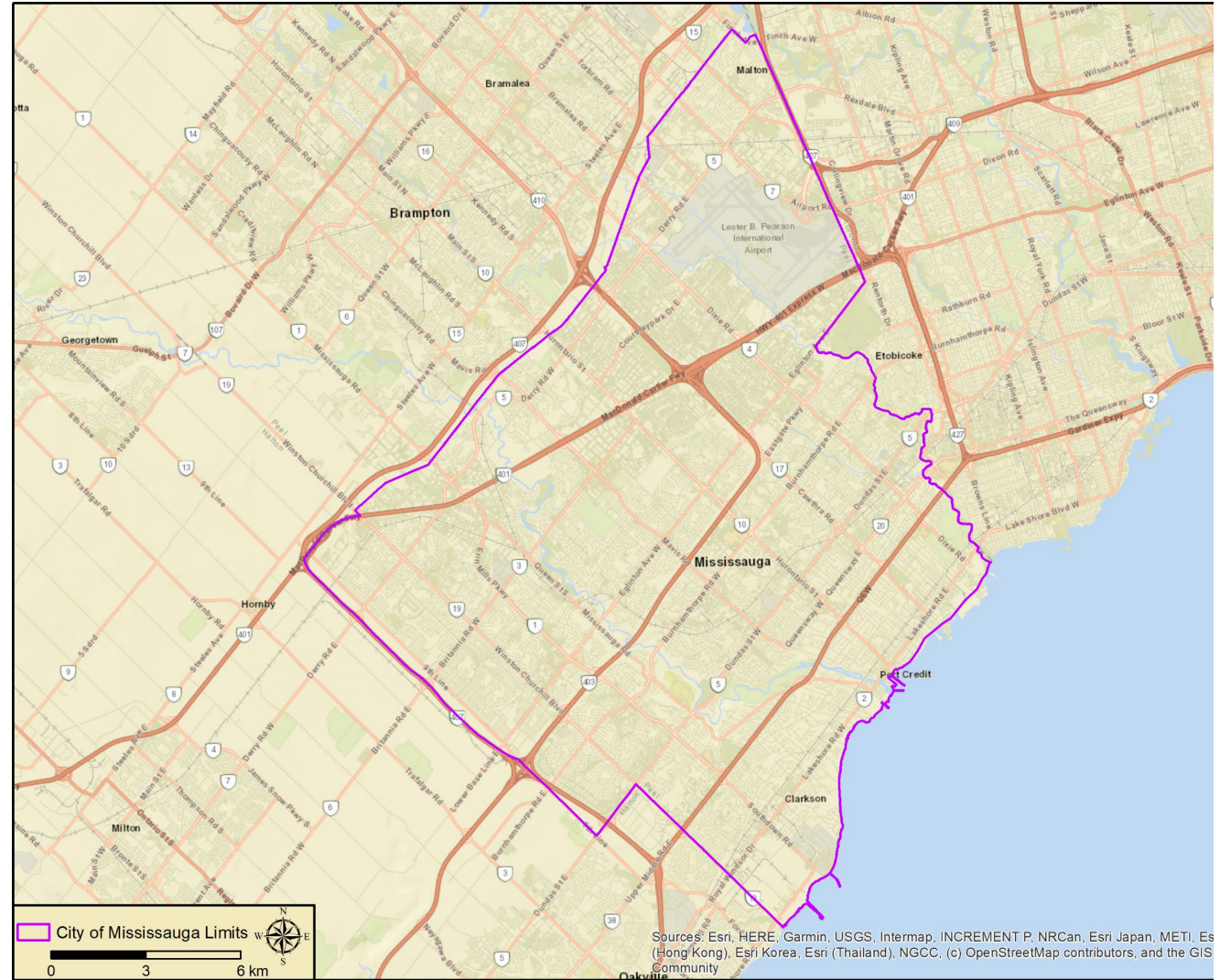


City of Mississauga Archaeological Management Plan



Project Team Introduction

City of Mississauga

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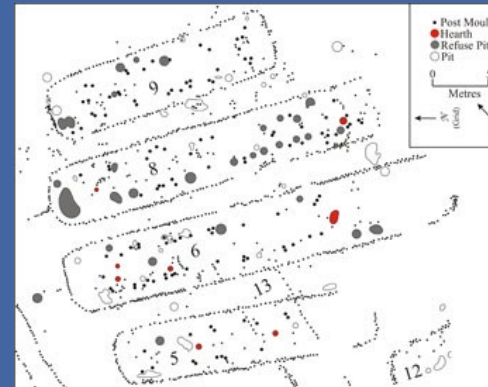
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A Little Archaeology Background

What is Archaeology?

- Broadly, it is the study of past human activity as revealed by material remains and impacts.
- Archaeologists use evidence from excavation of sites, remote sensing technology, and observable human impacts to the landscape.
- They also draw on information from traditional knowledge, written records, and historical maps.
- In Ontario, only licensed archaeologists may conduct fieldwork and excavation activities.
- Over the last 50 years, the practice has shifted from automatic excavation of sites to their protection (as much as possible).
- In Ontario, 99% of archaeology is associated with land development, and the focus is often on assessing lands for potential and identifying any existing sites for protective considerations.



