

An aerial photograph showing a residential neighborhood with a large pond in the center. The pond is surrounded by dense trees, some of which are showing autumn colors. Houses are visible in the background, and a small building is situated near the pond. The overall scene is a mix of green and yellow foliage.

BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 30, 2025

Our mission is to coordinate existing resources and identify new resources devoted to protecting, preserving, and enhancing Buckingham Pond and its surrounding green space.

AGENDA

1. Welcome (Grace Bennett)
2. Introduction of Current Board Members (Gabi Sarhos)
3. Board Member Elections (Gabi Sarhos)
Proposed renewing & new board members
4. Treasurer's Report (Jenny O'Neill)
5. Welcome Neighborhood Specialist
Ken Louzier
6. Year in Review 2024-2025
7. Q & A



BOARD MEMBERS, RETIRING



Laura Andrea Leguía
At Large



Linda Wagner
At Large



BOARD MEMBERS ELECTIONS

2025 – 2027 SLATE PROPOSED BOARD

Board Member	Board Term
Grace Bennett – President	2024-2026
Gabi Sarhos – Vice President	2024-2026
Jenny O'Neill – Treasurer	2025-2027
Nancy Costello – Secretary	2025-2027
Jeanette Carioto – Renewing Seat	2025-2027
Kate Carleo – Renewing Seat	2025-2027
Al Lawrence – Board Candidate	2025-2027
Felton McLaughlin	2024-2026
Marsha Penrose	2024-2026
Beth Natali – Board Candidate	2025-2027
Anne Savage	2024-2026
Mark Schlessman	2024-2026



Jenny O'Neill
Treasurer
Renewing Seat



Nancy Costello
Secretary
Renewing Seat



Jeanette Carioto
Renewing Seat



Kate Carleo
Renewing Seat



Al Lawrence
Board Seat
Candidate



Beth Natali
Board Seat
Candidate

TREASURER'S REPORT

Buckingham Pond Conservancy Statement of Financial Position Current Year vs. Prior Year

	Year ended March 31, 2025	Year ended March 31, 2024
ASSETS		
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 53,539	\$ 58,629
Restricted Assets		
Albany County Legislative Grant	\$ (2,170)	\$ -
Allocation - Native Plantings 2024	\$ -	\$ (5,025)
Allocation - Website (June 2019 Board Meeting)	\$ -	\$ (350)
Playground	\$ (377)	\$ (835)
Tree Tags	\$ (148)	\$ -
Total Restricted Assets	\$ (2,695)	\$ (6,210)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 50,845	\$ 52,419
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 50,845	\$ 52,419

