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SCHOOL STREET SUSTAINABILITY PARK

Summer 2023
By Judy Reeve

Sustainable Hanover’s Landscape Committee is pleased to announce that Hanover’s School Street Sustainability Park has grown into the inviting, open, natural green space that we had envisioned over six years ago! Heat, drought, monster weeds and then COVID made for challenging early years. The Park is within a few minutes’ walk of shops, banks and about two dozen restaurants, food shops and cafes. You will find it between #6 School Street and the parking lot behind Molly’s Restaurant and Town Hall.

The Goals of the School Street Sustainability Park are to:

- Contribute to Hanover’s resiliency to climate change;
- Create a healthy habitat for people, plants, and wildlife including butterflies, bees, birds, insects and soil microorganisms;
- Model sustainable landscape practices;

- Demonstrate native plants suitable for residential properties;
- Accommodate many different activities;
- Require as little maintenance as possible.

The Sustainability Park is more than just an open space—it is an oasis surrounded by nature. For example, on one peaceful evening, I noticed a mother reading a book to her child while they both sat on the Park’s granite Eastern Box Turtle (which was created by Vermont sculptor Heather Milne Ritchie). For people of all ages, the Park is an excellent green space for sitting quietly or playing, swinging and taking a coffee or lunch break. We’ve observed many people working on their laptops while sitting on our Hanover-designed and handmade benches or picnic table. Hanover Parks and Recreation Department sponsors periodic activities for young families here as well.

The Park’s flowering shrub and tree collection introduces visitors to specific native woody plants that provide beauty, shelter and food—nectar, pollen, fruit and nuts for pollinators, insects and wildlife throughout the year. Descriptive plant labels identifying species with their special attributes will be coming soon.

To meet low maintenance requirements, the Park contains only a few herbaceous plants. However, daffodils in spring, flowering shrubs all summer, colorful fruit and leaves in autumn create a diverse and interesting sustaining landscape. The park’s cheerful perennial plants include native Black-eyed Susans or Orange Coneflowers (*Rudbeckia fulgida* ‘Goldsturm’) and Junior Walker Catmint (*Nepeta x faasseni* ‘Junior Walker’). These perennials are deer

and rabbit resistant, attract bees and butterflies, and provide winter birds food.

I once heard an horticultural instructor declare that we should “feed the soil, not the plants!” In some ways, he was right. For instance, the use of natural, unadulterated woodchip mulch is a sustainable landscape practice worth learning about. In the Sustainability Park’s planting beds, Hanover wood chip mulch sustains and improves the soil’s structure and helps to create a beneficial environment for roots and the soil’s complex organisms. As the mulch decomposes, it improves the soil’s organic structure and reduces the release of carbon into the atmosphere. Mulch also maintains soil moisture levels, moderates soil temperatures, suppresses weeds, and prevents damage to tree trunks from mowers and string trimmers.



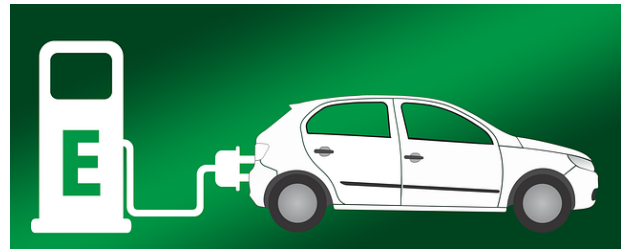
The park’s river-stone stream bed is a small model of sustainable drainage. Rain gardens and grassy rounded river stone swales (open channels that collect water from hard surfaces) help to collect stormwater coming from impermeable surfaces like roofs, pavement, sidewalks, driveways and lawns. They reduce the speed of the flow allowing some water to infiltrate or soak into the ground, supporting plant life and recharging groundwater. By slowing stormwater speed, the system filters out pollutants such as phosphorus, metals and oils and allows sediments to settle out of the water.

Come find Hanover’s School Street Sustainability Park

a mere half-block from Main Street!

The School Street Sustainable Park is a project of Sustainable Hanover’s Sustainable Landscape Committee. Park volunteers support Hanover’s climate resiliency efforts. Join us!

