CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: David Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation

DATE: March 23, 2019

SUBJECT: Pond maintenance at White Park Pond

Recommendation

The Department recommends acceptance of this report.

Background

In the mid to late 1980's the City approved funds to dredge White Park pond and add stone to the bottom of the pond to prevent weed infestation. The area known as the cove was not done at that time, and continues to present weed problems each year, these weeds over time have expanded and are now infesting almost the entire edge of the pond.

Discussion

The department recognizes the need to remove the invasive weeds in the pond. Removal of the weeds will improve the water quality and overall pond health, during the colder months removing the weeds will help facilitate improved skating and stronger, safer ice. The weeds have expanded to the point where the water has limited flow under the Franklin Pierce Bridge to the overflow pipe. Annually in late Fall the parks staff attempts to remove the invasive weeds manually, but the area of the weeds has increased to the point where manual removal is not adequate and requires over a week to complete the work. During the outdoor skating months the weed remnants are causing blow holes to become established and reducing the integrity of the ice.

Recommendations

The Department seeks to hire a properly licensed, insured contractor to eradicate the invasive weeds in and around water bodies with compounds approved by the State and the EPA. If this report is approved the work will be completed this June. Working with the licensed vendor we will lower the pond level a few days before to expose the vegetation. We will raise the water levels at both ponds 72 hours after application. Before and during the application we will post

information on our web site and around the pond letting park users of the upcoming work. The pond would be re-evaluated this fall to determine if an additional application of the compound is warranted.