

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

The Department of Public Works is responsible for maintaining and operating the Town's capital assets (excluding buildings), including the roads and footpaths, stormwater collection system, parks and cemeteries, water distribution system, transfer station and the grounds of all municipal buildings excluding the schools.

During 2003 the DPW has planned, designed and permitted many capital projects. Of particular note is the resurfacing of South Ave. (Rt. 30) that was completed in 2003. Other projects currently underway are the reconstruction of Highland Street and the Landfill Gas Mitigation Project

2004 is shaping up to be a very busy year for public infrastructure construction with two major water projects planned (Newton Street and North Ave.) and the completion of Highland Street.

This work has been accomplished through the splendid efforts of our management team and the extraordinary assistance of our support staff.

The day-to-day work of the department is carried out by teams of highly effective individuals focusing their efforts on specific areas of maintenance and operations.

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 seven individuals that make up this division accomplished the following special projects this past year:

- Preparation of the road surface and supervision of the installation of a stone seal surface treatment on:

Baystate Road	Indian Hill Road	Plymouth Road
Bradford Rd	Kings Grant Road	Spruce Hill Road
Hancock Road	Love Lane	Summer Street

- Preparation of the road surface and supervision of a Nova-Chip overlay of a portion of South Avenue (from Newton Street west to just past Pine Street)
- Preparation of the road surface and supervision of the bituminous concrete overlay of Fiske Lane, Conant Road (Church to Woodward); and the milling, reshaping and overlay of Church Street (North Ave. to RR tracks), Loring Road and Woodchester Drive (Shady Hill to 400 feet west of Ledgewood).
- Supervised the installation of crack filling material for preventative maintenance on the following roads:

Chestnut Street	Wellesley Street from Town line to Case's
Glen Road from Cliff Road to Wellesley	Corner
Town Line	Westgate Road
Rockport Road	Wits End

In addition, 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 snow and ice emergencies as well as downed trees and roadway hazards (potholes).

Stormwater Division

The Stormwater Division is responsible for the maintenance of the Town's storm drains and waterways. This group is made up of five individuals whose focus is promoting Stormwater Management as prescribed by EPA. Areas of focus include street sweeping, catch basin cleaning, repairs to catch basins and drains and the clearing of brush and debris from waterways.

Operation highlights of the past year include:

- Rebuilding of 23 catch basins in various locations around town.
- The jetting of 33 drainage systems.
- Removal of 323 cubic yards of debris from 1316 catch basins which were then treated with *Bacillus Sphaericus* to help prevent the spread of the West Nile Virus.
- Clearing of streams, brooks and waterways of brush debris from Highland Street, West, to the Wayland Town Line.
- Sweeping 87 miles of roadway twice, removing 2431 cubic yards of debris.
- Mapping drainage outfalls in the center and north sections of town using the GPS system.

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

Parks and Cemetery Division



The DPW assists with Arbor Day Tree Planting at Cases Corner

The Parks and Cemetery Division is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Town's cemeteries and parks. In addition, the four members of this division maintain the grounds of all Town buildings (excluding schools). This past year special attention was given to the maintenance of the trees in the parks and cemeteries. Extensive pruning and trimming took place that will improve the overall health of the trees.

The annual program of pruning trees in the cemeteries and scenic parks of the Town continues. Caring for the older trees by removing deadwood and precarious limbs promotes overall health and safety while ensuring that these areas remain the picturesque settings to which we have become accustomed.

The Board of Selectmen formed the Traffic Island Committee, consisting of members from each of Weston's three garden clubs along with a representative of the Department of Public Works. This group will identify traffic islands within the town to be revitalized with new plant materials in-

cluding perennial flowers and ornamental grasses. The committee will identify businesses and organizations interested in sponsoring the replanting and maintenance of these islands.

A local arborist company donated two days of specialized pruning of trees around the Town Green. This served as a learning experience for their employees in the art of caring for mature ornamental trees, as well as improving the appearance and health of the landscape. We are grateful for their time and assistance.

Many of the old fieldstone walls surrounding the historic parks and cemeteries along the Post Road and Fiske Lane were repaired this year. The department recommended the posting of Fiske Lane as one-way to help stem the tide of the deterioration of these beautiful, historic features.

The staff also assisted the Garden Club with Greens Day, in which trimmings are taken from Yews and Hemlocks on Town property and turned into the lovely holiday wreaths seen on Town Hall and other municipal buildings at holiday time.

Tours of Weston’s cemeteries and parks are offered by request by calling the Department of Public Works Cemetery office at 781-893-1263 ext. 16.

Cemetery Statistics for Fiscal Year 2003

Interments:	\$25,225	Foundations:	3,240
Cremations	26	Markers	21
Casket Burials	31	Monuments	9
Sale of Cemetery Lots: *	\$ 12,640	Total Cemetery Revenue:	\$ 41,105

Solid Waste and Recycling Division

The Solid Waste and Recycling Division comprised of three individuals operate the Transfer Station and Brush Dump. The Transfer Station is open four days a week and the Brush Dump is open on Thursdays.

