



Butler's Pond News

- Preserving Quincy's Historic Treasure

Volume 1, Issue 2

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Pond Preservation Goals

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

2015 Retrospective

Welcome to our 2nd issue of Butler's Pond newsletter. A lot has happened in the past 3 months since our previous publication. Highlight of Q4 activities includes:

- City funded study of the Pond's watershed/catchment area has substantially been completed with an updated drainage map and a large number of retrofit and improvement opportunities identified.
- Invasive weeds around the pond were treated to deter re-growth.
- Trees surrounding the Pond have been thinned out to improve the landscape and site maintenance.
- The Friends group organized a 2nd cleanup of the Pond and removed lots of trash and weeds.



A photo of the numerous bags of trash and weeds collected by the Friends group last November. Thanks to everyone who participated in the successful cleanup: local residents, Quincy DPW, and the construction crew of Edgewood Development.

What is the Value of Butler's Pond?

We are often asked to define the value of Butler's Pond to justify the significant cost associated with the pond's conservation project.

Urban ponds have always served a variety of purposes, including fire protection, energy conservation, wildlife habitat, recreation, erosion control, and landscape improvement.

Protecting and restoring Butler's Pond not only help to conserve Quincy's natural heritage, but also provide valued ecosystem services and economic benefit for the city and the public.

Flood Control:

The City of Quincy uses Butler's pond to prevent flooding. 33.5 acres of pub-

lic and private land in the pond watershed have catch basins that redirects stormwater runoff into the pond to retain runoff water during storms and disperse it over large areas.

Socio-Economic Value:

Ponds in urban areas such as Quincy Center help to conserve and improve landscape quality. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture: "Water adds variety to an urban landscape and further enhances its quality. Reflections in water attract the eye and help to create a contrast or focal point in the landscape. A healthy and well-maintained pond visible from a home, patio, or entrance road increases the

attractiveness of the landscape and increases the value of the surrounding land."

Significant monetary value is derived from a visually appealing Pond given the increased tax revenue generated from the surrounding properties.

Therefore, it is important to understand the benefits of flood mitigation and tax revenue stream increase which derives from the Pond. The result of the enhanced landscape with the rehabilitated pond, will significantly outweigh the short term cost of pond sediment removal work and retrofitting of catch basins in the Pond's watershed to slow down the eutrophication process and extending the pond's longevity.

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Since the major cutting and removal of the Common Reed (aka Phragmites) 4 years ago, FOBP has been working with the Quincy DPW to control the re-growth of this invasive weed in the Pond. Phragmites contributes to the eutrophication process by trapping sediments, causing the pond to become increasingly shallow. The Japanese knotweed also took hold in the recent years and spread relentlessly, overwhelming other plants and damaging the Pond ecosystem.

A photograph of a pond almost entirely covered in a thick layer of green duckweed. A small patch of open water is visible in the center, where a group of about six ducks are swimming. The pond is bordered by lush green vegetation, including tall reeds and various leafy plants. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

A family of ducks sitting on a log in August 2015 when the pond was covered with algae & water meal and surrounded by overgrowth of phragmites and Japanese knot weeds.

As part of the city-wide project to upgrade storm drains, the Department of Public Works commissioned the service of Woodard & Curran to study Butler's Pond watershed. The result is an updated drainage map showing the 33.5 acre watershed within which all stormwater runoffs from paved streets and driveways drain into the 1.3 acre Pond.

There are 3 sub-watersheds (ID 128, 131, & 132): 19.97 acres for sub-catchment area 132 (1st Butler Rd outfall), 5.83 acres for area 131 (2nd Butler Rd outfall), and 7.73 acres for area 128 (Merrymount Rd outfall). 77% of the sediment and pollutant from the entire watershed flows to the two outfalls on Butler Road.



Stormwater Management Plans

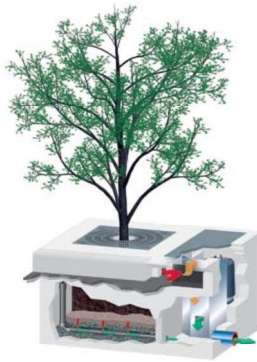
A major threat to the pond is untreated storm-water runoff from streets and paved areas within the pond watershed. The runoff carries sedimentation and nutrient pollution into the pond, promoting the growth of invasive reeds and pond scum. Controlling this runoff is essential to the long-term success of pond restoration efforts.

Based on the recent study of the Pond's watershed, 37 catchment sites (27 public & 10 private) have been identified with opportunities for stormwater retrofitting that can reduce sediment and toxic runoffs into the Pond. Types of retrofitting:

- Retrofit catch basins with tree-box filters, which are relatively low maintenance.
- Encourage property owners with private dry-wells to maintain their existing wells (especially apartment/condo buildings).