Contact Judy Reeve (judithreevelandscape@gmail.com) or John Sherman, Director of Hanover Parks and Recreation (john.sherman@hanovernh.org)



EV Expo coming to the Upper Valley

By Ben Steele

Thinking about getting an EV? Or switching to a different one? The Upper Valley EV Expo is coming to Lebanon, Saturday, September 30, 10 am - 3:00 pm. It will be held in the parking lot behind City Hall. This is a chance to see a wide variety of EV’s, talk with the owners and perhaps go for a test ride. There will also be presentations by panels of experts, ebikes, food, raffle prizes, and maybe Advance Transit’s new electric bus.

This is part of *National Drive Electric Week* and details will be posted on their [web site](#). You can also volunteer to help or display your EV on that web site, or just register to attend (not required).

Bring your neighbors and friends. Hanover already has 232 EV’s registered and we need to grow that number to reach the goal of 100% renewable transportation by 2050.



Styrofoam Collection at Kendal at Hanover

By Cindy Rand, SSAFE Member

We at Kendal began participating last year in the Styrofoam collection events conducted by

Sustainable Lebanon and Lebanon Rotary, and by Sustainable Hanover. We had alerted both residents and staff, and began collecting our Styrofoam in a container in one of the trash rooms. Deposits were collected in plastic bags and stored in an outbuilding, with support from our Facilities Department.

That worked out well for those first three foam collection events, but we soon discovered that the word was out, and deposits kept coming. We needed to have larger containers and another trash room site for collection. Thanks to a very committed member of our Facilities Department, a growing amount of packing material from that department was added to the residents waste, and even larger bags were needed to contain the ever-growing supply.

We had become a victim of our own success! We were running out of space, so in May we checked with Yolanda Baumgartner as to when the next event would be in either Hanover or Lebanon. Unfortunately there were no regular collections scheduled soon enough to relieve our space problem. So Yolanda sent me to Cindy Heath, the great problem solver, with the final result being that she arranged with Cornish to rent a U Haul to combine our loads for a trip to Gilford for processing in mid June. What fun to see all that Styrofoam loaded into the truck and know that it was headed toward a second life.

Now we just need to find storage until October!

Hanover/Dartmouth Community Yard Sale is Happening Soon

By Susan Edwards

Since 2010, 12 giant community yard sales have taken place in Dartmouth's Dewey Parking Lot in Hanover. The Sale is held on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend, this year September 2nd from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Over the years the Sale has become a popular community event with socializing and bargain hunting occurring simultaneously. Untold quantities of usable goods have changed hands as area residents downsize, empty out closets, attics, barns and garages of surplus stuff. Sustainable Hanover volunteers and Dartmouth's Sustainability Office staff work together to make this happen. For a

modest fee area residents and some non profit fundraising groups (no dealers) purchase a space to sell their goods and for the next few hours see their treasures find new homes.



The organizers of this town/gown event are grateful for the help from both the town of Hanover and Dartmouth College. It could not happen without this backing and the help from many volunteers.

If you are interested in selling, volunteering or would simply like more information go to sustainablehanovernh.org/



Late Breaking News Textile Recycling Bins Are Here!

Apparel Impact and Hanover have recently placed some of their bins around town so that you can clear out your textile waste and feel good about it. Look for the white bins located at the Hanover Co-op on Lebanon Street, the plaza at 45 Lyme Road and the Department of Public Works. For more information see <https://sustainablehanovernh.org/whoknew>

Solarize Pop Quiz

By Yolanda Baumgartner, Co-Chair, Sustainable Hanover Committee

Have you been keeping track of all the solar activity in Hanover? All told, solar systems in Hanover represent more than 5 megawatts of solar capacity. This includes 300 households that are using electricity generated by local PV panels. The Town’s rooftop and ground mounted panels meet just about all of its current municipal electricity needs. Dartmouth College has 16 systems, and more are on their way. How much do you know about all these renewable energy systems? Take this quiz for your Solarize IQ status!

