

2019 CURRENT CONDITION REPORT

**Wesquage Pond
Narragansett, Rhode Island**



Prepared July 2019

By

Scott Ruhren

**Senior Director of Conservation
Audubon Society of Rhode Island**

Author's Signature:

Scott Ruhren

Date:

11/8/19

Introduction:

As part of an annual commitment toward monitoring and evaluation of refuges, this document summarizes conditions observed at Wesquage Pond Wildlife Refuge observed on June 26, 2019.

Complete property details are contained in the 2018 Current Condition Report in the Appendix.

General Description:

Wesquage Pond is a 65-acre ± barrier pond located within the Bonnet Shores Fire District. The Wesquage Pond Wildlife Refuge was acquired in five tracts and consists of most of Wesquage Pond as well as vacant lots north of the pond.

Disclaimer:

The observations and monitoring notes from June 26, 2019 summarized here, represent visible conditions. It is possible that some features will have been undetected because of vegetation or other conditions.

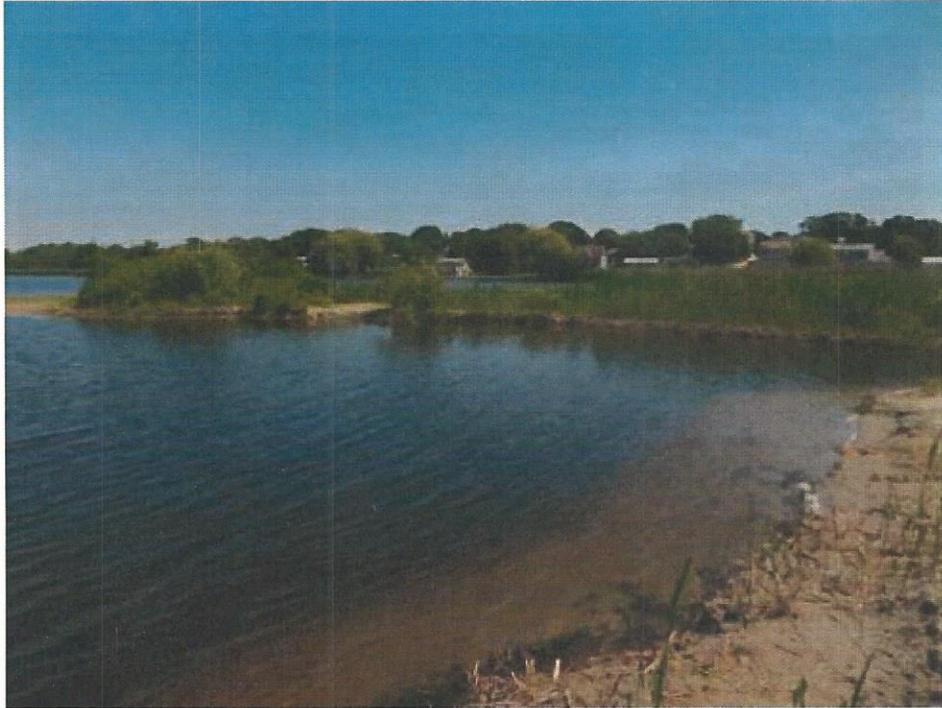
Parcels were monitored to the best of my ability using existing maps (Appendix Figure 3). Many of the northern parcels are disjunct and were platted as “paper lots” but never developed. Still, procedures were replicated from the 2018 monitoring summarized in the 2018 Current Condition Report.

Observations:

After walking most perimeters and driving some—where walking was not safe—I could not detect negative changes to refuge conditions since the prior monitoring in 2018 (Appendix). There were no obvious human activities such as trails, dumping of inorganic matter or piles of yard waste. In fact, the wooded thicket and small woodland on the northeast corner of Wesquage Pond looked better than 2018 where we detected some yard waste and small human trails just beyond the end of Lake Street.

Six predated turtle nests were detected in the raised sandy shore along the rip-rap edge of the Wesquage Pond inlet. I reported this observation to RI Department of Wildlife Management Wildlife Biology program, tracking Rhode Island’s reptiles and amphibians.

