

Section 4:
Department of
Public Works



REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Mission Statement

The mission of the Town of Weston's Department of Public Works is:

- To construct and maintain the physical infrastructure that provides for the public's health and safety;
- To protect the environment;
- To enhance the quality of life, and to ensure that Weston continues to be a desirable place in which to live and conduct business.

The mission of the Department will be accomplished through an equitable and cost-effective delivery of the following services and products:

Activities to ensure community health and protect the environment:

- provision of water
- drainage of surface water
- street sweeping of roadways
- disposal of waste refuse
- recycling of waste
- composting of leaves and yard waste
- maintaining of parks, cemeteries and recreation areas

Activities to provide for the safety of pedestrians and motorists:

- construction and maintenance of roads and sidewalks
- provision of street signs, traffic signals, and pavement markings
- response to wind and rain emergency events to clear roadways and drainage infrastructure
- sanding/de-icing, plowing, and removal of snow

Public Works Administration

The Administration is responsible for the budgeting, planning, construction, maintenance, and overall management of the entire scope of services provided to the citizens of Weston by this Department. The success of the Department would not occur without the talent and commitment that exists within its workforce, the support and guidance that is provided by the Town Manager and Select Board, and the cooperation that exists between Town departments.

Snow and Ice Operations

The management of snow and ice operations is considered one of the most important functions of the Department. During the winter of 2019-2020, the Town of Weston received approximately 29-inches of snow. The season's largest snow event occurred during Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, December 1-3, 2019 in which Weston received more than 12-inches of snow. The winter snow operations included four major plowing events, four scraping events, 28 road de-icing events, and one spot de-icing event while expending approximately \$420,000 to keep the Town's roads and walkways safe.

Construction Projects

Road Paving – Reconstruction projects completed during the 2020 paving season were:

- Boston Post Road (Linwood Avenue to Church Street) – base and binder
- Concord Road (portion as part of the Town Center Project)
- Fiske Lane (as a result of the Town Center Project and the gas main replacement project on Concord Road)
- Colpitts Road (part of the Town Center Project)

- Church Street
- Town House Road
- School Street (part of the Town Center Project)
- Ash Street (with exception of proposed sidewalk project area)
- Arrowhead Road
- October Lane
- Merriam Street (Sunset Road to Westland Road)
- Indian Hill Road
- Winthrop Circle
- Kings Grant Road (Plymouth Road to end)
- Webster Road
- Fire Station Parking Lot (part of the Town Center Project)
- Brothers Marketplace Lot (part of the Town Center Project)
- Concord Road spurs (as a result of the Gas Main Replacement Project on Concord Road)



The above-mentioned resurfacing work amounted to approximately 6.2 miles of Town roadway and approximately two parking areas.

Sidewalk Construction - Sidewalk construction completed as part of the 2020 Construction season:

- Merriam Street (Sunset Road to Westland Road) including the pedestrian bridge over Cherry Brook (approximately 2,750 linear feet of additional sidewalk inventory)
- Legacy Trail from Alphabet Lane to Ash Street (noting the completion of the project was rebid)

Gas Main Replacements - As part of the Town's collaboration and coordination with National Grid on the Town's roadway paving, and the utility company's gas main replacements, the 2020 construction season included gas main replacements within:

- Webster Road
- Indian Hill Road
- Winthrop Circle
- Bay State Road
- Concord Road (nos. 1-81) / Fiske Lane
- Orchard Avenue (nos. 74-147 - private way)
- Merriam Street (remove and then reconnect the gas main at the Merriam Street/Cherry Brook culvert during the culvert replacement project)
- Winter Street (nos. 292-352)
- Sherburn Circle and Tyler Road

The above-mentioned gas main replacement work amounted to approximately 3.4 miles. As a result of the replacements, well over 100 services were replaced as well.

Guardrail Replacement - The Department replaced the existing deficient guardrails along Merriam Street by Cherry Brook with a steel-backed wooden guardrail.

Drainage/Culvert Rehabilitation/Replacements - Several drainage projects were undertaken in the 2020 construction season:

- a portion of Merriam Street from Sunset Road to Westland Road
- Merriam Street over Cherry Brook Culvert Replacement

Additionally, Phase 2 (by 466 Glen Road and 15/19 Pond Brook Road) of the three-phase Southside Drainage Project was completed and the design of Phase 3 was starting including survey and subsurface survey. Several other drainage design projects were also completed or in process (Newton Street, Pinecroft Road, Merriam Street and Hallett Hill Road, Kings Grant Road, Rolling Lane, and 520 Glen Road).

