



WELLESLEYNATURAL
RESOURCESCOMMISSION

Insights from Outside

June 2020

Town Hall continues to be closed to the public during the COVID-19 emergency. NRC and Wetlands staff are working from home and available.

For assistance contact:

NRC Director Brandon Schmitt: bschmitt@wellesleyma.gov

781-431-1019 EXT 2294

Wetlands Administrator Julie Meyer: jmeyer@wellesleyma.gov

781-431-1019 EXT 2292

Education and Outreach Coordinator Lisa Moore: lmoore@wellesleyma.gov

781-431-1019 EXT 2290

Wellesley Will Be Well



It can be hard to keep up with the latest COVID 19 information and to weed out the facts from the fear. **A great source of information is the [Town Website](#). Visit and [sign up](#) for the daily Town Corona Virus Briefing and Police Alerts.**

What is our Town doing to address health and environmental threats?

- Wellesley participates in the State's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program (MVP) and created a [MVP plan](#) specific to Wellesley. The SEC and NRC are working with other Town departments on an action grant application due later in the month.
- The RDF continues recycling and food waste collection; procedures are in place to keep staff and

City Nature Challenge 2020



The 2020 City Nature Challenge (CNC) has now concluded. Twenty-one local citizen scientists joined over 42,000 people across the globe in a celebration of the Earth's biodiversity. This year due to COVID-19 restrictions, CNC changed from a friendly competition into a true celebration of nature, and an opportunity for people to reconnect with the nature immediately around them. In Wellesley, participants went outside in their own yards and nearby green spaces to explore different habitats around town. Their efforts documented 504 observations of 231 different species of living things. Examples of the diverse flora and fauna they found range from microscopic Daphnia at the North 40 vernal pool, Cellophane Bees at Morses Pond, a Coopers Hawk at

residents safe, and lines moving.
Please [Read Here](#).

What can you do to help the environment during this time?

- Start or step up food waste reduction in your household by participating in Wellesley's [Food Waste Disposal program](#), or begin backyard composting.
- Switch from single stream recycling: [Sort your recyclables](#) and bring them to the Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF). The materials are then sold and bring in money for our town! The [RDF](#) is free for Wellesley residents to use, for recycling, household trash, and yard brush. Get a vehicle permit [here](#).
- When placing takeout orders, ask restaurants to "hold" the plastic utensils, soy sauce packets, etc.
- Visit [Zero Waste Wellesley](#) for more ideas. Zero Waste Wellesley is an initiative of [Sustainable Wellesley](#).

#WELLESLEYWILLBEWELL

Play Ball? Not just yet, but...



The Town's Parks, and some Athletic Fields and Tennis Courts, are [now open with restrictions](#) under [Phase One](#) of the Commonwealth's Reopening Plan. Information on progressing to Phase Two is expected this weekend. The Town is looking forward to increased activity at our parks and athletic fields, and your help in complying with these rules will continue to ensure a safe and successful reopening for all.

Wellesley Trails and Open

Centennial Reservation, Duckweed at Longfellow Pond, Haircap Moss at Boulder Brook Reservation, and an American Beaver at Guernsey Sanctuary. Thanks to all who participated. For more information about the CNC visit [City Nature Challenge 2020](#)

Electric Car and Solar Energy Incentive Programs



**Own an electric vehicle?
Drive 250 miles a month for free!**

[Wellesley Municipal Light Plant](#) (WMLP) wants to make it convenient and less expensive for you to charge your electric vehicle. Agree to charge your car during non-peak overnight hours, and the Bring Your Own Charger® (BYOC) Program rewards your participation with \$8 per month - the equivalent of 250 miles of free monthly driving per charging head/vehicle.

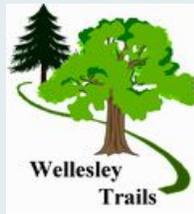
- Learn more [here](#).
- Sign up [here](#).
- Contact the program directly: 781-303-4994 or ev@sagewell.com



**Always wanted to go solar?
Spots are still available in the
[MLP's Solar Rebate Program](#)!**

Now is the time to act. Funding for the program is available on a first-come, first-served basis, and savings can be substantial. Solar installations are

Spaces Update



One positive outcome of COVID 19 is a resurgence of people reconnecting to nature. The number of individuals, families, and dogs walking, biking, and jogging along town trails and open space has significantly increased. We are fortunate to live in a town with such a diversity and magnitude of green space available for us to use and enjoy. Thank you to the many volunteers and town workers that have been working hard to keep trails and green spaces open.

