



Town of Wellesley

Department of Public Works

Spring 2023 no. 42

Upcoming Road Resurfacing Projects

As summer approaches, the Town is gearing up for a series of resurfacing projects aimed at enhancing road quality and ensuring smoother and safer travels for motorists. With warmer temperatures and optimal construction conditions such as drier weather and reduced traffic around town, the summer season presents an ideal opportunity to undertake needed infrastructure improvements.

The Highway Division monitors the condition of all residential streets and develops a prioritized resurfacing list each year. Proactively maintaining our streets helps reduce ongoing maintenance costs while creating more aesthetically pleasing neighborhoods and improved traveling conditions for all users.

The streets scheduled to be resurfaced this summer are:

- Auburn Road
- Bryn Mawr Road
- Clock Tower Drive
- Grantland Road
- Louis Drive
- Oxford Road
- Rice Street
- Sunnyside Avenue
- Wareland Road
- Bay View Road
- Carver Road
- Curve Street
- Lafayette Circle
- Manor Avenue
- Pinewood Circle
- Seaward Road
- Taylor Road
- Woodfield Road
- Brook Street
- Claflin Road
- Durant Road
- Lathrop Road
- Maugus Avenue
- Pinewood Road
- Shadow Lane
- Thomas Road

Several pavement resurfacing techniques are used to renew or improve the condition of existing road surfaces in Town. The decision on what technique to use varies depending on factors such as the condition of the existing pavement, traffic volume, available budget, and project timeline. For a summary on the types of common paving resurfacing techniques, please visit <https://www.wellesleyma.gov/2059>.



resurfacing projects promise to deliver smoother, safer, and more enjoyable journeys for all.

Updates to project developments and weekly forecasts will be posted to the Department of Public Works website wellesleyma.gov/328/projects. Residents can also sign up to receive Public Works Project email updates at www.wellesleyma.gov/list.aspx. Direct abutter and frequent road users are also encouraged to register for emergency alerts and traffic updates (email/text message) from the Wellesley Police Department. If you have any questions or need any additional information please call the Highway Division at 781-235-7600 x3325 or email us at dpw@wellesleyma.gov.

Work Zone Awareness - Give Them Room!

Spring is here, and so are work crews repairing and rebuilding roadways, catch basins, storm drains, and water service to homes. Our DPW employees are also working near public ways, planting and maintaining flowers and plants on traffic islands and other areas near where cars pass. If you're out and about in Wellesley, chances are you'll encounter one or more of our Park, Highway, Water & Sewer, or Engineering crews. And don't forget about the RDF which is one of the busiest areas in Town and should also be considered an active work zone. The DPW



relies on motorists and pedestrians to be safe when approaching crews in work zones on or near public ways.

Watch message boards for advance notices of roadwork that may affect your driving routes. When you see a warning of "roadwork ahead," slow down and watch for cones, barrels, equipment and, most importantly, workers in the road. Follow lane changes marked by cones and police officer directions as you proceed through the work zone. For everyone's safety, concentrate only on your driving while you pass through a work zone, including at the RDF. With your help, we can ensure safety for everyone in and near work zones, and complete our work in the safest most efficient way possible.

From the Director

Greetings! I'm pleased to bring you this issue of our annual newsletter. Check out our Water Updates to read some important information related to our most precious resource including a brief update on PFAS, signing up for the Water Customer Portal that can provide you insights into your water use, plus some background on new regulations related to outdoor watering.

Also related to water, I encourage you to read the annual Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for 2022. To reduce paper and conserve resources, we have made the Report available electronically at www.wellesleyma.gov/water and hard copies are available on request.

In this newsletter you'll also find articles on our recent Touch-A-Truck event, Park Division's participation in No Mow May, and an important reminder to take extra care when you encounter work zones so that our crews can complete their work as safely as possible. Finally, we've included construction updates on the Walnut Street project that is anticipated to be completed in the fall.

