



OUR TOWN

A Digital Newsletter from the Town of Dover, MA

Welcome to the November Edition of OUR TOWN!

Town Departments

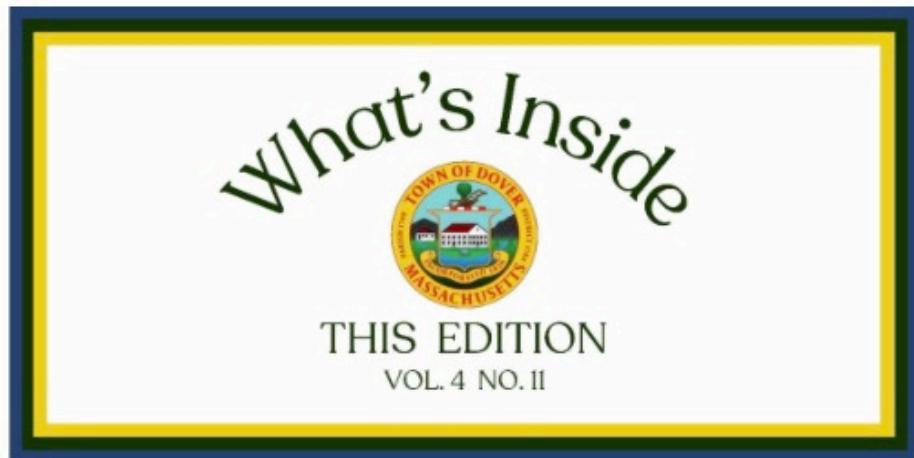
- Police Department
- DPW
- Chickering School
- Fire Department
- Parks & Recreation
- Council on Aging

Boards and Committees

- Planning Board
- Board of Health
- Historical Society
- Open Space Committee
- Town Report Committee
- Conservation Commission

If you are part of a town committee or department and would like to submit content for the May issue,

please contact
newsletter@doverma.gov



Welcome to the November edition of OUR TOWN! This month's issue is packed with updates from across the community. The Police and Fire Departments share important safety reminders, while the Department of Public Works has some exciting news to announce. Parks & Recreation and the Council on Aging invite you to upcoming programs, and both the Open Space Committee and Planning Board are seeking volunteers. The Board of Health welcomes residents to an upcoming public hearing, and the Town Report Committee invites photo submissions. Learn about the Sawin Museum from the Historical Society and read insights from the Conservation Commission on drought awareness. All this and more—read on to see what's happening in OUR TOWN!

Police Department



Ding Dong Ditch Message from Chief Joseph Vinci

Recently, we have seen a rise in calls for kids ringing people's doorbells and running away late in the evening and early in the morning. What may seem like a harmless prank could result in dangerous situations. Please speak with your children about the potential dangers of this behavior. There have been a few incidents around the country with these calls turning into something much worse and people getting hurt.

If you are a resident and get ding-dong ditched, please call us immediately, and we will send officers to respond.

E-Bike Safety Message from Chief Joseph Vinci

In response to growing safety concerns on local roads, sidewalks, and trails, the Dover Police Department would like to give the public some information on the safe and lawful use of bicycles, electric scooters, e-bikes, mopeds, and similar devices.

The Dover Police Department is committed to keeping everyone safe while also enforcing the laws that exist. While Massachusetts has yet to adopt laws that apply to all classifications of Electric Bicycles/Scooters, all bicycle riders are required to obey the laws of the road, and the Dover Police Department will enforce these laws.

Parents, we ask that you conduct your own research before purchasing or allowing your child under the age of 16 to ride an e-bike or motorized toy. The dangers on the roadways are more pervasive than ever. Even if your child knows the laws and is being a responsible rider, please consider they will be on the roadways with motorists who are more distracted than ever before. Please limit the roadways on which you allow your child to operate their e-bike and educate them on all traffic-related laws.

