



December 2023

Durham Public Works

Winter Newsletter

Christmas Tree Collection

Public Works Crews will be collecting Christmas trees that are placed curbside during the week of January 8th beginning at 7:00am. Crews will make one pass down each roadway. Trees will also be accepted at the Transfer Station on Tuesday's + Saturday's between 7:30am and 3:00pm.

2022-2023 Winter by the Numbers

- 22 Storms
- 46.8" of Snow
- 16.74" of Liquid
- 2 Nor'Easters
- 10,300 Lane Miles Plowed

Durham Public Works

100 Stone Quarry Drive
Durham, NH 03824
603-868-5578

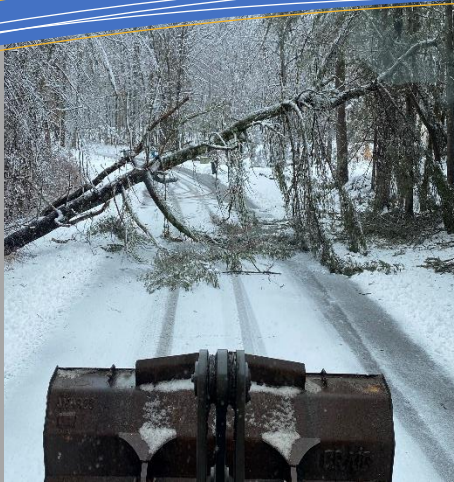
publicworks@ci.durham.nh.us

Richard Reine, Director

Samuel Hewitt, Assistant Director

April Talon, Town Engineer

Shannon Shaw, Assistant to the Director



Message From The Public Works Director

As the Durham Public Works Director and on behalf of the entire Durham Public Works Team, I am excited to provide you with the 2024 Durham Public Works Annual Winter Newsletter. As we reflect on the past year, I am pleased to share with you the progress and achievements of the Durham Public Works Department. It has been a year of dedication, collaboration, and continuous improvement efforts to enhance the quality of life in our thriving and vibrant community.

Over this past year the dedicated Durham Public Works Team has been hard at work improving Durham's infrastructure. This includes roadway, sidewalk and parking lot maintenance and reconstruction, stormwater, water and wastewater system rehabilitation, maintenance of the Town's fleet, facilities, grounds, transportation and traffic operation networks, solid waste and recycling management and continued development of our GIS program. The Team is committed to ensuring the safety and reliability of all our facilities and critical infrastructure systems consistent with the Durham Public Works Mission Statement. Your patience and understanding during these projects are greatly appreciated as we work towards creating more resilient, safe, and efficient infrastructure in Durham.

Durham has always been at the forefront of environmental stewardship, and Durham Public Works is proud to contribute to this legacy. In our continued efforts to promote sustainability, we have transitioned to primarily an electronically distributed newsletter. We encourage you to subscribe to the following link [Here](#) for Friday Updates that will include the Durham Public Works Newsletters upon publication. A limited number of printed copies will be available at the Durham Public Works offices, the Durham Public Library and the Durham Town Hall.

In the past year, working with the Administrator along with other Boards and Committees, including the Integrated Waste Management Advisory Committee (IWMAC) and Town Council, we have implemented several initiatives to enhance sustainability. This includes planning the transition of the Town's Solid Waste and Recycling Collection vehicles



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to more efficient and environmentally sustainable battery electric automated side loader trucks. This follows the receipt of a substantial grant funding to support this initiative - stay tuned for more information as this program rolls out over the 2024/25 calendar years. The Phase 2 restoration of the Wagon Hill Farm living shoreline and receipt of approximately \$2 million dollars in funding through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is another highlight among many, over this past year. We also continue to evaluate and source, as operationally feasible, environmentally friendly materials and equipment to be used within public works operations and infrastructure projects. Together, we are building a more sustainable future for Durham.

As we enter the winter season, our dedicated snow fighting teams are ready to respond to inclement weather. Our priority is to keep Durham's multi-modal transportation network safe and accessible during snow and ice events. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we navigate the challenges of winter weather together, while we work to maintain the highest standards of safety for all residents, businesses, institutions, and visitors in Durham.

