



**TOWN OF CONCORD**  
22 Monument Square  
Concord, MA 01742  
[www.concordma.gov](http://www.concordma.gov)

**March 2019**  
**White Pond Beach Area – Public Questions & Answers**

**PASSES, MEMBERSHIP, FEES & HOURS:**

**What are the membership fees?**

\$150/household for Concord residents, \$190/household for non-residents  
\$20/day pass for non-members, \$10/day pass for members

**What is the guest policy?**

2019 Pass holders can bring unlimited guests at the cost \$10/person, per day.

**Is Anne Boudrot coming back?**

The Town's Recreation Department is currently recruiting staff for the summer 2019 programs including White Pond. They have reached out to summer 2018 from White Pond. We do not speak openly about Personnel matters, including hiring, as candidates must undergo a series of pre-placement requirements before their position is made public. .

**Does the Town have a reasonable plan for the number of people allowed per day?**

The maximum number of beach goers at any one time is capped at 400. This number is based upon the square footage of the actual beach and pond frontage. As the water level rises and falls, this number may have to be amended.

**What is the maximum number of memberships that will be sold this year?**

700 total passes will be sold to established households. WPA has told us that in the summer 2018 there were approximately 550 household memberships sold.

**How are passes going to be checked?**

During quiet times, pass checking will be similar to the past, beach goers will check in with staff at the beach. During busier times, a 'gate keeper' staff will meet beach goers at the driveway entrance.

**Since membership rate is lower, do we expect a higher attendance rate?**

In general as a public beach, we anticipate that attendance will be higher than in the past when it was run as a 'private' membership-driven association.

**Why is the day pass so expensive?**

The fee/rates encourage persons to buy a season pass and assist us in keeping crowds at a manageable level. Season Pass holder's guest fees have been adjusted to a rate of \$10/guest

**Can the closing hours be moved to a later time?**

In evaluating this request with staff we have changed the closing time to 7:30 PM for all 7 days of the week.

## PARKING & TRAFFIC:

### **How do we plan to address the parking limitations?**

Parking is on a first come, first serve basis. There are approximately 50 parking spots, for summer 2019 there is currently no overflow parking established.

### **How will we communicate when the lot is full or the beach is full?**

We will communicate when the beach is full via social media, the town website and word of mouth.

### **How will we reduce the impact on homeowners because of traffic?**

We will do our best to communicate when the beach is full and additionally place signage at the entrance, in attempt to reduce back-ups. Concord police will also be involved in traffic control as needed or requested.

### **Can I use my sticker during the fall months for birdwatching, sketching and/or hiking?**

There are no stickers, just passes for swimming in the pond. Access to the area will be allowed year-round.

### **Can there be a consideration to hold or save 10-20 spots for pass holders?**

Unfortunately, managing the parking lot on an hourly basis is not possible, but a daily admission limit of 50 people per day should work to assist with spots being available. .

## SITE AMMENITIES & OPERATIONAL STANDARDS:

### **What is the maintenance plan for the beach and the boat access areas?**

Trash and debris will be removed and the sand will be groomed every morning before the beach opens. These tasks will be performed by the Parks & Playground Laborers who work for the Facilities Department.

### **What is the trash and waste plan?**

A small dumpster will be put in the upper lot. Additional and more convenient trash and recycling receptacles will be placed throughout the beach property. Trash will be removed from the receptacles at the close of each day by the staff, and the waste will be placed into the dumpster in the upper lot.

### **Will you keep the 'relaxed feeling' of the pond?**

As with all public parklands, we endeavor to make it a place where citizens feel comfortable and welcome. We will continue to work with members of the community through this inaugural year to ensure we are being responsive to the needs and desires of all those who wish to access the beach.

### **Will there be picnic tables?**

Yes, the format will be similar to that of previous years.

### **Will you make a picnic area in the shade?**

Picnic tables will not be permanently affixed in any specific location so they can be moved to a shade area. A larger master plan and design will take place over the summer and fall months to examine where we may have additional shaded areas on the premises.

### **Is the dock staying?**

The intention is to continue with a dock of some format at the facility. We are currently evaluating the current condition of the dock.

### **Will the bathrooms be open year round? Could we consider extending the bathrooms year round?**

The Town is considering a porta-potty for the winter months to reduce issues with those who are fishing or ice skating and no restroom available; this will be dependent on budgeting and site assessments.