E-Bike Classifications Under Massachusetts Law

Massachusetts recognizes the following classifications:

Class 1: A low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and ceases to assist when the bicycle reaches 20 miles per hour.

Class 2: A low-speed electric bicycle equipped with a throttle-actuated motor that can propel the bicycle without pedaling but ceases to assist at 20 miles per hour.

The law does not define Class 3 e-bikes, a term commonly used in other jurisdictions and the bicycle industry to refer to pedal-assist e-bikes that operate up to 28 mph with a speedometer. Because Massachusetts does not codify Class 3, any e-bike exceeding the power or speed thresholds of Class 1 or 2 may instead be considered a "motorized bicycle" under G.L. c. 90, § 1, subject to registration, license, and helmet requirements.

| <u>E-Bike Type</u> | <u>License Required?</u> | <u>Registration?</u> | <u>Helmet Required?</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Class 1 or 2 (≤ 20 mph) | No | No | Under age 17 only |
| Exceeds Class 1 or 2 Limits | Yes (motorized bike) | Yes | Yes (All Riders) |

Where E-Bikes May Be Operated

Under G.L. c. 85, § 11B3/4, Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are treated the same as pedal-powered bicycles and are legally permitted to operate:

- On public roadways
- In designated bike lanes
- On shared-use or multi-use paved trails, unless restricted by local regulation

E-bike operation is prohibited:

- On sidewalks, unless expressly permitted by local ordinance (G.L. c. 85, § 11B)
- On natural-surface or mountain bike trails, unless signage or local rules allow it

Additional Safety Tips

- Always ride in the same direction as traffic
- Signal as you turn
- Obey all traffic signs and lights
- Do not wear earbuds while riding
- Always be aware of motor vehicle traffic around you

Thank you, as we all strive to keep everyone safe!

Department Of Public Works

Town of Dover Public Works Department Receives \$500,000 Grant for Dedham Street Culvert Replacement



Town Administrator Michael Blanchard and Director of Public Works Kevin McCabe are pleased to share that the Town of Dover recently secured a \$500,000 grant from the state's Executive Office of Economic Development to replace a culvert on Dedham Street over Noanet Brook. Replacing the undersized culvert will help improve connectivity within a cold-water fishery, and it will also reduce flooding hazards on the road with a larger capacity for stormwater.

The Dedham Street Culvert Replacement Construction Project will be put out for bid in early 2026, and the town is targeting summer 2026 for construction, which will be completed in an estimated eight to 10 weeks.

"This culvert replacement is a critical project for our community," said Director of Public Works Kevin McCabe. "The existing structure has long been in need of attention, and with this grant we'll be able to modernize the culvert to handle increased stormwater, reduce flooding risks, and provide safer travel for everyone who uses Dedham Street."

Planning Board

The Planning Board is seeking applicants for an Associate Board Member!

This is an excellent opportunity for those looking to get involved in shaping Dover's future, alongside an experienced Town Planner and Planning Board members who have accomplished much for the Town.

Most recently, the Planning Board developed and successfully brought to a Special Town Meeting a bylaw to comply with the MBTA Communities Act. The Planning Board has also written bylaws addressing construction noise, accessory dwelling units, solar arrays, and floodplain protection – making a real difference in town. YOU can be a part of that difference as upcoming projects take shape, such as:

- Providing input on Chapter 40B affordable housing proposals
- Conducting a diagnostic review of Dover's Zoning bylaws
- Managing the impacts of development on trees and open space
- Preparing to update Dover's 2012 Master Plan and 2021 Housing Production Plan through a community-driven process
- Partnering with the Dover Housing Task Force to create a toolbox of housing options
- Addressing the Village Center to revitalize and protect it

Applications are due by Friday, November 7th. After the deadline, the Planning Board will review all submissions and conduct interviews with selected candidates.

