

Weston's Beavers, "Nature's Engineers"

Weston has beavers living in several ponds in town. Although beaver ponds are great for the environment and offer many benefits, beaver dams may create flooding and other problems. As such, Weston has hired Beaver Solutions™ to install pipe flow systems and spillway protective fencing at College Pond and Hobbs Pond. The fence is constructed so that beavers can dam against it, but it keeps them out of the spillway so it remains unobstructed. Flow devices offer year-round protection from flooding and property damage.

College Pond Dam contains a Fence and Pipe Flow system to better manage beaver related damming. The fence is constructed so that beavers can dam against it, but it keeps them out of the culvert so it remains unobstructed. When the fence is installed a Flexible Pond Leveler Pipe is also installed. The pipe is designed so that a beaver cannot detect the flow of water into the pipe. The Flexible Pond Leveler works by surrounding the submerged intake of the pipe with a large cylinder of fencing to prevent the beavers from getting close enough to the intake to detect water movement. As a result, the beavers do not try to clog the pipe, and water can flow through the beaver dam freely. (When installation is complete, the pipe and cylinder fencing is submerged 2-3 feet below the water surface).



Even though the beavers can dam against the fence and hold back some water, the pipe will allow water to move freely in and out of the pond through the installed pipe. It is normal for the fence surrounding the spillway to collect some debris. Beaver Solutions conducts seasonal site visits to remove significant obstructions.

Hobbs Pond Dam contains a fenced system to better manage beaver related damming. The fence is constructed so that beavers can dam against it, but keeps the spillway unobstructed. This is only a temporary system until the Conservation Commission replaces the dam and spillway this October. Beaver Solutions and Conservation Commission staff visit the area often to clear debris from the fenced system.



The beaver is North America's largest rodent. Adult beavers typically weigh 45 to 60 pounds, but have been known to grow to 100 pounds. Beavers are pure vegetarians. They eat the inner lining of tree bark and can also eat anything from fresh leaves, twigs and stems to aquatic food including cattails and water lilies. Beavers build two types of structures, dams and lodges. Dams provide beavers with protection from predators and easier access to trees, while lodges are where the beavers live and consist of one hallowed out chamber made from sticks, mud and rocks. The average beaver "colony" consists of 6-7 beavers (2 parents and two years of offspring). Beaver lodges can be seen along the northwestern bank of College Pond (just north of the skating house) and on the island in the middle of Hobbs Pond.

Contact the Conservation Commission at 781-786-5068 or Conservation@westonmass.org if you have questions about Weston's beavers.