

# **Dudley Pond Association: Charter, History, and Position on DAAC Charter**

**Presentation to the Dudley Area  
Advisory Committee**

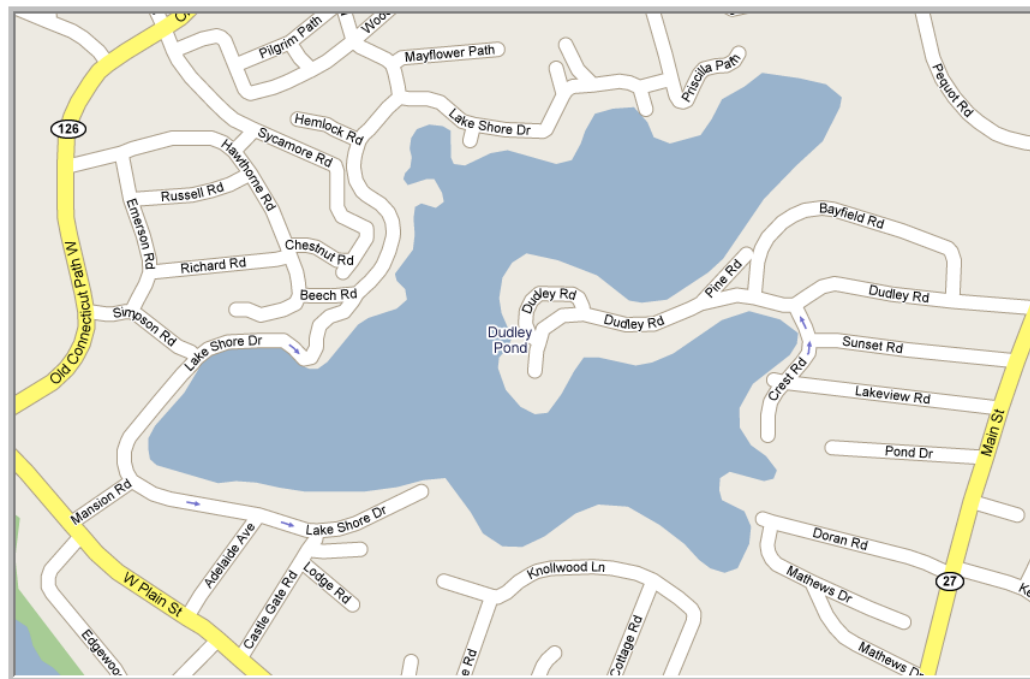
**October 25, 2011**





# Dudley Pond: Some Facts

- 84 acres
- Maximum depth of about 30 feet
- Owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts
  - “Great Pond” designation (ensures public recreational access)
  - Leased to Town of Wayland in 1916 for 99 years





# Dudley Pond: Some History

- **1882-1883: Mansion Inn (aka Simpson Estate) first major establishment built**
  - Destroyed by fire in 1956
- **1900-1918: Boom in summer homes built by people from Boston and environs**
- **1930s: Great Depression and Prohibition brought major changes**
  - Bootlegging gangsters; brothels; speakeasies
  - Summer homes became year round residences
    - Inadequate septage systems and some houses literally hung over the shoreline
- **Post Depression: Return to “normalcy”, but septic & other problems remained**
  - Annual Winter Carnival
  - Heavy recreational usage



# Dudley Pond: More History

- **1950s: Economic conditions prompted urban renewal activities**
  - Unhealthy pond conditions (paratyphoid)
  - Town applied for Urban Renewal funds based on more than 50% of homes “unfit for human habitation”
  - Strong local resistance forced scale-down of renewal activities & return of grant monies
- **Ongoing: Some positive change in pond conditions**
  - Improvements made by residents served to improve Dudley Pond water quality, but ...
  - Poor road drainage found to be major source of nutrients and pollution into the pond



