Carp Barrier Maintenance Plan

Details of the Mesh Barrier

The barrier we want to install across a culvert through which the outlet creek flows is an aluminum alloy, wire mesh barrier with 2" x 2" square openings to allow other native fish to swim upstream. It will be secured into the stream bed once the water temperature reaches 55F, which is the temperature at which carp begin to spawn. It will be taken out of the stream once the water temperature reaches 75F, or when the carp are no longer migrating upstream.

This barrier will be deployed as a pro-active measure to prevent carp recruitment. One of our goals for this project is to protect our sensitive, wetland areas from the destructive foraging behavior of carp. Visual observations have confirmed that these wetlands are an active spawning site. The barrier placement is balanced with the potential need for native fish passage.

The sediment around the area of installation consists of primarily sand and cobble with a hard, uniform bottom. Installing the culvert upstream of Park Road will prevent debris from getting trapped inside the culvert.

Maintenance of the Barrier

The barrier will be placed over a culvert that exists on Park Road. The barrier will be cleaned of debris and any other material at least once a day, every day throughout its installation. The barrier will be checked after every rain event, big or small. We have a team including the Lake Manager, Board commissioners, and residents who have offered to help remove any debris.

Access to the barrier is reasonably easy. We intend to physically get into the stream and hand-remove any debris that has accumulated on the mesh barrier and dispose of it accordingly. We also have the option of standing on top of the culvert or on the stream bank and removing the debris with a rake. The District will provide a rake and gloves.

Checking the barrier every day should prevent the barrier from becoming inundated with debris. However, if that were to happen our inspectors would be "on call" to immediately clean the barrier.

Information About the Barrier

Information about the barrier will be published on our webpage (www.lakeripley.org), Facebook page, and in our Ripples newsletter. The newsletter reaches everyone within Lake Ripley's watershed, the entire Town of Oakland, and part of the Village of Cambridge (roughly 2500 individual households).

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