



# Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

## Insights from Outside September 2017

### **Bright Ideas: A Workshop on Smart Outdoor Lighting Tuesday, September 26, 7:00 pm**



The NRC has long been concerned about the effects of artificial light on our natural environment. Research has shown that artificial light can create light pollution that affects human health, and has adverse consequences for trees and plants, birds, turtles, bats, and even fireflies. To help inform residents about the importance of outdoor lighting, this month we are hosting a workshop with lighting expert Bob

Parks of [Smart Outdoor Lighting Alliance](#).

***Bright Ideas: A Workshop on Smart Outdoor Lighting, with Bob Parks***  
**Including an outdoor demonstration of LED lighting options**  
**Tuesday September 26, 7:00 to 8:30 pm**  
**Wellesley Free Library**

Our "Bright Ideas" workshop will help you:

- Evaluate different types of lighting
- Choose the correct lighting for your property
- Make sure your lights improve safety
- Choose environmentally friendly lights
- Talk to your neighbors about lighting, and more!

As you may have heard, new streetlights are coming to Wellesley. The Municipal Light Plant is planning to replace the town's 3,000 cobrahead streetlights with energy and cost saving LED (light emitting diode) fixtures. This fall, the MLP will pilot these LED fixtures on selected streets to gather public input. Join us at this free workshop to get information that will help you determine the best outdoor lighting for your home and neighborhood.

[Click here for more information on outdoor lighting from the Friends of Brookside.](#)



# GROWGREENWELLESLEY

*Grow Green Wellesley is an NRC initiative to promote eco-friendly practices for landscaping and lawn care in Wellesley!*

## Grow Green Living: Safe Tick and Mosquito Control

by Sarah Little, Ph.D.

Ticks and mosquitoes are especially bad this summer and fall as a result of frequent rains. Properly managing your exposure to these insects is key to preventing bites and disease. By practicing organic integrated pest management, homeowners can safely and effectively reduce the number of insects in their yards.

### Landscape Modifications

- Allow the surface of the soil to dry; prune trees; clear away leaf litter and brush especially along edges of lawns, stone walls, and driveways; reduce or eliminate irrigation.
- Keep grass mowed.
- Move play sets away from woodland edge.
- Limit groundcover in well-traveled areas.
- Remove Japanese barberry plants which attract ticks.

Safe and effective tick repellents to use on landscaping in your yard include the bioinsecticide Met52 (manufactured by Novozymes Biologicals, Inc.), garlic-based spray, and rosemary or peppermint oil. Garlic spray will also reduce mosquitoes in your yard.

### Animal Control

- Remove plants that are attractive to deer.
- Discourage rodent activity; get rid of bird feeders; throw food waste into composters; don't feed chipmunks and squirrels.

### Personal Protection

- Check yourself for ticks daily and immediately after any potential exposure.
- Remove any embedded ticks immediately using tweezers.
- Use organic tick repellents such as oil of lemon eucalyptus and the biopesticide IR3535.
- Personal protection can also include tucking pants into socks and applying tape around the ankles.

For more information:  
[Repellent Fact Sheet](#)



The NRC has posted these reminders in open spaces around town.



Wellesley Police Station will soon welcome a pollinator garden.

## Green Gardening at the Police Station

Wellesley is getting its own pollinator garden! Recently, the NRC was awarded a [Pollinate New England](#) grant from the [New England Wildflower Society](#) (NEWFS) to have a public pollinator garden installed at the Wellesley Police Station and to host two hands-on community workshops on plant selection and care. Wellesley is one of only 12 communities in New England to receive this award.

Pollinator-friendly native plants include milkweed, coneflower, rudbeckia, Joe-Pye weed, asters, and many more. This project will be a highly visible tool to educate residents on the important role native plants play in sustaining our environment. The 150-square foot garden will be planted in the summer of 2018 and be maintained by the Department of Public Works staff in partnership with volunteers and community service groups.

## Growing Green at July Jubilation

Building on the Grow Green Wellesley initiative, the joint NRC and [Sustainable Wellesley](#) booth at this year's July Jubilation Sidewalk Sale focused on ways residents can grow green at home using eco-friendly lawn care practices to protect our water supply, gardening with native plants to attract pollinators, shopping with reusable bags, and more.



Residents learn about organic landscaping practices from volunteer Keenan Ashbrook.



Volunteer Will Cramer shows how lawn chemicals can pollute our water supply.



NRC administrator Danielle Marini with our new reusable shopping bags.

[Email us to join the Grow Green Wellesley initiative.](#)

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## More News from the NRC!

