

Save Waltham Wildlife

Meeting for Volunteers March 28, 2024

AGENDA

- Introductions
- SWW Mission
- City Government & Citizen Advocacy
- Bait Boxes and Survey
- Community Education and Engagement
- Resources
- Discussion with Q & A



SWW Mission

- To save Waltham Wildlife by reducing the need for, and eventually ending, the use of SGAR rodenticides in the City of Waltham.
- We work to achieve this goal through education, advocacy and promoting alternative methods of effective rodent control.

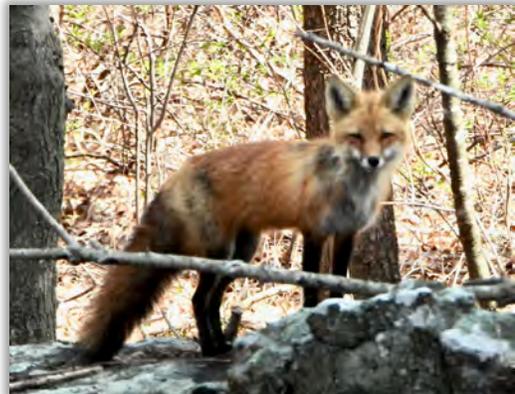


Photo by Emily Szczypek



Photo by Emily Szczypek

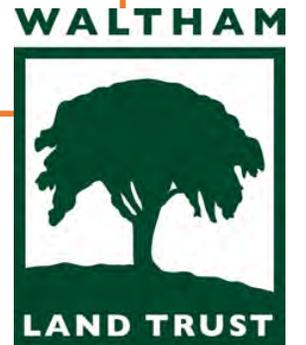


City Government: Citizen Advocacy



Photo: Soheil Zendeh

Take action today!
Email your Ward Councillor,
all At-Large Councillors, and
Mayor McCarthy!



Resident Trash Containers “Trial Basis”

- In the WLT Mayoral candidates’ forum on October 30, 2023, when asked about the rodent problem, Mayor McCarthy stated:

*“We are preparing **to provide barrels with covers for the Monday and Friday rubbish routes** on a trial basis to help try to alleviate the continuing issues on those routes. And we're hopeful that that will allow the trash to stay in and their food sources will be eliminated. If those are successful, then we can expand...these barrels with the closed covers for other parts of the routes in the city.”*

- When will this “trial basis” be implemented?

Resident Trash Containers

- Why do we need a trial basis?
- Every Waltham resident deserves lidded, rolling trash containers.
- We have them for recycling, why not trash?
- Municipalities surrounding Waltham provide both to all residents.





Solar trash/recycling Containers

- Install in areas with high foot/car traffic
 - Moody Street
 - Main Street
 - School playgrounds
 - City parks
 - Municipal parking lots
- On windy days, trash “cages” blow open, cans and trash roll into the street, causing traffic concerns and spreading litter.

Solar trash/recycling Containers

- Municipalities surrounding Waltham and ALL OVER THE COUNTRY have them in their downtown areas, parking lots, school yards, and playgrounds.
- Many have them in parks and along trails.
- These municipalities are proud of their commitment to providing clean neighborhoods and public spaces.



This barrel is part of the City of Somerville's

RODENT CONTROL PLAN

By using this barrel, you're helping to decrease rodent activity in Somerville

Al usar este barril, está ayudando a disminuir la actividad de los roedores en Somerville.

Ao usar este barril, você está ajudando a diminuir a atividade de roedores em Somerville.

Lè l sèvi avèk barik sa a, nap ede diminye aktivite rat ak sourit nan Somerville.

यो व्‍यारेल पर्योग गरनाले तपोईले समरभलि सटिमि कशिफट्इशको प्रस्कोप फिटोउन सहयोगी हुनेछ ।।

The advertisement features a solar trash barrel on the right side. The text is multilingual, including English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Nepali. At the bottom, there are logos for the City of Somerville and other organizations, along with a QR code.

How You Can Help



Email your Ward Councillor, all Councillors At-Large, and Mayor McCarthy

Example text if you do have Friday/Monday pickup:

- “Hello, I am a Waltham resident, living at [*your street address*] with trash pickup on Friday [*or Monday*]. I understand that the City of Waltham will be providing rolling, lidded trash containers to folks like me, and I applaud this action. When will this happen? I’d also like to request that solar trash/recycling containers be installed in areas of high traffic, such as Moody Street, Main Street, school yards, and playgrounds.”