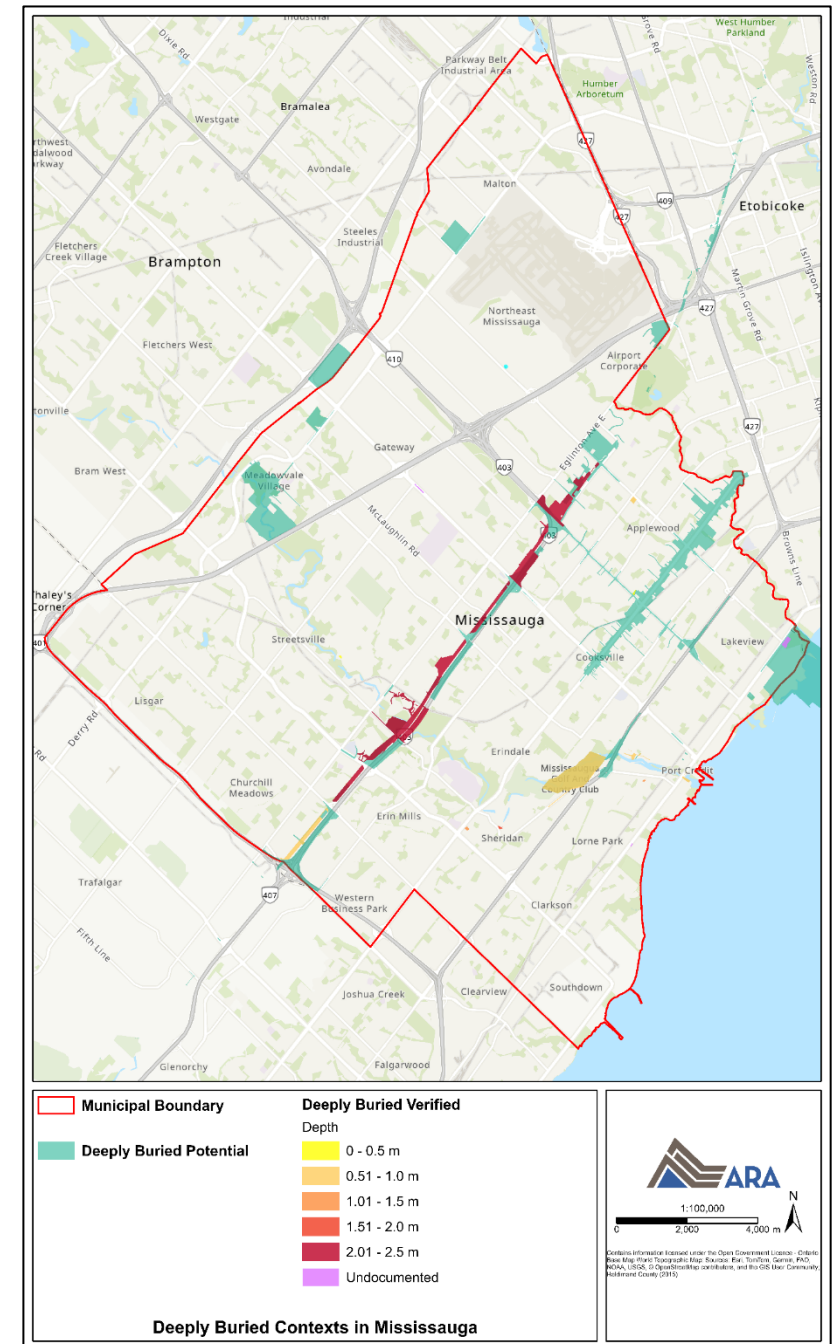
What is an Archaeological Site?

- Any remains and evidence of past human activity can be defined as a site.
- Sites include locations used for temporary reasons like tool-making or seasonal encampment, burials, more permanent villages, homesteads, and collections of refuse/garbage.
- Artifacts like tools, bones, and ceramics provide important evidence, but equally important are:
 - Features in the ground left by posts and fire hearths
 - Seed, pollen, insect and soil samples
 - Spatial relationships (the mapping of a site's features and artifacts as they are found)
 - Alterations to the landscape
 - Wood or stone structural elements



Archaeology in Mississauga's Urban Context

- Even archaeologists used to think that built up areas had limited intact archaeological sites, but years of urban assessment have proven that assumption wrong.
- Mississauga and other Ontario cities have a well documented presence of deeply buried archaeological sites.
- While development and land alteration have sometimes removed archaeological resources, it is often the case that added fill or surfacing (paving, concrete pads, etc.) overlays the original landscape – which can still retain rich evidence of past peoples.
- The map on the right depicts some instances where archaeological reports have identified the potential for, or confirmed, deeply buried contexts – including sites. Because this understanding is relatively new to the field, it should not be taken as comprehensive.





Mississauga's Extensive History

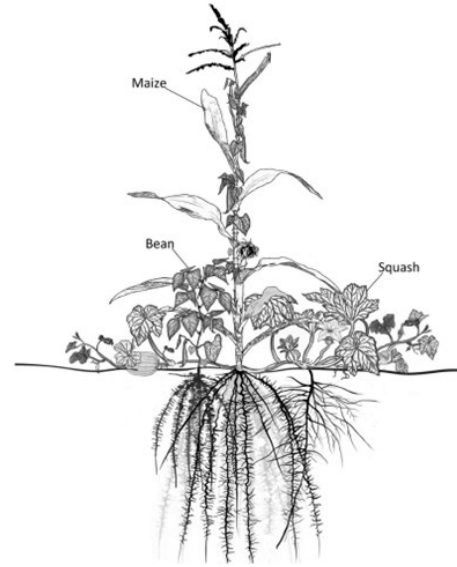
Over 10,000 Years....

