

Time-Phased Development Plan for Melville

PRESENT TASKS, ONGOING OR IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED

- Trails: clear back brush-eliminate obstacles and hazards such as dead hanging limbs and leaning dead trees-remove fallen dead trees. **The northeast corner section contains numerous hanging dead trees that hazard passing walkers. Consider culling the dead trees and have them taken by the campground for firewood.**
- Roads: mow as needed to maintain a drivable width of no more than 12 feet- repair only serious degradations
- Storage Building: clean, prime and paint exterior-clean interior for use by work parties
- Ponds & Brook: clear obstructions from flow- observe and report water degradation; **solve the blue-green algae problem in Gray Pond so that RIDEM can stock the ponds for fishermen**
- Flora: **remove invasive vegetation, e.g. Bittersweet-replant native species**-Consult with Portsmouth Garden Club and/or Master Gardeners for proper species and best locations
- Picnic tables: clean, repair and replace as needed
- Trash removal: periodic cleanups of trails and all easily accessible areas
- Fishing docks Pond 1:
 - stationary, wooden: monitor for safety, any need for replacing damaged or rotted segments
 - floating: check fittings for corrosion, need for stabilization
- Park overall: report personal hazards to DPW, PPD and/or PFD as appropriate; cc. the Town Administrator
- Signage: fix or replace as needed
- Tools: keep clean-repair or replace as needed
- Gates: metal, seasonal- maintain and lubricate, including the locks.

NEAR-TERM (3 TO 5 YEARS)

- Trail development:
 - bridge or bypass perennial wet areas
 - Address difficult sections, such as steep slopes or rocky or heavily rooted areas to make walking easier
- Picnic areas: expand, e.g. near Pond 8/standpipe
- Waterfall: build bridge over it to connect the Blue and Yellow Trails
- Fishing docks Pond 1:
 - stationary, wooden: design, contract for the construction of a replacement of the 35-year-old structure. If salvageable, repair the old structure and relocate it to Pond 9
 - floating: replace the floats that are deteriorating; consider expanding the float, possibly with a t-addition
- Maps/newsletters/brochures: provide in metal dispenser on park billboard and/or in mail, e.g. with town tax bills (like the Dog Park Committee was able to do)
- Park Billboard: Have a larger, weatherproof, vandal resistant informational billboard custom built. It will include a large map, short history, rules, etc.
- Pond 8: Remove vegetation from stone lined rim and apply to have pond restored, (dredged, stone walls repaired), based on its historic significance

- Pond 9: return it to its original condition as much as possible, e.g. aeration to lessen algae blooming and weed growth.
- Spillway to the bay: remove all trees and other vegetation inside the spillway to prevent the concrete walls from crumbling and falling into the waterway
- General Public Outreach: contact local groups, encourage them to use and help protect the park. Such groups as are outdoor-minded and conservation-oriented include the Arbor Society, Garden Club. 4H, Scouting organizations, R.I. Master Gardeners, etc.

LONGER TERM (5-10 YEARS)

- Docents: volunteers to greet people and ask/offer information on the park, hand out brochure with trail maps/history, rules, etc.
- Art in the woods: to discourage graffiti and provide a constructive outlet to area youth, park art projects can be created such as designing and painting a mural on the lower portion of the standpipe-also local artists of all ages can design “Art Outposts”-Or remove graffiti from standpipe and install video camera
- Stonewalls: replace stones that were removed and placed on trails back to the nearest walls from which they came-inform public to not alter stonewalls with signage to cite state/local law or ordinance.
- Flora: identify any specimen native trees with informational plaques. Remove invasive species and replant with native specimens as advised by the Garden Club, Master Gardeners, and URI horticultural experts. Replantings include floral types and food planting for wildlife.
- Standpipe (c.1905): clear around base and path to reach it in order to make it less remote and less of an attraction for vandals (graffiti & trash); also to incorporate it along with Pond 8 (c.1905-1938) and the waterfall over the Civil War dam (c. 1863) into a park like historic setting
- Connect with area schools from elementary to High in order to study the park ecosystem with school field trips (strengthen existing program with Melville School)
- Photographic nature hunts
- Pond to classroom aquariums
- Also, contact colleges such as URI, Brown, Salve, Roger Williams, etc. for university studies/research/monitoring to log park’s status and potential improvement areas