



# Town of Concord White Pond Task Force

Final Report  
December 2023

The members of the White Pond Task Force respectfully submit this report to the Town of Concord Select Board.

## **Introduction**

White Pond is a 40-acre Great Pond in the Town of Concord. The pond is an ecological, scenic, and recreational resource that must be protected for future generations to enjoy. The Town of Concord owns 34% of the frontage on the pond. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts holds fishing rights with access via a state road and boat launch adjacent to the Town Beach. The remaining pond frontage is privately held.

The land owned by the Town of Concord is used for recreation at the Town Beach and open space at Sachem's Cove. Recent changes in the White Pond watershed such as the acquisition of the Town Beach as well as planned extension of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and the Cold Brook Crossing development call for the establishment of the best practices needed to protect the pond and the watershed.

The White Pond Task Force began the work set out in the Charge in January 2023. Throughout the year the Task Force has held regular meetings and has researched the primary challenges facing the pond and the watershed. This was accomplished by soliciting the expertise and opinions of the relevant Town staff, outside consultants, and other town committee members as well as by soliciting public input via an online survey.

The Task Force made every effort to include the largest group of stakeholders possible. The following list of prioritized recommendations was developed based on the feedback and information the Task Force has received over the past year.

## **White Pond Task Force Mission Statement**

Protect White Pond's ecological health and scenic beauty for the enjoyment of this and future generations.

## **Recommendations**

- 1) Support the deployment and maintenance of the A-pods.
- 2) Continue testing of water quality to assess swimming safety.
- 3) Support funding of the Conservation Ranger program focused on compliance with the Town's Conservation Land Regulations, with increased ranger time at Sachem's Cove on summer weekend days.
- 4) Enforcement of parking laws on the State access road/surrounding roads/neighborhoods, and the checking of White Pond membership at the parking lot entrance (versus membership checks at the town beach during the swimming season).
- 5) Support improved public outreach including the addition of permanent signage in Sachem's Cove with information about available swimming facilities at the Town

Beach and the adverse ecological impacts of the destruction of vegetation, addition of nutrients via human and dog waste, etc. Continue to send the “Homeowners Guide to Living Near White Pond” to new residents on the pond regarding appropriate care and maintenance of their properties to maintain pond health, e.g., reduced use of fertilizers and the addition of plantings. (Please see examples of desired permanent signage in the attached addendum)

- 6) Continue to evaluate the stocking of Rainbow Trout due to impact on Phytoplankton and potential increase in cyanobacteria blooms.
- 7) Support maintenance of the pond’s ecological health with the off-season deployment of trash receptacles and portable toilets at the Town Beach, funding for DPW maintenance of the state boat ramp run-off mitigation, and maintenance of erosion controls on town-owned land, including new native plantings as appropriate.
- 8) Support the update of the town-wide wastewater management plan including a review of the potential for sewerage septic systems that are near the shore on the north side of the pond.

#### **Future White Pond Team**

Establish White Pond Committee (structure TBD) to meet periodically as a coordinating body with the goal of continuing the White Pond Task Force Charge and Mission reporting to the Select Board.

#### **Addendum**

The photos included on Page 4 are for reference only. These photos are examples of permanent signage noted in Recommendation 5.

**Submitted by the White Pond Task Force – December 2023**