Photograph 1. Looking east from connection of Wesquage Pond with main channel flowing in and out of the pond. Wesquage Pond Wildlife Refuge, Narragansett, RI, June 26, 2019 (Photographer: Scott Ruhren)



Photograph 2. Looking north along channel connecting Wesquage Pond to Narragansett Bay. Note hardened bank and sandy trail where turtle nest sites were detected. Wesquage Pond Wildlife Refuge, Narragansett, RI, June 26, 2019 (Photographer: Scott Ruhren)



Photograph 3. Looking east on Lake ST at northeast corner of Wesquage Pond. Audubon property to the south. Wesquage Pond Wildlife Refuge, Narragansett, RI, June 26, 2019 (Photographer: Scott Ruhren)



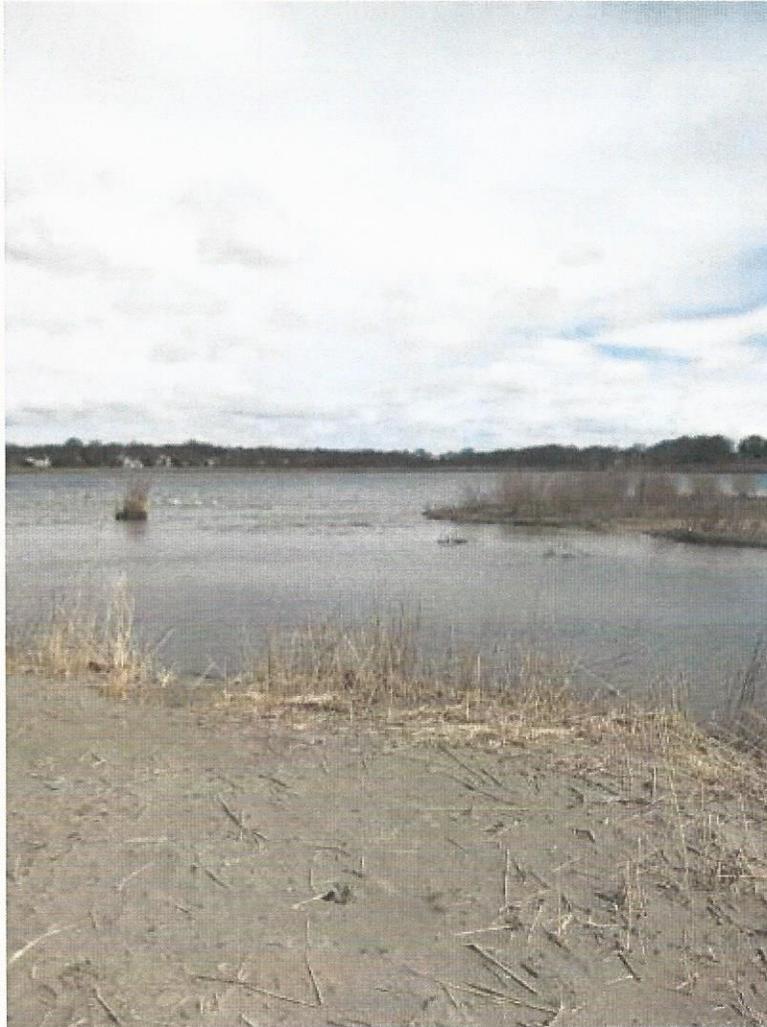
Photograph 4. Looking southwest at last house on the Lake ST shore of Wesquage Pond. Audubon land is in the foreground. Wesquage Pond Wildlife Refuge, Narragansett, RI, June 26, 2019 (Photographer: Scott Ruhren)



APPENDIX

2018 CURRENT CONDITION REPORT

**Wesquage Pond
Narragansett, Rhode Island**



Prepared April 2018

By

Kyle R. Hess

Conservation Assistant

Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Author's Signature:

CURRENT CONDITION REPORT

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CURRENT CONDITION REPORT

Background Information Wesquage Pond Narragansett, Rhode Island

Current Land Owner:

Audubon Society of Rhode Island

Location of Protected Property:

Street Address:

Municipality: Narragansett

County: Washington

State: Rhode Island

Plat/Lot Information:

Town of Narragansett Tax Assessor's Plat NR, Lots 22-24, 26, 28, 30, 206, 208, 210, 211, 213, 216, 218, 227, 230, 232, 234, 236, 239, 244, 246, 248, 250, 256A, 536, 573, 724, 734, 872, 911, 921, 936, 938, 940, 943, 946, 948, 970, and 973 (Figure 1A).

Town of Narragansett Tax Assessor's Plat NS, Lots 112 and 112A (Figure 1B).

Acreage:

81.5 acres ±

Introduction:

This document is a description of land owned by the Audubon Society of Rhode Island. This report describes in general terms the vegetation and wildlife observed on the property during a survey conducted on April 18, 2018.

General Description:

Wesquage Pond is a 65 acre ± barrier pond located within the Bonnet Shores Fire District. The Wesquage Pond refuge was acquired in five tracts and consists of most of Wesquage Pond as well as vacant lots N of the pond.

The Belton Tract, Parcel 1 was donated to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island on September 2, 1971 by the Belton Corporation. Included in the deed were specific restrictions to housing development on the land adjacent to the pond (see deed for detail).