- Humans first present here after the glaciers receded
- Archaeologists identify three broad Pre-contact periods (before European presence):
 - Palaeo (9000-7500 BC)
 - Archaic (7500-900 BC)
 - Woodland (900 BC – 1600 AD)
- Earliest Palaeo and Archaic peoples lived a mobile lifestyle, following food resources and leaving a light “footprint”.
- By the Archaic period, there is evidence of more complex activities and long-distance trading networks in items like copper.
- The more mobile Palaeo lifeways transformed into seasonal shifts.
- We are still learning about these earliest cultures and societies, since the archaeological record is more limited.



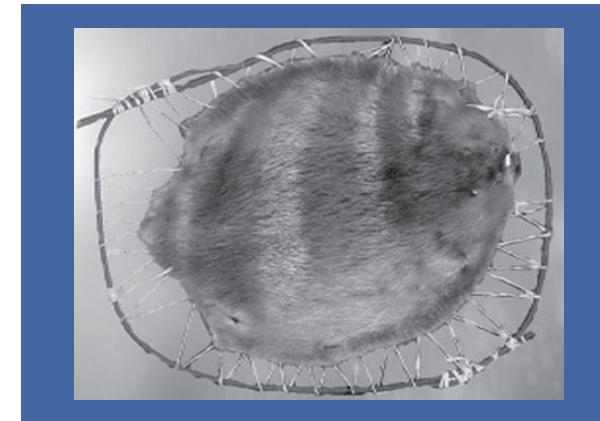
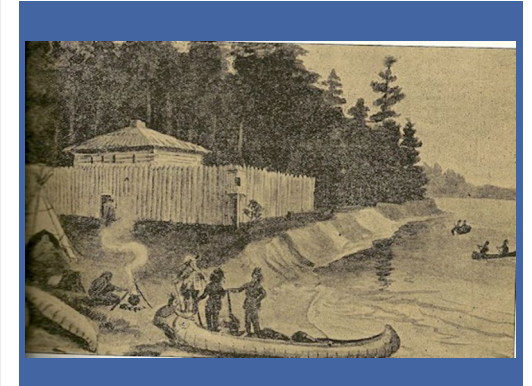
The Woodland Period

- By 900 BC, ceramics begin to appear in archaeological sites, which is when archaeologists identify the beginning of the Woodland Period.
- More permanent settlements and agriculture emerged around AD 500.
- The Mississauga area was home to several peoples over this time, including the Anishinabek, Wendat, Haudenosaunee people.



Post-contact

- Evidence of European contact shows the appearance of trade goods in the early 1600s.
- European settlers began populating the Mississauga region in the 1800s.
- The Anishinabek group of the Mississaugas still practiced traditional land use patterns as settlement spread from more urban areas.
- Settlers disrupted the Mississauga's land use. Further pressure arose from population decline due to disease, which led to them agreeing to more land-sharing treaties (which the British took to be outright surrender of lands).



The Importance of Indigenous Artifacts

- Indigenous artifacts used to be considered either the property of their finders, or best housed in museums.
- That attitude denied the unbroken presence of First Nations on Canadian lands, and is now seen as an example of the colonial mindset.
- We now acknowledge Indigenous ownership of their own cultural heritage, including artifacts.
- Some artifacts hold great symbolic importance, and all artifacts are a tangible record of Indigenous presence spanning thousands of years.
- Where possible, the preference is now to preserve sites and artifacts in place.
- Repatriation of excavated artifacts, when practical, is the preferred approach. When repatriation is not immediately feasible, storage in a suitable third-party facility that provides First Nations access is the next preferable strategy.





Archaeological Legislation, Policy, and Management Plans

The *Ontario Heritage Act*

- Enacted in 1975, and amended several times since.
- This is the foundational legislation for the protection of heritage and archaeological resources in the Province.
- Requires and oversees licensing for archaeologists.
- Sets standards and guidelines for archaeological assessment, fieldwork and reporting.
- Only permits licensed archaeologists to carry out fieldwork on sites.
- Sets penalties for altering an archaeological site without a permit (up to \$1,000,000 and jail!)



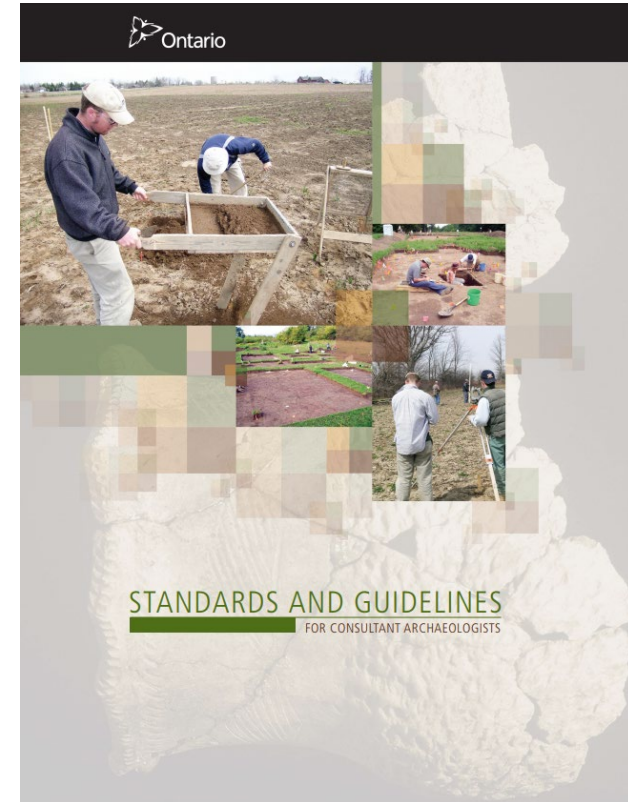
The *Provincial Planning Statement*

- Enacted in 2024, this governs most aspects of municipal planning authority, including the approval of development applications.
- Defines what development activities require archaeological assessment as part of planning approvals.
- Encourages Municipalities to develop Archaeological Management Plans.
- States that Planning authorities shall engage early with Indigenous communities and ensure their interests are considered when identifying, protecting and managing archaeological resources.