We welcome all comments and questions about DPW operations. Please email us at dpw@wellesleyma.gov or visit us on the website www.wellesleyma.gov for more information. We also invite you to follow us on Twitter (@WellesleyDPW), Instagram (dpw.wellesley) and Facebook (Wellesley dpw) for important notices and updates.

Thanks for reading!

David Cohen, Director of Public Works

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Walnut Street Reconstruction

After a winter hiatus, the roadway reconstruction work on Walnut Street started up again in April, 2023. The original intent was to split the project into two phases where the upper section of Walnut Street between Washington Street and Cedar Street was to be completed last year and the lower section after Cedar Street to the Newton City line would be completed this year. Unfortunately, first phase work was delayed due to pandemic related shortages on supplies and materials. As a result we combined the two phases and took the opportunity last fall to complete underground drainage work from both phases.

The roadway milling and temporary pavement marking work was completed in May. The Town's Contractor, J.H. Lynch is now working on installing curbing, sidewalks and the ADA ramps which will take place most of the summer. The roadway surface is scheduled to be coated with a stress

absorbing membrane interlayer (SAMI) and then paved with a final top course in October, 2023. Shortly thereafter, final pavement markings will be applied on the roadway and the disturbed grass areas loam and seeded.

The standard construction work hours of 7 to



5 Monday through Friday are expected, as are reduced travel lanes during much of the project. While lane reductions do not require detours,

delays should be anticipated. The commuting and traveling public should avoid the area when possible. Some aspects of the work such as final roadway paving and pavement markings will occur during the overnight hours and may require brief road closings and temporary detours. Message boards, web site announcements and social media will be used to forecast these events. Updates to project developments and weekly forecasts will be posted to the Department of Public Works website wellesleyma.gov/1792. Residents can also sign up to receive Public Works Project email updates at www.wellesleyma.gov/list.aspx. Direct abutter and frequent road users are also encouraged to register for emergency alerts and traffic updates (email/text message) from the Wellesley Police Department.

If you have any questions or need any additional information please call the Engineering Division at 781-235-7600 x3315 or email us at dpw@wellesleyma.gov.

Stay Connected - RDF App and Social Media

Download the new RDF App to learn the do's and don'ts of waste management and get RDF information right at your fingertips. The RDF App helps simplify strategies for reducing, reusing, and recycling which keeps trash out of landfills and in turn, minimizes greenhouse gas emissions.

- Use the App's 'How To' function to search for specific items such as plastic bottles and cardboard and learn their most valuable endpoints and find out where to place them at the RDF.
- Use the App's event calendar to keep up to date on the RDF's hours, the opening and closing days for the Reusables Area and when special collection events are scheduled for paint, hazardous waste, and shredding.
- Use the App to 'StepUp!' and apply for a permit, sign up to volunteer, and learn more about how to Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle in Wellesley! The RDF App also supports the Wellesley Climate Action Plan by expanding and enhancing access to RDF services for residents. The Climate Action Plan provides a roadmap for achieving town-wide greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, including the goal of net zero emissions by 2050.

The DPW provides updates on our website at wellesleyma.gov/dpw as well as on our Twitter (@wellesleydpw), Facebook (Wellesley dpw) and Instagram (dpw.wellesley).



Apple



Android

Reusables Area is open Wednesdays - Saturdays. This area closes 30 minutes prior to the closing of the facility on those days.

We held a **Hazardous Household Waste & Document Destruction Day** on June 4th from **9:00am to 3:00pm** for residents to safely dispose of hazardous household waste (for example fertilizer and pesticides) and to bring sensitive documents and paperwork to be securely shredded. Keep an eye out for announcements about the next event which is planned for this fall.

Paint Collection takes place from **3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** on the first Thursday of every month from April through October. Mark your calendar for upcoming dates:

July 6th

August 3rd

September 7th

October 5th

RDF NEWS



Did you know that you can now apply online for your RDF Residential Permit? Visit the RDF Home Page or wellesleyma.viewpointcloud.com and click on the link to apply today.



