

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 DPW 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:

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

Activities to provide for the safety of pedestrians and motorists:

- The construction and maintenance of roads and sidewalks
- The provision of street signs, traffic signals and pavement markings
- The sanding, deicing, plowing and removal of snow



Public Works Administration

The DPW 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 the

Department of Public Works. The success of the department could not occur without the talent and commitment that exists within its workforce, the support and guidance that is provided by the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen and the cooperation that exists between Town departments.

Management of snow and ice operations is considered one of the most important of DPW functions. During the winter of 2007 the Town of Weston received only 27.5 inches of snow enabling the department to complete the fiscal year under budget in the snow and ice category for the first time in many years. The winter snow operations included two major plowing events and twenty-four road de-icing events. The DPW continued its ongoing commitment to reduce the amount of road de-icing materials it places on Town roads in order to lessen the environmental impact caused by the overuse of these materials. This reduction is accomplished through a conservative approach by balancing the need for public safety while continuously monitoring material output.

On March 21, 2007, the unexpected death of DPW employee Scott M. Cusick, 41, affected the department in a profound way. During his sixteen years employed with the Town many projects were completed with precision and efficiency due to his knowledge, skill, determination and dedication. His exemplary work ethic, admired by all who knew him, was recognized when he was awarded posthumously on May 24, 2007 the Joan B. Vernon "Ironman" Award during the observance of National Public Works Week. This award is annually presented by the Board of Selectmen to an employee in recognition of extraordinary service provided to the residents of Weston. The loss of Scott leaves a void in our DPW family that will never be filled and his memory never forgotten.

The following divisional reports contain our accomplishments for the year:

Town Engineer

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, implementation of the GIS program, and assistance to various other departments and boards. This division consists of the Town Engineer and an Engineering Assistant/GIS Coordinator.

Capital Improvements projects constructed in 2007 included drainage improvements on North Avenue at Viles Street and completion of the water main extension on North Avenue to the Waltham line.

Designs during 2007 included the upgrade to the Wellesley Street Pumping Station (managed by Town Engineer) and Church Street Drainage Improvements.

GIS milestones and activities are highlighted in a separate report.

Special projects included:

- Assistance to the Permanent Building Committee during consultant selection and preliminary design of a new Department Of Public Works facility
- Serving as local contact person for a FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Planning project being conducted by MAPC

- Compiling and providing water and drainage system asset data to the Town Accountant for audit purposes

Ongoing support to Department Of Public Works operations included:

- Management of the Environmental Management System (EMS)
- Oversight of environmental monitoring at the former landfill
- Management of the EPA Phase II Stormwater permit

Other activities included review of private development plans for conformance with Weston Stormwater Regulations, participation on Traffic Committee, Emergency Management Committee, and assistance to other departments and the public on matters regarding the location and use of the public way.

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. The six individuals that make up this division accomplished the following special projects this past year:

- Road preparation and supervision for the Cold Planing and overlay of a portion of Park Road, and two sections of South Avenue (Rte 30)
- Assisted the School Facilities staff plan and estimate for the full depth reclamation and paving of the remaining roadways at the Middle School and High School
- Prepared and supervised the full depth reclamation and paving of Page Road, North Avenue (Rte. 117), Town House Road, Pelham Road, Riverside Road, and a portion of Wellesley Street after a major water break
- Prepared and supervised the reconstruction of the bituminous concrete sidewalk around the Town Green
- Installed approximately 1600 linear feet of new bituminous concrete curbing in various locations throughout the town including Radcliffe Road, two sections of Conant Road, Kings Grant Road, Black Oak Road, and Wellesley Street in the area of the water break
- Assisted the Storm water Division with the new drainage installed on Crescent Street and Sunset Road, Town House Road, Riverside Road, and North Avenue at Viles Street, as well as many other smaller new drainage installations and repairs
- Assisted the Water Division with the emergency water breaks and scheduled fire hydrant replacements
- Reconstructed the roadway into the brush dump on Merriam Street
- Prepared and supervised the Park Road Bridge Reconstruction with assistance from the City of Newton

In addition to the above special projects, the Highway Division maintained road conditions (patch potholes); vegetation was cut back on the sides of many roads, as well as the removal of tree limbs hanging over roads and sidewalks to promote safe vehicular and pedestrian travel in Town.

The Highway Division responds to after hour emergency roadway hazards such as snow and ice conditions, downed trees, and potholes.

This year was a great success, the Highway Division and the Stormwater Division performed the usual maintenance tasks while also working together to complete the 2007 road rehabilitation program consisting of almost 3 miles of road work.