For 2003, our monthly recycling rates ranged from 31% to 49% with an average of 41%. In fiscal year 2003, the average cost to process recycled product was \$21.48 per ton, a decrease of \$0.49 per ton from fiscal year 2002. The average cost to process solid waste was \$116.06 per ton, an increase of \$0.60 per ton from fiscal year 2002. One thousand seven hundred thirty (1730) tons of material was removed from the waste stream by recycling. During fiscal year 2003 recycling generated \$6,988 in revenue and saved a total of \$163,606 in avoided disposal costs. Recycling is tremendous cost avoidance for the Town with the added potential of some revenue.

The annual household hazardous waste collection day was not held. I will now be held in the spring instead of the fall.

Annual Permits are required for the disposal of Solid Waste at the Transfer station. All residents are welcome to recycle at no charge. Yard waste is also collected at the Transfer Station as an added convenience to residents the Transfer Station is located off of Church Street. We offer recycling for the following items: glass containers, newspaper, mixed paper, cardboard, all metals, tin cans, deposit containers, plastic, brush, logs, leaves, grass and other yard trimmings. We also provide a collection area for televisions and computer monitors. Donated clothing and household goods for Pine Street Inn and Goodwill Industries are accepted at the Transfer Station as well.

* Consisting of \$7,500 added to the Sale of Lots Fund, \$5,100 added to the Perpetual Care Trust Fund and \$40 paid to the Town Clerk.

Remember that removing recyclables from the waste stream will result in reduction of costs to the Town. We also benefit by promoting 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!

Tours of our facilities are encouraged and can be arranged by contacting the Department of Public Works at 781-893-1263.

Solid Waste and Recycling Statistics:

Solid Waste and Recycling Revenue		Total Collections at the Transfer Station	
Resident Permit Sales	\$ 305,912	Solid Waste	2,481 Tons
Other	1,177	Recycling	<u>1,730 Tons</u>
Recycling Proceeds	<u>6,988</u>	Total	4,211 Tons
Total	\$ 314,077		

Town Engineer

The Town Engineer has been involved in the planning, design and construction of numerous projects during 2003. Some of the projects are listed below.

Construction:

- Highland Street Drainage Improvements and Roadway Reconstruction
- Salt Shed Construction and Site Development

Design:

- Case's Campus Vehicular/Pedestrian Improvements
- Newton Street Water Main Improvements

Planning & Study:

- Ledgewood/Shady Hill/ Pond Brook Drainage Improvements
- North Ave Water Main Replacement
- DPW Noise Assessment
- GIS Needs Assessment

Stormwater Management:

- Filed Notice of Intent with EPA and received general permit coverage under Phase II stormwater program.
- Began best management practices for year one minimum control measures. Updated Stormwater Regulations at May 2003 Town Meeting.

DPW Environmental Audit follow-up

- Underground fuel oil storage tanks removed and replaced with aboveground tanks.
- Floor drains sealed and leaching pits removed and decontaminated.

In 2004 we plan to begin the implementation of the Town-wide Geographic Information System (GIS), and continue supporting ongoing DPW capital projects.

Water Division

The Water Division is responsible for supplying water to 3,567 customers in the Town of Weston. The three individuals that make up this division maintain 116 miles of water main, 934 hydrants, a pump facility and four water storage tanks that store 2,721,000 gallons of water purchased from the MWRA.

Major activities for the year included:

- Emergency repair of six water main breaks;
- The replacement of 19 old and deficient hydrants in various locations;
- A comprehensive leak detection survey of the entire underground piping system resulting in the discovery of two small leaks, which were repaired;
- Assistance to homeowner in locating and repairing ten service leaks.

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

Water Division: Statistical Report

	2002	2003
Miles, water mains, Beginning	106.61	105.01
Miles, added & eliminated (net)	(1.60)	0.16
Miles of mains, Ending	105.01	105.17
House services, Beginning	3,543	3,356
House services, Added	14	11
House services, Ending	3,557	3,567
Public hydrants, Beginning	925	932
Public hydrants, Added	10	2
Public hydrants, Abandoned	3	0
Public hydrants, Ending	932	934
Water purchased, MWRA (gals)	617,424,600	549,923,600
Water purchased, (other)	3,116,984	2,358,444
Total gallons purchased	620,541,584	552,282,044
Daily average	1,700,114	1,513,101
Weekly average	11,933,492	10,620,808
Monthly average	51,711,798	46,023,504
Greatest pumped in one day	August 14, 2002	July 8, 2003
	4,997,500	4,139,200
Greatest pumped in one week	August 15-21	July 1 - 7
	31,456,300	22,891,600
Greatest pumped in one month	August	July
	116,722,100	93,219,500

Conclusion

The entire DPW organization wishes to thank the residents of Weston for their continued support over this past year. We pledge to carry on our efforts to provide quality, cost-effective service to the community in the upcoming year.