October 2022

Walker Pond Improvements

Latest news and bulletin updates

Category I Update

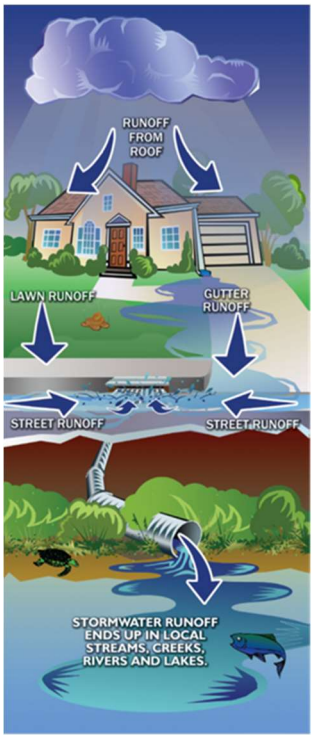
Public Participation Activities (Catch Basin Disks)

Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution is triggered when rainfall and snowmelt carry debris and pollutants over land to waterways such as streams, rivers, ponds, and wetland areas and eventually to the Charles River. NPS pollution includes, but is not limited to, fertilizers, grease, oil, gasoline, antifreeze, road salt, paint solvents, animal waste and even grass clippings and fallen leaves.

The town's drainage system is designed to receive stormwater runoff from pavement, sidewalks, lawn areas into the drainage system which discharge to nearby waterbodies. The storm drainage system is a network of catch basins, drain manholes, drainpipes, open culverts, and outlets that are built under roadways, parking lots, fields or any place were stormwater collects and could cause flooding.

Marking storm drains is a method of educating the public and increasing awareness that water and sediment flowing to a catch basin will drain into a receiving water. The purpose of drain markers is to prevent deliberate dumping and educate the public about the connection between storm drains and receiving waters and can help to deter littering, excess fertilizer use, dumping, and other practices that contribute to stormwater pollution.

The storm drain marking in the Walker Pond area will be a volunteer public participation event and an opportunity to learn about stormwater pollution and take an active role in the protection of Needham's waterbodies. The event will be held in the Spring 2023 following the winter season. Volunteers will be provided with:



- Marking kits containing all materials and tools needed
- A map of the storm drains to be marked
- Training on safety procedures for working around a public way
- A demonstration of the marker application
- Safety equipment (traffic cones, safety vests, etc.)

This event will take place under the supervision of the Department of Public Works, and we look forward to working with the community to make it a success! Additional communication regarding schedule and the volunteer opportunity will be shared in the coming months.

