

# Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

## Insights from Outside A Monthly Update from the NRC

September 2016

### A Forum Focused on Green Initiatives

Wellesley's green groups came together this month to share their messages with others in town as part of the Ninth Annual Wellesley Friendly Aid Networking Forum. Held at the Community Center on September 20, the theme of the daylong event was "Wellesley's Green Wave: How Sustainability is Transforming Our Town" and included presentations on current initiatives from the Sustainable Energy Committee, 3R (Reduce Reuse Recycle) Working Group, the Natural Resources Commission, Sustainable Wellesley, and Temple Beth Elohim.

We were pleased to highlight our work on the ongoing comprehensive pond management study, and the historic pesticide reduction campaign that we are now working to update. NRC Board member Lise Olney recognized the outstanding work of the Department of Public Works which uses organic landscaping practices on all town lands and shared our goal of working with residents to keep their families safe and healthy by reducing pesticide use at home.

Stephanie Hawkinson, our environmental education and outreach coordinator, shared information about an exciting partnership we've formed with the Wellesley High School Evolutions program, Roche Bros. grocery store in Wellesley, and the Linden Square Merchants. To help ease the transition to plastic bag free shopping when the new town plastic ban bylaw goes into effect in January 2017, we're working with these groups to design and promote a Wellesley-themed reusable canvas bag which will be sold in Roche Bros. beginning in early December.

Other environmental topics discussed during the day included the ongoing cafeteria food waste project at Bates Elementary school, a new program at the Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility called WasteWise Wellesley, the concerning problem of natural gas leaks in our town and a new solar energy opportunity for Wellesley non-profits that will be piloted at Temple Beth Elohim.



Sustainability forum speakers. Left to right: Jeff Azano Brown, Laura Olton, Phyllis Theermann, Ellen Korpi, Linda Griffith, Lise Olney, Stephanie Hawkinson, Marybeth Martello.

## Weeding Work at North 40 Vernal Pool



A group of volunteers is weeding out invasive plants and shrubs around the banks of the North 40 vernal pool at the corner of Weston and Turner Roads. Using Weed Wrenches, shovels, gloves and sheer determination, they're removing burning bush and bittersweet vines from this important wetland habitat. Berries and seeds from these plants are spread by birds and threaten to choke out native plants.

The pool dried up during the hot summer weather, common in a vernal pool cycle, which allowed volunteers full access to the banks as well as to trash such as hockey nets, bicycle parts, cans and bottles that also were dumped into the area. These clean up efforts are part of long-term project to revitalize this area and provide new opportunities to study the wildlife in this unique habitat. The NRC thanks William Giezentanner for spearheading this most recent cleanup effort, and for Wellesley Media's [video coverage](#).





---

## Saluting Wellesley DPW Workers

Wellesley's Department of Public works recently gave back to those who gave so much for our country. On September 21, Kent Warren and crews from the DPW Parks and Tree division took part in **"Saluting Branches,"** a day of service that honors veterans by providing volunteer tree care for cemeteries across the country. Wellesley's tree professionals joined a team of nearly 200 people to trim, clear and beautify the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne. The group was among 1,400 volunteers in 26 locations across the U.S. who took part in the day.



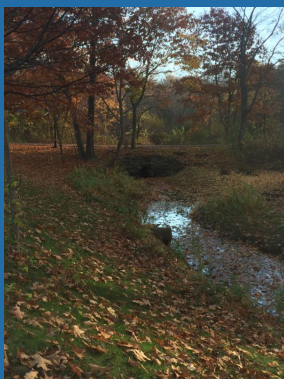
---

## Educating Budding Environmentalists

Fourth graders at Bates Elementary School are learning about the outdoors, outdoors. For at least an hour once a month, students in Irene Gruenfeld's classroom are trading their walls and desks for the sky and grass of an outdoor classroom area in Boulder Brook Reservation. Using a "Down Up and Out" model, they'll make observations, develop questions and test hypotheses. The class will study the same area throughout the fall, winter and spring to learn more about this environment and how it changes with the seasons.



Introducing the outdoor classroom idea to students. Students making observations in the "grassroom"



## Wetlands Protection Committee needs new members

Interested in helping to preserve Wellesley's important streams, brooks, ponds and marshes? The Wetlands Protection Committee is looking for two volunteer members to join its board. Responsibilities include reviewing proposals for work in wetlands areas to make sure the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Wellesley Wetlands Protection bylaws are followed. The board meets approximately once a month at Town Hall. Please [email](#) Wetlands Protection administrator Linda Hansen for more information.

## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

- Sept. 26 & 27, 7:30 - 9 pm, [Wellesley Historical Commission Public Forums on Demolition Review Bylaw](#), Great Hall, Town Hall (Sept. 26) and Warren Building, Rm 8, 90 Washington St. (Sept. 27).  
Give input on the number of teardowns in town.
- Sept. 29, 7:30 pm, [NRC Meeting](#), Great Hall, Town Hall.
- Oct. 6, 6:30 pm, [Comprehensive Pond Plan](#) Public Hearing, Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station.
- Oct. 13, [Wetlands Protection Committee Meeting](#), 6:30 pm, NRC Office, Lower

Level, Town Hall.

- **Oct. 15, 9-10 am, [Wellesley Trails Committee North 40 guided walk](#).** Explore trails near Morses Pond and the Crosstown Trail. Meet at the end of Turner Rd, off Weston Rd.
- **Oct. 19, 7:30 pm, [Community Preservation Committee](#) meeting, Wellesley High School.** Discussion on joint NRC/CPC projects.
- **Oct 23, 11 am - 3 pm, [Document Shredding and Destruction Day](#), Wellesley RDF.** Bring your important documents to be safely shredded and disposed.
- **Oct. 23, 1-2:30 pm, [Wellesley Trails Committee Kids' Trails Day](#), Wellesley Town Forest.** Celebrate fall in the woods with letterboxing. Refreshments will be served; children must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at Longfellow Pond parking area.
- **Oct. 26, 7:30 pm, [NRC Meeting](#), NRC Office, Lower Level, Town Hall.**

## Lunchtime Lecture Series Continues

There are four more lectures in the [Wellesley Weston Lifetime Learning](#) sustainability series, "Conservation Information for Suburbanites," offered to seniors 55 years-old and over and held at the [Wellesley Unitarian Universalist Church](#). [Email](#) for registration information. Dates and topics are:

- Sept. 26: NRC, Fuller Brook Park reconstruction project and rain gardens
- Oct. 3: Rick Lent, Elders Climate Action
- Oct. 17: Cricket Vlass, Landscaping with Native Plants
- Oct. 24: WasteWise Wellesley, Food and other waste reduction

[Web Site](#)

[NRC Meeting Agendas](#)

[Permit Applications](#)

[Community Gardens](#)

[SIGN UP FOR EMAILS](#)

[SHARE THIS EMAIL](#)

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



Copyright © 2016. All Rights Reserved.