The Belton Tract, Parcel 2 was donated to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island on December 18, 1974 by the Belton Corporation with no legal restrictions (see deed for detail).

The combined acreage of the Belton Tract parcels is 68 acres ±.

The Cardi Tract was donated to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island on December 22, 1993 by Roland (Ron) P. Cardi, Nicholas Cardi, Jr., Peter D. Cardi, Arthur Zompa, and Sandra Zompa. This tract consists of vacant house lots to the NW of Wesquage Pond and totals 9.2 acres ±. There are no legal restrictions stated in the deed (see deed for detail).

The Corona Tract was donated to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island on December 20, 1984 with no restrictions stated in the deed. This tract totals 3.23 acres ±.

The Francisco Tract was donated to the Audubon Society of Rhode Island on December 21, 1981 by Mary V. Francisco. There was some confusion regarding Mrs. Francisco's ownership of this parcel due to her husband, Pasco Francisco, being the only name on the deed. According to ASRI records, the Francisco's assumed that the entirety of Mr. Francisco's estate would be transferred to Mrs. Francisco and no challenges had been made to the will (see Property Record Form filed at ASRI headquarters, Smithfield, RI). The Francisco tract totals 0.1 acres ±.

Topography and Hydrology

Elevations of the Wesquage Pond refuge range from approximately sea level to 50 feet above sea level. The highest elevations are found at the NW of the property at the end of Clara Lane and Lily Lane. The landscape slopes downward from approximately W to E to Wesquage Pond and then rise to the E again. The lowest elevations are found to the SE at Wesquage Pond (Figure 4).

Two unnamed streams run through the property from approximately NW to SE, join to the NW of Wesquage Pond, and connect to the pond at Lake Road (Figure 2 and Figure 4).

Vegetation and Wildlife Value

The species listing below is only a partial list to provide a baseline of the more common species present at the time of this survey. The property likely supports diverse flora and fauna throughout the year not observed during these surveys.

Table 1. Vegetation observed on the Wesquage Pond refuge on April 18, 2018. (Species in **bold** are listed as invasive by the USDA National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC)¹ and/or are listed in the Invasive Plant Atlas of New England².)

A. Vegetation

¹USDA National Invasive Species Information Center (NISIC) Gateway to invasive species information; covering Federal, State, local, and international sources. <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/index.shtml>

² Invasive Plant Atlas of New England (IPANE): <https://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/>

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
American trout-lily	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>
Black cherry	<i>Prunus serotina</i>
Canada-mayflower	<i>Maianthemum canadense</i>
Cattails	<i>Typha sp.</i>
Coastal sweet-pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>
Eastern red cedar	<i>Juniperus virginiana</i>
Eastern white oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
Eastern white pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
Grape	<i>Vitis sp.</i>
Gray birch	<i>Betula populifolia</i>
Green alder	<i>Alnus viridis</i>
Greenbrier	<i>Smilax sp.</i>
Highbush blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
Japanese knotweed	<i>Fallopia japonica</i>
Mountain laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
Multiflora rose	<i>Rosa multiflora</i>
Northern red oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i>
Oriental bittersweet	<i>Celastrus orbiculatus</i>
Paper birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
Princess pine clubmoss	<i>Dendrolycopodium obscurum</i>
Privet	<i>Ligustrum sp.</i>
Poison-ivy	<i>Toxicodendron radicans</i>
Pussy willow	<i>Salix discolor</i>
Red maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
Saltgrass	<i>Distichlis spicata</i>
Saltmarsh hay	<i>Spartina patens</i>
Sedges	<i>Carex spp.</i>
Skunk cabbage	<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>
Smooth cordgrass	<i>Spartina alterniflora</i>

Table 2. Wildlife observed on the Wesquage Pond refuge on April 18, 2018.

A. Amphibians

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Spring peeper	<i>Pseudacris crucifer</i>

B. Birds

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
American goldfinch	<i>Spinus tristis</i>
American robin	<i>Turdus migratorius</i>
Black-capped chickadee	<i>Poecile atricapillus</i>

Blue jay	<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>
Canada goose	<i>Branta canadensis</i>
Carolina wren	<i>Thryothorus ludovicianus</i>
Common grackle	<i>Quiscalus quiscula</i>
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>
Dark-eyed junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>
Double-crested cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>
Eastern phoebe	<i>Sayornis phoebe</i>
Fish crow	<i>Corvus ossifragus</i>
Great black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>
Great egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
House finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>
House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
Mourning dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>
Northern cardinal	<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>
Red-winged blackbird	<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>
Ring-necked duck	<i>Aythya collaris</i>
Song sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>
Tufted titmouse	<i>Baeolophus bicolor</i>
White-breasted nuthatch	<i>Sitta carolinensis</i>
White-throated sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia albicollis</i>

