

2021 DRAFT NRAB WELFLEET POND MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Draft date June 15, 2021)

WATER QUALITY & MONITORING

Build a Wellfleet database of critical pond data collected by the CCNS, Wellfleet, State and APCC. (Note: CCNS stopped collecting data two years ago)

- Chemistry: Ph, Nitrogen, Phosphates, Mercury
- Water and air temperature
- Dissolved oxygen
- Clarity
- Cyanobacteria
- Coliform Bacteria.

All of the above data has been collected for years, but exists in different silos.

- o Review biannually and correlate with climate change data.
- o Propose early mitigations if warranted.

Encourage short-term use of the most fragile areas of the ponds, especially areas without toilets. At the Sluice, Duck, and Dyer Ponds prohibit all food and all beach chairs, baby enclosures, etc. Proactively make the statement that these beaches are to be used for a quick swim, not an all-day visit.

- o Monitor damaged areas at highly used Ponds such as Gull and Long Pond and annually record positive and negative changes
- o Require boat and paddle board cleaning to alleviate spreading issues from pond to pond

What is the prospect for fish and wildlife with rising air and water temperatures, invasive species, increasing human footprint? Determine which ponds are still being stocked and review/study which species are most resilient.

SHORELINES, PATHS AND PARKING

Monitor CCNS efforts to control invasive plants. This effort has been sporadic and controversial, but is critical.

Continue efforts to replenish eroding shorelines

Work with Beach Administrator to determine reasonable expectations in Town and beach management support. Current beach resources are limited and beaches overpacked with no recourse during summer months; public aggressive in trampling around ponds - impacts erosion and will be tough with low water this summer.

Create a joint Wellfleet/CCNS task force to repair or remove old abandoned houses turned over to the park 20+ years ago. They continue to decay and potentially pollute around ponds and shorelines.

MANAGEMENT OF PONDS TO ADDRESS CURRENT ISSUES

Study jurisdiction parameters of Wellfleet, CCNS, and State on critical issues of pond management and propose a method of effective, coordinated management. How can citizen efforts merge with various bodies of influence and oversight?

Encourage upgrade all septic systems to at least Title V. Determine availability to offer financial incentives for homes owned near ponds.

EDUCATION RESOURCES

Set up a process to share pond experience and information with Cape towns from Brewster to Provincetown. Perhaps hold an annual multi-town meeting, a smaller version of State of the Wellfleet Harbor.