



STORMWATER UTILITY FEE ON UPCOMING BILLS

Landowners will begin to see a new stormwater fee as part of their monthly utility billing starting in July 2024. Following an extensive public outreach process, voters at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting approved the creation of a new Stormwater Utility Enterprise Fund. Similar to Wellesley's existing water, sewer, and electric utilities, this fund creates a separate accounting and financial reporting method for managing the Town's drainage systems. This ensures a dedicated funding source to meet stringent permit requirements and to address difficult climate change impacts.

Wellesley is facing federal requirements to reduce the amount of pollution from stormwater runoff discharging to waterways, including substantial phosphorous reductions to the Charles River. As a result, the Town must increase investments in stormwater infrastructure management to meet permit obligations.

Previous drainage system investments have come from funding received through taxes. Under the Stormwater Utility, funds instead come from fees from all non-municipal properties including those owned by tax-exempt, non-profit and state agencies. The stormwater fee is based on the amount of impervious surface on each property such as parking lots, driveways, and buildings, which all contribute to stormwater runoff. The fees collected will be used to comply with permit requirements, maintain and replace drainage infrastructure for flood prevention, and to protect waterbodies from stormwater pollutants. A utility is considered to be the most practical and equitable method to distribute the necessary expenses that are required to meet increasing demands associated with the Town's stormwater management program.

To expand the use of stormwater improvements and to mitigate utility costs, credits are available for efforts that help improve the quality of runoff into our waterways.

Additional information, FAQs, and a stormwater property viewer that estimates the fee for each Town parcel is available [on our stormwater page](#). ♦



The stormwater utility fee will be used to invest in infrastructure, like this bioretention basin near Fuller Brook, to mitigate flooding and increase water quality



SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT STORMWATER UTILITY BILLS

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BLACK EARTH COMPOST

In an effort to maximize the amount of food waste residents divert from the trash stream, the Town of Wellesley is welcoming the services of Black Earth Compost, a curb side food waste pick up option. With trash disposal costs predicted to increase as much as 40% in the next 2-5 years as landfill capacity diminishes, disposing of a valuable product that compromises as much as 20% of household generated waste is counterproductive to prudent fiscal and sustainable practices. Divert the yuck to the truck! The first 250 Wellesley residents to sign up get a free starter kit. Black Earth Compost has already begun weekly pick-ups on Wednesdays. To sign up or learn more visit the [Black Earth Compost page](#). ♦



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MANDATORY OUTDOOR WATERING RESTRICTIONS

The Board of Public Works declared a State of Water Supply Conservation and activated mandatory outdoor watering restrictions on June 10, 2024.

Non-essential outdoor water use is allowed based on address and according to the following schedule:

- Odd numbered addresses are restricted to Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
- Even numbered addresses are restricted to Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.
- Non-essential outdoor use of water on Monday is prohibited.

Non-essential outdoor watering hours are also restricted to **before** 9:00 a.m. and **after** 5:00 p.m. to ensure adequate water supply and to avoid loss of water through evaporation.

Non-essential uses are:

- Irrigation of lawns via sprinklers or automatic irrigation systems.
- Washing of vehicles, except in a commercial car wash or as necessary for operator safety.
- Washing of exterior building surfaces, parking lots, driveways or sidewalks, except as necessary to apply surface treatments such as paint, preservatives, stucco,

pavement, or concrete.

Essential uses of water are not impacted by these restrictions.

Essential uses of water are:

- For health and safety reasons.
- Hand held hose irrigation of lawns, gardens, flowers and ornamental plants.
- Agricultural operations to maintain livestock and crops.
- Irrigation to establish a new lawn and new plantings between the months of May and September.

These mandatory restrictions are needed to ensure that Wellesley's water supply is sufficient to protect the health and safety of residents, including providing enough water necessary to fight fires. This is a preventative measure to ensure adequate water supply throughout Town while temperatures are rising and while the PFAS filter media is being replaced at the Morses Pond Groundwater Treatment Plant. Typically, this treatment plant supplies over 750,000 gallons of water per day to homes and businesses.

Please keep in mind that if our region experiences drought conditions, additional restrictions may be required.

For more information on the State of Water Supply Conservation in Wellesley, visit the [Water & Sewer Division's watering restrictions online page](#). ♦



SCAN TO VISIT
THE WATERING
RESTRICTIONS
PAGE



WATER CUSTOMER PORTAL

The Water Customer Portal is a great tool for Wellesley water customers to track their water usage and reduce their water bill. By accessing historical water usage details, customers can set alerts, identify leaks, and make changes to their water use habits. For more information, visit Wellesley's [Water Customer Portal website](#).