Apply by submitting a letter of interest and resume to planning@doverma.gov

Visit the Planning Board Webpage

Chickering School

Chickering School celebrated the many fall holidays with an all-school assembly last week. We learned and sang about Diwali, Unity Day, and the Plimoth-Patuxet museum. We played a Halloween-themed "Would you rather" game and sang patriotic songs such as "I Love the Mountains" and "1492".

Students and teachers are deep into their academic skills, as well as building community in their classrooms. Teachers are hosting conferences with caregivers to share student growth, successes and challenges.

Fire Department

Remember to Change Your Clocks, Check Your Alarms when Daylight Saving Time Ends

Daylight Saving Time ends soon after Halloween. This is a great time to change your clocks and check your alarms. As you go around your home changing the clocks, check the manufacturing date printed on the back of your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Smoke alarms should be replaced after 10 years, and carbon monoxide alarms should be replaced after five to seven years. Unless you have an alarm with a 10-year sealed battery, this is a good time to change the battery. Even hardwired alarms have back-up batteries that need changing.



The image is a graphic for the Planning Board Associate Board Member application. It features the Town of Dover seal at the top right. Below the seal, the text "Planning Board" and "ASSOCIATE BOARD MEMBER" is displayed. A blue box contains the text: "Help address long and short-term land use & development issues facing Dover through bylaws and regulations. Work with an experienced Town Planner, dedicated Planning Board members, and the Dover community to help shape the town's future and make a difference." At the bottom, it says "TO APPLY, SUBMIT A RESUME AND LETTER OF INTEREST TO planning@doverma.gov".



Winter Home Fire Safety – Keep Warm Keep Safe

As the Winter months arrive, the dangers of home fires increase. The members of the Dover Fire Department would like to remind all citizens of Dover of some of these hazards and provide a few steps to avert a fire in your home.

Heating causes thousands of residential fires each year. Heating equipment is the #2 cause of home fires in Massachusetts and the #1 source of carbon monoxide (CO).

Smoke and CO Alarms

Make sure there are working smoke alarms, test regularly, and change batteries periodically. Be sure they are on each level of your home.

Be Careful When Using Fireplaces and Solid Fuel Stoves

Use woodstoves and fireplaces safely: install approved units with permits, clean chimneys yearly, keep three feet from combustibles, use screens or doors for sparks, and store ashes in a metal container away from the home.

Space Heaters Need Space

Use space heaters safely: not as a primary heat source, keep three feet from anything that can burn, plug directly into a wall outlet, turn off when unattended or sleeping. Kerosene and propane heaters are illegal for home use in Massachusetts.

Maintain Gas & Oil Equipment

Keep furnaces and water heaters safe and efficient by having them professionally inspected yearly and storing flammable materials like gasoline or paint away from ignition sources such as pilot lights.

If you Use Gas Heating Equipment

If you smell gas or suspect a leak, leave the area immediately, avoid using anything that could create a spark, and call 911 from a safe location.

If You Use Oil Heating Equipment

Don't let the tank get completely empty. Call for service if the oil burner releases smoke or soot in the house.

Carbon Monoxide

Prevent carbon monoxide (CO) hazards by installing CO alarms on every level, never using a gas stove or oven for heat, and keeping vents and exhaust pipes clear of snow and debris.

Tree Safety

Set up holiday trees safely: choose a fresh or UL-listed fire-retardant tree, cut the trunk fresh, keep it watered and away from heat and exits, use a sturdy stand, turn off lights when unattended, and dispose of it promptly after the holidays.

Bright Lights

Use holiday lights safely: choose UL-listed products, replace damaged wires, don't overload outlets, keep flames away, never leave candles unattended (use battery-operated ones), and choose cool, energy-efficient LEDs.

Outdoor Lights

Safely install outdoor decorations by using lights rated for outdoor use, plugging them into GFCI outlets, protecting electrical connections, and securing all items with insulated holders or hooks.

