



July 2025 - eBulletin

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

The UVLSRPC newsletter returns this month as summer weather approaches. The work never stops here at the RPC -- the eBulletin has everything you need to stay in the loop!

In this issue:

- **UVLSRPCorner** - Learn about an ongoing staff project!
- **Staff Update** - Meet our new intern Will!
- **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates**
- Summer Emergency Preparedness
- Share Your Thoughts on Housing in Lebanon
- Brownfields Walking Tour
- And more!

UVLSRPCorner

*Join us every month in the **UVLSRPCorner** to learn more about our projects and the staff behind them!*

This month:

The US DOT Thriving Communities Program (TCP) provides technical assistance, planning, and capacity building support to develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. The goal of this project is to build capacity for the 15 communities in the region and create a successful model of staffing capacity and expertise to be replicated across all communities in the region and the two states. We are working with nine towns in New Hampshire (Acworth, Charlestown, Enfield, Goshen, Lebanon, Lempster, Newport, Orford, Plainfield) and six in Vermont (Bethel, Hancock, Hartford, Hartland, Granville, and Royalton).



Enfield Hosts Community Resilience Building Workshop

On May 29th 2025, Enfield brought together community leaders, town committees, town departments, and local stakeholders to participate in a Community Resilience Building Workshop—a facilitation workshop developed by The Nature Conservancy. The workshop gave participants the opportunity to identify local hazards, assess Enfield's vulnerabilities and strengths, and collaboratively prioritize actions that will improve Enfield's ability to respond to and recover from extreme weather and climate-related events.

Enfield is taking proactive steps to reduce risk, strengthen infrastructure, and build a more resilient future. The results of the workshop will be compiled into a document that can inform future plans such as the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Master Plan.

To learn more about the workshop or bring the workshop to your town, visit www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.org or email Anna White at awhite@uvlsrpc.org

More UVLSRP News

Please Welcome Our New Intern!

Will Cleaveland is a rising senior at the University of New Hampshire studying Community and Environmental Planning and Sustainability. Will recently completed a month-long study abroad course in Greece studying ancient history and democracy. During his time at the RPC, he will assist with fieldwork, research, data management, and hazardous waste collections. In his free time, Will enjoys being outdoors and taking photos with his drone.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Dates for 2025

HHW Collections are back again and UVLSRPC is here to help you clean out that old shed and get rid of the mysterious chemicals you've been hanging onto. Residents of **21 towns** in the UVLS region can participate in these collections for free — we welcome residents of Grantham and Canaan this year. For a list of all eligible municipalities and for more information, visit hhw.uvlsrpc.org

SAVE THE DATES:

- **Saturday, August 9 in New London** at the New London Highway Garage, 184 S Pleasant St
- **Saturday, September 27 in Lebanon** at DHMC Lot 27, 52 Labombard Rd

If you have questions or need assistance with our HHW program, please contact Tim Josephson at tjosephson@uvlsrpc.org

UVLSRPC Data Collection

UVLSRPC offers data collection and assessments of various roadway infrastructure for towns. Assessment criteria was created in collaboration with NH Department of Transportation (**NHDOT**), UNH T2, the Regional Planning Commissions, and other State agencies. Data collected can be utilized to create long-term maintenance plans, understand forecasted improvement costs, identify priority vulnerable infrastructure, as well as be used to support grant applications.

UVLSRPC currently offers data collection and assessment for:

- Stream Crossings/Culverts
- Drainage Culverts

- Pedestrian Facilities (e.g. crosswalks, sidewalks, bike lanes)
- Pavement Road Surface Management and Maintenance Forecasting

UVLSRPC has some funding to provide cost share opportunities for member communities on a first come first served basis. Please reach out to Ian Garland at igarland@uvlsrpc.org for more information!



Check Out the UVLSRPC YouTube Page

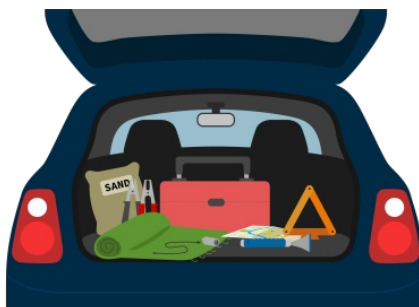
Find past webinars, recordings, trainings and more on our YouTube page. There are playlists from our School Chemical Safety series, our Food Scraps and Composting Series, Stormwater Management and Household Hazardous Waste. [Click here](#) to view!

