

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

SPECIAL REPORT OF THE METROPOLITAN
DISTRICT COMMISSION RELATIVE TO
CONSTRUCTION OF A BEACH AND PUBLIC
BATH HOUSE AT HARDY POND IN THE
LAKEVIEW SECTION OF WALTHAM.

[Metropolitan Affairs.]

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COMMISSION,
20 SOMERSET STREET, BOSTON, December 2, 1936.

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of Massa-
chusetts in General Court assembled.*

On May 19, 1936, the following resolve, chapter 14,
was approved by the Governor:

Resolved, That the metropolitan district commission is hereby au-
thorized and directed to investigate the subject matter of current
house document numbered seven hundred and forty-one, relative to
the construction of a beach and public bath house and the making of
other improvements at Hardy pond in the Lakeview section of the
city of Waltham. Said commission shall report to the general court
the results of its investigation and its recommendations, including
estimates of cost and drafts of legislation necessary to carry said
recommendations into effect, by filing the same with the clerk of the
house of representatives on or before the first Wednesday of Decem-
ber in the current year.

Hardy Pond is located 2.6 miles northerly from the
center of Waltham and about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the nearest
land of the Commission. It has an area of about 47 acres
and an average depth of from $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet to 4 feet of water,
with an outlet at the northeast corner, where a dam, so
called, controls the water at elevation 202.5 to protect

adjacent properties and city drainage. Soundings in the pond revealed great depths of silt and mud. Generally, during the months when bathing is possible, the pond has no run-off, as the evaporation and loss of water is greater than the yield of the drainage area, resulting in a very unhealthy condition.

At the request of the Commission, the State Department of Public Health was asked to advise as to the suitability of the water for bathing purposes. After a careful examination by its engineers and an analysis of samples of the water of Hardy Pond, the following report was submitted:

Hardy Pond has a drainage area of approximately 1.75 square miles, which for the most part is sparsely populated, although there are many houses and summer camps along the shores of the pond.

The sewerage system of the city of Waltham has not been extended to the watershed of this pond, and while there are no sewers discharging directly into the pond, the disposal of sewage on the watershed is such as to have an objectionable effect upon the quality of the water of this pond. In addition, a portion of the watershed is used for intensive agricultural purposes, and the drainage from these areas is likely to foster the growth of microscopic organisms.

The main feeder of this pond drains an extensive swamp, and the results of the analysis show that the water entering the pond is highly colored. The analysis also shows that the water at the outlet of the pond is highly colored and contains a considerable amount of organic matter and a large number of bacteria. The Department is of the opinion that the conditions surrounding this pond and the character of the water are such as to make this pond an undesirable place for public bathing.

The Commission does not recommend the construction of a beach or bath house, or the expenditure of Metropolitan Parks District funds for making improvements at this location.

Respectfully submitted,

E. C. HULTMAN,
WILLIAM F. ROGERS,
MELVIN B. BREATH,
FELIX A. MARCELLA,
AUSTIN J. O'CONNOR,

Metropolitan District Commission.