Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary (Plymouth, MA) – Site Walk

Purpose: Make visual and other observations, **compare expectations with outcomes**, reflect on the restoration trajectory to date, collect insights to apply to other similar sites.

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Approach:
• Gather at parking lot by the greenhouse; quick project overview
• At each location:
  • Compare before/after images, review objectives, hear from project planners about high level expectations
  • Fan out and make observations
  • Come back together for group reactions and discussion (What are our major findings? What worked well? What less so?)
  • Go to next location and repeat process
• At the end: Pull out your lawn chair, rest, and discuss as a group

What to look for:
1. Overall wetland condition – moisture, soil characteristics, habitat.
2. Stream channel condition – habitat, flow, temperature.
3. Plants – Note invasives or rare plants
4. Critters – Note any observations
5. Recreation – Trails and other amenities
6. Aesthetics

Your charge:
• Record observations. There is a separate sheet for each location.
• Mark up maps with items of interest – this will help us note features and guide the discussion
• Take photos if you wish
• Your observations are valid and there are no wrong answers!
• Stay hydrated and tick aware. Eat whenever you want.
• Return forms to Glorianna, email her later, or both

* Observations will be compiled and then shared as soon as possible.
#1 (Cell 4) – Restoration Actions - Summary

- Remove large earthen dam + 2 concrete spillways
- Encourage natural recovery of channel and wetlands in former large impoundment
- Fill existing main channel and ditches (lateral and perimeter); reconstruct main channel
- Smooth upland – wetland transitions
- Plant AWC
- Roughen/uncompact bog surface
- Remove sand in select locations (shallow pond NE corner)
#2 (Cell 3/4) – Restoration Actions - Summary

- Remove earthen dam and water control structure
- Fill existing main channel and ditches (lateral and perimeter); reconstruct main channel
- Smooth upland – wetland transitions
- Roughen/uncompact bog surface
- Create small open water in former channel (unfilled areas)
#3 (Confluence) – Restoration Actions - Summary

- Remove earthen dam and water control structure
- Fill existing main channel and ditches (lateral and perimeter)
- Reconstruct 2 tributary channels
- Roughen/uncompact bog surface
- Create small open water; add logs for turtle basking
- Install riffle grade control at pond outlet
#4 (Cell 6 and Pond) – Restoration Actions - Summary

- Remove earthen berm
- Fill existing ditches
- Construct large pond and add wood
- Construct new tributary channel to Fresh Pond
- Create small open water by removing sand
- Roughen bog surface; note that eastern areas did not have apparent peat subsurface.
#5 (Ballantine Square + Culvert Replacement) – Restoration
Actions - Summary

- Remove earthen berm
- Remove water control structure (~dam) and install new culvert
- Construct new tributary channel
- Smooth upland – wetland transitions
- Roughen bog surface
- For Ballantine Square – Remove sand to apparent groundwater table; unique treatment for the whole site.