



WELLESLEYNATURAL
RESOURCESCOMMISSION

Insights from Outside

August 2019

Wellesley to Identify Climate Change Susceptibility



The Town of Wellesley has received a \$25,000 grant from the Commonwealth to plan for climate change. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program is offered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and provides support for local communities to begin planning for climate change resiliency and implement priority projects. As a qualified MVP community, Wellesley will be eligible for part of a larger pool of \$10.3 million dollars in additional funding. [Learn more.](#)

Eco-camp Participants Give Back to the Community

Vernal Pool Boardwalk Grand Opening: Save The Date!



Please join us for the grand opening tour and ribbon cutting ceremony of the

North 40 Vernal Pool Boardwalk

September 7th, 2019

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM
Turner Road Entrance

Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP to:

imoore@wellesleyma.gov



You are invited to the official **Grand Opening of the North 40 Vernal Pool Boardwalk Trail**. Come celebrate the completion of this accessible trail, totally designed and built by a small team of dedicated volunteers using materials funded by the [Community Preservation Committee](#). This new trail allows visitors to stroll through a section of the North 40 woods and observe up close this special, protected habitat known as a **vernal pool**. The new boardwalk also protects the fragile ecosystem from human impact like foot traffic.

We hope the boardwalk will be used as an outdoor classroom, where students, teachers and residents can learn about vernal pools and their surrounding areas which provide important unique habitat for many creatures. Please join the NRC, town officials, and the boardwalk volunteers for the ribbon cutting and a guided tour. Light refreshments will be served.



This summer's Eco-Campers spent several hours working at the [Weston Road Gardens](#) "4C" garden plot, managed by volunteers to grow food for the [Wellesley Food Pantry](#). Campers pulled weeds, mulched rows, and built a new collection platform for the vegetable donations. Throughout the experience campers learned about the seed-to-table cycle of growing food.

Wellesley Eco-Camp is offered by the [Wellesley Youth Commission](#), with help from the [Wellesley Conservation Council](#) and the NRC. The free week-long program provides 20 students the opportunity to enjoy nature while learning about the importance of our natural resources. In addition to their community service, Eco-Campers fished, swam and kayaked, learned wilderness survival skills like fire building, flew drones, and hiked the trail system. We're not sure who had more fun, the campers or the adults, but a hearty "Thank you!" to all who make this week possible.

Statewide Bag Bill: Do it Right or Not at All



The NRC has long advocated for the passage of a strong statewide plastic bag bill. However, a very weak bill is now

Date: Saturday September 7th

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Turner Road, Wellesley

Please [RSVP](#) for this event so we have enough cookies and lemonade!

Insect Repellents: To Spray or Not to Spray



For many, the summer is a time to explore the outdoors, and hiking, picnicking, and spending long days by the beach or pool make the perfect summer day. While we enjoy the opportunity to be one with nature, biting insects like ticks and mosquitoes can ruin more than just an afternoon. The many tick and mosquito borne illnesses that can be transmitted by these pests pose a real threat to one's health and well being. How to balance the risks of being bitten and the benefits of getting outdoors can be a challenge and it drives an industry offering a wide variety of chemical pesticides and repellents. Pesticides kill pests but don't stop there - they may also kill many other beneficial insects, and can cause health problems in humans. [NRC Commissioners discussed](#) the recent uptick in companies offering "natural" mosquito control, pointing out that natural is not always non-toxic. Choosing the right product can seem daunting, and understanding the risks of using these products can be very confusing. The NRC recommends using organic alternatives rather than chemical pesticides when possible and limiting chemical pesticide use as a last resort. For more information on the risks of pesticide use visit the National Pesticide Information Center [webpage](#). If you must use pesticides, [here](#) is an article that explains the safe and proper way to treat clothing with pesticides as a means of preventing

before the House Ways and Means Committee. [This redrafted bill](#) allows for the distribution of thicker weight plastic checkout bags, does not include a fee on checkout bags, AND makes existing city ordinances and town bylaws like ours “null and void.” The NRC believes this bill would do more harm than good, and has [written this letter](#) to the Ways and Means Committee, as well as to the Governor and our State representatives, to convey our concerns. We ask you to consider doing the same. And as always, please remember to **Bring Your Own Bag** when you shop. Mother Earth and our merchants will thank you!

It's All About Being Connected!



