



# BUCKINGHAM POND CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MEETING

MARCH 29, 2026

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 (Al Lawrence)  
Proposed renewing & new board members
4. Treasurer's Report (Jenny O'Neill)
5. Neighborhood Association (Beth Natali)
6. 2025 Year in Review
7. 2026 Park Management Plan Project & Look Ahead
8. Q & A



# BOARD MEMBERS RETURNING



2026 ANNUAL MEETING



**Jenny O'Neill**  
Treasurer  
2025-2027



**Nancy Costello**  
Secretary  
2025-2027



**Jeanette Carioto**  
2025-2027



**Kate Carleo**  
2025-2027



**Al Lawrence**  
Board Seat  
Candidate



**Beth Natali**  
2025-2027

# BOARD MEMBERS ELECTIONS

## 2026 - 2028 SLATE PROPOSED BOARD

Board Member	Board Term
<b>Grace Bennett – President – Renewing Seat</b>	<b>2026-2028</b>
<b>Gabi Sarhos – Vice President – Renewing Seat</b>	<b>2026-2028</b>
Jenny O’Neill – Treasurer	2025-2027
Nancy Costello – Secretary	2025-2027
<b>Michael Campbell – Board Candidate</b>	<b>2026-2028</b>
Jeanette Carioto	2025-2027
Kate Carleo	2025-2027
Al Lawrence	2025-2027
<b>Felton McLaughlin – Renewing Seat</b>	<b>2026-2028</b>
<b>Marsha Penrose – Renewing Seat</b>	<b>2026-2028</b>
Beth Natali	2025-2027
<b>Anne Savage</b>	<b>2026-2028</b>
<b>Mark Schlessman</b>	<b>2026-2028</b>



**Grace Bennett**  
President  
Renewing Seat



**Gabi Sarhos**  
Vice President  
Renewing Seat



**Michael Campbell**  
Board Seat  
Candidate



**Felton McLaughlin**  
Renewing Seat



**Marsha Penrose**  
Renewing Seat



**Anne Savage**  
Renewing Seat



**Mark Schlessman**  
Renewing Seat

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Statement of Financial Position

	March 31, 2026	March 31, 2025	March 31, 2024	March 31, 2023	March 31, 2022
<b>Cash &amp; Savings</b>	<b>\$57,694</b>	<b>\$53,887</b>	<b>\$58,629</b>	<b>\$57,871</b>	<b>\$51,464</b>
<b>Funds Encubered to Projects</b>	<b>-\$5,695</b>	<b>-\$2,695</b>	<b>-\$6,210</b>	<b>-\$5,545</b>	<b>-\$4,345</b>
<b>Funds Available to Spend</b>	<b>\$51,999</b>	<b>\$51,192</b>	<b>\$52,419</b>	<b>\$52,326</b>	<b>\$47,119</b>

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Statement of Activities

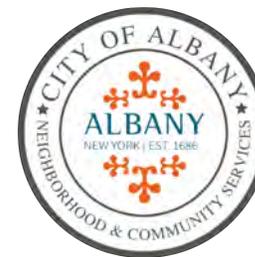
		Current Year 2025-2026	2024-25	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22
<b>Operating Income</b>	Memberships	\$7,375	\$8,225	\$8,600	\$6,325	\$8,625
	Donations	\$4,653	\$3,565	\$3,994	\$2,269	\$2,491
	Interest earned	\$1,444	\$1,220	\$1,136	\$154	\$64
	Grants	\$0	\$2,170	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>\$13,472</b>	<b>\$15,180</b>	<b>\$13,730</b>	<b>\$8,748</b>	<b>\$11,180</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	Park & Pond Improvements	\$2,385	\$10,844	\$8,580	\$0	\$950
	Fundraising & Meetings	\$4,471	\$5,403	\$385	\$1,125	\$4,056
	Events	\$144	\$69	\$96	\$102	\$71
	Operating Expenses	\$2,665	\$3,607	\$3,911	\$3,489	\$1,587
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$9,665</b>	<b>\$19,923</b>	<b>\$12,972</b>	<b>\$4,716</b>	<b>\$6,664</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>		<b>\$3,807</b>	<b>-\$4,743</b>	<b>\$758</b>	<b>\$4,032</b>	<b>\$4,516</b>

## BPC & BLNA / Similar geographical areas, different focus



### Buckingham Pond Conservancy (BPC)

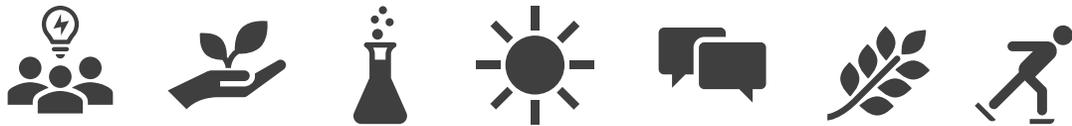
- Focus is on protecting, preserving, and enhancing Buckingham Pond & surrounding green space
- Working with the city to secure grants to implement park & pond improvements
- Protecting the natural habitats of plants & wildlife



### Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association (BLNA)

- Act as liaison between neighborhood and city
- Information about events, news, etc.
- Give residents a voice in local issues
- Plays a role in strengthening the broader community beyond the neighborhood
- Partner with other local community organizations

[BuckinghamLakeNA@gmail.com](mailto:BuckinghamLakeNA@gmail.com)



# 2025 YEAR IN REVIEW

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS,  
DONORS, AND CITY OF ALBANY

# SHORELINE STABILIZATION GRANT

**\$19,500 Award**

Albany County Municipal Park Improvement Initiative Grant to **City of Albany/DGS/BPC**



2026 ANNUAL MEETING

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



**Martin Daley**  
City of Albany  
Director of Infrastructure Management



**Gary Domalewicz**  
Albany County  
Legislative District 10



**Jay Lavigne**  
Albany City Arborist



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



Thanks to Mark Schlessman,  
John Roy Schlessman  
and watering volunteers:

Sue Berstein  
Ron Boutin  
Lotus El-Bahtity  
Janice Joyce  
Fiona Keating  
Carol McCarthy  
Abbey O'Conner  
Elisa Winter  
Paul Dworkin  
If you're not listed, also thank you

**2026 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED  
PLANT CARE & WATERING**



## PLANTING DAY 2026

- City of Albany DGS
- More Trees
- Board Members
- Volunteers



## SPRING & INDIVIDUAL CLEANUPS

- Garlic Mustard Removals
- Bittersweet Removals
- Trash Pickup
- Report and Pick Up Trash (thanks Sara Hart)



