



# Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

## Insights from Outside

An Update from the NRC  
February 2017

### Tuesday, March 21: Join Us for a Public Forum on Gas Leaks in Wellesley!



Gas Leaks Forum on  
March 21, 7:00 to 8:30 pm,  
Wellesley Free Library •

- [Everyone is welcome - please click here to register for the forum!](#)
- [Click here for a flyer to share.](#)
- [Click here to see a map of gas leaks in Wellesley!](#)

Do you ever smell gas when you're driving or walking in Wellesley? There are about 200 active gas leaks in town due to aging pipes. The NRC and other town boards are concerned about the risk the leaks pose to our health, our environment, and our pocketbooks. As ratepayers, we are all paying for the wasted gas through our gas bills!

On **Tuesday, March 21, 7:00 to 8:30 pm**, the NRC is co-sponsoring a public forum on gas leaks at the Wellesley Free Library. The Board of Selectmen will preside as we hear from gas leaks experts and town officials. A representative of National Grid is also expected to attend.

Co-sponsored by the Board of Selectmen, State Rep. Alice Peisch, State Senator Cynthia Creem, State Senator Richard Ross, Wellesley Natural Resources Commission, Sustainable Energy Committee, Health Department, and Sustainable Wellesley.

## NRC Endorses Bylaw on Historic Preservation

The Natural Resources Commission recently voted to endorse the [Historic Preservation Demolition Review Bylaw](#) proposed by the Wellesley Historical Commission. The proposed bylaw will be considered by Town Meeting this April.



**Built in 1695,  
this is the oldest home  
in Wellesley**

The NRC voted unanimously to support this measure, citing the negative environmental impact of hundreds of smaller homes being replaced by much larger buildings. The decision reflects these specific concerns:

- When larger homes are built, the home site is often cleared of most - sometimes all - of the trees, chipping away at the town's tree canopy and reducing wildlife habitat.
- Larger homes reduce the permeable surface of a lot, resulting in increased stormwater runoff and affecting water quality in our ponds, streams, and drinking water.
- When a house is demolished, the resources that went into it are lost, and new, carbon-intensive resources must be used to create and maintain the much larger new structure.

The members of the NRC believe that the Historical Commission has found an appropriate balance between upholding the rights of property owners and encouraging them to consider improving existing structures. This bylaw will put Wellesley on more even-footing with the surrounding communities that already have such measures in place, and we hope it will make Wellesley less of a target for the unprecedented wave of demolition the town has seen in the past several years.

## To Spray or Not to Spray for Winter Moth?

With spring coming, you may be receiving commercial offers to spray your trees to prevent invasive winter moth infestation. The NRC suggests that you follow the advice of town arborists: **Spray only those trees that have already suffered significant moth damage and will not survive another infestation.**



**Please limit tree spraying to help predator flies that control winter moth!**

**Here's why:** Since 2008, the town has released more than 1000 moth-killing parasitic flies as part of a study lead by entomologists at UMass Amherst Extension using biological controls against the winter moth. The project has been very successful and moth densities have declined dramatically all across town. You can help by limiting your tree spraying - spraying kills the flies that are killing the moths!

[Learn more about the UMass predator fly program.](#)

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## Your Opinion Needed for Wellesley's Unified Plan



Please share your thoughts about Wellesley's future by completing a NEW **brief survey** before March 6! Your responses will provide important feedback for the Wellesley

Unified Plan that will set the course for the future of our town.

One of the plan's key components is a "Vision and Values Statement," which is intended to

provide a description of an ideal Wellesley about 20 years from now. The ideas and values in this statement will guide the preparation and implementation of the Unified Plan. This **Draft Vision and Values Statement** reflects input from public discussions over the past several months - and you can still have a say by completing the new survey.

[Click here to complete the new survey on the future of Wellesley!](#)

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## Three Ways You Can Help in Our Community



Tree Program open now!