As always, the input and feedback from the community is essential in our planning process. Durham Public Works has hosted several community and neighborhood meetings related to ongoing projects and programs to ensure that your voices are heard in our decision-making processes. We appreciate your engagement, and we look forward to more opportunities for collaboration in the coming year. If you would like to provide any suggestions or would like to see a topic covered in our next newsletter, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly by phone at (603) 868-5578 or by emailing publicworks@ci.durham.nh.us

Looking ahead in the coming year, we have exciting plans for further infrastructure improvements and initiatives, including the first phases of construction of the Madbury Road Complete Streets Project, several stormwater improvement projects, implementation of our 2024 Road Program improvements and the major component rehabilitation and replacement at the Town's wastewater treatment plant, to mention just a few. Our commitment to transparency, sustainability, and community involvement remains a key focus of our work. I encourage you to read this newsletter and to stay connected with us through Friday updates, the Town's website, and project story maps for updates on upcoming projects and events.

On behalf of Durham Public Works, I want to express my gratitude for your ongoing support. It is an honor to serve this community, and we look forward to another year of working together to make Durham an even better place to live, work, educate and thrive.

With Gratitude,
Richard Reine M.S.C.E., CA
Director of Public Works





MADBURY ROAD

COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

Culvert Construction Begins This Winter

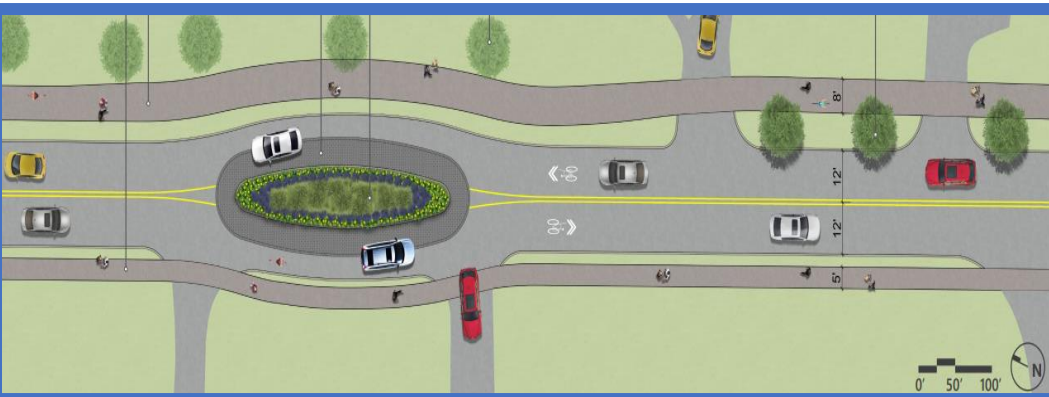
Durham Public Works and the Madbury Road Complete Streets Project Team awarded a contract to Severino Construction Company, Inc. in October for stormwater infrastructure improvements to the Madbury Road over Littlehale Creek and Edgewood Road over Littlehale Creek.

The Littlehale Creek culvert crossing under Madbury Road is a 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe and is approximately 67 feet long. A significant void was located in a section of the pipe and the concrete headwalls are spalling in several areas. Construction will include adhering a structural epoxy membrane liner to the inside of the pipe, as well as slope stabilizations and extending the length of the culvert's downstream outlet.

The Littlehale Creek Culvert crossing under Edgewood Road is a stacked stone box culvert that is approximately 32"x32" and roughly 72 feet long. The structure is significantly deteriorated with partially collapsed headwalls and missing and dislodged stones. This culvert will be completely replaced with a new concrete box structure. Edgewood Road will be closed to through traffic in the vicinity of the culvert for an extended period of time beginning this Winter to facilitate this project.

Additionally, Phase 1 Water, Sewer, Closed Drainage, and Roadway Improvements are expected to begin in 2024. Watermain replacements will occur on Madbury Road from Garrison Avenue to Maple Street, and on Madbury Court. Sewer infrastructure will be lined on Madbury Road from Main Street to Mathes Terrace, fully replaced from the Durham Public Library to Madbury Court and on Madbury Court to Strafford Avenue.

Streetscape improvements will occur from Main Street to Garrison Avenue and include the installation of an approximately 10' wide multiuse path on the east side of the roadway, new mid-block ADA compliant pedestrian crossings, decorative lighting, public shade tree installations, and a pedestrian overlook at the Pettee Brook culvert crossing. Furthermore, a full roadway reclamation and new bituminous asphalt installation will occur as part of this phase to address the significant rutting, alligator cracking, aggregate loss, and heaving occurring along this corridor.