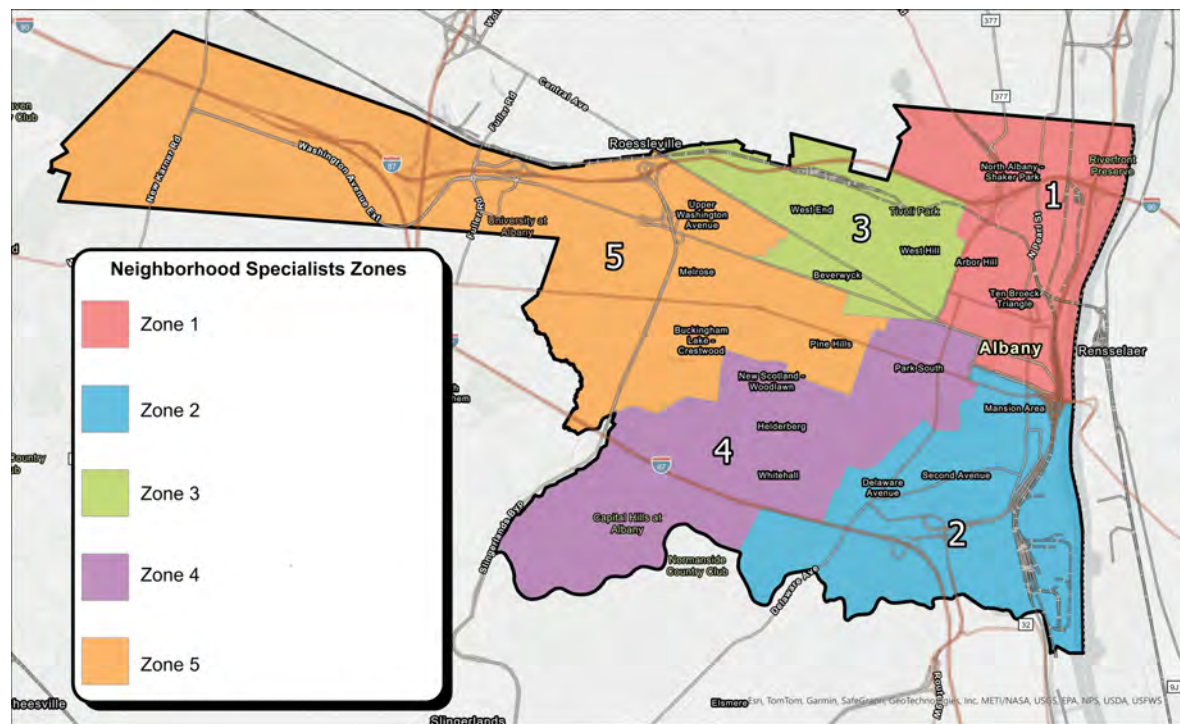
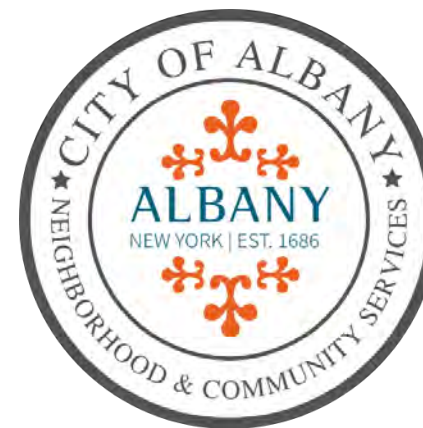


TREASURER'S REPORT

Buckingham Pond Conservancy Statement of Activities

	Apr 2023 - Mar 2024	Apr 2024 - Mar 2025
Income		
Donations		
Events	\$62	\$74
Miscellaneous	\$3,932	\$3,491
Total Donations	\$3,994	\$3,565
Grant		\$2,170
Interest	\$1,136	\$969
Membership	\$8,600	\$8,125
Total Income	\$13,730	\$14,830
Expenses		
Events	\$96	\$69
Fundraising	\$0	\$4,438
Meeting Expenses	\$385	\$965
Operating		
Bank Charges & Fees	\$78	\$56
Legal & Professional Services	\$1,175	\$2,313
NYSFOLA Membership	\$620	\$250
Operating Miscellaneous	\$2,039	\$985
Total Operating	\$3,911	\$3,604
Park/Pond Improvements	\$8,580	\$10,844
Total Expenses	\$12,972	\$19,920
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	(\$12,972)	(\$19,920)

Welcome Neighborhood Specialist Ken Louzier





2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS,
DONORS, AND CITY OF ALBANY



