

Former lake ranch approved for park by council

BY SANDRA BOLAN
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Whitchurch-Stouffville council on Tuesday approved the purchase of land from the James Coultice Estate, which will be transformed into a neighbourhood park for Musselman's Lake residents.

Although the approximate 140-acre parcel of land will only cost the municipality \$2 to acquire, it will cost about \$42,500 in legal,

survey and closing fees.

The demolition of the driveway works/extension is estimated at \$200,000 and it will take another \$940,000 to fully develop the park, according to a report to council by Andrew McNeely, director of planning and building services for the town.

FORMER WAGON WHEEL RANCH

The site is the former Wagon Wheel Ranch, off Ninth Line south-

east of the lake.

Completion of the park will occur in phases, he said. No dates have been given.

In June, council endorsed the Coultice property as the preferred site for the park, but it also wanted to hold a public information meeting with residents before making a final decision.

Last month, about 40 residents attended a public meeting, the majority of whom, according to

Mr. McNeely, endorsed the proposed project as is.

There were, however, residents who remained adamant the Glendale Beach lakefront site be the park's location.

BEACH SITE UNAVAILABLE

Although the Glendale site was short listed by the town as a possible location for the park, it was negated because the property is not for sale, nor were there any

plans by the owners to put it up for sale, according to Mr. McNeely.

"The community, regardless of the park location, was passionate in wanting to be part of the next phase of the program - that being the formal design, layout and phasing of the park," Mr. McNeely wrote.

"It's a win-win situation for the residents of Musselman's Lake and the town," said area councillor Phil Bannon.

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