New granite trail posts have been installed by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority ([MWRA](#)) to commemorate the collaborative creation of connected aqueduct trails throughout the Metrowest area. The two new posts in Wellesley are located at the Dover Road and Brookside Road trail crossings and are inscribed, “A cooperative trail project between MWRA, Town of Wellesley, and Mass Trails.” We thank our [Trails Committee](#) for participating in this project, begun in 2012.

Park This Way

tick and mosquito bites.

Let's Find a Better Way to Celebrate



Please take care to properly dispose of all trash after outdoor summertime fun. This photo, taken off the Massachusetts coast, illustrates another form of hazardous plastic pollution: balloons with long plastic ribbons. Residents often spot balloons tangled in our town trees and floating in our ponds. Can we think of more environmentally friendly ways to celebrate? [Contact us](#) with your ideas.

Raiders Plan to Tackle Trash



[Wellesley Green Schools](#) and the NRC are pleased to partner with WHS athletes for an upcoming town-wide cleanup the end of August. Be on the lookout for our students as they collect trash to beautify our town's parklands and to protect our water and wildlife, (and give them a wave and honk!).

Downtown Development



There have been ongoing problems with parked vehicles at the State Street parking lot at the Fuller Brook Park trail with cars pulling too far forward and blocking the path with overhanging bumpers. This reduces the ability of walkers, runners with baby strollers and people with disabilities to safely use the path. We have tried signage - with pleas and with humor - but the problem persists. In July, the DPW placed parking bumpers to keep cars away from the curbing, but because of the porous pavement they cannot be permanently attached. Therefore, when parking a car, we ask you to use them as guidance and not as tire stops.



Please also comply with the posted 2-hour parking limit so that all residents have an opportunity to access the park and track throughout the day.

Thank you.

Take a Hike!



Redevelopment proposals for the Tailby and Railroad Lots are underway, and the Town *and* design consultants want to hear from you. Review the conceptual plans, subscribe to updates, and provide your feedback [here](#).

Mark Your Calendars! Explore the North 40 Weekend



Get ready to explore the North 40 and all it has to offer by joining us for these and other fun events for the whole family:

- **Trails Walk:** Saturday September 29 at 10AM
- **Bio Blitz:** Sunday September 30 at 1PM

Stay tuned for more planned activities. Presented by the [Wellesley Conservation Council](#), [Wellesley Trails Committee](#), and the NRC.

Wellesley Recreation's 3rd Annual Family Camp Out



Don't miss the upcoming Kids' Trails Day, pictured above, and fall walks conducted by our Wellesley Trails Committee volunteers. Descriptions and schedules of walks [here](#).

SPECIAL EVENTS

3rd Annual Family Campout



The Wellesley Recreation Department in collaboration with the Natural Resources Commission are hosting the third annual Family Campout!

Bring your whole family out for a night of fun, learning, and camping, right in your own backyard. There will be family activities, provided by Knucklebones, food, and education on camping related skills. Additionally, the campout is committed to being green and waste-free. No tent or camping gear? No problem! Please let us know so we can help you.

Sat, Sept. 7/4pm - Sun, Sept 8/8am
Kelly Field (Bates) Cost: \$10/person
(rain or shine - within reason)

Call Wellesley Recreation for more information
781-235-2370



Life's a Beach! Weigh In on Ours



The Recreation Commission unveiled ideas for improvements and enhancements to the Morses Pond beach and surrounding areas. If you missed the public meeting, click [here](#) to see the slides and to **provide your own ideas and comments**. Thanks to the Swellesley Report for [reporting](#) on the meeting.

Click the image above or call the Recreation Department for more info.
781-235-2370

MEETING CALENDAR

Agendas are posted 48 hours prior to meeting time.

Upcoming NRC Meetings:

- Thursday August 22nd: 7:00 PM, Room 008, Warren Building
- Saturday September 7th: 9:00 AM, Annual Retreat, Arnold Room, Wellesley Free Library
- Thursday September 19th: 7:00 PM, (Location for this, and following meetings, to be determined)
- Thursday October 3rd: 7:00 PM
- Thursday October 17th: 7:00 PM
- Thursday November 7th: 7:00 PM
- Thursday November 21st: 7:00 PM

Upcoming Wetlands Protection Committee Meetings:

- Thursday August 22: 7:00 PM, Kingsbury Room, Wellesley Police Station

Upcoming Trails Committee Meetings:

- Tuesday September 17: 7:00 PM, NRC Office



Connect with us



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