



# Friends of Green Hill Pond

To Preserve and Protect Green Hill Pond

Volume 03 / Issue 04 - August 2022

## Addressing the Route 1 Stormwater Problem



Friends of Green Hill Pond (FGHP) is making an impact! As noted in our March newsletter, we have long suspected that the runoff from Route 1 is a significant contributor to the bacteria levels in Green Hill Pond but did not have the facts to back up our suspicions. Meanwhile, the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) had concluded since 2000 that “no further action is required” in this area because the standard DEM uses--the amount of impervious cover (IC)--is so low.

However, a recent stormwater assessment by Woodard and Curran (W&C) that looked at many site-specific factors beyond IC challenged that assumption. In fact, W&C identified the Route 1 catchment area as the second highest priority for bacteria loading. That said, this was a desktop assessment and did not include field testing. So, in the absence of water samples done in accordance with EPA standards confirming there was a problem, DEM remained unconvinced. FGHP took up the challenge!

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, Mark Harris, a FGHP Director and engineer, slogged through rain, mud, and poison ivy to collect water samples at the Route 1 outfall and other downstream locations. Mark then took the samples to URI’s Watershed Watch in Kingston for analysis. The bacteria results were startling. One sample at the Route 1 outfall contained 61,310 MPN/100 ml or **nearly 4,400 times the shellfishing water quality standard**. Mark reported that the Route 1 outfall “smelled like a toilet.”

We immediately shared the results with DEM. To their credit, DEM quickly set aside their longstanding opposition and launched their own investigation. On July 21, DEM inspected the site and found “a significant sewage odor coming from the outfall pipe”. Less than a week later, DEM officially notified the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) that they need to quickly conduct an Illicit Discharged Detection and Elimination (IDDE) investigation.

One day later on August 3, RIDOT informed FGHP that they are concerned about the high bacteria levels at the Route 1 outfall. They “will be launching an investigation in the near future”, and this project is “high on the list with RIDOT”. FGHP has offered to help RIDOT in any way we can to speed their investigation, complete a stormwater design, and then implement a solution.

FGHP is on the case and will provide regular updates. Finally, your donations made it possible for us to fund this project which identified a significant source of bacteria in the Green Hill Pond watershed. Thank you.

Dennis Bowman  
President  
Friends of Green Hill Pond

Friends of Green Hill Pond | 183 Twin Peninsula Ave, South Kingstown, RI 02879 Please  
review/send comments

[Unsubscribe isodjb12@gmail.com](mailto:isodjb12@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data  
Notice](#)

Sent by isodjb12@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!