RDF Online Permits

RDF HOURS

M-W: 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

TH-SAT: 7:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

SUN: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (April - Nov)

SUN Closed (Dec - March)

The RDF is closed on state holidays, including:

Juneteenth – June 19th

Independence Day – July 4th

Labor Day – September 4th

Indigenous Peoples Day – October 9th

Veterans Day – November 11th

Thanksgiving Day – November 23rd

Christmas Eve Observed – December 23rd (closed at noon)

Christmas Day – December 25th

New Year's Eve Observed – December 30th (closed at noon)

New Year's Day – January 1st

The Park & Tree Division Has Gone Wild For Native Plants!

The Town of Wellesley is fortunate to be home to a wide variety of green spaces for the public to enjoy. Our Division helps to maintain properties owned by the Natural Resources Commission, Schools, Select Board, Water Division, Recreation, Libraries, Police, Mass DOT, and the DPW. Properties include passive parks, conservation areas, traffic islands, and athletic fields.

We have worked for many years to provide organic and sustainable landscapes with a focus on the support of native pollinator insects because these critters are integral to a healthy ecosystem. Protection of pollinators informs the design intent of all new plantings

and for the past decade with a priority placed on the planting of native trees, shrubs, perennials, and vines throughout our parks as well as on private property through the NRC's tree planting program.

We invite you to check out examples of these plantings which can be found at Central Park, the Duck Pond, Simon's Park, the Police Station, Clock Tower Park (a.k.a. Elm Park), several traffic islands and parking lots as well as a new landscape at Church Park (near the Village Church). Of course, re-landscaping can't be done all at once but Wellesley's parks are blooming with the potential for pollinators and humans alike.

Tips for Healthy Lawn Care

Here are some tips for successful organic lawn care without the use of chemicals:

- Choose phosphorous free and organic fertilizer in the Spring and Fall.
- Less frequent and deeper watering too promote good root growth. If the blades pop back up when you walk on the grass it does not need watering.
- During our mid-summer hot and dry period, allow your lawn to go dormant.
- Test the soil every few years to help determine how much fertilizer to use on your lawn.
- Set your mower to a "mulch" setting to chop up grass clippings and leave them on your lawn. As they decompose, they will release nutrients back into the soil.
- Encourage the growth of clover and other legumes in your lawn. Legumes take nitrogen from the air, convert it into a form that is usable by your lawn, and store it in the soil.

This may also be a good year to think about reducing lawn area and converting spaces to a more natural state. A small garden or wildflower bed is better than a traditional lawn in supporting wildlife, pollinators, shade and carbon absorption. It will be better for our shared environment and our human health if we can decrease lawn size, embrace more native plants and trees or even install a vegetable garden that provides food. For more information check out some great information from the Natural Resources Commission at www.wellesleyma.gov/517.



Sign Up For The Water Customer Portal!

The Water Customer Portal is a great tool for Wellesley water customers to track their water usage, reduce their water bills and contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. By accessing historical water use data and current water usage details, customers can set alerts, identify leaks and make changes to their water usage habits. For more information, visit the Town of Wellesley website at www.wellesleyma.gov/1867.

PFAS Update

The Water and Sewer Division partnered with Environmental Partners to develop an Interim PFAS filtration system for the Morses Pond Water Treatment Plant. A Temporary Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) and Ion Exchange Filtration system (IX) was completed and put into service on June 17,

2022, and has successfully removed PFAS to the non-detect level since its start up. The data collected will be used to develop a permanent treatment solution. The Wellesley Avenue and Rosemary/Longfellow Treatment Plants have remained in compliance with all regulations for PFAS and continue to be monitored regularly. For more information about Wellesley's water, please read the 2022 Consumer Confidence Report, available online at www.wellesleyma.gov/water.