Water Main Replacements – No water mains and associated services were replaced in 2020 due to the late approval of the funding (September Annual Town Meeting), due to the public health emergency.

Hydrant Replacements and/or Rehabilitation – Three new fire hydrants were installed to replace older hydrants and four existing hydrants were rehabilitated to modern equipment.

Town Center Project – details of the work completed in 2020 are outlined in the Town Center Project Working Group’s report

Cemetery Project - The permanent tomb repairs at Central Cemetery were completed during 2020.

Other Projects/Programs - Other Projects or programs completed or started this year include, but are not limited to:

- Continuation of the crack sealing program
- Started the Compost Program at the Transfer Station
- Scoped and prepared for the Bulky Waste Program at the Transfer Station
- Southside Drainage Improvement Project drainage designs for Phase III started
- Paines Hill Water Tank Replacement design discussions started
- Water Main Replacement on Longmeadow Road, Brook Road and Valley View Road completed
- Advertising package for the demolition of the old 128 water pump station building completed
- 25 percent design submission for the Route 20 at Wellesley Street Signal Project submitted to Massachusetts Department of Transportation for review (proposed Transportation Improvement Program Project)
- 25 percent design submission for the Route 30 Roadway Reconstruction Project submitted to Massachusetts Department of Transportation for review (proposed Transportation Improvement Program Project)
- Cemetery buildout survey was completed
- Wireless Meter Reading Project started
- 125 street opening permits and trench permits were granted



New parking delineations along Center Street as part of the Town Center Improvement Project

The following divisional reports contain our department’s accomplishments for the year:

REPORT OF THE ENGINEERING DIVISION

The Engineering Division is responsible for the implementation of the Capital Improvements Program for the Department of Public Works, including water, roadway, and drainage system improvements consistent with the mission of the Department; implementation of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program; and assistance to various other departments and boards. This division consists of the Town Engineer, the Assistant Town Engineer / Stormwater Engineer, and the Capital Projects Engineer.

Water System Capital Improvement Projects were not constructed as planned. This was due to the pandemic, which caused Annual Town Meeting to be delayed until September 2020. These projects have been deferred to the 2021 construction season.

Drainage and other Capital Improvement Projects in 2020 are further listed in the Report of the Department of Public Works.

- Drainage Improvements
 - Merriam Street in association with the sidewalk and roadway construction project
 - Completion of Southside Phase 2 Drainage Improvements Project begun in 2019
- Culvert Improvements
 - Merriam Street at Cherry Brook culvert was replaced in association with the sidewalk and roadway construction project



Other construction projects during 2020 included:

- Construction of approximately one-half mile of sidewalk on Merriam Street from Sunset Road to Westland Road, including a boardwalk in the area of the Cherry Brook crossing
- Legacy Trail on the Case Estates construction (begun in 2019) was completed. This is a project funded by a combination of the Weston 300 funds plus Community Preservation Act Funds and comprises slightly over one-half mile of a combination of chip stone walking path with benches and resting areas between Alphabet Lane and an overlook area behind 131 Wellesley Street, and a stone dust path through the Case Estates meadow between Wellesley Street and Ash Street
- Installation of a Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacon signal at North Avenue and Church Street to improve pedestrian safety at the crosswalk across North Avenue

Ongoing design and planning projects include:

- Drainage improvement for Newton Street in the vicinity of Doublet Hill Road was designed and permitted, awaiting construction during the 2021 construction season
- Drainage improvements in the Merriam Street / Hallett Hill Road area 90 percent complete
- Drainage improvements design for Pineroft Road at Conant Road, Kings Grant Road near Route 117, Rolling Lane, and Glen Road near Wellesley Street
- Southside Drainage Improvements Phase 3 (final phase) underway

- Ongoing Implementation of our Stormwater Management Plan developed to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency/Department of Environmental Protection Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit
- Route 20 at Wellesley Street intersection, 25 percent design plans submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in March 2020. The plan calls for a new signal at this location for safety improvements. Construction is anticipated to be funded in a future year by the state department under the Transportation Improvement Program
- Route 30 Corridor Improvements (Wayland line to state layout near Route 95), under design by a consultant. 25 percent design plans submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in October 2020. Construction is anticipated to be funded in a future year by the state department under the aforementioned TIP
- Design of safety improvements at North Avenue (Route 117) and Merriam Street/Lincoln Street

Other activities and ongoing projects include:

- Traffic and Sidewalk Committee (see separate report)
- Oversight of the environmental monitoring at the former landfill
- Stormwater Permitting Authority (see separate report)
- Technical review of petitions for grants of location from National Grid and Eversource
- Provision of official maps and records of the Town to the public as requested
- Participation in Weston Ahead Climate Action and Resilience Plan

REPORT OF THE HIGHWAY DIVISION

The Highway Division is responsible for the maintenance and care of the roads and sidewalks in town as well as all street signage, guardrails, and pavement markings. Division work also includes roadside and island cutting, trimming, mowing, large dead animal pickup, and responds to calls day or night, seven days a week. The six individuals that make up this division accomplished the following this past year:

Roadway Paving Program and Other Road Work

- Road preparation and supervision for the full depth reclamation, grading, and paving of:
 - Merriam Street (Sunset Road to Westland Road)
 - Kings Grant Road (Plymouth Road to end)
 - Indian Hill Road
 - Winthrop Circle
 - Webster Street
 - Church Street (Conant Road to North Avenue)
 - Arrowhead Road
 - October Lane
- Signage and pavement marking replacements and/or improvements on the above roads, as necessary
- Cold-patched 543 various roadway reconstruction locations, as compared to 1,659 in 2019. Cold patching provides temporary repair to larger holes in the road surface. The reduction of asphalt, and cold patch purchased outside of the capital roadway paving program, is a direct result of the successful Capital Roadway Program
- Installed 120,154 linear feet of epoxy-painted traffic lines, compared to 100,185 linear feet in 2019. We also installed 1,093 linear feet of epoxy painted "STOP" bars and crosswalk lines

- Installed 385 tons of asphalt compared to 920 tons in 2019. This was done through the skin overlay technique, which adds a smoother drivability factor to road surfaces that have reached, or gone beyond their serviceable life
- Installed approximately 1,700 yards of loam, compared to 750 yards in 2019. This is for roadway shoulder erosion repairs, winter storm damage, or as a finish to roadway reconstruction projects
- Renovated the island of Buckskin Drive at Route 20. This consisted of the removal of existing deceased trees and shrubbery and trimmed the deadwood from trees. All work performed to established new growth and improve aesthetics
- Installed and removed 41 traffic detour setups, excluding the Town Center project limits as those were handled by the Police Department and the contractor



Roadway Response Calls

- Responded to 384 tree calls as compared to 208 in 2019 - 226 of the 384 trees were from storm damages. This consisted of the removal from roadways and/or sidewalks, from deceased trees, and storm damages. These calls vary in time and day
- Responded to 13 calls for deceased deer, as compared to 17 calls in 2019. These calls require the removal and disposal of the remains generally after a motor vehicle accident. They also vary in location, day, and time
- Responded to 114 calls for signage repairs or replacement, due to motor vehicle accidents, upgrades, and regulation changes. This work is separate from roadway reconstruction sign upgrades
- Responded to nine calls for service on traffic signals, due to power outage issue, as compared to three in 2019
- Responded to 421 service requests of miscellaneous issues as compared to 930 in 2019. The calls consisted of many different issues, such as illegal signage, flooding, roadway debris, spillage cleanup, illegal dumping, snowdrifts, sight distance issues, deicing, assist motorists, property complaints, flooding, assist residents, etc.

Work with other Divisions and Departments

- Prepared, supervised, and assisted the Stormwater Division and contractor as needed, for the drainage installation and improvements at the following locations:
 - Merriam Street (Sunset Road to Westland Road)
 - Kings Grant Road (Plymouth Road to end)
 - Indian Hill Road
 - Winthrop Circle
 - Webster Street
 - Church Street (Conant Road to North Avenue)
 - Arrowhead Road
 - October Lane

- Worked with the Stormwater Division to rebuild, repair, procure, deliver and or replace 167 existing drainage structures before the road reconstruction and any other drainage structure repairs/replacements
- Assisted the Water Division with the procurement, delivery, and installation of approximately 150 water gate boxes before roadway re-pavement operations
- Assisted the Water Division with the installation of new upgraded water services, new hydrants, and replacement hydrants as needed
- Assisted the Water Division with the emergency water breaks and scheduled fire hydrant placements
- Working in conjunction with the Engineering Division, oversight of the traffic markings contractor was provided for the installation of new and refurbished existing surface markings. A total of 39,050 linear feet of traffic lines were removed, compared to 38,268 in 2019. These are markings that have faded, been damaged, or have reached the end of their life cycle
- Continued working with Administration and Conservation Commission for a third successful year of the vegetative management program. This division provided the application limit markings and contractor application oversight
- Working in conjunction with Vehicle Maintenance. The Highway Division saw a need and invented an addition to a line the painting machine that is capable of painting (2) 4-inch temporary traffic lines simultaneously. We also incorporated two triggers so the machine is capable of spraying just one line at a time. This machine has proved to be a critical part of temporary line applications immediately after the completion of roadway paving. Adding a higher level of traffic safety
- Worked with the Stormwater Division to calibrate all truck-mounted sanders, an annual process that allows greater efficiency and control of solid and liquid deicing materials. Further, it provides a more accurate assessment of hydraulic wear on a particular unit
- Worked with the Engineering Division on the fourth year of the roadway crack sealing program, applying 1,382 gallons as compared to 2,714 gallons in 2019