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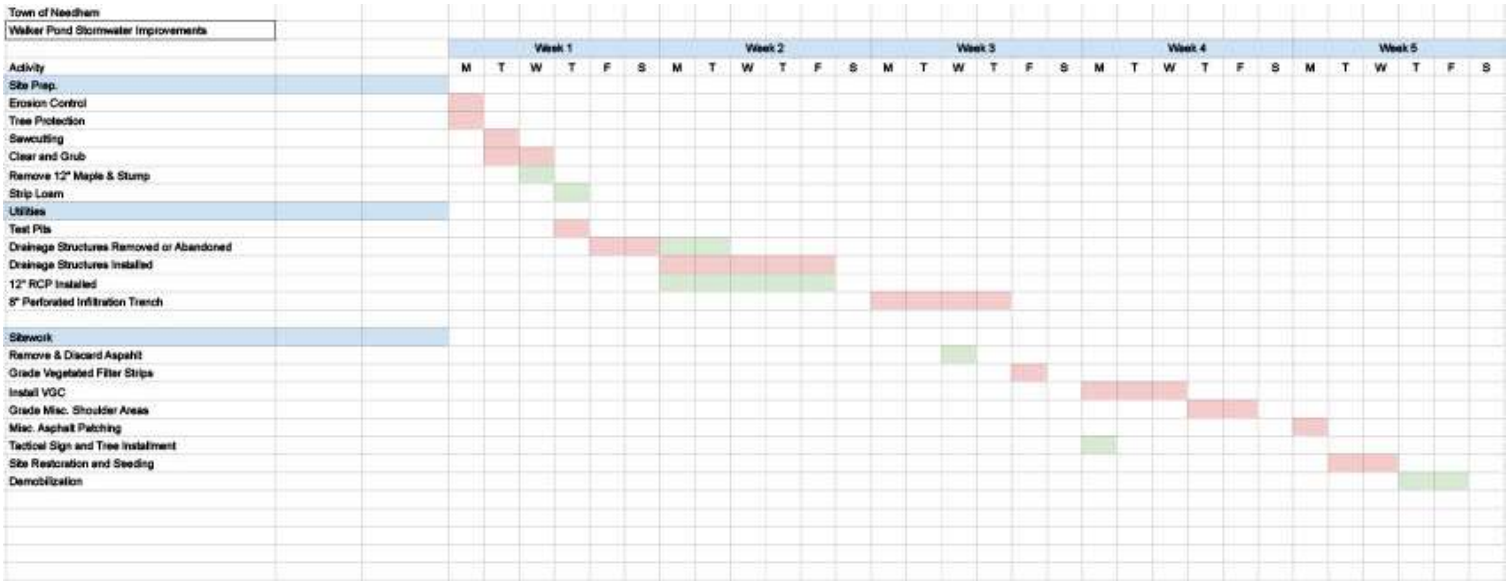
Category I Update (cont.)

Category I Construction Progress

*It is important to note that all construction schedules are subject to change without notice based on weather delays or unforeseen site conditions.



Construction mobilization began Monday, September 12, 2022. The contractor, Woodall Construction Co., has been diligently working on the activities as outlined in the schedule above. Work continues as scheduled and is anticipated to be complete by the end of October 2022. Below is a description of the work each week and they are more than 50% complete as of the preparation of this update.

Week 1

- Laying out erosion control
- Sawcut the lengths of pavement to be removed
- Began installation of a vegetated filter strip
- Removed a sidewalk along the dead-end portion of Walker Lane and installed loam
- Test pit to verify the location(s) of any existing buried utilities

Week 2

- Installed a new leeching manhole structure
- Removed two catch basins
- Began construction of vegetated filter strip with infiltration trench

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Category I Update (cont.)

Category I Construction Update

Week 3

- Completed laying perforated PVC pipe in the proposed infiltration trench
- Installed the final leeching manhole and tied it into the existing inlet and outlet pipes
- Catch basin installed and tied into the new system across the street via reinforced concrete pipe
- Removed a portion of the existing pavement
- Continued construction of the pea stone diaphragm

We are finalizing the text for the signage that will educate visitors to Walker Pond about the drainage/infiltration improvements, history of the area, wildlife commonly found in and around the pond and policies that will encourage responsible enjoyment of this natural amenity.

Please note: The planned signage may be placed following construction completion and is dependent on manufacturing lead times.

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Did you know?