REDUCE USE WHILE WATERING

To help maintain appropriate water levels in Town storage tanks, we ask customers to reduce the amount outdoor watering time by 20%. For example, if you have an automated irrigation system with a 15-minute watering time in each zone, you should reduce each zone's watering duration by at least 3 minutes.

Additional recommendations to help reduce water use include checking for

and repairing any water leaks in irrigation systems, faucets, showerheads, and toilets.

Check out the Water Customer Portal to monitor water use and identify potential leaks and visit the DPW webpages for more information on [water conservation](#) and [irrigation system tips](#). The Natural Resources Commission also offers tips for [healthy and sustainable lawn and landscape care](#). ♦

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

The Town of Wellesley Department of Public Works' Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report for calendar year 2023 is now available [online in the Water & Sewer Division's page](#). If you would like to receive a printed copy by mail, call us at (781) 235-7600 x3355 or email us at dpw@wellesley.ma.gov.



UPCOMING ROAD RESURFACING PROJECTS

As summer approaches, the Town is gearing up for resurfacing projects aimed at enhancing road quality and ensuring smoother and safer travels for all users.

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.

The streets scheduled to be resurfaced this summer are:

- Avon Road
- Bay State Road
- Beechwood Terrace
- Berkeley Road
- Berkshire Road
- Brewster Road
- Carlton Road
- Cedar Street
- Clifford Road
- Clock Tower Drive
- Cottonwood Road
- Damiel Road
- Dewing Path
- Edmunds Road
- Eliot Street
- Fairbanks Avenue
- Fiske Road
- Forest Street
- Garrison Road
- Harvard Street
- Kipling Road
- Leewood Road
- Middlesex Street
- Nobscot Road
- Paine Street
- Pond Road
- Saunders Terrace
- Shirley Road
- Solon Street
- Summit Road
- Swarthmore Road
- Tennyson Road
- Wilson Road
- Woodbrine 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 the [DPW's paving techniques online page](#).

As construction crews prepare to hit the roads, drivers and residents should anticipate temporary inconveniences such as detours and delays. However, the short-term disruptions will be outweighed by the long-term benefits of improved road conditions and an enhanced transportation network. The upcoming resurfacing projects promise to deliver smoother, safer, and more enjoyable journeys for all.

Project plans and updates will be posted to the [Highway Division's website](#) and social media channels. Residents can also sign up to receive Public Works Project email updates [here](#). Direct abutters and frequent road users are also encouraged to register for emergency alerts and traffic updates (email/text message) from the Wellesley Police Department [here](#). 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. ♦



SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION

This summer the DPW will continue repairing, replacing, and adding sections of sidewalks and sidewalk ramps. Please watch out and use caution while traveling near these work sites. We apologize in advance for any inconvenience that you may experience and hope you enjoy these improvements to your neighborhood once they have been completed. Listed below are the work location and dates.

May 27th thru June 30th

- Wellesley Ave. @ Brook St.
- Brook St. #60
- Hickory Rd. @ Woodbine Rd.
- Pinewood Rd. @ Pinewood Circle
- Bowdoin Rd. @ Rutgers Rd.
- Pilgrim Rd. @ Rutgers Rd.
- Cleveland Rd. @ Linwood Rd.
- Cleveland Rd. @ Massasoit Rd.
- Cleveland Rd. @ Earle Rd.
- Earle Rd. #6, #8, #18

July 1st thru August 23rd

- Barton Rd. #85
- Cleveland Rd./Weston Rd. to Martin Rd.
- Cleveland Rd @ Alhambra Rd.
- Cleveland Rd. @ Martin Rd.
- Cleveland Rd./Martin Rd. to Earle Rd.
- Crownridge Rd. #35
- Elmwood Rd. @ Bates School Drop-Off
- Elmwood Rd. @ Bates School
- Elmwood Rd. @ Linwood Rd.
- Elmwood Rd. @ Martin Rd.
- Elmwood Rd. @ Ingersoll Rd.
- Elmwood Rd. @ Cavanaugh Rd.
- Fullerbrook Rd. #21
- Fullerbrook Rd #48
- Linwood Rd./Elmwood Rd. to Pilgrim
- Martin Rd./Cleveland Rd. to Brookfield Circle

