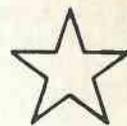




BULLETIN



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SPECIAL REPORT FROM THE LAKE ROLAND WATERSHED FOUNDATION, INC.

This special Bulletin brings to you the Summary and Recommendations of the Whitman, Requardt and Associates report on Lake Roland, published in July, 1974. We are grateful to Mr. Douglas L. Tawney, Director, Baltimore City Bureau of Recreation and Parks, for permission to do this. We also provide you with a map showing where the planned basins will be and the location of the spoil areas.

We ask you to read this carefully so that you will know the facts when the community meeting is held Monday evening, September 30, in the Auditorium of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Boyce Avenue, Ruxton, at 8 P.M. At this time, Mr. John B. Gillett of Whitman, Requardt and Associates, will present the project and will try to answer any questions you may have.

Those who have worked so long and hard on this project are to be congratulated in advancing the program to the present point where the city and county budgets have approved more than half a million dollars for the plan. Implementation only awaits community approval. If that is forthcoming, preparatory work will commence in the Spring of 1975, dredging that Fall.

BACKGROUND ¹ —from the Whitman, Requardt Report.

"Although Lake Roland was originally impounded to supply water for Baltimore City, it has evolved as a recreational lake. Today it and the surrounding land still retained by the City are administered by its Department of Recreation and Parks as Robert E. Lee Park.

The lake collects eroded silt from Jones Falls, Roland Run and Towson Run. Farming and, in recent years, residential, public and highway development have added to its problems. In spite of two previous dredging programs, 60 per cent of the capacity of the lake is now silted. Although all of the lake has some deposits, they are concentrated in the upper reaches. Deltas have been formed near the mouths of Jones Falls and Roland and Towson Runs."

COMMUNITY INTEREST

During the past three years, reports on the progress of government-community efforts to save the Lake have been carried in nine issues of the Bulletin. Many residents have joined the Association because of its efforts to develop government interest in a program that

(1) will carefully remove a sufficient amount of silt from Lake Roland, thereby maintaining sufficient flow and depth of water for the Lake to exist, and

(2) will preserve much of the unique wetland area and accompanying wildlife at the northern end of the Lake.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS SINCE 1971:

(1) The commissioning of Whitman, Requardt and

Associates, Engineers, to do an engineering study on how best to remove silt now clogging the Lake, and collecting daily at a rapid rate. This study was authorized by Baltimore City and Baltimore County.

(2) The offer of free dredging services for two months by Ellicott Machine Corporation, and reduced labor-operating costs by C. J. Langenfelder & Company and the Operating Engineers Union.

(3) The formation of a tax-exempt, non-profit community organization, under the auspices of the Ruxton-Riderwood Improvement Association, known as The Lake Roland Watershed Foundation, Inc. The Foundation will act as a voice for the community, and will work to insure that any conservation program for Lake Roland is carefully and sensitively executed.

(4) Expression of interest in the designation of Lake Roland as a bird sanctuary by the City of Baltimore. This designation has been actively encouraged by The Ruxton-Riderwood Association and area Garden Clubs.

(5) The expression of interest and possible financial assistance in the silt removal problem by the State of Maryland, through "Program Open Space" funds, Department of Natural Resources.

ACTIVITIES ²

"The degrading of Lake Roland has attracted the attention of several groups. The Ruxton-Riderwood-Lake Roland Improvement Association has been concerned for several years. Dr. John W. Foerster, Professor of Biological Sciences at Goucher College, working in close harmony with the Association, developed a report entitled "The Degradation of Lake Roland", dated April, 1972. Dr. Gordon Wolman, Professor of Geography at Johns Hopkins University, has also been interested in the lake and has advised the Association on matters of siltation, its causes and effects. The Kiwanis Club of North Baltimore published a report on March 12, 1973, entitled "A Plan for Rehabilitation of Lake Roland". Other interest in the Lake has been voiced by the Ellicott Machine Corporation, the C. J. Langenfelder & Company, the Operating Engineers Union, and the Department of Public Works of Baltimore County and Baltimore City."