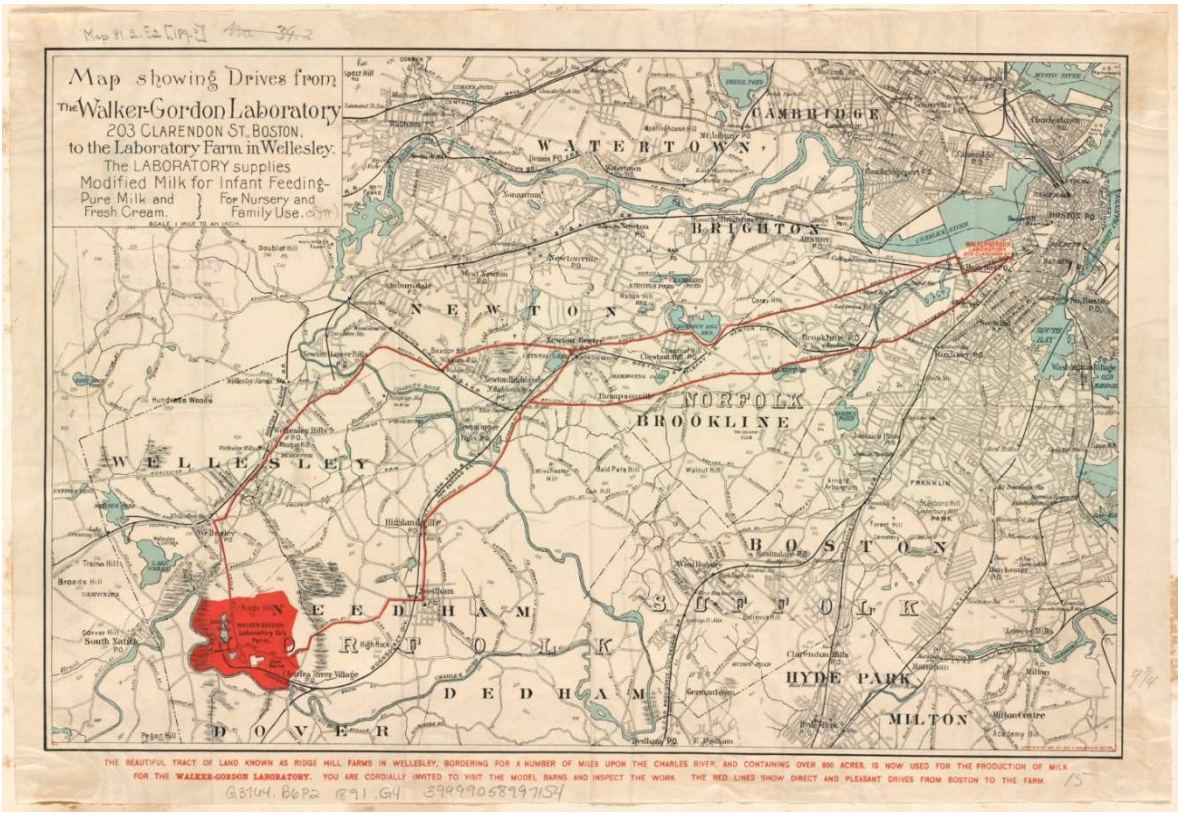
The Needham community has a fascinating history beyond the beautiful natural scenery!

THE WALKER-GORDON DAIRY, AN INNOVATOR IN SAFE RAW MILK FROM 1897-1971

At the turn of the century, milk was a germy, perishable commodity. In 1891 George H. Walker and Gustavus E. Gordon founded the Walker-Gordon Laboratory in Boston. Their aim was to make cow's milk more suitable for humans. The Walker Gordon Dairy Farm began with 40 acres and 35 cows in Plainsboro, NJ in 1897, and was the site of several scientific and technical advancements in dairy production that are still in use today. Walker-Gordon Dairy locations included one on seven-and-a-half acres of land along the Charles River in Needham. Walker-Gordon produced Grade A, whole milk, unpasteurized of the highest quality the industry has ever known from its inception in the earliest years of the twentieth century until it stopped production in 1971.

Through hygienic practices and regular bacteria testing of its milk, Walker Gordon dairy was able to provide safe raw milk for thousands of people over several generations. One invention by dairy manager Henry W. Jeffers was the Rotolactor, for milking many cows using a rotating platform.

When George Walker died in 1927, a trust ensured that the Needham Dairy would be converted into a convalescent home for children once his wife Irene passed away. In 1961, the Agricultural property was converted into the state's first convalescent home for children suffering from long-term illnesses such as polio and rheumatic fever.



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Map_showing_drives_from_the_Walker-Gordon_Laboratory..._(2675021998).jpg