Using Home Oxygen Safety – For Patients and Families

Home oxygen greatly increases fire risk—keep oxygen and tubing away from flames, sparks, and heat sources (like smoking materials, candles, stoves, or heaters), and avoid flammable products such as oils, grease, or acetone-based cosmetics.

Parks and Recreation

Spooky Saturday Recap – Thank You for a Fantastic Day!

Spooky Saturday, held on October 18th, was a great day with perfect weather, fun music, pumpkin decorating, and a trunk or treat. Thank you to everyone who came and to all the volunteers who helped decorate trunks. Your support made the event a success!



Winter Program Registration

Winter registration is almost here! Youth program registration opened on Wednesday, October 29th, so be sure to sign up to secure your spot in your favorite classes and activities. Adult program registration will open on Thursday, November 20th, at 10:00 AM – mark your calendars and keep an eye out for available programs on our website.

Pickleball Information at the Community Center:

Dover residents can reserve 1 hour 15 minute court time for free through December 31, 2025, at doverrec.activityreg.com/selectActivity. At least one Dover resident must make the reservation and participate, but non-residents are welcome to join.

Court Reservation Time Slots

Online reservation is required

- Tuesday Mornings: 8:15 AM – 12:30 PM
- Thursday Mornings: 8:15 AM – 11:00 AM
- Thursday Evenings: 7:00 PM – 8:15 PM

Drop-In Play Sessions

Beginner and Intermediate levels available – online reservation is required

- Wednesday Nights (Beginners): 6:00 PM– 7:15 PM
- Wednesday Nights (Intermediate): 7:30 PM – 8:45 PM
- Thursday Afternoons (Beginners): 11:15 AM – 12:30 PM
- Thursday Afternoons (Intermediate): 12:45 PM – 2:00 PM

For full details and schedules, visit our website or contact Dover Parks & Recreation.

Visit the Parks & Recreation Website

Council on Aging

Dover Council on Aging invites you to their upcoming programs. You can check out the November/December Newsletter with our full slate of programs. Some November highlights are listed below. Sign up for programs by emailing coa@doverma.gov or by using our Online COA Program Sign-Up Form.

BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Thursday, Nov 13, 12:00–1:00 PM Conference Room

With Gael Varsa, RN, BSN, Dover Board of Health

Check your blood pressure and get tips from Public Health Nurse Gael Varsa at the monthly clinics. Quick, easy, and important for your health!

COFFEE HOUR

Friday, November 14, 9:00–10:00 AM Community Room

The Senior men's coffee is back! Join us for coffee, a breakfast treat, and time to connect with fellow residents.

TALK WITH THE TOWN: FIRE CHIEF

Monday, Nov 17, 2:00-3:00 PM *Community Room*

Join us as we welcome Dover's new Fire Chief Gerard Smith! Come hear about the department's current initiatives, future plans, and bring your questions. Learn more about how the Fire Department keeps our community safe.

PAGETURNERS BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, November 18, 2:00-3:00 PM *Dover Town Library, 56 Dedham Street*

The Library Book by Susan Orlean

Page Turners is led by Dover Librarian Liz Fogarty. Copies of books are available at the Library. For more info, contact Liz at 508-785-8113 or efogarty@minlib.net

THE CAPTURED GARDEN: WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 20, 1:00-3:00 PM *Community Room*

Cost: \$25; Sponsored by Friends of COA

Join Deborah Trickett, owner of The Captured Garden, to create a wreath that will make all the other doors in the neighborhood jealous! Begin with a balsam base, add evergreen cuttings, and embellish with pinecones, pods, ornaments, ribbon and more. All the materials are provided. Bring hand snippers and gloves. You will leave with a beautiful one-of-a-kind wreath!

THE DOVER DEMON: UNCOVERING A LOCAL LEGEND

Friday, November 21, 11:00 AM-12:00 PM *Sawin Museum, 80 Dedham Street*

Dover Historical Society has a temporary exhibit about the Dover Demon. Join the COA for a private docent led tour to learn more about this local legend. Limit of 15 participants.

