

November 20, 2018

RE: Heron Lake Update

Hello Everyone:

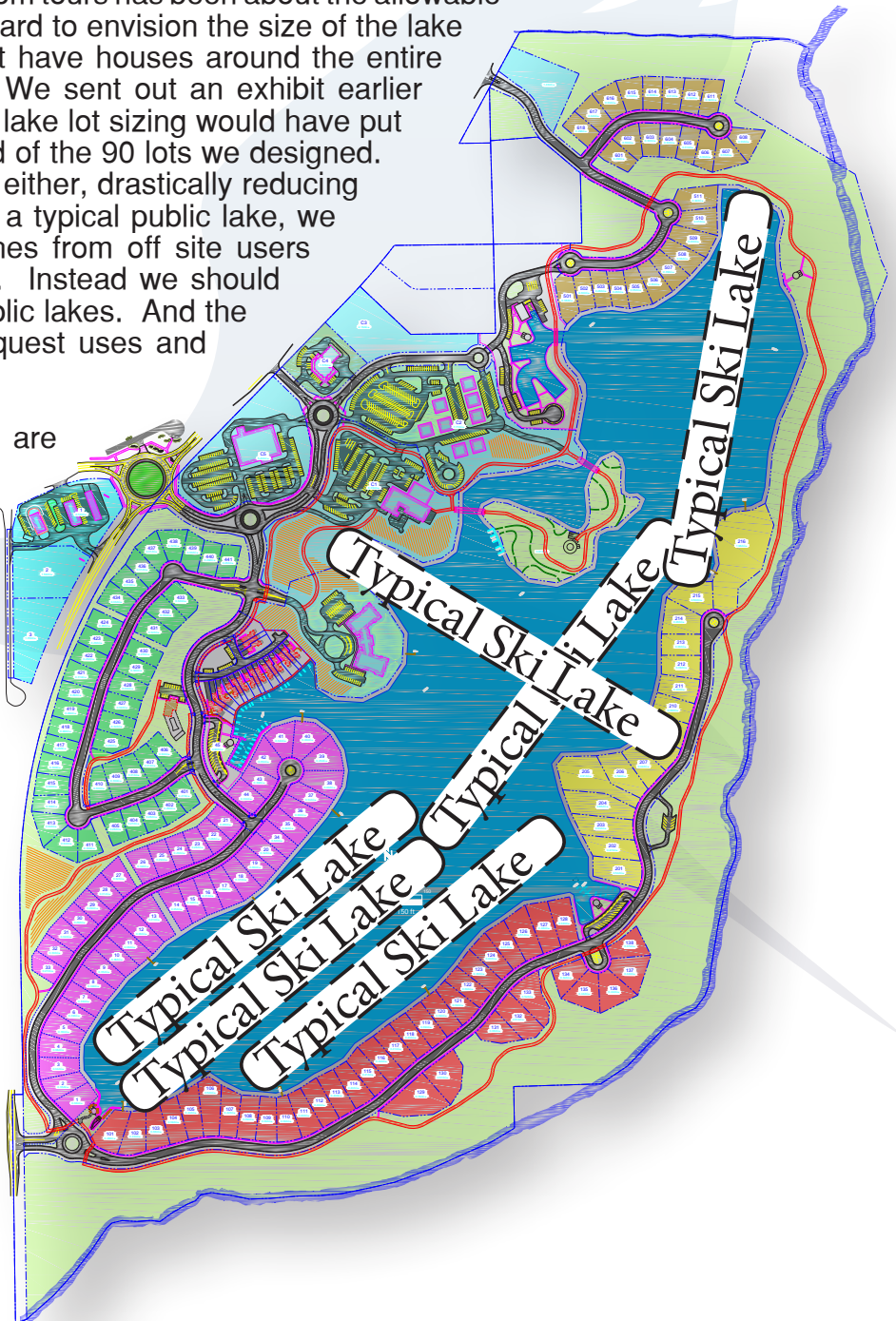
Has it really been two months since our last update?! Between the hectic schedule of tours and preparing for this upcoming spring construction window there haven't been many down times to catch our breath. But Thanksgiving is upon us again and it is important to pause and reflect on the incredible blessings that we have experienced this year. Similar to our most recent update, I have changed the format to allow for more update headings and pictures. As always please check out our website for additional information and exhibits.



Lake Activities Allowed

Currently the number one question from tours has been about the allowable lake activities. Many people find it hard to envision the size of the lake even during tours because we don't have houses around the entire perimeter for a scale comparison. We sent out an exhibit earlier this year showing how typical public lake lot sizing would have put 250 homes on our shoreline, instead of the 90 lots we designed. There is no public landing on Heron either, drastically reducing the number of boats. If Heron was a typical public lake, we would expect over 200 boat launches from off site users on a busy weekend in the summer. Instead we should have 25% the boating density of public lakes. And the residents are the ones that can request uses and controls.

