

Town of Weston

Department of Public Works



The 2015 paving management study concluded that the Town needed to invest \$15.6 million towards its road infrastructure in order to bring them back to appropriate conditions. The fiscal year 2016 budget provided a modest increase of \$250,000 for the Public Works Department to tackle its first year of comprehensive road repair – from asphalt, curbing, sidewalks, gas leaks, hydrants, and drainage. The 2016 paving season addressed portions of Wellesley Street, Winter Street and North Avenue, Silver Hill Road, Westland Road, Buttonwood Lane, Ware Street, and Blueberry Hill. The Department is coordinating its paving program with National Grid in order to get gas main replacements in before the roads are scheduled to be paved, as well as with the two state projects on Route 30 and Route 20. Funding will slowly increase over the coming fiscal years to bring the annual funding level of \$1.5 million.

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



The MassDEP Public Water System Awards Program recognized Weston's outstanding performance in protecting and supplying safe and fit water to residents for the second consecutive year

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 Board of Selectmen, 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 2015-2016 the Town of Weston received over 35 inches of snow. The season's largest snow event occurred during Friday, February 5th to Saturday, February 6th in which Weston received eight inches of snow. The winter snow operations included five major plowing events plus

four scraping events and 27 road de-icing events while expending \$447,035 to keep the Town's roads and walkways safe.

Construction Projects

Road Paving – Reconstruction projects completed during the 2016 paving season were Wellesley Street, from the high school driveway to just north of Radcliffe Road; North Avenue, from Viles Street to Lexington Street; Silver Hill Road; Westland Road; Buttonwood Lane; Ware Street; Blueberry Hill; Winter Street, from Brown Street to Dickson Lane; 1,450 linear feet of Route 30 (South Avenue); and 1,000 linear feet of Wellesley Street to binder as part of the Wellesley Street / Route 30 Signal Improvement Project. Additionally, the Town coordinated with the state on the resurfacing of several state roadways including: Park Road, from the railroad bridge to the Charles River bridge; a portion of Recreation Road; South Avenue at the I-95 interchange; River Road, from the I-95 interchange to just past Norumbega Road; Norumbega Road to the Waltham town line; and Route 20, from the Wayland town line to School Street. The above resurfacing work amounted to approximately 4.3 miles, or 9.5 lane miles, of Town roadway and approximately 4 miles, or 9 lane miles, of state roadway.

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 2016 construction season included gas main replacements on Bogle Street, from Sherburn Circle to house number 107; Buttonwood Lane; Ware Street; Blueberry Hill; Boston Post Road, from School Street to Linwood Avenue; Town House Road; Church Street, from Boston Post Road to Town House Road; Old Road; Hilltop Road; and Pigeon Hill Road, from house number 70 to Old Road. The above amounted to approximately 2.35 miles of gas main replaced, which included 135 services being replaced.

Sidewalk Reconstructions and Construction – Reconstruction projects completed were North Avenue, from Viles Street to Lexington Street; Silver Hill Road; Boston Post Road, from approximately School Street easterly to Route 20; approximately 1,450 linear feet on Route 30 (South Avenue); and approximately 1,000 linear feet on Wellesley Street as a part of the Wellesley Street / Route 30 Signal Improvement Project. The above projects amounted to approximately 2 miles of sidewalks. New sidewalks installed were on Brown Street, from Wellesley Street to the driveway of house number 150, and Winter Street, from Brown Street to Dickson Lane. The new sidewalk installed represents approximately .8 mile.

Guardrail Replacement – No guardrails were replaced this year due to time taken by the Planning Board to review the aesthetics of available materials. The Planning Board submitted its report to the Board of Selectmen late in 2016 and the Public Works Director is reviewing it against the list of needed replacements.

Drainage Rehabilitations – The design, permitting and coordination efforts are ongoing for Newton Street, Fairview Road, and Phase II of the multi-phase Southside Drainage Improvement Project.

