



## GREENWOOD CONSERVATION LANDS MASTER PLAN

### PUBLIC MEETING Q&A

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The following information is a summary of questions from the GCL Public meetings where TRCA presented the Greenwood Conservation Lands Master Plan; highlighting the Draft Recreation Plan and Trail Plan. These meetings took place on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in Pickering and Ajax respectively.

1. Why is the TRCA in support of transforming a natural environment into a community park?

*The TRCA is working with the City of Pickering and the Town of Ajax to provide recreational opportunities for the citizens of Durham. It was at the request of these municipalities that TRCA investigated the opportunity to provide lands suitable for active recreation. Former land uses have significantly altered the natural setting of the areas allocated for the Pickering Community Park and the Dog Off Leash Area. As a result of these impacts, these areas have been identified as suitable to accommodate the requests of the municipalities.*

2. Will there be an available water resource within the proposed Off Leash Dog Park?

*The current recommended site for the relocated Dog Off Leash Area does not have water available on site. Grading efforts of the existing site could have provided standing water on site, but after hearing concerns around potential health issues expressed by the dog walking community it was decided to not provide standing water on site. In the future there is the possibility of having municipal water services or a well on site if provided by the Town of Ajax.*

3. Will the Plan include the opportunity to access the property without the use of a car?

*Transportation to and from the site is outside of the scope of the GCL Master Plan, although TRCA is working with municipal public transit and active transportation plans to identify the proper locations of trailheads and access points.*

4. In regards to the restoration project bringing in clean fill, what are the figures on how much fill has been brought into the property compared to how much more can be expected?

*The fill operation is taking place to help restore the historical landforms in the area that were altered as a result of past land uses. This process is necessary in order to restore the natural drainage of the site and improve downstream water quality. At the time of the public meeting*

(May) an estimated 125,000 cubic metres had been brought to the site. When the project is completed the total volume will be approximate 375,000 cubic metres. For more information on the Restoration Plan please visit, [www.trca.on.ca/brocklands](http://www.trca.on.ca/brocklands).

5. How is the public voice heard and represented within the plan?

*Throughout the plan TRCA has been working closely with the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) which is made up of local interest groups and stakeholders. Members of the PAC have been providing comments based on the interests of their particular group. TRCA has also held open house meetings with the cycling community and the dog walking community to gain better understanding of their needs. Questions from the open house meetings have been summarized and responses posted on the Brock Lands website. We are also providing responses to questions asked at the two public meetings held in May. Comments from all public engagement meetings will be investigated and where appropriate incorporated into the Master Plan. Information on the Master Plan was also presented in the Greenwood Leaflet (Newsletter for the Greenwood Conservation Lands) which was distributed to local residents, provided in electronic email updates to those on our mailing list and posted on the TRCA website. Additional public meetings will be held in the fall when the final plan components has been revised and finished. If you wish to be added to the GCL mailing list please visit [www.trca.on.ca/brockland](http://www.trca.on.ca/brockland).*

6. How long is the portion of Church Street that the TRCA is proposing to close?

*The portion of Church Street being recommended for closure is approximately 1.2km in length. Closure of the road is only being recommended where TRCA owns land on both sides of the road. This closure will not impact access to private property along Church Street.*

7. Are there any more river crossings proposed for Greenwood Conservation Area?

*No additional crossings in GCA are being recommended in the GCL Trail Plan.*

8. How will the TRCA educate the public regarding important items such as; sensitive areas, endangered species, or cultural features?

*Various stewardship and educational programs that will inform local residents and users about the importance of protecting our natural and cultural heritage features are being recommended. These programs include the Greenwood Leaflet Newsletter, interpretive signage through the GCL, as well as regular stewardship events that will engage users in educational activists such as interpretive hike and tree planting events. It is the desire to engage the public in the restoration and trail development projects to foster a growing respect for the lands and the species which call it home.*

9. Why does the Master Plan not reference the restoration of the creeks and shorelines within the GCL property?

*Both aquatic and terrestrial restoration opportunities within the GCL are identified in the Brock Lands Restoration Plan (2011), available on the website at [www.trca.on.ca/brocklands](http://www.trca.on.ca/brocklands) .*

10. Is there a plan for the Miller property in Greenwood?

*TRCA is interested in acquiring the Miller property located in the center of the GCA and will be expressing these interests to The Miller group in hopes of eventually obtaining these lands.*

11. Will motorized vehicles be permitted on site?

*Motorized vehicles, with the exception of EMS or maintenance vehicles are not permitted on the GCL or any TRCA lands.*

12. Is the Restoration Plan recommending additional pine plantations to help restore forest cover to the site?

*Restoring forest cover to the GCL is an objective of the Restoration Plan although tree planting will not be completed in the form of a single species plantation. Reforestation efforts will include a variety of native trees and shrubs planted in a more natural pattern. Forest management such as thinning will be completed on existing plantations to transition them towards the desired hardwood forest.*

13. Will armour stone be used in the restoration efforts?

*Yes, various types of aggregates will be used in different restoration projects. Some of these projects may require the use of armour stone.*

14. How did TRCA determine the size of the new parking lot being recommended at the new dog off leash area?

*The recommended parking lot size was determined based on the desire to double the parking spaces available at the current Greenwood Dog Off Leash Area. Further investigation in to the usage of the Greenwood Dog Off Leash Area will be completed in order to gain a better understanding of the number of users accessing and parking at the Dog Off Leash Area.*

15. Do we have some idea of the number of dog walkers currently using GCA?

*Although usage numbers of the Dog Off Leash Area are not know, it is estimated that approximately 13,000 to 15,000 people visit GCA for activities such as hiking, cross country skiing, picnicking as well as larger event such as "Pumpkinville".*

16. Is the restoration plan only focusing on reforestation and aquatic improvement or is there efforts to maintain the meadows on site?

*The current Restoration Plan calls for a significant amount of meadow restoration. There are a number of species, including some which are designated as species at risk in Ontario, which rely on the health and biodiversity of the meadows. Efforts will be completed to manage these meadows to protect the habitat of these species.*

17. If the TRCA is looking to protect these lands why are we promoting an increase in visitors?

*At TRCA we feel that recreation within a natural setting is important to a healthy community and assists in improving the respect citizens have for natural environments. There are also educational opportunities that present themselves when the public is allowed to access public lands. In the near future the area surrounding the GCL will see significant population increases. By developing a Master Plan, we can help to manage and direct recreational activities in appropriate locations, while protecting and enhancing those areas which are most sensitive.*

18. Perhaps the option of switching the Dog Off Leash area with the Mountain Biking area could be looked at in order to eliminate the bottle neck design in the off leash area.

*TRCA staff have investigated this option and have decided to keep the proposed dog off leash areas where it is currently recommended. However, to address the concerns expressed about a pinch point in the trails the proposed off leash dog area and its recommended trails have been adjusted and the area expanded slightly.*

19. Will activities such as cycling be permitted throughout the entire property?

*All trails within the Greenwood Conservation Lands will be open to all permitted uses. These uses include hiking, cycling, leashed dog walking, geo-caching and winter uses such as cross country skiing and snowshoeing. In designated areas other activities such as off leash dog walking will be permitted.*

20. Will the bike jumps currently in Greenwood CA be removed?

*Yes, unauthorized built structures will be removed from the property. In the future TRCA staff will be monitoring these sites to ensure they are not constructed again.*