

STILES POND RESTORATION PROJECT



STILES POND



ALGAE BLOOM

POTENTIALLY HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS (HABs) HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN STILES POND WITH INCREASING FREQUENCY OVER THE LAST 8 TO 10 YEARS. PRESENCE OF HABs RAISES CONCERN FOR THE HEALTH OF THE POND AND PRESENTS A RISK TO PUBLIC HEALTH.

WHAT ARE HABs?

HABs are comprised of Cyanobacteria (a.k.a blue green algae). Cyanobacteria thrive on excess nutrients that accumulate in the water and bottom sediments.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

[Attend the May 14th, 2024 Town Meeting and vote to support Article 17:](#)

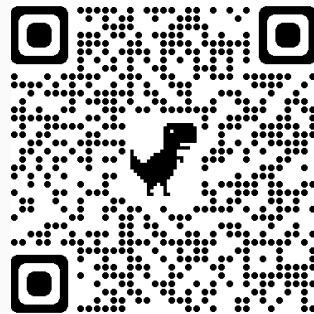
To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$65,000 from the Undesignated Community Preservation Fund balance to fund the preservation and rehabilitation of the Stiles Pond open space and recreation property.

[← Donate](#)

\$65K is a good start but we will need additional funding for ongoing treatment. We've established an online gift fund for the Stiles Pond Restoration Project.

Donate →

1. Scan the QR Code
2. Click "Online Payments"
3. Select "Donation"
4. Select "Stiles Pond Restoration Project"
5. Fill in your information



- OR -

Bring a check to the treasurer's office at Town Hall.



STILES POND RESTORATION PROJECT

PASSIVE HARVESTING

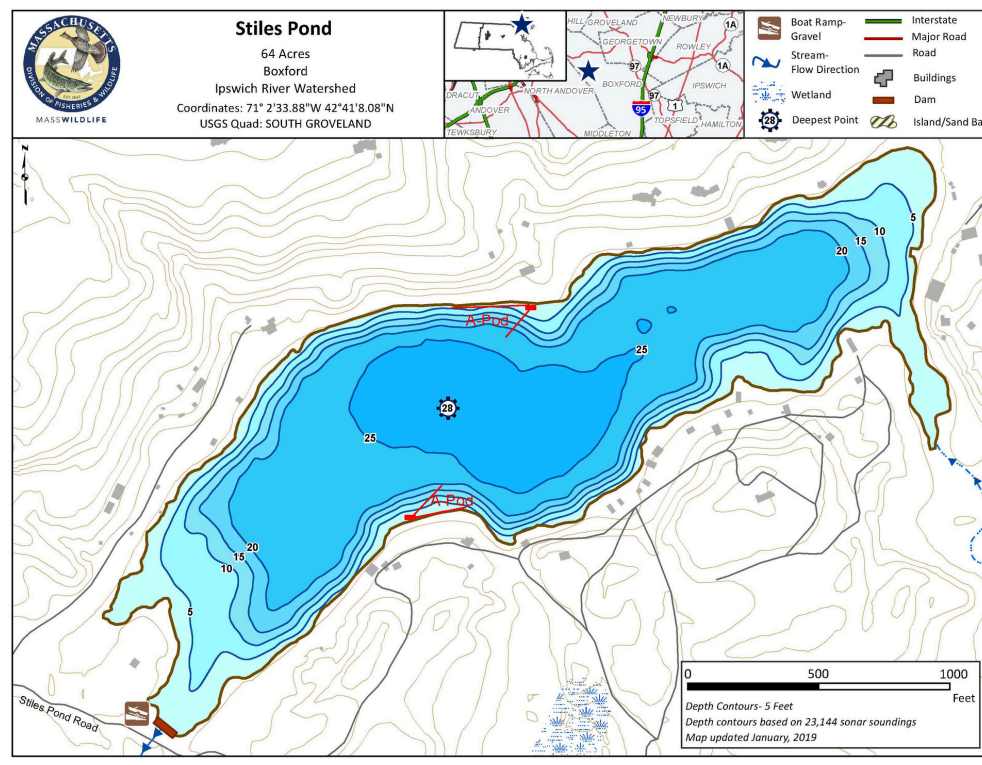
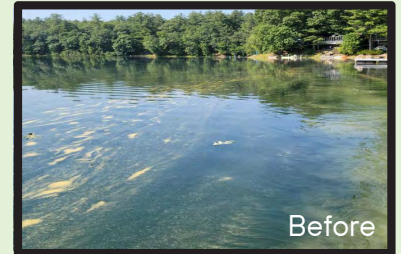
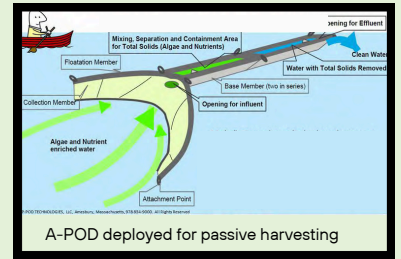
Passive harvesting is an innovative method to remove excess nutrients and suspended solids including HABs and pollen from lakes and ponds without adding chemicals of any kind. The method was recently developed and patented by Higgins Environmental Associates (HEA) located in Amesbury, MA. HEA evaluates conditions of the waterbody including nutrient concentrations in water and sediment, natural flow patterns in the pond due to wind, stream flow and other factors, then designs and deploys one or more "A-PODs" to collect and remove HABs and other debris from the water. Removing the HABs also removes the excess nutrients consumed by the cyanobacteria. The result is restored nutrient balance and improved water clarity and quality in the pond. This technology is being used with remarkable success at White Pond in Concord, MA.

White Pond is similar to Stiles Pond in many ways. There are homes directly on the pond, it is of similar size to Stiles Pond, it is popular for fishing, swimming and other water sports and is home to the Concord town beach. White Pond also had a significant HAB problem - it was actually more severe than what we have seen at Stiles. HABs at White Pond were so severe that the Town of Concord closed their town beach and posted advisories to not use the pond every year from 2015 to 2021. Passive harvesting using A-PODs began in 2021 at White Pond. The treatment has been so successful that there have been no observable HABs, and no beach closures or use restrictions at White Pond since treatment began.

HEA provided Boxford with a preliminary proposal that indicates an initial investment of about \$75K would be required for the first year to conduct a baseline assessment of conditions in Stiles Pond (nutrient concentrations, water circulation patterns, types of cyanobacteria, etc.) and begin passive harvesting of cyanobacteria. A second year of treatment and occasional future "tune-ups" may also be required. Needs and costs will be evaluated as the project progresses.

The map below illustrates two potential locations for A-PODs at Stiles Pond. Actual number and locations of A-PODs to be determined based on the baseline assessment.

For more information, go to www.higginsenv.com



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