



Butler's Pond News

- *Preserving Quincy's Historic Treasure*

Volume 1, Issue 1

September 2015

Pond Preservation Goals

- *Reverse eutrophication*
- *Containment of invasive plants*
- *Improve water quality*
- *Rehabilitation of the water edge and embankment*
- *Wildlife care*

Introduction

Welcome to the first issue of the Butler's Pond newsletter! Our goal is to keep local residents informed of the ongoing activities related to Butler's Pond and encourage civic engagement and participation.

The Friends of Butler's Pond (FOBP) was established in 2010 following a series of public meetings initiated by local residents who have witnessed the Pond's deterioration over the years.

As it's clear that urgent action is required to preserve the pond and its remaining wildlife, the FOBP was formed to advocate on be-

half of the community to address all issues concerning Butler's Pond.

Since its formation, FOBP has sought and received community preservation funding from the City of Quincy to conduct annual treatment and removal of invasive plants, in-depth water quality and sediment studies, and landscape restoration projects for the Pond.

In addition, FOBP has conducted historical research, educational presentation, social events and annual clean-up activities, including the following:

- Butler's Pond web site and Facebook.
- Presentation of Butler's Pond History at Quincy Historical Society
- Environmental Treasure Tour of Butler's Pond
- Collaboration with local school and developer on Pond signage.
- Organizing annual trash pick-up for Butler's Pond on Cleaner Greener Day.
- Organizing annual winter skating party on Butler's Pond.

Inside this issue:

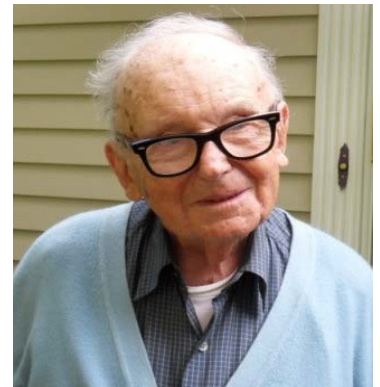
Choking Phramites	2
Source of Pollutants	2
Restoration Plan	3
You Can Make A Difference	3
Community Partners	3
Pond Activities	4
Acknowledgements	4

A Tribute to Mr. Walsh

John W Walsh Jr, principal of North Quincy High School from 1957 to 1971, is fondly remembered for his lifelong academic and teaching achievements. However, citizens may be less aware of another critical role he played—as then owner and care taker of Butler's Pond.

In response to Quincy School Committee's twice attempts in 1939 and 1953

to pave over the pond for playground space, Mr. Walsh resolved the conflict in December 1955 with his offer to donate the pond to the city "if the Municipality would preserve and beautify the pond." On October 7th, 1993, Butler's Pond was passed over to city ownership, under the direction of the Conservation Commission.



John William Walsh Jr.
6/5/1912 - 2/11/2012

Choking Phragmites



A view of Butler's Pond in 2010 when it was filled with invasive reeds. 7 years after pond's transfer of ownership to the city, the lack of routine cutting and removal of the reeds resulted in their explosive growth and advanced the pond's eutrophication.

The pond is currently in an advanced state of eutrophication. That means it will soon become a weed-choked, marshy bog, if no action is taken to reverse the process.

The Common Reed (aka Phragmites) contributes to the eutrophication process by trapping sediments, causing the pond to become increasingly shallow.

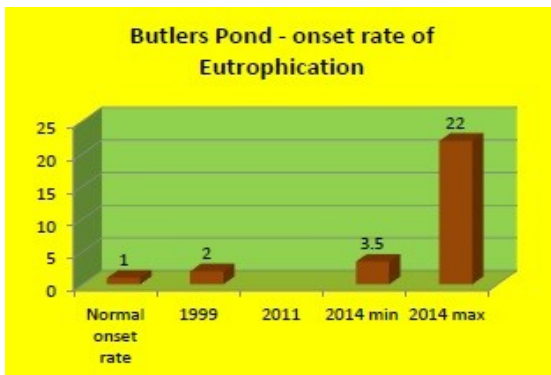
The rapid spread of the Common Reed also negatively impact the Pond's vegetation and wildlife with the formation of dense impenetrable mono-specific stands which exclude growth of native vegetation and not providing ideal shelter or food for wildlife.



