



# Durham Public Works

## Winter Newsletter

December 2024

### Christmas Tree Collection

Public Works Crews will be collecting Christmas trees that are placed curbside during the week of January 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 2023-2024 Winter by the Numbers

- 13 Storms
- 32.10" of Snow
- 10.68" of Liquid
- 2 Nor'Easters
- 7,000 Lane Miles Plowed

#### Durham Public Works

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*Richard Reine, Director*

*Samuel Hewitt, Assistant Director*

*April Talon, Town Engineer*

*Shannon Shaw, Assistant to the Director*

*John Baker, Administrative Assistant*



### Message From The Public Works Director

As we reflect on 2024, it is with great pride that I share the progress made by the Durham Public Works Team and look forward to the upcoming year. Our dedication to enhancing the community's quality of life through infrastructure improvements, environmental stewardship, and community engagement is unwavering. This past year has been an exciting time of innovation and collaboration. As we move into 2025, the Public Works Team is excited about the projects, programs, and initiatives on the horizon.

In 2024, Durham Public Works successfully completed several key infrastructure upgrades including the 2024 Road Program and significant water and sewer system improvements. The Department's efforts involved constructing improvements at the Technology Drive water pump station, the Beech Hill and Foss Farm water storage tank mixing systems, our water system communication infrastructure, and the primary and secondary clarifiers and aeration tank upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant. These, and several other critical infrastructure improvements, ensure that our community's essential services remain reliable and efficient while protecting our precious water resources, including the Great Bay Estuary.

The Team also advanced several stormwater management and transportation system projects employing the exceptional skills of both our in-house Durham Public Works team members, and project contractors, to improve pedestrian safety, drainage and water quality, while reducing flooding.

Also of note is the outstanding work of the Durham Public Works Building and Grounds Team maintaining much of the Town's public lands and facilities. Over this past year we've worked closely with the Wagon Hill Farm, Bickford-Chesley House Project Team and look forward to continuing the design and restoration efforts of this important historic building rehabilitation project to preserve one of Durham's most significant historic properties for future generations.



### This Issue

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We continue to take important strides toward increased environmental sustainability with the upcoming transition to automated solid waste collection, using a battery-electric solid waste collection vehicle to reduce our environmental footprint.

These initiatives are just a few examples of the work that continues to build a more resilient and sustainable Durham.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be another year of remarkable progress. Over this upcoming summer we look forward to completing Phase 2 of the Madbury Road Complete Streets Project stretching from Main Street to Garrison Avenue. We will also begin construction of Phase 3, of the Madbury Road Complete Streets Project which includes improvements between Garrison Avenue and Edgewood Road. This transformative project will enhance safety for all Madbury Road users including pedestrians, cyclists, and drivers alike, and will improve infrastructure in critical areas.

We will also continue to advance the design and permitting of the Bennett Road stormwater management and flood resiliency project, utilizing a grant of over \$2 million dollars, secured through the office of Senator Jeanne Shaheen, while constructing the Wagon Hill Farm Phase 2 Shoreline protection work, funded through a \$2 million-dollar National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Grant. This work will ensure Durham remains resilient in the face of climate change.

On behalf of the Durham Public Works Team, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the residents, businesses, and partners who collaborate with us. Your support and feedback are invaluable in shaping our work. Together, we will continue to strengthen and improve Durham for all.

Here's to a safe, sustainable, and productive 2025!