Professional Archaeology in Ontario

- Currently overseen by the Ministry of Citizenship and Multiculturalism, who sets official *Standards and Guidelines*.
- Licensed archaeologists must satisfy requirements for fieldwork and reporting.
- All reports are submitted to the Ministry for approval, and they are archived in a Provincial database.
- Outlines the four stages of archaeological assessment (shown on the next slide).



ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS IN ONTARIO

There are four stages of archaeology in Ontario where the goal is to determine whether further stages are required to properly document the archaeological resources on site

STAGE 1: BACKGROUND STUDY AND PROPERTY INSPECTION

To provide information about a property's geography, history, previous archaeological fieldwork, and current land condition to evaluate its archaeological potential.



STAGE 2: PROPERTY ASSESSMENT



To identify and document any archaeological resources on a property through pedestrian survey (Walking side-by-side across a ploughed field in 5 or 1 metre transects) or test pit survey (Systematically digging 30 cm holes across an area).

STAGE 3: SITE-SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT

An additional controlled surface pick-up followed by the excavation of 1 by 1 meter test units on a 5 or 10 meter grid across an archaeological site to determine its nature and extent. This information allows for further in-depth background research.



STAGE 4: MITIGATION OF DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS



Development impacts are mitigated either by avoiding and protecting the site or, where development cannot be avoided, fully documenting the site typically by systematic hand excavation across its extent and removal of topsoil to document subsurface features (i.e. Cellars, privies, long houses etc.).

THE ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Want to learn more about the archaeology in the province?
Visit us at <https://www.ontarioarchaeology.org/>

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF HERITAGE, TOURISM, SPORT, AND CULTURE INDUSTRIES (2021).
STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTANT ARCHAEOLOGISTS

Collaborative Avoidance and Protection

- City planners, heritage staff, and professional archaeologists are well-experienced in assisting with development project accommodation of avoidance and protection measures for archaeological sites.
- Early consultation with the City, and a Stage 1 assessment are key to anticipating potential archaeological risks, and learning of any possible First Nations' insights or concerns.
- Where subsequent stages of assessment (if required) reveal archaeological remains in the project area, often alterations to the project design and subsequent monitoring of construction activities can address concerns. The intent is leaving archaeological sites, as a non-renewable resource, in place, whenever possible.
- Where some excavation is unavoidable, partial excavation strategies can be developed to address directly impacted portions of a site, while avoiding significant cohesive components.



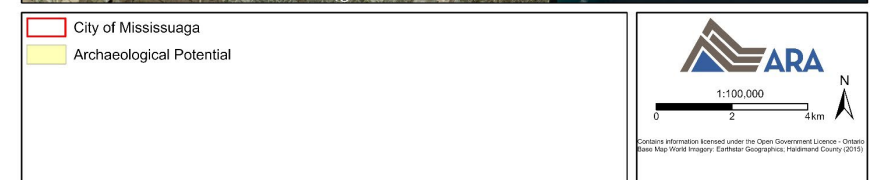
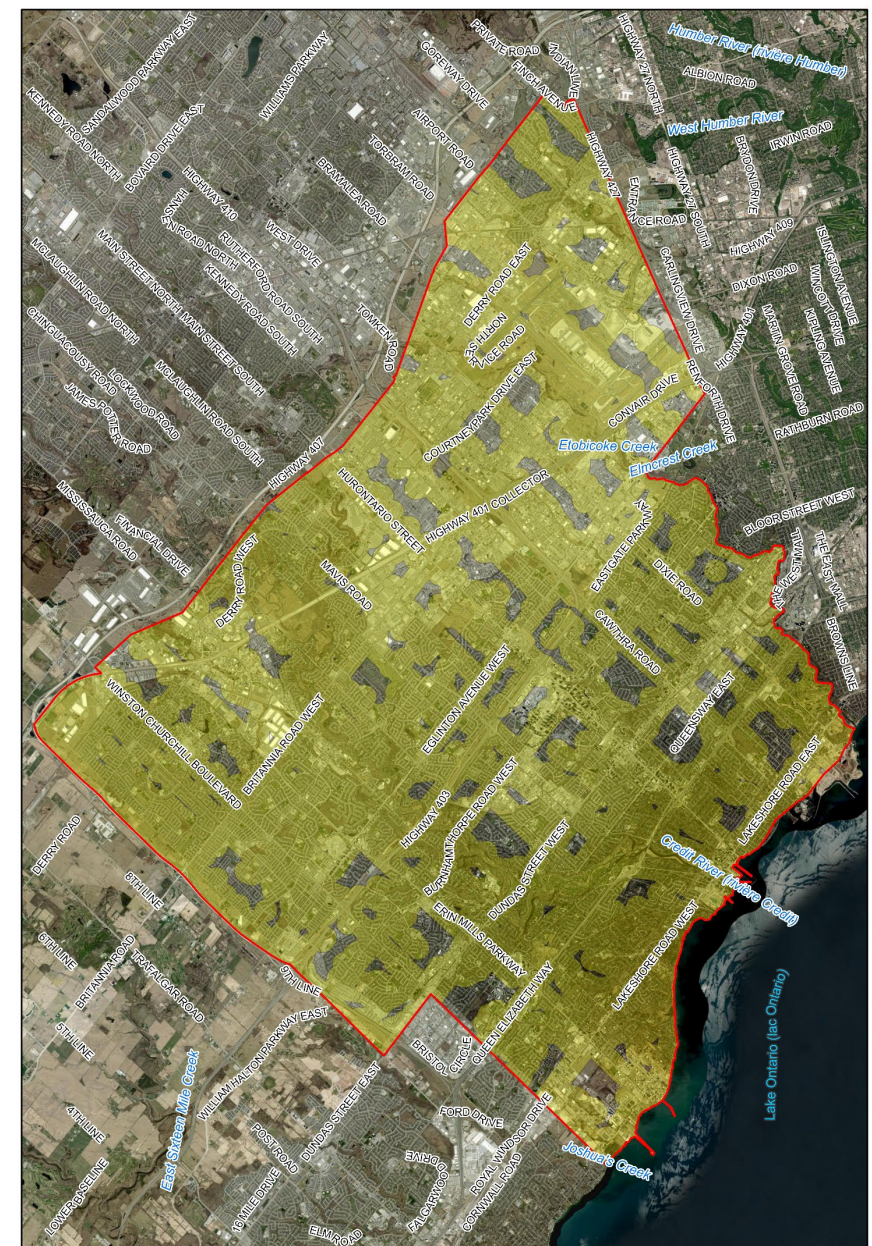
What If I Find an Artifact, Bones, or Something that *Might* Be Those?!?

