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Wellesley
Natural
Resources
Commission

Insights from Outside A Monthly Update from the NRC

February 2016

NRC Proposes Limits on Plastic Check-Out Bags

Public Hearing this Thursday, February 11, 7:30 pm

At Annual Town Meeting in March, the Natural Resources Commission will propose a bylaw limiting the distribution of single-use plastic check-out bags in town. The bylaw is intended to help stem the rising tide of plastic litter in Wellesley parks and conservation areas. To date, 18 communities in Massachusetts have already approved restrictions on plastic shopping bags, including Newton and Natick.

Please join us for a public hearing this **Thursday, February 11 at 7:30 pm**, in the Great Hall at Town Hall. We want your input as we work to finalize the specifics of our proposed bylaw.

Some key findings that led to the NRC proposal:

- **Plastic bags are hard to recycle.** The Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility has stopped accepting plastic bags for recycling, as has Waste Management, the country's largest private trash hauler.
- **Most plastic bags are not recycled.** Americans use about 100 billion plastic check-out bags each year; roughly five percent are recycled.
- **Plastic bags are polluting our environment.** The bags end up in our waterways and oceans, endangering wildlife and clogging storm drains.
- **Plastic never biodegrades.** Plastic is estimated to take up to 1,000 years to break down, and it just breaks into smaller and smaller pieces that remain in the environment *forever*.
- **Reusable bags are the best alternative to plastic bags.** Neither plastic bags nor paper bags are truly sustainable. Reusable shopping bags also save money for local retailers.



"Reese Cycle" promotes the NRC public hearing at Town Hall on February 11 at 7:30 pm.

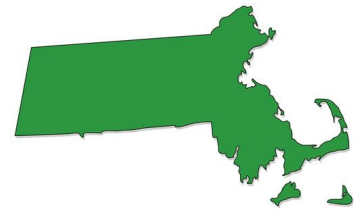


Plastic bags litter the wetlands and woods surrounding the Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility.

Please visit the NRC web site for more information about the proposal to limit plastic bags.

[NRC Web Site](#)

You Are Invited: Mass Green Summit on Plastic Disposables



The NRC invites you to join us on **Saturday, February 20, 10 am to 3:30 pm**, at the **Wellesley Free Library**, for the **Mass Green Summit** on reducing plastic waste in our environment. Organized by MassGreen.org, the summit will feature panels and workshops for folks from across the state working to tackle plastic disposables. Co-sponsors include the NRC, Toxics Action Center, Sierra Club MA, and MassPIRG. The event is free and open to the public, but space is limited so please [sign up](#) to attend.



Tell Us What You Think: Future of Kelly Field Tennis Court Site

The [Horsley Witten Group](#) is helping the NRC, [Wellesley Community Preservation Committee](#), and [Recreation Commission](#) conduct a Community Needs Assessment for the site of the Kelly Field Tennis Courts. We need your feedback to help determine the future of the site. Please complete this [survey](#) to share your thoughts. Join us at the NRC public meeting on **Thursday, February 25, 7 pm** in the Great Hall, Town Hall, to discuss the future of the site and the results of our survey.

No Spraying Needed for Winter Moth

The NRC and the DPW won't be spraying trees for the invasive winter moth this season. Instead, we will continue to use biological control methods to rid Wellesley of these pesky moths. Since 2008, scientists from the Department of Environmental Conservation at UMass Amherst have been introducing parasitic flies to Wellesley that kill winter moths and alleviate the need for potentially harmful insecticides. The on-going [study](#) conducted by the scientists has shown that the flies are successfully reducing the winter moth population in Wellesley and they are starting to have a beneficial effect in other towns as well. Please protect the important fly population by NOT spraying insecticide on your trees and spread the word to your neighbors!



Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

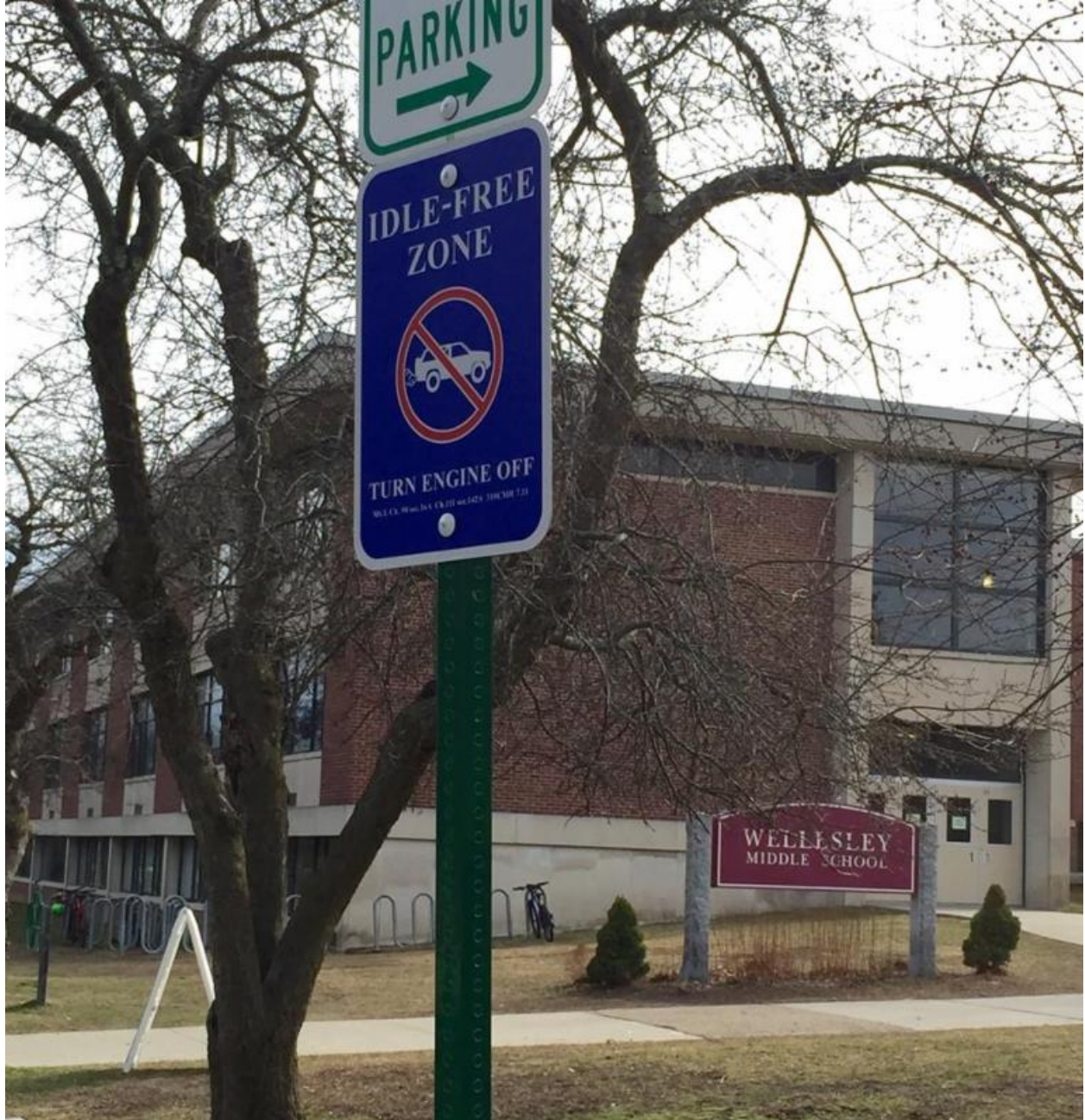
- **Thurs., Feb. 11, [NRC Public Hearing](#), 7:30 pm, Great Hall, Town Hall.** Public discussion on the NRC proposal to limit plastic carry-out bags.
- **Sat., Feb. 20, [Mass Green Summit](#), 10 am to 3:30 pm, Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library.** Discussions and panels on reducing plastic disposables. Co-sponsored by the NRC, Toxics Action Center, Sierra Club MA, MassPIRG. Free and open to the public; please click [here](#) to register.
- **Thurs., Feb. 25, [NRC Public Meeting](#), 7 pm, Great Hall, Town Hall.** Public discussion on the future of the Kelly Field Tennis Courts.
- **Mon., March 7 - [Planning Board Public Hearing](#), 6:35 pm, Great Hall, Town Hall.** Discussion of rezoning of 28 properties owned by the NRC.

Sign Up to Support Green Projects in Wellesley

- [Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project](#) is launching a new program, **Meals 2 Heal**, delivering meals from local restaurants to Wellesley residents undergoing treatment for cancer. Volunteer delivery drivers are needed. Click [here](#) for more information.
- [Sustainable Wellesley](#) is looking for "green-thinking" volunteers to attend town government meetings and to track sustainability-related issues on town projects. Contact info@SustainableWellesley.com to find out more.

Sign Up for News About Your Favorite Parks

The NRC sends occasional updates about specific parks and fields under our jurisdiction. Click [here](#) and sign up to get emails about Hunnewell Field, Morses Pond, Fuller Brook Park and other neighborhood favorites.



Wellesley Middle School is an "Idle-Free Zone." New signs posted along Kingsbury Street remind drivers to turn off engines while waiting for students. Idling for more than five minutes is against the law, and even two minutes of idling is bad for our health and affects air quality. Let's make the whole town of Wellesley an "Idle-Free Zone!" This project was a joint effort between the NRC and the Department of Public Works.

[Web Site](#) [NRC Meeting Agendas](#) [Permit Applications](#) [Community Gardens](#)

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The Natural Resources Commission for the Town of Wellesley
781-431-1019 ext. 2294