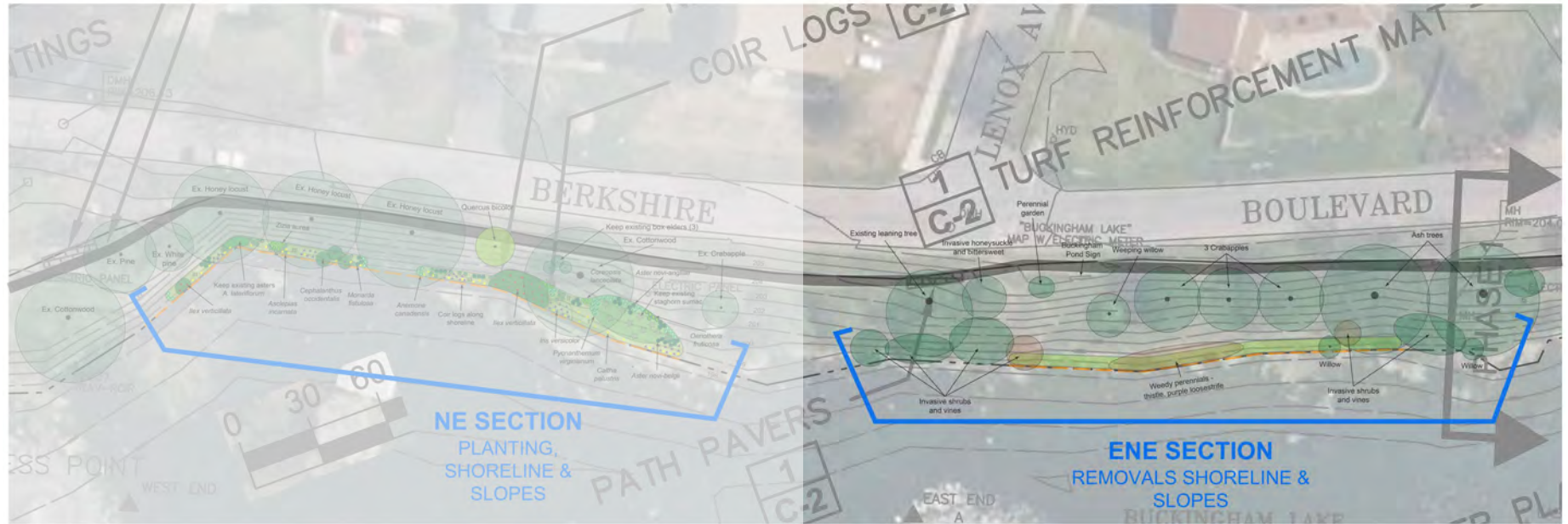
1.



SPRING/
SUMMER/
FALL

PART 1, ENE SECTION

SHORELINE STABILIZATION AND NATIVE PLANTING PROJECT



- Jessica Marsico (That Garden Lady) served as consultant paid from membership dues & donations
- Slope and shore erosion control with stones and berms and swales
- Removals of invasives
- Disturb the least amount of soil possible
- Hand labor, no machinery
- Jute fabric instead of synthetic turf mats
- Install aquatic plants up against bank
- Install shrubs and other plans in swale
- Mulch well
- Seed slope of working section with native grasses mix and secure
- Public education signage