- In all cases, stop work immediately and cordon off the area.
- For possible human remains, contact the Police (non-emergency line).
- For suspected archaeological resources, contact Mississauga Heritage Planning at
 - heritage.planning@mississauga.ca
 - 905-615-3200 ext. 4061
- If you have artifacts that were otherwise obtained ("passed down", private collection, etc.) contact the Ontario Archaeological Society at
 - info@ontarioarchaeology.org
- It is illegal to disturb, move or sell artifacts in Ontario: when in doubt, please reach out!



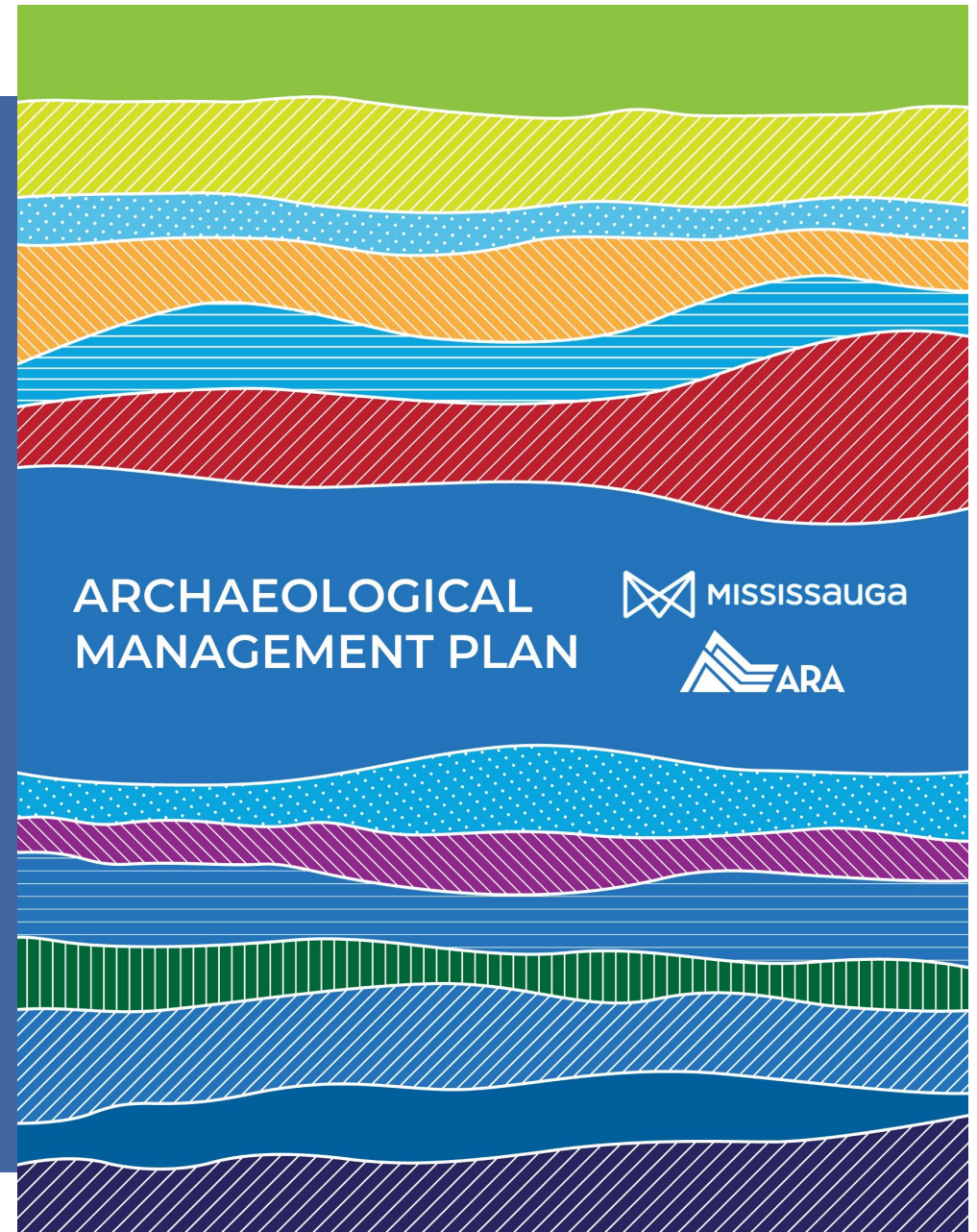
What Is An Archaeological Management Plan (AMP)?