Example text if you don’t have Friday/Monday pickup:

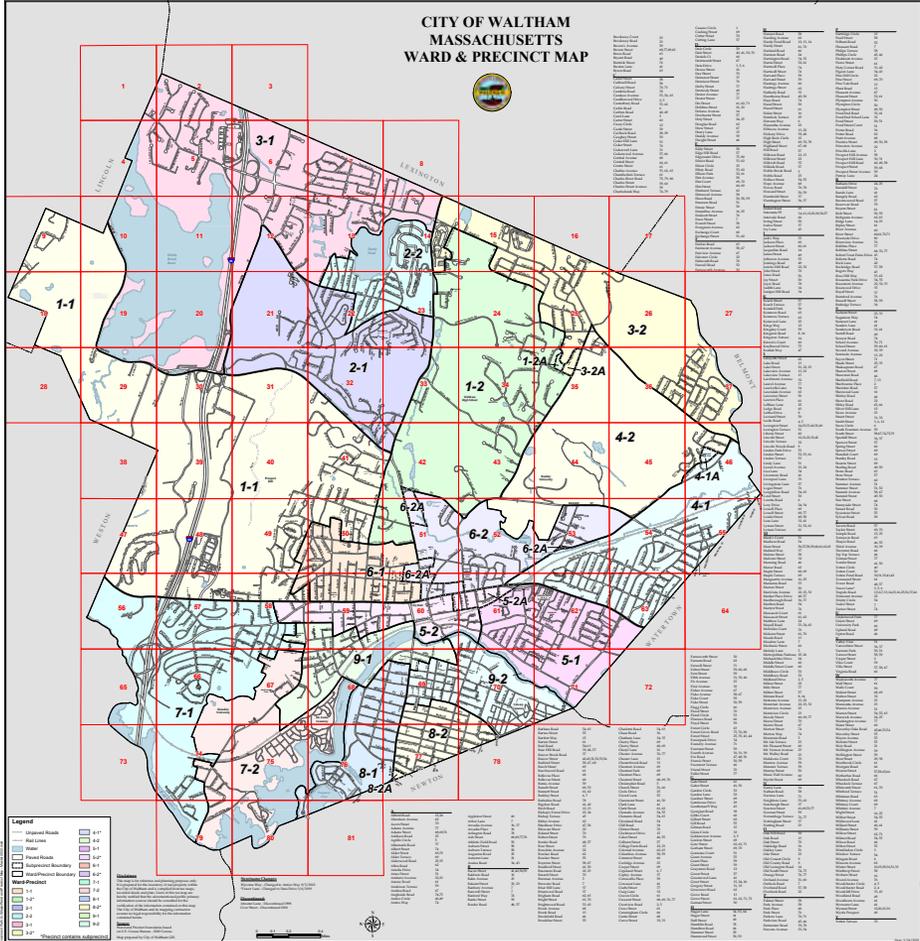
- “Hello, I am a Waltham resident, living at [*your street address*], and would like to request that all Waltham residents be provided with rolling, lidded trash containers similar to those provided for recycling. I understand that residents with Friday and Monday trash pickup will get them first. Why do the rest of us have to wait? I’d also like to request that solar trash/recycling containers be installed in areas of high traffic, such as Moody Street, Main Street, school yards and playgrounds.”



How to Find Your Ward Councillor

To determine which Waltham ward you live in, view the Waltham ward and precinct map here:

https://www.city.waltham.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlf12301/f/uploads/ward_and_precinct_map_-_master_2022_1.pdf



How To Find Contact Info

For contact information, including email addresses, for Waltham's mayor and city council, go to:

[“How Do I Contact My City Councillor”](#).



The screenshot shows the Waltham Massachusetts website. The header includes the city logo, the name "WALTHAM MASSACHUSETTS 'The Watch City'", a language selector, a search bar, and navigation links for "City Government", "Online Services", "Businesses", and a "FIND IT FAST" button. The main content area features a breadcrumb trail "Home » Mayor's Office" and a large heading "How do I contact my City Councillor?". Below this heading, text instructs users to contact the City Clerk's office at 781-314-3120 or the City Council's web page, providing a link to a page with email addresses. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with items like "About Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy" and "New Resident Information", with a highlighted section for "> View Contact Info". This section lists the Mayor's Office phone, fax, and address, along with a link to Google Maps.

WALTHAM MASSACHUSETTS
"The Watch City"

Select Language Search

Powered by Google Translate

City Government Online Services Businesses **FIND IT FAST**

About Mayor Jeannette A. McCarthy
Master Plan Recommendations
Other Recommendations
Constable Application
Constable Re-Appointment Application
New Resident Information

Home » Mayor's Office

How do I contact my City Councillor?

