

City of Newton

Crystal Lake Water Quality and Habitat Project – “Floating Islands”

October 2017

The City of Newton is planning to establish one or more “floating islands” in Crystal Lake to help improve water quality and provide wildlife habitat.

The floating islands will be a highly-visible focus point for community discussion regarding the management of Crystal Lake in particular, and environmental issues in general.

A floating island is a portable structure, anchored to the lake bed, upon which flora are planted at the beginning of the season. Through their growth, the plants remove excess nutrients and pollutants from the lake. At the end of the season, the plants are harvested and disposed of, removing those undesirable elements from the ecosystem. The structure is then stored over the winter for reuse the next year.

The City has budgeted approximately \$5,000 for the floating islands, with possible matching funds from interested parties available.

The City is interested in having high school students to develop a recommendation for implementation of the floating island, including both written and oral presentations.

The project would include:

- Analyzing and interpreting the historical data collected by the Crystal Lake Conservancy and others regarding water quality in Crystal Lake
- Researching potential vendors for the floating islands, including budget and timing. Potential contacts include Max Rome at [www.nuecological.com](http://www.nuecological.com) and [www.floatingislandinternational.com](http://www.floatingislandinternational.com)
- Providing labor for installation, monitoring, maintenance, and removal at the end of the season
- Periodic reporting on the “lessons learned” from the project
- Managing communication and community outreach to maximize awareness
- Conducting a cost / benefit analysis of the project

Please respond to James Jampel at [JamesJ7606@aol.com](mailto:JamesJ7606@aol.com) with questions / expressions of interest by October 13, 2017.

City of Newton contacts: Robert J. DeRubeis, Commissioner, Newton Parks & Recreation Department, [bderubeis@newtonma.gov](mailto:bderubeis@newtonma.gov); and Carol Stapleton, Manager, [Cstapleton@newtonma.gov](mailto:Cstapleton@newtonma.gov)

Parent volunteer coordinator: James Jampel, [JamesJ7606@aol.com](mailto:JamesJ7606@aol.com) 617 869 2827