2020 Winter Operations

Calls for service, which is in addition to regular operations:

- 28 deicing operations as compared to 48 in 2019
- four full or general plowing operations as compared to eight in 2019
- four department plow operations as compared to two in 2019
- one snow removal operation, same as 2019
- 3,471 tons of salt material was used, as compared to 3,656 in 2019 representing a decrease of 5 percent. This product savings can be attributed to systematic driver training, vehicle maintenance, and calibrations
- 6,877 gallons of liquid deicer were used as compared to 11,027 gallons in 2019. This product savings can once again be attributed to systematic driver training, vehicle maintenance and calibrations, and a season of less deicing operations

General

- Oversaw the tree contractor in the removal of 158 dead trees as compared to 107 in 2019. The trees have been subject to resident calls and storm damages. All trees are verified for condition and ownership through our Geographic Information System (GIS) in conjunction with the “New Tree Identification” layer
- Supervised, performed, and/or assisted as necessary the following stone wall repairs due to motor vehicle accidents, and/or age degradation:
 - Wellesley Street (across from house no. 120)
 - Viles Street (house no. 95)
 - School Street (Alphabet Lane to Case Corner), multiple locations
 - Scout House property (both sides), multiple locations



Training

- Continued in-house training and re-training programs for Dump Truck Safety, Basic Wood Chipper Operation, Work Zone Safety, Basic Sander Operations, Advanced Deicing Technics. This program has proven successful –
 - seasoned employees have reported learning aspects of certain operations that they had either not known or forgotten
 - deicing truck drivers have reported a noticeable drop in salt usage to complete their routes

Environmentally-Friendly Practices

The Highway Division continues to use a liquid deicer product that is magnesium chloride combined with a sustainable animal by-product solution. It is environmentally friendly, has no human or fire hazard factor, and a rust inhibitor is added to protect all vehicles, especially the application vehicles. The liquid deicer has an 8 percent corrosion factor as compared to the 121 percent from the previously used calcium chloride product. This product, when sprayed with the road salt as it is applied, is proving to be a winning combination for the town’s roadway safety.

The Highway and Stormwater divisions continue to use small engine oils for the chainsaws, leaf blowers, string trimmers, etc. that are environmentally friendly. They are the two-stroke and bar/chain oils. These are plant-based seed oils with no phosphorus, chlorine, or metal-based additives. The products reduce emissions, are fully bio-degradable, and are safer to store.

The Highway Division took on a new duty of graffiti removal at a couple of locations in town. Most prominent was the racially intended spray paint text applied to an underpass on the Mass Central Rail Trail. We were successful in removing the text before it became a community-wide issue.

I would like to commend the employees of the Highway Division for being willing to maintain a high level of continuous service to the Town through the public health emergency. The employees willingly learned new procedures and practices, to maintain their health, as well as the health of their fellow employees and families.

REPORT OF THE PARKS AND CEMETERIES DIVISION

The primary responsibility of the Park and Cemetery staff is the care, maintenance, and operation of the Town's parks and cemeteries. This includes planning funeral arrangements with residents, carrying out interment and committal services, and tending to the perpetual care of the landscape. Staff within this division maintains the four cemeteries and 24 municipal locations including multiple scenic parks, the Town Green, and the grounds at many municipal buildings.

Cemeteries

Linwood Cemetery sits on 35 acres of rolling terrain, winding paths, native shrubs, specimen trees, and is a well-maintained example of the park-like, romantic style cemetery that became popular in the late 19th century. Dating from 1873, it is Weston's largest and only active burial ground. This Division is committed to providing exceptional service to the residents of Weston and their families in guiding them through the daunting and often emotionally challenging process of selecting burial plots, making funeral arrangements, and carrying out committal services. It is our goal to help people get through one of the most difficult periods in their lives and ensure that when a family comes to Linwood Cemetery their experience is as pleasant and as well managed as possible.

