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**Subject:** Pond  
**From:** dreeb@albany.edu  
**Date:** Tue, March 23, 2004 9:06 pm  
**To:** TreesDE@aol.com (mailto:TreesDE@aol.com)  
**Cc:** tinytearstone@aol.com (mailto:tinytearstone@aol.com)  
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Hi Laura, Kevin et al

The Pond. Three or four parts to this one.

I have a few of the returned petitions that were distributed about April, 2003 to every household. Does anyone have any more of these?

A clipboard for signatures to support the pond redevelopment was passed around at one or more monthly meetings. Does anyone have this?

We can go on without these--the overwhelming favorable response to making the pond into a park was given on our "Needs" survey on the Western Avenue Corridor study project so we can just use that--but the more the etc.

Laura Whalen volunteered--I do love the people step up to do what needs to be done-- to help do the grant proposal for \$2500 max but then two things happened--Laura's grandmother passed away and Laura has to attend to some medical stuff--so Kevin Quinn stepped up and said he would help. Amazing.

The outline for the proposal is at [http://www.albany.edu/~dreeb/pond/outline.html](#).

After talking with Laura and Kevin the idea is to do a grant application to create a plan for the pond--Dick Patrick, the person who did Buckingham Pond down on Colonial Drive for the City of Albany is an old friend of Laura and said he could help and I thought of approaching Ivan Vamos who was first deputy director for the State Parks and Recreation Department for some help---but the basic idea is to create a park consisting of a path around the pond, maybe a gazebo at each end (east and west), maybe a small paved patio type and a wall of bushes to separate the pond patio from the driveway that enters Sty. Or a thousand variations on that. Patrick and Vamos and others I am sure will have great ideas about what the pond/park should look like.

But the \$2500 is--in my view--to create just the rough design for something we want together with some cost estimates. That is all.

The grant criteria are listed--Greenway importance--community support(therefore the petitions)--matching fund availability (this was suggested by the Town so I assume we can get that letter)--likelihood of tangiblereults--capacity to do it.

Now comes the writing.

I will be away until Sunday and promise to get busy on whichever part Kevin and Laura have not yet started. Don Csaposs said he would help out if needed. After another week or so we can float this by everyone hat wants to see it and get it to Ken Runion etc and see if we have something that looks like it can win. I will only be back for a week and then I am leaving for Arizona for 2 weeks but that should not screw everything up, I hope.

So--Laura and Kevin--talk when you can and decide on what parts you want to work on? I am quite willing to step away from the writing if someone else wants to take my place.

Intro (history etc), Greenway(talk to someone at Town Parks??), community support(see petitions etc), matching funds(talk with Csaposs--get letter from Runion??), likelihood of tangible results (get rsumes from Patrick, Vamos??), capapcity(a little hisotry of the Association--any other??).

A few words for the intro.

Introduction. The McKownville pond--that which we want to make into a more accessible park--is actually a reservoir and is still classified as such by the Town and the State. It was created more than several centuries years ago as a water source for a hotel and until the 1970's was used as a drinking water source for the community. It is presently hihly prized, nt because of its history but mostly because of its location. it sits within walking distance of a major shopping center and by its location can offer respite to those who ordinarily would not find "nature" so close to shopping. it is owned by the Town government and with several hundred thousand people driving nearby on Route 2o and visiting the Styvesant Shopping Center can offer a unique expereince--like walking alng the Seine does in Paris where urban bustly is within easy walking distance. Being a small pond--etc etc etc.

Don Reeb

Take Address