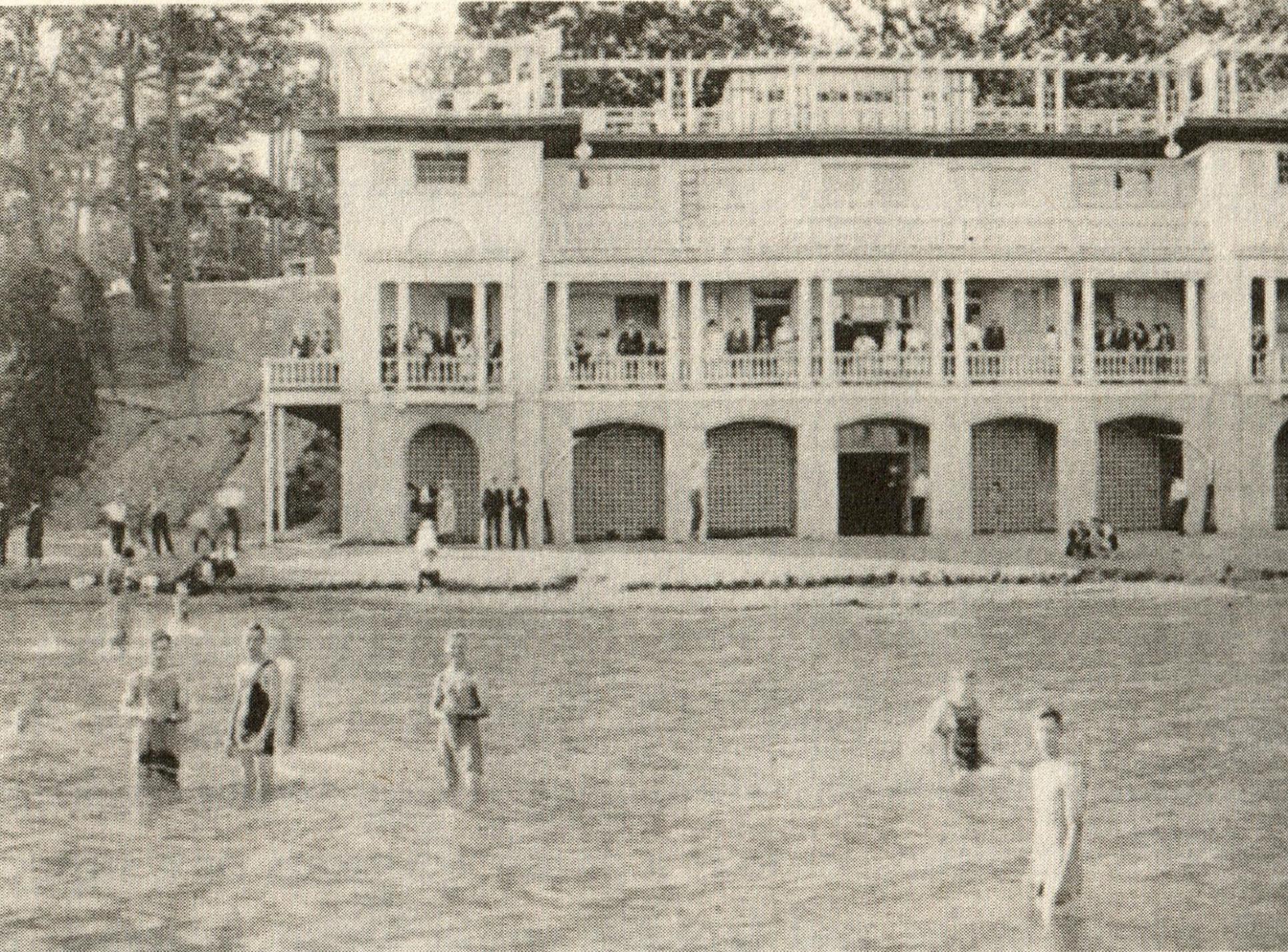
Harbour Sampling Locations

July 5, 2018

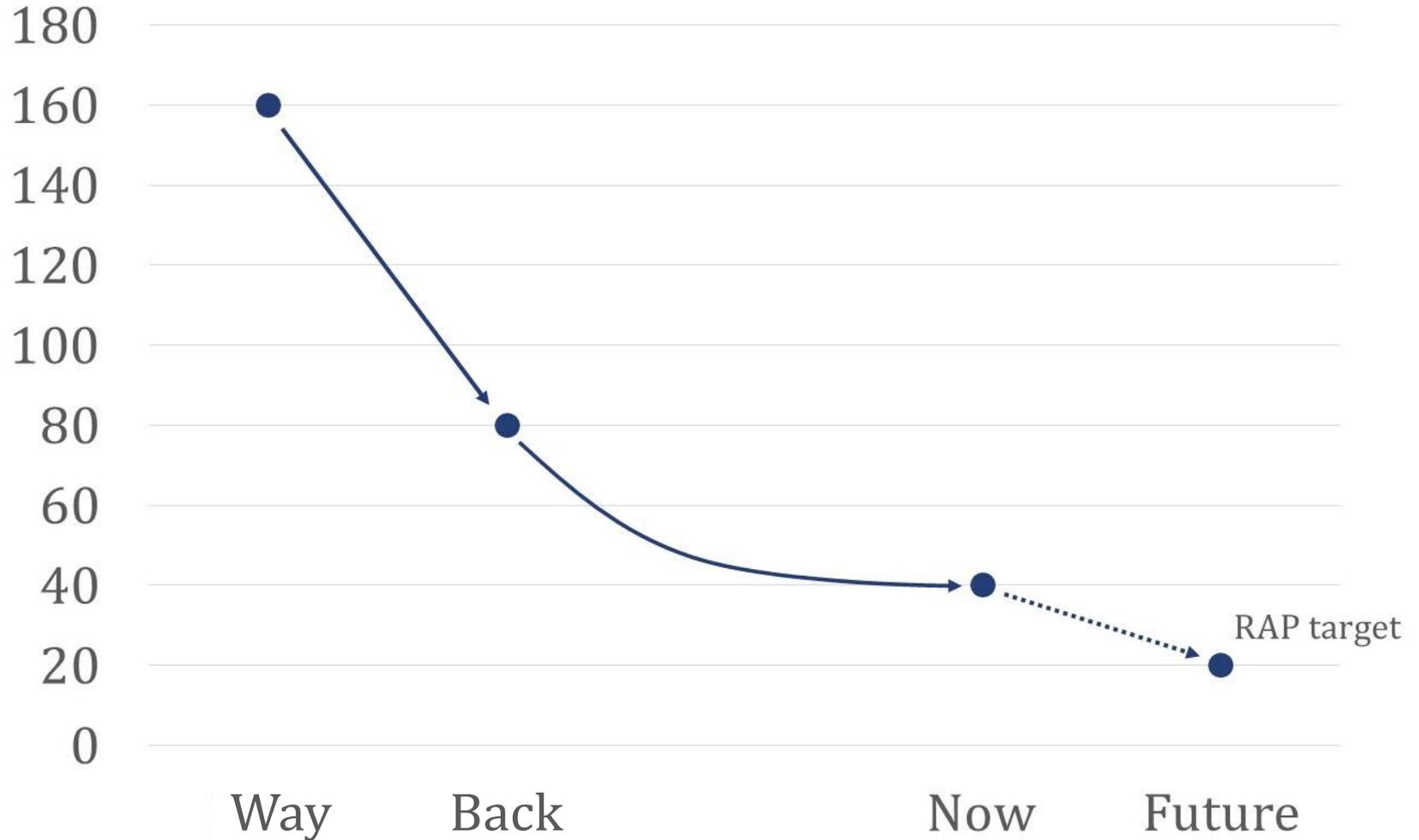


Data are for *Escherichia coli* bacteria, the most suitable and specific indicator of fecal contamination, and where the PWQO is >200CFU/100mL.