MEN'S LUNCH

Monday, November 24, 12:00-1:30 PM *Community Room*

Enjoy lunch with friends. RSVP by Nov 17.

Online COA Program Sign-Up Form

COA November/December Newsletter

Board Of Health

The Board of Health will be holding a public hearing on Monday, November 3rd, via Zoom, regarding proposed changes to the Smoking, Sale of Tobacco and Nicotine Delivery Products statute. Questions can be forwarded to BOH@doverma.gov or called in at 508-785-0032 x 232.

Click on the photo to read the full notice.

Visit the Board of Health Webpage!



Town of Dover
Board of Health
5 South Main Street
Dover, Massachusetts 02301

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given pursuant to M.G.L. c. 111, § 21 that the Dover Board of Health will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 3, 2023, at 7 PM via Zoom. The Board is proposing changes to:

Chapter 220: Smoking, Sale of Tobacco and Nicotine Delivery Products

The Dover Board of Health proposes to adopt The Massachusetts General Law, which would prohibit the sale of tobacco or nicotine products to individuals born on or after January 1, 2005. The adopted policy language is as follows: "Prohibition of Sales - No person, firm, corporation, establishment, or agency shall sell tobacco or e-cigarette products to anyone born on or after 1/1/2005."

The purpose of this amendment is to protect the health of Dover residents by reducing youth access to tobacco and nicotine products and preventing addiction in future generations.

Any person wishing to be heard on the matter should appear at the date and time listed above. The link to the meeting will be provided on the Town of Dover website. Comments can also be forwarded to BOH@doverma.gov prior to the hearing or you can contact the office direct at 508-785-0032 ext. 232. A copy of the proposed changes to the regulation can also be obtained upon request.



Historical Society

The Sawin Memorial Building

The Sawin Memorial Building was built specifically for the Dover Historical Society and completed in 1906. Since its completion, it has been home to an extensive collection of historical artifacts from and linked to Dover.

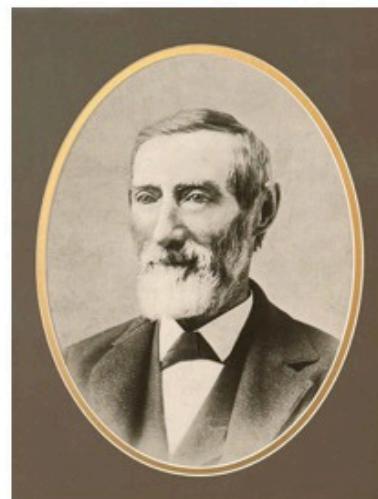
Benjamin Sawin, for whom the building is named, died in 1905. He left his estate, including his personal diaries, to the then-called Dover Historical and Natural History Society. This generous gift came with the stipulation that the Society would erect a museum and library and name it the Sawin Memorial Building.

There was nothing in his diaries to tell us when Benjamin and his wife Eudora decided to establish a museum, but looking at Sawin's life, his dedication to the town, his sense of history, and his records, it was a predictable course. Equally predictable was the thoroughness with which he planned his bequest. He set a time limit of two years for construction and specified that the name be placed on the front of the building in an "attractive and enduring manner". He also appointed a trusted committee of close friends: Eben Higgins, George E. Chickering, and George L. Howe, to help carry out his vision.

Both Dover Historical Society properties, The Caryl Farm at 107 Dedham Street and Sawin Museum at 80 Dedham Street, will be open on November 8th and December 13th from 1 PM to 4 PM or by appointment. To schedule a private appointment or group visit, please contact the Dover Historical Society at info@doverhistoricalsociety.org or call 508-785-1832



This watercolor depicts one possible design for the building that eventually became the Sawin Museum. The Society did not choose this design that Philip B. Howard & Walter P. Henderson Associated, Architects created, likely based on the size and cost. Both Howard and Henderson were Dover residents.



