



# CITY OF CONCORD

## REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** David Gill, Parks and Recreation Director

**DATE:** March 30, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Merrill Park Pond Update

### **Recommendation**

Review and accept this report

### **History**

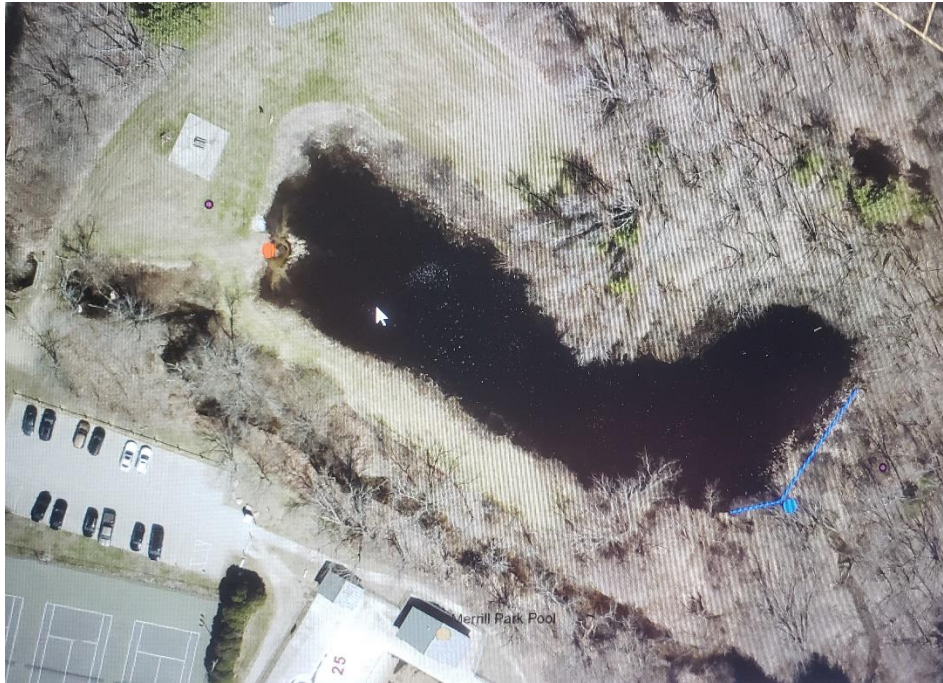
For generations the pond at Merrill Park has been a destination for the East Concord community. During the winter months the city maintained the pond for ice skating, spring the community enjoyed the annual youth fishing derby sponsored by The Basil Woods Chapter of Trout Unlimited and during the summer kids would continue to fish in the pond and the community would enjoy picnics and watching the wildlife who rely on the pond.

The Merrill Park Pond earth dam was washed out during the Mother's Day floods of 2006. Since then the pond only fills up during times of heavy rain or during the spring snow melt and only holds water for a few days.

The pond was designed to have water come in from the stream on the western side of the pond (inlet) and on the eastern side of the pond was an outlet to allow water to flow out during times of heavy rain. The old the inlet on the western side still allows water to flow into the pond however is showing signs of failure. The pond is just less than an acre in size.

Since the Mother's Day floods, the pond is slowly growing in and during dry times has stagnant water for weeks at a time. Due to the uncertain water levels the city does not maintained the pond for ice skating anymore.

The Basil Woods Chapter of Trout Unlimited has continued to run their youth fishing derby however the past couple of years the water level and condition around the pond has become problematic for the event.



The red dot on the left side of the pond is the inlet, the blue dot on right is outlet while the blue line shows the location of the small earth dam.

Last summer City Council accepted a report from city staff to work with Trout Unlimited to create a scope of work that will formally review what are the required next steps for a pond restoration project for the Merrill Park Pond.

### **Discussion**

Working with one of our on-call vendors we have received a scope of work to begin to lay out the required steps for a pond restoration. The cost of the work is \$5,000 and the Basil Woods Chapter of Trout Unlimited have offered to pay half of the cost (see attached letter). The project will involve meeting with NHDES Wetlands and Dam Bureaus to identify permitting and design requirements for possible pond restoration and develop a planning level document with order of magnitude for cost for future permitting, design and potential construction costs.

By accepting this report City staff will work with the City Manager to request the remaining \$2,500 be considered as an appropriation in the FY24 budget.

Information on this year's Free Youth Fishing Derby at Merrill Park sponsored by the Basil Woods Chapter is on the next page.

# YOUTH FISHING DAY

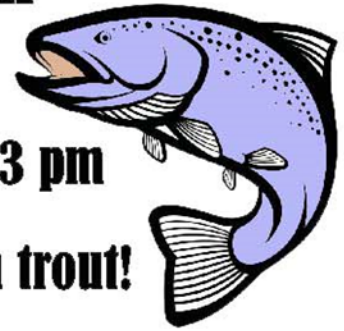
THE BASIL W. WOODS JR. CHAPTER OF **TROUT UNLIMITED**

## Merrill Park Pond Eastman Street | Concord NH



**Saturday April 15th, 2023 | 9 am till 3 pm**

**Enjoy Fishing in a pond stocked with trout!**



**For persons under 16 years old.**

**Tackle and bait will be provided, or bring your own.**

**Children under 10 years old should bring an adult.**

**Free Flyrod and Reel Event Raffle!**



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