B. Mammals

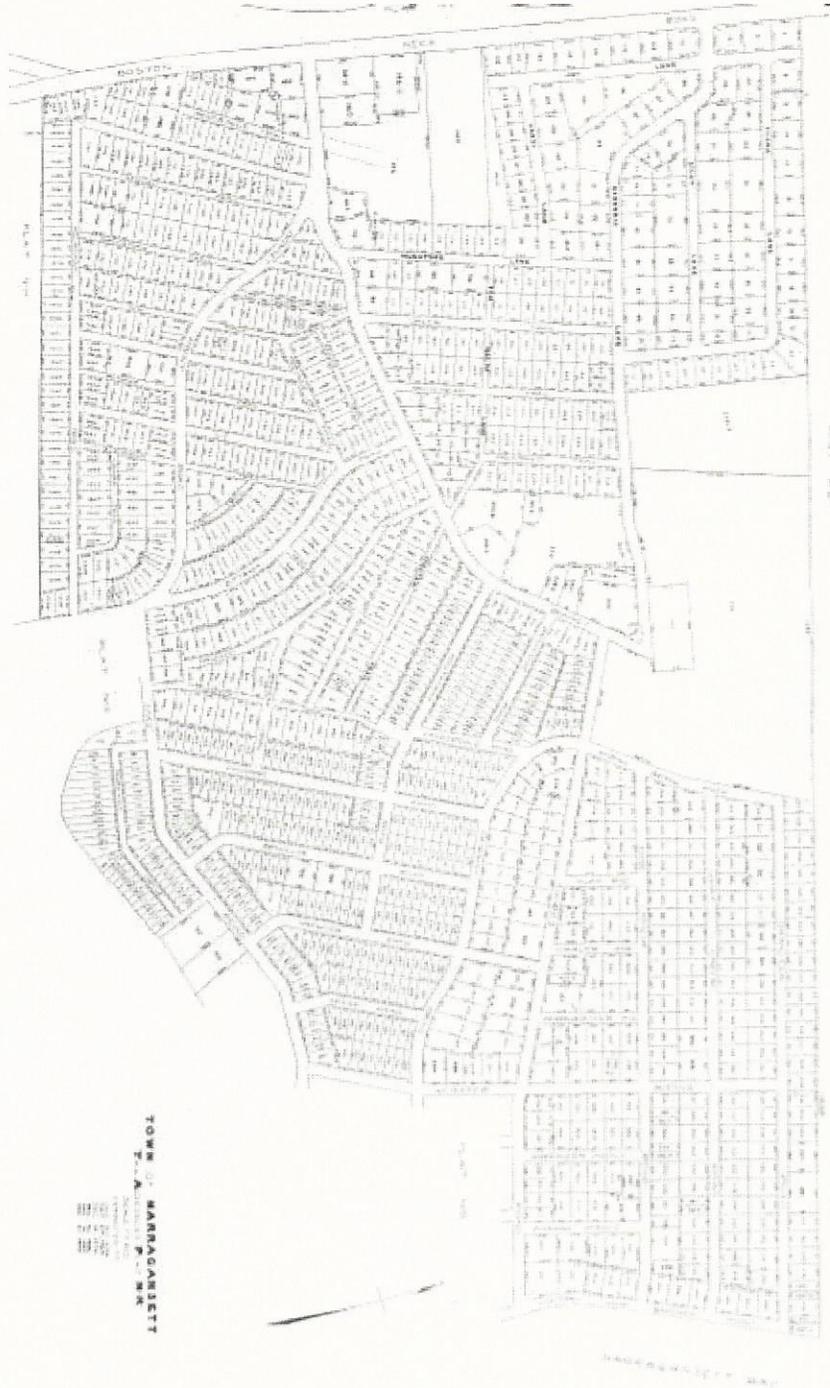
<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>
Cottontail rabbit	<i>Sylvilagus sp.</i>
Eastern gray squirrel	<i>Sciurus carolinensis</i>
White-tailed deer	<i>Odocoileus virginianus</i>

