



Southborough Conservation Commission
17 Common Street
Southborough, Massachusetts 01772-1662

Spring 2011

Dear Southborough Resident:

Spring is now upon us and that means spending time outside doing yard work and cleaning up fallen leaves and brush left over from one of the harshest winters we've experienced in recent memory. Although it may seem harmless, the Southborough Conservation Commission ("SCC") would like to remind all residents that leaves, grass clippings and tree limbs are not to be dumped in or within 20-feet of any wetlands, brooks, drainage ditches or streams in town. Debris and yard waste can clog waterways, raise the water table, and otherwise alter a natural wetland system. Grass clippings, leaves, and brush (up to 4-inches thick and 4-feet long) can all be safely disposed of at the Transfer Station, or recycled into useable compost for your lawns and gardens.

The SCC is your local authority responsible for the protection of Southborough's natural resources and for the enforcement of the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and regulations, the Rivers Protection Act, the Southborough Wetlands Bylaw, and the Stormwater and Erosion Control Bylaw. It is our job to make certain that all residents are aware of the threats to our environment caused by illegal dumping into these ecologically sensitive areas, and of the possible consequences if a violation is observed.

Violations

Examples of violations include the un-permitted:

- Dumping of grass, leaves, brush, or debris in a wetland or within 20-feet of a wetland
- Cutting of trees or shrubs within a wetland, within 20-feet of a wetland, or within the Riverfront Area (a 200-foot wide corridor on each side of a perennial river or stream)

Penalties for Violating the Law

- Under the Wetlands Protection Act and Southborough Wetlands Bylaw, the Conservation Commission can require illegally disturbed land to be restored to its original condition, and can issue fines.



Please share this information with your landscapers and enlist them to help us protect Southborough's abundant natural resources. If you are thinking about having trees or vegetation removal work done on your property and believe you may be near a wetland, stream or other sensitive area, please call the conservation office at 508-485-0710, ext. 3024 for guidance before starting your project.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance.

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