



Christine Clancy, P.E.
DPW Commissioner

TO: Eileen Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*
FROM: Christine Clancy, P.E., DPW Commissioner
DATE: June 3, 2021
RE: C. Conway – Request City Manager and the DPW Provide an Updated Report Regarding the Surveillance in the Shedd Park Pollywog Pond Area; Plan to Address Illegal Dumping In Area And Plan to Preserve The Wildlife In Its Natural Environment

The Department of Public Works (DPW) implemented measures in March 2021 to address illegal dumping and other illegal activities in the Shedd Park Pollywog Pond Area. Other illegal activities included reports of animal cruelty to ducks and other wildlife. Measures implemented in March 2021 included installation of fencing adjacent to the tennis courts to limit access to the tennis courts during the off season and installing temporary snow fencing and associated signage in the pond area to preserve vegetation and wildlife.

Since March 2021, the fencing adjacent to the tennis courts has been successful at significantly reducing the number of illegal dumping instances. The Pollywog Pond area that remains closed to visitors with snow fencing has unfortunately been trespassed and there were reports of people purposefully harming wildlife and throwing park picnic tables into the pond. The temporary fencing has been secured again. The picnic table has been removed from the pond. The DPW will work with the Lowell police to increase patrolling of this area. Additionally, the DPW has a pilot of surveillance cameras that will periodically and discretely be moved around to different parks to monitor for illegal dumping. This surveillance pilot is just beginning this season and the pilot will continue through the summer.

In addition to the measures implemented to date, signage regarding animal cruelty will be added to the Pollywog Pond area. Per MGL Ch. 272 sec. 77, animal cruelty is a felony crime in the state of Massachusetts carrying potential penalties of up to 5 years in prison, 2.5 years in the house of corrections, and/or a fine of up to \$2,500 for the first offense.

Thank you

CC: Shannon Cohan, Superintendent of Parks and Cemeteries
Christine O'Connor, City Solicitor