



Friends of Green Hill Pond (FOGHP) is a 501(c)(3) environmental conservation organization whose mission is to preserve and protect Green Hill Pond. FOGHP has no paid staff, no office space, and no annual membership dues. We mobilize homeowners and government entities towards executing specific projects that offer significant and sustainable improvement in Green Hill Pond and its habitat.

The two biggest problems facing Green Hill Pond are:

- High nitrogen levels which cause excessive growth of algae and aquatic plants, leading to low oxygen levels and fish kills.
- High bacteria levels which limit water contact and shellfishing. High bacteria levels have closed Green Hill Pond to shellfishing for 24 years.

We have worked with South Kingstown to resume septic inspections in order to reduce nitrogen levels.

Our main focus has been on reducing high bacteria levels. From prior studies, there are three main challenges to reducing high bacteria levels: Abundant birds and wildlife; very limited stormwater treatment; and poor water circulation. Although birds and wildlife are the source of roughly 75% of the bacteria, we obviously treasure this part of the ecosystem. To address the high levels of bacteria without harming the ecosystem, we are pursuing two major initiatives:

- Improve water circulation in Green Hill Pond through channel enhancement. URI is currently evaluating the impact on water circulation and marine life from a conceptual proposal to increase the width and depth of the existing channel. We will then engage an engineering firm to prepare the engineering and design plan along with the shellfish survey. Using the dredged sediment, we hope to co-lead a project to increase shoreline protection through beach nourishment.
- Reduce stormwater runoff through catchment-area filtration. Working with the Town of South Kingstown and an outside engineering firm, we expect to identify major catchment areas within the watershed and design appropriate natural filtration solutions on public land to control stormwater runoff. This initiative would cover the Green Hill Pond watershed, including Factory and Teal Brooks.

We expect that the impact of these two initiatives when fully implemented will result in most, if not all, of Green Hill Pond meeting state water quality standards for the first time in nearly a quarter of a century.

We already received \$100,000—\$50,000 from the state of RI, \$25,000 from the Town of South Kingstown, and \$25,000 from generous donors—to gather the field data and model impact of channel enhancement along with testing of the channel sediment. The modeling effort is nearing completion by URI. We will need an additional \$290,000 to complete the engineering work for both initiatives that would lead to permit applications. We have applied for \$190,000 from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and will apply for \$50,000 each from the state of Rhode Island and the Town of South Kingstown later this year.

Nineteen organizations consisting of government entities, environmental non-profits, local neighborhood associations, and senior political leaders have signed letters of support for our proposal to reduce high bacteria levels. As such, we believe we now have a consensus plan of action to preserve and protect Green Hill Pond.

Thank you for your support!

Dennis J. Bowman
President

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