

18:10:10 From Kay Bell to Dan Cushing(direct message):
I hope the recording will include the captions. Thank you.

18:11:24 From Dan Cushing to Kay Bell(direct message):
Hi Kay -- If Zoom does not automatically save captions I will make sure to have the recording captioned.
Thank you!

18:11:48 From Kay Bell to Dan Cushing(direct message):
So grateful thank you

18:37:53 From Kay Bell to Everyone:
Is at least one family restroom/changing room going to have an adult changing table?

18:39:00 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:
Will the bathrooms be open between October and end of May?

18:40:06 From Devin MacConnell to Everyone:
it reminds me of the new(?) houghtons ponds bathhouse which is actually much more ACCESSIBLE. & has family restrooms

18:41:16 From Dan Cushing to Susan Hamilton(direct message):
Hi Susan, was there something during the presentation you needed to address? Can have you jump in before the Q&A starts

18:41:33 From Sharon Ouellette to Everyone:
Will at least one family restroom have a lift for transfers for wheelchair users who are not self-sufficient?

18:42:01 From Sharon Ouellette to Everyone:
Will there be a way for wheelchair users to get to the water? Such as a beach mat

18:42:07 From Susan Hamilton to Dan Cushing(direct message):
so sorry no. hit the button by accident.

18:42:08 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:
will the drive way to the boat launch be rebuilt?

18:42:24 From Dan Cushing to Susan Hamilton(direct message):
No worries thanks!

18:42:33 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:
We need a real PUBLIC meeting, to meet in person, with WIDE notification. Not just people on an email list.

18:42:52 From Devin MacConnell to Everyone:
family bathrooms have been a huge change to our families life. or atleast to mine and my two young kids. my autistic son is able to deal with the WC experience so much more. not hearing toilets flush and water coming out of the sink is huge.& i really hope there will be a lift OR have family restrooms on ground level ?!

18:43:04 From Devin MacConnell to Everyone:
Replying to "We need a real PUBLI..."
agreed

18:43:20 From Devin MacConnell to Everyone:
Replying to "Will there be a way ..."
such a great idea 🧱💡💙

18:44:15 From TRose to Everyone:
The boardwalk material that was used for the outside of the new Visitor's Center gets tremendously slippery under wet conditions. What plans do you have to ENSURE that this giant boardwalk actually has a surface with grip?

18:44:19 From Sharon Ouellette to Everyone:
Replying to "We need a real PUBLI..."

Def agree

18:44:23 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

Is there an exact count of the trees (beautiful pines) you plan to cut down?

18:44:48 From Adeline Sire to Everyone:

Will the quick access down the steep slope still be there?

18:45:13 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Replying to "Is there an exact co..."

I heard 86 Trees. Includes the HUGE pine trees near the bath house.

18:46:03 From TRose to Everyone:

Replying to "Is there an exact co..."

Save as many gorgeous pines as you can, please!

18:47:03 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Replying to "Is there an exact co..."

They do not care about our trees. The "thoughtful" comment repeated over and over again is scripted.

18:47:52 From Sharon Ouellette to Everyone:

Replying to "family bathrooms hav..."

Bathrooms are a real issue with us and many times we can't go out in the community with our son. I agree with you 100%

18:48:20 From Barbara Olson to Everyone:

Even the 250 celebration in 2025 is it wise to begin building when so many folks are coming to the area?

18:48:22 From Faith Crisley to Everyone:

what is the website for updates?

18:48:46 From Ben Kissinger to Everyone:

Nobody goes to a lake to see a bathroom

18:48:50 From Rama Valianti to Everyone:

Will you be labeling all trees to be taken down? Prior to removal, so the public can weigh in/negotiate/collaborate their removal?

18:48:52 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

Can you identify the area where trees and bushes will be cut down?

18:50:59 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Replying to "family bathrooms hav..."

The catch 22 is that currently the pond bathroom is ONLY open during the summer months.

18:51:02 From Tim Nickerson [RDLA] to Everyone:

Replying to "Is there an exact co..."

There are 59 trees expected to be removed of which nearly 25% of those were deemed unhealthy by a certified arborist.

18:52:10 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

Replying to "Is there an exact co..."

we should then keep the 75 % - by designing the building around them

18:52:15 From Andree Proulx to Everyone:

What is the expected slope of the proposed accessible walkway? It is very long -will there be an area to rest and allow faster visitors to pass?

18:53:03 From Zac Cardwell (MTA) to Everyone:

Replying to "family bathrooms hav..."

In the new bathhouse is a single level and as such all bathrooms will be on the main beach plaza level

18:53:05 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

Replying to "Is there an exact co..."

I think if we invest this much, the bathroom should be open year around, not just 5 month a year.

18:53:12 From Nat Tipton to Everyone:

Replying to "what is the website ..."