Emergency Preparedness

What's your plan for this summer? Enjoying the water? Going camping? We want to provide you with helpful preparedness tips and resources that you can use throughout the season as you're out enjoying the warm weather.

- Stay cool - Stay in an air-conditioned place as much as possible. If your home does not have air conditioning, find a local cooling shelter near you
- Schedule Outdoor Activities Carefully - Limit your outdoor activity to when it's coolest outdoors, like morning and evening hours. Rest often in shady areas so that your body has a chance to recover.
- Monitor Those at High Risk - Although anyone at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others:
 - Infants and young children
 - People 65 years of age or older
 - People who are overweight
 - People who overexert during work or exercise
 - People who are physically ill, especially with heart disease or high blood pressure, or who take certain medications, such as for depression, insomnia, or poor circulation

Keeping an Emergency Kit in your car is extremely important this time of year. [Ready.gov/car](https://www.ready.gov/car) is a great resource to check to make your own car emergency kit. Some of the items they recommend are: jumper cables, flares, ice scraper, car cell phone charger, blankets, a map, hand and feet warmers, and a flashlight.



[Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) has a lot of information regarding how to keep yourself safe during this time

of year in the event of floods, tornadoes, power outages, and other types of severe weather.

If you'd like to sign up to receive alerts about hazardous weather in your area, visit [NH Alerts](#) and enter your email and/or phone number.



Housing

Share Your Thoughts on Housing in Lebanon

The [Lebanon Housing Task Force](#) invites all community members to participate in a [Community Housing Survey](#). Whether renting or owning, whether seeking entry-level housing or multi-million-dollar options, everyone's perspective is essential to help shape the future of housing in Lebanon.

Why This Survey Matters

Lebanon is facing a significant housing shortage and needs a range of housing types to meet the needs of current and future residents. This includes:

- Owner-occupied and rental housing
- Homes across all price points and styles
- Housing that supports the diverse lifestyles and life stages of the community

Input is needed from residents at every income level and with all types of housing experiences—from long-time homeowners to new renters, and from young professionals to retirees.

What the Survey Covers

The survey asks for input on:

- How Lebanon's current housing options are affecting daily life
- What types of housing are needed going forward
- The challenges residents face in finding suitable housing, regardless of price point

All responses are anonymous.

Why Participate?

The feedback collected will help city staff and consultants:

- Recommend housing policies that reflect real community needs
- Guide the Housing Chapter of the [Lebanon Master Plan](#)
- Create a long-term Strategic Plan to respond to housing challenges and opportunities

Survey Details

- Takes 10 minutes or less to complete
- Open to all residents—owners and renters alike
- Anonymous and confidential
- Designed to reflect the full range of experiences and expectations in Lebanon's housing market

Click [here](#) to take the survey!

Transportation

UNH T2 Local Road Safety Training Opportunities

UNH T2 is offering a special series of webinars, workshops, and training opportunities for highway agencies, elected officials, law enforcement, and other public partners who are committed to roadway safety in New Hampshire. They aim to build collaboration, partnership, and to jumpstart action through resources and relationships to improve safety on our local roads.



If you'd like to register and see the full list of trainings and workshops, please visit <https://t2.unh.edu>.

Environment and Energy

Participate in a Brownfields Walking Tour

The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission invites you on a walking tour of the brownfield projects in downtown Claremont. Everyone is welcome. Come learn about brownfield redevelopment in general and have a look at the Claremont projects.

Enjoy a walk around town starting from the Visitors Center, crossing the walking bridge, and touring several sites that have been completely renovated or are in the process of assessment. The tour will primarily be outside and led by our consulting engineers, Credere Associates and the Claremont Historical Society. This will provide two perspectives: the possibilities for brownfields redevelopment in the Region and the City's industrial history.

Visit <https://tinyurl.com/BrownfieldsStoryMap> to see the Story Map for brownfields in Claremont. The total walk will be about a mile. We will end back at the Visitors Center for refreshments and conversation. Registration is not required, but it is appreciated. If you need transportation around the site, just let us know. This is rain or shine so dress appropriately.