New Regulations

Earlier this year, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) put in place new regulations that will impact Wellesley water customers if a drought is declared in our region. Specifically, if a drought is declared, outdoor watering in Wellesley will be restricted to one day each week and our previous 'Odd/Even' outdoor watering program will no longer be in effect. In anticipation of potential dry weather this

The Park & Tree Division has expanded our Bee Green Wellesley initiative by continuing to replace gas-powered equipment with cleaner, quieter, and safer battery-powered equipment. The areas where this equipment is utilized include the Police Station, Morton Park, the Tolles-Parsons Center, Central Park, Church Park, Post Office Park, and the Main Library. A second Mean Green Battery Rider Mower has been added to the fleet and will find a home in Fuller Brook Park allowing the area to be maintained as quietly and efficiently as possible. We encourage everyone to consider electric landscape equipment and the DPW will continue to look for areas and opportunities to expand our use of battery-powered equipment.



BATTERY ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT
Green
WELLESLEY

Information Phone Numbers **(781) 235-7600**

Engineering ext. 3315
Highway ext. 3325
Park ext. 3335
RDF ext. 3345
Water and Sewer ext. 3355
Director's Office ext. 3300

DPW Hours of Operation

Monday to Friday
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Highway DPW
(for emergencies after 3:00 p.m.)

781-235-7600
ext. 3322



To report a power outage:
781-235-7600 ext. 3390

summer, the Water Division will be asking for voluntary reductions for all non-essential outdoor watering. Stay tuned for more details about how to participate in voluntary reductions. If mandatory restrictions are put in place we will notify all customers through news announcements, website posts, DPW social media channels, and direct mail.

For more information about the drought status in Massachusetts check out the State's drought status website at www.mass.gov/info-details/drought-status.

Wellesley DPW
20 Municipal Way
Wellesley Hills, MA 02481-4925

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Resident Town of Wellesley



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Department of Public Works

Spring 2023 no. 42

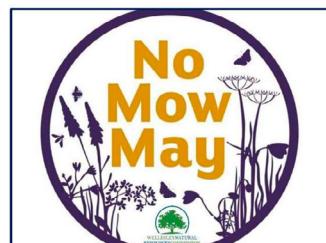
DPW Touch-A-Truck and Fill-A-Truck

As part of Wellesley Wonderful Weekend and National Public Works Week the DPW held a Touch-A-Truck and Fill-A-Truck event on May 20th. This year was our best attended event with 600 individuals coming to the DPW. The event provided a great opportunity for the community to have some fun while checking out a variety of DPW equipment. Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, we also collected nonperishable food items for the Wellesley Food Pantry, as well as business attire donated to Suits for Success for men and women to wear to work interviews. Thank you to all who came out and we look forward to seeing you again next year!



Park Division Participates in No Mow May

Our Park and Tree Division again this year partnered with the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission (NRC) for No Mow May. Mowing was delayed at Simons Park during the month of May to allow the grass to grow taller, clover to bloom and other plants to flower and feed the pollinators. No Mow May is a conservation initiative to create habitats and forage early season pollinators, particularly in urban areas where floral resources are often limited. Reduced mowing frequency also helps save water and makes grass areas more resilient to drought. The Park and Tree Division was pleased to be a part of this effort. For more information, contact the NRC at NRC@wellesleyma.gov or visit wellesleyma.gov/1118.



Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report 2022 is Online.

The Town of Wellesley Department of Public Works' Drinking Water Consumer Confidence report for calendar year 2022 is now available online at wellesleyma.gov/water. If you would like to receive a printed copy by mail, call us at **(781) 235-7600 x3355** or email us at dpw@wellesleyma.gov.



Questions, comments, concerns...
please contact us.

Call 781-235-7600,
email dpw@wellesleyma.gov
or mail to:

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Wellesley Hills, MA 02481-4925