### Fuller Brook Park Gets a New Caretaker as Project Wraps Up

The three-year project to restore Wellesley's historic Fuller Brook Park will wrap up this fall with new signs and benches, a more accessible path, better stormwater drainage areas, pond and stream bank erosion work and invasive plant removal. To celebrate the completion of the Fuller Brook Park project, the NRC and Department of Public Works are planning a celebration in early November. Stay tuned for details!

To ensure that the 2.5 linear park stays in good condition, the town recently chose **Paul DePhillips** as park manager. Paul is a landscape expert who's worked for the DPW for eight years. He is a Massachusetts Certified Landscape Professional with more than 30 years experience in landscaping, and pest and invasive plant management. Paul will continue to maintain the park without the use of harmful chemicals in accordance with Wellesley's Organic Integrated Pest Management Policy.



Paul DePhillips will manage Fuller Brook Park.

Horticultural specialists **Joey Mistretta** and **Dan Robbins** from Parterre Ecological Services will also be working in the park this year to continue to clear non-native trees and shrubs, including Japanese knotweed, Oriental bittersweet, Japanese honeysuckle, buckthorne, and multiflora rose.



Surveying the shoreline of Morses Pond.

## Morses Pond Erosion Control Project

As a follow up to the Morses Pond Erosion Study conducted last year, work has now started on the design and permitting for the 11 public sites that were determined to be top priorities for erosion remediation. Once the exact boundaries of wetland resource areas are determined and the sites surveyed, contractor Horsley Witten Group, Inc. will design plans for each of the sites. The work recommended by these plans may include shoreline stabilization, formal access points and native plantings.

## Vernal Pool Invasive Clean Up

Invasive plants at the vernal pool in the North 40 were no match for a team of dedicated volunteers who braved summer storms and hot temperatures to remove burning bush, bittersweet and more from the area - filling six dumpsters with debris. Thank you to **Pete and JoAnn Jones** of the [Wellesley Conservation Council](#) and **Bill Giezentanner, Ellen Korpi,** and **Elliot Davidson!**



## Check Out the NRC Page on the New Town Web Site

The Town of Wellesley has a new web site at [www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov). The town partnered with CivicPlus to bring a fresh new look and user-friendly design to the site, which went live in early August. The new site is more intuitive to navigate, can be viewed on a mobile device, and allows residents to create a personalized account. Things to know:

- The town's main web address ([www.wellesleyma.gov](http://www.wellesleyma.gov)) has not changed, but you may need to update existing bookmarks to interior pages in your browser's settings.
- To find the NRC page, hover over the "Government" tab at the top of the home page and choose "Natural Resources (NRC)" from the menu that appears.
- If you are a current subscriber to one of the website's active news lists ([www.wellesleyma.gov/subscriber](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/subscriber)), please set your spam blocker to allow for mail from [listserv@civicplus.com](mailto:listserv@civicplus.com). We encourage you to create an account and explore the wider variety of available subscription options.
- Emergency, traffic, and utility alerts will continue to be sent separately by the Wellesley Police Department; sign up for these at [www.wellesleypolice.com](http://www.wellesleypolice.com).

For website questions, concerns or suggestions, please [email](mailto:) the town Information Technology Department.

## Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

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

- **September 7: [Wellesley Farmers Market](#)**, 12:30-2:30 pm, UU Church, 309 Washington St.
- **September 7: [Wetlands Protection Committee Meeting](#)**, 6:30 pm, NRC Office, Town Hall.
- **September 7: [NRC Board Meeting](#)**, 7:30 pm, Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station.
- **September 9-10: RESCHEDULED [Family Camp-Out](#)** (Program #345400) at Bates School/Kelly Field. Family fun under the stars!
- **September 13: [Green Collaborative Meeting](#)**, 9:15 am, Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library.
- **September 16: [Natick Drive Electric event](#)**, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm, Natick Commons.
- **September 17: [Sustainable Wellesley Action Meeting](#)**, 1:00-3:00 pm, 161 Oakland St.
- **September 18: [NRC Board Meeting](#)**, 7:30 pm, NRC Office, Town Hall.
- **September 26: [LED Lighting Forum](#)**, 7:00 pm, Wakelin Room, Wellesley Free Library.
- **September 28: [Wetlands Protection Committee Meeting](#)**, 6:30 pm, NRC office, Town

Hall.

**Please note that Wellesley Town Hall has returned to regular hours. All offices are open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Friday.**

[Web Site](#)

[NRC Meeting Agendas](#)

[Permit Applications](#)

[Community Gardens](#)

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**Wellesley Natural Resources  
Commission**  
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