



Beavers Northwest

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Cordata Business Park Beaver Management Memo

Installing pond levelers on the outlets of each of the stormwater ponds at the Cordata Business Park is the preferred action to address flooding, retain ecosystem services, and support wildlife usage of these constructed systems. While removing beavers is an alternative, there is a high likelihood that this site will be recolonized by beavers due to the presence of perennial water, preferred vegetation for beaver browse, and connectivity to other waterways. As such, removal of beavers will always be a temporary action and will require ongoing trapping on as much as an annual cycle. Pond levelers provide an alternative to address beaver conflict concerns while retaining beavers on site.

Pond levelers are a cost-effective practice that have been implemented successfully in many situations throughout North America. These devices function to maintain a compromise between the needs of beavers and the needs of humans and our infrastructure. To maintain this compromise and increase the efficacy of these devices, the Beavers Northwest team surveyed the ponds to find the beaver lodge. Two lodges were found in the south pond one of which appeared active. Lodge entrance depths were approximated using stadia rods to measure water surface elevation to the top of the lodge. Due to the complexity of these lodge structures, all measurements are considered to be approximate. At the time of survey, the shallowest lodge entrance was measured to be at 0.9ft below surface water elevation. Using this measurement, the placement of the pond levelers in the south pond will be set at an elevation to keep this lodge entrance below the surface of the water. This represents the best opportunity for compromise and the best chance of success for these devices.

Devices will be installed using best management practices for pond levelers to ensure minimal ecological disturbance. This includes incrementally notching the beaver dams to prevent erosive flows. Pond levelers will be constructed on land and secured in place at the dam and in the ponds by t-posts and/or cinderblock saddles. Only hand tools will be used in this process.

Beaver modified ecosystems are dynamic and ongoing monitoring and maintenance will be necessary. We recommend maintenance visits every 3-6 months to assess leveler function and beaver activity. Typical maintenance actions include removing debris from the pipe inlet cage, readjusting t-posts or cinderblocks securing pipe, assessing new dams or other beaver activity and determining if follow up action is necessary. In this case, the beavers are building in two quite obvious constriction points at the outlet of each pond. Monitoring for any new or increased activity between the two ponds will be of primary concern.