Route 30 (South Avenue) at Wellesley Street Intersection Signal Improvements – This project is a state Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) project, which was expedited through our Town Engineer's office. A Town-hired consultant conducted the design and permitting in September 2014. The right-of-way easements were the responsibility of the Town, which were secured in September 2014. The project was advertised and bids were opened December 2015. Construction management was handled by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation and construction began in the spring of 2016. The project is partially finished with construction anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2017. The estimated project cost is \$1.8 million.

Water Main Replacements – The following projects were designed, permitted and constructed during the 2016 construction season: Boston Post Road By-pass, from Golden Ball Road to the Public Works building driveway, which included looping the water main from the Police Station to Linwood Cemetery; Old Colony Road, from Pembroke Road to Columbine Road; Ferndale Road, from Old Colony Road to Ridgeway Road; and Cedar Road, from Meadowbrook Road to just east of Farm Road. The scope of the projects included the replacement of the existing hydrants and water services within the project limits.

Approximately 3,165 linear feet of 8-inch, cement-lined ductile iron water main was replaced and approximately 130 linear feet of 6-inch, cement-lined ductile iron water main was laid.

Hydrant Replacements and/or Rehabilitations - 13 new fire hydrants were installed to replace older hydrants and 11 existing hydrants were rehabilitated to modern specifications during the 2016 construction season.

The following divisional reports contain our 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; implementation of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) program; and assistance to various other departments and boards. This division consists of the Town Engineer and the Assistant Town Engineer / Stormwater Engineer.

Capital Improvement Projects constructed in 2016 included:

- Water main improvements on Old Colony Road, Ferndale Road and Cedar Road, plus Boston Post Road By-pass and Linwood Cemetery to create a loop serving the Public Works and Police Department buildings
- Minor drainage improvements in several locations including Old Colony Road, Sibley Road, Highland Street and Newton Street
- The Wellesley Street / South Avenue Transportation Improvement Project, funded by Massachusetts Department of Transportation, was begun in 2016 and includes new drainage, road widening, full depth reconstruction, curbing, utility pole relocation, and sidewalk reconstruction. The project also includes new signal equipment and will be completed by the summer of 2017
- Roadway improvements on North Avenue from Viles Street to Lexington Street, including some geometric adjustments such as left turning lane on North Avenue westbound at Church Street
- The Black Oak Water Booster Station was installed and the Black Oak Storage Tank demolished
- Construction of a new sidewalk on Brown Street and Winter Street

Ongoing design and planning projects included:

- Southside Drainage Project Phase II
- Drainage and roadway improvements for Newton Street
- Drainage improvements in the Westland Road/Merriam Street area
- Merriam Street and Warren Avenue sidewalks
- Speed studies at the school zones on School Street and Wellesley Street
- Cook's Pond Pump and Dam Improvements
- Stormwater action plan to comply with new Environmental Protection Agency General Permit

Other activities and ongoing projects included:

- Traffic and Sidewalk Committee, ex-officio member
- Monitoring the Cook's Pond Pump and Dam project
- Oversight of the environmental monitoring at the former landfill
- Member of the Stormwater Permitting Authority
- Technical review of petitions for Grants of Location from National Grid and Eversource

The Engineering Division appreciates the cooperation and collaboration with the other Public Works divisions to make these improvements throughout Weston. It is a team effort.

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

- Road preparation and supervision for the full-depth reclamation, grading and paving of Silver Hill Road, Westland Road, Buttonwood Lane, Blueberry Hill, and Ware Street. Necessary signage and pavement marking improvements followed the road work
- Prepared and supervised the cold planing and pavement overlay of two sections of Wellesley Street. The first section of paving begins at the construction limits of the Route 30/Wellesley Street traffic signal reconstruction to the construction limits of the new traffic signal installation at Wellesley and Brown streets. The second section picks up south of the construction limits of the new traffic signal installation at Wellesley and Brown streets and continues to the south, ending at Woodchester Drive and Radcliffe Road. Necessary signage and pavement marking improvements followed the road work
- Prepared and supervised the minor widening, curbing installations, cold planing, and paving of North Avenue between Viles and Lexington streets. Necessary signage and pavement marking improvements followed the road work
- Worked with the Stormwater Division to rebuild and/or replace existing drainage structures listed on the 2016 Capital Reconstruction Projects, prior to the road reconstruction and any other drainage structure repairs/replacements
- Assisted the Water Division, as needed, with the installation of new upgraded water services, new hydrants, and replacement hydrants on the Capital Roadway Program
- Assisted the Water Division with the emergency water breaks and scheduled fire hydrant replacements



In addition to the above projects, the Highway Division maintained road conditions by patching potholes, and cutting back vegetation from the sides of many roads, as well as removed tree limbs hanging over roads and sidewalks in order to promote safe vehicular and pedestrian travel in town. The Highway Division responds to after hour emergencies such as snow and ice conditions, downed trees, and roadway hazards, such as potholes.