Warm regards,

Richard K. Reine  
Director of Public Works





# MADBURY ROAD

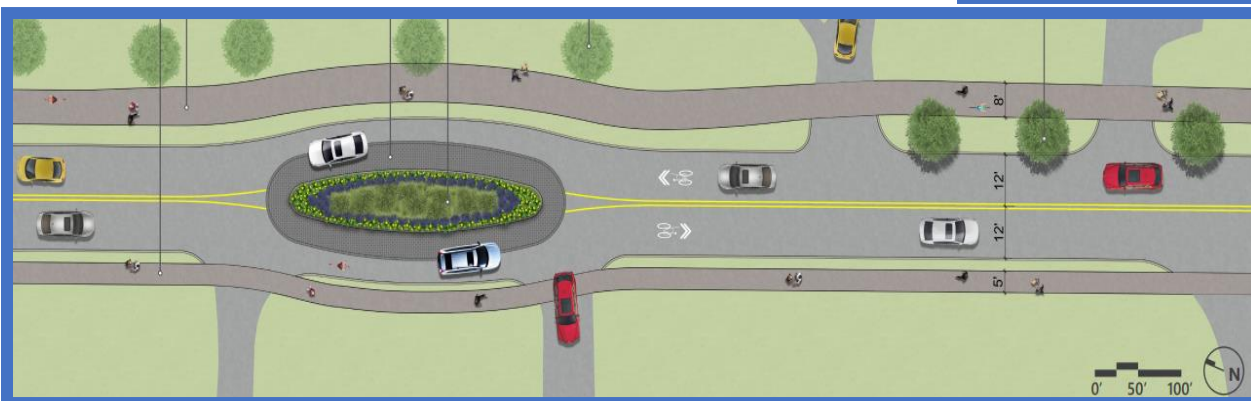
## COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

### Phase II Improvements Continue In 2025

Durham Public Works and the Madbury Road Complete Streets Project Team are nearing completion of construction activities on Madbury Road for the season. Punchlist items include the installation of decorative lighting assemblies and brick/cobble masonry construction within the multi-use path (MUP) amenity belt and pedestrian crossing curb extensions.

Construction is set to resume in the Spring of 2025 on the section of Madbury Road from Main Street to Pettee Brook Lane. An 8-10' varying-width MUP will be installed along the Eastern corridor along with sidewalk reconstruction on the Western side. A modified pedestrian crossing across Madbury Road at the Cowell Drive intersection will include a curb extension for enhanced pedestrian protection. Stormwater collection and conveyance system upgrades will also occur in addition to landscape improvements.

Additional phases are proposed to continue the project North and may begin as early as the 2025 construction season. These include watermain replacements from Maple Street to US Route 4 and sewer infrastructure cure-in-place lining from Edgewood Road to Hampshire Avenue as part of the Phase 2 Water and Sewer Improvements. Also included are Phase 3 streetscape improvements proposed to occur from Garrison Avenue to Edgewood Road. Improvements include an extension of the Southern terminus of the MUP along the Eastern corridor to Edgewood Road, a new 5' wide bituminous asphalt sidewalk along the Western corridor from the Durham Public Library to Edgewood Road, enhanced mid-block ADA-compliant pedestrian crossings at the Durham Public Library and Maple Street, decorative lighting, and public shade tree installations. Furthermore, the replacement of the existing traffic calming table will be replaced with landscaped center median islands aimed at calming traffic through horizontal deflection. Lastly, full roadway reclamation and new bituminous asphalt installation are proposed as part of this phase to address the significant rutting, alligator cracking, aggregate loss, and heaving occurring along this corridor.



## Automated Recycling and Solid Waste Collection

Durham Public Works began planning upgrades to its Curbside Recycling and Solid Waste Collection Program during the Winter of 2023-2023. The planning stage included a series of comprehensive audits targeting the network of approximately 1,900 collection points. These audits were designed to gather information on metrics such as program participation, quantity of disposed materials, recycling participation, and contamination levels. Further, discussions took place with surrounding municipalities that have successfully implemented an automated collection program for recycling and trash. Based on these discussions, it was determined that the average community with an established automated program can collect 700-900 stops per day with an aggregate material weight of 10-12 tons utilizing a single truck and operator. Based on the results of the curbside audit and combined with industry standards, Durham Public Works is projecting that their Curbside Municipal Solid Waste Collection Program could be completed with a single truck over the course of four-five days, inclusive of the conversion of the commercial recycling route to cart based automated collection.