The website address will be published, shortly after the contract is awarded.

18:53:19 From Tim Nickerson [RDLA] to Everyone:

Replying to "Caan you identify th..."

Sure. The trees to be removed will be limited to the immediate area of improvements.

18:54:35 From Tim Nickerson [RDLA] to Everyone:

Replying to "What is the expected..."

Yes. The slope of the boardwalk will be less than 5% and will be wide enough for people to comfortably pass by each other.

18:54:47 From Devin MacConnell to Everyone:

agreed

18:55:02 From Rama Valianti to Everyone:

Agreed, agreed, agreed!!!

18:55:20 From Richard Smith to Everyone:

The #1 question we get at the pond every day: can you tell me where the bathrooms are?

18:56:26 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

this reminds me, I'd expect a notification by the pond

18:56:39 From Lisa Kay to Everyone:

Please limit comments to ONE minute per person. Cut off mic. People may be inconsiderate if not limited. Thanks

18:57:36 From Kay Bell to Dan Cushing(direct message):

Jan needs to share the available time with others.

18:58:00 From Tim Nickerson [RDLA] to Everyone:

Replying to "The boardwalk materi..."

Thank you for that comment. We will certainly look into ways to resolve that for the Phase 2 of the project.

18:58:51 From Rachael Lee to Everyone:

Replying to "Will there be a way ..."

There will be a ramp from the bathhouse plaza to the beach, and seasonal beach mat that leads as close to the water's edge as conditions permit given the seasonally variable water level.

18:59:25 From Sharon Ouellette to Everyone:

Replying to "Will there be a way ..."

Thank you for clarifying

18:59:41 From Dan Cushing to Everyone:

Daniel.cushing@mass.gov

18:59:49 From Devin MacConnell to Everyone:

i want to help too

19:00:16 From Rachael Lee to Everyone:

Replying to "family bathrooms hav..."

There will be 3 family restrooms on the same level as the other restrooms.

19:00:21 From Jane Wang to Everyone:

Apologies I have to leave this meeting early.

19:00:45 From Rama Valianti to Everyone:

Replying to "family bathrooms h..."

Let's put in a McDonalds

19:01:38 From Richard Fahlander to Dan Cushing(direct message):

Please give other people a chance!

19:03:07 From Rama Valianti to Everyone:

Great job Jan!! 100 people!? We should have at least 2,000!

19:03:43 From Faith Crisley to Everyone:

What is the start date and what will be the access this winter?

19:03:45 From Marina Shelton to Everyone:

Is there a beach chair?

19:04:34 From Will Clarke to Everyone:

Definitely agree with adding the bike racks

19:04:48 From Rama Valianti to Everyone:

Like Jan asked, how much hav spent at WaldenPond?

19:04:49 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Replying to "Great job Jan!! 100..."

Thank you Rama! My email is janowalden@yahoo.com in case anyone wants to contact me.

19:04:50 From Sharon Ouellette to Everyone:

Replying to "family bathrooms hav..."

@Zac Cardwell (MTA) My question is more about lifts to transfer from wheelchairs to changing table. Will this be provided in the new plans?

19:05:37 From amity wilczek to Everyone:

Um...bike racks are available at the visitors center and bikes are NOT ALLOWED at the pond. I would advocate _against_ having bike racks by the water, which would encourage people to take and maybe ride bikes where they are not allowed.

19:05:40 From Rachael Lee to Everyone:

Replying to "Will the quick acces..."

There will be stairs that split off from the boardwalk close to the end of the current E-ramp.

19:06:24 From Axel Bichara to Everyone:

I just asked this question live: I like the design quite a bit. Thank you! My question is about bike parking. Will there be bike stands near the beach? There were bike racks until a few years ago but they were taken away. Leaving a nice bike in the parking lot out of sight is not a good solution.

19:06:44 From Tim Nickerson [RDLA] to Everyone:

Replying to "Um...bike racks are av..."

Thanks for that comment. Good point. We will work with Park staff to determine what would be the best place for bike racks, if any. If any are added to the pond side, they would not be done until Phase 2 of the project.

19:07:02 From Robert Hicks to Everyone:

Does the new design account for the significant changes in the water level due to changes in ground water?

19:07:30 From Tim Nickerson [RDLA] to Everyone:

Replying to "Will the quick acces..."

Correct. There are stairs that will come off the board walk and allow people to get to the plaza to the left of the bathhouse as shown on the graphics. This would not be until the completion of Phase 2.

19:07:50 From Rachael Lee to Everyone:

Replying to "Is there a beach ch..."

There are beach wheelchairs at the pond now, and they'll continue to be provided.

19:09:33 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Replying to "Like Jan asked, how ..."