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS ³ from the Whitman, Requardt Report

"We find that Lake Roland, despite two previous dredging efforts, has silt deposits of about 1,300,000 cubic yards. Its original volume of 500,000,000 gallons has been reduced to about 180,000,000 gallons. Continued siltation at its present rate, about 20,000 cubic yards a year, will fill the lake in about 50 years. (1 cubic yard - 202 gallons).

Complete restoration is not feasible because of the volume of silt which would have to be stored in or removed from the park. However, if basins are excavated near the mouths of Jones Falls, Roland Run and Towson Run, they will reduce

water velocities and permit silt to settle. Every three years, silt from the basins can be dredged and pumped to sites in the park, dried and removed. Since the basins are only 50 per cent efficient, other silt in lower parts of the lake can be removed in the same way at the same time. Over a period of years the lake below Towson Run can thus be restored.

The estimated cost of dredging silt basins and preparing the disposal areas is \$523,000. A triennial operating budget of about \$93,000 is needed for subsequent removal. The latter figure does not include the cost of removing dried silt from the disposal areas. Methods for removing this silt must be investigated. These studies are beyond the scope of this report, but the ultimate feasibility of our recommendations depends upon a successful resolution of the problem.

Because the removal of dried silt will require continuous surveillance under changing conditions, a joint management team is needed. This team of officials and technicians from Baltimore City and County, working with community volunteers, must determine the final disposal area for and method of removing dried silt. The solution will change periodically, so this team must be a standing committee.

If the lake is to be restored, the following steps are recommended:

- (1) Obtain the easement for Disposal Site "B" and access to Site "A".
- (2) Determine cost sharing between the City and the County and apply for grants-in-aid of construction.
- (3) Negotiate to update the offers of Ellicott Machine Corporation and others, and proceed with silt removal.
- (4) Adopt triennial dredging program and provide funds and staff.
- (5) Appoint a standing management team with joint City-County community representation."

ASSETS AND PROBLEMS AS VIEWED BY THE LAKE ROLAND WATERSHED FOUNDATION

The program consists of two parts: (1) a capital project to prepare disposal areas for the silt and to dig out basins at the mouths of the three contributing streams; and (2) removal of the silt every three years.

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ASSETS FOR THE COMMUNITY

(1) The accumulation of mud, debris and trash at the northern end of the Lake will be greatly reduced.

(2) There will be a freer flow of water into the Lake from the Jones Falls and Roland Run tributaries. This condition will eventually "save" the Lake and allow for greater depth.

(3) Flooding along Roland Run will be reduced.

(4) There will be selective dredging, **carefully managed**, so as not to unnecessarily damage marshy areas that support a variety of wildlife.

(5) Silt accumulation on the two major disposal sites will be screened by landscaping and seeding. The economic feasibility of the plan depends on judicious use of the dried silt, which has less organic matter than topsoil, but is of rich nutrient value and forms a highly desirable seed bed.

(6) The Lake Roland Watershed Foundation will remain an ongoing protective force to insure the natural beauty of the Lake remains not only intact, but is enhanced as it is preserved.

ADVERSE IMPACT: HOW WILL IT AFFECT US?

(1) The initial dredging operation to dig out basins for collecting silt will take four months, 10 hours per day on a 5-day work week. One dredge with a crew of 4-6 and a small auxiliary boat will be involved.

(2) The noise level will be moderate, at the same approximate level as a medium-sized bulldozer. The initial dredging to dig the basins will be somewhat noisier, and is therefore planned, if approved for the Fall of 1975 when windows will be closed, so as to minimize noise.

(3) Disposal Area "A" cannot be used during silt removal operations.

(4) Initial silt deposits will be unsightly, but will be landscaped for screening and will shortly thereafter be grasscovered.

(5) Removal of the silt from Disposal Areas A and B will necessitate hauling operations. Activity at Area A will be along Bellona Avenue, across the railroad tracks. There will be no hauling along Club Road.

Thank you for your interest and attention to this matter. Mark your calendar for the September 30th meeting.

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1. Restoration of Lake Roland, Pg. 1 Whitman, Requardt and Associates, July, 1974.

2. Restoration of Lake Roland, Pg. 1 - 2, Whitman, Requardt and Associates, July, 1974.

3. Ibid, Pg. 2 - 3.