Wagon Hill Living Shoreline Phase II Improvements

Durham Public Works will begin construction on Phase II of the Living Shoreline (LS) Project at Wagon Hill Farm this summer, pending receipt of final permitting and completion of final design. The Town was successful in obtaining in \$1,994,000 in National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funding this Fall to construct an additional 1,835 feet of LS. This project will provide space for marsh migration as sea levels rise. In addition, it will 1) Stabilize the rapidly eroding marsh 2) Preserve important community recreation space 3) Implement a landscape management plan to manage drainage 4) Address tree shading 5) Install educational signage 6) Guide foot traffic 7) Engage

the residents and students about the effort through community activities. This project will present a professional training opportunity at WHF and monitor outcomes. The near-final design, which increases the existing LS from 300 feet to a total of 2,135 feet, includes a rock toe/rock slope that mimics nearby natural rocky, salt marsh shorelines and native salt marsh plantings along with natural bank stabilization in steeper eroding areas, including native transitional tidal bank-upland plantings.



Mill Pond Dam Removal + Channel Restoration



A series of timber dams dating back to the 1600's were replaced by the present day Ambursen-style Mill Pond Dam in 1913. The citizens of Durham voted to remove the structurally deficient Mill Pond Dam on March 7th, 2022. Durham Public Works in conjunction with its consultant, VHB Engineers, was successful in obtaining \$3,537,201 in grant funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to restore the Oyster River herring run through the removal of the dam and the installation of a fish passage on the Oyster River reservoir dam further upstream. The Mill Pond Dam acts as the lowest barrier in the Oyster River watershed. It is located approximately 2.9 miles from the river's discharge into the Great Bay. Historically, the river herring returns to the Oyster River have been one of the highest yearly returns among all coastal rivers and is monitored by New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (NHFGD). The numbers of returning river herring have been declining since 1990 and are now less than 5 percent of those seen at the peak from 1990–1992. This decline is largely attributed to a decrease in water quality and water levels along the river and throughout Mill Pond, as well as impediments to downstream migration. Removing the Mill Pond Dam and installing a new natural fish passage at the Oyster River Reservoir Dam, the next upstream barrier, will substantially contribute to the restoration of this important fish run. Other sea-run species that will benefit from unobstructed passage include the Oyster River's declining American eel population and brook trout. Rainbow smelt, as head-of tide spawners, will also likely reap significant benefits from dam removal. The dam removal and river restoration portion of the project is slated to occur this summer, subject to receipt of permitting and favorable project bids. The installation of the natural fish passage at the Oyster River Reservoir Dam is expected to take place during the 2025 construction season.



Wastewater Treatment Plant Major Component Rehabilitation and Replacement

Durham Public Works and its consultant, Environmental Partners, will begin the rehabilitation and replacement of critical major components at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2024. Deferred maintenance of these components over the last 20 years has resulted in significant deterioration and an increased risk of failure. The project team is actively accepting bids for this project which includes the following:

- ✓ Installing two new rectangular chain and flight sludge removal systems for Primary Clarifiers No. 3 and No. 4, including selective demolition of the existing equipment.
- ✓ Installing two new circular suction header type sludge collection systems for secondary clarifiers No. 1 and No. 2, including selective demolition of the existing equipment.
- ✓ Installing new 8-inch and 6-inch stainless steel air piping and associated valves within aeration basins No. 1, No.2, No. 3, No. 4, including selective demolition of existing equipment.
- ✓ Miscellaneous concrete repairs at various locations.
- ✓ Stormwater collection and conveyance system upgrades (future phase).



Dennison Road Reconstruction

Durham Public Works will be reconstructing Dennison Road in 2024. This roadway is extremely deteriorated with a pavement condition index of 37/100 and is experiencing significant rutting, alligator cracking, aggregate loss, and heaving resulting in uneven surfaces and altered stormwater conveyance patterns. The project was intentionally delayed until the completion of ORMS to ensure roadway damage did not occur during construction. The project will include the replacement and installation of ADA compliant ramps and bituminous asphalt sidewalks from Woodman Road to Bagdad Road, drainage and sewer collection system infrastructure upgrades, and a reclamation of the entire roadway.





