



# News About Town

## A Message From Our Town Manager

Hello Citizens and Friends of Gray,

I'm delighted to introduce this month's newsletter, with several articles featuring community groups working to make Gray an even better place to live.



At a Town Council meeting on April 19, I was pleased to hear a presentation from the Royal River Conservation Trust about their new 150-acre preservation project in Gray. This special woodland place will bring recreational and ecological benefits to our community and to the Royal River watershed. You can read more about their project, and the Town's partnership role, in this newsletter.

You'll also read about how the Community Development and Economic Committee is sponsoring a planting day in the Gray Village; for those who participate it's sure to be a good time, you'll help make a well-traveled part of Gray more beautiful, and you'll learn something about permaculture!

My heartfelt appreciation goes toward these groups, and to many others like them, who contribute so much to maintaining and expanding Gray's recreational, community, and outdoor resources.

Thank you,

*Nate Rudy*

Town Manager



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## Upcoming Events

### May 3:

6 p.m.: Gray Town Council Meeting – Zoom and in-person

### May 10:

7 p.m.: Planning Board Meeting – Henry Pennell Municipal Complex

### Every Weds. And Friday:

10:30 a.m.: Facebook Story Time – Gray Public Library Facebook Page

### May 20:

1 p.m.: Gray Food Pantry – Gray Congregational Church Parish House

### May 25:

7 p.m.: Zoning Board of Appeals – Henry Pennell Municipal Complex

# Massive Preserve in Gray Promotes Conservation, Recreation

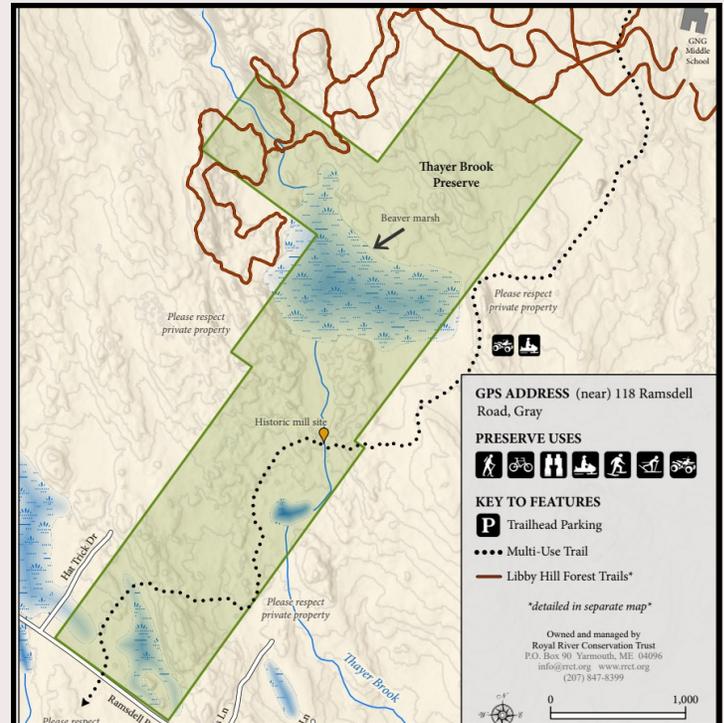
The Royal River Conservation Trust has announced their first major project in Gray: the Thayer Brook Preserve.

The 147-acre space doubles the conservation and acreage behind the Gray-New Gloucester schools and features six beaver dams, a rich habitat for waterfowl, mountain biking and hiking trails, a babbling brook, and more.

At their meeting on April 19, 2022, the Gray Town Council fully endorsed the preserve. Moreover, the preserve is supported conceptually by the Town of Gray's [2020 Comprehensive Plan](#) and [2022 Open Space Plan](#).

"Thanks to the leadership of so many people, my hope is that the new Thayer Brook Preserve is the first of many projects by RRCT, alongside the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, Maine Farmland Trust, the town, and others who are committed to conserving more of Gray's remaining farms, forests, and key recreational trails," said Councilor Anne Gass, a key leader in the town's recent open space planning process.

You can learn more about the Thayer Brook Preserve on the Royal River Conservation Trust's [website](#).



The Thayer Brook Preserve creates a 147-acre ecological and recreation haven

# “Pollinator Party Planting Day”

## Aims to Educate, Build Community

The volunteers who built Village Green, the park in Gray Village, are inviting you to join them for a planting day with educational opportunities, hands-on learning, and a special pollinator project!



Building parks is a great way to build community bonds and be social!

The gathering will begin at 9 a.m. on May 14 and end at 12:45 p.m. Here are some of the activities planned for this event:

**Soil works:** Injecting compost extract into the growing areas to reboot the nutrient cycling capacity of soils. Living Soil Network will lead this activity.

**Planting:** There will be perennials to plant, and some annuals started from the seed of last year's plants.

**Mulching:** This group will have chop and drop cover crops, a seed mix for green mulch, plus some sheet mulching to do.

**Transplanting:** There will be some vining perennials to move and protect.

**Tending:** The group will weave willow fence and bolster berm.

Attendees should pack a good meal, bring a water vessel and gloves, wear sun protection, and invite a friend. There is parking at the Municipal Lot adjacent to the park and at Pennell Municipal Complex at 24 Main Street.

Team leaders are still needed for seedballs and sheet mulching. Please inquire with [CEDC@graymaine.com](mailto:CEDC@graymaine.com) or call 207-332-7224.



## Maine Wildlife Park Looking for Volunteers

The Maine Wildlife Park needs volunteers for the upcoming season. There are many volunteer opportunities available, but they are specifically looking for volunteers for the Snack Shack and the Gatehouse. Anyone interested can go to The Maine Wildlife Park [website](#) and see a description of the volunteer opportunities available.

