



Pond Condition Progress Report and Work Plan 2013

Cape Cod National Seashore



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Year 14

Introduction

During the 2012-2013 AmeriCorps year, we undertook a pond condition assessment and erosion mitigation project to help solve problems related to erosion and visitor use at many of the ponds in Wellfleet and Truro. It was decided that the ponds needed critical and direct erosion and overuse corrections to maintain their health and guide visitors to better use patterns. A Ponds Workgroup was formed that included a core group of seashore staff partnered with the AmeriCorps member placed in the National Seashore Planning office. Our workgroup focused mostly on the Wellfleet ponds this year because they were higher priorities for immediate work.

The condition progress report provides a summary of the work we did at the Wellfleet ponds, and the work plan identifies a list of the priorities at Truro ponds to focus on for the coming year, as well as routine check-up items throughout the ponds area. This document is essentially an update of a *Pond Needs Assessment* done by AmeriCorps member Patrick Roehrdanz in August 2002. It is broken up into groups of ponds based on those that are in close proximity to each other to make site visits simpler. For each pond there is a list of the work we did and the follow-up or additional work that is needed.

Ponds

Below is a list of all of the ponds in Wellfleet and Truro that we have worked on or that are priorities for further work. Also listed are the other ponds in the area that we have not included in our pond work because they have limited public access and therefore do not have the same erosion problems as the rest.

Wellfleet:

- Dyer
- Duck
- Spectacle
- Higgins
- Herring
- The Sluiceway (town landing at Gull-Higgins Ponds with NPS-owned land adjacent)
- Long Pond "pocket" or walk-in park (also has town-owned landing)
- Great (town landing)
- Gull (town landing)

Truro:

- Snow
- Great
- Ryder

- Slough
- Horseleech

Limited public access:

- Kinnacum
- Northeast
- Round
- Southeast
- Turtle
- Williams

Pond groupings

Below are the same ponds (excluding ones that are town landings or that have limited access) broken into 5 groups to make the site visits as convenient as possible. Group 1 is made up of Truro ponds that are the priority for 2013-2014 because we did not do much work on them this year. The other groups are mostly ponds that we worked on in 2012-2013 so they will need to be checked to see how the work we did is holding up and if anything is needed.

Group 1: (priority for 2014)

- Ryder
- Snow
- Great (Truro)

Group 2:

- Duck
- Dyer

Group 3:

- Long
- Spectacle

Group 4:

- Herring (Black Pond Road access)
- Slough
- Horseleech

Group 5:

- Herring (Schoolhouse Hill Road access)
- Higgins
- Sluiceway

Work Procedure

- Conduct site assessment and log needs, supplies, and whose help is needed.
- Submit park work orders and AmeriCorps group project request forms as needed.
- Order supplies and organize workdays.
- Consult with conservation commission as needed.
- Record visitor use on monitoring sheet (see appendix A).

Group 1: Ryder, Snow and Great (Truro) Ponds

In 2013 we simply did a quick assessment of whether major work was needed prior to the summer season, and took the opportunity to install new signs.

Ryder Pond

Work completed:

- Installed “Protect Ponds” and “Pond Regulations” signs at parking area (see appendix B and C).

Follow-up:

- Evaluate need for erosion mitigation on Elsie’s Way, paths and at access area, and implement any needed action.
- Check on condition of split rail fence and signs at parking area.

Snow Pond

Work completed:

- Installed “Protect Ponds” and “Pond Regulations” signs.
- Made temporary fix for snow fencing along the trail to the right of the pond.

Follow-up:

- Evaluate need for erosion mitigation on paths and at access area, and implement any needed action.
- Fix and/or remove/replace old snow fencing that is attached to split rail fence along the trail to the right side of the pond.
- Monitor condition of signs.
- Check any other access points to pond.

Great (Truro) Pond

Work completed:

- Installed “Protect Ponds” and “Pond Regulations” signs.

Follow-up:

- Evaluate need for erosion mitigation on paths and at access area, and implement any needed action.
- Monitor condition of signs.
- Consider new sign post at Collins Road.

