



# Butler's Pond News

- Preserving Quincy's Historic Treasure

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## Pond Preservation and Restoration Efforts Continues...

Much has happened with Butler's Pond and it's Friends Group (FOBP) since our second newsletter publication 18 months ago:

- Educational pond signage installed corners of Marginal, Butler and Merrymount Roads.
- Rain gardens installed on edges of Butler's Pond
- The Pond's stormwater catch basins replaced and upgraded on Butler Road.
- FOBP cleaned up the trash around Butler's Pond in the Spring and Autumn of 2015, 2016 and 2017.
- FOBP sponsored community meeting in 2016 for City engineering and environment consultants to provide update to local residents on the Pond restoration project and discuss possible changes to the Pond landscape for stormwater run-off improvement. See inside article for details on project design, permitting and current status.

## Let's Build Rain Gardens!

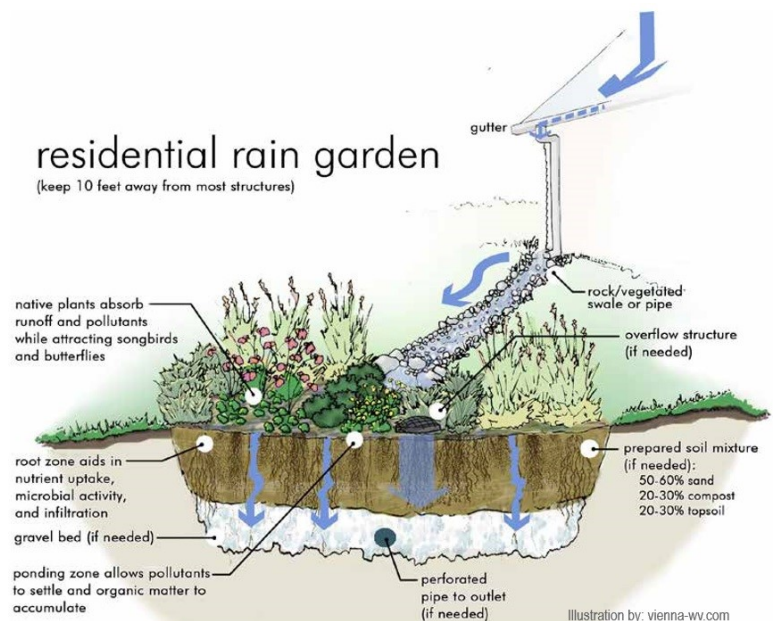
Did you know that average residential property can contribute over 5,000 gallons of stormwater runoff in a single 1" rainfall event? Impervious surfaces like sidewalks, rooftops and driveways contribute significantly to stormwater runoff. So what does that have to do with rain gardens and why are they important to you and the pond?

Rain gardens soak up rain where it falls, in turn reducing rainwater runoff into streets and drainage systems which flows into Butler's Pond. Here are the other benefits of rain gardens:

- Provide a place for rainwater to infiltrate, which in turn help protect against erosion and reduce localized flooding.
- Filter pollutants like bacteria and fertilizer.
- Create attractive landscaping while reducing the time and resources you spend maintaining a lawn.

Think of a raingarden as another garden for your yard, except these are bowl shaped and placed in low-point location(s) that can catch rainwater from your downspouts or driveway. Many plants can be utilized in rain gardens which will enhance the look of your yard. Native plants actually increase infiltration over time be-

cause of their strong root system. Build rain gardens in locations that can collect water in your yard. Areas where runoff naturally accumulates (e.g. near roof downspout, driveway or other low points). Avoid steep slope which requires more work to create a berm.



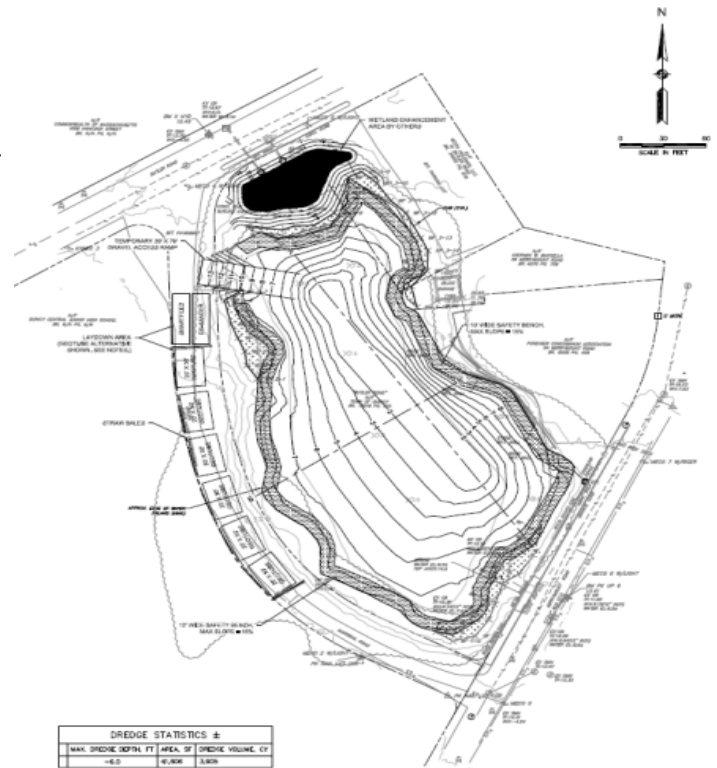
## Butler's Pond Restoration Project - Status Update