- Garlic Mustard Removals
- **Bittersweet Removals**
- Trash Pickup
- Report and Pick Up Trash (thanks Sara Hart)

## Invasive Oriental Bittersweet *Celastrus orbiculatus*



- Garlic Mustard Removals
- Bittersweet Removals
- **Trash pickup**
- **Individually report and pick up trash (thanks Sara Hart)**



## SNAPPING TURTLE ADVOCACY

- Family located and protected eggs
- North Country Wild Care pickup and egg incubation, thanks Petra



<https://northcountrywildcare.org/faq/>  
Hotline at 518-964-6740



## PARK STEWARDS

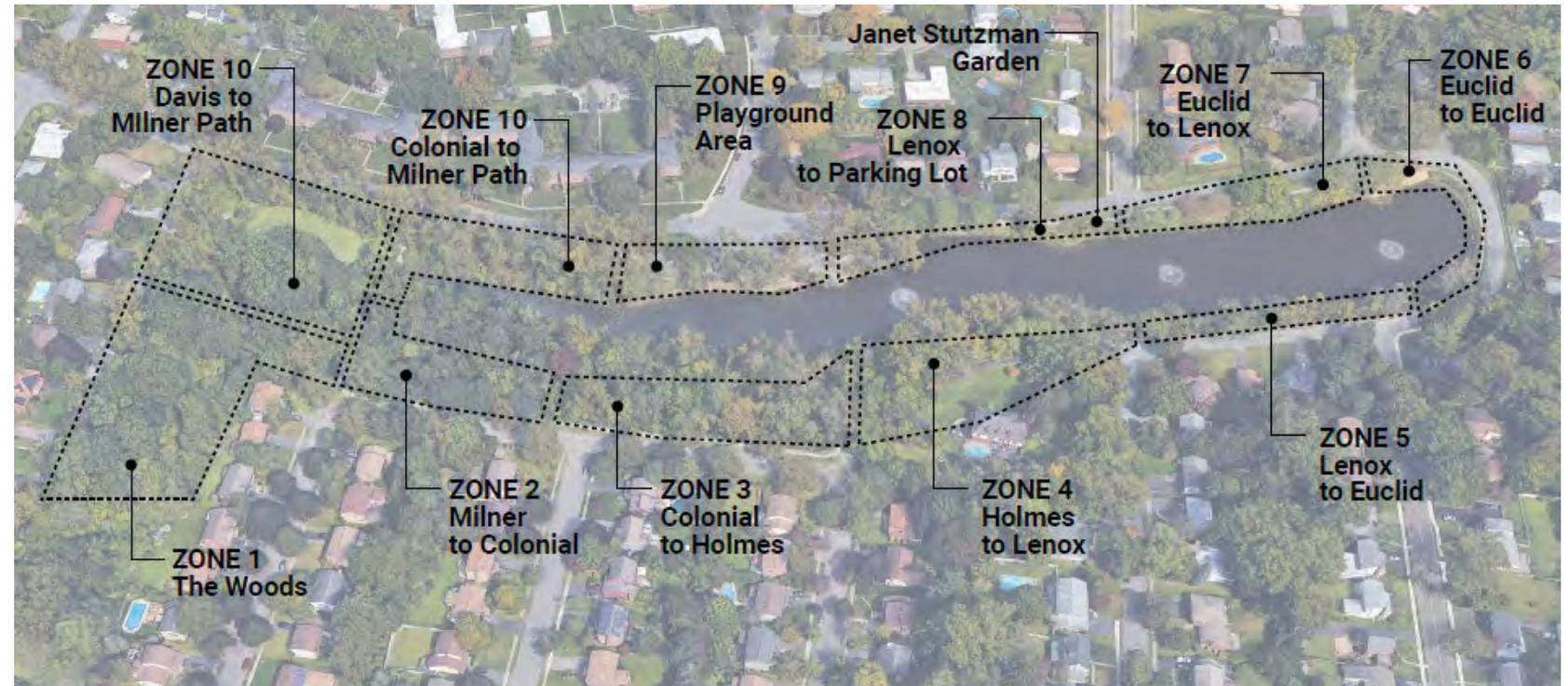
**You can help!  
Become a Park Steward!**

WHEN: Year Round

TASKS: Pick up trash, report issues, and do individual work clipping, trimming shrubs on pathway and shoreline; raking leaves; etc.

### Thanks to Park Stewards

Jeri Ceruti  
Paul Dworkin  
Sara Hart  
Al Lawrence  
Laura Andrea Leguia  
Carol McCarthy  
Ruth Pelham



# CSLAP SEASON COMPLETE

Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program  
Pond Water Quality through NYSDEC and NYSFOLA

## Visual / Boat Sampling

Depth  
Air Temperature  
Water Temperature  
HAB (Harmful Algal Blooms)

Lakes naturally and slowly progress  
towards eutrophic conditions.  
Human activities accelerate the progress.