Contact the City Clerk's office at 781-314-3120 or the [City Council's web page](#). A full list of City Councillor email addresses can be found here: <https://www.city.waltham.ma.us/city-council/email-addresses>

> View Contact Info

Phone:
(781) 314-3100
Email: mayor@city.waltham.ma.us

Fax:
(781) 894-9581

Address:
City of Waltham Mayor's Office
City Hall Second Floor
610 Main Street
Waltham, MA 02452
United States
See map: [Google Maps](#)

BAIT BOXES



Product	EPA#	Active Ingredient
<input type="checkbox"/> Contrac Blox	12455-79	Bromadiolone 0.005%
<input type="checkbox"/> Contrac W/Lumitrac	12455-133	Bromadiolone 0.005%
<input type="checkbox"/> Ditrac Blox	12455-80	Diphacinone 0.005%
<input type="checkbox"/> First Strike	7173-258	Difethialone 0.0025%
<input type="checkbox"/> Final Blox	12455-89	Brodifacoum 0.005%
<input type="checkbox"/> Terad3 Blox	12455-106	Cholecalciferol 0.075%
<input type="checkbox"/> Terad3 AG Blox	12455-166	Cholecalciferol 0.075%

TRAFAST PEST CONTROL 781 894 770

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Anticoagulant poisons (SGARs), and possibly other poisons that are not, like Bromethalin, a nerve toxin.
- Snap Trap w/ bait
- Snap trap and poison



WHY ARE SGARs SO PREVALENT?

- In 2015 the EPA banned the sale of SGARs inside retail stores but allowed commercial pest control companies to still use them.
- SGARs are widely available for sale online where anyone can buy them, and they are killing birds of prey at an alarming rate.
- Recent documented deaths include 3 Bald Eagles who once lived and nested in Waltham, and a Red-Tailed Hawk that died on March 29, 2024.
- In 2020 Tufts Wildlife Clinic reported that 100% of Red-tailed Hawks they studied had been exposed to SGARs.



BAIT BOX SURVEYS

BAIT BOX SURVEY ORIENTATION soon, exact date to be announced.

Bait box surveys help us make connections with businesses and organizations that use bait boxes enabling us to:

- Talk with them about the toxic dangers of rodenticide poisons and discuss effective waste management as well as alternative methods of control.
- Data will be presented to City officials as SWW seeks to educate them and the public about their prevalence.
- Bait box survey data is used by organizations such as R.A.T.S. and Earthwise SGARs Brigade, and by researchers who are seeing widespread effects of anticoagulant poisons throughout the U.S.



Other ways You Can Help

REPORT *any* lethargic or injured hawk, owl, or other wildlife that you see.

- Contact a wildlife rehabilitator: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/find-a-wildlife-rehabilitator> or call Cape Ann Wildlife: 1-978-325-2501 <http://www.caw2.org/>
- It's important that you stay with the bird until someone comes to pick it up. If for some reason you feel you can't do this, photograph the bird, make note of its location and call someone who can stay with it until help arrives.

ALSO REPORT:

- **Any dead rat/rodent on city property** (conservation land, sidewalk, street, parking lot, around a public building). Immediately contact Public Works at 781-314-3855 for its removal. Photograph and make note of location.
- **Note and record** any animal (wild bird, mammal, or pet) consuming or feeding on a dead rat or mouse.

Report your wildlife sightings. Start using iNaturalist! Submit photos (for owls you can also submit audio) and report your Waltham wildlife sightings. As far as we know, no bird or wildlife survey has ever been done in Waltham. So how can we know what has disappeared? For example, we do know that Barred, Great Horned, even Screech Owls have been seen and/or heard in Prospect Hill Park. But are they still there? We need documentation.