The boating density numbers are useful but hardly convey the size and capabilities of Heron Lake. A better comparison might be the exhibit shown to the right. A typical 4-activity ski lake size is demonstrated in each box. Each box would be the limits of the ski lake. Generally slalom would be run in a figure eight arrangement on ski lakes of this length meaning that the lake shown would have 12 distinct slalom courses. Obviously Heron isn't going to have that many simultaneous courses. The exhibit is meant to show the flexibility in placing ski zones and special activities on the lake. The north and south basins can have much different events occurring at the same time. This still leaves all of the necessary turn around locations and still have plenty of water for other uses as well. Heron Lake is an all sports capable lake and we look forward to what the residents will choose to do on their lake!



Site preparation work

If you have taken a tour in the past two months you have seen first hand the continuing extensive site preparation work. We have prepping the north end and the remaining lakeshore for our final gravel extraction activities. It is hard to believe that they reclamation work that we started 4 years ago is coming to end. We are around 80% completed and should have the lake at the final shape and level by end of next summer. With the northern trail locations cleared, the vistas are breathtaking. The pavilion in the northern park space will certainly get plenty of traffic when completed.

Sunrise in Springs



See the Springs houses?



Cedar Creek trail route along north end



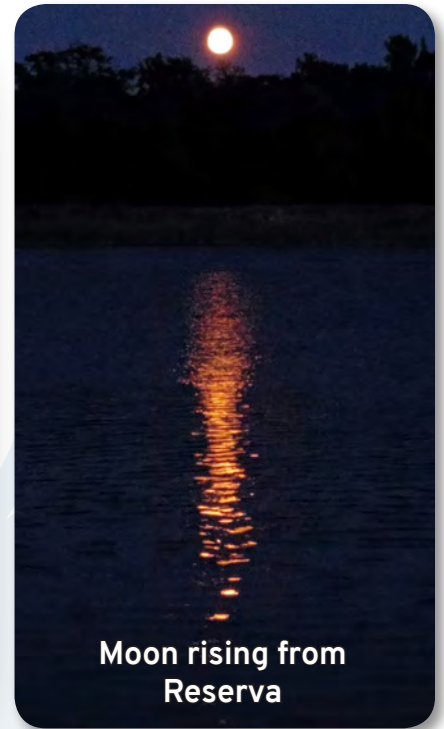
Another house start



Meadows basin prep clearing, looking south



Rendering of typical townhouse three-plex complex



Moon rising from Reserva

The Reserva townhouses

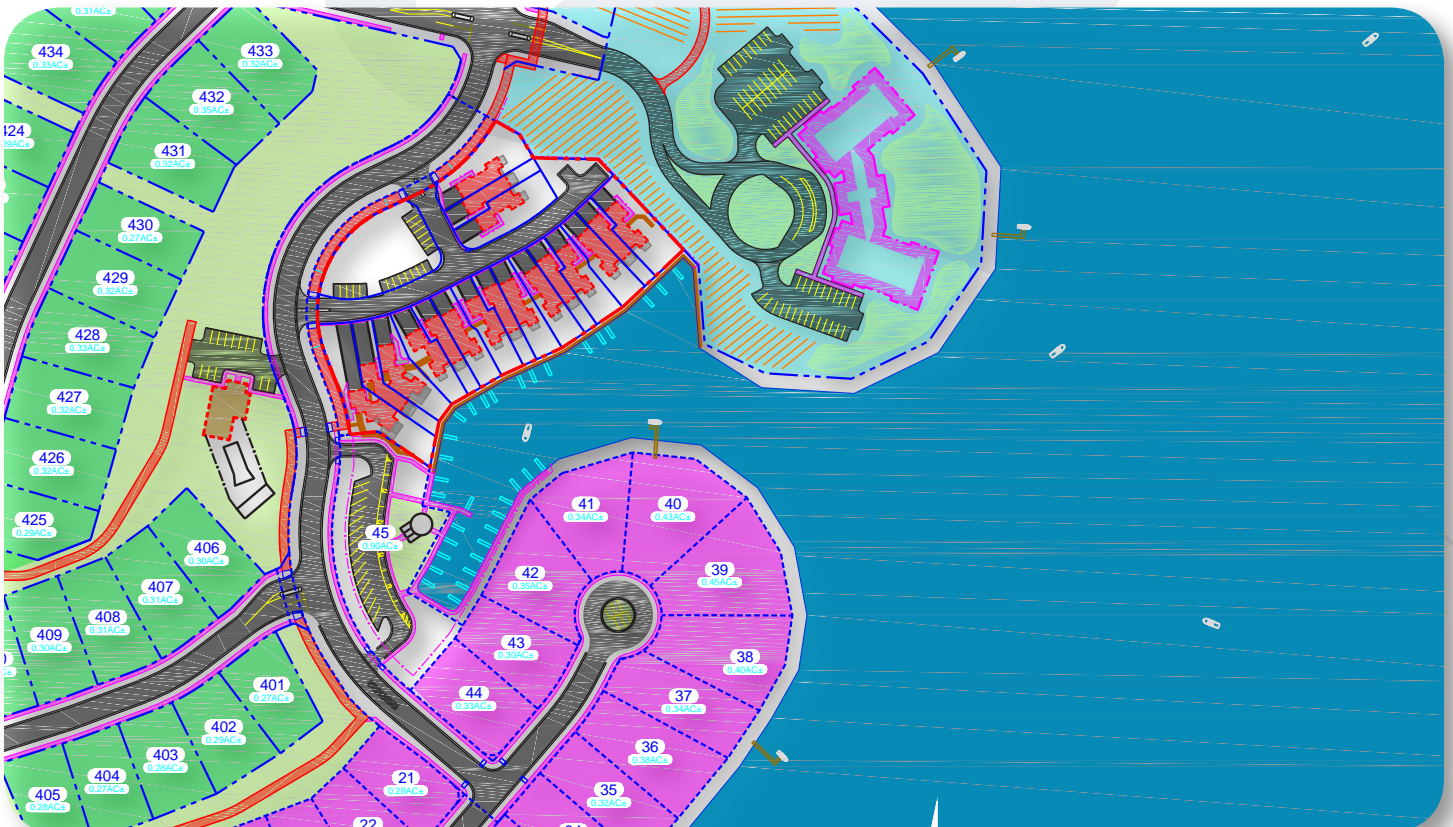
In the past update I shared that Timberlin Homes is building the townhouses within the Reserva and provided a rendering and layout.