The Department allocated capital funding in FY24 for the purchase of two new automated solid waste curbside collection vehicles, complete with uniform collection carts for each collection point. Included was funding received through the DERA State Grant Program to cover 45% of the cost of procuring battery electric collection vehicles and charging infrastructure. Route analysis software



from truck manufacturer, Mack, provided simulations of Durham's collection routes to assess the efficiency of using an electric truck. It was determined that environmental factors would limit efficiencies during certain times of the year and prevent the completion of a daily route on a single charge. For this reason and others, Durham Public Works will proceed with the procurement of one electric and one diesel collection vehicle for this program.

Durham Public Works is planning to host a few public informational sessions this Spring to introduce the program to the community prior to implementation. These will be advertised through the Friday Updates publication and on the Town website.

## Transfer Station Improvements

In addition to the changes to the curbside collection program, Durham Public Works will be completing improvements at the Raymond A. LaRoche Transfer Station and Recycling Center in 2025. The improvements include:

- 1) Ground-mounted solid waste and single-stream recycling stationary compactors with detachable and enclosed roll-off containers which will significantly streamline the waste handling process, resulting in more resource-efficient and sustainable facility operations. These efficiencies will result in a 65% reduction in trips to the landfill and material recovery facility.
- 2) A reconfigured disposal location arrangement complete with traffic paint markings to mitigate crossover traffic flows, the backing of vehicles, unnecessary pedestrian traffic, and recurrent bottlenecks at the current disposal locations.
- 3) Expanded parking capacity on the Northwestern side of the facility and designated parking adjacent to the Swap Shop for active loading/unloading.
- 4) Installation of Occupational Safety and Health Administration compliant protective barriers encircling the upper perimeter of the saw-tooth wall.





## 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 volunteers and



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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 a subsequent construction season.



# Wastewater Treatment Plant Major Component Rehabilitation and Replacement

## Improvements Continue in 2025

Durham Public Works and its contractor, Apex Construction, will continue with the rehabilitation and replacement of several critical major components at the Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2025. Deferred maintenance of these components over the last 20 years has resulted in significant deterioration and an increased risk of failure. 2024 improvements included the installation of two new rectangular chain and flight sludge removal systems for Primary Clarifiers No. 3 and No. 4, including selective demolition of the existing equipment. Also included was the installation of new 8-inch and 6-inch stainless steel air piping and associated valves within aeration basins No. 1-4, including selective demolition of existing equipment.

2025 improvements will include 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. Also included will be stormwater collection and conveyance system upgrades.



## Road Program

Durham Public Works has requested funding in fiscal year 2025 for reclamation treatments on Constable Road, Falls Way, Ryan Way, and Orchard Drive. These roadways are experiencing significant rutting, alligator cracking, aggregate loss, and heaving, resulting in uneven surfaces and altered stormwater conveyance patterns. Additionally, funding is requested for a mill and overlay treatment on Garrison Avenue from Main Street to Dennison Road.

Provided the department receives funding, construction will begin on reclamation candidates in the Spring. Neighborhood meetings for affected residents will be coordinated in advance to provide an opportunity to discuss the details of project and receive constructive feedback on certain roadway nuances which will aid significantly in the pre-planning process.



