

Keeping an Eye on the Pond - March 2021

Dear Friends,

Happy Spring!

We couldn't believe how quickly the ice melted. One day there were kids walking around on the ice over by the beach, and two days later that very spot was open water. (Which is why we had the binoculars trained on the kids and the phone ready to dial 9-1-1.) It seems that as soon as the ice was out (except for that island of ice floating around in the middle), creatures, human and otherwise, immediately got out onto the pond. We were out yesterday evening and were able to observe beaver activity, fish rising, paired up mallards searching the shoreline for nesting sites, and lots of happy people kayaking, fishing, boating, and sitting on the shore.

Our thoughts now turn to the condition of the pond, and what we need to do to keep it open and healthy. DCR wants to know if there has been any change in the floating mats/islands so that we can plan our strategy for eradicating, or at least minimizing them. If you are out on the pond, please reply to this email to let us know your findings. We noticed remnants of the islands along the north shore. However, when the water recedes, more will likely be revealed. We did not go to the outlet, but I believe that is where the greatest concentration is.

This spring feels like a new beginning in many ways. Hopefully, we can once again gather for pond and beach activities. Last year, with people looking for places to go, our pond offered the social distancing that was needed and therefore experienced more activity than usual. Hopefully, that will result in an understanding of the value of Hood Pond and more interest in our efforts. It definitely highlights the need for education regarding the responsible use of the pond. We all need to do our part.

Get out there if you can. And please remember to report your observations.
Thank you!

Robi Tobin and the Friends of Hood Pond