- An AMP assists City management and protection of its archaeological resources.
- Components of an AMP include:
 - Detailed mapping of areas of archaeological potential;
 - Inventory of known archaeological sites and reports;
 - Policies and procedures for managing archaeological resources within the municipality; and
 - Policies and procedures for Indigenous engagement and consultation.



Why Does Mississauga Need an AMP?

- This area has seen human occupation for over 10,000 years.
- There are over 400 documented sites in Mississauga.
- Archaeological remains are fragile, finite, and protected by Provincial legislation.
- Up-to-date technology and integration of current legislation with policy ensures efficient and transparent administration of archaeological resource management.
- The vast majority of archaeological sites are Indigenous, and the City recognizes a duty to protect their ancestral heritage.
- All citizens benefit from better appreciation and knowledge of Mississauga's Indigenous and non-Indigenous past.

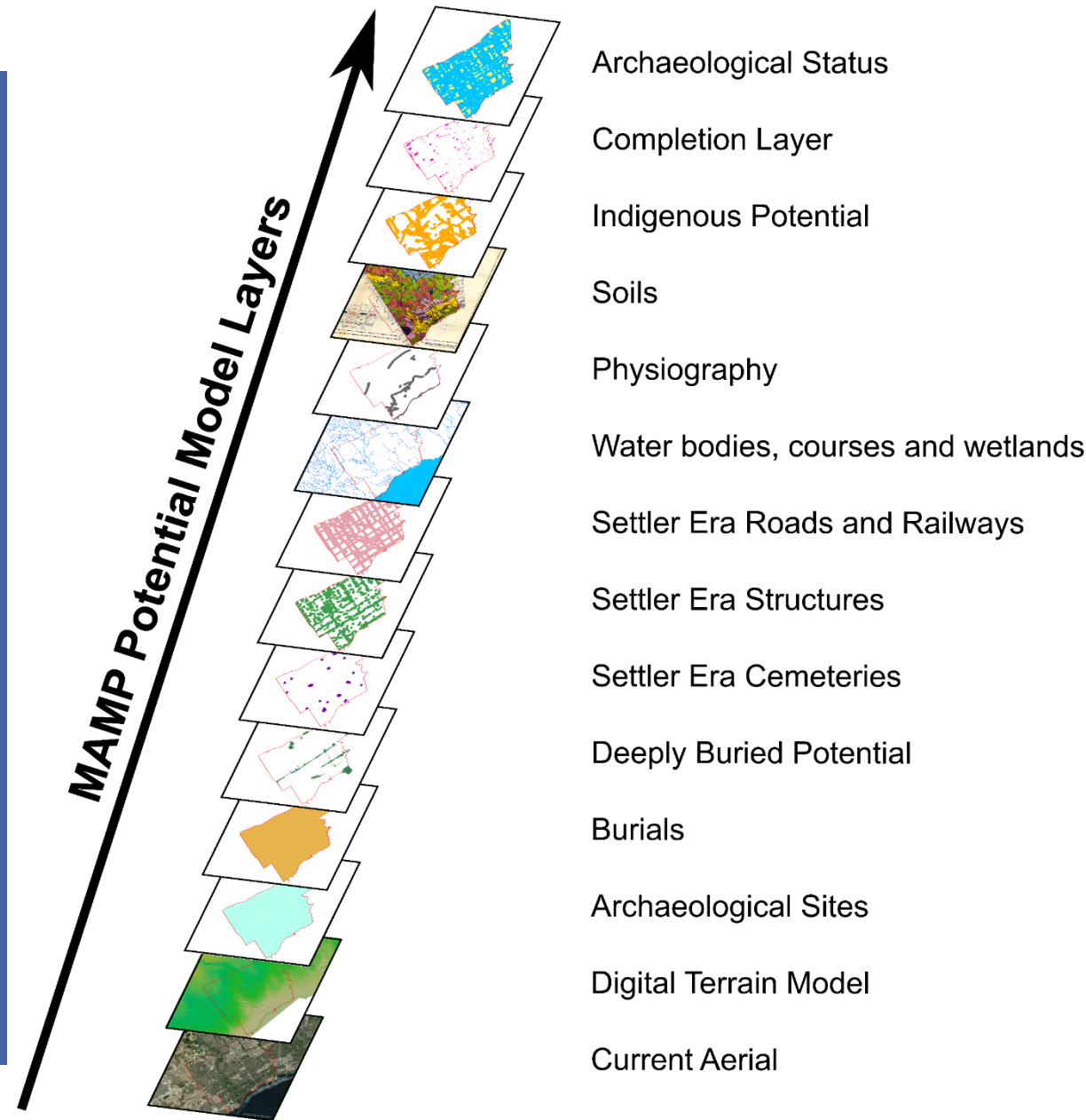


Key Advantages of a City-wide AMP

- Transparent and publicly accessible Archaeological Potential Model to help better illustrate specific archaeological risk for areas within the City.
- Detailed and clear language around expectations, policies and protocols associated with archaeological assessments, enabling consistent application of the above during the planning process.
- A centralized municipal resource for the identification, collection and management of archaeological resources within the City limits.
- Helps facilitate the City meeting its objective of timely responses to development applications.