### Request a Tree for Your Yard

It's almost tree planting time again! The NRC and the Department of Public Works are selecting trees at local nurseries for the town [Tree Program](#). Help Wellesley grow its tree canopy by signing up to receive a free tree for your yard, planted by the DPW. A variety of tree species are available.

[Click here to request a tree by email.](#) (Requests are filled in the order in which they are received.)

### Gardeners Needed for Veggie Growing

Grow delicious vegetables for yourself and those in need by signing up to garden the 4C plot at the Weston Road Community Gardens. The 20-foot by 40-foot plot is leased from the NRC. You can grow flowers, fruits, and vegetables for your family, and donate the surplus to the [Wellesley Food Pantry](#), which benefits food-insecure families in our community.

[Click here to sign up for the 4C garden plot by email.](#)



Plant crops here!



Volunteer for Earth Day!

### April 29: Join the Annual Charles River Cleanup

The NRC invites you to join us on the banks of the Charles for the annual **Earth Day Charles River Cleanup, Saturday, April 29, from 9:00 am to noon**, sponsored by the Charles River Watershed Association. Bring your family and friends to clear litter along the riverbank right here in town. The cleanup is a great activity for community or corporate groups, too! Each year, more than 3,000 local volunteers join forces all along the Charles - let's do our part in Wellesley to help protect the river we love!

[Click here to sign up by email - we'll send you information on where to meet!](#)

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## Save the Date: May 13, "Landscapes for Living: A Forum on Eco-Friendly Gardening and Lawn Care"

Join the NRC for an inspiring all-day symposium - "Landscapes for Living: A Forum on Eco-Friendly Gardening



and Lawn Care," on **Saturday, May 13, 10:30 am to 3 pm**, at the Wellesley Free Library. Free and open to the public, this event will help you improve and preserve the health and habitat of your backyard - and of our town. This inspiring all-day symposium will launch the NRC's Grow Green Wellesley campaign to promote eco-landscaping and reduce pesticide use.

[Click here for more information and sign up!](#)

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## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

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

- **February 28: NRC meeting, 7:30 pm, NRC office, Lower Level, Town Hall**
- March 2: [League of Women Voters of Wellesley](#) "Meet the Candidates Night," 7:30 pm, Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library
- March 5: [Local Environmental Action 2017](#), Toxics Action Center & Mass Climate Action Network conference at Northeastern University's Curry Student Center, Boston
- March 7: Annual Town Election - Remember to **VOTE!**
- **March 9: [Wetlands Protection Committee meeting, 6:30 pm, NRC office, Lower Level, Town Hall](#)**
- March 14: "[Cowspiracy: The Sustainability Secret.](#)" 7:30 pm, free film presented by Sustainable Wellesley at the Showplace Cinema at Legacy Place
- March 15: Deadline for [2017 Arbor Day Poster Contest](#)
- **March 15: NRC meeting, 7:30 pm, NRC office, Lower Level, Town Hall**
- **March 21: [Public Forum on Gas Leaks in Wellesley, 7:00 to 8:30 pm, Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library](#)**
- March 27: Start of 2017 Wellesley Annual Town Meeting
- March 25: [Mass Green Network 2017 Summit](#), 9:30 am to 3:30 pm, First Baptist Church 111 Park Ave, Worcester
- **March 29: NRC meeting, 7:30 pm, NRC office, Lower Level, Town Hall**
- April 8: [Wellesley STEM Expo](#), 10:00 am to 2 pm, Wellesley High School
- **April 30: Wellesley Trails Committee [2017 Spring Trails Walk, 10:00 am, Carisbrook Reservation](#)**
- **May 13: "[Landscapes for Living: A Forum on Eco-Friendly Gardening and Lawn Care,](#)" 10:30 am to 3 pm, Wellesley Free Library**

[Web Site](#)

[NRC Meeting Agendas](#)

[Permit Applications](#)

[Community Gardens](#)

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Wellesley Natural Resources  
Commission  
781-431-1019, ext. 2294

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