1.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAINTENANCE



1.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MAINTENANCE



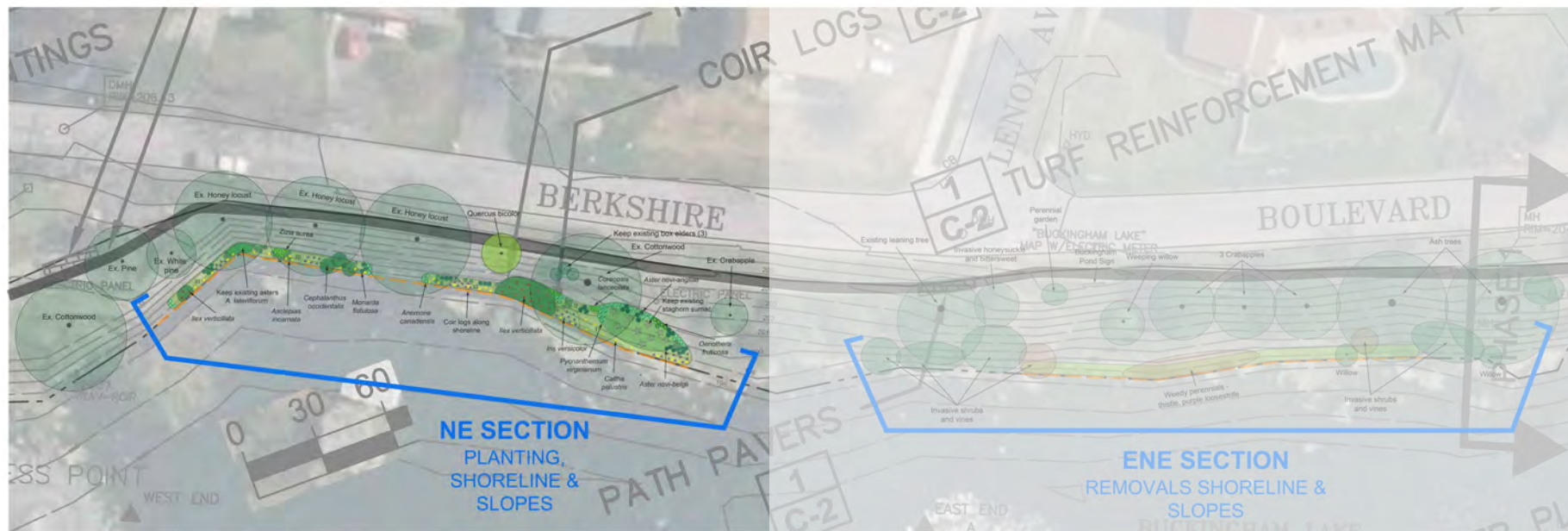
BOTTOM

Summer Youth Employment Program, Strawberry Garden



2.

GRANT for SHORELINE STABILIZATION



2025 ANNUAL MEETING

Albany County
Municipal Park
Improvement
Initiative Grant

PART 2, NE SECTION

SHORELINE STABILIZATION AND NATIVE PLANTING PROJECT



BUCKINGHAM POND \$19,500 AWARD through the City of Albany/DGS

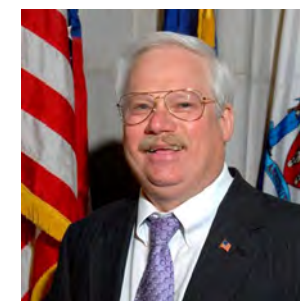
Part 2 of the slope and shore erosion
control, removals of invasives, and
native plantings



Daniel P. McCoy, Albany County Executive
Alexandra Robert, Acting Commissioner



Martin Daley
City of Albany
Director of Infrastructure
Management



Gary Domalewicz
Albany County
Legislative District 10



Dan McCoy
Albany County Executive

DGS working to develop
Request for Proposal Solicitation



3.

GRANT for VARIOUS PROJECTS

Albany County
Legislative Grant
Program



ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HAROLD L. JOYCE ALBANY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING

112 STATE STREET, ROOM 710

ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207

PHONE: (518) 447-7168 | FAX: (518) 447-5683

WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

BUCKINGHAM POND \$2,170 AWARD

Grant funding allocated to various projects

4.



SPRING/
SUMMER/
FALL
**CLEANUPS
AND OTHER
PLANTINGS**

- Garlic Mustard Removals
- Bittersweet Removals
- New plantings of
25 hazelnuts and
25 witch hazels

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED





5.

