

Community Meeting Notes

Meeting: Chandler Pond Master Plan and Phase 1
Date: March 16, 2023
Attending: Amy Linné (BPRD)
Frank Mendoza (ONS Allston-Brighton Liaison)
Shanna Dixon (Social Media Coordinator)
Tracy Hudak (KZLA)
Kyle Zick (KZLA)
35+ Community Members, including
Councilor Liz Breadon
Pam Mullaney from Councilor Breadon's office
Alex Camarena from Representative Kevin Honan's office
Nakeeda Burns from Representative Michael Moran's office

Below is a summary of themed comments received during the meeting:

1. Streetscape plantings – Question from Lake Shore Road resident on whether those trees (the only ones intentionally planted) will be staying.
Response: Those would remain in place if healthy, and just be pruned for safety – such as dead limbs.
2. Buffer concerns – Don't want buffer to be too tall if a person is seated at a bench. General approval for expanding the depth of the buffer.
3. Question about removals and planting in the area between the Kenrick street residences and the pond.
Response: Between Kenrick Street and the pond, some knotweed removal and targeted invasive tree removal is in the plans for Phase 1. Full replanting will occur after the knotweed is eradicated, which may take a few years. That is the only work planned in Phase 1 for that area. Specific species would be identified once that area of work is in the design phase.
4. In the past adjacent property owners have removed plantings that made up part of the pond buffer. What is being done to prevent that?
Response: The Conservation Commission is aware of removals and will be reaching out to property owners to make sure they understand what activities they can and cannot undertake regarding the plants in the buffer.
5. Will fallen trees be removed from the pond?
Response: Can be removed if they are acting as an obstruction or are not still alive/growing out of the bank. Any maintenance done by volunteers will need to be permitted and outlined in an

MOA/MOU with the City. BPRD also encouraged residents to utilize 311 to get issues like these addressed, since that system is set up to react to requests.

6. The pond did not used to have so many trees. Saplings have, over time, grown up to be full-size trees that now obstruct views. What is being done about that?

Response: Any vegetated land will naturally progress toward being a forest if left to its own devices. Maintenance and management are key to reduce or eliminate the number of saplings that grow into trees. The Conservation Commission will likely not permit native mature trees to be removed, but saplings may be able to be removed with good reason.

7. Concern that the stormwater is full of fertilizers from the golf course and the Town Estates property. Other participants expressed concern about phosphorus inputs.

Response: BPRD is investigating options to understand the stormwater that comes into the pond. BPRD has a scheduled meeting with Groundskeeping at the golf course to learn more about what they are doing in regard to their maintenance practices and the water that leaves their property.

BPRD has also discussed with BWSC disconnecting the catch basins from the pond and placing that water back into the storm sewer system.

BPRD also approached BWSC regarding the installation of a phosphorous treatment system to manage phosphorus inputs into the pond. BWSC's initial thoughts were that the area required is too large to be accommodated at Chandler Pond.

8. How are the plans taking into account animal ecology, particularly birds such as Blue Heron and warblers?

Response: Specific plant species can be targeted for planting, if appropriate. In general, improving water quality and improving vegetation management around the pond will improve the pond ecology, which provides a more supportive environment and habitat for a diversity of animal species.

9. Geese mitigation was a common topic in other years. What does the current project do to deter geese?

Response: Many of the improvements to the buffer have the added benefit of being less palatable to geese. For example, geese prefer a mowed path right to the water's edge, and low vegetation which they see over. So, a deeper buffer will be a deterrent to them. We're recommending interrupting their line of sight and planting taller vegetation to make them wary of predators and discourage them from being around the pond. They also do not like abrupt grade changes, while the proposed access points include elements such as boulders or raised platforms. More obtrusive techniques could be used, such as noise-making devices or shiny streamers, but we are relying on making the habitat less desirable to them, and maintaining the aesthetic and quiet of the park. The Friends of Chandler Pond has also, in the past, used their funds to bring trained dogs onto the property during times when geese are selecting their nesting locations, to scare them off the site.

10. Concerns regarding milfoil and other aquatic invasives - Questions about treating milfoil, and about stopping it from getting into the pond, such as at the inlet screen which volunteers have currently constructed and maintain.

Response: BPRD has plans to contract for water quality testing, likely late May/early June to establish water quality data for the pond and its inlets. It is also expected that a baseline aquatic invasive survey can be done at the same time, to establish which aquatic invasives are present. Future work can tailor specific actions based on what is present, and where it is coming from (e.g. a specific inlet, for example). BPRD believes the golf course received a permit to treat milfoil on their property. That issue will be discussed with BPRD meets with the golf course maintenance staff.

11. Kudos

District 9 City Councilor Liz Breadon cited the fact that the pond is not only a unique environment and incredible passive green space, but also that the park is a great space for community building. Friends of Chandler Pond and their advocacy made the CPA funding and DCR grant funding possible to implement phase 1 of the project. Friends of Chandler Pond also have contributed thousands of hours of volunteer efforts. Councilor Breadon also suggested tapping into partnerships with local schools.