REPORT OF THE PARK AND CEMETERY DIVISION

The primary responsibility of the Park and 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 the perpetual care of the landscape. Staff within this division also cares for several scenic parks, the Town Green, and the grounds at many municipal 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 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. We also assist residents with choosing memorials, plantings, and any other specific requests they might have. It is our goal to help people in getting 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 well managed as possible.

Parks and Open Spaces

The 2016 Arbor Day activities included a most generous donation of new trees to Children's Park from the Tree Advisory Group in a continuing effort to improve and replenish the tree canopy in scenic areas of the town. The installation took place on a sunny spring day in a collaborated effort between the Tree Advisory Group and the Park and Cemetery grounds crew with Selectman Michael Harrity reciting the Arbor Day Proclamation. Weston has been honored by the Tree City U.S.A. award from the Arbor Day Foundation for 13 consecutive years.

In conjunction with the Public Spaces Committee, Weston Garden Club, and the Tree Advisory Group, we are pleased to have the opportunity to continue ongoing improvements and maintenance of the Town Green and surrounding areas. A current project is under way to install new landscaping around the Town Hall flagpole. In the spring, several unhealthy white pine trees were removed, revealing an open space full of potential for a display garden under the much more visible iconic flag pole.



Nesting red-tailed hawks and their fledglings were seen in Linwood Cemetery this year

Memorial Day and High School Graduation festivities on the Town Green and Linwood Cemetery were both very successful this year with the added benefit of sunny and pleasant weather. The Town Green continues to be the center stage for many community events such as the High School's Pumpkin Fest and Spring Fling, the Weston Community Children's Association Winterfest and Summer Kick-off, the Recreation Department's Summer Concert Series and Ice Cream Social, the Weston Media Center and the Public Library's Friday Night Flicks, and the Wayland Weston Rotary Club's Pooch Parade. We wish to thank all those who help to keep the area clean and beautiful for all to enjoy.

The drought of 2016 had a very noticeable effect on the appearance of all the open spaces of the town including the Parks, Cemeteries, and the Town Green. These areas were left barren and desert-like throughout the summer into early fall, with the Town Green being dubbed "The Town Brown." There was some loss of less healthy trees and shrubs due to the severe lack of water but for the most part landscape remained stable.

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. The Garden Club is also celebrating its 75th anniversary and in doing so was responsible for planting 750 Daffodil bulbs on the Town Green in the fall of 2016.

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.

The Division's fiscal year 2016 statistics are as follows:

Interments - 62

Casket - 31

Cremation - 31

Interment Fees Collected - \$29,150

Lot Sale Fees Collected:

Perpetual Care Trust Fund - \$12,300

Sale of Lots Fund - \$18,300

Town Clerk Recording Fees - \$65.00

Memorials:

Monuments - 20

Markers - 19

Fees Collected - \$7,300

Total Cemetery Revenue - \$67,115

REPORT OF THE SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING DIVISION

Per a recommendation from the former Recycling and Solid Waste Committee, and with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, a pilot Pay as You Throw (PAYT) trash disposal program was initiated on a voluntary basis to test the theory that Weston can reduce its waste and recycle more. PAYT is a system in which residents pay for the actual quantity of trash discarded, rather than paying a fixed fee per household. At the six month point of the trial a report was issued outlining the data collected from the program and an evaluation of the anticipated results for the 12-month permit cycle. After holding two public hearings to gather feedback on the trial PAYT test, the Board of Selectmen voted to discontinue the program as of September 30, 2016. Residents in attendance said they would much prefer to self-regulate their recycling and trash disposal without having to purchase a special bag.