1. The first PV panels registered in Hanover were installed by a resident on a Lyme Road property. When did this happen?
 - a. 2005
 - b. 2008
 - c. 2012
 - d. 2015
2. Do you know which street in Hanover has the most residential solar systems? (Hint: PV panels are not always visible from the road.)
 - a. Carriage Lane
 - b. Dogford Road
 - c. Hanover Center Road
 - d. Lyme Road
3. Which of these sectors account for the biggest share of Hanover’s solar generation?
 - a. Businesses and nonprofits
 - b. Dartmouth College
 - c. Residents
 - d. Town of Hanover
4. Who is responsible for the largest PV system in Hanover?
 - a. Businesses and nonprofits
 - b. Dartmouth College
 - c. Residents
 - d. Town of Hanover
5. The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 restored a 30% federal solar tax credit which now covers more expenses than ever. Which of these are covered by the IRA program?
 - a. Battery Storage
 - b. On-site preparation
 - c. Permitting and inspection fees
 - d. PV panels, inverters, wiring
6. Solar installers have noticed Hanover’s high interest in solar. A record number of solar companies now offer their services to Hanover consumers. How many solar companies have

experience installing permitted pv systems in our community?

- a. 4
- b. 7
- c. 12
- d. 17

Answers:

- 1.(a) 2005. These 18 year old panels are still producing electricity for their owner!
- 2.(c) Hanover Center Road. The other streets named are close contenders!
- 3.(c) Residents have led the way from the beginning. The Town is second. Dartmouth is third but with plans that will likely move them to a higher level soon.
- 4.(d) The Town installed two large ground arrays on Grasse Road. These are the two biggest solar systems in Hanover.
- 5.(a), (b), (c), and (d) are all correct! And batteries are eligible when installed to work with a pre-existing PV system. (NOTE – check with your tax advisor to confirm tax credits for the system you are planning.)
- 6.(d) There are 17 solar companies identified through the town permitting system. Email [Sustainable Hanover](#) if you would like the list. Please note this is NOT a vetted list. We have partnered with long-time local companies on past Solarize campaigns. We do not know the companies that are new to our area. We always recommend interviewing and getting quotes and local references from at least 3 companies.

How did you do?

- 5 to 6 right? You are a Solarize genius!
- 3 to 4 right? You have good solar awareness!
- 2 or fewer? No worries! The Sustainable Hanover *Newsletter* is a great way to keep up!



Hanover Community Power Update

The launch of Hanover Community Power (HCP) was featured in the Winter 2023 issue of the Sustainable Hanover *Newsletter*. HCP offers four electricity supply options with 23.4%, 33%, 50%, or 100% renewable content. Most members were automatically enrolled in Granite Plus (33% renewable) but were encouraged to consider to opt up to the 50% or 100% options. In July Sustainable Hanover announced that the utilities and HCP would be lowering rates for the 6 month period beginning August 1, with HCP's default rate still cheaper than Liberty or Eversource. The announcement encouraged HCP customers to consider applying the new savings to opt up CLEAN 50 or CLEAN 100. Based on early data, Co-chair Yolanda Baumgartner sent an email to members of Sustainable Hanover, “. . . if you are wondering whether our opt-up campaign since the initial launch has had any impact, the answer is YES! Comparing enrollments on Aug 1 vs May 30, the combined total in Clean 50 and 100 went up by 19% (combined totals from 137 to 163). Hopefully, these numbers will rise steadily as we move forward. Please consider opting up now by clicking here and then scrolling down to the section “Electricity Supply Choices.



Window Dressers Returns!

By Dennis Robison

For the third year, Sustainable Hanover and the Norwich Energy Committee are collaborating with the Maine-based nonprofit, Window Dressers (www.windowdressers.org) to make window inserts for Norwich and Hanover residents. The inserts are easy to install, remove and reuse. They let light in, keep drafts out, and reduce heating costs (on average, about 10 gallons of heating fuel per insert per year).

Those ordering window inserts will join other volunteers to build the inserts at a "Community Build," a barn-raising-style community event 9/28-10/4, at the Norwich Congregational Church. We are now recruiting Volunteers. No experience is necessary. Our previous Builds involved 80 customers and volunteers and were lots of fun -- turns out it's nice to work on a common project with other people! If you are interested in volunteering contact Dennis Robison (robisode@gmail.com; 603-643-2448.) or see the volunteer schedule and sign up online. You can learn more at <https://sustainablehanovernh.org/windows> You can learn more at <https://sustainablehanovernh.org/windows>