Those construction and house plans are in full swing. The site has been prepped and we are excited about the foundations starting soon. The townhouses are lakefront with dedicated docks and spectacular views. Be sure to reach out to Timberlin to reserve yours.



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Misc Site updates

The beavers are still active on site and have continued to fell trees. In addition to our normal clearing we have removed most of those trees from the shoreline, see below.

The last remaining section of road near the lift station has been installed. That was waiting on the power and misc utility routing and we are excited to our road in place.

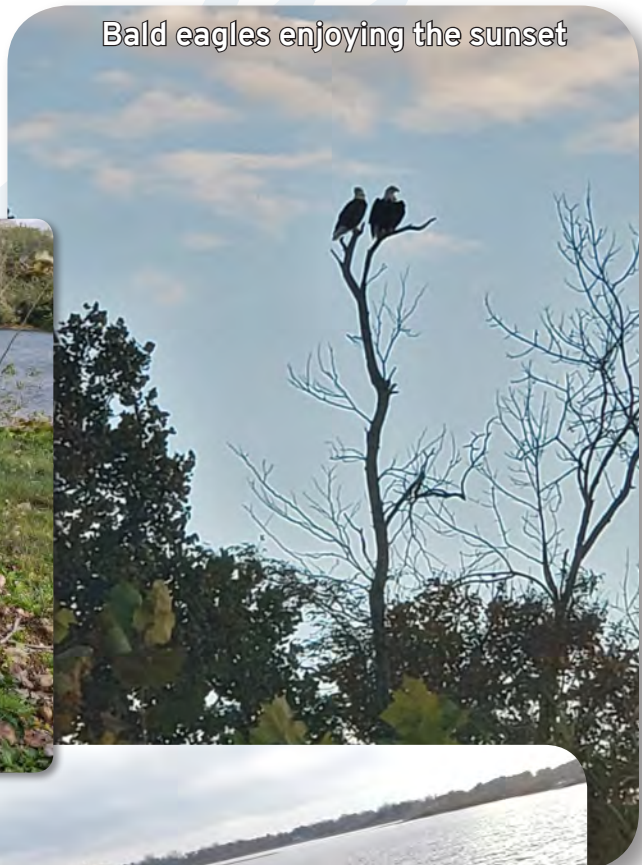


Lift station section of road completed

If you have gone on a tour or spent any length of time at Heron Lake you have probably seen the bald eagles flying around. It is truly stunning to watch them fish in the lake and care for their young. During one of our recent tours, the two adults were both hanging out on the same tree and we were able to get the quick picture to the right.



Beaver damage



Bald eagles enjoying the sunset

Final Thoughts

During this Thanksgiving week we are especially thankful for the support and encouragement that we have received this year. Even in the midst of uncontrollable delays and the inevitable gossip chains, we have felt supported and encouraged to forge ahead. We know that this project will provide a unique lifestyle opportunity for the region and look forward to making it a success!

My best regards,



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Removing beaver felled trees from lakeshore