

ASG Comments on Environmental testing at Jerry's Pond

May 21, 2021 (by David Bass)

IQHQ's environmental consultant, Haley & Aldrich, sampled the water from Jerry's Pond in three locations, and sediment from the pond in 12 locations. They analyzed the samples for asbestos, naphthalene, formaldehyde, petroleum hydrocarbons, and pH (acidity).

In brief, here's what they found

- No contaminants or acid waste were detected in the pond water. Asbestos was found in two sediment samples on the north side of the pond (near the Alewife T Station). Naphthalene, formaldehyde and petroleum hydrocarbons were detected in three locations around the pond. But all three were below levels that would pose a significant human health or ecological risk from chemicals. However, bacteria levels are likely high enough that human contact with the pond is still not advisable.
- It is unknown how much of each contaminant is related to Dewey & Almy operations and how much is from urban runoff into the pond or, in the case of formaldehyde, natural formation. In either case, removal or capping of pond sediment isn't needed at this time.
- Haley & Aldrich measured the depth of the pond at each sampling location. Depth at all but 2 samples was less than 12 feet, many less than 2 feet. The deepest spots were 18' and 27'. Jerry's Pond is considerably shallower than what was expected.