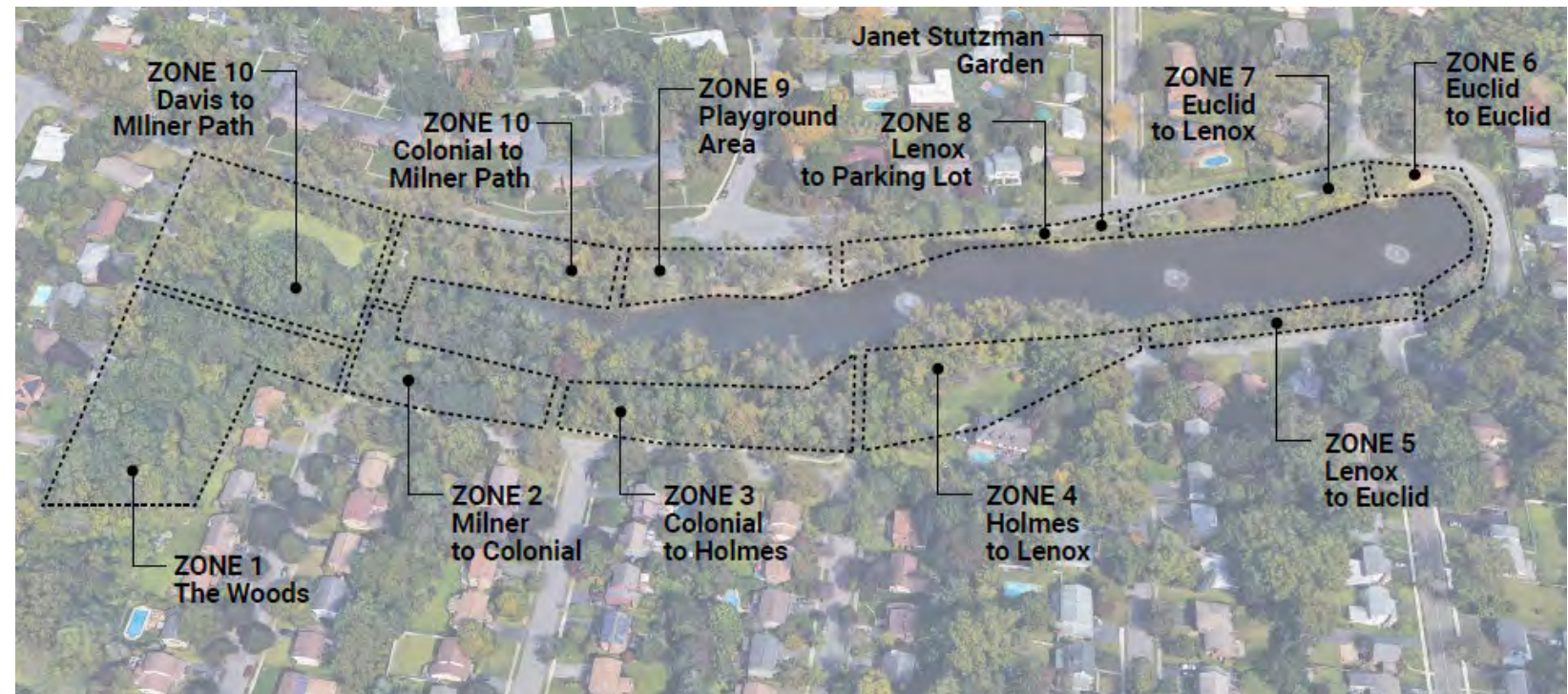
SPRING/
SUMMER/
FALL

PARK STEWARDS

You can help! Become a Park Steward!

TASKS: Clipping, trimming shrubs on pathway and shoreline; raking leaves; etc.

MORE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



Thanks to Park Stewards

BJ Costello, Felton
McLaughlin, Ruth Pelham,
Sara Hart

6.



ANOTHER CSLAP SEASON COMPLETE

Pond Water Quality
through NYSDEC
and NYSFOLA



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED 2025 NYSFOLA Conference

May 2 – 3, 2025, Fort William Henry Hotel
and Conference Center, Lake George, NY

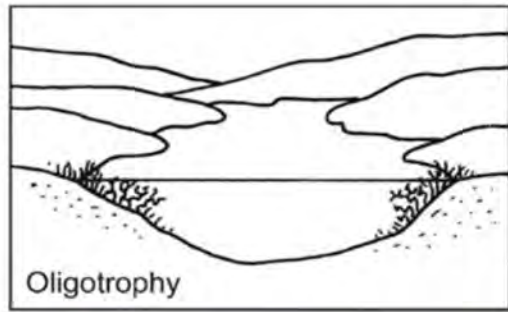


Buckingham Lake – 2022 Sampling Season Results

Red shaded results indicate eutrophic water quality conditions. In these columns, 'No' indicates there was no significant trend, '↑' indicates there was a significant positive trend ($p < 0.05$), '↑↑' indicates there was a strong significant positive trend ($p < 0.01$), '↓' indicates there was a significant negative trend ($p < 0.05$), '↓↓' indicates there was a strong significant negative trend ($p < 0.01$), and blank indicates there was insufficient data to identify a trend. In this report, seasonal trend analyses for individual sampling years and long term trend analyses show changes in key water quality indicators over a consistent index period (mid-June thru mid-September).

