

Project Description

This project is a continuation of a nuisance aquatic weed harvesting project that the Hop Brook Protection Association (HBPA) started in 1999 with a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management Small Lakes and Ponds Grant.

In recent years it has been funded by CPC grants. When we requested CPC funding in October 2005, we requested \$32,000. The expenditures, including harvesting this past summer totaled \$24,593.89. The difference will be returned to the CPC funding for future projects. Any money that is not used in this request will be likewise returned to the CPC.

It should be noted that the harvesting costs have varied widely from year to year. This is because we share in the maintenance costs of the harvester and they have varied significantly from year to year. We have attempted to predict an average cost.

The harvesting effort includes borrowing an Aquamarine harvester and conveyor from US Fish and Wildlife, hiring a crane to put it in the pond at the beginning of the harvesting and at the end, hiring a harvesting operator and then receiving help from the Sudbury DPW for trucking the biomass away. In the past the biomass has been taken to local farms to be used as a fertilizer.

When we started the harvesting, there was no open water on Carding Mill Pond. It was completely covered with nuisance aquatic weeds, it could not be used for boating, fish were dying from oxygen deprivation and it was an eyesore.

Through the years, our harvesting effort has dramatically improved the situation at Carding Mill Pond. Wild life habitat for fish, turtles, frogs, etc. as well as water fowl has been restored. It is now possible to boat on the pond.

The HBPA intends to sponsor and effort for long term remediation on Carding Mill Pond, but this cannot be done until the nutrient pollution from the Marlborough Easterly Waste Water Plant is significantly reduced. A new operating permit for the plant has been issued which will address this

nutrient pollution, but the final implementation is scheduled to be completed in January 2014.

The plants that we have been harvesting, particularly water chestnut are extremely aggressive in their regrowth, so the harvesting over the next four years is to prevent a return to the pre-harvesting condition of the pond.

Photos are attached to show the condition of the pond prior to our harvesting effort and what it looks like today.

How does this project meet the General Criteria and Category Specific Criteria for CPC projects?

Maintaining Carding Mill Pond is a critical step in protecting an important wildlife and scenic pond that, left unattended, could become a marshland. It will assist in the protection of an historic site, the Wayside Inn which abuts the pond and owns part of it. This harvesting effort will maintain the level of rehabilitation that has been done on an important Town recreational asset that has multiple potential uses including but not limited to swimming, fishing, non-motorized boating, bird watching and wildlife observation.

The Project is highly consistent with the National and Cultural Resource Element of the Town's Master Plan (re:2001 Master Plan) which cites as its first goal "the protection and maintenance of surface and ground water quality and quantity". Moreover, the Master Plan specifically recognized the Hop Brook Protection Association and called upon Town boards to support our efforts. (2001 Master Plan p. 61)