Group 2: Duck, Dyer and Great (Wellfleet) Ponds

Duck Pond

Work completed:

- Installed jute netting using biodegradable staples to stop erosion on the trail and to allow revegetation in the future. This will help improve water quality changes due to rain water runoff from the trail.
- Installed fencing to keep visitors off the jute and out of the washed out sections of the trail and onto new trail to make sure the erosion does not continue (rope fencing was vandalized and most rope and posts were removed and replaced with split rail).
- Installed split rail fence at parking area to limit the parking to the area that is town land, designate where the spaces should be, and avoid disturbance of the surrounding vegetation by vehicles.
- Installed “Pond Regulations” sign at bottom of the trail and “Protect Ponds” sign at the top, as well as in valley to east and dog park area where social trails lead to pond.



Follow-up:

- Monitor jute netting to make sure it stays staked down and is not a tripping hazard in places where it is on the traveled path, and check for vegetation regrowth.
- Repair vandalized sections of fence, if still an issue.
- Make sure closed sections of the old path remain closed.
- Keep an eye on condition of split rail in parking area (and keep in touch with the town on any improvement needs), and the condition of the signs.
- Check social trails, particularly to the east since many people use power lines or dog park to access the pond.

Dyer Pond

Work completed:

- Installed split rail and rope fencing at main, west access point to direct visitor use away from washed out path and onto a second path to the right, and to restrict access at small secondary access points to prevent those areas from becoming eroded.
- Laid jute netting using biodegradable staples to catch material that washes down the eroded path, and planted native plants to stabilize path and deter visitors from walking.
- Installed split rail fencing, rope fencing, plantings and jute netting at “rope swing area” to completely close off access and stop erosion.
- Installed log wall at rope swing area to hold back part of the hill from eroding and washing into the pond.
- Added more fencing and jute netting to the south side of the pond past the rope swing area to close off smaller paths and access points.
- Installed “Protect Ponds” and “Pond Regulations” signs at several locations.



Follow-up:

- Monitor condition of fencing, jute netting, and signs at all access areas on west and south sides of pond.
- Check on the plantings and how the former washed-out path is looking.
- Make sure the closed area by the rope swing is enough of a deterrent to use.

Group 3: Long and Spectacle Ponds

Long Pond

Work completed:

- Completed inventory of environmental site conditions.
- Installed “Protect Ponds” and “Pond Regulations” signs.
- Moved picnic tables and bike rack away from vegetation in former circular drive.
- Helped Bob Hayes install new gate at access road to block illegal parking.
- Waterbar at end of driveway (in progress).



Follow-up:

- Monitor vegetation at pond edge and in circular area near pond.
- Check status of waterbar.
- Check condition of access road and sign.

Spectacle Pond

Work completed:

- Installed split rail fence at parking area to limit parking to avoid disturbance of the surrounding vegetation by vehicles.
- Installed rope fencing at access point to direct visitor use to one area of access point to slow erosion at other areas (was later vandalized and completely removed).
- Replaced vandalized rope fencing with split rail fencing.
- Installed jute using biodegradable staples on pond edge to stabilize the soil where it is extremely eroded.
- Installed new "Pond Regulations," "Protect Ponds," and "Area Closed" signs.



Follow-up:

- Keep an eye on the progress of erosion at access point, and work on getting the step installed if it hasn't been done yet.
- Monitor jute netting and condition of fencing.
- Consider Aquatic Ecologist and Plant Ecologist idea of restoring shoreline to former configuration.

Group 4: Herring, Slough and Horseleech Ponds

Herring Pond (Black Pond Road access)

Work completed:

- Installed “Protect Ponds” and “Pond Regulations” signs.

Follow-up:

- Monitor condition of sign and use of area.

Horseleech Pond

Work completed:

- Repaired sections of split rail fence along road and at 3-car parking area.
- Installed “Protect Ponds” and “Pond Regulations” signs.



Split rail before repairs

Follow-up:

- Check on condition of split rail fencing and signs.

Slough Pond

Work completed:

- Installed split rail at parking area to designate parking spaces and limit spaces to match the number in the compendium.
- Laid jute netting using biodegradable staples and installed native plantings on path to eroded access point.
- Closed off eroded access point with split rail fence.
- Installed new “Protect Ponds” and “Pond Regulations” sign at parking area.



