

EXISTING RIVERBANK CONDITIONS IN KINSMEN PARK

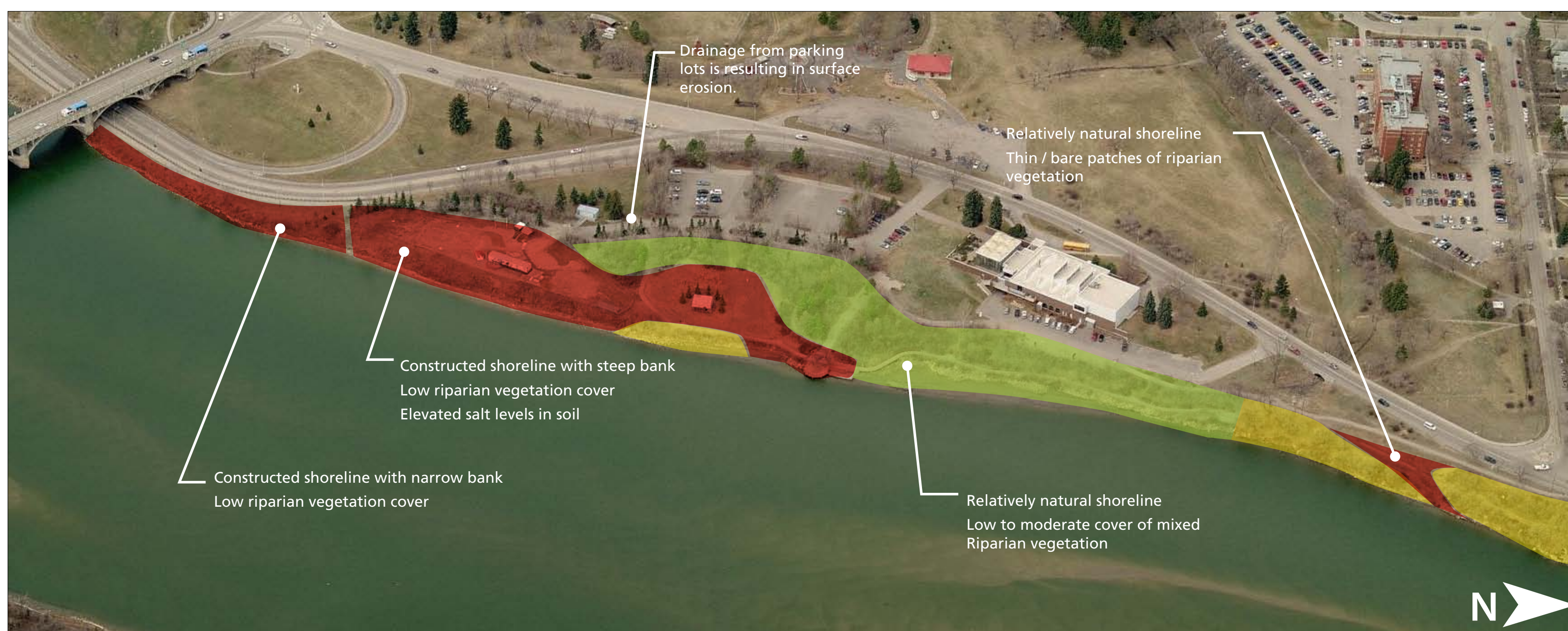
The river's edge forms the eastern boundary of Kinsmen Park. Historically, this edge would have been dominated by a mix of flood-tolerant vegetation species of the moist mixed grassland ecoregion.

Construction of the Spadina Interchange (1967) and later re-development of the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan area (1987) resulted in substantial shoreline alterations along the south portion of the Kinsmen Park. The shoreline in this area has steep slopes, fill material, and riprap shoreline armoring. A snow dump was located in the Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan site until 1997, and soils here still have high salt content. Paths and dock development have altered the shoreline conditions along the rest of the Kinsmen Park shoreline. These general conditions are described in the graphic below.

