

XIV. Fresh Pond Reservation Implementation Plan

A. Introduction

Table 5 presents the anticipated schedule for implementation of the main recommendations and priority projects described in this Master Plan, from high-priority natural resource management recommendations to implementation of an improved signage program to formation of the Fresh Pond Reservation Master Plan Advisory Board. Table 5 shows the estimated start and finish date for each of these main Master Plan items. It also shows a scheduled planning phase for projects, such as Neville Manor Site Development, that require significant preparatory planning, permitting or other preliminary work.

This section provides a brief description of each of the implementation items listed in Table 5.

B. Implementation Items

1. New Water Treatment Plant Construction

The New Water Treatment Plant construction adjacent to Fresh Pond began in July 1998. The facility will be treating water by the fall of the year 2000 and totally completed by spring 2001.

2. Weir Meadow Renovations

This work includes the construction of a water quality swale and detention pond, shoreline stabilization, new and relocated fencing, and a relocated pathway that will be constructed of an alternative surface material that is more porous and natural looking than asphalt. Landscape plantings will also be done in compliance with the Stewardship Plan. This work is being done as part of the Treatment Plant construction.

3. Landscape Improvements around the New Water Treatment Plant

This work is also part of the Treatment Plant construction and it has required additional planning and design to ensure that the landscaping is in compliance with the Stewardship Plan and compatible with the architecture of the new Water Treatment Plant.

4. Bicycle Path Construction and Associated Landscape Improvements

This project is being constructed as part of the Fresh Pond Parkway Sewer Separation and Surface Enhancement project managed by the Cambridge DPW. The landscape design of this area was delayed in order to ensure that it would be in compliance with Stewardship Plan.

5. Neville Manor Landscape Design

The first implementation task relating to Neville Manor involves developing a conceptual landscape design. This planning process will ensure that areas around Neville Manor such as the Community Garden, handicapped access and the proposed youth soccer field will not be compromised by the renovations of the Neville Manor facility.

6. Fresh Pond Path Surface and Fence Pilot Project

The Water Department will be working with the Advisory Board and consultants to develop a Pilot Study to evaluate and educate the public about the initial implementations of the tasks in the Fresh Pond Master Plan. The project will include the evaluations of the alternative path surface in the Weir Meadow area and alternative fencing. Other improvements such as tree thinning along the shoreline, storm water management, and landscape improvements done as part of the new Water Treatment Plant construction will be evaluated and recommendations made.

7. Master Plan Approval Process

The Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Committee submits the Master Plan to the City Manager. The City Manager then submits the plan to the City Council.

8. Landscape and Facilities Maintenance Plan

A Landscape and Facilities Maintenance Plan will be developed for Fresh Pond Reservation. The plan will include specifications and procedures for maintenance standards for the entire reservation. As part of this plan, an annual maintenance contract will be implemented by the Water Department that will include turf maintenance, tree pruning, invasive species control, wildlife habitat maintenance and tree and shrub planting. The plan will include a section describing which City departments are responsible for implementation. The bulk of implementation will be the responsibility of the Water Department and in particular, the Water Department will be responsible for overall facilitation and updating of the plan. There will also be a section that describes the roles and standards to be followed by the Watershed Management Division's Operations and Maintenance staff for daily routine maintenance at the reservation.

9. Neville Manor Surroundings

The Water Department will implement a landscape plan for the areas surrounding the Neville facilities including the proposed youth soccer field, the Community Gardens and all open space assigned to Water department management under 1999 legislation (see Section VI.C.5). The Water Department will manage this land according to the guidelines set in Section 3.8 of the Stewardship Plan. Any landscape design, management and maintenance of any plot on this site, all of which lies within the Fresh Pond watershed, are subject to review by the Water Department and adherence to the Master Plan's strict ecological standards.

10. Hire a Watershed Protection Technician

This position is the first priority for filling in order to ensure that already established programs, including water quality monitoring, site development review, annual site inspections, stormwater management and hazardous materials response planning are implemented..

11. Form the Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Board

The City Manager will appoint members of the advisory board in accordance with Section XVI of this Plan.

12. Lusitania Field Improvements

Improvements will begin around the summer of 2001 after the completion of the Water Treatment Plant when this site will no longer be needed as a staging area. The focus of this task is to restore this site to a natural area.

13. Hire Fresh Pond Reservation Site Supervisor

The Reservation Site Supervisor will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day operations as well as implementation of the recommendations in the Master Plan. This position should be filled right after the Watershed Protection Technician Position is hired.

14. Very High Stewardship Plan Priorities

This task includes improvements to Kingsley Park, the golf course drainage, Little Fresh Pond and Black's Nook (See Section VIII).

15. Glacken Field Renovation and Slope Restoration

This task will include the design and implementation of new active recreation facilities in this area. The Recreation Division will have responsibility for renovation of the recreational complex. The Water Department will approve and oversee the restoration and maintenance of Glacken Slope and will also review recreation design plans from an ecological standpoint.

16. Natural Resources Monitoring

A Natural Resources Monitoring Plan will be developed and implemented to describe the existing conditions of the Reservation and to monitor factors such as soil erosion and plant health. Monitoring will be done on a regular annual schedule. All landscape improvement tasks will include the development of a monitoring plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the task.

17. Dog Medallion Program

To enable the City to enforce its existing animal control ordinance, a dog medallion program will be established.

18. Fresh Pond Permitting Plan

A permitting plan will be developed and implemented as outlined in Section XII.

19. Education Program

Education will be incorporated into all aspects of the implementation of the Fresh Pond Master Plan.

20. Signage Program

Design, fabrication and installation standards will be developed for all types of signs in the Reservation.

21. Hire Fresh Pond Assistant Reservation Supervisor

This new position is to be filled by the spring of 2001.

22. Opening of the New Water Treatment Plant to the Public

The Reservation visitor information center will be open to the public.

23. Public Infrastructure and Site Amenities

Some of these items will be addressed in the implementation of the very high Stewardship Plan priorities and the remainder will be addressed in an overall plan.

24. High Stewardship Plan Priorities

Areas of improvements include Weir Meadow/Pine Grove, golf course wetlands and buffer enhancements and the Old Field/Birch Grove.

25. Medium Stewardship Plan Priorities

Priorities For these priorities, see Table 3.