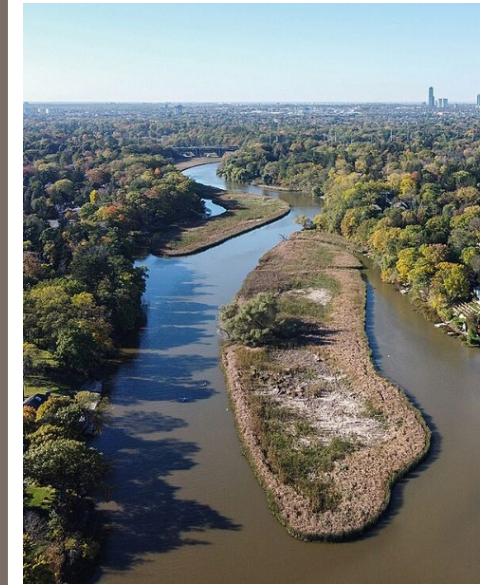
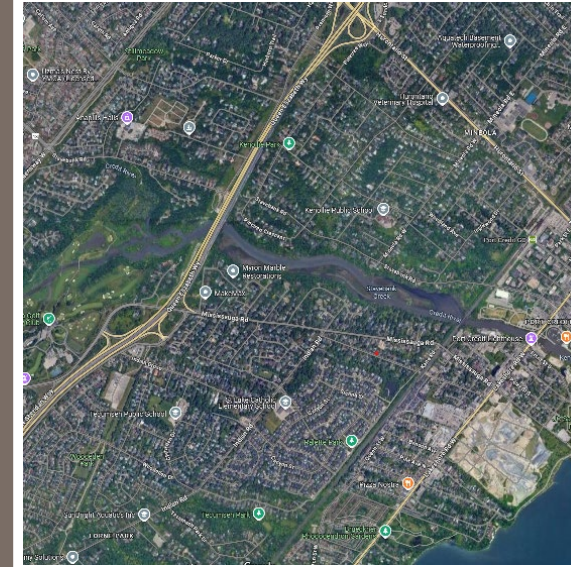
How is Archaeological Potential Determined in an AMP?

- Over a century of archaeological research in Ontario has established that sites are more often found near certain features, including:
 - Waterways
 - Soils suited for agriculture
 - Known Sites and Burials
 - Relatively flat land
 - Historic structures, roadways and railways
 - Deposits of minerals suitable for tool manufacture
 - Locally Significant Features
- Each feature is turned into a GIS map layer, and those layers are combined to illustrate areas of higher potential.



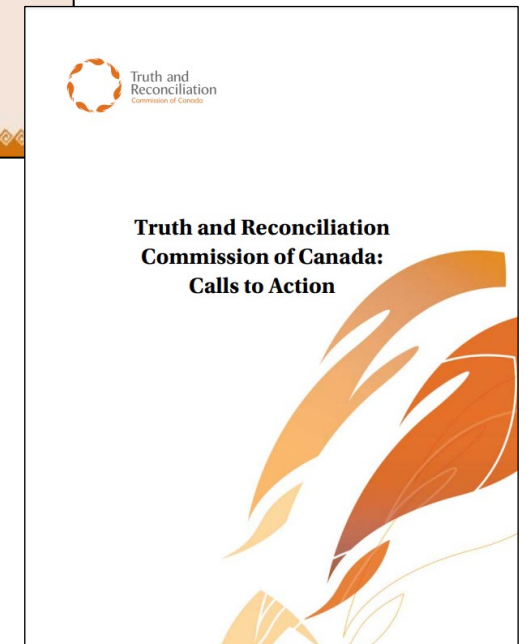
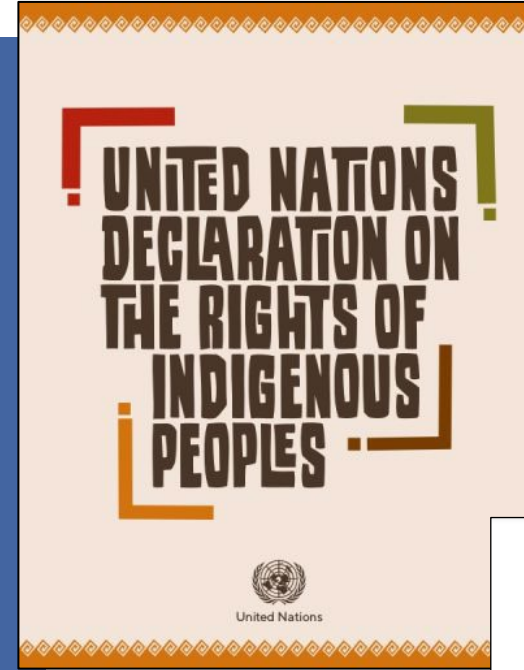
Mineola, Stavebank, Mississauga Road, and the Credit River...