# What is the DPA?

- **Membership-based organization covering the entire Dudley Pond watershed**
  - Includes residents abutting parcel under consideration by DAAC
- **Tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the IRS code**
- **Governance and management assigned to an Executive Board**
  - Officers + Standing Committee chairpeople
  - Approve all decisions with due diligence to incorporate views and opinions of membership
  - Membership must approve expenditures above \$1500
  - Conducts two scheduled membership meetings/year (Fall and Spring) and ad-hoc meetings as necessary



# DPA Purposes

- **Educate public on preservation of Dudley Pond and surrounding watershed**
- **Work with government agencies & reps, community agencies & other pond associations**
  - Create, fund, implement programs that help preserve health of Dudley Pond & the watershed
- **Monitor water quantity & quality, weed populations & other pond health indicators**
  - Use results to improve health of Dudley Pond
- **Create & nurture community spirit among Dudley Pond residents; encourage activities among members, residents, & community at large**





# Dudley Pond's Major Issue: WEEDS!



# DPA Weed Management:

## Many Things Have Been Tried



- **2002: Dudley Pond Weed Committee**
  - Explored 18 options for dealing with what had grown to be unmanageable with current methods (hand pulling)
  - Top recommendations called for herbicide treatments
  - Some other options not studied due to lack of pilot data or state approval
- **2003: Sonar treatment was performed**
  - Previous treatments in 1992, 1996, & 1997.
  - Effective, but only lasts a few years
  - Needs to be combined with hand pulling and spot treatments
- **2003: Draw down feasibility study**
  - Detailed issues of need for favorable weather conditions, methods of water disposal, water replenishment options and financial considerations
- **2005: DPA received federal S.319 Grant**
  - 40% matched by Town of Wayland and DPA
  - Nonpoint Source Pollution Grant Program
  - Included use of milfoil weevils in 2006; results were not promising



# DPA Weed Management:



## ...Even More Things Have Been Tried

- **2006: More hand pulling (140K plants removed)**
- **2007: Earmark grant from State Department of Conservation**
  - Funded mechanical harvesting in summer
  - Purchase of 3 water circulators to distribute O<sub>2</sub> through water column, increase oxidation rate of ammonia reducing its availability to milfoil (evaluation ongoing)
- **2008: SWQC received approval from ConCom for multi-year treatment (3-5 years)**
  - Herbicide treatment, plant monitoring and more aggressive hand pulling over time
  - DPA provided some funds and volunteer time
- **2009-2010: Follow up hand pulling and spot treatment (Triclopyr)**



# DPA Board Position re: “Best Uses”

- **DPA Board sees consideration of “best uses” as an opportunity to achieve significant improvements to Dudley Pond health**
- **IF parcel is to be used for one or a combination of uses incorporated into DAAC’s charter, those uses should focus primarily on optimizing positive effects on Dudley Pond health**
  - Concentrate on storm/ground water and septic improvements
- **Preservation as wooded preserve and/or neighborhood trails seen as positive to the degree that they don’t interfere with focus on pond health**
- **Adding additional housing is seen to work against optimizing pond health improvements in already overcrowded area**
  - Additional housing should not be considered unless it is shown that it will have zero effect on an optimized pond health improvement plan



# DPA Board Position: Caveats

- **Position is of the DPA Board only – not the membership**
  - Watershed residents may exhibit diverse opinions
- **DPA Board will provide DAAC committee with position on specific proposals as they are formulated**
- **Fall DPA meeting will take place on November 6th**
  - DAAC update will be presented to membership
  - DPA representative to DAAC will report back on any changes to the position



# The Bottom Line ...

- **Dudley Pond has significant, ongoing weed problems tied to:**
  - Invasive weeds
  - Sources of nutrients that feed them
- **DPA's charter is to protect and improve pond health which is negatively impacted by weeds**
- **DPA Board encourages DAAC to see "best use" as opportunity to focus on the most positive impact on pond health possible**
- **DPA Board believes additional housing in an overcrowded area is inconsistent with this view**



Thank You!

Questions?

