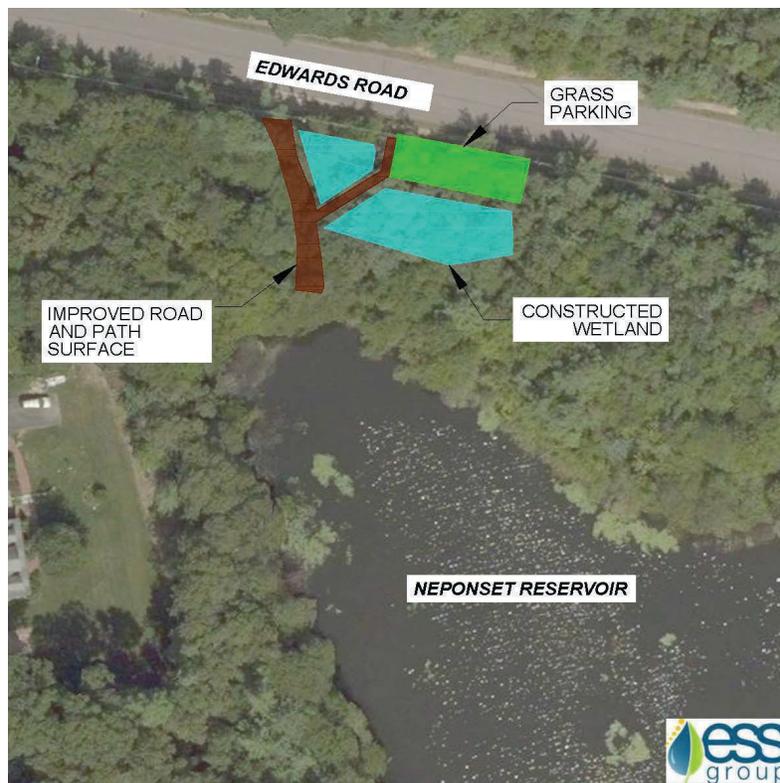


The Reservoir Review

A Newsletter About Life on Neponset Reservoir

EDWARDS ROAD BOAT LAUNCH AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MOVES FORWARD

The NRRC, Inc., a non-profit company set up for environmental management of the reservoir, has been working with ESS Group, Inc. on a project to reduce phosphorus loading and sedimentation of the Neponset Reservoir and to improve small boat access off of Edward's Road.



Edwards Road Gravel Wetlands Design

Neponset Reservoir is a 314-acre impoundment and is relatively shallow, with an average depth of four feet. It has a state and federal water resource goal of supporting aquatic habitat and supporting primary contact recreation; however, it has been listed as impaired due to noxious aquatic plants, turbidity, and exotic species.

The Reservoir also suffers from high cadmium and phosphate concentrations, which are legacy pollutants from industrial facility discharge that took place during the 1960's and 1970's.

The project to reduce phosphorus loading and sedimentation will include:

- Stabilizing and resurfacing the existing boat access road;
- Improving the existing walking path;
- Constructing reinforced grass parking spaces along the side of Edward's Road;
- Constructing a gravel wetland to naturally treat stormwater runoff from a portion Edward's Road.

The project is currently before the Conservation Committee and is expected to be permitted this year.

WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT OF NEPONSET RESERVOIR



In a recent report

from Water Resource Services, Inc, (WRS), they outlined the importance of managing water levels. Water levels are managed by the placement or removal of boards in the dam.

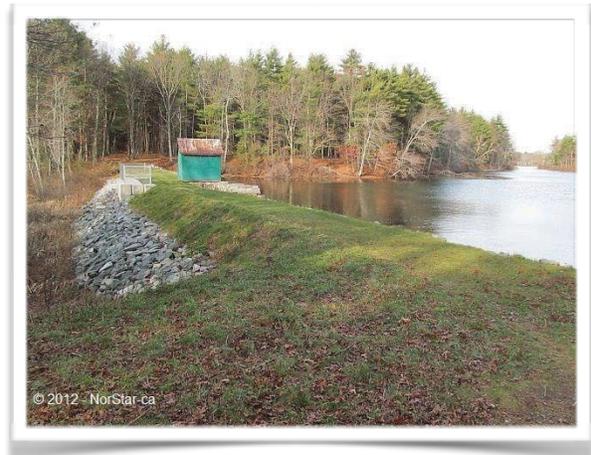
Removal of the boards allows outflow and results in lowering the water level of the reservoir. Replacement of boards keeps the water from flowing out of the reservoir. Approximately

93% of water inflow is associated with storms.

Many lakes take a pro-active stance during winter to draw down the water level and Neponset Reservoir is among them. During winter, boards are pulled and the lake is drawn down for purposes of weed control, reducing ice damage to shorelines and for shoreline clean-up, to name just a few of the reasons.

Skipping the drawdown would increase spring flooding, potentially subject the shoreline to ice damage, and limit flushing of the reservoir, a process that has improved water quality over the last 3 decades. The report from WRS stated the winter drawdown has served us well over the decades.

Now that spring is here, levels will be closely monitored. As storm waters inflow into the reservoir, boards will begin to be added back to keep water levels high... until the next storm when, once again, water levels will be measured and boards managed.



It's fair to say water level management here at Neponset Reservoir is quite dynamic. When to add boards and how many, and when to remove them is like a choreographed dance. And thanks to the efforts of the NRRC and Foxborough's Conservation Commission, we don't see that dance ending anytime soon.



NEPONSET RESERVOIR WEED SURVEY

On May 15 (Rain date-May 22), SOLitude Lake Management will be conducting their weed survey to measure levels of both milfoil/fanwort and the large leaf weeds. Based on their results, a date will be shared to let lake residents know when they will perform treatment.