Hamilton Harbour Total Phosphorus ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$)





WARNING
ALGAE BLOOMING IN
BLUE-GREEN ALGAE
CONCENTRATED
IN THIS AREA
DO NOT DRINK
OR SWIM IN
THIS WATER

WARNING
TOXIN PRODUCING
BLUE-GREEN ALGAE
IS CURRENTLY PRESENT

AVOID CONTACT WITH THE WATER
WHILE LAUNCHING AND TRAILERING
YOUR WATERCRAFT

ANYONE WHO COMES IN CONTACT WITH
BLUE-GREEN ALGAE SHOULD RINSE WITH
CLEAN WATER LOCATED AT THE BAYFRONT
WASHROOMS ON THE EAST SIDE
OF PARKING LOT

City of Hamilton Public Health Services 905-546-2189



Hamilton

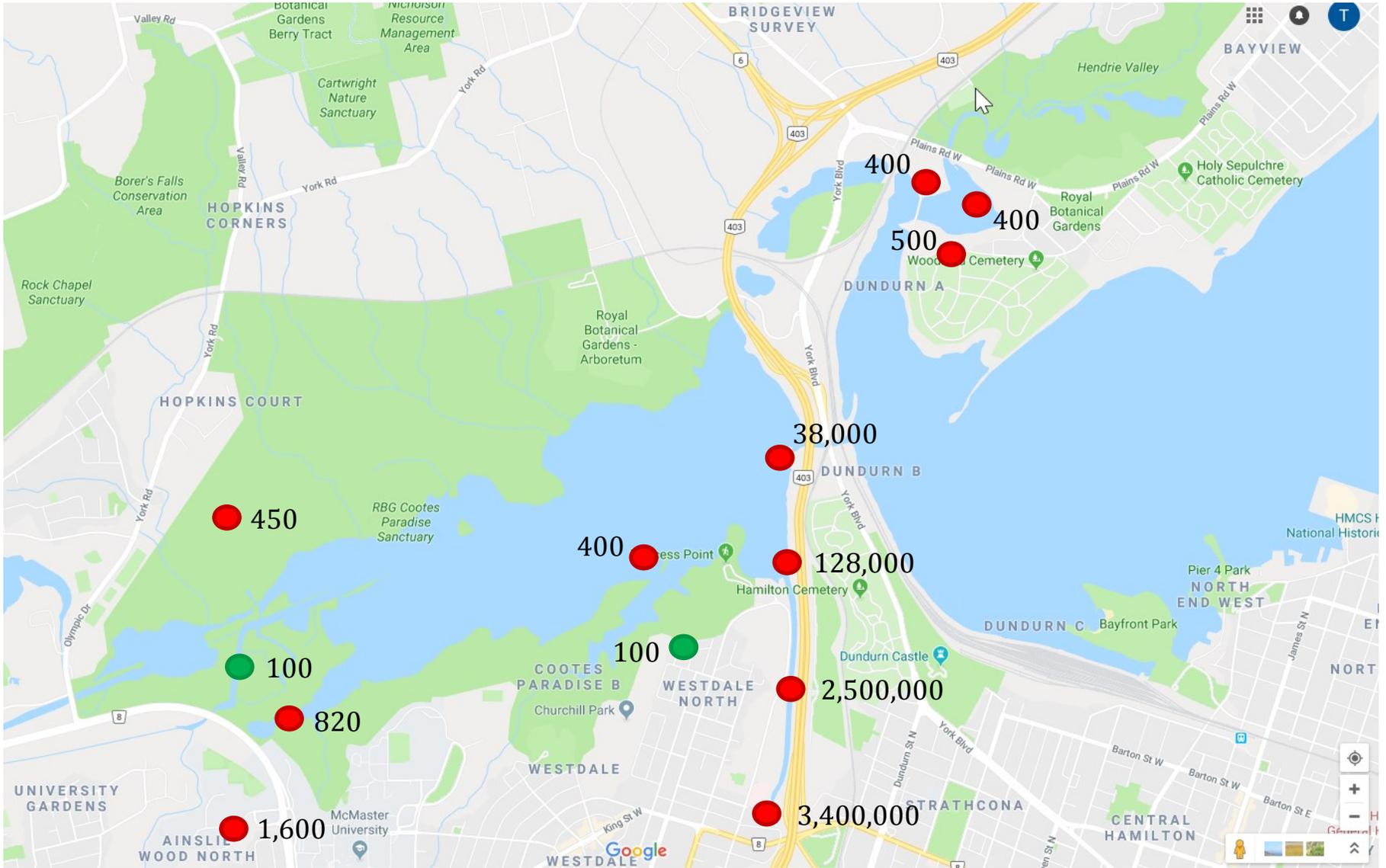




Photo credit, Dylan Neild

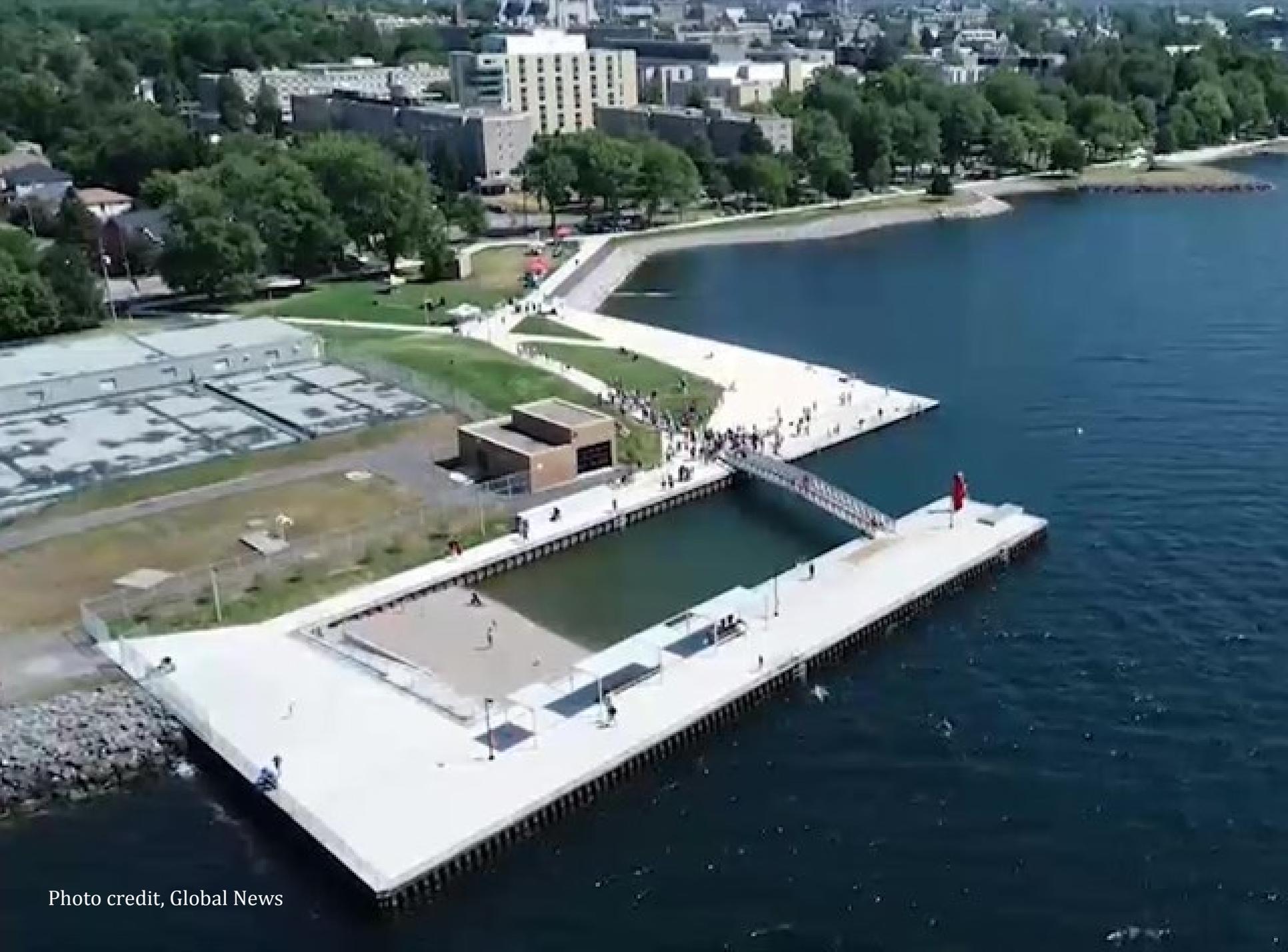


Photo credit, Global News



Photo credit, David Rockne Corrigan



Photo credit, Lake Ontario Waterkeeper





FLOW-KLEEN
SEWER & WATER