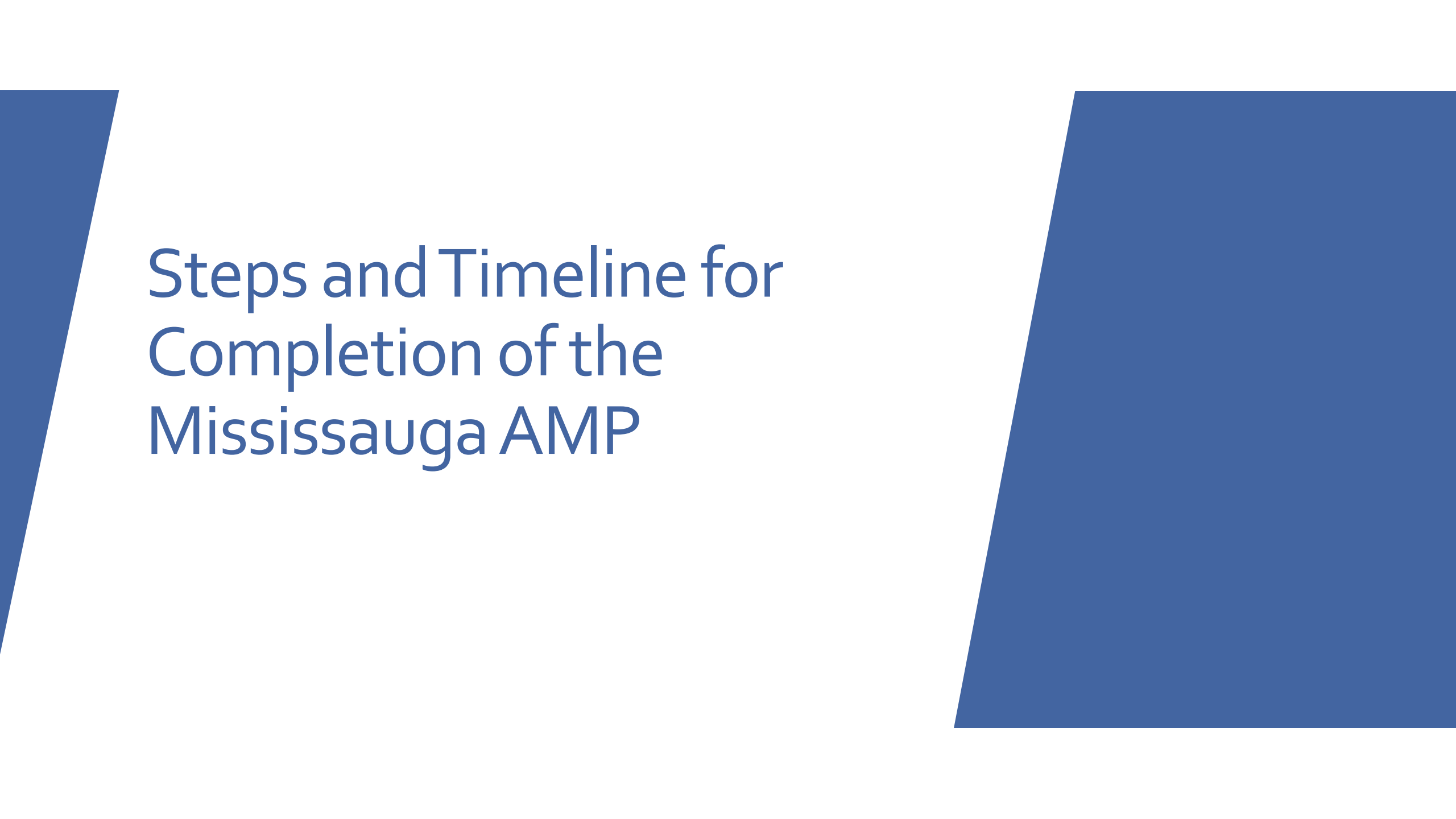
- Fertile lands, a major river and Lake Ontario have made this area attractive to people for thousands of years
- Sites that date back to the Archaic period: initially used seasonally, and later more permanent settlements
- The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation's last traditional wigwam village and the Credit Mission Village were located within the area
- Among the earliest areas to attract Settlers
- Probably the most archaeologically rich part of Mississauga
- Sediments deposited by the river have served to deeply bury some sites



Indigenous Engagement

- Mandated by Federal, Provincial and Municipal legislation
- Involves consultation during AMP creation, review of reports, and sometimes field monitoring of archaeological activities
- Specific First Nations and Indigenous Communities have treaty and/or ancestral interests and rights in Mississauga, including
 - The Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation
 - The Huron-Wendat Nation
 - Six Nations of the Grand River
 - Haudenosaunee Development Institute
 - The Indigenous Network
- Mississauga acknowledges Indigenous ownership and authority over their own ancestral remains and sites





Steps and Timeline for Completion of the Mississauga AMP

Key AMP Components



Completed

- Initial consultations with First Nations and Indigenous Communities
- Background Analysis
- Determination of Relevant Features for the Potential Model
- Compilation of Site and Assessment records
- Archaeological History to accompany the public AMP document



In Process Now

- Creation of GIS mapping layers
- Drafting of policy and procedure recommendations
- Public Consultation



Next Steps

- Final Review meetings with First Nations and Indigenous Communities
- Testing of the Potential Model
- Finalization of the AMP document
- Presentation to Council for approval and adoption (Winter 2025/2026)

Questions
or Comments?

Thank you!!!!!!



MISSISSAUGA



ARCHAEOLOGY | HERITAGE | OUTREACH | EDUCATION