



Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

Insights from Outside A Monthly Update from the NRC

October 2016

Preserving Wellesley Trees: Two Ways You Can Help



Photo by Bill McMahon

ADOPT A TREE!

Wellesley trees suffered badly in the unprecedented drought this summer, making them extra vulnerable as winter approaches. We're asking residents to help by watering a nearby tree once or twice a week, at least through the end of November. The NRC has put together a map of the at-risk trees and can direct you to one (or more!) in your neighborhood. [Click here to let us know](#)

[you can help!](#)

Rain and cooler fall temperatures have brought some relief, but our trees are still affected by water deprivation. Why do trees need help in the aftermath of a drought?

- Thirsty trees are more susceptible to disease and insect attacks.
- Trees slow down transpiration and photosynthesis when they don't get enough water - eventually resulting in starvation.
- Reduced moisture content in the wood may cause tree limbs to break.

[Click here to adopt a tree near you!](#)

PLANT A SEEDLING FROM THE STATION OAK!

Thanks to the students in the [Wellesley High School Evolutions program](#), you can plant your very own tiny seedling from the iconic **Station Oak** (next to the post office in Wellesley Square). The Evolutions students gathered the seedlings and are caring for them as part of a tree preservation project with the NRC. In the spring, the students hope to find new homes for the seedlings on public land, in school yards, and with Wellesley residents (subject to availability). [Click here to let us know you would like a seedling.](#)

The Station Oak is a Red Oak (*quercus rubra*) and was planted in 1890 by the Boston &

Albany Railroad as part of the "railroad gardens," designed in part by Fredrick Law Olmsted. In addition to providing acorns for wildlife, oak trees are an important source of food for hundreds of butterflies and other pollinators, as well as migrating and wintering birds. **Planting an oak tree is one of the best things you can do for our local environment!**

Special thanks to **Kent Warren** and **Suzy Jordan** at the Wellesley Department of Public Works for their vision and their help. Many thanks also to **Wellesley College** and the **Massachusetts Horticultural Society** for generously housing the seedlings for the winter!

[Sign up for an oak seedling!](#)



The Station Oak - planted in 1890.



WHS students Jahneay and Taylor gather seedlings.



Taylor and Caroline prep young trees for transport.

NRC Launches Eco-Landscaping Initiative

BOARD OF SELECTMEN ADOPT ORGANIC TURF CARE POLICY

At the request of the NRC, the **Wellesley Board of Selectmen** voted on Monday to expand the **Organic Integrated Pest Management Policy** to all town land under their control. The current policy covers NRC and School Department land and prohibits the use of chemical pesticides except for specifically approved applications on poison ivy or invasive exotic plants. In making a persuasive case to the Selectmen, NRC consultant **Chip Osborne** (nationally known organic turf management specialist), noted, "No one can - at this point in time - say that these [pesticide] products are safe." [Click here to see the NRC presentation to the Board of Selectmen \(forward to 179 minutes in\).](#)



Organically managed playing fields at Hunnewell Field

Save the Date: **Chip Osborne** will be a keynote speaker at an eco-landscaping forum at the Wellesley Free Library on **Saturday, May 13th!** He will be joined by renowned ecologist **Doug Tallamy**, an expert on native plants for backyard landscaping. More details to come...

PILOT ECO-LAWN CARE PROGRAM TO TOUGHEN HOME TURF



Landscaper Jarrod
Joyce

Ten Wellesley homeowners have stepped up to have their lawns tested as part of an NRC pilot project to encourage residents to switch from chemical synthetics to organic lawn care. Local landscapers **John Rice of [Inspirational Gardens](#)** and **Jarrold Joyce of [Good Roots Landscaping](#)** are taking soil samples and evaluating current conditions to recommend next steps for residents to manage their lawns without pesticides.



Landscaper John Rice

A Winning Reusable Bag for Wellesley

Congratulations to Wellesley High School Evolutions program students **Caroline Green** and **Allison MacDougall**, who created the winning design for a new reusable bag. The design highlights Wellesley's commitment to the environment and received top votes in the NRC's reusable bag design challenge, a joint project with [Roche Bros. Wellesley, Linden Square Wellesley](#), and the WHS Evolutions program.



You can buy one of these sturdy canvas tote bags at Roche Bros. starting in December. And in January 2017, the new town bylaw banning plastic shopping bags will go into effect. Last week, the **Board of Selectmen** proclaimed January 2017 as "**Bring Your Own Bag Month**" in Wellesley!

[Learn more about the Wellesley bag bylaw](#)

NRC Project Updates!

Comprehensive Pond Study and Plan: At public meetings in the spring and fall, consultant Ken Wagner of Water Resource Services presented findings from his review of conditions at eight major town ponds. [Click here for video of October 2016 pond presentation.](#) You can see a copy of the presentation on the NRC web site. This project was funded in part by a grant from the [Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.](#)

Fuller Brook Park: Begun in 2014, the Fuller Brook Park Improvement Project is nearing its final phase and work in the stream is complete. Project engineers hope to finish all planting and hard construction of paths and pedestrian bridges by the end of this season. Please *stay off the edges of the pathways* to help the newly planted grass grow. Regular updates on this project are posted on the [Fuller Brook Park web page.](#)

Finish Line in Sight for WHS Track & Field

Work is nearly done on the [Wellesley High School Track and Field Project](#), a town-wide effort to benefit our sports teams. Watch the recent opening ceremony on the [Wellesley Media](#)

[Community Channel](#). Thanks to the extraordinary team of volunteers, town staff, and generous donors who made this project possible!



The new entrance includes brick ticket booths, a donor wall and new scoreboard.



The field is completed; the track surface needs some final layers.

Mark Your [Calendar](#) for Upcoming Events

- **Oct. 26 - Nov. 4, [NRC Bag Ban Blitz](#).** Retailer outreach campaign for new bag ban bylaw.
- **Oct. 31, 2 pm, [Wellesley Office Park Walking Path](#) Grand Opening**, behind John Hancock building.
- **Nov. 3, 6:30 pm, [Wetlands Protection Committee](#) meeting**, NRC office, Lower Level, Town Hall.
- **Nov. 5, 9 - 10 am, [Wellesley Trails Committee](#) Fall Walk**, Town Forest. Meet at the Longfellow Pond parking lot.
- **Nov. 8, ALL DAY, [2016 General Election](#). Please vote!**
- **Nov. 17, 7:30 pm, [NRC Meeting](#)**, NRC Office, Lower Level, Town Hall.
- **Nov. 24, Happy Thanksgiving!**

[Web Site](#)

[NRC Meeting Agendas](#)

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