### **Can we install an emergency call box and a public use defibrillator?**

Yes, these are already in the works.

**Is there a bike rack?**

There is an older bike rack in the parking lot area; we plan to replace it when we re-do the parking lot.

**What kind of signs will you put up?**

Signage will mostly be temporary "A frame" style.

**STATE ACCESS ROAD, BOAT LAUNCH AREA & OTHER POND PARCELS:**

**Is the boat launch town property or state?**

It is State property.

**How to control the number of boats on the pond?**

This is beyond the Recreation Department's control.

**Will kayaking be allowed?**

Any boating originated at the State boat launch must follow the rules and regulations set up by the State of Massachusetts. We will not allow boating from the Town Beach/Swim area.

**Will the access road be resurfaced or patched?**

The Town does not own the ROW and alterations and/or improvements to this area will depend upon the State's budget and priorities.

**Is it illegal to swim in the cove?**

The Select Board has voted to not permit swimming in the cove at this time.

**Can I swim outside of the ropes (i.e. Open water swimming)?**

We have asked that our insurance company weigh-in on possible permissions and/or parameters the town would have to meet in order to allow this. We do not yet have an answer, but discussions are ongoing to find the best solution to this desire.

**PROGRAMMING:**

**Is the cost of swimming lessons reasonable, and will there be a flexible schedule?**

Recreation is currently working on a swim lesson schedule which will closely match WPA's program from last summer. Fees have not been established yet; swim details will be available April 1<sup>st</sup> with registration beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Can we still bring outside food for a picnic?**

Yes. No alcohol or grilling will be allowed

**Can we limit organized activity?**

Currently, Recreation has scheduled 'organized activities' for only 6 hours during the entire summer season; activities proposed have little impact to the beach. The Town will continue to evaluate the impact and success of these programs after the first season has concluded.

**Can Recreation come up with a way to engage middle school aged children in swimming activities?**

It will be considered and communicated with staff as to ideas to effectively do so  
This number may be amended as we evaluate the ability to safely manage the facility.

## STAFF:

### **Is Anne Boudreau coming back?**

The Town's Recreation Department is currently recruiting staff for the summer 2019 programs including those positions needed at White Pond. Recreation staff have reached out to the summer 2018 employees from White Pond to gauge their interest in returning. The Town is not able to speak openly about Personnel matters, including hiring, as candidates must undergo a series of pre-placement requirements before their positions are made public.

### **Rangers (NRC) also monitor the beach?**

The duties of the rangers is under the auspices of the NRC. The Recreation Department does have staff that will be able to assist with high traffic times.

### **Will lifeguards be trained with a lake or pond in mind, taking consideration of the water being deeper and harder to see?**

Guards will be required to have the American Red Cross – Water front certification. Additionally staff will receive extensive training on managing the Pond environment and will continue throughout the summer with in-service training

## FINANCES:

### **Is the plan to eventually have user fees pay to cover the entire cost of the pond's operation including capital?**

The plan is to have the users cover the cost of operations, yes. However, the Town has committed to covering the capital improvement costs associated with the pond as the parcel will now be a town park and asset.

### **Can White Pond be an Enterprise account like Beede?**

No, that model is not sustainable for parkland.

### **Can we have a small gift shop on the premises like they have at Walden?**

This would be something we would hope to consider in future years.

## SUSTAINABILITY:

### **Will recreation work to encourage non-driving visitors to the park?**

Yes. Recreation works closely with the Sustainability Division to encourage transportation means which work to reduce the Town's overall GHG emission.

### **Can the Town institute a non-idling rule for the parking lot?**

This type of initiative would need to be reviewed by the Sustainability Committee and proposed by a group as a bylaw amendment. Recreation has committed to encoring idling recommendations.

### **Are the lifeguards and swimmers going to be educated on the dangers of algae plumes?**

This will be part of the Staff Training; we are asking for assistance from WPAC

### **Do we know what causes the water level to drop in late August and September?**

This may be a question better answered by NRC, but we believe the amount of rain and drought conditions lead to the rising and falling water levels throughout the year.

### **What are the Towns plans for the use of parcels A & C?**

A & C have been designated as farmland for 'row' crops as determined by the NRC.

### **How will parcel "X" be managed from a public safety stand point?**

We are working with Public Safety Officials on that, but as of now, the only restriction to that parcel is that no permanent structures may be placed on it.