

NATURE CENTER BULLETIN

After eight months of cooperation from residents of the Orchard Hills and Bromley subdivisions and school, the Thurston Nature Center is progressing. This area has the ideal combination of a natural pond, an island for wildlife preserve, a woods with nature trails and the presence of animals and birds in their natural habitat.

Since the development of the Nature Center must necessarily be a long term project in terms of fill-in, grading, grass seeding, plantings, maintenance, etc., the cooperation of the homeowners, parents, their school children and Thurston teachers is necessary.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. Formation of a planning committee including representatives of the school, both subdivisions, P.T.O., and scouts.
2. Information obtained from outside experts on how best to develop the site as a natural preserve to permit a variety of habitats.
3. Aerial photographs taken to give fine detail of the pond and surrounding area.
4. Soundings taken to determine water depths. (See map).
5. Soil test made to indicate the type of soil, water sources, and to recommend possible vegetation.
6. Bird houses made by Cub Scouts (Den 1) and others already installed to invite a variety of insect-eating birds and ducks.
7. Trails started through the woods and around the pond as both nature trails and a direct route from the north side to school.
8. Map prepared of pond area including vegetation types in and around the pond.
9. Arrangements started for acquiring fill and the use of equipment to grade site. The school will provide equipment to spread fill left over from school addition in south and south-west area and plant grass seed.
10. Arrangements started for bringing land on both east and west sides of the pond into the overall plan.
11. Starting of a Winter Safety Program to study suitable system of checking ice and signal to indicate safe times and areas for skating.
12. The first Clean-up Day was very effective. About fifty adults and twice as many children from both subdivisions participated. Mr. Smokler provided the use of a dump truck, a front-end loader and a driver. The combined efforts resulted in the removal of fifteen loads of man made trash, a broken fence and tree houses, and some grading half way around the pond.

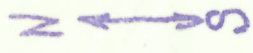
This potential nature center serves as an ideal source of education for our children in Thurston School. They will have the opportunity to acquire first-hand knowledge of nature and will be participating in protecting and encouraging wild life.

FUTURE INTENTIONS:

1. Construct an underground drain at SW corner of pond to establish and maintain the water level. This will define the shore line which will be able to support a ground cover and keep the mud problem under control.
2. Plant multi-flora roses as bumpers around pond in areas where it seems wise as a safety measure.
3. Complete school path from the north, put wood chips on Nature Trail.
4. Complete ground cover over all exposed areas.
5. Plant trees and shrubs which will be protection and food for birds and animals.
6. Plant flowering trees given as a personal memorial.
7. Make a map showing suggested plantings for future years.
8. Plan for maintenance, particularly over the summer.
9. Seed pond with aquatic plants.

Special note should be taken of the childrens' role in this project. Primarily this is an educational program. The children will take part in all of the planning and work that they are able to handle. The children have already started to identify trees. Later the scouts will make the labels to be used to point out the different varieties. In school, one group is making a large map to be used on the library wall to keep track of the accomplishments. Children will be able to study birds and animals in a natural habitat that they helped to develop. They will learn about the hazards of ponds and how to take care of themselves in such an area. They will learn about a very important objective in an expanding society: the conservation of natural resources.

All families connected with Thurston School or who live in the area are invited to participate in any way they can. Meetings of the Nature Center Committee are open to all who are interested.



Numerals = depth in feet

||||| area filled & less than 3'

----- Multi-flora rose Living Fence

ORCHARD HILLS

GEORGETOWN BLVD

YORK TOWN

Woods

Existing Walkway to school

SCHOOL PROPERTY (inside red lines)

Woods

Proposed Walkway to School

Island

stabilizing drain

BROMLEY

D.A. & dsa llc 4-7-66

BWETT

PRINCE

