



WELLESLEYNATURAL  
RESOURCESCOMMISSION

# Insights from Outside

## July 2019

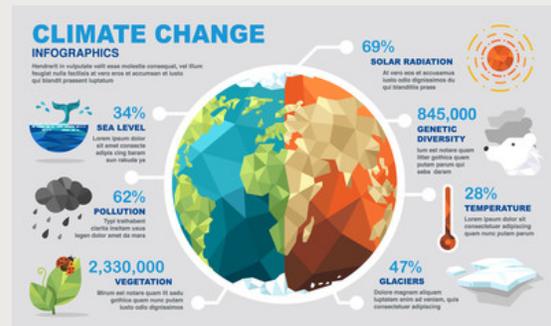
### NRC Summer Geocache Challenge



Looking for something fun to do this summer? Get out and explore one of the many beautiful Wellesley Trails and try your hand at Geocaching! A Geocache is a hidden container that contains small trinkets. Participants follow clues to find the hidden geocache. Jessica Cheng, Brett Zaorski, and Jennifer Guo found the first NRC geocache. There are still more prizes hidden. Can you find the first Geocache too? [NRC Geocache Challenge #1 Clues](#)

**Is it Milkweed or Swallow-wort?**

### Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program



The Town of Wellesley has been awarded a **Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program** grant in the amount of \$25,000 to complete a community resiliency planning process that will examine the Town's vulnerability and strengths, and identify priority actions to build resilience as the climate changes. The town will then be eligible to apply for additional grants from the \$10 million dollars Governor Baker has allocated to help communities prepare for climate change. [Click here to see our application letter.](#)

**Bates Elementary School 5th Graders Reach Out to NRC to Effect Change**



Is it a milkweed plant, or invasive swallow-wort? Unfortunately, monarch butterflies can't tell the difference between their host-plant milkweed, and the black or pink swallow-wort (shown above), as the leaves and seed pods of these plants are very similar. Female monarchs can mistakenly lay their eggs on these impostor plants; when the caterpillars emerge they don't recognize the leaves as food and consequently starve to death. You can help monarchs by both planting milkweed *and* by removing the invasive swallow-wort. Please dig, pull, or cut these invasive plants, and/or remove the seed pods. *Dispose of the plants and pods in the trash - do not compost.* [Click here for more information](#) about this harmful invasive weed. Thank you!

---

## Job Well Done!



The North 40 Vernal Pool Boardwalk project has been completed! Volunteers, shown above signing the final plank, put the finishing touches on this exciting project on Thursday June 27. Twenty volunteers worked 563 hours to build the over 500-ft boardwalk and vernal pool



*"We are a group of three 5th graders from Katherine Lee Bates Elementary School, our names are Jack Burkhead, Natalia Median, and Kavin Shah. We are students but not just any normal group of students. We are reaching out to you in hope of change."*

So began a letter written to the NRC calling for action to help protect the Boulder Brook Reservation after students learned how chemical pesticides and fertilizers can negatively impact the environment. This news didn't sit well with the young budding naturalists, who are particularly concerned as this conservation land abuts their school property.

Among several suggestions to the NRC, the students are encouraging a town by-law to ban the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers on all town land, public and private, because, *"Pesticides are the most toxic way to get rid of pests, but luckily there are quite a few alternatives."* Read their entire [letter here](#); learn more about the NRC's efforts to minimize pesticide use in town [here](#).

---

## Stop by in July!



Stop by and visit the NRC and [Sustainable Wellesley](#) table at this year's [July](#)

viewing platforms since the project began in December. Over the next month, the DPW will return to complete the grading where the boardwalk meets the path to facilitate accessibility. Watch for the ribbon cutting and grand opening this fall. In the meantime, plan your visit to the boardwalk soon.



### NRC Appoints New Board Member



The NRC is pleased to announce the appointment of **Nancy Braun** to the Commission. Appointed at the June 24 joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the NRC, Nancy has a 20-year history of volunteer environmental work in Wellesley with civic and town-government entities. Nancy said that "the NRC offers another avenue for me to be involved in helping the town maintain its beautiful open spaces while improving the environment for future generations." Commissioners and staff look forward to working with Nancy in carrying out the mission of the NRC. Read more about Nancy [here](#).

**Jubilation**, a fun day for all ages, sponsored by the Wellesley Square Merchants Association. **Saturday July 20, 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, Wellesley Square.**

### Trees: Free to Good Homes!



Trees take in CO<sub>2</sub>, cool the air, provide habitat for birds, animals and pollinators, and just plain look nice lining our streets! Find out if your front yard qualifies for a free public shade tree by [contacting the NRC](#). Many native varieties to choose from!

### Police Pollinators



Thanks to The Swellesley Report for **highlighting** the amazing growth of the Police Department Pollinator Garden after just one year! This pollinator garden provides food and habitat for butterflies, bees, birds, and other pollinators. It was installed by volunteers with help from the DPW and a grant from Pollinate New England, a regional outreach program coordinated by the [Native Plant Trust](#).

## Trail News



The Trails Committee completed a trail maintenance project in June to help the Wellesley Conservation Council open up two overgrown trails at the [Susan Lee and Heyl Sanctuaries](#). This project improves access to the sanctuary woodlands and includes a trail that provides direct access from the Guernsey Path to the banks of the Charles River. (Pictured above: the Susan Lee Sanctuary.)

### Trails Committee Walks and Events:

Mark your calendars now for Kids Trails Day on October 20! Click [here](#) for more details, and to see our schedule for our Fall Trail Walks.

---

## Off-leash Hours and Regulations for Perrin Park



The NRC is asking Perrin Park visitors to review the specific rules regarding dogs at the park, with a reminder to always clean-up after their dogs and be considerate of the neighbors and other park users when visiting with your pets. [Perrin Park Off-leash Dog Rules](#)

## More Pollinator Plantings!



Wellesley's native pollinator corridor continues to grow, this time thanks to the Wellesley House and Garden Club, which since 1963 "has engaged in a long and happy relationship with the town," according to Club President Barbara Viechnicki. The Club worked with the DPW to purchase 300 pollinator plugs through a Plant America Community Grant, and on June 27 members worked alongside DPW's Susy Jordan and Cricket Vlass to install the native plants. Over the years the Club has financed many park amenities, including Wellesley's first piece of public art, the lovely ["Girl with Butterfly"](#) by local artist Merrilyn Marsh, especially apt as the Club now focuses on planning species appropriate to attracting butterflies and all pollinators! We are tremendously grateful for their work on behalf of the town.



---

## MEETING CALENDAR

Agendas are posted 48 hours prior to meeting time.

**Upcoming NRC Meetings:**

- Thursday July 18th: 7:00 PM, Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station
- Thursday August 1st: 7:00 PM, Juliani Room, Town Hall
- Thursday August 22nd: 7:00 PM, Room 008, Warren Building
- Saturday September 7th: 9:00 AM, Annual Retreat, Location TBD

**Upcoming Wetlands Meetings:**

- Thursday July 11: 6:30 PM, Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station
- Thursday August 1: 7:00 PM, Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station
- Thursday August 22: 7:00 PM, Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station

**Upcoming Trails Meetings:**

- Tuesday August 13th: 7:00 PM, NRC Office, Wellesley Town Hall



Connect with us



Town of Wellesley Natural Resources Commission  
Phone: 781-431-1019 x 2294  
Email: [nrc@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:nrc@wellesleyma.gov)  
Website: [www.wellesleyma.gov/nrc](http://www.wellesleyma.gov/nrc)