If you have any questions or need additional information, email us at dpw@wellesleyma.gov. ♦

ELECTRIC VEHICLES

We have recently increased our electric fleet to 9 vehicles. The fleet includes 2 Chevy Bolts, 3 Ford Lightnings, and 4 Ford E Transit vans. These vehicles serve all across the DPW in different divisions performing many functions including administrative tasks, land surveying, water testing, water meter repairs/installations, and delivery. ♦



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 event on May 18th. Approximately 1,000 individuals attended the event. It was 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 came, we collected nonperishable food items for the Wellesley Food Pantry, as well as business attire donated to Suits for Success for people to wear to work interviews. The DPW successfully hosted a sensory hour during the event to promote inclusivity and allow individuals with sensory processing difficulties to participate in community events they might otherwise avoid due to overstimulation. During this time, we did not have any music, honking, and flashing lights. Thank you to all who came out and we look forward to seeing you again next year! ♦



RDF HOURS

The RDF is closed on state holidays, including:

- Juneteenth- June 19th
- Independence Day – July 4th
- Labor Day – September 1st and 2nd
- Indigenous Peoples Day – October 14th
- Veterans Day – November 11th
- Thanksgiving Day – November 28th
- Christmas Eve – December 24th (closed at noon)
- Christmas Day – December 25th
- New Year's Eve – December 31st (closed at noon)
- New Year's Day – January 1st

Hours of Operation

Monday - Wednesday

7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Thursday - Saturday

7:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Sunday

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

Closed (Dec - March)

RDF REUSABLES AREA

The **Reusables Area** is open Wednesdays through Saturdays. This area closes 30 minutes prior to the closing of the facility on those days. If you are interested in volunteering, stop by the RDF office for more information! Below are the hours of operation:

WED: 7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

TH-SAT: 7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

SUN - TUE: CLOSED

PAINT COLLECTION

Paint collection typically 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 11th (pushed back due to July 4th)
- August 1st
- September 5th
- October 3rd

DOWNLOAD THE RDF APP AND STAY UP TO DATE WILL ALL THINGS RDF



Apple QR Code



Android QR Code

DID YOU KNOW?

You can now apply online for your RDF Residential Permit! Visit the **RDF Home Page online** for more information and click on the **link to apply today.**



Scan to open link for RDF Permit

SPRING CLEANUP PRACTICES TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY

As the warm weather rolls around, spring cleanup begins! As you start itching to get out and clean up winter's mess remember that everyone can do their part to help reduce pollutants from entering our waterways. Phosphorus, a major water pollutant, is found in commercially available fertilizers, as well as in grass clippings and yard waste. Read on to learn more about ways to thoughtfully approach dealing with these materials to stop pollution in its tracks!

CONSIDER LAWN CONVERSION

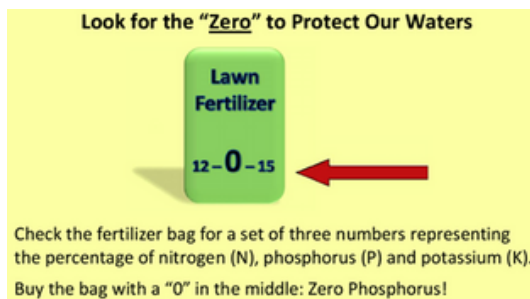
Lawn conversion is the growing practice of replacing turfgrass with drought-tolerant native plant species or maintenance-free species like clover. Less turf can mean less watering, less fertilizer, and less need for maintenance – win, win, win! An excellent example of lawn conversion is currently under development at Simons Park, adjacent to the main branch of the library. To learn more about this project, please visit the Natural Resources Commission project [website](#).



USE FERTILIZER APPROPRIATELY

Did you know it is the law in Massachusetts to use Zero-Phosphorus Lawn Fertilizer? Many gardening centers haven't caught up and still regularly offer phosphorus-heavy fertilizers; however, the only time phosphorus-containing fertilizers may be used is when a soil test indicates that additional phosphorus is needed for the growth of that lawn or non-agricultural turf or is used for newly

established lawn or non-agricultural turf during the first growing season. In addition, always follow instructions on application rates of fertilizer. More does not mean a healthier lawn and less protects water quality.



COMPOST ORGANIC MATERIAL

Plants love slow-releasing fertilizers and compost is the clear favorite. In addition to being beloved by gardeners, compost has the added benefits of improving the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of soil. These changes can increase permeability, stabilize soils, and promote plant growth, all improvements that remove pollutants from stormwater runoff and mitigate flooding. To learn more about composting at home, please refer to our [online flyer](#).