Date: Thursday, August 14, 2025

Time: 2:00 – 5:00 PM

Place: Start at the Claremont Visitors Center, 14 North Street, Claremont, NH

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/BrownfieldsWalkingTour>.

CLAREMONT BROWNFIELDS

walking tour

AUGUST 14, 2025, 2-5PM

STARTING LOCATION:

Claremont Visitors Center
14 North Street
Claremont, NH 03743

OPTIONAL REGISTRATION:

[https://tinyurl.com/
BrownfieldsWalkingTour](https://tinyurl.com/BrownfieldsWalkingTour)



DETAILS:

- ~1 mile of walking to learn about Claremont's historic and revitalized brownfields followed by light refreshments and conversation
- RAIN OR SHINE
- Inquire if tour transportation is needed



Scan the QR code to view
Claremont's Brownfields Story Map



NH Fish and Game Need Your Help!

NH Fish and Game is looking for information on turkey broods this summer! If you have seen young turkeys, click the link below and help New Hampshire Fish and Game keep track of the health of our wild turkey population!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccqVseueruWrcojzF_AeDCpSHMjfK9WCvmf_YOUGQt9X2MdA/viewform

Voluntary Well Testing for Private Well Owners

Roughly half of New Hampshire residents get their water from a private well. Well water can contain substances that are harmful, especially if consumed over a long time. The

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) offers a voluntary program that partners with towns to organize water testing events for private well owners. These events make it easier for residents to test for common contaminants and better understand their water quality.

If you or your town is interested in testing private wells, please visit <https://www.des.nh.gov/water/drinking-water/private-wells> or contact Amy Hudnor, Private Well and Risk Communication Coordinator, at amy.hudnor@des.nh.gov



Save the Date: Local Solutions Conference 2025

Registration is now open for the Local Solutions: Bouncing Forward to Create Resilient Communities. It will take place on September 18 and 19 from 8am-5pm, at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH.

This conference will offer professional development opportunities through training sessions, facilitated presentations, panels, and both formal and informal networking for a diverse group of stakeholders, including federal, state, and tribal representatives, nonprofits, businesses, scientists, and frontline community groups.

This year's conference will focus on affordable and resilient housing, community health, and energy and flood resilience. The first day of the conference will consist of training and site visits highlighting innovative solutions, followed by an evening keynote reception. Day two of the conference will consist of sessions in the topic areas showcasing how to implement best practices at the local and regional levels. There will be a second keynote lunch speaker and a concluding panel on how to finance these local solutions.

Participants who attend can expect to:

- Identify and compile best practices to address commonly experienced challenges from extreme weather events through sharing, learning, and relationship-building to enable action.
- Emerge from the convening with clarity in how to take the next planning and implementation steps for building resilience in your community and in partnership with others in your region.
- Discuss with other participants how this community of practice can be continued among those with similar challenges to promote resilience in housing, public health, energy, and flooding.
- Participants will return to their communities with tools and knowledge to engage all perspectives, ensuring that all voices are heard and valued in building a more resilient future together.

The conference food will be vegetarian with vegan and gluten-free options.

To register for the event, click [here](#).

NH Rechargeable Battery Disposal Ban

Starting July 1, 2025, it will be illegal to put rechargeable lithium-ion batteries in the trash. As of July 1, they must be recycled through special battery collection programs, not mixed with regular recyclables.

Per RSA 149-M:27, lithium-ion batteries will be prohibited from disposal in New Hampshire's landfills and incinerators to help reduce the risk of fires at solid waste facilities. The ban applies to everyone; residents and businesses.

Where can lithium-ion batteries be recycled?

Many municipal transfer stations and businesses offer collection boxes for recycling rechargeable batteries. For example:

- Staples
- Best Buy
- Home Depot
- BatteriesPlus

To find the nearest drop-off site, please check Call2Recycle.org.

Questions?

Residents and municipalities can contact the NHDES Household Hazardous Waste Program via email hhw@des.nh.gov or by phone at **(603) 271-2047**. Businesses should contact the Hazardous Waste Helpline at **1-866-HAZ-WAST**.

