

RESPONSE TO COUNCILLOR INQUIRY

COUNCILLOR THORN

Councillor Thorn inquired if walking access to the Burnswest Development Corporation wetland area, which is currently under construction, could be re-established.

RESPONSE

The stormwater management pond and the surrounding landscaping, including the pathway and parking area, located within the described area is private property (owned by the Burnswest Development Corporation) and public access is not permitted. Prior to the current stripping and grading operation that is currently underway, an informal trail on top of the escarpment was known to be utilized to access this area, which resulted in the need for private property signage to be installed at the site. The stormwater management pond is designed to be turned over to the Town as a public utility lot (PUL) along with the surrounding landscaped area through the subdivision process once adjacent development of the Burnswest lands occurs.

The stormwater management pond area was constructed in advance of the development of the Burnswest lands as it also accommodates the stormwater from the Tristar Lands where Costco as well as surrounding commercial and industrial development is occurring. Tristar and Burnswest reached an agreement to support the early construction of the storm pond as well as the installation of a sanitary lift station to facilitate development of Tristar lands.

Burnswest was recently granted a Development Permit for Stripping and Grading of their lands and have subdivision approval for Phase 1 of their development and the pond area. One of the conditions of this subdivision approval is to develop public pathway access along the top of the escarpment to the pond area as well as address limited access to the provincially owned Jim Graham Park. Burnswest is expected to begin construction of Phase 1, including the pathway connection to the pond in 2018.