REPAIR & MAINTENANCE

45-18

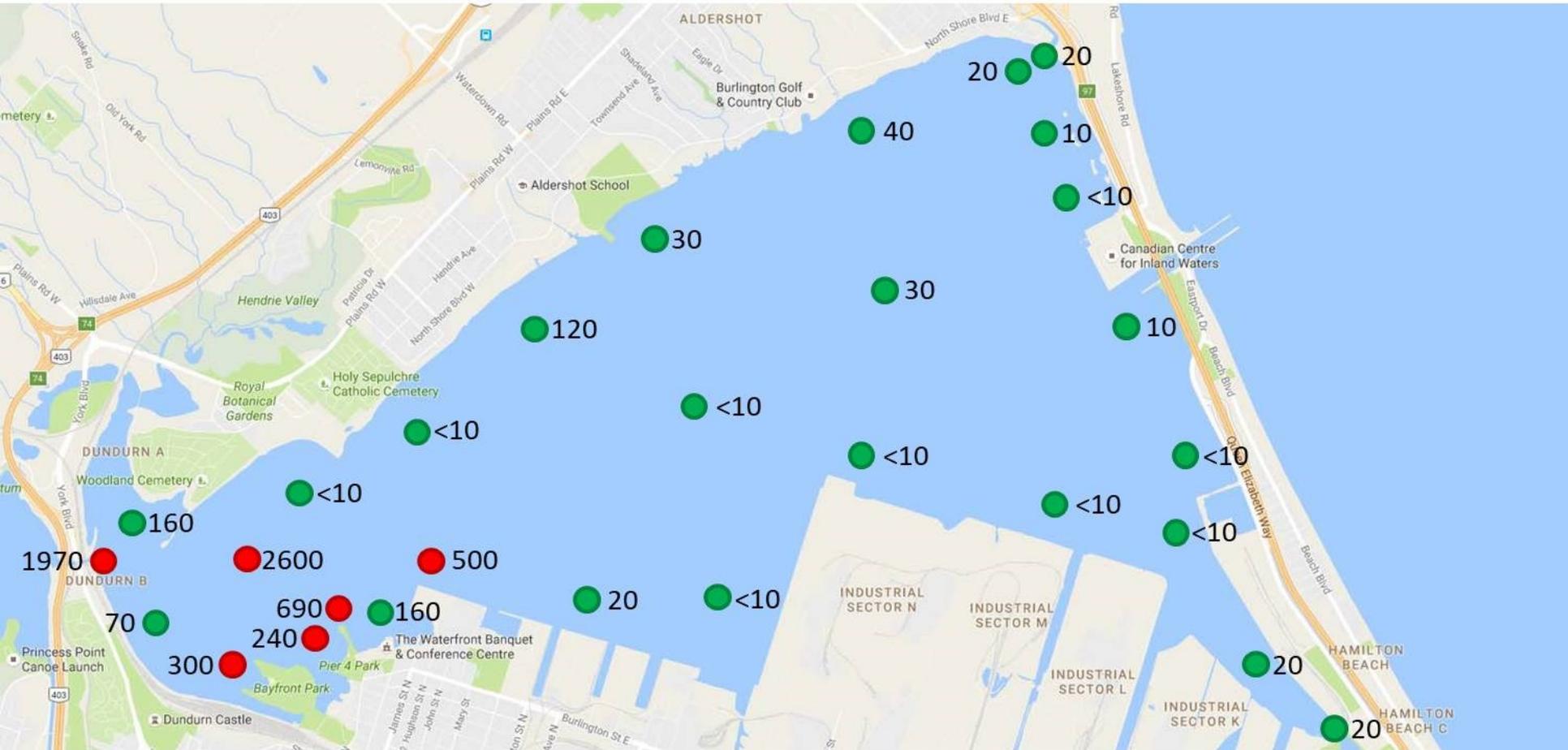








Harbour Sampling Locations July 5, 2018



Data are for *Escherichia coli* bacteria, the most suitable and specific indicator of fecal contamination, and where the PWQO is >200CFU/100mL.





CBC Hamilton 
@CBCHamilton

 Follow

New poll: Is it time to give up on the dream of swimming in #hamont harbour? cbc.ca/news/canada/ha...