The Division's fiscal year 2020 statistics are as follows:

- Interments - 58
- Casketed - 42
- Cremation - 16
- Interment Fees Collected - \$31,850

Lot Sale and Fees Collected:

- Lots Sold - 28
- Perpetual Care Trust Fund - \$27,320
- Sale of Lots Fund - \$40,980
- Town Clerk Recording Fees - \$150

Memorials:

- Monuments - 20
- Foot Markers - 26
- Fees Collected - \$10,140

Total Cemetery Revenue - \$110,440

Parks and Open Spaces

On June 7th the Town and Weston Nurseries planted 10 trees that were donated by Eversource for Arbor Day 2020. We Planted six 'Donald Wyman' crabapples along North Avenue, just west of Lexington Street. A 'Winter King' hawthorn was planted at the intersection of Silver Hill and Westland roads. Three witch-hazels were installed at the corner of Newton and School streets. Two red twig dogwoods and a willow tree that was dedicated to the class of 2027 were planted along Nonesuch Brook near the Middle School.

The Town Green was quiet for the year 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, except for a peaceful gathering of student activists who organized a community Black Lives Matter peace march. Other than that, all of the events that are traditionally held on the Town Green were put on hold due to the social distancing challenges that the pandemic created. Not all spirits were broken when the High School graduating class of 2020 had a parade around the Town Center instead of the traditional graduation.

The Weston Garden Club, as they have been doing for many years, placed wonderful hand-made Christmas wreaths on municipal buildings and Town offices. Members of the Garden Club take cuttings

from evergreen shrubs around town and make each wreath individually. This same group is also responsible for the beautiful and seasonal displays at the historic watering trough in the center of town, which has been slightly shifted from its site due to the Town Center Improvement Project. The Town Green now has a slight extension on its south-eastern side that incorporates the traffic island where the watering trough sits and the slip lane from Church Street to Boston Post Road westbound.

We would again like to thank all of the many Garden Club members, traffic island sponsors, and other residents who donate their time and knowledge towards the betterment of our public open spaces. The Town continues to benefit from this sense of community pride and spirit. There are many unseen hands involved in the planting, care, and watering of the trees, gardens, planters, and landscaped areas around town.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STORMWATER DIVISION

The Stormwater Division is responsible for the maintenance of the Town's storm drains and waterways. This division is made up of three individuals whose focus is on promoting Stormwater Management as prescribed by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Areas of attention include street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, repairs to catch basins and drainage systems, and the clearing of brush and debris from brooks, streams, and waterways.

Operation highlights for 2020 include:

- The repair, rebuild, and or replacement of 27 existing drainage structures
- The repair, rebuild, and or replacement of eight existing drainage culvert or pipes
- The installation of new drainage structures with the pertinent pipe at house nos. 101, 166, and 191 Kings Grant Road, and the intersection of Hancock and Kings Grant roads
- Assisting the Engineering Division with problematic drainage issues throughout the town. The Division coordinated hired contractors to complete the required installations or repairs and the Division helped with the investigation of the problems and then assisted during the construction, as needed
- Pipe cleaning (jetting) and inspection of existing drainage, for just over six miles of roadway slated for current and future paving and/or reconstruction. Video and root elimination assistance was provided and coordinated through a hired contractor, and assisted by the

division. To provide the Engineering Division with current information on existing drainage systems scheduled to be reconstructed or repaved.

- Working with the Highway Division to prepare and execute the full depth reclamation, grading, and paving of:
 - Merriam Street (Sunset Road to Westland Road)
 - Kings Grant Road (Plymouth Road to end)
 - Indian Hill Road
 - Winthrop Circle
 - Webster Street
 - Church Street (Conant Road to North Avenue)
 - Arrowhead Road
 - October Lane
- The Division assisted our Storm Water Engineer with oversight and miscellaneous small projects concerning stormwater direction, detention, and regulatory compliance
- The sweeping of 92 miles of roadway in town, totaling approximately 261 yards of material that was collected, tested, and readied for disposal. Many of the roads, such as problematic low areas, Town Center, and the main roads, schools, and municipal buildings, were swept multiple times during the year
- Worked with the Town Engineer, Board of Health, and the Conservation Commission to eliminate stormwater, wetland, and pollution problems. This included the installation of all work area erosion and runoff controls, to meet water quality standards
- Assisted the Water Division with the installation of new upgraded water services, new hydrants, and replacement hydrants, as needed on the Capital Roadway Program
- Assisted the Water Division with the emergency water breaks and scheduled fire hydrant replacements
- Received 38 Dig Safe permit applications for various repair operations
- The division regularly assists the Highway Division during emergencies as well as day-to-day operations, including the road resurfacing program, tree emergencies, tree trimming and debris pickup, trucking, preparations for the winter season, etc.