Figure 1A
Town of Narragansett Tax Assessor's Map
Plat N-R

Wesquage

Pond

Figure 1B



Town of Narragansett Tax Assessor's Map
Plat N-S
Wesquage Pond

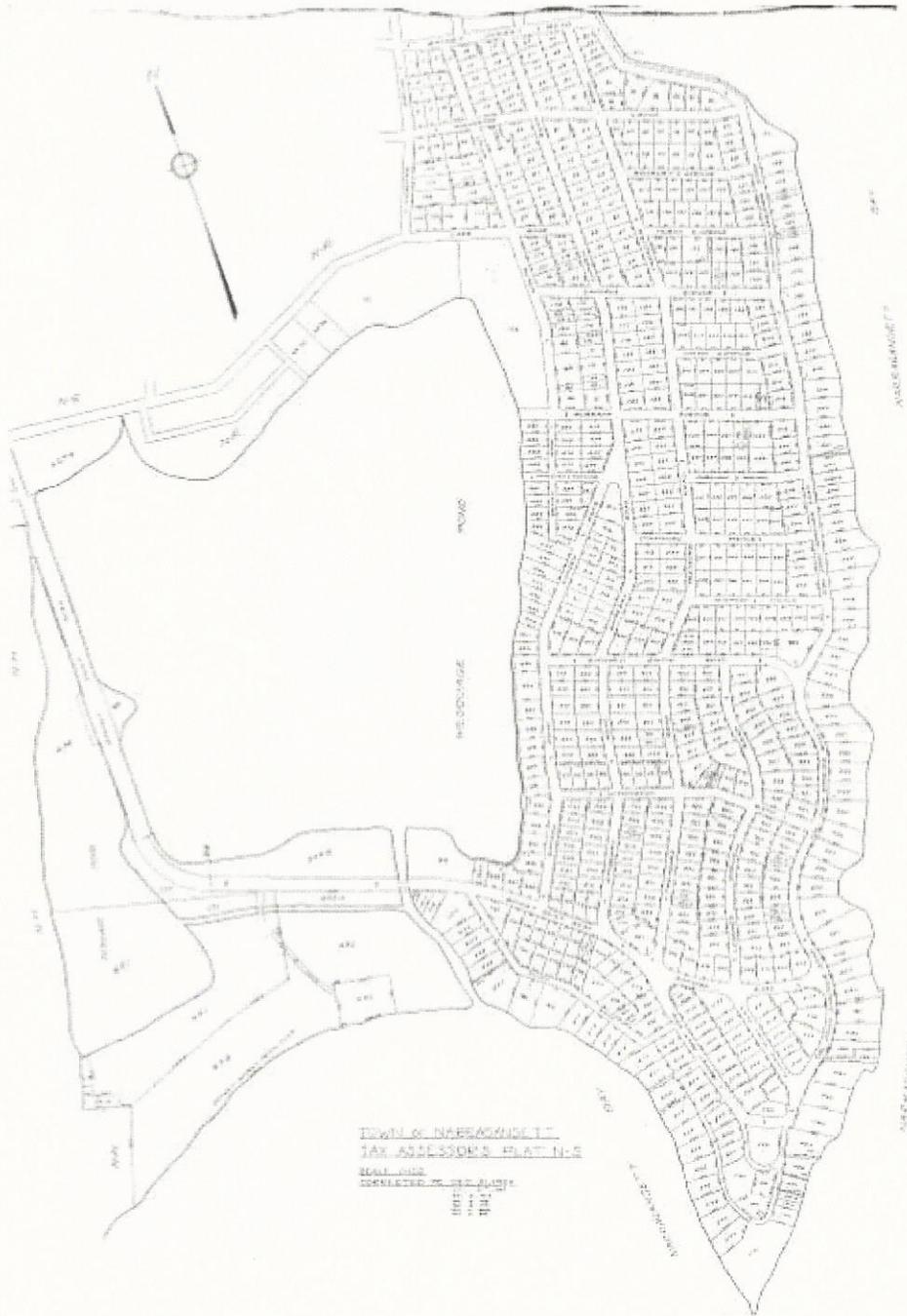
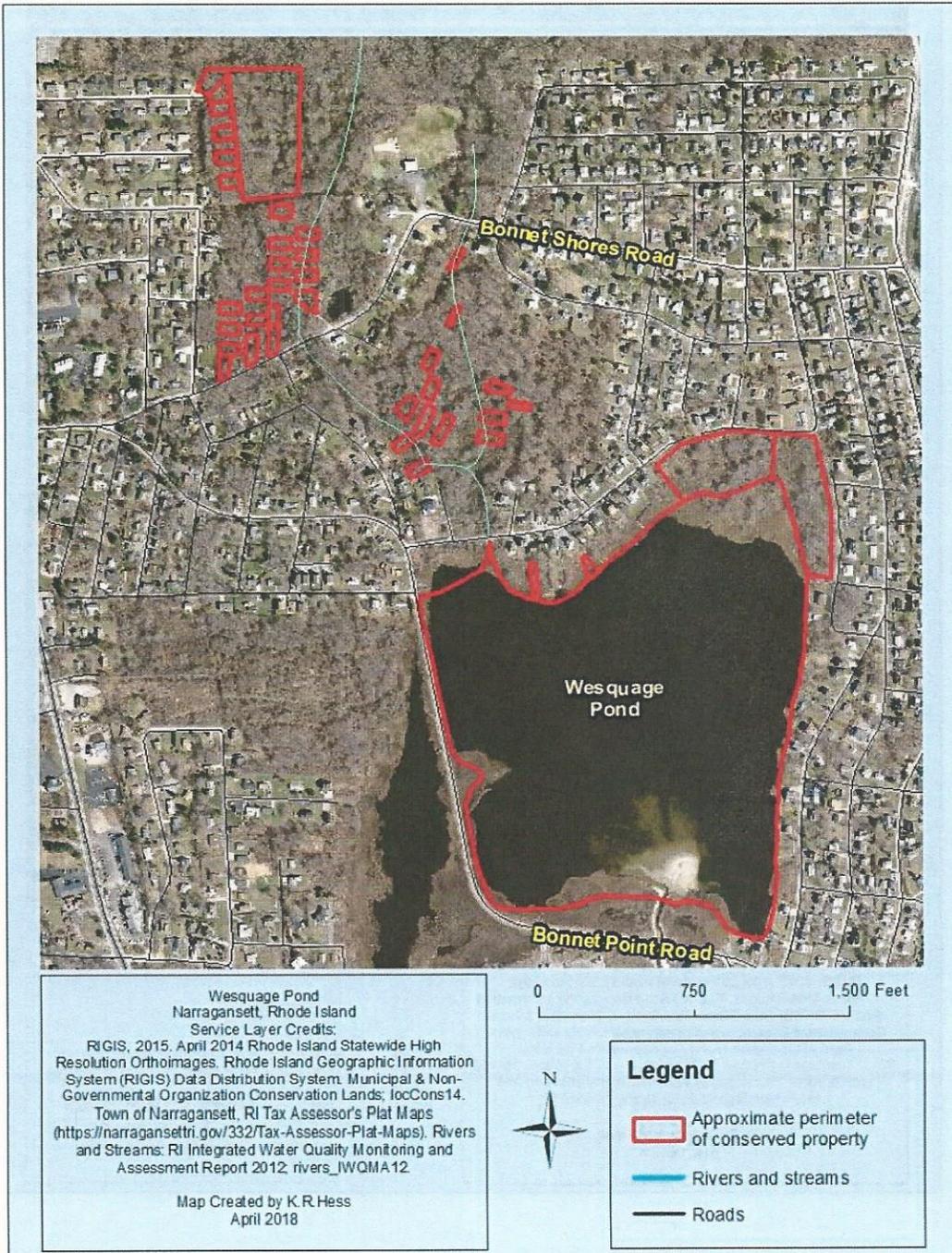


