



Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

Insights from Outside June 2017

NRC Launches **Grow Green Wellesley** Campaign: Join Us on June 8



The NRC's **Grow Green Wellesley** campaign kicked off on Mother's Day weekend with a special event in honor of Mother Earth - "Landscapes for Living: A Forum on Eco-Friendly Landscaping and Lawn Care." The May 13 event drew a crowd of about 150 who learned about the benefits of planting native plants, maintaining lawns and gardens without the use of pesticides, composting, and much more! If you attended, please take a moment right now to fill out our feedback form - [click here for the brief feedback form.](#)

"This event completely changed the way I look at gardening and lawn care," said Wellesley resident Jean Wiecha. "I talked with others who attended and we're all excited about speeding up our shift from traditional gardening to creating spaces that feed the bugs and the birds."

Join us this Thursday to get an update on what's in the works and help decide our next topics and activities for the Grow Green Wellesley campaign:

Grow Green Wellesley Organizing Meeting

Thursday, June 8, 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Town Hall, Great Hall

[Click here to let us know you're coming!](#)

"Landscapes for Living" Presentations Now Available on Video

If you missed the "Landscapes for Living" forum - or you want to see it again - video is now available, thanks to Wellesley Media. Watch and be inspired!

- **[Creating Living Landscapes:](#)** Dr. Doug Tallamy, author and entomology professor at the University of Delaware, speaks on the importance of incorporating native plants in home landscapes (talk starts at 5:00 minute point).
- **[Help, I Don't Know What's in My Lawn:](#)** Chip Osborne, the country's leading turf care expert, shares practical strategies for natural and sustainable lawn care.
- **[Edible Landscapes:](#)** Ben Barken of Home Harvest describes how to integrate food

crops into your decorative landscape.

- **Easy Composting for a Pesticide-Free Garden, Lawn, and Landscape:** Composting tips from Ann McGovern, Consumer Waste Reduction Coordinator and Compost Specialist at the MA Department of Environmental Protection.
- **Attracting Bees and Pollinators to Your Garden:** Advice and information from Beekeeper Sean Smith of The Best Bees Company.



NRC director Brandon Schmitt with speakers Doug Tallamy and Chip Osborne.



DPW landscape planner Cricket Mass demonstrates soil sampling.



An engaged crowd of attendees.



Say No to Neonicotinoids, Buy Safe Milkweed

Help restore Monarch butterfly populations by planting milkweed plants in your pesticide and herbicide-free yards. Milkweeds are an essential part of the Monarch diet - the caterpillars must eat it to survive.

But not all milkweed plants are alike. Those sold in "big box" stores may be treated with systemic neonicotinoids, which are known to kill caterpillars, bees, and even birds. To be safe, check the labels on your plants or buy milkweed from [Sustainable Wellesley](#). These plants are grown at Nasami Farms in Whately, MA, which is an organic farm and supplier to the New England Wildflower Society. [Click here to order your milkweed today.](#)

NRC Commissions Independent Survey of Wellesley Gas Leaks

As a follow up to the gas leaks forum sponsored by the NRC in March, the NRC has commissioned an independent survey of the gas leaks in town. We hope to use this data to help inform residents and expedite repairs on leaks that are harming trees or other vegetation.

Independent gas inspector Bob Ackley of Gas Safety Inc. is conducting the survey and has already found at least one gas leak coming up from the stump of a public shade tree that died and had to be cut down. Gas leaks affect trees and other plant life by suffocating the roots and robbing the soil of biological material.

[Click here to watch the Wellesley Gas Leaks Forum.](#)

Reminder: If you smell gas in Wellesley, call National Grid at 800-233-5325 or call 911!



Wetlands Protection Committee Adopts New Regulations

Wellesley's [Wetlands Protection Committee](#) recently approved new regulations intended to strengthen protections for fragile ecosystems around wetland areas in town. The Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wellesley Wetlands Protection Bylaw require all land owners to get permits before doing work in any wetland areas, such as swamps, streams, brooks, ponds, vernal pools, or other locations subject to flooding. These laws help preserve and protect wetlands by preventing pollution, storm damage, and groundwater supply contamination, while helping to maintain habitats for plants and wildlife.



The newly adopted regulations build upon previous ones and cover minor projects such as constructing a fence, expanding a garden, removing brush, and cutting trees, as well as more extensive work such as home demolition and renovations. Any resident considering work on or near a wetland should [email](#) Wetlands Protection Administrator Julie Meyer to find out more about the permitting process.

[Click here to see a map of wetlands in Wellesley.](#)

[Click here to review Wetlands regulations and related documents.](#)



Next Steps for Wellesley's Unified Plan

The process continues in the development of Wellesley's first combined comprehensive and strategic plan. Working groups have formed to cover specific topics and public workshops have taken place - with one remaining on **Town Government Strategic Concepts, on June 14, 7:00 to 9:00 pm, at Town Hall in the Great Hall.**

Have specific questions or comments? NRC staff and board members are on working groups for Sustainable Systems & Networks, Health, and Natural and Cultural Heritage and welcome your feedback via [email](#).

[Learn more about Wellesley's Unified Plan.](#)



Spring Spruce Up for Elm Bank and Town Hall

In April, dozens of tree crews from around the region, including the [Wellesley Department of Public Works](#) team, celebrated the 146th year of Arbor Day at Elm Bank

Reservation in Wellesley. These tree experts volunteered their time and skill to safely prune trees on the site while enjoying some great camaraderie.

Hundreds of civic groups and professional arborists throughout the country mark **Arbor Day** by planting trees and giving back to their community. Our thanks to the Wellesley team for their stewardship of the historic Elm Bank property.



DPW crews at Elmbank.



Arborists from left to right: Ryan, Justin, Kent and Jeremy.

And on May 10, DPW horticulture technician Susy Jordan led a group of Wellesley Middle School students in a clean up of the Duck Pond at Town Hall as part of 8th grade community service day.



Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

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

- **June 5-9:** Wellesley Middle School Cell Phone Recycling Project. Drop off old cell phones, chargers, iPods and other digital devices and accessories for recycling.
- **June 8:** **Grow Green Wellesley Organizing Meeting**, 6:00 to 7:30 pm, Great Hall, Town Hall. Join us to help decide what's next! NRC Board Meeting follows at 7:30 pm.

- **June 15: Wetlands Protection Committee Meeting**, 6:30 pm, NRC office, Town Hall.
- **June 20: Wellesley Trails Committee Meeting**, 7:00 PM, NRC office, Town Hall.
- **June 22: NRC Board Meeting**, 7:30 PM, NRC office, Town Hall.
- **July 6: Wetlands Protection Committee Meeting**, 6:30 pm, NRC office, Town Hall.
- **July 15: July Jubilation**, All Day in Wellesley Square.
- **August 12-13: Family Camp-Out** (Program #345400) at Bates School/Kelly Field. Family fun under the stars!

Wellesley Town Hall Summer Hours: Friday, July 7 thru Friday, Sept. 1

Town Hall will be open on Tuesdays until 6 pm, and will close at 12 pm on Fridays.

[Web Site](#)

[NRC Meeting Agendas](#)

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**Wellesley Natural Resources
Commission**
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