The Storm Water Division also responds to all snow and ice emergencies, as well as all reports of flooding in the Town. Considerable time was devoted to outstanding problematic areas and improvements to existing systems functions.

The employees of the Stormwater Division maintained a high level of 24-hour continuous service to the Town during the public health emergency. The employees willingly learned new procedures and practices to maintain their health, as well as the health of their fellow employees and families.

REPORT OF THE SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING DIVISION

The Solid Waste and Recycling Division provides the disposal of solid waste, as well as recycling and reuse opportunities for residents at the Weston Transfer Station.

In 2020, Weston averaged .85 tons of solid waste per household, which is a slight decrease from recent years. This year also saw the recycling rate increase over the last few years. Recycling generated \$16,760 in revenue and saved a total of \$112,255 in avoided disposal costs. It not only helps to protect and preserve our environment but also reflects substantial cost savings to the Town. The Select Board has identified decreasing the average tons of solid waste per household as a top priority for the Town and Division personnel is working through active education and increased recycling opportunities to help achieve this goal.

Furthermore, the Division provided additional recycling opportunities to provide income back to Weston's recycling program, such as:

- Weston Textiles bins, which provided a \$100 dividend to the recycling program for every ton of textiles recycled
- A collection bin for 5 cent refundable glass bottles, which not only saved on the cost to recycle glass by keeping it out of that stream, the collected redemption money brought in additional income to the recycling program
- A scrap wood collection bin, to keep that weight out of the solid waste stream
- A bin for bulky plastic, to keep it separate from solid waste
- Metal is collected to keep a useful material out of the solid waste stream. The metal is refunded and the funds that are collected are used to help offset the operating costs

The additional collection areas join the established efforts to assist residents in reducing contributions to the solid waste stream:

- Residential yard waste (brush, leaves, grass, and other yard trimmings)
- Glass containers
- Newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard
- All metals and tin cans
- Plastic
- Televisions, computer monitors, and electronic components
- Fluorescent light bulbs, rechargeable batteries, and mercury-containing components
- Donation areas that collect Reusable household goods, books, and bicycles for charities, as well as the Swap Shed (which was closed for most of the year due to COVID-19 safety precautions)
- Food Waste (pilot program)

The removal of these items from the solid waste stream will result in a continued reduction of expenditures on Solid Waste and Recycling operations as well as aiding us in our goal for a cleaner and healthier environment. A complete list of all of the items that are accepted for recycling and areas that collect donations can be found on the Town's website at WestonMA.gov/RSW and also accompanies the annual permit application materials. Residents who do not use the Transfer Station to dispose of

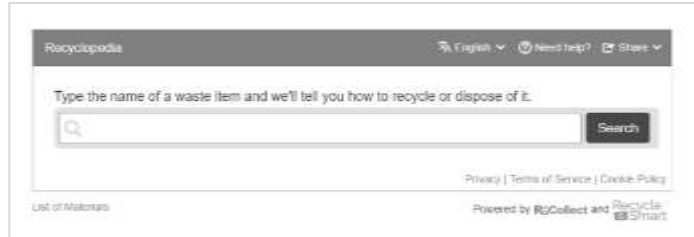


Composting was piloted in October and has resulted in growing success.

household solid waste can obtain a recycling permit to take advantage of the recycling and reuse opportunities offered at the Transfer Station.

On October 1, a composting pilot program was initiated through Black Earth Composting, a commercial composting facility. It has increasingly gained popularity, and in three months 5.14 tons of food waste has been diverted from the waste stream.

Everyone who participates in Weston’s recycling program supports our environment and helps keep Transfer Station costs down.



The Recyclopadia widget was added to the Town’s website to help residents decide if an item should be recycled, donated or trashed.

Weston’s annual Household Hazardous Waste Day was delayed due to the pandemic and public gathering restrictions. It was eventually held at the Public Works Facility on August 29th. It was a huge success with 315 residents safely disposing of a total of 20,325 lbs. of hazardous waste. The Solid Waste and Recycling Division is continuing its initiative to collect recyclable products from municipal and school buildings and process them through the Transfer Station. By doing so, we help ensure these materials are removed from the solid waste stream and processed according to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection regulations, as well as lowering overall disposal costs and increasing the Town’s recycling rate.