New signage was installed at the Transfer Station to direct residents to the different recycling options available in order to help decrease the Town's solid waste tonnage

With the resident request to self-regulate, the Selectmen issued a challenge for residents to reduce the amount of solid waste disposed of at the Transfer Station and to increase individual efforts to recycle more. Weston ranks high in the amount of trash disposed per household, as compared to our neighboring communities. Pending state legislation may put a per capita limit on the quantity of solid waste disposal allowed per household, which may force changes to the method in which the town handles its trash unless there is a marked reduction in the near future.

Currently the average Weston household disposes of approximately one ton of solid

waste per year. Although there has been a slight decrease in recent years, there needs to be a stronger effort put forth by all to reduce trash disposal and increase recycling. The Selectmen and the Town have made this topic a priority for the upcoming year and beyond. New signage was introduced at the Transfer Station to better direct and educate residents. A web page with recycling information was established to inform residents of different types of waste reduction, such as electronics and textile recycling and home composting. A campaign on social media and through the Town's monthly e-newsletter was initiated at the start of the new permit cycle to further educate residents.

The Division is continuing 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 Department of Environmental Protection regulations, while at the same time lowering overall disposal costs and increasing the Town's recycling rate.

Fiscal Year 2016 solid waste and recycling numbers by comparison:

	FY16 (+/- from previous FY)	FY15 (+/- from previous FY)	FY14 (+/- from previous FY)	FY13 (+/- from previous FY)
Annual Recycling Rate	45.96%	45.74%	41.91%	43.55%
Recycling Rate Excluding Yard Waste	32.58%	33.69%	31.44%	30.58%
Average Cost to Process Recycled Product	\$36.56/ton (+ \$4.85)	\$31.71/ton (+ \$5.14)	\$26.57/ton (+ \$.43)	\$26.14/t on (+ \$6.81)
Average Cost to Process Solid Waste	99.29/ton (- \$5.16)	104.42/ton (- \$2.18)	\$106.6/ton (+ \$3.67)	\$102.97/ton (+ \$1.94)
Overall Processing Cost of Solid Waste and Recycling	\$70.46/ton (- \$0.70)	\$71.16/ton (- \$1.90)	\$73.06/ton (+ \$3.83)	\$69.23/ton (+ \$3.30)
Tons of Total Recycling Material	1,440	1,469	1,319	1,489
Tons of Total Solid Waste	1,693	1,742	1,829	1,930
Tons of Total Materials Processed	3,133	3,211	3,148	3,419
Recycling Revenue Generated	\$8,742	\$11,019	\$22,222	\$17,152
Recycling Savings (Avoided Disposal Costs)	\$90,331	\$106,804	\$105,520	\$113,655

In an effort to assist residents in recycling more, the Transfer Station provides many opportunities to help keep recyclables out of the solid waste stream:

- residential yard waste, such as brush, leaves, grass and other yard trimmings are accepted, as well as at the Brush Dump to accommodate spring and fall clean-up;
- a new designated area for electronics, such as televisions, computers and peripheral equipment, and small appliances was added;
- new signage indicating clothing and tattered and worn out textiles, such as old linens, drapes, stuffed animals, and old sneakers are accepted by certain clothing donation collectors;
- several charities accept household goods, books, and bicycles; and
- glass containers, newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, all metals, tin cans, deposit containers, and plastic, as has been the case for many years

Removal of 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.

The Solid Waste and Recycling Division's Revenue for fiscal year 2016:

- Resident Permit Sales: \$333,205
- Commercial Haulers: \$ 666
- Recycling Proceeds: \$ 8,742
- Total Solid Waste and Recycling: \$342,613

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 promoting Stormwater Management as prescribed by the Environmental Protection Agency. Responsibilities include street sweeping, catch basin cleaning and repairs, drainage system repairs, and the clearing of brush and debris from brooks, streams and waterways. The Stormwater Division also responded to snow and ice emergencies, as well as all reports of flooding in the Town.