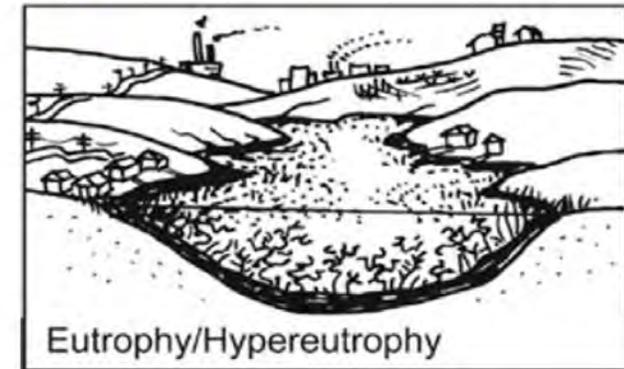


## Chemistry Sampling

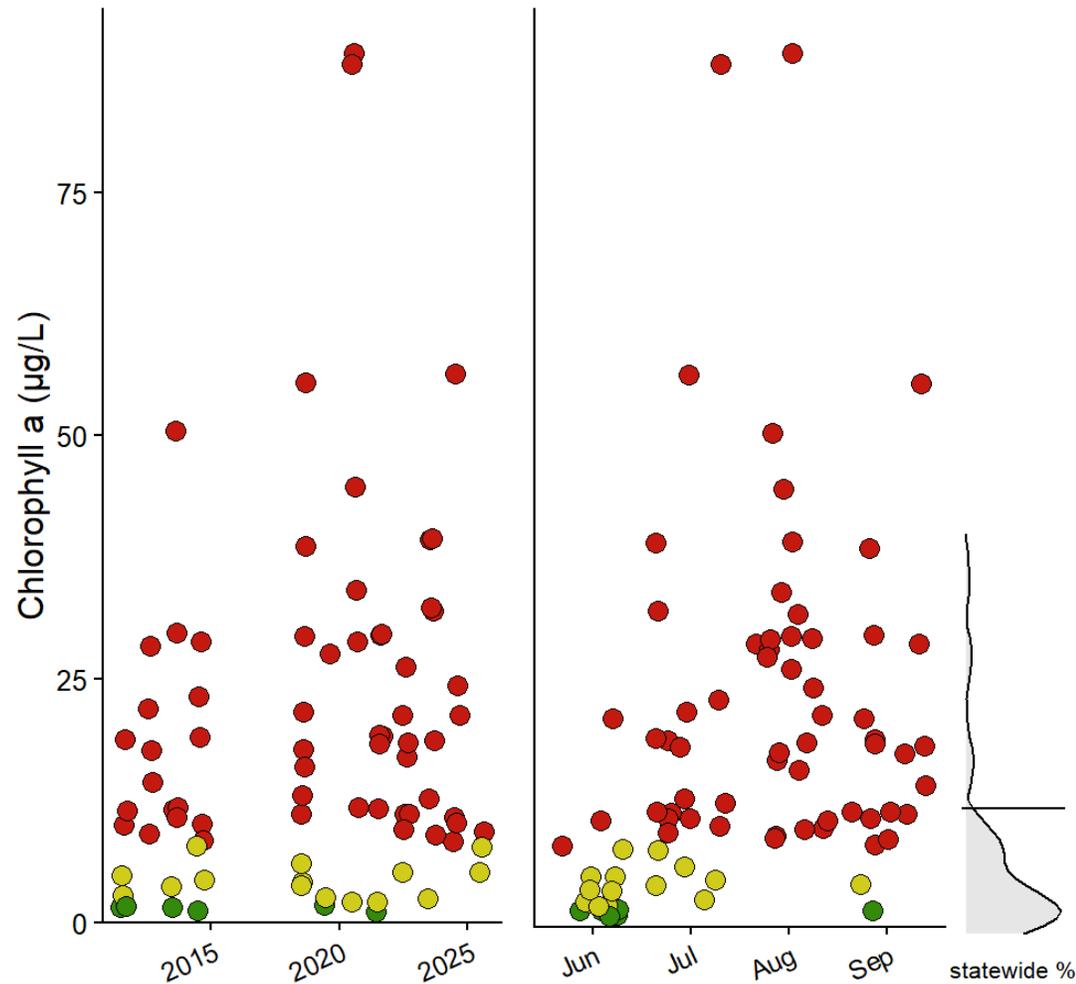
pH Levels  
Nitrogen / Ammonia  
Specific Conductance  
Phosphorus  
Chlorophyll  
Color



**HUMAN ACTIVITIES**  
Stormwater runoff  
Vehicle Pollution  
Fertilizers and Pesticides  
Sediment



## Annual and Seasonal Chlorophyll A ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) Concentrations



Chlorophyll a is the primary photosynthetic pigment in photosynthetic organisms, like algae. The levels of chlorophyll a measured have a direct relationship to the amount of algae in a waterbody. Waterbodies are classified as oligotrophic when chlorophyll a concentrations are  $<2 \mu\text{g/L}$ , mesotrophic when  $2-8 \mu\text{g/L}$ , and eutrophic when  $>8 \mu\text{g/L}$ .

The median concentration in this lake is  $12.7 \mu\text{g/L}$ . Chlorophyll A has increased\* by  $5.1 \mu\text{g/L}$  in the past decade. Over the entire data record, there is insufficient data to detect change.