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 promoting Stormwater Management as prescribed by the EPA. 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 of the past year include:

- Rebuilding of 14 drainage structures in various locations around town
- Built 25 new drainage structures, replaced and/or added 490 LF of drain pipes. This work was performed DPW staff and a rented excavator and was focused primarily on Crescent Street, Riverside Road, South Avenue (Rte. 30), Town House Road, Page Road, Sunset Road, Weston Library Parking Lot, and assisted a private contractor with the drainage improvements at the Intersection of North Avenue (Rte. 117) and Viles Street
- Pipe cleaning (jetting) and inspection of all existing drainage systems in the roads to be reconstructed/repaved
- Removed approximately 345 tons of debris from 1484 catch basins
- Cleared streams, brooks and waterways of brush and debris with the members of the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project along Country Drive towards Pine Street, the Middle School access roadway, the High School Faculty Parking Lot, and the Alphabet Lane Soccer field
- Swept 92 miles of roadway at least once with many of the roads such as problematic low areas, Weston Center, and the main roads being sweep several times during the course of the year; the sweeping resulted in the removal of approximately 1420 tons of debris.
- Worked with the Town Engineer, Board of Health and The Conservation Commission to eliminate Stormwater, Wetland and Pollution problems
- Assisted the Water Division with the emergency water breaks and scheduled fire hydrant replacements
- Assisted the Highway Divisions during emergencies and their day to day operations, including the Road Resurfacing Program

The Stormwater Division also responds to snow and ice emergencies as well as all reports of flooding in the Town.

Park and Cemetery Division

The primary responsibility of the Park & Cemetery staff is the care, maintenance, and operation of the Town's Cemeteries. This includes planning funeral arrangements with residents, carrying out interment and committal services, and tending to perpetual care of the landscape. This same crew also cares for several scenic parks and the grounds at an assortment of Town buildings including Town Hall.

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 which became popular in the late 19th century. Dating from 1873, it is Weston's largest and only active burial ground.

Most of the paved roads in Linwood are very old and in a deteriorated state. With the help of the D.P.W., a comprehensive roadway replacement plan was put into action. In the summer of 2006 over 2300 feet of asphalt was replaced and new drainage installed from the entrance leading up into the cemetery. This program is slated to continue for several years until all of the roads are reconstructed.

There is a plan being developed as a joint effort between the Public Spaces Committee and the Park & Cemetery Dept. to further improve the landscaping at Town Hall by re-arranging and adding new plant material and other landscape features. This has been an ongoing effort over the past few years to help beautify the town's focal point. These projects have included new stairs and a reconstructed pathway on the Town Green donated by the Rotary Club, and new exterior lighting around Town Hall.

One giant leap forward in this area was the complete reconstruction of the sidewalk surrounding the Town Green by the DPW over the summer. The existing walkway had become so deteriorated and uneven it was approaching a state of being unsafe. Now, in its place, is a new, even walking path with handicap access for all to enjoy.

For Halloween, the Town Green and other municipal sites were once again adorned with scarecrows of all shapes and sizes. The Coalition of Weston Organizations hosted a scarecrow making contest for school-age children. The creations were displayed around town for the month of October adding a seasonal feel and providing many topics of conversation.

For a second year a pumpkin making festival was held on the Green as part of a High School fundraiser. This event was organized by Hillary Sieber and benefited Camp Sunshine, a camp for children with life-threatening illnesses. The Town Green was once again a place for residents to come together and demonstrate their willingness to participate in charitable and worthwhile causes.

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 in an amazing group effort rivaling Santa's workshop.

We would again like to thank all of the many Garden Club members and other residents who donate their time and knowledge towards the betterment of our surroundings. 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 gardens, planters and landscaped areas around town that all deserve our applause.

Throughout the year assistance was given to and received from other Town departments including Highway, Water, Recreation, and Schools.

For information regarding Weston's cemeteries please contact William O'Neil at 781-893-1263 Ext. 16.

The department's fiscal year 2007 statistics are as follows:

Interments - 63

Casket - 34

Cremation - 29

Interment Fees Collected - \$32,900.00

Lot Sale Fees Collected

Perpetual Care Trust Fund - \$12,110.00

Sale of Lots Fund - \$18,190.00

Town Clerk Recording Fees - \$55.00

Memorials

Monuments - 17

Markers - 22

Fees Collected - \$6,020.00

Total Cemetery Revenue - \$69,275.00

Solid Waste and Recycling Division

Our monthly recycling rates ranged from 33% to 48% with an average of 39% during fiscal year 2007. In fiscal year 2007, the average cost to process recycled product was \$15.80 per ton, a decrease of \$6.02 per ton from fiscal year 2006. The average cost to process our solid waste was \$133.07 per ton, an increase of \$5.50 per ton from fiscal year 2006. One thousand six hundred two (1,602) tons of material was removed from the waste stream by recycling. During fiscal year 2007 recycling generated \$24,108 in revenue and saved a total of \$187,840 in avoided disposal costs. Recycling not only helps to protect and preserve our environment, but also reflects a huge cost savings to the Town.

This year the DPW has embarked on an initiative to collect recyclable products from municipal and school buildings and process them through the Transfer Station. By doing so we help to ensure that these materials are removed from the waste stream and processed according to DEP regulations while at the same time lowering overall disposal costs and increasing the town's recycling rate.