Fiscal Year 2020 Solid Waste and Recycling Numbers by Comparison

	FY20 (+/- from previous FY)	FY19 (+/- from previous FY)	FY18 (+/- from previous FY)	FY17 (+/- from previous FY)
Annual Recycling Rate	53.90%	53.28%	50.83%	47.48%
Recycling Rate, Excluding Yard Waste	40.67%	41.82%	37.17%	34.15%
Average Cost to Process Recycled Product	\$58.68/ton (+\$26.51)	\$32.17/ton (+\$4.44)	\$27.73/ton (- \$56)	\$28.29/ton (- \$8.27)
Average Cost to Process Solid Waste	\$102.11/ton (+\$0.13)	\$101.98/ton (+\$0.99)	\$100.99/ton (-\$1.17)	\$102.16/ton (+\$2.87)
Overall Processing Cost of Solid Waste and Recycling	\$72.48/ton (+\$7.71)	\$64.77/ton (+\$1.41)	\$63.36/ton (-\$1.57)	\$64.93/ton (-\$5.53)
Total Tons of Recycling Material	1,677	1,608	1,591	1,565
Total Tons of Solid Waste	1,435	1,410	1,540	1,730
Total Tons of Materials Processed	3,118	3,018	3,137	3,295
Recycling Revenue Generated	\$16,760	\$21,998	\$21,411	\$19,417
Recycling Savings (Avoided Disposal Costs)	\$72,832	\$112,255	\$116,557	\$115,606

Revenue for Fiscal Year 2020

- Resident Permit Sales: \$350,548.00
- Commercial Haulers: \$576.80
- Recycling Proceeds: \$16,760.00
- Total Solid Waste and Recycling Revenue: \$367,308

REPORT OF THE TREE WARDEN

The role and powers of a Tree Warden are defined under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 87, Sections 1-13 and are more commonly referred to as the “Public Shade Tree Act.” The Tree Warden is responsible for the care and protection of public shade trees including the identification and removal of hazardous trees within the public right-of-way. The Tree Warden also serves as an advisor to the Tree Advisory Group.

The Tree Warden is responsible for setting up public hearings with the Select Board when a public shade tree is proposed for removal. When the public shade tree is located within the right-of-way on a designated scenic road the Planning Board must hold a hearing for the proposed removal. If a public shade tree endangers travelers on a public way and the Tree Warden deems the tree to be an imminent hazard, it may be trimmed, cut, or removed without notice or hearing.

In 2020 the Town of Weston was again designated a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 17th straight year. Due to public health restrictions, the Arbor Day Foundation relieved the town from holding a formal Arbor Day planting. Instead, the Tree Advisory Group along with the Parks and Cemeteries Division planted several trees and shrubs on June 17th, including Eversource-donated crabapples, hawthorn, witch hazel, willow, and red twig dogwood.

In addition to the hazard trees that were removed by the Town, Eversource, the Town’s power supplier provided a comprehensive tree pruning program this past year. Eversource worked with the tree warden on the pruning of trees that were not only hazards to their infrastructure but also presented potential hazards to the public.



Three witch hazels planted at the corner of School and Wellesley streets.

The preservation of the health and beauty of shade trees along Weston’s public roads is essential to the rural character of the town. The Tree Warden is grateful to the employees of the Highway Division and Parks and Cemetery Division of the Public Works Department for their hard work and commitment during all hours and weather conditions to address emergency tree problems.

REPORT OF THE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Vehicle Maintenance Division is responsible for the maintenance and care of 130 Town vehicles. Also, the Division responds to after-hour emergencies such as snow and ice events, water main breaks, and vehicle break-downs. The four individuals that make up this division accomplished the following in 2020.

Maintenance Activities

- Performed maintenance on 64 Public Works Department vehicles, 18 Police Department vehicles, and 34 vehicles for the School Transportation Department. The funding for this work is a portion of the Division’s annual budget appropriation

- Performed maintenance on four Recreation Department vehicles, two buses for the Council on Aging, one Building Department sedan, and seven vehicles for the Facilities and Grounds Department. The funding for materials for this work is from the corresponding Departments' budgets. The Division absorbs the labor expenses.
- Completed a total of 1,027 Repair Orders (RO) on the Town's fleet that could consist of multiple issues per order:
 - School Transportation Department | 292 ROs
 - Department of Public Work | 549 ROs
 - Police Department | 146 ROs
 - Recreation Department | 14 ROs
 - Facilities / School Grounds Department | 19 ROs
 - Council on Aging Department | 7 Ros



Work with Other Divisions and Departments

- Assisted other Public Works divisions, as well as other Town departments, with the maintenance of small equipment such as lawnmowers, leaf blowers, etc. The maintenance responsibilities fall with the division or department that owns the equipment.
- Assisted with the Public Works Capital Equipment Budget and the specification and purchase of all public works equipment.