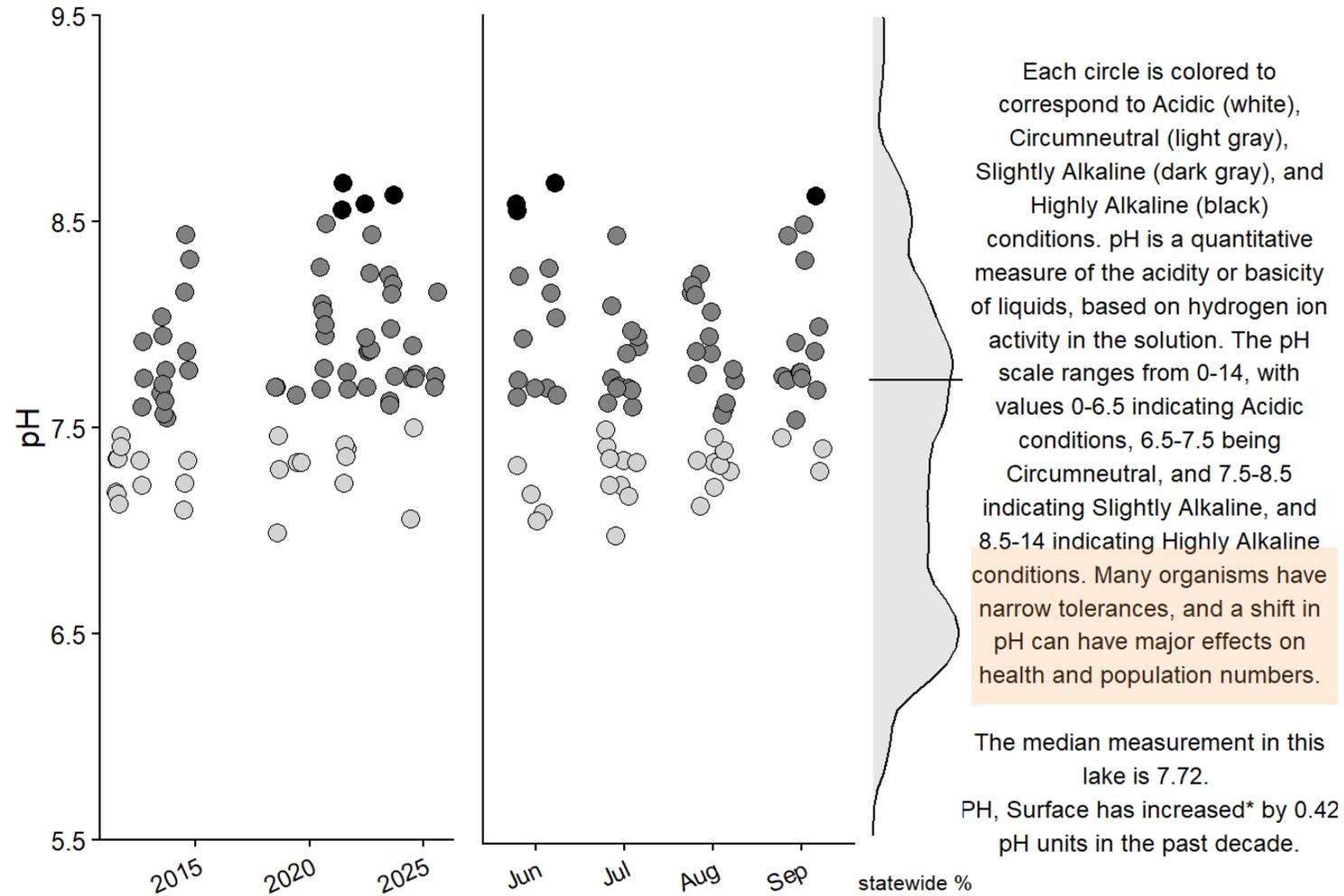
## Buckingham Lake is Eutrophic

- High levels of nutrients, high productivity
- Support an overgrowth of aquatic plants and/or algae
- Typically murky, warm
- Low oxygen levels

**Trophic state** is the biological productivity of a waterbody.

Measured by **Chlorophyll A**, **total phosphorus**, and **secchi depth**

## pH Levels



**Buckingham Lake pH is 7.72, increased by 0.42 units in the past decade.**

**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.

# SOCIAL EVENTS & EDUCATION

- APD Popup Day Participation
- Ice Cream Social
- Playstreets Participation
- Fall Stewardship Day



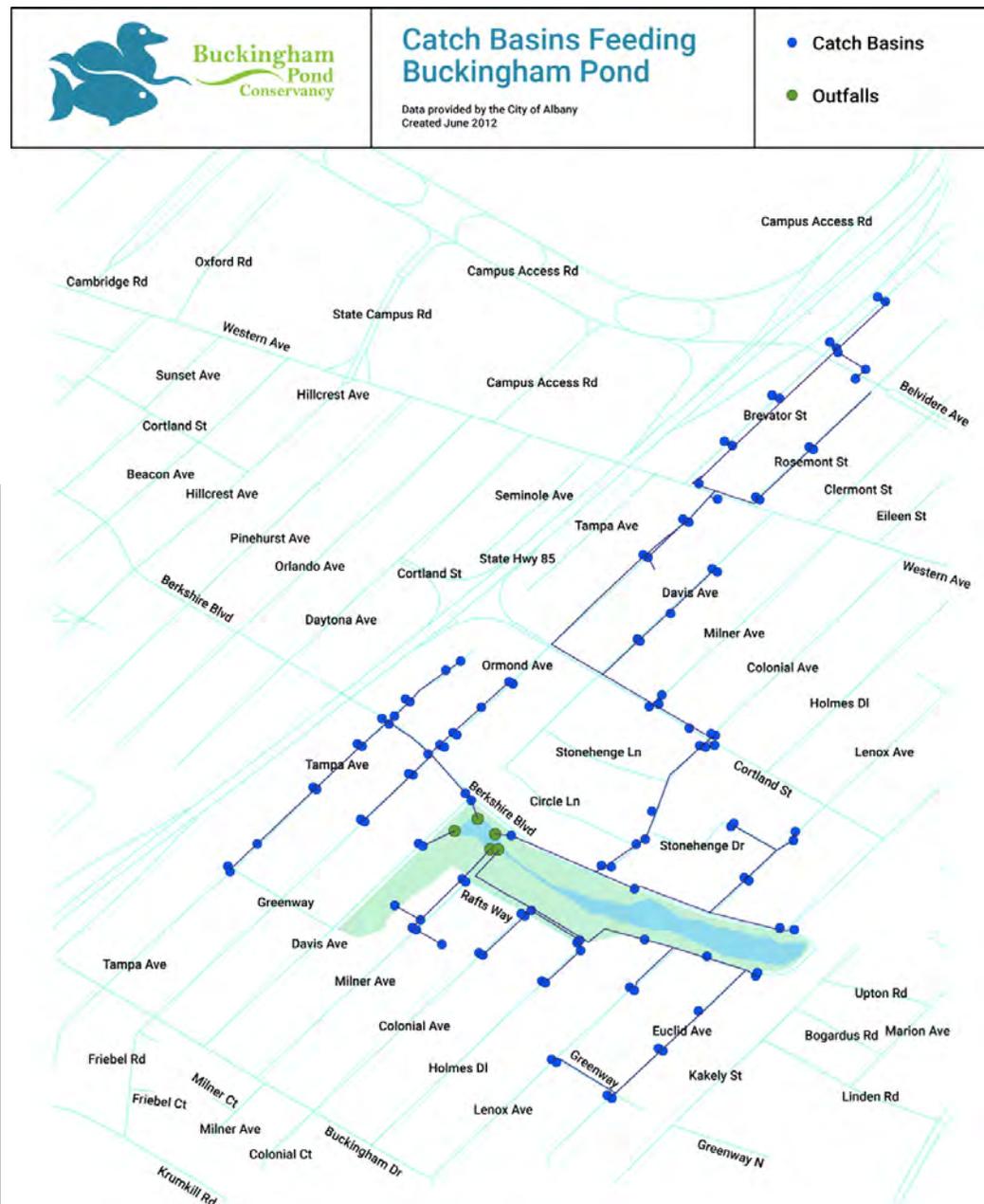
# WEBSITE UPDATES

## Urban Stormwater Role & Pond History

Thanks Board Members Al Lawrence, Gabi Sarhos and AlbanyGroup Archive Flickr and Dan Hershberg

<https://buckinghampondconservancy.org/visit-the-pond/urban-stormwater-system/>  
<https://buckinghampondconservancy.org/visit-the-pond/pond-history-stories/>