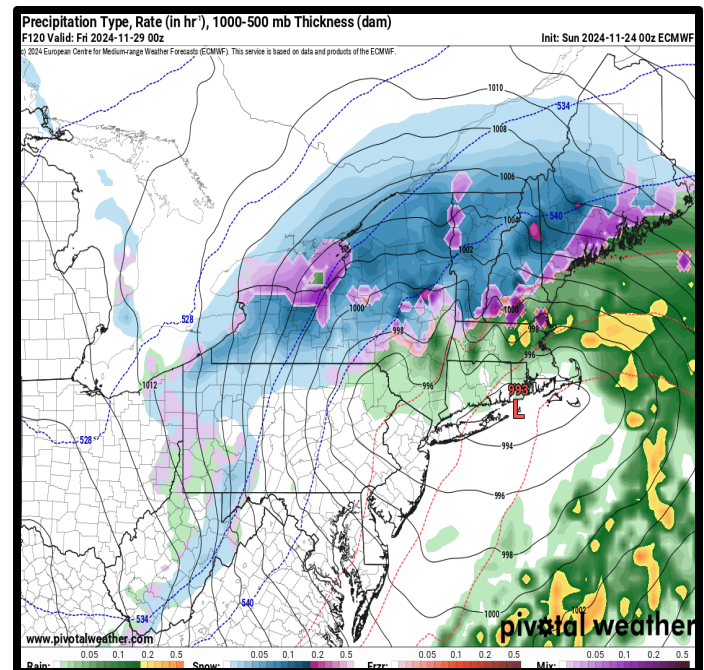


## Frequently Asked Questions

- 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 postconditions 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 that are driven by first will receive ¾ 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](#).

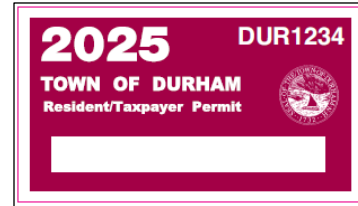


# Recycling and Solid Waste Information



- ❖ 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 7:30 am – 3:00 pm.
- ❖ 2025 Transfer Station Permits will be available at Durham Public Works or the Town Clerk / Tax Collector's Office at Town Hall on December 31st. 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](#).*



**RAYMOND A. LAROCHE, SR. TRANSFER STATION**  
Permit # DES-SW-90-008  
HOURS OF OPERATION: TUESDAY AND SATURDAY, 7:30AM - 3:00PM  
Please plan your arrival 15 minutes before closing. (SEASONAL EXCLUSIONS MAY APPLY)  
**A PERMIT IS REQUIRED TO USE THIS FACILITY**  
Town of Durham Residents Only  
Accepting Mixed Municipal Solid Waste, Source Separated Recyclables, Universal Waste, Used Motor Oil, Brush, Yard Waste & Compost. Unlawful Dumping Will Be Subject To Fine And Prosecution.  
Town of Durham, 8 Newmarket Road, Durham, NH 03824, 603-868-5571. Durham Public Works: 603-868-5578  
**NEW HAMPSHIRE The Beautiful**

## Holiday Collection Schedule

- 1) New Year's Day: Wednesday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**
  - No collection on Wednesday. Delayed one day all week – Wednesday collection on Thursday, Thursday on Friday.
- 2) Civil Rights Day: Monday, January 20<sup>th</sup>**
  - No changes.
- 3) Memorial Day: Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**
  - No collection on Monday. Delayed one day all week – Monday collection on Tuesday, Tuesday on Wednesday, Etc.
- 4) Juneteenth: Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**
  - No changes.
- 5) Independence Day: Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>**
  - No commercial collection.
- 6) Labor Day: Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>**
  - No changes.
- 7) Indigenous People's Day: Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>**
  - No changes.
- 8) Veteran's Day: Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**
  - No changes.
- 9) Thanksgiving: Thursday/Friday, November 27/28**
  - No collection Thursday – Delayed until Friday. No commercial collection Friday.
- 10) Christmas: Thursday/Friday, December 25/26**
  - No collection on Thursday. Delayed until Friday. No commercial collection Friday.

## 2025 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
- "Load" pricing includes 1 Mattresses/Box Spring Combination

### Mattresses/Box Springs:

- \$15.00/Unit (Mattress/Box Spring = 1 Unit)

### 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\*



# 2025 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						
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	

March						
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30	31					

April						
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27	28	29	30			

May						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August						
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					1	2
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September						
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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28	29	30				

October						
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November						
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						

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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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			

INDICATES WHERE CURBSIDE SCHEDULE WILL CHANGE, SEE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE.  
 INDICATES WHERE THERE WILL BE NO COMMERCIAL RECYCLING COLLECTION.  
 \*\*\*\*\* NO CLOSURES OF THE TRANSFER STATION IN 2025, DUE TO TIMING OF HOLIDAYS.