DISPOSE OF YARD WASTE PROPERLY

Disposing of grass clippings and fallen leaves is one of the best ways to prevent pollution from getting to our waterways. When dumped in brooks or storm drains, or even left on impervious surfaces like driveways and sidewalks, these organic materials break down and get swept into waterbodies when it rains. Further decay and accumulation in ponds and streams leads to

concentrations of phosphorus that causes plant growth and decreases habitat quality. When cleaning your yard, always remember to BAG, COMPOST, or LEAVE IT. ♦



INFORMATION - PHONE NUMBERS (781) 235-7600

Hours of Operation are Monday to Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Engineering	ext. 3315
Highway	ext. 3325
Park & Tree	ext. 3335
RDF	ext. 3345
Water & Sewer	ext. 3355
Director's Office	ext. 3305

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

HIGHWAY DPW

(For emergencies after 4:00 p.m.)
781-235-7600 ext. 3322

TO REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

781-235-7600 ext. 3390



SPOTTED LANTERNFLY SPOTTED IN WELLESLEY



Spotted Lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula* or "SLF") is an invasive insect first found in Pennsylvania in 2014, which migrated to Massachusetts in 2018, and was found in Wellesley in 2023. The insect causes damage to trees and other woody plants by feeding on their sap. The primary host plant of SLF is the invasive Tree-of-heaven, however, researchers have found that it also targets maples, grapes, blueberries, hops, fruit trees, and 100 other host plants according to the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR). This wide range of hosts creates the potential for it to become a serious agricultural and horticultural pest. Wellesley received word last fall from MDAR of an infestation spotted near Carisbrooke Reservation.

have wings that are red underneath, and which become visible when they fly. They are larger than many other insects in Massachusetts. The SLF feeds on plant sap and expels a sticky substance called 'honeydew' which covers everything below the insects. The honeydew creates an ideal growth medium for a fungus called 'sooty mold' which can be unpleasant and create quite a mess. This insect is native to Asia and first appeared in the United States in 2014 in Pennsylvania where it is believed that they hitchhiked via a shipment of crushed stone. Their hitchhiking continues via autos, trucks, and trains. The DPW requests that residents report any potential sightings of SLF in Wellesley to the **Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources** or to the DPW's Park & Tree Division at cvlass@wellesleyma.gov. ♦



Photos from the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)

Spotted Lanternflies are around the size of a quarter, grey with black spots and



NO MOW MAY

The Park and Tree Division again this year partnered with the Wellesley Natural Resources Commission (NRC) for No Mow May, a conservation initiative to create habitats and forage for early-season pollinators, particularly in urban areas where floral resources are often limited. Reduced mowing frequency also helps save water and encourages resiliency to drought. The areas included this year were Simon's Park, Memorial Grove, Walnut at Cedar, Farm Station, Morton Park/Annie B Clark, Clancy's Hollow, and Reeds Pond. The Park & Tree Division was pleased to be part of this effort. For more information, contact the NRC at NRC@wellesleyma.gov or visit the **Wellesley Pollinator Gardens** page. ♦



The Park & Tree Division continues to expand our Bee Green Wellesley initiative by replacing gas-powered equipment with cleaner, quieter, and safer battery-powered tools. The park areas around town 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. This equipment is used, when possible, in Fuller Brook Park as well. Our electric line up includes two rider mowers, weed trimmers, push mowers, chainsaws, handheld blowers, and pole saws. This past fall we added four backpack blowers with a portable charging cell to our tool inventory. This equipment allows us to manage these parks as quietly and efficiently as possible. We encourage everyone to consider electric landscape equipment and the DPW will continue to expand our use of battery-powered equipment.

SUPPORTING NATIVES BY CUTTING INVASIVES

Invasive plants are species that are non-native and cause ecological and economic harm. Their introduction is changing the landscape of Wellesley's public and private lands by outcompeting native plants. Because invasive plants have not coevolved with native insects, pollinators, and birds, their proliferation has led to direct competition with native species of trees, shrubs, vines, and flowers. A healthy and productive landscape needs balance to support the food web that fauna such as insects, spiders, rodents, and birds rely upon.