Follow-up:

- Check on condition of split rail fencing at closed off area and parking area.
- Identify if other new access points are created.
- Monitor condition of jute, plantings, and signs.

Group 5: Herring and Higgins Ponds, and the Sluiceway

Herring (Schoolhouse Hill Road access) and Higgins Pond area

Work completed:

- Installed one new “Pond Regulations” sign at pull-off area that is designated by split rail.
- Moved downed vegetation back into the area where damaged by illegal cutting so it does not look like a passable road.
- Removed pallets from water.
- Installed a section of split rail fence adjacent to private pond waterfront property to designate park land.



Follow-up:

- Check condition of split rail fence and sign.
- Check pond edge for more pallets.

Sluiceway

Work completed:

- Installed split rail fence to create two parking spaces for Sluiceway access and to close off unofficial cut-through road (decision to close road was later overturned).
- Installed "Pond Regulations" sign.
- Chainsawed downed trees on NPS land at Sluiceway that were creating hazards on pathways leading to pond access areas.



Follow-up:

- Check signs.
- Monitor parking situation and make adjustments as needed.
- Continue to discuss Sluiceway erosion mitigations with the town.
- Check trails to make sure they are passable and check for any other tree branches that might need to be removed.

Pond workgroup members:

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Lauren McKean, CCNS Park Planner

Sophia Fox, CCNS Aquatic Ecologist

Tim Morrison, CCNS Supervisory Park Ranger

John DeFoe, CCNS RTG Maintenance Supervisor

With consultations from:

Steve Smith, PhD, CCNS Plant Ecologist

Sue Moynihan, CCNS Chief of Interpretation

George Price, CCNS Superintendent

Bill Burke, CCNS Branch Chief of Cultural Resources

Freddie Dimmick, CCNS Park Archeologist

In cooperation with:

Hillary Greenberg-Lemos, Wellfleet Conservation Agent

Suzanne Thomas, Wellfleet Beach Administrator

And help from:

AmeriCorps Cape Cod Wellfleet House

John Portnoy, retired Park Ecologist

Wayne Davis, RTG Maintenance

Bob Luzi, RTG Maintenance

Joe Davis, RTG Maintenance

Bob Hayes, B&U Maintenance

Rich Fallon, B&U Maintenance

Roy Wimbish, B&U Maintenance Supervisor



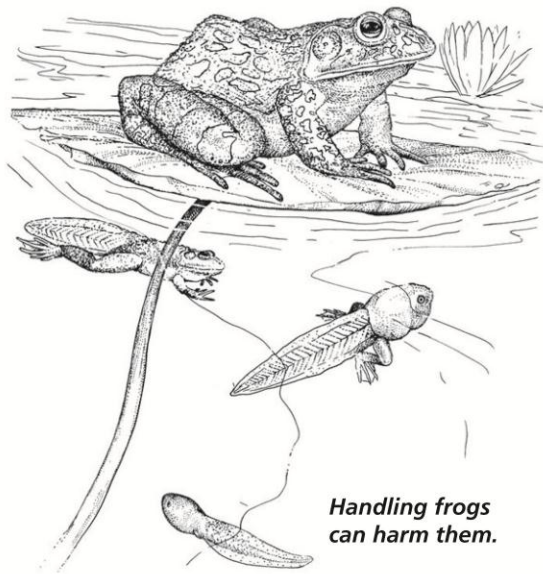
Protect Ponds

Cape Cod National Seashore

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Kettle ponds are glacially-formed basins filled with clear, naturally-acidic fresh water. In addition to their beauty and the recreational opportunities they offer, they provide habitat essential for distinct communities of plants and animals. Their unique chemistry and ecology render these ponds particularly sensitive to human-caused impacts.



Preserve their beauty and ecology.

- ❖ Use restrooms before entering the water.
- ❖ Avoid trampling or removing shoreline and aquatic plants.
- ❖ Stay on marked trails to prevent slope erosion.
- ❖ Keep pets and horses away from ponds.
- ❖ Use well-fitting swim diapers on babies.
- ❖ Enjoy pond wildlife through observation; handling animals can harm them.
- ❖ Carry out all trash including cigarette butts.
- ❖ Keep soaps and detergents out of ponds.