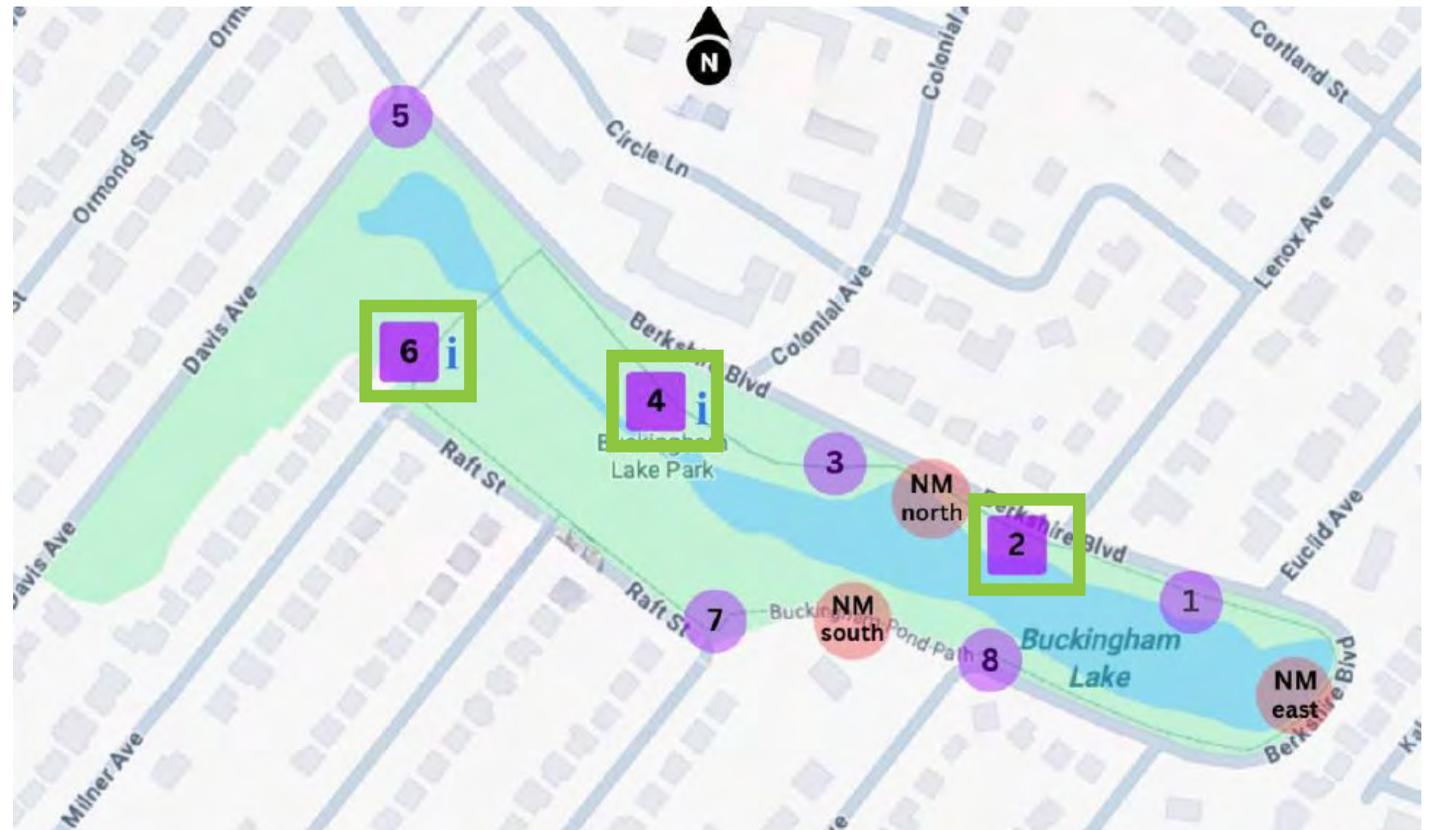
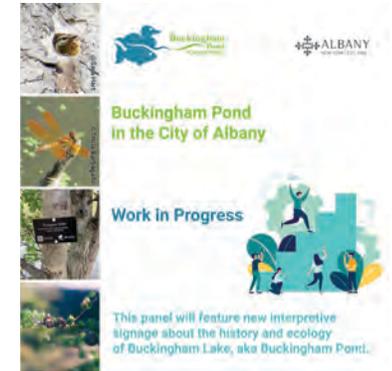
2026 ANNUAL MEETING

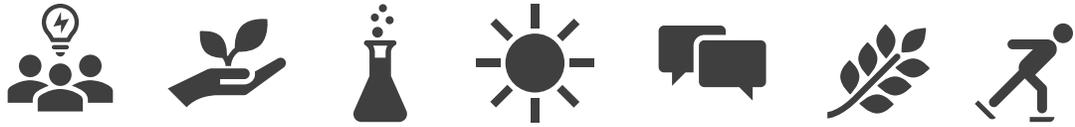


## INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Remove old signage and develop new signs, as follows:

- 3 large interpretive signs in existing frames (Numbers 2, 4, and 6)
- 5 welcome/“don’t feed the ducks” signs (Numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, and 8)
- 3 “no mow” signs (north, south, and east)
- 2 information stations (locations 4, 6)

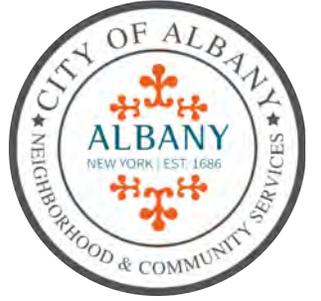




# 2026 OPPORTUNITIES

## NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

# NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN MISSION & PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS



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

2026 ANNUAL MEETING



# 2015 LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## VISION AND EXECUTION

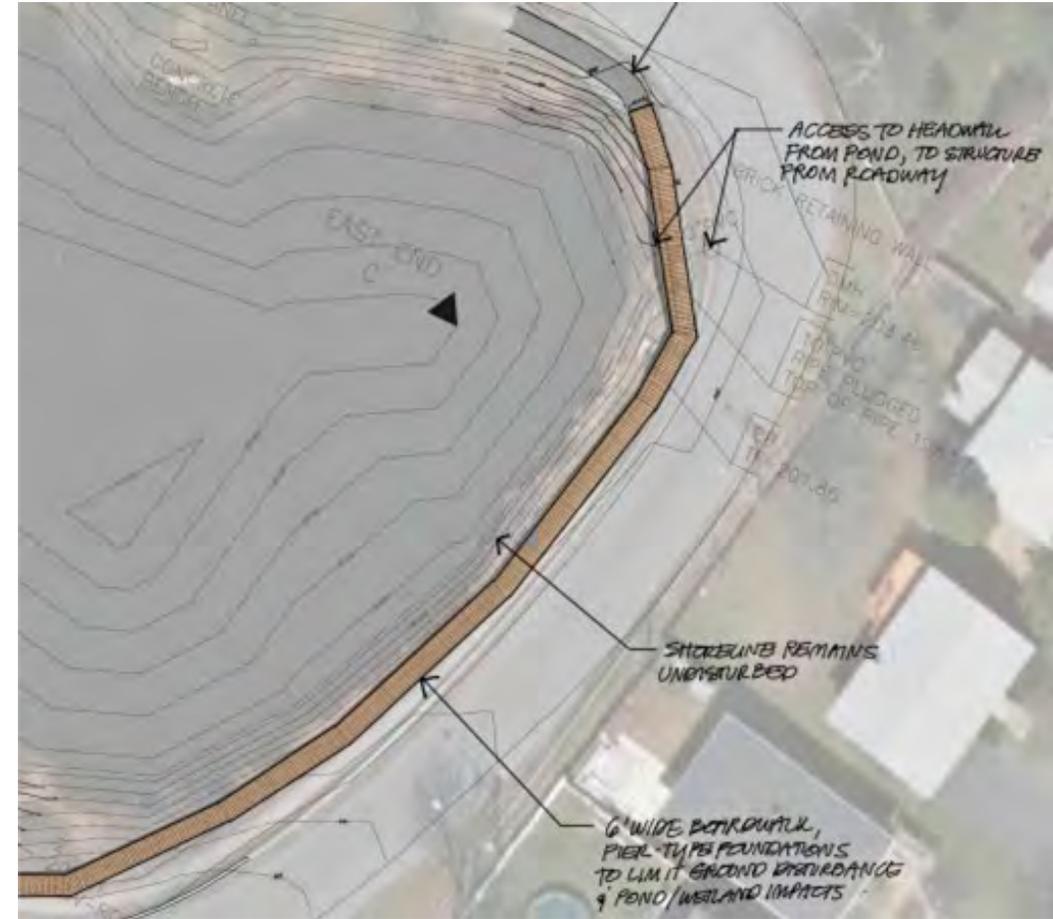
- Partnership with City of Albany Water Department
- Funded by BPC, Hudson River Greenway & Bender Family Foundation
- Developed by Barton & Loguidice
- Focused on
  - Role of pond in stormwater management
  - Improving water quality of pond

# 2015 LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## PLANNED WORK

### 2019 EAST PATHREDESIGN BOARDWALK OPTION

- Concept developed by consultant for the Albany Water Department
- Army Corps of Engineers permitting required

