



PO BOX 416, MILTON, MA 02186
TEL. 781-828-1805
www.FriendsoftheBlueHills.org
Twitter: @FriendBlueHills

Ponkapoag Pond Master Plan and Fisherman's Cove Improvements

Comments submitted by the Friends of the Blue Hills

December 27, 2021

The Friends of the Blue Hills appreciated the opportunity to be part of the Ponkapoag Pond Master Plan working group. We appreciate the improvements to Fisherman's Cove parking lot and the efforts to make the lot and park recreation assets accessible.

We offer the following recommendations on the draft plan.

Ponkapoag Bog Boardwalk

We agree that the boardwalk needs significant work to allow people to enjoy the views of this spectacular landscape. We also want to stress the importance of protecting the bog's sensitive habitat.

- The bog is within an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, and is a unique ecosystem home to endangered species which live close to the boardwalk. Any work done in the bog should make sure to protect the endangered species during and after construction under close coordination with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species program.
- Any improvements to the boardwalk should avoid damaging the existing white cedar pines that line the boardwalk. These pines are vital to the health of the ecosystem.
- If soil borings are required, we request that you require robotics to perform the work so as to minimize ecosystem disturbance.
- We recommend that you require that the new boardwalk be built at the same time as the helical structure so that the new structure of the boardwalk can be used to support the helical piles construction and minimize damage to the sensitive habitat.

Trail Connections

We would like to encourage the DCR to focus future studies on other public resources in the park that improve access, including recommendations for:

- Trails that would allow public access from the Pond to Indian Line Farm, as well as access to the Bradley Estate and future potential trail routes, like the Warner Trail.
- Increasing access from parts of the park north of Route 93.
- Allowing increased access from existing parking lots and exploring existing private lots as possible access points.

Thank you again for the effort and commitment to improving Ponkapoag Pond for visitors while protecting sensitive habitat.