Check Out the On-Farm Composting Toolkit

This [toolkit](#) provides resources to support better composting on farms and to encourage composting with community needs in mind, with the overarching goals of reducing solid waste, avoiding water pollution, and increasing soil health and farm resiliency.

Municipal Support & Economic Development

AgeWellNH Looking For Your Input

AgeWellNH, an initiative of the NH State Commission on Aging, recently launched a survey to gather public input for a 10-year vision to make NH a better place to grow older. Like elsewhere in the state, the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee region is rapidly aging. This demographic shift requires a strategic vision for how to adapt to the needs of an aging population.

Click [here](#) to take the survey.

For information on Molly's scheduled conversations, please email Molly at msinger@dexteritymanagement.com

New Hampshire Rural Economic Development Funding Calendar

The NH-VT office of USDA Rural Development and the NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs (BEA) has created a planning resource to help rural municipalities find economic development funding opportunities in one document. Click [here](#) to download the calendar from BEA and find out more!

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/media/file/download/new-hampshire-rural-economic-development-funding-calendar.pdf>

Community Happenings

On June 26th, volunteers from the Wilmot Conservation Commission and employees of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission installed a rain garden in Langley Park, Wilmot.

Volunteers first created a depression in the soil allowing for slow infiltration of stormwater and sediment and then installed a berm along the shoreline to move water through the filtration and prevent stormwater runoff from entering the brook unfiltered. Three native plant varieties were then planted to hold the berm in place and assist with soaking up water.

The new rain garden will help prevent pollution such as road debris from entering Kimpton Brook, improving water quality. Additionally, this project will work as a demonstration site, allowing local residents to learn more about rain gardens and replicate similar installations on their own properties.

This project is complementary to a Stormwater Workshop that took place in Fall 2023, and progressed along by a group of passionate volunteers. The project was completed thanks to funding from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, landscape expertise from Gradient LLC, and collaboration from the Town of Wilmont.

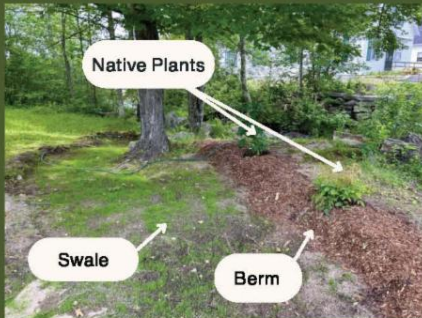
The next rain garden project UVLSRPC is working on will be in Claremont's Moody Park. Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen!

Learn more about Wilmot's Rain Garden



How does the rain garden work?

Rain water will flow off the road, through the grass, and be absorbed by the swale and vegetated berm pictured in the diagram below. This berm will prevent runoff from flowing into the river.



What is the goal of rain gardens?

Rain gardens are used to soak up stormwater before it enters larger waterways, in order to reduce peak flow and reduce pollution in the river. The rain garden additionally filters sediments before overflow water reaches the brook.

What type of plants are being used in this garden?

Goat's Beard (*Aruncus dioicus*), Haas Halo Hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens*) and Proud Berry (*Symphoricarpos*) were chosen for this site due to the fact that they are native plants which thrive in the conditions this site provides.

How can I create my own rain garden?

If you are interested in creating your own rain garden, scan the QR code to the right to learn how to build your own!



How was this project completed?

This project was a joint effort involving a number of groups and individuals. Employees from the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and Volunteers from the Wilmot Conservation Commission did the work to install the garden. Funding was provided by The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, landscape expertise from Gradient LLC, and collaboration from the Town of Wilmot.

Prepared by the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
Regional Planning Commission



Borrow an E-Bike!

The Upper Valley E-Bike Lending Library is a free selection of four e-bikes of assorted styles and retail costs that has one- and two-week residencies in towns and workplaces throughout the Upper Valley. While the e-bike library is stationed at a particular lending location, people can try multiple bikes at "Demo Days" or sign up to borrow a single bike overnight to see how an e-bike might fit into your lifestyle. Book a bike [here!](#)

Full Commission Meeting Dates FY 2026

- **August 13, 2025**
- **October 8, 2025**
- **December 10, 2025**
- **February 11, 2026**
- **April 8, 2026**



If you have any questions or concerns, please call Chris at 603-448-1680.

**Upper Valley Lake Sunapee
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