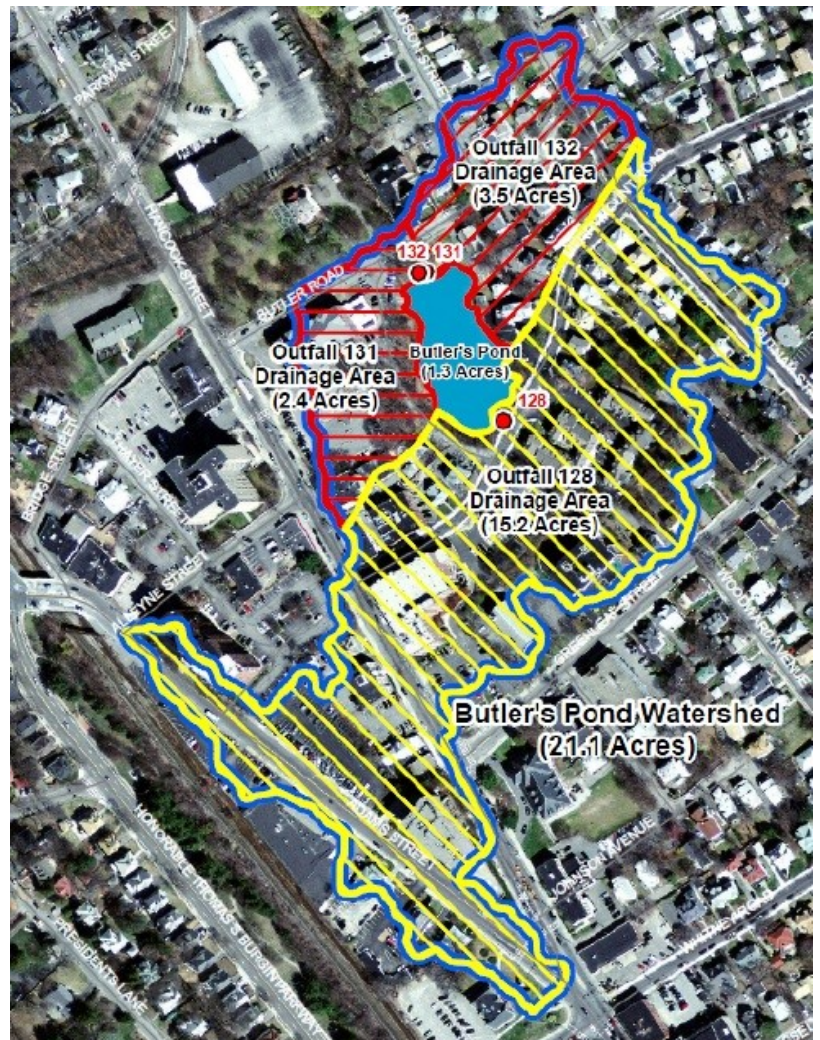
In 2011, FOBP commissioned Lycott to cut and remove all phragmites surrounding Butler's Pond. After cutting the reeds in Winter, hydro-rake machines were deployed in Spring to collect the reeds on the bank for removal by DPW. Annual treatment is required to control re-growth.

Sources of Pollutants

Butler's Pond's watershed is 21.1 acres with 1.3 acres of pond area. Significant amounts of phosphorus and bacteria flow into the pond during rain events from the surrounding watershed. Northern sub-basins (total 5.9 acres) provide most of the sediment and pollutant loading into the pond. Stormwater also carries sediment into the pond, decreasing water depths and negatively impacting water quality.



In-pond phosphorus level and bacteria toxicity have significantly increased in the past 15 years and are off-the-charts high. Sources of nutrients and bacteria include: lawn fertilizer, pet and wildlife waste, and possible sewer pipe leakage.



Restoration Plan

The restoration of Butler’s Pond requires a combination of 1) landscape restoration; 2) removal of pond sediment; and 3) reduction on watershed load of sediment and pollutants into the pond.

Pond Landscape Restoration

Tree thinning will have a number of positive effects:

- Facilitate pond maintenance.
- Reduction of falling leaves will reduce input of pond sediment.
- Improve visibility of the pond

Sediment Removal Program

Implementing a sediment removal program to “re-set” the pond by increasing water depths and removing excess nutrients. Benefits include:

- Discourage excessive aquatic plant growth
- Reducing algae blooms
- Improved water quality and dilution of nutrient load entering the pond
- Improves recreational value and wildlife habitat

Watershed Actions

- FOBP out-reach to local municipal and property developers to encourage Low Impact Development (LID) and incorporate stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) on future development efforts.
- Education of residents on fertilizer use, pet waste, wildlife feeding, etc.



In 2012, FOBP hosted its first annual ice-skating party on Butler’s Pond.

You Can Make A Difference

Pet Waste Control

All pet owners living in the vicinity of Butler’s Pond should be aware of the polluting effect of animal feces washed into the storm drains connected to the pond. Please pickup after your pet.

Car Wash

When washing your car at home, try washing it on the lawn instead of the driveway

or street. This allows your lawn to take up most of the hose water and filter out nutrients, bacteria, and other containments that would otherwise flow into the pond.

Lawn Maintenance

If lawn fertilization is necessary, limit it to one application in Autumn, using the slow- and controlled-release type of fertilizer. The grass

roots will store the nutrients for consumption in Spring.

