

Dear Cross Creek Residents;

Subject: Cross Creek Pond Erosion Stabilization Project

Background information:

By 2013 the HOA Board was advised that SWFMD had determined our filtration system had failed. In Phase I (2015) we replaced the failed filtration system and rebuilt the concrete pipe in the cove area and remediated the bank erosion behind the homes on Riverdale. The fence was installed as a result of safety requirement mandated by SWFMD. The small pond control box was cleaned of excessive roots and debris allowing the free flow of water from the small pond to the large pond at the time of remediation of the large. At the same time, all the storm sewers were cleaned out. In Phase II (2016) aquatic plants were introduced as well as a no mow zone.

At the end of 2015, the Board of Directors created a Pond Landscape Committees to continue to improve and address our ponds.

We have brought in local and statewide experts in pond and bank erosion, engineers and a Master Gardener. Committee members are conducting analysis and extensive research studies to identify solutions. We have conducted many site visits and have considered many mitigation options. As a result we have identified significant erosion issues on both the small and large ponds. It is also clear these erosion issues are *not unusual for this area and in other ELW properties*. Based on experts' advice we created a temporary no mow zone around the ponds perimeters to mitigate some erosion while we work to develop a proactive long term plan to address this problem.

Here is the scope of the erosion and project information:

Large Pond:

- Approximately 1/2 of the large pond (from the Bottle Brush tree to the first corner of the alcove). The pond bank behind the homes on Riverdale and the filtration wall areas were previously addressed.

Small Pond:

- The entire circumference of the small pond.

Vendors, experts, engineers, and Master Gardeners have presented the following options (which may include a variety of interventions):

- retention walls (plastic or aluminum or concrete)
- rip rap
- vegetative mats
- artificial bank stabilization
- Coir Logs
- Geo Tubes
- Gabian Baskets
- Fleximat
- no mow zones around ponds
- fountain (aerator vs spray)

- plant rooting systems (combinations of several)

The costs of proposed mitigation efforts have varied substantially. The committee continues to study and obtain expert advice and input. This is expected to be a multi-year process. The committee minutes are presented to the HOA Board and posted on the Cross Creek website for your review.

No decision has been made except to establish a no mow zone around the ponds. We feel it's important for our residents to be informed of our erosion concerns and what's being done.

Please know every effort is being put forward to keep our costs at a minimum, while resolving the problems effectively and for the future. We welcome your comments and questions. You are welcome to attend our committee meetings. If you wish to be included in those meetings, please let Lynn know.

Chair: Lynn Romano (LynnFRomano@gmail.com)

Members: Bruce Berger, Doug Brown, Bud Harris, Connie Hillman, Janet Loomis

Submitted to the Cross Creek HOA Board by the Pond Landscape Committee, September 7, 2016.