Community Outreach

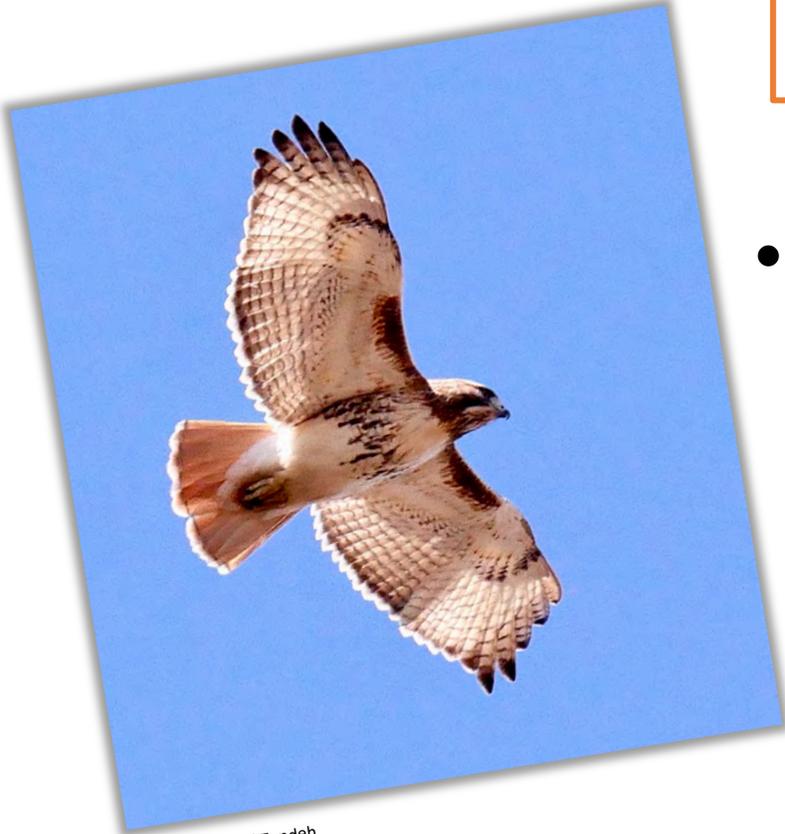


photo: Soheil Zende

- Contact local businesses, universities, and local organizations
 - Provide materials for:
 - Their Education *and*
 - Distribution to others
- Raise general awareness by:
 - Giving talks to organizations
 - Senior Center
 - Schools



Community Outreach

- Research how local organizations, universities, and businesses currently manage rodent control
- Get their buy-in:
 - *Poison-free pledge

“I pledge to use only nontoxic forms of rodent control, and to do my best to remove all attractants such as outdoor food, water, litter, and other things that may be causing rodents to proliferate...”



Photo by Emily Szczypek



INFORMATION

HOW TO CONTACT WALTHAM OFFICIALS:

For contact information, including email addresses, for Waltham's mayor and city council, go here:

<https://www.city.waltham.ma.us/mayors-office/faq/how-do-i-contact-my-city-councillor>

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LINKS to ORGANIZATIONS and INFORMATION:

Here are some links to follow for more information on the campaign to save raptors and other animals from secondary poisoning from SGAR's (second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides).

Save Arlington Wildlife: <https://savearlingtonwildlife.org>

This group, founded by journalist and environmental advocate Laura Kiesel, has successfully pioneered activist strategies and political interventions in this area. Lots of relevant information here and further links.

Rescue Raptors, MA Audubon's Coalition:

<https://www.massaudubon.org/take-action/advocate/rescue-raptors>

Next orientation for new volunteers is April 11. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZ0qceusrzkuGNZhGfg0-ei0HHPvo0MzUI23#/registration>

INFORMATION

Indivisible Lab: <https://indivisiblelab.org>

Indivisible Lab maintains a “Rodenticide Actions” page here: <https://indivisiblelab.org/action/2023/11/01/rodenticide-actions.html>

Raptors Are the Solution: <https://www.raptorsarethesolution.org>

Raptors Are the Solution (or, “RATS”) provides a wealth of information on rodents, rodenticides, alternatives to SGARs, and more: a great place to start. Be sure to take a look at their Toolkit: <https://raptorsarethesolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/RATS-Activist-Toolkit.pdf>

Waltham Land Trust: <https://walthamlandtrust.org> Waltham Land Trust (WLT) supports Save Waltham Wildlife (a WLT initiative, started by WLT land stewards) and works on acquiring, protecting, and maintaining wild spaces throughout the city of Waltham. Joining WLT is one of the best ways to support Save Waltham Wildlife. SWW information here: <https://walthamlandtrust.org/save-waltham-wildlife/>

Here are several articles that make for quick reads:

<https://whdh.com/news/wildlife-officials-bald-eagle-death-in-massachusetts-caused-by-rodenticide-poisoning/> from 7 News Boston

<https://www.wbur.org/news/2022/07/25/pandemic-rats-rodents-somerville-boston-kill> from WBUR local coverage

[“Rodent Poisons Sicken and Kill Birds of Prey,”](#) from the Belmont Citizens Forum

[“In 2023, Waltham Officials Aim to Fix Rodent Problem,”](#) from the Waltham Patch.

Note: this information is over a year old. Councillor Harris has not responded to us when we’ve inquired about progress in this area.