

2018 02 15 Report on Riverstone Open House by Lisa Stokes

Q: The city already owned the valley lands. The developer was contractually obligated to the city to renaturalize the lands after it ceased operating them as a golf course. Why was this waived?

A: According to Parks Manager John Spencer: The negotiations took place over the last year. The amount the owner originally wanted was much higher. There was a lot of back and forth and they got to a price the city thought was still too high, but the owner wasn't willing to come down further. The owner suggested that in exchange for reducing the price further, the city release him from the renaturalization requirement (which was apparently iron clad and enforceable). John feels the final price was good and according to Commissioner Al Meneses, the renaturalization isn't terribly difficult - remove the cart paths, the sand traps and the sprinkler heads and then let nature do its thing.

Councillor John Sprovieri told me a couple years ago about a Council decision to swap land in that area in exchange for land where Gore Meadows Recreation Area sits. John Spencer and I spoke about that decision and I now feel more comfortable with adding a rec centre in the area despite the decision to build the "super" rec centre at Gore Meadows.

I looked up the cost of Gore Meadows Phase 2 which is \$32M, plus \$5M for outside park. The whole complex will be about \$80M when finished. This makes Riverside price seem more reasonable.

Q: Is there capital budget in 2019 for the valley land renaturalization and trail building?

A: Yes, for renaturalization and trail building to Cottrelle Blvd

Q: What is the timeline for the work on naturalizing the valley?

A: Very dependent on working with MNR (Ministry of Natural Resources)

Q: What is the timeline for the construction of a trail from Riverstone to Gore Meadows?

A: Very dependent on working with MNR. Likely two phases - first to Cottrelle, second to Castlemore

Q: Will underpasses be built at Cottrell Boulevard and Castlemore Road to connect the trail to the Gore Meadows Recreation Centre?

A: The golf carts path already goes under Cottrelle. They haven't looked at Castlemore yet.

Q: The staff report mentions building a limestone screenings path in the valley. The trail should be asphalt or it is not useful as a year-round active transportation route.

A: Al and John agree. The environmental planner, whose name I missed, says there is very little scope for changes to what the MNR will dictate due to the threatened Redside Dace. I encouraged them to push for asphalt for reasons which I explained to them, but need not do so here. [previously discussed extensively at BikeBrampton meetings]

By Lisa Stokes