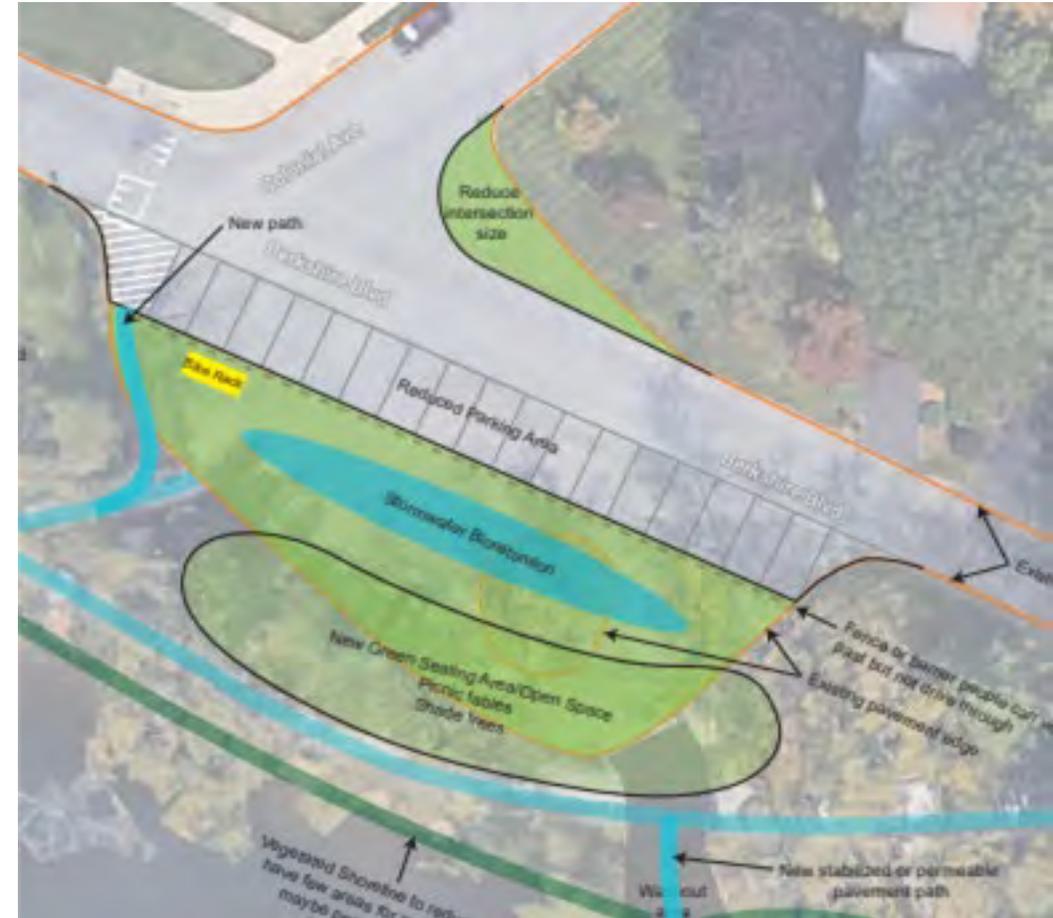


# 2015 LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN

## PLANNED WORK

### 2022 PARKING LOT CONCEPT

- Concept by BPC for DEC Stormwater Grant Application

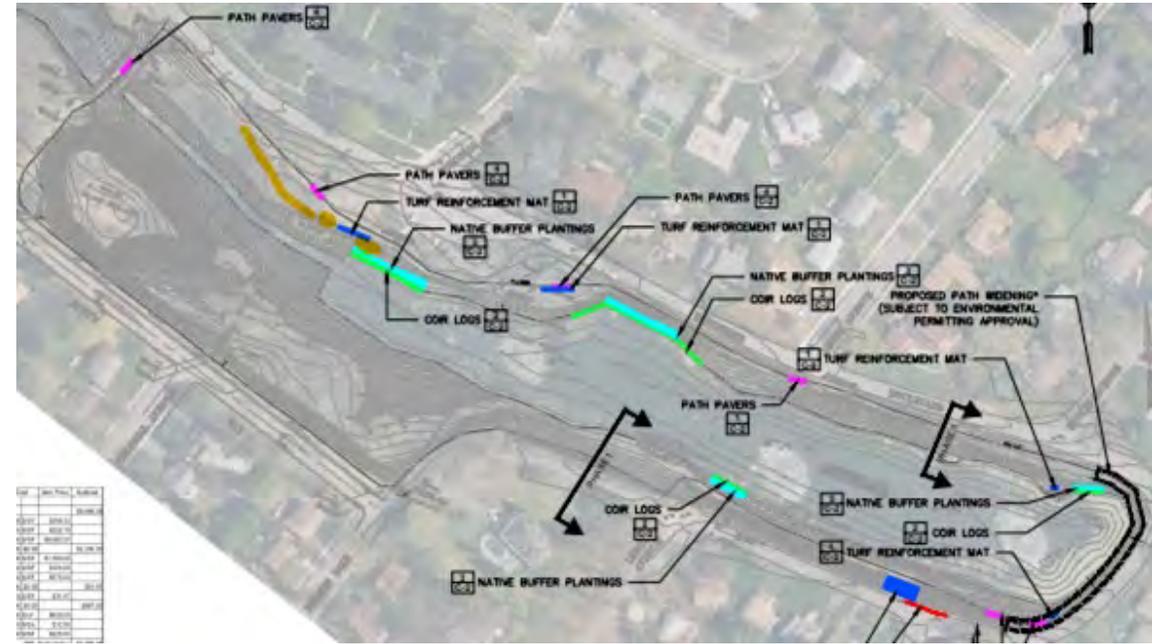


# NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## 2026 SCOPE OF WORK (DRAFT)

### PATH AROUND THE POND

- Erosion control
- All season uses
  - Strollers
  - Wheelchairs
  - Visually impaired users



# NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## 2026 SCOPE OF WORK (DRAFT)

### PARKING / PICNIC / FISHING AREA

- Safer parking
- Green infrastructure
  - Picnicking & recreation
  - Stormwater management
  - Erosion control

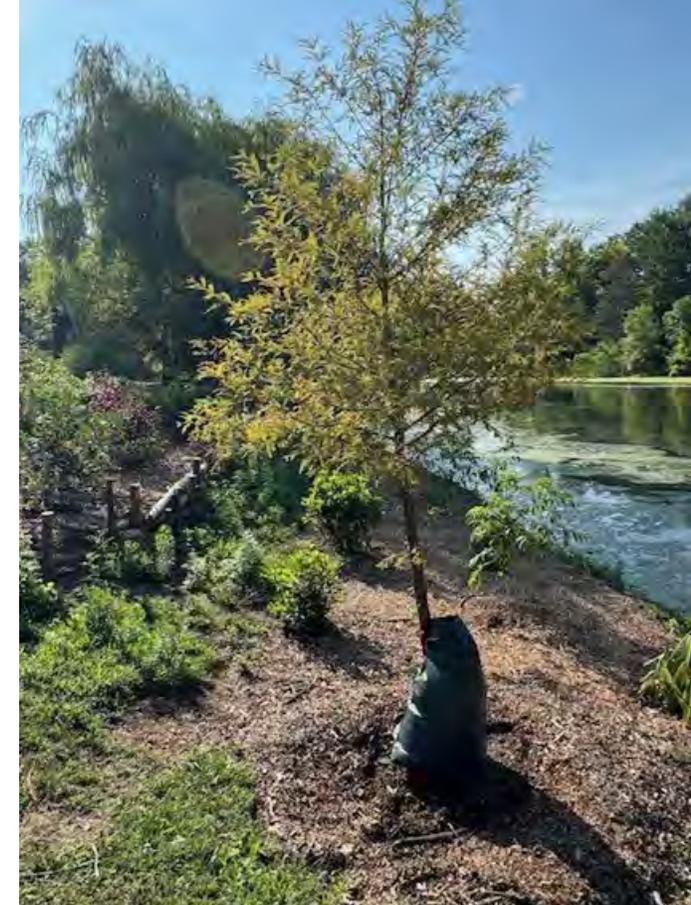


# NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## 2026 SCOPE OF WORK (DRAFT)

### TREE, SHRUB, WILDFLOWER PLAN

- Removals & maintenance plan with City of Albany
- Control invasive plants
- Encourage and add native plants
- Stabilize bank and control erosion
- Provide shade
- Improve animal habitats
- Improve the view

