

In January 2015 the board and staff of the Tenafly Nature Center held a joint half-day retreat and Pfister's pond was identified as a priority focus.

The result was the following goal and strategies can be found in our 2015-18 strategic plan:

**Goal:** Improve and preserve the quality of our freshwater biomes

- **Background:** Pfister's Pond has been mentioned with concern throughout the history of TNC and is considered by many the heart of TNC. The natural aging process of the pond called eutrophication (the physical, chemical, and biological changes associated with nutrient, organic matter, and silt enrichment and sedimentation) appears to have been accelerated by human activities (called cultural eutrophication which includes discharge of sewage and storm-water, and nonpoint source pollutants). If action is not taken in the near future the pond will eventually fill in and become a swamp forest.
- **Strategy:** Investigate with the help of content experts the possible ways to protect the pond from further deterioration as well as restore the pond bringing it back to its attainable uses for both human and wildlife habitat and migratory use.
- **Strategy:** Partner with the Borough of Tenafly and other associated organizations to determine what actions are possible, allowable and feasible.

To date we have reviewed internal documents which point to sediment removal (dredging) as the only practical way to increase water depth and reverse the eutrophication of the pond.

We have further met with both representatives from Flat Rock Brook (Quarry Pond) and Closter Nature Center (Ruckman Pond) both of which decided that dredging was the preferred strategy. In both cases the associated Boroughs (landowners) took leadership on the projects with the associated Nature Centers taking on a support role.

We have met with representatives of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) Cindy Randazzo (Director - Office of Local Government Assistance) and Andy Clark (Supervising Environmental Specialist). Andy Clark unequivocally recommended the removal of sediment (dredging) as the appropriate solution. They indicated that our proposed sediment removal (dredging) project did not seem to pose any "disqualifying" problems. DEP issues about 600 such pond permits a year. They suggested that we file the permit application "immediately"; once issued, permits are valid for 5 years.

We have met with Tim Kelly (Supervisor, Heavy Equipment) of the Bergen County Mosquito Commission who indicated that they would be willing to conduct the dredging (the town would need to file an application, but he anticipated no difficulties in approval).

From the Borough of Tenafly we have met with Director of Public Works Bob Culvert, Kenny Kraus (General Foreman) and town engineer Andy Hipolit who were supportive. We also met with Mayor Rustin, Jon Warms (Environmental Commission Chair) and Dan Park (TNC liaison to the Council) all of whom were supportive and encouraged this presentation.

Key Steps:

- Perform a proper feasibility study of the lake. Consider the potential negative impacts and how to avoid them. Carefully assess sediment attributes (quantity and quality).
- Design the dredging project – this involves much engineering. Maser has been consulted and is drafting a proposal. (Andy Hipolit has Ray Walker working on this).
- Secure permits
- Identify and secure funding sources (rough estimate based on Quarry and Ruckman Pond is around \$1 MM).

We hope that the Borough of Tenafly will take a leading role in this project as was the case in Englewood and Closter. This is a restoration project and beyond “maintenance and care” which is Tenafly Nature Center’s purview.