Ben Sawin

Open Space Committee

Enthusiastic about Dover's outdoors and natural land?

Dover's Open Space Committee (OSC) is looking for one additional member to join its engaged team of citizens for a one-year term. OSC members are involved with many of the governmental and nonprofit organizations that steward Dover's spectacular open spaces. Given this broad representation, discussions during OSC's monthly meetings cover many topics, from the desirability of preserving particular properties to efforts that encourage the use of open space by Dover residents (e.g., monthly walks).

To enhance our perspective, we would particularly welcome interest from residents with children. However, enthusiasm for our beautiful natural lands and genuine interest is most important. To learn more, please contact Amey at amoot@doverma.gov

Second Saturday Stroll in Hale

November 8th, 10:30 AM to ~noon

Please join us for a guided walk to explore deep into Hale's ancient past to the present, sponsored by the Dover Open Space Committee (OSC) in partnership with the Dover Historical Society (DHS). We will walk through Hale and sample a few of the over 20 miles of trails, which are interconnected Town of Dover's Larrabee Estate and Trustees of Reservations' Noanet Woodlands and Powisset Farm – a contiguous landscape of over 2300 acres of protected open space!

Guided by DHS experts, we will see several of the sites that indigenous peoples used, including where they quarried felsite for arrows and tools. We will also learn about the over 100-year history of Hale and celebrate the protection of Hale's land with a Conservation Restriction (CR).

Walks will not be too strenuous but will be over uneven and possibly wet ground, so wear appropriate footwear and bring bug spray, sunscreen, walking sticks, binoculars, and cameras. Polite dogs on leash welcome. We will stroll in misty rain to shine.

Parking & meet-up information will be emailed to registered participants on Friday, November 7th, and again Saturday morning before the walk.

Register Here!

Town Report Committee

DTRC Seeks Your Photos

Let your photography become part of Dover's historical record! The Dover Town Report Committee is seeking photos for publication consideration in the 2025 Dover Town Report. Themes include nature (flowers, wooded trails, farms, water scenes, etc.), wildlife, farm animals, architecture, landscapes, and 2025 Dover events and activities (Dover Days, library programs, school sports, theater, music, and club activities, Parks & Rec programs, concerts, races, Memorial Day program, Powisset Farm classes, etc.).

No fancy camera required! Good-quality cellphone shots (and drone shots) are welcome. If your photo is selected, you'll receive a credit line (and retain copyright). Multiple submissions are OK! Whether pumpkins on a stone wall, skaters on Channing Pond, or even a busy crowd at the Transfer Station, everyday sights make the report special.

Email questions to DoverTownPics@gmail.com. Please consider participating. We count on you every year!

Recycling Committee

Upcoming Events:

The Dover Recycling Committee and the DPW will host a special Styrofoam Recycling Weekend on **January 10-11, 2026**. Watch upcoming newsletters, the message board in the Swap Shop, and the Dover Facebook pages for more information!

REMINDER: Latex paint collection in the Transfer Station Swap Shop ends October 31st and will begin again on May 1st, 2026.

Dover Urges Food Waste Recycling

Halloween kicks off the season of food – lots of food! Help reduce the town's waste disposal costs by removing food waste from your trash and placing it in one of the drop-off barrels located next to the compost area at the Transfer Station. All food must be bagged, and while compostable bags are recommended, plastic and paper bags are also accepted. Acceptable items are food scraps, cooked and raw meats, tea bags and coffee grounds, fruits and vegetables, eggs, dairy, baked goods, and paper towels and napkins. **NOT ACCEPTED** are cooking oils, boxes, cups, cartons, yard waste, and recyclables.



And please remember to donate your clean, new, or gently used paper and reusable shopping bags to A F

Find Resources For A Drought

Did you know?

- Clear plastic cup with a plastic lid? All goes in the trash.
- Napkins?
- Paper towels?
- Paper plates?
- Clear plastic cup with a strawless lid? Empty, replace lid, and recycle.