11:07 AM - 18 Mar 2016

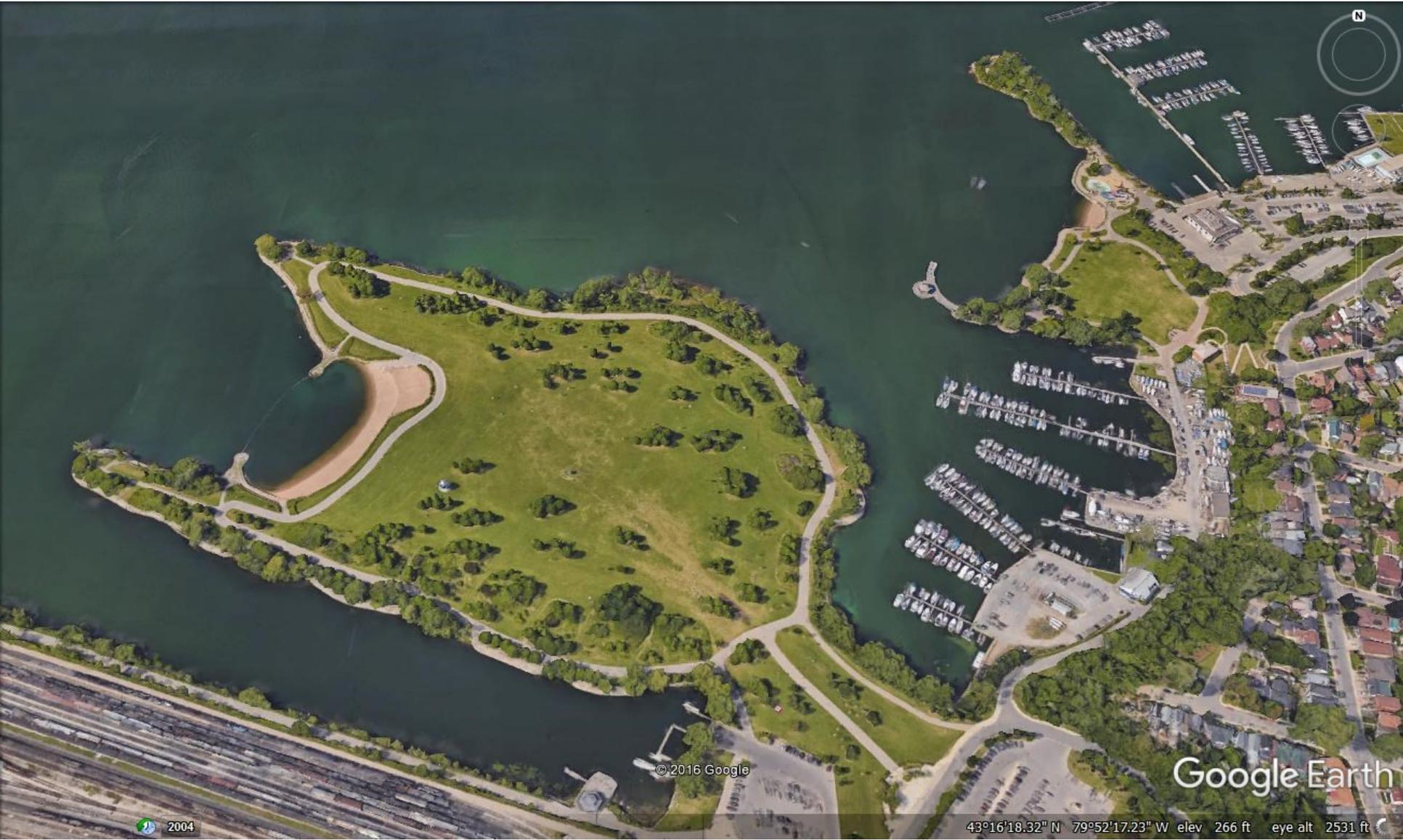


Bayfront Beach deemed 'not suitable' for recreatio...

The water is too unsafe for humans to swim in it, public health officials say. And it will be until significant work is

cbc.ca

  2  1



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43°16'18.32" N 79°52'17.23" W elev 266 ft eye alt 2531 ft