Operation highlights of the past year included:

- Rebuilding and/or replacement of six existing drainage structures in connection with the Capital Roadway Program
- Rebuilding and/or replacement of existing drainage structures on roadways outside of the Capital Reconstruction Program
- Assisting the Engineering Division with problematic drainage issues throughout the town. The Engineering Division hired and coordinated contractors to complete the required installations or repairs. The Stormwater Division helped with the investigation of the problems and assisted with construction, as needed
- Pipe cleaning (jetting) and inspection of all existing drainage systems on the roads scheduled to be reconstructed/repaved
- Working with the Highway Division to prepare and execute the full-depth reclamation, grading and paving of Silver Hill Road, Westland Road, Buttonwood Lane, Blueberry Hill, and Ware Street
- Working with the Highway Division to prepare and execute the cold planing and pavement overlay of two sections of Wellesley Street. The first section of paving begins at the construction limits of the Route 30/Wellesley Street traffic signal reconstruction to the construction limits of

the new traffic signal installation at Wellesley and Brown streets. The second section picks up south of the construction limits of the new traffic signal installation at Wellesley and Brown streets and continues to the south, ending at Woodchester Drive and Radcliffe Road.

- Working with the Highway Division to prepare and supervise the minor widening, curbing installations, cold planing and paving of North Avenue between Viles Street and Lexington Street
- Removing approximately 140 tons of debris from approximately 1,500 catch basins
- Sweeping 92 miles of roadway with many of the roads, such as problematic low areas, Town Center, and the main roads, needing to be swept multiple times during the course of the year
- Worked with the Town Engineer, Board of Health and the Conservation Commission to eliminate stormwater, wetland and pollution problems
- Assisting the Water Division with emergency water breaks, the installation of new or upgraded water services, and scheduled fire hydrant replacements
- Assisting the Highway Divisions during emergencies and day to day operations, including the Road Resurfacing Program

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 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. If 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 2016 the Town of Weston was again designated a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for the 13th straight year. On April 29th the town held a special Arbor Day celebration at Children's Park in commemoration of the planting of a *Quercus alba* L. (white oak), a native tree that will provide a stately welcome to the center of town. The tree was purchased with Tree Warden funds.

In addition to the hazardous trees that were removed by the Town, Eversource, the Town's electricity supplier, provided a comprehensive tree pruning and tree removal program this past year. Eversource worked with the Tree Warden and the Planning Board on the removal of trees that were not only hazards to their infrastructure but also presented potential hazards to the public.

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 Park and Cemetery Division of the Public Works Department for their hard work and commitment during all hours and weather conditions in order to address emergency tree problems.



Eversource worked with the Tree Warden and the Planning Board on the removal of trees that were hazards to the power company's infrastructure and potentially the public

REPORT OF THE VEHICLE MAINTENANCE DIVISION

The Vehicle Maintenance Division is responsible for the maintenance and care of most of the vehicles owned and operated by the Town. In addition, this division responds to after hour emergencies such as snow and ice conditions, water breaks, and vehicle break downs. The four individuals that make up this division accomplished the following this past year:

- Performed the maintenance and upkeep of 61 registered Public Works vehicles, 20 registered Police Department vehicles, and 31 registered vehicles for the School Transportation Department. The funding for this work is a part of the Division's annual appropriation.
- Performed the maintenance and upkeep of four registered Recreation Department vehicles, one bus for the Council of Aging, one Building Department sedan, and six registered vehicles for the Facilities and Grounds Department. The funding for this work comes from the corresponding departments that own and operate the vehicles. The Division absorbs the labor expenses unless overtime is involved, which is then funded by the corresponding department.
- Assisted other public works divisions, as well as other Town departments, with the maintenance of small equipment such as lawn mowers, 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.
- Supervised the maintenance and upkeep of the Town's fuel station, which pumped approximately 46,000 gallons of gas and 64,500 gallons of diesel.

REPORT OF THE WATER DIVISION

The Water Division is responsible for the provision of safe and potable drinking water to 3,644 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, 962 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 in order 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.