The annual household hazardous waste collection day will be held in the spring of 2008. The next collection day will be held on Saturday, April 12, 2008 at the Department of Public Works, 190 Boston Post Road By-Pass (Route 20), from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. This event is open to Weston residents only. Commercial and industrial wastes will not be accepted. For information please call the Department of Public Works at (781) 893-1263.

Residential yard waste is now being collected at the Transfer Station as an added convenience to residents. All residents are welcome to recycle at no charge with a recycling permit attainable at Town Hall. An annual fee and permit covers the disposal of Solid Waste. The Transfer Station off of Church Street accommodates all residential trash disposal needs. You may recycle the following: glass containers, newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, all metals, tin cans, deposit containers, plastic, brush, leaves, grass and other yard trimmings. We also provide a collection area for televisions, computer monitors, and components as well as fluorescent light bulbs per DEP mandate. Donated clothing and household goods for Pine Street Inn and Goodwill Industries are accepted at the Transfer Station as well. Removing these items from the 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.

Thank you to all individuals and families that continue to recycle. Our recycling program is a success because of your enthusiastic effort!

School and youth groups received tours of the Transfer Station and Recycling Facility. Interested organizations or individuals should call the Department of Public Works office at (781) 893-1263.

The Division's statistics for fiscal year 2007 are as follows:

Solid Waste and Recycling Revenue

Resident Permit Sales	\$305,456
Recycling Proceeds	\$ 24,108

Total Solid Waste & Recycling \$329,564

Materials Processed at the Transfer Station

Total Solid Waste 2,512 Tons

Total Recycled 1,602 Tons

Total Materials 4,114 Tons

Water Division

The Water Division is responsible for supplying water to 3,600 customers in the Town of Weston. The four individuals that make up the division maintain 106 miles of water main, 944 hydrants, a pump facility and four water storage tanks that store 2,721,000 gallons of water supplied by the Massachusetts Resource Authority. On July 27, 2005 the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant in Marlborough, MA went online to provide ozone treatment as the primary disinfectant and chloramines for residual disinfection to our drinking water. This enabled the Town to discontinue its own treatment at the Wellesley Street Pumping Station.

Operational highlights of the year include:

- Emergency repair of five water main breaks
- The addition of ten house service lines to the system
- The replacement of ten old deficient hydrants in various locations
- Assisted homeowners in locating and repairing eight service leaks
- Installation of 465 feet of 12 inch water main and two fire hydrants on Ash Street for a subdivision
- Installation of 375 feet of 8 inch water main off Ash Street
- A comprehensive leak detection survey of the entire town was performed to find undetected leaks and to reduce unaccounted for water
- A comprehensive hydrant flushing program was performed whereas approximately three million gallons of water were expended in order to remove naturally occurring sediments, which if left in water mains over time could cause taste, odor and turbidity problems
- Performed DIG-SAFE mark out work to over 1,400 locations in the town
- Continued the cross connection control and prevention maintenance program as required by Department of Environmental Protection in which 254 tests were performed on 171 facilities
- An aggressive meter change out schedule to replace older meters with new computer compatible models continued
- A new water fee schedule was instituted on July 1, 2007 for new water connections based on size, water renewals, and inspections
- Maintained and painted 900 fire hydrants as part of the annual hydrant maintenance program
- During the past year the water supply passed all DEP and EPA required water quality tests including lead and copper testing and weekly coliform testing

During 2007, the Town of Weston consumed 661,141,100 gallons of water, an increase of 130,773,481 gallons from the previous year. The daily average consumed was 1,811,345 gallons of water. The greatest amount of water pumped in one day during 2007 was 4,717,600 gallons pumped on September 3rd.

The Water Division responds to all water system emergencies including system leaks, loss of service, poor water quality and low water pressure. The water division employees also serve the community during snow and ice emergencies.

Tree Warden

The role and powers of a Tree Warden are defined under Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 87, Sections 1-13 and is 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 Board of Selectmen 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 also 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 2007 the Town of Weston was designated a "Tree City USA" by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the fourth straight year. On April 27, 2007 the Town held its' fifth annual Arbor Day celebration by planting seven trees at the Country School.

During 2007, NSTAR continued its ongoing program of trimming and removing dead and diseased trees around utility wires in order to reduce the number of recent power outages caused by fallen trees and branches. A tree hearing was held on December 12, 2006 with the Board of Selectmen for the removal of 34 hazardous trees on non-scenic roads and all were approved and eventually removed.

Pruning of trees on various streets by the Town's contractor occurred during the past year as well in order to remove dead and/or broken limbs hanging over public ways. This work is not only essential to the health of the trees but also ensures public safety. 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 also grateful to the employee's of the Highway Division of the Public Works Department for its' hard work and commitment during all hours and weather conditions in order to address emergency tree problems.