Virginia
Sweetspire
(Itea)



Invasive plants are very good at growing because they mature rapidly, produce high levels of seed, thrive in many conditions, and grow outside of their natural habitats with few or no natural enemies. They outcompete other plants for resources such as light, water, nutrients, and space. These characteristics lead to rapid establishment. Once established, they use their natural abilities to climb and outcompete trees for sunlight, produce an extensive and long-lasting seedbed, or develop aggressive root systems that make management extremely challenging. They may even produce compounds that spread in the soil to prevent other plants from growing. The bottom line is that invasive plants are extremely effective at out-growing native plants.

Management of invasive plants boils down to one overarching principle: invasive plants can never be eradicated. We must manage them forever. Thus, reducing invasive species through cutting helps native plants grow and hopefully thrive.



Fothergilla

This past winter a Park & Tree crew expanded our management program by cutting invasive plants at 15 public locations throughout town. Wellesley is home to many invasive plant species, but we focus on cutting Asiatic Bittersweet, Glossy and Common Buckthorn, Multiflora Rose, Porcelain Berry, Burning Bush, and Black Swallow-wort. Our crew members are excellent at winter plant identification which helps to ensure that they are removing only invasives

while protecting the existing native trees and shrubs. The Park & Tree Division plans to continue cutting each winter (weather permitting). And in some locations, we are planting native trees and shrubs to expand diversity. However, these new plants need our long-term help to prevent the invasive species from taking over. An example of this management strategy can be found at the Duck Pond on the Town Hall grounds. Twenty years ago, the invasive plants were running rampant, outcompeting the native Rhododendrons and wildflowers. Cutting invasive plants each winter has allowed the native seeds that were lying dormant to germinate and mature. With persistence, a more diverse and balanced environment is being reclaimed! Join us in the fight against invasive plants. If you would like more information, please contact us at cvlass@wellesleyma.gov.



Chokeberry (Aronia)

If you see our crew out next winter, be sure to say 'hi'. They love talking about plants! ♦

WEED HARVESTER

In 2023, the DPW welcomed a new weed harvester. This watercraft harvests underwater weeds and brings them to shore for disposal. The new harvester is 99% stainless steel with upgraded features including retractable paddle-wheels, a joystick control and an increased payload. The DPW operates, maintains, and stores the harvesters, recording the number of hours used and the amount and weight of the weeds cut. This information helps track the effectiveness of the harvesting program and the overall condition of Morses Pond. Warmer winters have contributed to earlier and more aggressive weed growth in the pond. For more information, check out the

**Natural
Resources
Commission's
release on the
newest weed
harvester.**



STREET PERMIT SEASON

Permits for excavation work within town public ways (streets and sidewalks) for calendar year 2024 began Monday, April 1, 2024. No permits will be issued after Friday, November 1, 2024. All excavations within the town public way shall be completed, backfilled and restored to its preconstruction condition on or before Friday, November 15, 2024. Projects requiring excavation within the public way should take this schedule into consideration for implementation during 2024.

Street Opening Permits are required if residents are planning to upgrade their underground utility services or make connections to a municipal or privately owned utility system. This includes water, drainage, sewer, gas, electric, telephone, or cable TV. Permits are also required for paving or reconstructing driveway aprons and for locating dumpsters within town public ways or sidewalks. All contractors must contact the Engineering Division (781-235-7600 Ext. 3314) a minimum of 72 hours before work begins, excluding

weekends and holidays. An approved permit must be on site when work begins. Contractors should note:

Unless approved by the Department of Public Works, water and sewer utilities shall be placed in separate trenches in accordance with Mass DEP Guidelines.

All trenches must comply with OSHA requirements.

Permit submission have moved to an online portal. For further information and instructions, please visit the **the Department of Public Works' Public Portal**. All currently bonded contractors will need to renew their registration online prior to submitting permit applications.

Permitting questions should be directed to Rafi Razzaque, 781-235-7600, Ext. 3314 or emailed at rzzaque@wellesleyma.gov. Appointments should be scheduled during the office hours of 8:00-12:00pm and 1:30-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at the Department of Public Works at 20 Municipal Way. ♦

OUTDOOR WATERING RESTRICTIONS

MANDATORY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Alternate Day Outdoor Watering Schedule
Based on Your Address.

Odd Addresses	→	Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays
Even Addresses	→	Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays

****No irrigation system watering on Mondays****

No watering between 9am to 5pm

For more information, visit
<https://www.wellesleyma.gov/2281/Watering-Restrictions-2024>

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Connect with us for our latest news, updates, and events



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**SCAN TO FOLLOW
OUR SOCIAL
MEDIA PROFILES**