

Struve's View

Four Feasible, Affordable, Adequate Measures to Fix the Ponds and Make (Almost) Everyone Happy within Ten Years

1. Preferably in coordination with the pond-side HOAs, regularly remove all unwanted vegetation from the pond banks, to achieve a fairly uniform fringe of grasses and wildflowers that do not grow more than 2–3 feet high. Larger accent plants could be selectively retained.
2. Reduce muck in Ponds 3, 4, 6, and 7 either by bacterial application or, if that fails, mechanical partial-dredging. Start with Pond 3 and prioritize the other ponds by relative muck levels. All or most liner replacement can be avoided by these methods.
3. Shore up eroded banks where such erosion threatens residents' property, using reinforcement material that will discourage burrowing by wildlife.
4. Slightly constrict the overall pond surface by elevating and sculpting two areas—Pond 5 and most of the “dogleg” of Pond 3—to create storm-channel/overflow-only landscape features (e.g., rain gardens or bioswales). This would improve flow through the system and enhance water levels in all the other ponds.

We do not need, cannot afford, and should not risk any large-scale revamping of the pond system.