12. Access Points - Why so many access points if we're trying to stop geese?

Response: It's a balance between accommodating people's desire to be near the water and knowing they will make their own way if a way is not provided. Access points are being designed in a way to make them more desirable to people, and less desirable to geese.

13. Disruption to the Pond/Park - How much disruption will there be? Will it be like the dredging project that was 25 or so years ago?

While it is expected that there will be some disruption, much of phase 1 involves invasive treatment and planting, which are not equipment intensive. Some equipment may be on site for re-grading areas, and for mature tree removal. Those types of disruptions are expected to occur in periods of days, not months. We do not expect to need to fence off large areas of the property for long periods of time. We plan to fence off only what is required for contractors to do the work safely, and to keep visitors safe while the contractors do their work.

14. Maintaining the gains from Phase 1. Given the fact that funding is not assured, how much time can pass between phases without losing the work that is put into Phase 1?

Response: That timeframe likely depends on the pressure from nearby invasives and on maintenance/management activities. KZLA will consult the consulting ecologist on the project to relay an appropriate timeframe between phases, if possible. If that is not possible, an explanation of contributing factors can at least be included in the master plan. BPRD's goal is to see the project funded to completion and maintained.

Below is the Chat Log recorded during the meeting:

00:36:56 Nakeeda Burns: Hello Everyone, Nakeeda Burns from Mike Moran's Office!

00:41:56 Richard Peiser: I'm dialing in from Portugal. So thrilled to see the Chandler Pond edge restoration moving forward. Rick

00:47:28 Lisa Hirsh: Great to have you Rick—Do you live locally?

01:19:51 madeline Snow Typadis: how can we get a better sense of the location of invasives removal on the kenrick st side?

01:20:00 Dira Johanif: Is there water quality monitoring happening at the pond currently or is it only planned for Phase 2?

01:20:54 Shirley Milgrom: What about the geese? Is there a plan to control them? I imagine they are responsible for a great deal of pollution, water and pathways?

01:21:36 Susan Rutkiewicz: They have already been pruned. They were brought in from Germany for shade

01:23:10 Donna Ferullo: Thank you

01:28:52 Susan Rutkiewicz: It would be great to walk around the pond in warmer weather in order to understand what the project entails

01:29:56 Jenny Baglivo: We had a meeting with staff from Boston Parks some years ago who told us that owners on the Kenrick Street side removed buffer plants because they wanted to be able to walk to the shoreline. Will those owners be advised of the importance of not removing buffer plants? Jenny Baglivo (186 LSR)

01:33:02 Jenny Baglivo: Will there be a complete watershed analysis? —Jenny Baglivo, 186LSR

01:33:38 Ellen Messer: Birds have certainly been attracted to the existing plant life around the pond and animal life in the pond. They nest and forage over the seasons. Please involve bird ecologists in whatever changes in vegetation are in the planning process. Contact Mass Audubon, BC ecologists. The geese were not attracted to Chandler Pond until pondside vegetation was removed around 25 years ago

01:33:58 Jenny Baglivo: Boston College has a community grant program that we may be able to tap into at some point. —Jenny Baglivo, 186LSR

01:37:38 Susan Rutkiewicz: Are you serious?

01:38:42 Kate Elliott Scherlis: Thanks for those answers, Tracy & Liz!
(And thanks Ellen, for that important point re geese.)
I was specifically asking about milfoil, which can float into the pond through its inlet. The screen there can mitigate that threat. (Not sure what else can be done.)

01:41:37 Richard Wood: Bill King has been working on the milfoil issue for over 20 years now. Would be wise to consult with him

01:44:28 Kate Elliott Scherlis: Thanks, Richard. I was hoping to see the City agree that Bill has been doing essential work, and thus that milfoil mitigation should be part of this Master Plan!

01:46:32 Susan Rutkiewicz: In fact Susan Rutkiewicz at 44 Lake Shore has has been helping Bill intermittently throughout the years

01:48:23 Donna Ferullo: in addition to removing the invasives, those fallen trees and their branches need to be removed before anything else is done. It needs to be cleaned up before it's improved.

01:50:53 Donna Ferullo: Will the City of Boston be able to fund the estimated 2 million to complete the project or will only Phase 1 be completed and then that's it?

01:59:58 DB Reiff: Tracy, can you talk about what the pink ribbons that are tied around trees around the pond signify?

02:02:33 Bill King: See the blog in www.chandlerpond.org for the newest aquatic invasive, Najas minor aka European naiad.

02:04:33 DB Reiff: I think it's important for folks to know that the only money for this project right now has all been raised by FOCP. There have not been any funds from the City of Boston. This needs to be advocated for.

02:07:14 Kate Elliott Scherlis: Thanks, Bill, for that info (ugh!) and for your work in defense of Chandler Pond.

02:09:10 Holly Darides: Is there a plan for Parks to remove gates or push them out so mowers and other vehicles can get through safely?

02:10:32 Holly Darides: It is very very tight for them to get in and out. This will be an issue.

02:12:50 Ellen Messer: Thank you for this meeting!

02:13:08 Donna Ferullo: Thanks everyone.