- Encourage property owners to install new rain gardens.
- Create gravel wetland areas to filter out-fall discharges at each end of the Pond.

The total combined cost for all those projects is large and will need to be programmed over a number of years.



Here is a sample diagram showing the internals of a tree box filter. Stormwater runoffs are filtered through the mixed soil and roots before flowing into the drain pipe.

Turtle Crossing



After depositing her eggs, a snapping turtle was seen leaving the ground of a condo property across from the Pond. Last September, a few months after deposit of the eggs, baby turtles hatched and mostly made their way back to the Pond, thanks to the help of local residents.

Did You Know... (A Very Brief History of Butler's Pond—Part 1)

Butler's Pond has been part of the landscape since the end of the last Ice Age, 10,000 years ago. The story of the people who have lived by it is a précis of the changes in the community.

For centuries, the pond was part of the area where the Massachusetts people had their primary settlement. In the English colonial period, the Quincy family owned the pond for four generations and built their earliest houses along its sides. By the time Dorothy Quincy and John Hancock

married, both homestead and pond had already passed to the Alleyne family. Boston merchant Moses Black owned the house and pond from 1778 to 1825 and left his name on Black's Creek.

The property then descended via the Greenleaf family to Dr. Ebenezer Woodward, who in 1865 deeded the pond to the town. Another Boston merchant, Peter Butler, rented the homestead but evidently purchased the pond from the town in 1871 and left his name on it. In the 1880s, the homestead

was owned by clergyman and historian Daniel Munro Wilson, who managed its transfer to the Colonial Dames and the MDC in 1904. The pond, however, passed in 1900 from the Butler family to Eugene O'Connor, a former employee of the Butler's, and in 1914, to O'Connor's nephews, John and Michael Walsh.

During all this time, the pond was twice as large as it is now and reached almost to Greenleaf Street. The 20th century would be a time of stress, change, and controversy for the pond.

The Good Old Days



A photo from early 1900s of a family leisurely canoeing on Butler's Pond, prior to urban development. Back then the pond was twice its current size.

Old Central School Property Update

The Edgewood Development Company began its renovation of the former Central Middle School in the fall. The property contributes 5.8% of stormwater runoff in the Pond watershed.

Edgewood will be installing a contemporary stormwater management system for the property as well as upgrading two existing City-owned catch basins on Butler

Road. State-of-the-art, vegetated "rain gardens" will filter stormwater before it enters the pond. Those enhancement will dramatically improve the quality of the water entering the pond from these locations.

In the spring, FOBP and Edgewood will also coordinate other public amenities such as pond signage and public benches.



Site developer placed organic filter tubes along the bank of the pond on Marginal Road to detain flow and capture sediment from the construction site.

Friends of Butler's Pond

Web: www.butlerspond.org

E-mail: butlerspond@gmail.com

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

- Email us to receive digital copy of the FOBP newsletter and future FOBP news delivered digitally to your email box.
- To help preserve the Pond with a donation, visit our website.

About Our Friends Group

Since its founding in 2010 by local residents, Friends of Butler's Pond (FOBP) has been working in partnership with the City of Quincy and developers and property owners in the pond watershed area on a long range, multi-stage program to reverse the deteriorating condition of the pond and to restore and preserve it as an attractive community resource.

Over the past 5 years, FOBP has worked with the City of Quincy Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) to conduct environmental studies of the pond, remove invasive phragmites reeds and control their regrowth, clear underbrush, thin trees, plant native species, and conduct trash pickups around the pond.

Through its newsletter, website and Facebook, FOBP informs the community of issues, projects and events concerning the Pond, which is of tremendous importance to its neighboring residents.

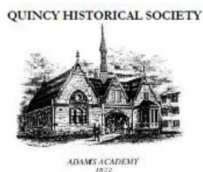
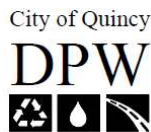
A sentiment for the pond that is shared by many:

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



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 Community Preservation Committee



2016 Pond Events

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

- City of Quincy Pond Hockey Classic* Saturday, January 30th & Sunday, January 31st
- February Quarterly Meeting** Tuesday, February 16th
- Annual Skating Party Saturday, February 13th
- Cleaner Greener Day Saturday, May 7th
- May Quarterly Meeting Tuesday, May 17th
- August Quarterly Meeting Tuesday, August 16th
- November Quarterly Meeting Tuesday, November 15th
- Butler's Pond Fall Cleanup Saturday, November 5th

* If weather does not allow for puck drop, the hockey tournament will be moved to the next weekend - Saturday, Feb. 6th and Sunday, Feb. 7th.

** Friends of Butler's Pond holds public meeting on the Tuesday of the 2nd month of each quarter in the atrium of Thomas Crane Library. All are welcome to participate and contribute ideas and expertise.



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!