Open Water Indicators	2022 Sampling Results								Seasonal Change	Season Median	Decadal Median	Decadal Trend	Longterm Median	Longterm Trend
	06-11	06-25	07-10	07-23	08-06	08-20	09-03	09-25						
Clarity (m)	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.6	1.1	0.8		1.2	0.9	no	1	no
Upper Temp (degC)	20	22	25	29	29	25	22	17		23.5	25	no	25	no
Surface TP (mg/L)	0.095	0.095	0.094	0.077	0.107	0.103	0.084	0.057		0.095	0.071	no	0.067	no
TN (mg/L)	0.809	0.881	0.847	1.266	0.942	0.854	0.726	0.639		0.851	0.773	no	0.744	no
TN:TP	8.5	9.3	9	16.4	8.8	8.3	8.6	11.3		8.9	10.1	no	10.7	no
Surface NH3 (mg/L)	0.052	0.029	0.093		0.112	0	0.058	0		0.052	0.034	↑	0.034	no
Chl.a (ug/L)	5.2	21.3	9.6	11.1	26.3	17	18.5	11.1		14.1	16	no	11.8	↑
pH	8.6	7.9	7.7	7.9	7.9	8.2	7.9	8.4		7.9	7.7	↑	7.7	↑↑
Surface Chloride (mg/L)	284.7		278.4							281.6	281.6	no	281.6	no
True Color (ptu)	10	15	15	15	12	17	15	8		15	16	↓↓	17	↓↓
Cond (uS/cm)	894.2	940.2	1016	1152	1067	853.5	757.6	736.3		917.2	832.5	↑↑	814.9	↑↑

6.



HUMAN ACTIVITIES
 Stormwater runoff
 Vehicle Pollution
 Fertilizers and Pesticides
 Sediment