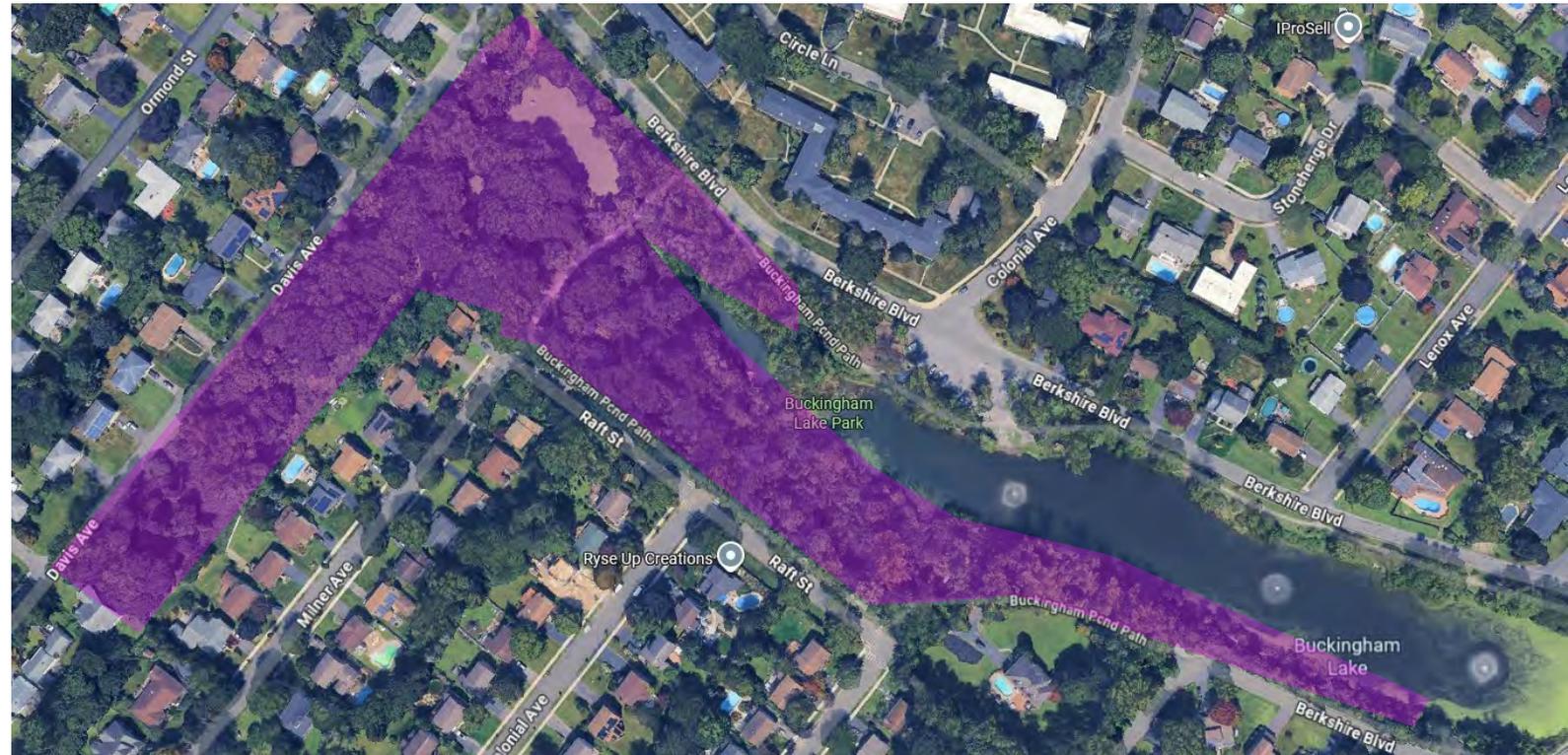


# NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## 2026 SCOPE OF WORK (DRAFT)

### UPLAND WOODS & URBAN TREE COVER

- Maintenance plan with City of Albany
- Address “party pit”
- Trails plan



# NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## 2026 SCOPE OF WORK (DRAFT)

### POND HYDROLOGY

- Dredging updated costs & feasibility
  - Included in 2015 Plan
  - Input / review with Water Department
- Improved aeration
- Implement herbicide plan with City committee

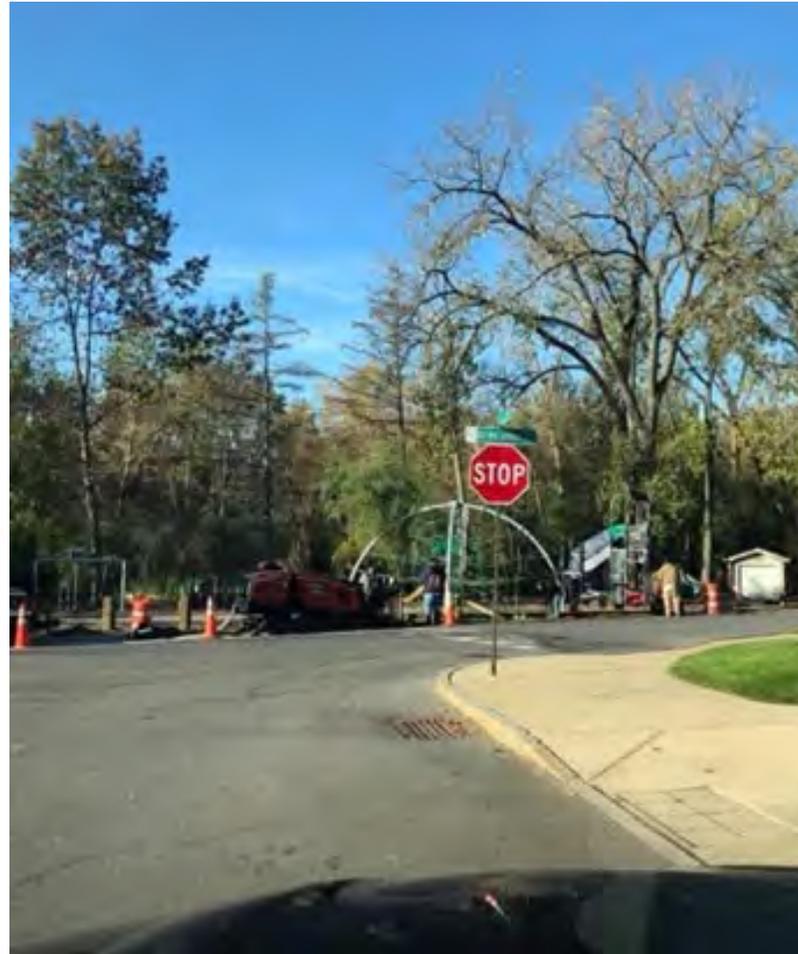


# NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## 2026 SCOPE OF WORK (DRAFT)

### PARK ACCESS & TRAFFIC SAFETY

- Address human and wildlife crossing



# NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## NEXT STEPS

- Obtain new proposal for plan development from Barton & Loguidice, with itemized costs for each scope of work component
- Partner with Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association to obtain input from community
- Meet with City administrators to decide how to proceed with planning - which items in which order?
- Work with City and County to obtain funds for new plans
- Once new plans are in hand, work with City to obtain grant support for implementation

# NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## SOME POSSIBLE SOURCES OF GRANT SUPPORT

### FOR MAKING THE NEW PLAN

- Bender Family Foundation
- Hudson River Greenway
- New York State DEC

### FOR IMPLEMENTING THE NEW PLAN

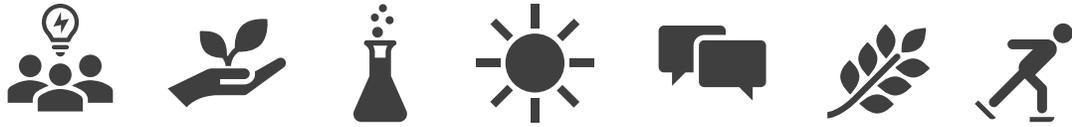
- New York State DEC
- New York State Parks
- New York State Environmental Facilities Corp.
- Other CFA Sources TBD

# NEW PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Join the BPC
- Speak with your elected officials
- Get involved with BLNA / Buckingham Lake Neighborhood Association
- Let us know how you'd like to see YOUR park develop!





# 2026 OPPORTUNITIES

## OTHER OPPORTUNITIES & VOLUNTEER NEEDS



# OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

## 2026 – 2027 LOOK AHEAD

- Plan, design, and install interpretive signage
- Grant applications
- Cleanups (May 3, 2026, 1pm)
- Social Events
- Park Stewardship
- Wildlife Advocacy
- Fishing Practices Awareness
- NYSFOLA/CSLAP water testing
- Website Updates



**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>.

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

## 2026 – 2027 LOOK AHEAD

- Park Management Plan Committee
  - Expertise with Engineering, Architecture, Ecology
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Grant Writer / Administrator
- Park Stewards
- Watering Volunteers for Planting Areas



Questions / Comments.



**THANK YOU**

INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK

[WWW.BUCKINGHAMPONDCONSERVANCY.ORG](http://WWW.BUCKINGHAMPONDCONSERVANCY.ORG)