Check the weather forecast and avoid applying fertilizers or pesticides when rain is forecast.

Hand-pick weeds and if treatment for insects or weeds is necessary, spot treat them rather than spraying the whole garden.

Consider creating a vegetative buffer on your property.

“Morning and evenings, [the pond] allow us neighbors as city dwellers, the luxury of seeing a site usually reserved for the country atmosphere.”

Community Partners

Kudos to Boston Property and Edgewood Development for their on-site stormwater management plans using environmental best management practices, which will significantly reduce sediment and pollutant runoffs into Butler’s Pond.

Boston Property Development

For its 1/3 acre 23-unit condo complex on 10-18

Merrymount Road, the developer has installed a deep-sump manhole and infiltration chamber system with the capacity to handle nearly 100% of the runoff from the roof, parking and paved areas.

Edgewood Development

For its 1.9 acre 46-unit condo complex on 1022 Han-

cock Street, the developer has committed to an extensive stormwater system upgrade for the site including rain gardens, leeching field, infiltration chamber systems, catch-basin upgrades and other landscape improvements.

The new system as proposed will significantly reduce the amount of unfiltered stormwater runoff to the pond.



2015 Cleaner Greener Day
FOBP removed a lot of trash in and around Butler’s Pond. Total haul included 8 bags of trash, 2 tires, a chair, a carpet, one dead turtle, and lots of liquor bottles.

Friends of Butler's Pond

Web: www.butlerspond.org

E-mail: butlerspond@gmail.com

Facebook: Friends of Butler's Pond (Quincy, MA)

To help preserve the Pond with a donation, visit our website.

The Friends of Butler's Pond is an organization aimed at preserving and enhancing Butler's Pond and its immediate surrounding area. We aim to help preserve and protect the fragile ecosystems while addressing the quality of life issues relating to Butler's Pond.

While small in size, Butler's Pond is of tremendous local importance, both as an educational resource for neighboring schools and a recreation and ecological resource for the many people living near the pond.

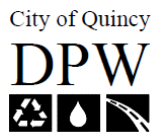
The Pond historically has been a meeting area for local residents to fish, skate and enjoy the wildlife of the pond as well as an outside classroom for schools in the immediate area. Wildlife visitors and residents of the Pond include bullfrogs, toads, snails, turtles, mallard ducks, Canadian Geese, hooded mergansers, cardinals, garden birds, herons, skunks, raccoons, and possums.

"I meet many people from the neighborhood who remember enjoying the pond when they were young. Skating in the winter on the pond and enjoying all the different noises of the wildlife living and visiting the pond all year. Sadly, it's been neglected far too long and we are all fearful that it will disappear before people realize they might have been able to help preserve the pond and the areas surrounding Butler's Pond." - PC

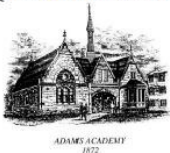


巴特勒池塘好友協會(FOBP)成立於2010年。我們的目標是恢復和保護巴特勒池塘的生態。這通訊是讓當地居民了解關與巴特勒池塘的復原計劃和有關於的活動。鼓勵大家參與和提供支持。想要進一步了解巴特勒池塘嗎？請與我們聯繫！
butlerspond@gmail.com

Acknowledgments



QUINCY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Quincy Community Preservation Committee



Butler's Pond Activities

Visit Butler's Pond web site (Calendar section) to see the dates for the following events:

Quarterly FOBP Meeting

FOBP's public meeting is held quarterly at the atrium of Thomas Crane Library. All are welcome to participate and contribute ideas and expertise.

Cleaner Greener Day

FOBP leads annual clean-up of Butler's Pond on Cleaner Greener Day, 1st Saturday in May.

Trash bags, gloves and rakes are provided courtesy of DPW.

Ice Skating Party

Annual ice skating party is held on Butler's Pond. The event is scheduled on the coldest weekend of the winter when the pond is completely frozen. Local residents are treated to hot coffee, hot chocolate drinks and donuts.

Rehabilitation and Restoration Activities

FOBP initiated research, studies, rehabilitation, and restoration activities in and on the pond periphery is posted on our web site, under Calendar, Reports and History sections.

Upcoming Event:

FOBP Q4 Meeting

November 4th, 2015

7:30pm—8:30pm

Thomas Crane Library Atrium

Hiệp Hội Ao Butler, the Friends of Butler's Pond, được thành lập năm 2010. Mục tiêu của chúng tôi là để khôi phục và bảo tồn hệ sinh thái của Ao Butler. Mục đích của bản tin này là để cập nhật tin tức về kế hoạch phục hồi ao và các hoạt động liên quan. Chúng tôi khuyến khích mọi người hỗ trợ và tham gia hiệp hội. Liên hệ chúng tôi tại địa chỉ butlerspond@gmail.com để tìm hiểu thêm về Ao Butler!