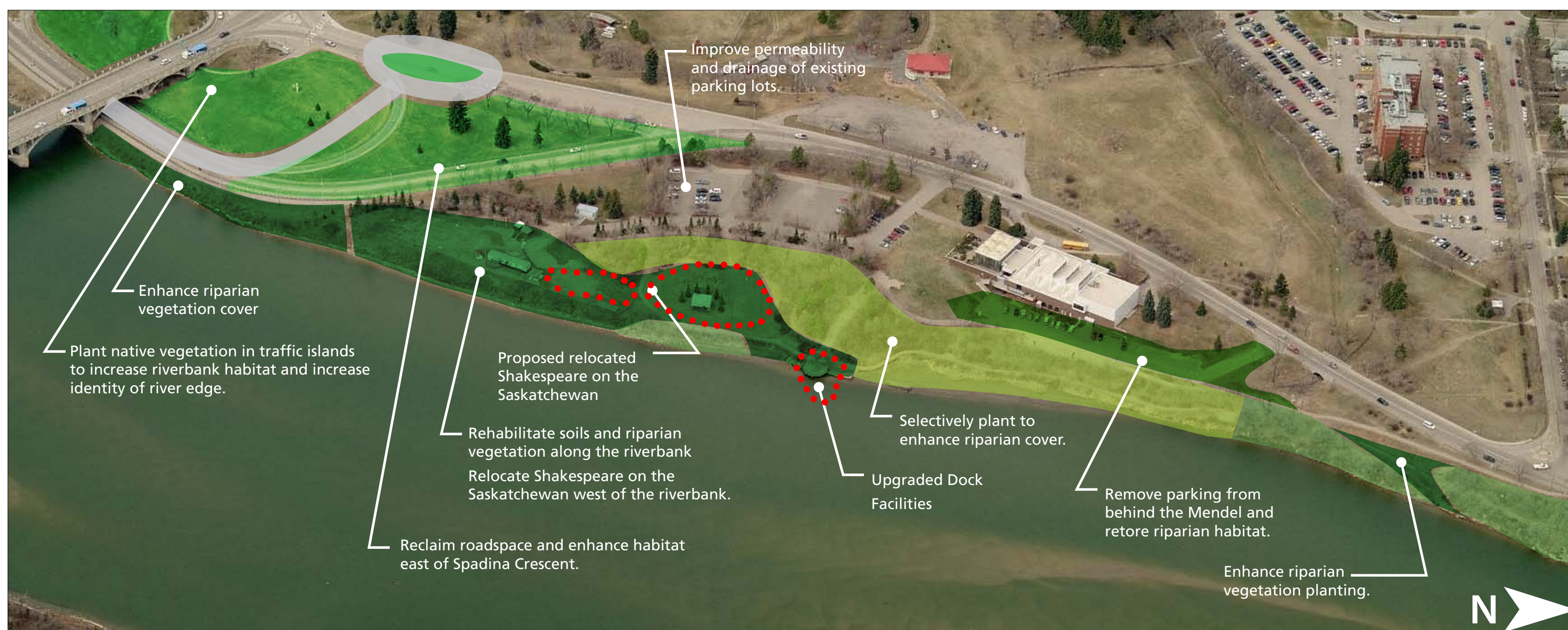
The Meewasin Valley Authority's "State of the Watershed" report (MVA 2008) characterized the ecological integrity of the entire valley. Their figures characterize the shoreline along Kinsmen Park as "disturbed or developed" (MVA 2008). This is in contrast to the native vegetation zones both north and south of Kinsmen Park.



Meewasin Valley Authority Ecological Integrity map for Kinsmen Park area (MVA 2008)



OVERVIEW OF RIVERBANK CONDITIONS ALONG KINSMEN PARK



PROPOSED REHABILITATION STRATEGY

RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are recommendations for improving the river's edge conditions through Kinsmen Park:

SHORT-TERM (<5 years)

Target the degraded south end of the park for riparian planting and invasive species management. Invasive species management should be applied to the rest of the shoreline, and native riparian trees and shrubs should be interplanted where appropriate.

NEAR-TERM (5-10 years)

The removal of the Mendel parking lot and access road creates an opportunity to expand the riparian zone in this area. Additionally it is recommended during this time period enhancements to the parking lots south of the Mendel are made.

LONG-TERM (10-25 years)

The reconfiguration of the Spadina interchange will allow for extensive naturalization and rehabilitation of riverbank conditions. A reconfigured Shakespeare on the Saskatchewan ease pressure on the riverbank and will provide an opportunity to naturalize and rehabilitate the edge.

Additionally it is proposed that the traffic islands around the bridge be naturalized with native planting to provide enhanced riparian habitat.