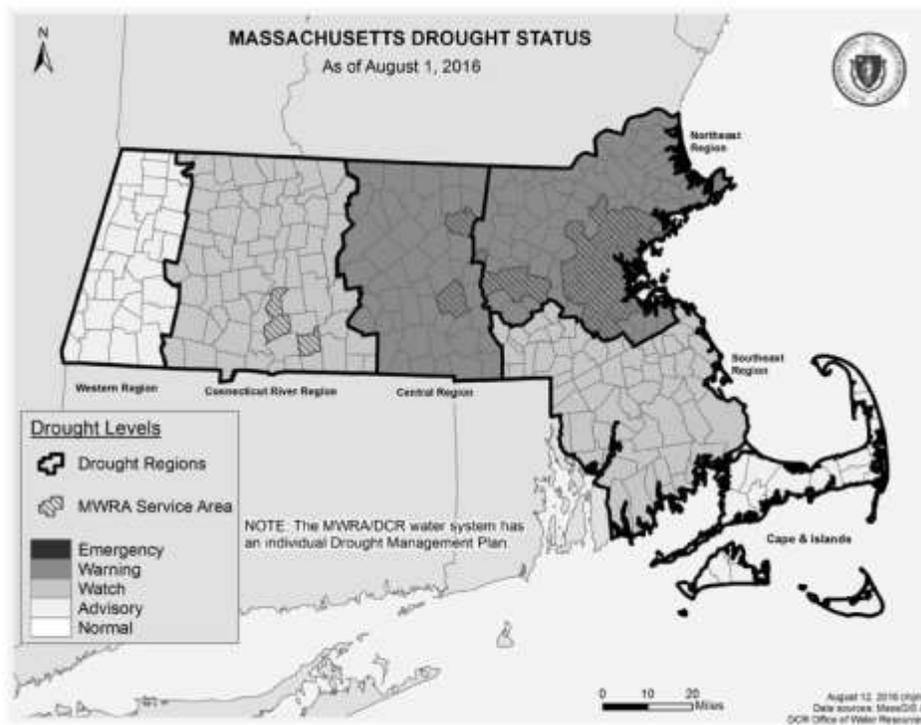
Operational highlights of 2016 included:

- Emergency repair of six water main breaks
- Replacement of 13 fire hydrants with an additional 11 refurbished or rehabilitated to meet modern specifications
- Working with a contractor to replace two main-to-curb water services on Newton Street prior to the roadway reconstruction project
- Performing inspections on the replacement of 3,165 linear feet of 8-inch diameter, cement-lined ductile iron water main on Cedar Road, Columbine Road, Ferndale Road, Boston Post Road Bypass and 130 linear feet of 6-inch main behind the Police Department, looping through Linwood Cemetery, as part of the Capital Improvement Program
- A full comprehensive leak detection survey of the Water Distribution System, which found 14 fire hydrant leaks and four service leaks that were promptly repaired and will reduce the amount of unaccounted water

- Performing pre-excitation Dig-Safe mark-outs to over 2,000 locations
- Continuing the cross-connection control and prevention maintenance program as required by the Department of Environmental Protection
- Upgrading over 100 water meters to modern metering equipment
- Adding one new fire hydrant on Buttonwood Lane to the system
- Installed new water sample stations at each of the three water storage tanks

During 2016, Weston consumed 786,950,000 gallons of water, which was an increase of over 82,557,920 gallons of water from the previous year. The average daily consumption was 2,150,000 gallons of water and the greatest amount of water pumped in one day was 5,450,000 gallons, which was on July 27th. This excessive use, especially during the drought conditions, caused a serious stress on Weston's water distribution system. The pumps could not keep up with the demand, which caused the water tanks to fall below safe levels. The Board of Selectmen ordered a mandatory water ban, which restricted outdoor watering to an odd/even schedule and during nighttime hours.

The Division collected over 120 bacteria, lead, and copper samples to ensure that the quality of water provided met U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection drinking water standards.



Eastern Massachusetts experienced a record drought with a cumulative deficit of over 18 inches of rain since 2015. This year came to a close with nearly half the state in the extreme drought designation. Weston had its largest consumption of water this summer, with the greatest draw in July, prompting the Selectmen to enact the Town's water restriction by-law, with further requests to residents to conserve water as much as possible