The Conservation Commission is charged with protecting and preserving the Town's natural resources and open space. We are available to help you with any questions or concerns about protecting our environment. If you think there may be wetlands on or near your property, please contact the Commission to see if any approvals are needed before having a professional service apply any chemicals on your property. You can reach the Commission Office by calling 508-785-0032 extension 7 or by emailing us at conservation@doverma.gov. Thank you for helping to protect our environment!

Better yet, bring your reusable cup! Many coffee shops will offer a small discount to offset the cost of their cups.

A RecycleSmartMA tip!

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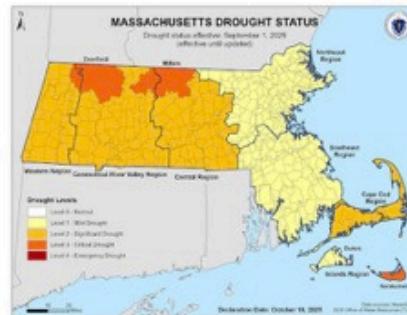
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Conservation Commission

Drought and Dover

By Ziga Alksnitis, Conservation Commissioner

This article was written on a rainy day, yet a look at our local ponds and streams will confirm that Massachusetts is still experiencing a drought. You may have received a notice from Aquarion or seen drought signs around town and wondered, "What does it all mean?"



Drought is a period of time lasting at least 2 months during which an area receives little to no rainfall. Water availability during this time decreases. Streams dry up, water levels drop (both in visible water bodies and aquifers), crops suffer, and plants and animals struggle to survive. Our water supply decreases, and fire risks increase. Drought doesn't end with a few days of rain or after a big storm. The land needs to experience

longer stretches of soaking rain to replenish the groundwater supply. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizes four levels of drought (1-mild, 2-significant, 3-critical, and 4-emergency), and levels can vary across the state, which is divided into seven regions for monitoring purposes. Dover is in the Southeast Region, which thankfully has remained at Level 1 during the current drought.

It is important to follow water usage restrictions during a drought to conserve our community's water supply. In a way, when Dover residents conserve water, we are partnering with the many wetlands in our town. Wetlands act as sponges that store water for us during dry spells. This storage may be invisible, in the form of groundwater. When we conserve water, we ensure that we aren't depleting these storage areas, allowing our town to bounce back from a drought more easily. Our wetlands are resilient, yet delicate. Periods of drought can lead to stream bank erosion and water temperature fluctuations, which negatively affect the balance of the wetland ecosystems, resulting in plant die-offs and water quality issues. When we use water unnecessarily, we speed up these destructive processes by depleting the groundwater that replenishes our visible water bodies.

Level -1 Mild Drought restrictions include short and long-term actions

- Limit outdoor watering to one day per week from 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM, or less frequently if required by your water supplier. (Watering when the sun is out in full force will just evaporate the water and can damage your lawn!)
- Harvest rainwater for outdoor watering (Rain barrels are available for purchase at the [**Dover Town Garage and Dover Transfer Station!**](#))
- Minimize lawn sizes and plant only local and drought-resistant species
- Minimize overall water use and fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities

As it is likely Dover will experience more periods of drought going forward, consider how you can conserve water long-term. As a community that values the rural nature of Dover and is an integral part of Dover's ecosystem, it is important for each of us to do our part! Visit the Town of Dover's [**Drought Status page**](#) today. For even more information about drought and ideas on how to be drought resilient, check out the resources below!

Find Resources For A Drought

The Conservation Commission is charged with protecting and preserving the Town's natural resources and open space. We are available to help you with any questions or concerns about protecting our environment. If you think there may be wetlands on or near your property, please contact the Commission to see if any approvals are needed before having a professional service apply any chemicals on your property. You can reach the Commission Office by calling 508-785- 0032 extension 7 or by emailing us at conservation@doverma.gov. Thank you for helping to protect our environment!