The Butler's Pond Restoration Project entered the design and permitting phase in the fall of 2015 when the City of Quincy hired ESS Group, Inc. (ESS) to complete a pond dredge design and obtain the permits and approvals necessary for the project to move forward. This phase of the project included additional site assessments (including wetland delineation, site survey, and sediment coring and analysis), preparation of permit-level design plans, and preparing and filing permit applications to local, state, and federal agencies. The restoration project comprises two primary components – removal of approximately 3,900 cubic yards of accumulated soft sediment from the pond (pond dredging), and construction of a gravel treatment wetland along Butler Road to provide sediment storage and water quality treatment for stormwater runoff entering the pond. The gravel treatment wetland was designed by Woodard & Curran.

Additional site assessments were completed between the fall of 2015 and spring of 2016. Permit-level design plans were subsequently completed by the summer of 2016, and in October 2016 the first regulatory permit application – the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) – was filed with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). In November 2016, the EEA approved the ENF, and in early January of this year ESS filed the Notice of Intent application with the Quincy Conservation Commission. The Commission held a public hearing on the project on February 1, 2017, and voted unanimously to approve it.

A third permit application, the Request for Section 401 Water Quality Certification, was submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection shortly after the approval of the NOI; review of this application is on-going and expected by this summer. The final regulatory requirement was satisfied by submitting a Self-Verification Form for the project to the United States Army Corps of Engineers in March.

Once the required project approvals are obtained, FOBP will be working with the City to obtain the necessary funding to implement the final phase of the Butler's Pond Restoration Project: removal of pond sediment and construction of gravel treatment wetland. A number of possible sources are being explored at both the local and state levels.



*Butler's Pond restoration dredge design (ESS).*

## YOU Can Help Protect and Restore Butler's Pond

Advocate for the restoration of Butler's Pond by taking the following actions:

- Contact Mayor Koch and your ward councilor:
 

Mayor Koch	<a href="mailto:mayorkoch@quincyma.gov">mayorkoch@quincyma.gov</a>	617-376-1990
Ward 1 - Margaret Laforest	<a href="mailto:mforest@quincyma.gov">mforest@quincyma.gov</a>	617-376-1351
Ward 5 - Kirsten Hughes	<a href="mailto:khughes@quincyma.gov">khughes@quincyma.gov</a>	857-939-9084
- Visit the City's "Quincy 400" web site (<https://www.quincyma.gov/qfour/>) and take 5 minutes to take the survey about our great City and its future. Protecting and enhancing the things that makes your neighborhood great is one of the central theme of the Quincy 400 initiative. Voice your demand for Butler's Pond restoration in your neighborhood!

Need more motivation and inspiration? Go to Youtube.com and watch the "Quincy 400" introduction video. (Tip: search for video title "Quincy 400 Introduction 2017")



Rain garden construction showcase on the corner of Pond View Condo property, which abuts Butler's Pond.

## Butler's Pond History - Part 2

Although the pond and neighboring street are named after him, Peter Butler is a semi-forgotten figure in modern Quincy. We usually say he owned the Quincy Homestead and surrounding land in the 1800s, imply that he was rich, refer to a hardware business, and that's it. Internet sources yield a fuller picture, with possibilities for more research.

Peter Butler was born in 1820 in Oxford, Massachusetts. Peter established himself in Boston and married Lucia Proctor, whose father was a leading hardware merchant. Peter became a partner in the firm. Which came first is unclear. "Hardware" seems to entail trade and manufacture, not just a retail store. Peter was the principal partner in two subsequent firms.

The Homestead was the family summer home for years and seems to have been a year-round home in the 1870s and 80s. Peter became a devotee of

history, a member of New England Historical Genealogical Society and an officer of Huguenot heritage organizations (in honor of his paternal grandmother). He was also active in the Democratic Party, serving on the state committee and elected to the Governor's Council. Peter's son, Sigourney Butler, became a prominent lawyer in Boston and Quincy. Sigourney served on Quincy's School Committee and, with Josiah Quincy, wrote Quincy's first City Charter.