# Earth Day Community Cleanup Event Successful

## Thanks to Volunteers

The [Recreation](#) and [Resiliency](#) Committees joined forces on April 23, 2022, to sponsor an Earth Day Cleanup Event, and various community members and groups came together to make Gray an even prettier place to live.

Girl Scout Troops 587 and 1214 worked with Town Councilor Anne Gass in the Pennell and Village area, where they filled six bags with trash. Cub Scout Pack 86 filled several trash bags from along the road in front of Gray Plaza. High school students from the Community Service Club cleared forest debris from Libby Hill trails with help from Town Councilors Sandy Carder and Krista Chappell, and another high school student cleaned up trash from around the high school campus. Moreover, the ATV Club collected 15 bags of trash, car parts, and wood debris from the bypass.

These groups put in an extraordinary amount of work to help clean up our community! Thank you to all who participated in helping celebrating Earth Day in such a meaningful way.

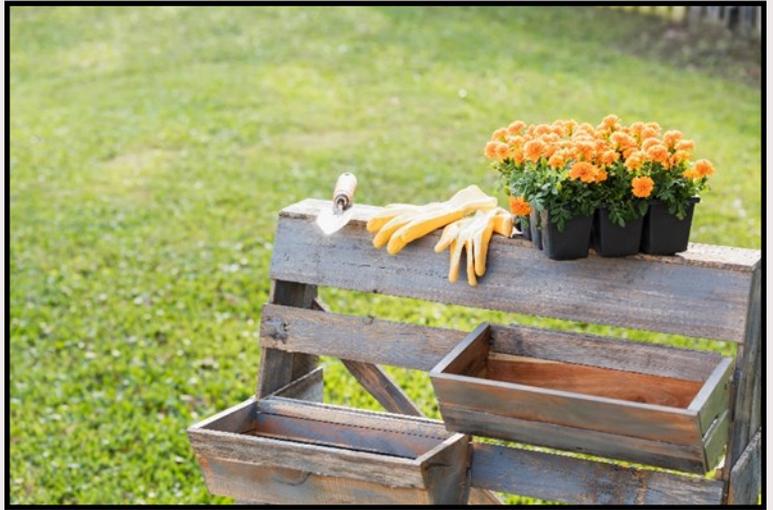


Community members help clean up Gray on Earth Day.

# Yard Cleanup Event To Help Gray Residents

The Gray Lifelong Living Committee and the Gray-New Gloucester High School Community Service Club are offering another yard cleanup event on Saturday, May 14, 2022, for older (65+) or disabled Gray neighbors who need a little help.

They will serve as many as they can with their volunteer teams. If you would like to be on the first come, first served list, contact Val Rasza at 838-5282, or email [Sharon Young](#). You can also submit an application on our [website](#).



Cleanup Day helps Gray community members in need.

The Gray Lifelong Living Committee is a group of Gray residents working in partnership with the Town of Gray and local organizations to assess and address the needs of older adults in our community.

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## Gray Public Library Names Assistant Director

The Town of Gray is pleased to announce that Darcel Devou, previously the Head of Circulation for the Gray Public Library, will now be the library's Assistant Director, which is a new role for the library.

As Assistant Director, Darcel's focus will shift to understanding the vital role the Gray Public Library plays in the community. She will continue her efforts at bringing top quality performers and presenters to Gray, and pivot the library services so the library is more engaged in two-way communication with users, among other responsibilities.

You can read more about Darcel and her new job on our [website](#). You can learn more about the Gray Public Library on their [website](#) and [Facebook page](#).



Darcel Devou, Gray Public Library  
Assistant Director

# Gray is Looking for Committee Members

*Serve your town by volunteering for these committees!*

**Blueberry Festival Committee:** Celebrates and promotes local businesses, community and school organizations, and the Pennell Complex.

**Community Economic Development Committee:** Promotes community and cultural connections in Gray and supports established businesses.

**Community Television and Communications Advisory Committee:** Makes recommendations regarding broadcast options for Gray, and recommends improvements to public, educational, and governmental programming.

**Dry Mills School House Committee:** Preserves the rich history of the Dry Mills School House.

**Open Space Committee:** Makes recommendations to the Town Council to help secure access to land/corridors through acquisitions, easements, land swaps, and other forms of agreements.

**Planning Board:** Reviews and approves subdivision plans, site plans, conditional uses, and Shoreland Zoning applications in accordance with State Statutes and Town Ordinances.

**Resiliency Committee:** Promotes climate action planning and influences the path our community will take toward climate resilience, energy efficiency, waste management and renewable energy.

**Zoning Board of Appeals Committee:** Hears and decides administrative appeals where it is alleged there is an error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination by the Code Enforcement Officer.

**MSAD15 School Board:** Shapes the functioning of the Gray-New Gloucester school system.



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*“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in.”*

*- Sue Premo, Volunteer Coordinator, Green Bay, WI*

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**To apply to any of these committees, go to [graymaine.org/volunteer](http://graymaine.org/volunteer).**

## The Town of Gray is Hiring!

We hire great people from a variety of backgrounds to do the town's important work. If you are looking for a career opportunity, check out our [Employment page](#) to see if there's an opening that's right for you!

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

- The Gray Town Council has returned to conducting meetings in the Council Chambers at the Henry Pennell Municipal Complex, and anyone is welcome to participate either remotely via Zoom or in-person. Zoom information is posted on the Town's website the day of meetings.
- You can view Town meeting videos, minutes, and agendas via the [Meeting Portal](#). It's a great place to start if you want to be more informed about Town government!

**If you have an idea for a newsletter submission, please fill out this [form](#).**

Questions can be directed to:

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