



Wellesley
Natural
Resources
Commission

Summer 2018 Insights from Outside



A New Pollinator Habitat for Wellesley

The local birds, insects, and other animals that pollinate our plants have a new home at the Wellesley Police Department: a newly installed pollinator garden! The NRC successfully applied to have Wellesley host one of three demonstration gardens in Massachusetts as part of [Pollinate New England](#), an initiative of the New England

Wild Flower Society (NEWFS). The program is intended to raise awareness about how we can all help reverse the decline of pollinators in our region by planting native plants.

In June, **Annie White**, a landscape designer and University of Vermont professor, and **Mark Richardson**, NEWFS botanic garden director, presented a public workshop and an evening talk where participants learned about best practices for pollinator gardening, including site preparation and key plants to use. Watch for a video of this presentation on the [NRC website](#).



Landscape planner Annie White talks about site preparation.

The NRC's own [Grow Green Wellesley](#) initiative encourages reduced pesticide use and promotes earth- and pollinator-friendly landscaping and lawn care. We are grateful for the partnership of the Wellesley Police Department and the Department of Public Works - especially landscapers **Cricket Vlass** and **Susy Jordan**.

[Click here for pollinator garden resources](#)



Mark Richardson shares suggestions for native plants.



Pollinator plant kits from NEWFS.



Evening lecture attendees learn best practices to attract pollinators.

Take Action: Show Your Support for Bills on Beacon Hill

With only two weeks left in the legislative session, we are looking to the state House of Representatives to vote on key environmental legislation on clean energy and on plastic bags. A statewide bag bill, H.4234, *An Act Reducing Plastic Pollution*, would ban single-use plastic bags and set statewide standards for paper and reusable bags. Wellesley passed a bag ban in 2016 and is among 80 cities and towns that have done so. Without any regulations, Massachusetts residents would discard more than 3.6 billion bags every year.



In June, the Senate unanimously passed an ambitious clean energy bill, S.2545, that would dramatically accelerate our progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and address the looming threat of climate change. Now the House must act before July 31 for any of these important measures to be enacted.

We encourage Wellesley residents to show their concern for these issues by writing to our state representatives and asking them to support this critical legislation before the session ends on July 31.

[Click here for a sample letter and more information from Sustainable Wellesley](#)

Minimize Environmental Impact During Construction



Erosion controls in place during Town Hall construction work.

From the Wetlands Protection Committee:

The good weather and long days of summer make this a popular time for home construction projects - but these projects can also result in unnecessary pollution. Sediment from construction washes into streams, ponds, and wetlands, causing one of the largest water quality problems in our state. Not only does the sediment pollute water and degrade plant and wildlife habitats, but it also violates the federal Clean Water Act, the Wetlands Protection Act, and Wellesley's own Wetlands Protection bylaws.

Controlling runoff, erosion, and sediment helps save time, money, and our local environment. To minimize the impact of construction in sensitive areas:

- Stop erosion before it starts by phasing in construction activities and trying to preserve natural vegetation whenever possible.
- Talk with your contractor to ensure that appropriate erosion practices are in place for the duration of any project.

Contact the [Wetlands Protection Committee](#) for more information.

NRC Project Updates & Announcements



The water buggy will be providing free fill-ups at July Jubilation!

Visit Us at July Jubilation!

On **Saturday, July 21 from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm**, the NRC will share a booth with Sustainable Wellesley and the Health Department at July Jubilation, Wellesley's annual summer street fair. Stop by to learn about our efforts to reduce pesticide use, control gas leaks, eliminate single-use plastic waste, protect our urban tree canopy, and more. Bring your reusable water bottle to fill up at the MWRA mobile water buggy!

Many thanks to the [Wellesley Square Merchants' Association](#) for hosting this festive event.

Fuller Brook Park Workshops on Invasive Plants: July 23 and 24

Want to help take care of Fuller Brook Park? The NRC is developing a Fuller Brook Park stewardship program to help maintain this crown jewel in Wellesley's park system. We're holding two workshops in July to train volunteers to recognize and remove invasive plants along the path and stream banks. Space is limited; [sign up](#) in advance to attend one of these sessions:

- **Monday, July 23 at 2 pm**
- **Tuesday, July 24 at 9 am**

Plastic Free July Challenge

Want to reduce plastic use in your own life? Consider taking part in the [Plastic Free July Challenge](#) which started in 2011 in Perth, Australia, and has grown into a worldwide movement involving more than 2 million people in 159 countries. As our environment and oceans become more and more threatened by plastic pollution, this campaign offers resources to help all of us cut back.



[Visit the Plastic Free July website for tips and answers to common questions](#)
[Follow Plastic Free July on Facebook](#)



Children's librarian Quincy Knapp with donated markers.

Recycling Success!

Hundreds of no-longer-usable markers, pens, and mechanical pencils are on their way to be recycled, thanks to the support of Wellesley residents and teachers. The NRC and the Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) co-sponsored this pilot project, placing collection boxes from [TerraCycle](#) at Town Hall and in the Children's Room at the Wellesley Free Library. Throughout June, residents dropped utensils in the boxes - with many contributions coming from students at Bates and Fiske Elementary schools. Thanks to the Wellesley Free Library for hosting a collection box.

Upcoming Events

NRC events and those of NRC committees appear in **bold green**.

- **July 19: Wetlands Protection Committee meeting**, 6:30 pm, NRC office, Town Hall.
- **July 21:** July Jubilation, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm, Wellesley Square.
- **July 23: Fuller Brook Park Training on Invasive Plants**, 2 pm, Meet at Cameron St.
- **July 24: Fuller Brook Park Training on Invasive Plants**, 9 am, Meet at Cameron St.
- **July 25: NRC meeting**, 7 pm, Great Hall, Town Hall.
- **Aug. 3:** Home Energy Audit seminar, 10:30 am, Tolles Parsons Center.
- **Sept. 3: Labor Day - NRC office CLOSED**
- **Sept. 8 - 9:** Family Camp Out, all night at Kelly Field. For more information, contact the [Wellesley Recreation Department](#).
- **Sept. 24:** Wellesley Municipal Light Plant Forum on Greenhouse Gas Reduction, 7 pm, Great Hall, Town Hall.
- **Sept. 27:** Green Collaborative Meeting, 9 - 11:30 am, Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library.

SIGN UP FOR EMAILS

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