Peter Butler died in 1894. There are indications that he was a significant part of the Boston establishment: of building railroads north of Boston and steamship lines to New York, of friendship with *Boston Globe* founder Charles Taylor, and of helping Oakes and Oliver Ames in financing the Union Pacific Railroad. - Ed Fitzgerald, Quincy Historical Society



After laying her eggs across the road at Merrymount Townhouse mailbox lawn, the mother snapping turtle returned to the pond on the morning of May 29th, 2016. Video of her journey home is available for viewing on the FOBP Facebook. [f](#)

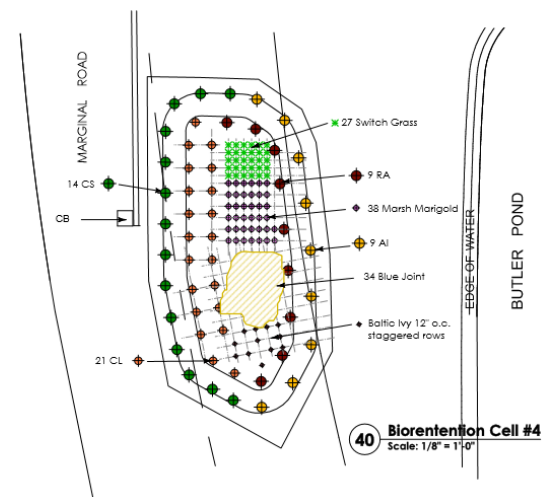
## Former Central Middle School Site Improvements

The Edgewood Development Company, LLC ("Edgewood") is pleased to contribute to the on-going efforts to improve the Butler's Pond environment. In cooperation with City planners and the Friends of Butler's Pond (FOBP), Edgewood constructed five (5) rain gardens, two (2) on site and three (3) along Marginal Road to capture and treat stormwater from the site. Those gardens are part of the overall stormwater management system, which also include underground storm-filters and groundwater recharge infiltration chambers. The total system will reduce more than 80% of site sediments and pollutants prior to entering the pond.

The rain gardens were planted with various types of native vegetation which will filter nutrients from the stormwater. A large number of wetland plants were also planted on the slopes of the pond to stabilize the soil. Prior to the rehabilitation of the site, all of the stormwater flowed untreated into the pond. FOBP calculated the site represents 9.6% of the pond's watershed.

Edgewood has installed informational signs and will be installing new benches for residents to enjoy the pond. The company also replaced and upgraded two (2) stormwater catch basins on Butler Road. The new basins have "deep sumps" which will capture sediments and heavy materials from the street prior to the water entering the pond.

In conclusion, Edgewood is pleased to have worked with the City and FOBP to make these improvements around Butler's Pond. We expect the improvements will have a positive impact on water quality and the future enjoyment of the Pond by the neighborhood. - Tim Higgins, VP, Edgewood Development Company





## Friends of Butler's Pond

Web: [www.butlerspond.org](http://www.butlerspond.org)

E-mail: [butlerspond@gmail.com](mailto: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:

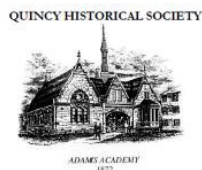
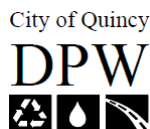
"Morning and evenings, [the pond] allow us neighbors as city dwellers, the luxury of seeing a site usually reserved for the country atmosphere."



A Black-Crowned Night-Heron was seen visiting Butler's Pond, which was covered with watermeal during the summer of 2016.

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](mailto:butlerspond@gmail.com)

## Acknowledgments



Quincy Community Preservation Committee



## Animal Droppings Pollute Butler's Pond

Most people assume animal excrements are fertilizers that are harmless to their environment. In reality, stormwater carries pet waste and other pollutants directly into waterways, including Butler's Pond, which is overloaded with nutrients. Excess nitrogen from animal waste allows algae and weeds to grow rapidly, depletes the water of oxygen, damaging the aquatic environment and poisoning turtles, fish and frogs. Animal waste may contain harmful organisms such as Giardia, Salmonella and E. coli that can be transmitted to humans and other animals ingesting contaminated water. If you are a pet owner, it's easy to clean up by carrying plastic baggies and paper towels in your pocket. The baggies can be secured and thrown away in the garbage.



## 2017 Pond Events

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

- August **Quarterly Meeting** \* Tuesday, August 1st
- November **Quarterly Meeting** \* Tuesday, November 15th
- Butler's Pond Fall Cleanup Saturday, November 18th

\* 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](mailto:butlerspond@gmail.com) để tìm hiểu thêm về Ao Butler!