Frequently Asked Questions

- Why is the sidewalk in front of my house not plowed?
 - During very large snow events, it can be very difficult to keep sidewalks completely free of ice and snow. Most of this snow comes from the roadway. Durham Public Works makes every effort possible to keep the windrow of snow from the roadway contained to the shoulder between the road and sidewalk. This is not possible during a 6"+ storm events.
- My mailbox was broken by the plow truck. Am I responsible for fixing it?
 - Mailboxes on occasion can be damaged during the winter. Untreated wooden posts only have a life expectancy of 2 to 3 years and can rot at the ground becoming easily knocked over by heavy snow. Homeowners should check post conditions and mailboxes in the fall to avoid damage during the winter, ensuring that they are sturdy and back far enough away from the road so that snowbanks will not damage them. Replacing a rotten post is the homeowner's responsibility. Occasionally the snowplow may accidentally nick a mailbox. If your mailbox is hit during a storm, Durham Public Works will do its best to make temporary repairs after the storm ends. If it needs replacement, we will replace it with a standard mailbox when possible. Please visit [here](#) for additional details.
- Why do I have so much snow piled in front of my driveway but my neighbor across the street does not?
 - It is most efficient for the plow truck to enter your neighborhood from the nearest main cross street and plow each road in the development taking a right at every intersection. Both the front plow and wing plow span is 18 feet across, and a typical road is 24 feet wide. Homes which are driven by first will receive $\frac{3}{4}$ of the snow on the roadway.



Durham Public Works has created an Interactive Public Viewer outlining its policies and procedures for snow and ice control operations which can be viewed [here](#).



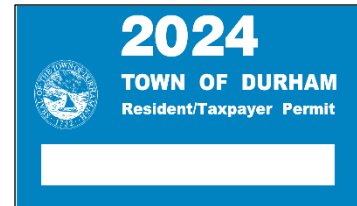
Recycling and Solid Waste Information

- ❖ The Raymond A. LaRoche, Sr. Transfer Station and Recycling Center located at 100 Durham Point Road is open on Tuesday's and Saturday's from 7:30am – 3:00pm.
- ❖ 2024 Transfer Station Permits are now available at Durham Public Works or the Town Clerk / Tax Collector's Office at Town Hall. This permit is required for entry and is available free of charge for Durham residents.

Durham Public Works has created an Interactive Public Viewer outlining its policies and procedures for recycling and solid waste operations which can be viewed [here](#).

Holiday Collection Schedule

- 1) New Year's Day: Monday, January 1st**
 - No collection on Monday. Delayed one day all week – Mon collection on Tues, Tues on Wed, Etc.
- 2) Civil Rights Day: Monday, January 15th**
 - No changes
- 3) Memorial Day: Monday, May 27th**
 - No collection on Monday. Delayed one day all week – Mon collection on Tues, Tues on Wed, Etc.
- 4) Independence Day: Thursday, July 4th**
 - No collection on Thursday. Delayed until Friday. No commercial collection Friday 07/05
- 5) Labor Day: Monday, September 2nd**
 - No changes
- 6) Indigenous People's Day: Monday, October 14th**
 - No changes
- 7) Veteran's Day: Monday, November 11th**
 - No changes
- 8) Thanksgiving: Thursday/Friday, November 28/29**
 - No collection Thursday – Delayed until Friday. No commercial collection Friday.
- 9) Christmas: Wednesday/Thursday, December 25/26**
 - No collection on Wednesday. Delayed one day all week – Wed collection on Thu, Thu on Fri. No commercial collection Friday 12/27.



2024 Fee Schedule

Bulky Waste and Construction Debris:

- Single Item: \$15.00
- Regular Pick-Up Load: \$30.00
- 1-Ton load: \$45.00
- Dump Trailer Load: \$85.00

Electronics and Refrigerant Containing Devices:

- \$15.00/Item

Coupons available for cash/check at Durham Public Works or by check only at the Transfer Station



2024 RECYCLING COLLECTION CALENDAR

	Fiber Recyclables: Corrugated Cardboard, Mixed Paper and Newspaper
	Co-Mingled Recyclables: Plastic, Glass and Cans

JANUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY						
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MARCH						
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24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30

APRIL						
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JUNE						
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29

JULY						
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AUGUST						
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SEPTEMBER						
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29	30					

OCTOBER						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

 INDICATES WHERE CURBSIDE SCHEDULE WILL CHANGE, SEE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE ABOVE.

 INDICATES WHERE THERE WILL BE NO COMMERCIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION.

***** NO CLOSURES OF THE TRANSFER STATION IN 2024, DUE TO TIMING OF HOLIDAYS.