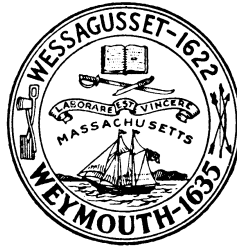


Town of Weymouth Massachusetts

Andrew Hultin
Conservation Administrator
781-340-5007

Conservation Commission members:
John Reilly, Chairman
Frank Singleton, Vice-Chairman
Scott Dowd, Clerk
George Loring
Alexander Donovan



Robert L. Hedlund
Mayor

Robert J. Luongo, Director
Planning and Community Development

75 Middle Street
Weymouth, MA 02189

www.weymouth.ma.us

Dear Neighbor,

As summer activities heat up, the Weymouth Conservation Commission would like to take the time to highlight a set of announcements and reminders for those residing near Whitman's Pond. Whitman's Pond is a bountiful resource for both the Town as well as the wildlife, so please take note of the information below. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Conservation staff at 781 340 5007.

Wetland Protection Act Guidelines

Any work within 100ft of the pond and adjacent wetlands must be approved through the Conservation Commission under the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act and Weymouth Wetlands Protection Ordinance. This includes, but is not limited to, removal of shoreline vegetation, trees, addition of any structures, sheds, pools, repair or reconstruction of retaining walls, grading and docks. Please contact the Conservation Office prior to your project to understand what permits or approvals are needed. Failure to permit your project could result in violations and enforcement action.

The complete Wetland Protection Act and Weymouth Wetlands Protection Ordinance and Regulations can be viewed on the Conservation Commission webpage on the Town website.

Recreation

Whitman's Pond provides wonderful recreation opportunities for Weymouth, including fishing, boating, kayaking/canoeing and birdwatching. To protect shoreline vegetation and reduce noise pollution for other neighbors, please keep wakes to a minimum extent possible. South Cove is part of Weymouth's drinking water supply, so no access or recreation other than wildlife watching is permitted in South Cove; this includes no fishing, boating, swimming, and kayaking/canoeing.

Herring Run

Whitman's Pond continues to be one of the most productive spawning grounds for river herring in the Commonwealth. Herring have had another successful summer, with over 300,000 herring migrating up the Back River to spawn in Whitman's Pond. The Commission and herring wardens will be continuing efforts to involve the community in protecting this resource and ensuring safe passage for the fish.

Docks & Piers

All docks and piers must have prior approval from the Conservation Commission and Harbormaster. For seasonal bottom anchored floating docks, you must receive a 10A permit from the Harbormaster every year. For permanent structures (piers, pilings, etc.), you must also have the proper Chapter 91 License through the Massachusetts Waterways Program *and* renew your 10A permit annually. Please note that the Harbormaster Office reserves the right to impound unidentified docks and floats at the owner's expense per Chapter 12 Waterways Ordinance under Docks and Piers. For more info on docks and boating in Whitman's Pond please call the Harbormaster Office at 781-927-6332.

Vegetation Management

Over the past few decades, Whitman's Pond has suffered from excessive growth of invasive aquatic weeds. This excessive growth of vegetation diminishes spawning habitat for fish, minimizes access for paddling and fishing, and lessens the aesthetic of the pond. The Town developed a vegetation management plan in 2021, which can be found on the Conservation Commission webpage. The plan outlines a tool box of management techniques including herbicides, weed harvesting, and hydro-raking. The Town works with a pond management consultant to monitor plant growth and develop an annual work plan. The 2023 management activities include a pilot project utilizing Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) to remove variable-leafed milfoil in the main basin as well as ongoing efforts with the weed harvester.

What Can You Do to help the Pond?

High nutrient levels (nitrogen & phosphorus) contribute to the growth of weeds and toxic algal blooms. Homeowners can help by reducing or eliminating use of fertilizer on lawns along the pond. The Conservation Commission also encourages homeowners to allow native shoreline vegetation to grow along the bank of the pond. Native vegetation helps to remove nutrients, helps to reduce pond temperatures and provides important habitat for fish and wildlife. Cutting any existing shoreline vegetation requires approval from the commission.

Thank you for continuing to support this important natural resource. Please contact Conservation staff at 781 340 5007 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Weymouth Conservation Commission