Facility Management

- Supervised the maintenance and upkeep of the Town's fuel station, which pumped approximately 55,400 gallons of gas and 33,600 gallons of diesel.
- Continued to refine departmental/division communication system to aid supervisors for more clarity and proper details for vehicle repairs to properly service and schedule to lessen manage by crisis repairs.
- Reduced school bus inspection failures four times annually by 30 percent in comparison to the previous year through additional training and a maintenance program efficiency.
- Conducted the inspection and maintenance of the car wash bay weekly and implemented a quarterly maintenance schedule for proper operating efficiencies. Installed a permanent soap and bio dispensary system to aid in efficiency and reduce costs of purchasing products in bulk.
- Continued the maintenance and upkeep of shop facilities, overhead cranes/vehicle hoist with proper inspections and certifications annually.

Equipment Maintenance Activities

- School Department added three new school buses to the fleet without salvaging old buses. Assisted in the installation with supplied GPS and camera units along with performing a non-corrosive protective treatment to undercarriage on new school buses.
- Serviced and installed all sander units and individual pre-wet treatment systems ensuring all eight units are ready for winter season operations.
- Installed sander spill shields on highway/stormwater Mack six-wheel large heavy dump trucks to preserve vehicle body life in contact with harsh salt/magnesium mixture.

Education and Development

- Worked through COVID-19 restrictions successfully.

- Conducted Departmental safety training to staff for Fleet Maintenance Division and other Public Works divisions to receive discount credits toward towns insurance policy
- Supervised and trained a Co-Op intern student from Waltham Public Schools through the summer (full-time) and semester (part-time) throughout the school year. This is the third student that has gone through this training program since 2017.
- Fourth-year member of Waltham Public Schools' National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation accreditation program to better serve the automotive training program safety and curriculum.

REPORT OF THE WATER DIVISION

The Water Division is responsible for the provision of safe and potable drinking water to 11,138 residents of Weston and responds to all water system emergencies including system leaks, loss of service, poor water quality, and low water pressure. The four individuals that make up the division maintain over 116 miles of water main, 972 hydrants, the Wellesley Street Pump Station, and three water storage tanks that contain 2,621,000 gallons of water. The Town's water is supplied by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, which uses ozone treatment as the primary disinfectant and chloramines for residual disinfection to provide the safest drinking water possible. Water Division personnel also serve the community by performing a variety of public works-related tasks, including snow and ice emergencies.

2020 Operational Highlights

- Emergency repair of nine water main breaks
- Replaced four fire hydrants and refurbished or rehabilitated five more to meet modern specifications
- Added one new hydrant to the water distribution system to improve water quality and fire protection
- Worked with the Highway Division to install one new gate valve to the water distribution system
- Oversaw work associated with the Town Center Improvement Project and the Merriam Street culvert replacement project
 - relocated a new water main
 - installed new water gates
- Conducted a comprehensive leak detection survey of the water distribution system, which found four hydrant leaks; the leaks were promptly repaired and will reduce the amount of unaccounted water
- Performed pre-excavation Dig-Safe mark-outs to over 2,000 locations
- Continued the cross-connection control and preventative maintenance program as required by the Department of Environmental Protection
- Upgraded over 70 water meters to modern metering equipment
- Collected lead and copper samples from 15 residences and two schools. All samples were well below the federal action levels for lead and copper
- Collected over 120 bacteria samples to ensure the water quality meets the federal Environmental Protection Agency and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection drinking water standards

Recognition

The Water Division received the 2020 Public Water System Award for Outstanding Performance and Achievement in the Consecutive System Category in 2020 from the state Department of Environmental Protection

2020 Water Consumption

- 646,800,000 gallons of water were consumed, which marks an increase of over 92,475,000 gallons from the previous year
- average daily consumption was 1,770,000 gallons of water
- the greatest amount of water pumped in one day was 4,507,784 gallons, which was on August 12th

Water Master Plan

In 2019, the Administration and the Water Division engaged a consultant to prepare a Water Master Plan to identify immediate, short-term, and long-term capital plans for the Town's Water Distribution System. As part of this Plan, a working hydraulic model of the Town's water distribution system was created and will assist with parameters needed relative to tank replacement sizes and identifying high and low-pressure zones in the Town.



Water Division responded to a watermain break in February on Wood Ridge Road