Figure 2

**Aerial Photo / Property Map
Wesquage Pond
Narragansett, Rhode Island**



**Figure 3
Landscape Context Map
Wesquage Pond**

Narragansett, Rhode Island



Figure 4
USGS Topo Map
Wesquage Pond

Narragansett, Rhode Island

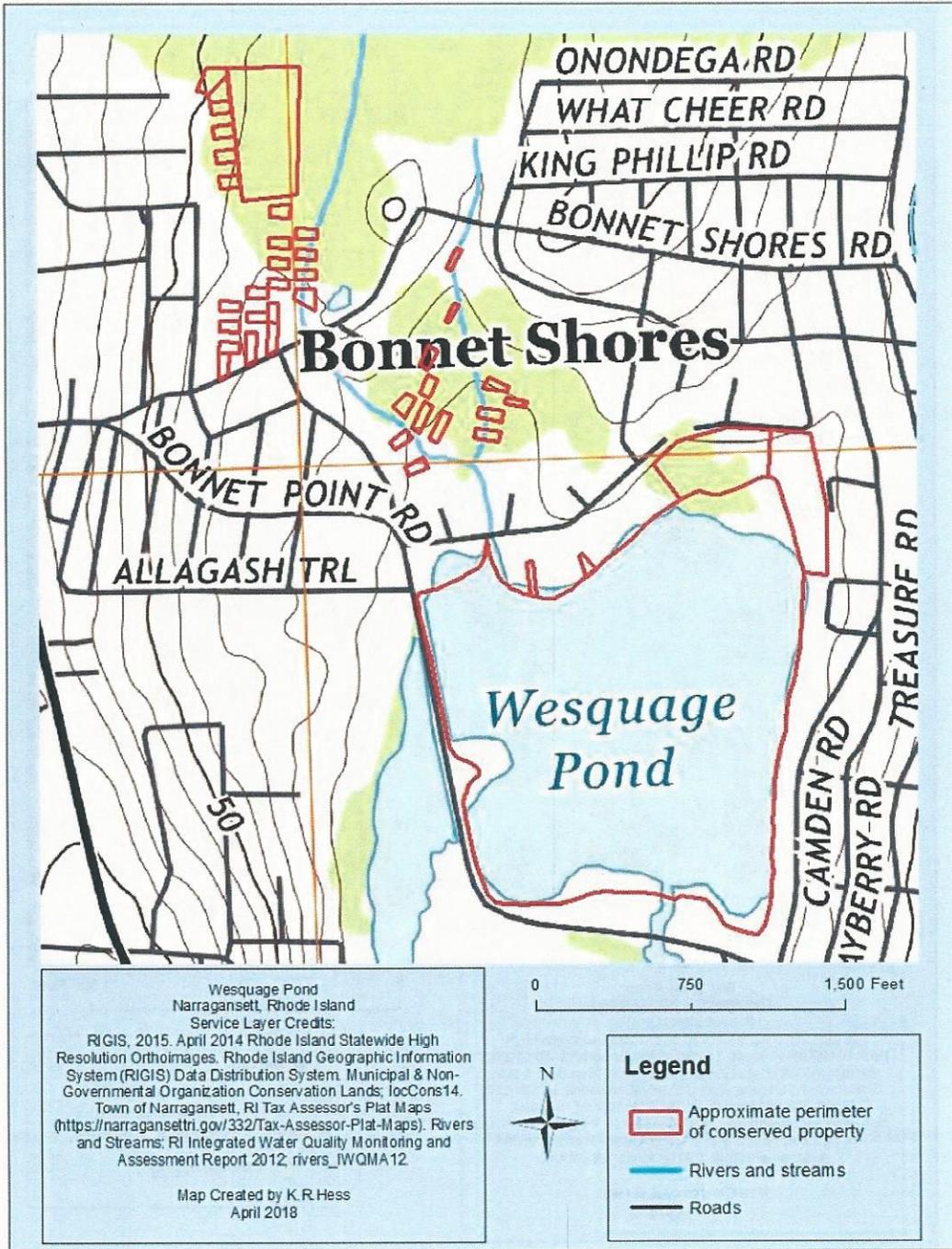
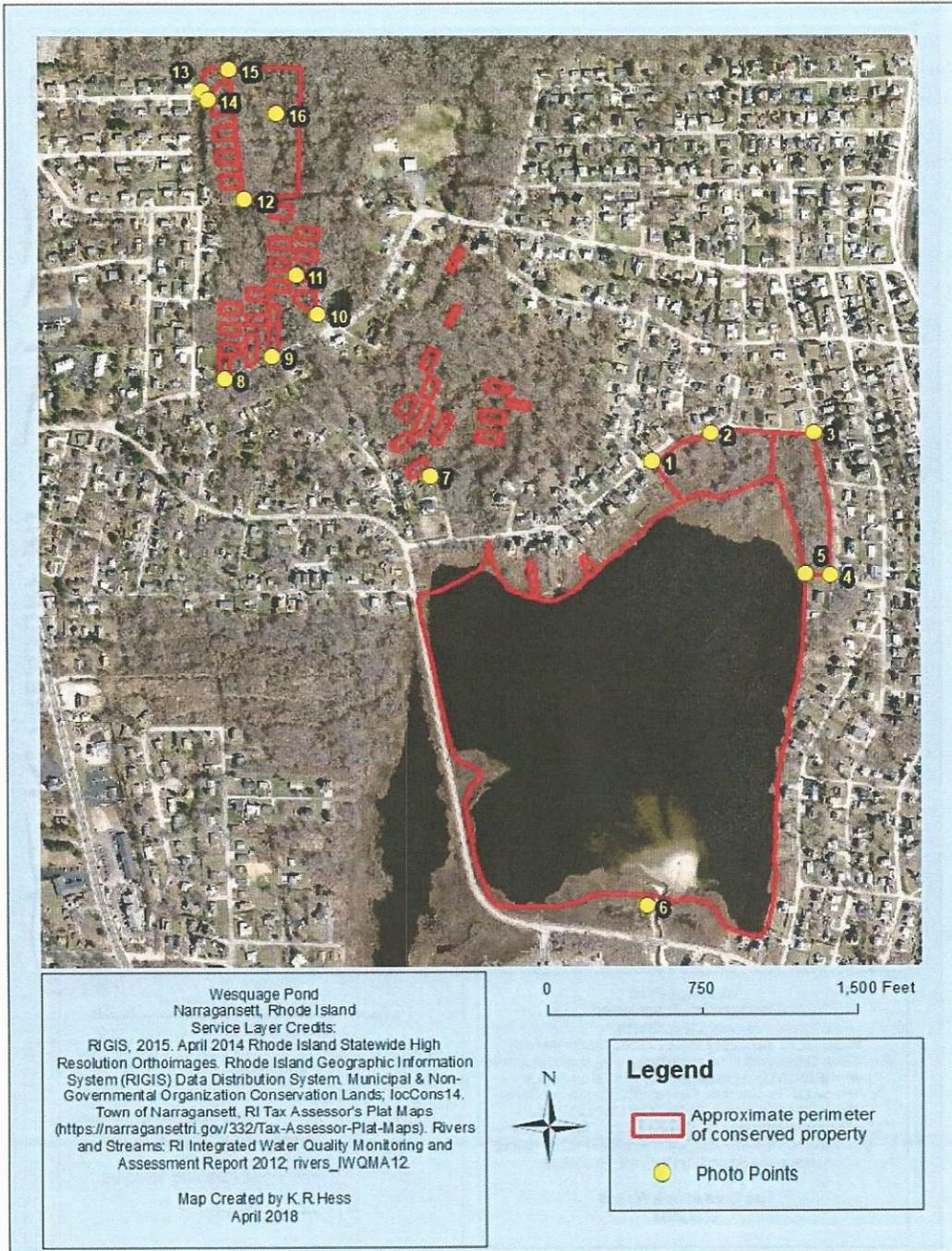