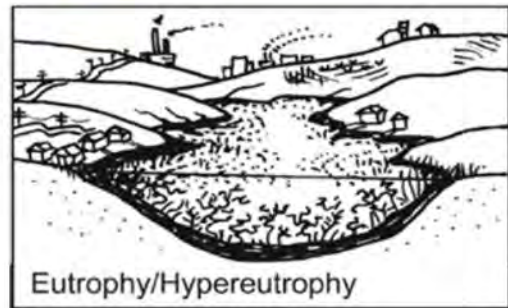
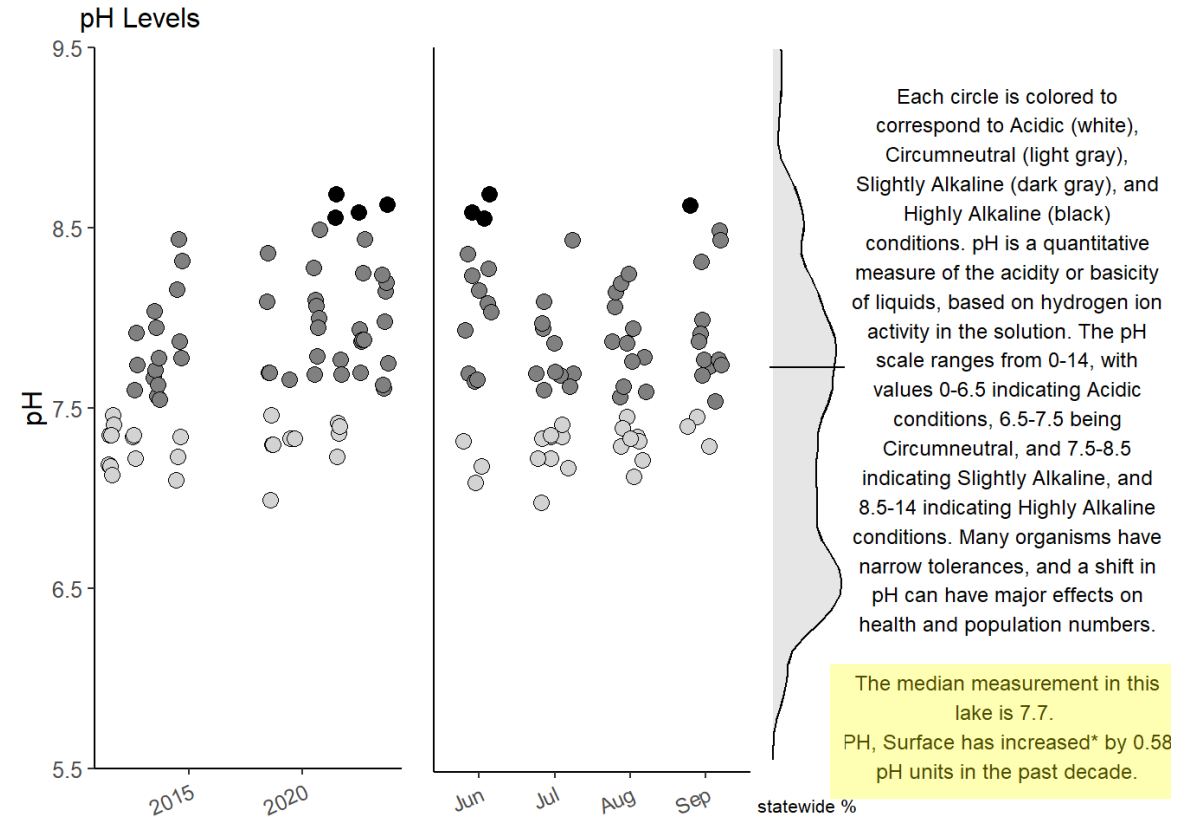


Fig. 1–12. Lakes naturally and slowly progress towards eutrophic conditions. When human activities accelerate the process, it is called cultural eutrophication. (CREDIT: WENDY SKINNER)



The optimal pH for most aquatic plants and animals is 7. A pH level between 6.0-6.4 or 7.6-8.0 is considered to be good.

7.



SPRING/
SUMMER/
FALL
**EVENTS and
OTHER WORK**

- Advocacy with DGS for Poison Ivy Removals
- Little Free Library, Adult & Kid (Thanks Therese Joyce)
- Ice Cream Social
- Playground advocacy with Recreation Department
- Path Repair in Fall 2024, advocacy with DGS
- Protective Fencing for new shoreline plantings, advocacy with DGS





8.

DEVELOPING PROGRAMS & COLLABORATIONS

Around the Pond

- Wild Fowl Advocacy and Signage

PLEASE DO NOT FEED WILD WATERFOWL



Many people enjoy feeding waterfowl, but the effects of this seemingly generous act can be harmful.

If you care about waterfowl, please stop feeding them, and allow them to return to the wild.

Feeding waterfowl low quality or high carb foods such as bread, chips, or popcorn, often results in dietary deficiencies in wild birds and can lead to:

- > development of deformed wings (propeller or angel wings)
- > lower reproductive rates
- > lowered life expectancy
- > increased susceptibility to predation
- > lowered energy
- > loss of flight ability

Keep wildlife wild.



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

For more information,
visit the DEC website at
<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/7001.html>.



**Please be an advocate for wild waterfowl
with your friends, neighbors, and visitors.**



9.

DEVELOPING PROGRAMS & COLLABORATIONS

Around the Pond

- Domestic Muscovy Duck Rescue
North Country Wild Care
and Therese Joyce



Photo © John Mickelson



Photo © Liz Gaudet

**Thanks to North Country Wild Care's
Julie Lafountain and neighbors including
Therese Joyce and Sarah Cohen**

10.