Please RAISE YOUR HAND to speak to demand actual PUBLIC meetings. Thanks

19:10:21 From Adeline Sire to Everyone:

Replying to "Will the quick acces..."

so the current entry point will be closed? What about cars? Will there be expanded parking on the pond side?

19:11:06 From Lisa Kay to Everyone:

Jan Outcalt, handicap and people with mobility issues should NOT count on the boat ramp for access to the pond. The boat ramp is designed for boating craft and trailers to access the pond and it is NOT amenable for swimmers, in fact, it's a dangerous entry point for swimmers, let alone those with disabilities. This new design can accommodate people with these issues, please consider.

19:11:29 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Where will emergency vehicles enter?

19:12:14 From Ellie Muter to Everyone:

How long will this project take to complete

19:12:22 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Who is the arborist, and where is the arborist report? I would like to point out that 75% of the trees to be cut down are HEALTHY beautiful trees. Please provide exact number of trees to be cut down.

19:14:21 From Tim Nickerson [RDLA] to Everyone:

Replying to "Where will emergency..."

Emergency vehicles will be separated from people coming down to the pond. People will be able to access the pond and bathhouse from the crosswalk by the Visitor's center. Emergency vehicles will access the beach front over by the boat ramp and come down to just before the new overlook.

19:14:54 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Noise dust more SUN less shade, heat increase, run off during rainstorms with removal of large trees. I didn't see ANYONE addressing these issues. Only falsely claiming that water running down the exist ramp is what creates the problem. Actually without the LARGE trees, the run off will be MUCH WORSE.

19:15:18 From Lisa Kay to Everyone:

YES! There are TWO beach wheelchairs and TWO floating wheelchairs but it's not easy! This new plan would make it A LOT easier for you, Marina Shelton, and the many others who need them :)

19:15:58 From TRose to Everyone:

Replying to "The boardwalk materi..."

Um, maybe it should be studied and implemented in the existing conditions before you recommend any new boardwalks? It would be a terrible idea to wait until Phase 2 to realize that the public will be siding on a 5% grade.

19:17:05 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

I HAVE had mobility issues. The boat ramp was the best option I found to get quickly into the water. I stated that this area needs to be improved to assist handicap access. If 6M can be spent on a very poorly designed project then sure a smaller amount can be spent on improving that area.

19:17:08 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

Replying to "Nobody goes to a lak..."

True. But when they are actually there they/we may need use one, year around.

19:17:14 From David Owen to Everyone:

Replying to "Even the 250 celebra..."

Agreed.

19:17:39 From Sharon Ouellette to Everyone:

Replying to "YES! There are TWO b..."

Could you elaborate why it will be easier

19:18:04 From Marina Shelton to Everyone:

Thank you so much!

19:18:42 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Replying to "Jan Outcalt, handica..."

I HAVE needed better "accessibility". The use of this term is a manipulation to allow a massively destructive plan for the east side of Walden pond. Better options are available, with community participation.

19:20:02 From Sharon Ouellette to Everyone:

Replying to "Nobody goes to a lak..."

Also anyone who needs access to an accessible bathroom can't enjoy a beach without it

19:20:05 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Please advise who we should contact to demand FULL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, not just ONE Zoom

meeting. I did not see ANY media promotion, and a Zoom meeting is not adequate to address the many concerns.

19:21:05 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Replying to "Nobody goes to a lak..."

There is currently one bathroom available at the main beach, however like the entire bath house, it is closed for most of the year.

19:21:34 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Bathroom is currently closed for most of the year. Any plans to keep this open for the full year?

19:21:42 From TRose to Everyone:

Agreed on the increased access for those with mobility issues. Glad that the long-neglected areas will be taken care of. Not a fan of trees on the slope being taken down, the last conceptual drawing showed a very bald-looking area. The large pines should be considered treasures for shade and soil stability.

19:22:08 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

Replying to "Agreed on the increa..."

Agreed!

19:23:04 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

Replying to "Agreed on the increa..."

"Limited" is not a number. They have to be very specific about what they want to cut down.

19:23:24 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

Replying to "Agreed on the increa..."

And NOT cut down any large trees.

19:24:45 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Please stop talking about Henry Thoreau if you are going to insist upon imposing this massive project at Walden without providing NORMAL PROTOCOL of full public participation. Henry Thoreau would be chaining himself to one of the huge pine trees and engaging in grass roots organization right NOW to fight this.

19:25:35 From TRose to Everyone:

Also, bc of the recent issues with the lack of beach, I would like for there to be discussion about public lockers or storage made available for those who want to lock up valuable objects near the bathhouse. (Or if this has already been explored and rejected for safety reasons, at least share reasonings)

19:25:54 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Replying to "Agreed on the increa..."

86 trees is what I heard. Including the HUGE pine trees near the bath house.