Figure 5
Photo Points Map
Wesquage Pond

Narragansett, Rhode Island



CURRENT CONDITION REPORT

**Photographs
Wesquage Pond
Narragansett, Rhode Island**



Photo 1A
Looking SE along lot boundary from photo point 1
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 1B

Looking NE along lot boundary/Lake Road from photo point 1
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 2

Looking SSE at cut trail from photo point 2
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 3A
Looking SSE along lot boundary from photo point 3
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 3B
Looking W along lot boundary/Lake Road from photo point 3
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 4A
Looking W along lot boundary from photo point 4
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 4B
Looking N along lot boundary/Wolfe Road from photo point 4
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 5A

Looking N along lot boundary/pond from photo point 5
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 5B

Looking E along lot boundary from photo point 5
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 6A
Looking W along S boundary from photo point 6
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 6B
Looking E along S boundary from photo point 6
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 7
Looking NW at lot from photo point 7
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 8
Looking NNW into lot from photo point 8
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 9
Looking N at lot from photo point 9
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 10
Looking NW at lot from photo point 10
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 11
Looking E into lot from photo point 11
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018

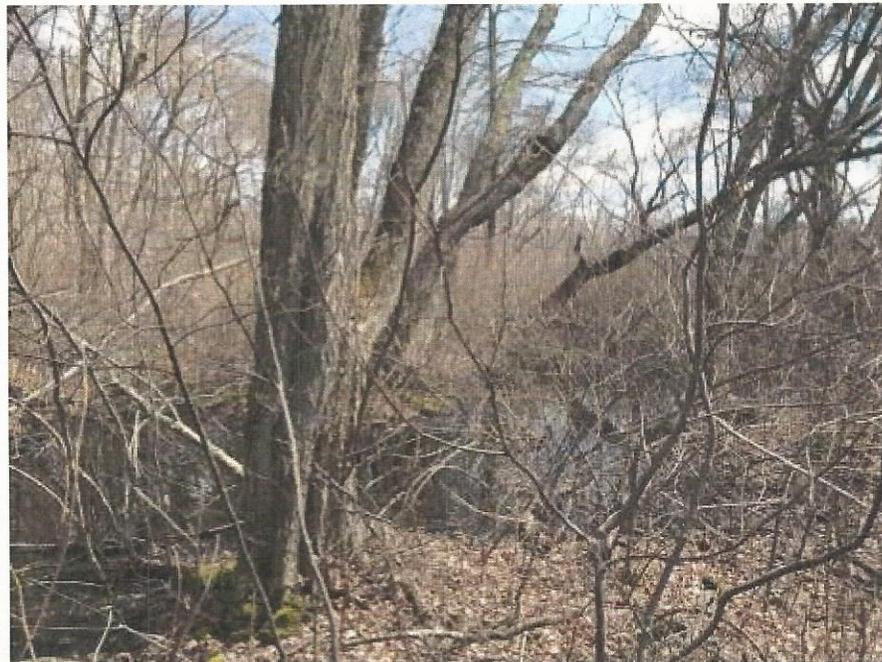


Photo 12
Looking N along lot boundary from photo point 12
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 13

Looking NE into lot from photo point 13
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 14

Looking E into lot from photo point 14
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 15A

Looking S along lot boundary/stone wall from photo point 15
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 15B

Looking W along lot boundary/stone wall from photo point 15
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018



Photo 16

Looking E into lot from photo point 16/E most accessible point in lot
Photographed by Kyle R. Hess
Narragansett, Rhode Island, 18 April 2018