As warmer weather approaches and more people venture outside please continue to:

- **Practice social distancing** by staying at least 6 feet from other trail users, and don't congregate along trails.
- **Wear a mask** when out in public on Town trails and green spaces.
- **Leash all dogs at all times** and **please pick up after your dog** and **throw away trash in appropriate receptacles.**
- **Respect nature by staying on trails.** Off trail use damages wildlife habitat and increases exposure to ticks and poison ivy.
- **Do not cut down trees, clear brush or dead wood, make new trails, build bike ramps, forts, or any other structures on Town land.** These encroachments *are illegal* and destroy the natural habitat.
- **Avoid removing live species from our ponds and fresh water for extended times** - practice safe catch and release practices. Remove all tangled fishing line to protect animals from being caught in it.
- **Refrain from removing rocks** and other natural geological features from Town land, they stabilize soil and banks, provide habitat and natural beauty for all to enjoy.
- **Park in designated spaces.** Do not

considered "essential construction" during the COVID-19 Emergency, and the Wellesley Building Department is issuing solar permits.

Learn how to apply [here](#).

Compare Vendors at [Energy Sage](#)

Program Questions?

- [David Allen](#), WMLP Engineering Manager

Speak with a resident who has installed residential solar!

- Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC) Chair [Laura Olton](#) or
- SEC Member [Richard Lee](#)

Think Blue Massachusetts



When rain or melting snow picks up trash or chemicals, that's stormwater pollution. It's the fastest growing type of water pollution in Massachusetts.

[Think Blue Massachusetts](#) is a State campaign with the goal to increase public knowledge of stormwater pollution, and change public behavior in order to protect our freshwater supply from contaminants like car oil and pesticides.

As water from precipitation runs across the land (watershed) it picks up and carries with it any pollutants in its path and deposits them into the body of water where the watershed drains.

Wellesley's water supply comes from 10 wells: four are located adjacent to Morses Pond and six are along Rosemary Brook and Longfellow Pond. These wells are fed from the watersheds surrounding them.

[We all live in a watershed.](#)

park on grass. If a lot is full, try somewhere else or try again later.

- **Refrain from lighting up trees** on your property every night. Trees grow based on light and dark cycles and this is disrupted when trees are lit for long periods of time, especially during spring and summer growth months. Lights also disrupt bird and insect life cycles both of which are critical parts of our local ecosystem.
- **Do not litter** our trails and parks. Please take out trash you create or find to keep Wellesley clean and green.

We are a community, and we all need to respect the new [guidelines](#) in an effort to keep us safe, and help maintain **open** Town trails and green space for everyone's enjoyment. Visit [Wellesley Trails page](#) for more information. Thank you.

Free Trees!



The NRC offers residents free mature shade trees through its Tree Planting Program. Plantings will take place as soon as safely possible. For more information about how to qualify and to be added to the request list, provide your name, address and phone number by [clicking here](#) or [email the NRC](#).

Know Them, Don't Grow Them: Wellesley's Least Wanted



Above invasive species: Glossy Buckthorn

As spring moves towards summer, and the warming earth sprouts this season's new

Through filtration, aeration, and disinfection practices our water is treated before being piped into homes. Some water pollutants are easier to filter out, remove, or chemically balance, than others.

Pesticide use is also a major concern. When town residents use pesticides on their lawns and it rains, these harmful chemicals can get carried into our Morses and Longfellow pond watershed areas, the sources of our water used for drinking, bathing and cooking needs.

This spring and summer keep your yard green by Thinking Blue and going pesticide and chemical fertilizer free! Use organic lawn care practices to manage your lawns and gardens and help keep our local drinking water supply healthy. [Visit the Grow Green Wellesley Page to learn how you can help protect our water!](#)

Towns Work Together to Save Trees from Gas Leaks



Wellesley Selectboard (and former NRC) Member Lise Olney helped organize the webinar [How Gas Leaks Affect Our Trees: The science, the signs, and what we can do](#), featuring Arlington Town Administrator Adam Chapeldaigne, Dr. Nathan Phillips of Boston University, and Gas Safety Inc.'s Bob Ackley, and NRC Director Brandon Scmitt. Learn more about this important multi-town effort, and what Wellesley is doing specifically, to help protect our trees [here](#).

[more information.](#)

[FaceBook](#) for daily news, updates, and announcements!

Morses Pond Update



Recreation Staff and Town Officials have been working tirelessly to explore options to open the beach at Morses Pond. Limited 2-hour beach reservations for unguarded swimming will be available through the Recreation Department. Watch for more updates from the Town or visit the [Recreation website](#).

And Finally, a PSA: Remember to Vote!



The Town Election has been rescheduled to Saturday morning, June 13, Babson College Recreation and Athletic Center, 8am - 12pm. However, Town Officials are highly encouraging everyone to **Vote Safely From Home** via Absentee Ballot. **[Request your absentee ballot now!!](#)** The NRC was happy to partner with the [Town Clerk](#) and [Wellesley League of Women Voters](#) to help post the mandatory election signage throughout town.

MEETING CALENDAR

Agendas [are posted](#) 48 hours prior to meeting time. Visit [Wellesley Town Web Page](#) for updated meeting dates and times.

Next NRC Meeting: Thursday, June 11, 2020, time to be announced

Next Wetlands Protection Committee Meeting: Thursday June 25, 2020.

Connect with us



Town of Wellesley Natural Resources Commission
Phone: 781-431-1019 x 2294
Email: nrc@wellesleyma.gov
Website: www.wellesleyma.gov/nrc