19:25:58 From amity wilczek to Everyone:

Thank you for addressing concerns about erosion during construction! I look forward to hearing more about both the interim and long-term re-planting to mitigate erosion on those very steep slopes leading to the pond. I also want to say that although my question was narrowly focused on the landscape, I'm so, so excited to see the pond more widely accessible as a result of these projects.

19:26:43 From Kay Bell to Everyone:

I've had the pleasure of visiting Congaree National Park in South Carolina which has an integrated boardwalk similar to this design, but in an amazing southern swamp. I imagine when it was proposed it startled people and disrupted things for a while. But now it is smoothly set within the swamp and visitors can immerse themselves in the natural setting without disrupting the eco-system. Have patience with a transitional period that

will make this natural setting available to so many more people.

19:27:46 From Barbara Olson to Everyone:
Replying to "Also, bc of the rece..."

It would be nice if developers could take another look at saving some of those larger trees.

19:28:08 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

How many of the DCR people speaking here have actually been to Walden pond, walked and gone swimming there?

19:28:14 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:
Replying to "I've had the pleasur..."

I believe you, but why board walk on a solid surface?

19:28:33 From Jan Outcalt to Dan Cushing(direct message):
Please forward entire chat to everyone who participated.

19:29:01 From Jacqui Kluft to Everyone:

I saw a lot of talk about white pines, but historically we have lost 33% of plant species and this project will address some diversity problems with a monoculture of white pine.

19:29:02 From Sharon Ouellette to Everyone:

As a mom with a son who is disabled, I really appreciate the efforts being made to make this space accessible to all.

19:29:22 From TRose to Everyone:

Is there ANY possibility that this project will be delayed or stopped entirely by the incoming administration(or other issues)? And if so, what are the contingency plans if work needs to stop? (Will the public always have access, what will be the most destructive steps and how quickly will they be fixed-these projects always take longer than we expect)

19:29:33 From Adeline Sire to Everyone:
thank you!

19:29:58 From Rachael Lee to Dan Cushing(direct message):
I think Ben K is trying ti raise his hand

19:30:16 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

Thanks. Keeping the pines and the other large trees, and increasing plant diversity can happen at the same time. Can it?

19:30:22 From Vanessa to Everyone:
Thank you for the presentation.

19:32:28 From Jacqui Kluft to Everyone:

Would love to hear about diversity of vegetation and increase diversity of plants for wildlife. This isn't just about people. It is about wildlife itself and plant diversity. What will the new plants include? Can we increase plant diversity within understory. I would love to see some understory.

19:32:39 From Jim Straub to Everyone:
Replying to "Thank you for addres..."

Hello all. This is Jim from DCR Lakes & Ponds. We will be working with the team on monitirin and preserving the water quality of Walden during this project.

19:33:12 From Sharon Ouellette to Everyone:
Wheelchair vans cost over 100k

19:34:22 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

75% of it is healthy as was stated above somewhere.

19:35:36 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

What is the purpose of this meeting? The building plan seems Any change suggested here will be considered?

19:35:59 From TRose to Everyone:

Can the website include visuals of what to expect in terms of construction and protection of the shoreline? More information and communication about expectations will always be appreciated.

19:36:06 From Nat Tipton to Everyone:

Replying to "Thank you for adres..."

Also- there are requirements for erosion control barriers under our Order of Conditions with the town. These will be regularly monitored and maintained throughout construction.

19:36:14 From Jacqui Kluft to Everyone:

I would remind people that this is about 600,000 visitors, not just the 100's of daily visitors. It is also about food and habitat for wildlife.

19:36:17 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

So far not to make the board walk slippery caught the attention of the organizers.

19:36:33 From amity wilczek to Everyone:

Replying to "Thank you for adres..."

Great, thank you!

19:37:33 From Klara Sirokman to Everyone:

Replying to "Thank you for adres..."

@Jim Straub what measures will be used (for educational purposes)

19:38:02 From Lisa Kay to Everyone:

Ben, the DCR has the daunting task of trying to satisfy its mission of conserving Walden Pond while also making it welcoming and enjoyable for recreation to all people, including those with disabilities.

19:38:56 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Please send a full transcript of all comments on the chat to all participants. I lost my connection and would very much like to see ALL comments and questions in the chat group. Thanks.

19:39:53 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Replying to "Ben, the DCR has the..."

I HAVE experienced mobility issues. This massive project would never have addressed my inability to be mobile. Improving the boat ramp area would.

19:41:40 From Jan Outcalt to Everyone:

Replying to "What is the purpose ..."

Just to be able to say "we had public participation". They have zero intention to consider ANY suggestions.

19:41:51 From Jacqui Kluft to Everyone:

Replying to "I saw a lot of talk ..."

They will keep as many of the tall pines as possible.

19:41:52 From Ben Kissinger to Everyone:

anything built on Walden would be an eyesore with a view

19:42:00 From Adina Oneill to Everyone:
Thank you