DEVELOPING PROGRAMS & COLLABORATIONS

Around the Pond

- A lot of line and hooks were also recovered and disposed of prior to the photo.
- Making sure no debris is left in or around the pond is the ideal!
- However, using environmentally friendly equipment is also helpful: lead-free sinkers, biodegradable line, and non-stainless hooks. Avoid lures containing lead, which is toxic to fish.



Fishing & You: Best Practices for Wildlife Safety



Fishing Accident Ends in Tragedy for Great Blue Heron

Recently our Great Blue Heron died from wounds inflicted by a fisherman's hook. If you're fishing at the Pond, please be aware that your actions can endanger our wildlife.

Fishing Responsibilities:

- Cleanliness:** Secure and dispose gear properly; fishing line and hooks can kill.
- Compassion:** Harm to wildlife is illegal.
- Respectful Observation:** Admire wildlife from afar.
- See Harm, Speak Up:** Report wildlife harassment and injury.

Find Out More About Wildlife Care
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/261.html>

Local Wildlife Emergencies
Amy Bizer, Wildlife Rehabilitator
518-882-8823 / arovrescue@gmail.com

OPPORTUNITIES

2025 – 2026 LOOK AHEAD

- Keep you updated on website, social media, and monthly meetings
- Coordinate with DGS Part 2 of shoreline stabilization and native planting project funded \$19,000 Albany County Grant
- Investigate funding sources for path improvements (long term project)
- Continue developing relationship w/ City departments (DGS/AWD/REC), Deb Zamer, Ken Louzier
- Interpretative Signage Project funded by Albany County Legislature
- Mobilize more volunteers, Park Stewards
- NYSFOLA/CSLAP water testing

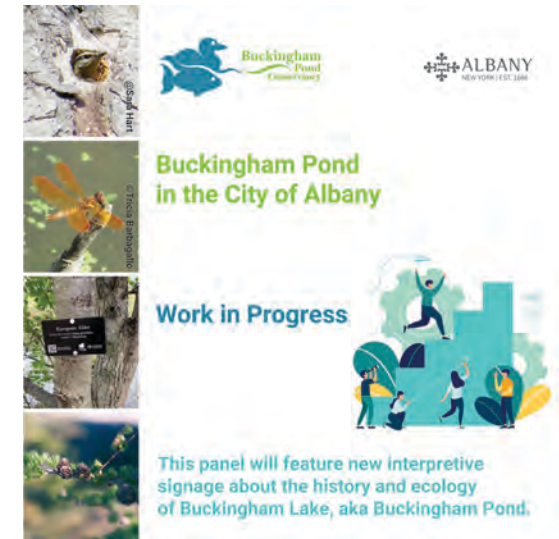
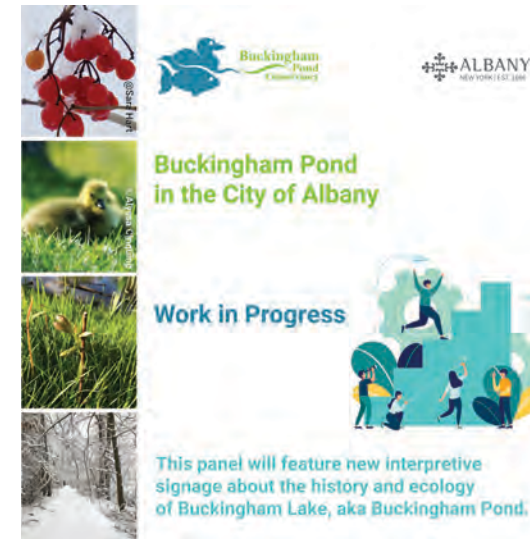


OPPORTUNITIES

2025 – 2026 LOOK AHEAD

Interpretative Signage Project
for Community Education featuring the history water quality and
flora/fauna ecology of the pond and grounds

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DESIGN, WRITING, CONTENT DEVELOPMENT





Questions / Comments.

THANK YOU

INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK
WWW.BUCKINGHAMPONDCONSERVANCY.ORG