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Wellesley
Natural
Resources
Commission

Insights from Outside A Monthly Update from the NRC

May 2016



Keep Wellesley Safe and Healthy

In a continued effort to encourage healthy lawns and landscapes and limit the use of pesticides in Wellesley, the NRC is updating the town [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) Policy](#). This plan was adopted in 2008 and requires that town parks, conservation and recreation land and open spaces must be maintained through organic lawn and landscape care that is provided by the Department of Public Works. However, there are many other areas of town-owned land that are not pesticide-free.

In the coming months, we will be working with Sarah Little, Ph.D., a resident who managed Wellesley's original pesticide reduction campaign for many years, Chip Osborne of [Osborne Organics](#) and an expert in natural turf management, and the [Health Department](#) to find ways to improve the current IPM plan and encourage more participation. We're reaching out to residents to educate and inspire them to reduce pesticide use on their own lawns and use organic landscaping techniques. We hope you'll get involved. A list of accredited organic landscapers serving our town is available through [Sustainable Wellesley](#). Watch for more information as we work to keep Wellesley safe and healthy.

Reducing Food Waste is Elementary at Bates

Trash talk is going on at Bates Elementary school. The school is taking part in the [U.S. EPA Food Recovery Challenge](#), pledging to improve its sustainable food management practices and report the results. As explained in this [press release](#), Bates is the first K-12 school in New England to participate in this program.

During the past few weeks, students have been sorting food into seven different categories according to the [EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy](#), in order to measure the amount of food that can be reduced, donated to feed hungry people, feed animals, reused (e.g. composting), recycled or is trash. This information will be used to develop a set of goals for the school in the coming year.



Food was sorted into different categories.



One days' worth of recycling.



Unopened food donated to the Wellesley Food Pantry.

Outreach Plans for Bag Ban

The NRC is beginning to work with Wellesley businesses to help ensure a smooth transition to plastic-free, 100 percent recyclable shopping bags. Along with volunteers from the 3R (Reduce Reuse Recycle) Working Group, we're meeting with retailers to learn how to best address their needs, and are designing a public outreach campaign that will include mailings, advertising, promotional events and signage to remind retailers and residents about the new bylaw. We'd welcome your help. Please [email](#) the NRC if you'd like to volunteer to be part of this effort.

Wetlands Protection Committee Welcomes New Administrator

Wellesley's wetlands have a new guardian. Linda Hansen recently joined the NRC staff as the full-time [Wetlands Protection](#) Administrator. Linda has a wealth of experience protecting our natural resources as an environmental consultant where she worked on many contaminated Superfund sites, and a conservation agent for the town of Maynard prior to coming to Wellesley. In her role, Linda reviews and administers the regulations for the town's wetlands and river fronts. Welcome Linda!



In other staff news, congratulations to NRC board member Raina McManus who, in March, was elected to another three-year term!



Tree Planting Success: 2015 Best Year Ever for Town Tree Survival

Favorable conditions and good weather are helping our tree canopy grow! A recent DPW survey shows that more than 90 percent of trees planted by the town in the past 15 years on private land are alive and thriving, and 85 percent of trees planted on public land are doing well. Wellesley's [Tree Planting Program](#), funded by the NRC and executed by the Public Works Department, enables the town to plant shade trees on residential properties and public ways to help beautify roads and walkways and maintain our Tree City USA status. This year more than 115 trees have been planted so far, and a few more are available for private properties. If you'd like to request a tree from the NRC, please [email](#) us.

Take pictures of our trees! A local resident is organizing a tree photography exhibit to take place next spring. This activity is for all ages. More information will be available in upcoming newsletters and on the [NRC website](#).

Don't Spray for Winter Moth

Save money and help eliminate unnecessary pesticide application. Last year, researchers from UMASS documented the spread of *Cyzenis albicans*, a parasitic fly that is being used to control Winter Moth along six transects extending 10 km from their initial release site in Wellesley. As part of the project, Wellesley's DPW has stopped spraying Town trees, and hope to manage the moths completely without chemicals. The results of the study are promising, and indicate that spraying for Winter moth may be unnecessary for both public trees, and your trees at home. For more information, click [here](#).

Thank You!

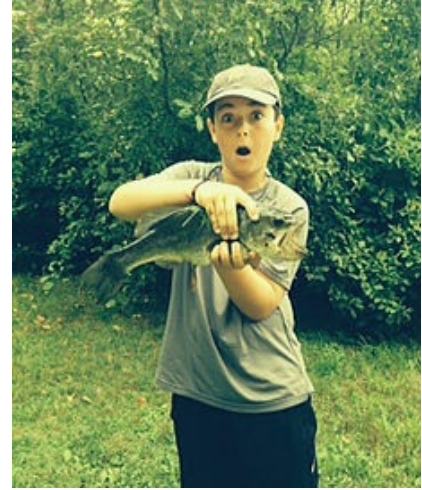
This past month featured many outdoor community activities supported by our volunteers, who helped clean up the Charles River and local ponds, look for aquatic life in vernal pools, and coordinate a Marathon weekend fishing derby. Thank you for your efforts!



Charles River Earth Day clean up.



Trash and debris from the Charles River.



Zeb Jacoby shows off a lunkah for [Lunkfest 2016](#).



Looking for woodfrogs and salamander eggs in vernal pools.



Reeds Pond spillway with debris.



Reeds Pond spillway after clean up.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

- Monday, May 9 & Wednesday, May 25, [NRC Meeting](#), 7:30 pm, NRC Office, Town Hall.
- Wednesday, May 18, ["Tapped"](#) Documentary Screening, 6:45 pm, Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library. Award-winning film about the environmental and health impact of bottled water, sponsored by the [Wellesley Cancer Prevention Project](#).
- Thursday, May 19, [Wetlands Protection Committee Meeting](#), 6:30 pm, NRC Office, Town Hall.
- Friday, May 20 - Sunday, May 22, [18th Annual Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend](#). Events and activities throughout town including veterans parade, concert and fireworks.
- Tuesday, May 31, [Trails Committee Meeting](#), 7 pm, NRC Office, Town Hall
- Saturday, June 4, [Wellesley Farmer's Market](#) OPEN, 9 am - 1 pm, 309 Washington Street. Locally grown fruits, vegetables, food and special events. Saturdays through Oct. 15.

News from Our Partners

- Sustainable Wellesley <http://www.sustainablewellesley.com/>

- Sustainable Wellesley <http://www.sustainablewellesley.com/>
- Wellesley Green Schools <http://www.sustainablewellesley.com/wellesley-green-schools/>

Sustainable Energy Committee Job Opening

The Wellesley Sustainable Energy Committee is hiring a part-time Sustainable Energy Administrator to help lead the development and implementation of energy saving programs and initiatives for the town. Applications will be accepted until May 11. The complete job description is listed on the Wellesley [Human Resources website](#).

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

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