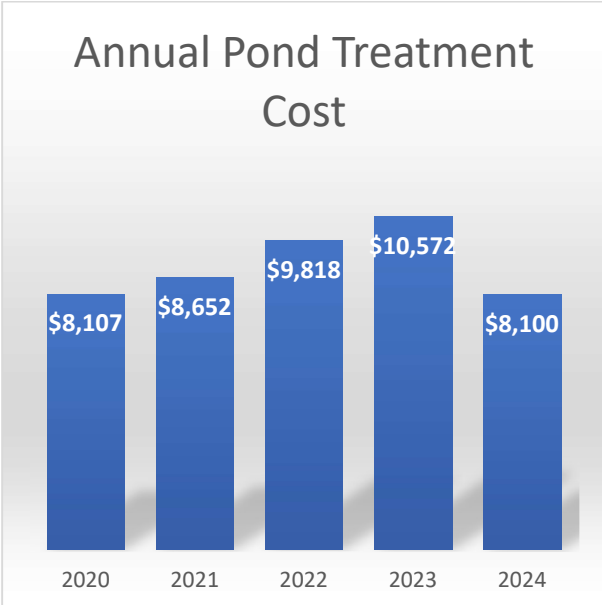




This year was a good year for the Pond. Two years ago, we increased the use of natural bacteria as part of our regular pond treatment regimen. These bacteria occur in natural bodies of water and eat the



nutrients that accumulate at the bottom of the pond due to decaying vegetation. However, the algicides and herbicides used to control algae growth in ponds such as ours, also kill off the natural bacteria and the “good” plants in the pond and along the shore. This imbalance, on top of fertilizers from lawn run off, causes explosive algae blooms which requires more chemical treatments. Retention ponds, such as ours, are often locked in this vicious circle.

In order to break this cycle, we started to add increased levels of bacteria in-between algicide treatments. These treatments are applied by hand by a volunteer to avoid the cost of a trip charge from our pond treatment company and to time the application in-between herbicide and algicide applications. We were told it would

take a few years to start seeing results. We believe we are now starting to see the results! In 2023, we noticed improved water clarity and reduced algae towards the end of the year after an expensive start to the year. This year, we started the applications early and saw a significant reduction in unsightly algae and in cost. There are many variables in water management, but we are encouraged by these results.



In Spring, volunteers Joe Staniszewski, Mary Baranowski, and Don Dorsan planted Black and Brown-Eyed Susans, Spider Wort and Purple Cone Flowers in the wildflower bed on the berm along the east shore of the pond. We are working to improve the diversity of plants there and are considering a controlled burn in that area in the spring.



In late December of last year, we replaced the rocks (Rip Rap) around the inlets to the pond. This was needed due to erosion around the inlet pipes. Continued erosion would result in silt accumulating in the pond and is also unsafe due to a trip hazard. The cost of this project was \$5800 which was covered from reserve funds.



Two compressors power the 8 aerators in the pond. These circulate cool water from the bottom of the pond and are an integral part of the water management plan. These work horses run 24/7 for 8 months of the year. Periodic maintenance is required. This year, one of the compressors needed to be rebuilt, and a leak in one of the hoses needed to be repaired. This work was done by a volunteer saving the Association several hundred dollars.



We are working to improve the southwestern shore of the pond by removing invasive willow trees that are sprouting up along the shore. With volunteer effort to reduce the cost we have cut back the willows and sprayed them with a water safe herbicide to kill them back. We hope to finish this in spring. Any additional volunteers will be much appreciated.