



-Town of Hooksett- Quarterly Newsletter

June 2023

WE'RE HIRING!



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GREAT PLACE TO WORK? DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A TEAM? DO YOU WANT GREAT BENEFITS? NH RETIREMENT, GREAT INSURANCE OPTIONS, GREAT CO-WORKERS!

- TOWN PLANNER
- RECYCLING & TRANSFER ASSISTANT CREW CHIEF
- RECYCLING & TRANSFER PART TIME LABORER
- PARKS AND RECREATION DRIVER/LABORER
- HIGHWAY DRIVER/LABORER
- SAFETY CENTER PART TIME CUSTODIAN
- POLICE OFFICER
- FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC OR AEMT
- PART TIME FINANCE CLERK



WWW.HOOKSETT.ORG FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

UPCOMING TOWN PROJECTS

The Town is working with the State Department of Transportation to study the intersections of **Hackett Hill Road/Route 3A and Main Street/Route 3A** to determine what needs to be done at the intersections. Roundabouts and signalized intersections will be considered.

The Town is working with the State Department of Transportation to plan upgrades to **Hooksett Road between Alice Avenue and Martins Ferry Road**. The upgrades will consist of a five lane road with sidewalks and bike lanes. Also being considered is a roundabout at the intersection of Mammoth Road.

The Lilac Commons Pedestrian Bridge will be inspected in the Spring. This is a routine inspection to determine the condition of the bridge and to determine if any maintenance work needs to be done.

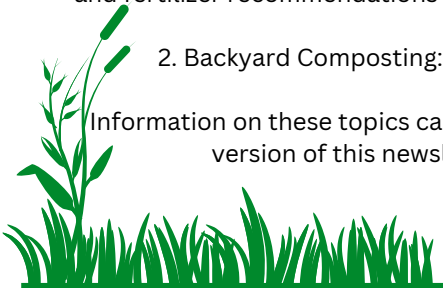
Bids were taken for construction of footings for a new bridge to replace the existing **Donati Field Pedestrian Bridge**. Macy's Industries will be donating the bridge. The Town is responsible for construction of the footings.

Martins Ferry Road – GM2 Engineering will be designing intersection improvements and a new bridge at the intersection of Martins Ferry Road and North River Road.

SUMMER TIPS FROM PUBLIC WORKS

1. Green Grass & Clear Water: Water-quality friendly lawn care and fertilizer recommendations for northern New England.
2. Backyard Composting: Nature's Way of Recycling

Information on these topics can be found with the Online version of this newsletter at www.hooksett.org



CHARTER SUBCOMMITTEE NEWS

The Town Council established a subcommittee to review possible Town Charter amendments. The subcommittee has held 3 meetings including a Public Hearing and has brought forth the four proposed amendments along with the reasons below:

Eliminating Districts

- The initial reason for creating districts was due to fear that one area of town could control direct projects to their area, but that has not materialized.
- It would eliminate the 10-year requirement of the Supervisors of the Checklist to rebalance the districts.
- Reduce the confusion and cost of multiple ballots.
- It gives more flexibility for residents to run for Town Council. Currently, there is a limitation of who can run based on the district they reside in.

Reducing Town Council from 9 to 7 members

- Meetings go on longer with more personalities.
- It will be easier to make quorum.
- Seven members still allow for ample coverage on other town committees.

Change the Quorum to a simple majority

- At many meetings there is trouble having a quorum and starting on time having to have a super majority.
- Currently with a super majority and a Council of 9 members, 6 are needed to make quorum, if it is changed to a simple majority, 5 members would be needed for a Council of 9 and 4 members for a Council of 7.

Increase the Town Council stipend by \$500

- Stipend has not increased in a long time and many other Town's have one that is higher.
- Entice candidates to run and reward them for their time.
- If the Council remains at 9 members, the increased cost to the Town would be \$4,500 and if it is reduced to 7 members, it will only be an increase of \$500 over the current budgeted amount.

NEXT STEPS – Conclude Subcommittee meetings (next meeting is June 28th at 5:00pm) and present a recommendation to the full Council where they will vote to send it for legal review. After legal review a Public Hearing will be held, Council will decide to send it for State Agency review and vote to include it on the ballot or not.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HOOKSETT?

COMMERCIAL:

- Season's Corner Market & Fueling Station, 1311 Hooksett Road
- Marmon Aerospace, 18 Legends Drive
- Eversource Transmission & Fleet Facility, 13 Legends Drive
- Black Diamond Auto Wash, 1554 Hooksett Road
- Granite Woods Warehouse and Distribution Facility,
- Ridgeback Self Storage, 1461 Hooksett Road
- Contractor Bays, 5 Crane Way
- Amazon Parking Facility, 400 Technology Drive
- New water line installation to the Hooksett Village Water Tank off West River Road

RESIDENTIAL:

- Prescott Heights Road/Beacon Hill Road: 5 lot single family subdivision
- Dartmouth Street/Hunt Street: 6 lot single family subdivision
- University Heights/University Commons: 20 unit single family condominiums
- 7 Martins Ferry Road: 1 building, 6 units age 55+
- 108 Mammoth Road: 4 unit single family townhouses

HOOKSETT LIBRARY NEWS

Did you know?

With your Hooksett Library card you can access the Library's digital resources from the comfort of your own home: research your family history with HeritageQuest, read product reviews and recommendations before you buy with Consumer Reports Online, read digital books with Libby and cloudLibrary, read digital magazines with Libby, find articles with Gale General OneFile and Health & Wellness, and read local newspapers with NewsBank. Visit HooksettLibrary.org for more information.

Touch A Truck

The Summer Reading program kicks off on Saturday, June 24 at 10 a.m. with a special Touch A Truck event. Families will find a wide variety of vehicles and the people who use them to build, farm, protect, and serve our community. This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Hooksett Library, who will be providing refreshments.

Summer Reading

In an effort to foster a lifelong love of reading, we will hold our annual Summer Reading program at the Hooksett Library. This year's theme is All Together Now, and we plan to host events that focus on our community and our community helpers. In addition to featuring local community helpers at our storytimes, we will also host daily events that focus on music, art, literacy, and more! The Library also offers a Summer Reading Program for adults. Registration for both youth and adult Summer Reading begins June 19 and runs through August 5. Track your reading, find new book recommendations, and be entered to win great prizes by signing up at HooksettLibrary.org!

Library of Things Collection

Thanks to generous support from the Friends of the Hooksett Library, the Library's unique collection of Library of Things continues to grow. The latest addition to the collection is a pop-up canopy tent. Find this and other unique items available to borrow by visiting HooksettLibrary.org, clicking the Borrow tab and then choose the Library of Things in the menu list.

Concert on the Lawn

Live music returns to the front lawn of the Library this summer with a performance by The Bel Airs, a five-member mixed gender vocal group from southern New Hampshire performing popular love ballads and dance tunes from the late '50s and early '60s, commonly known as the Doo Wop Era. Grab a lawn chair and enjoy this evening out at the Library on Friday, July 14 at 6:30pm!

Community Impact Award

The Hooksett Library is the proud recipient of this year's Community Impact Award, presented by the Hooksett Kiwanis Foundation at their annual awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 9. This award recognizes the Library's longstanding commitment to the Hooksett community in its various partnerships, resources, events and services for all ages. It also acknowledges the positive experiences that Library visitors and patrons enjoy as a result of the Library's ongoing focus on customer service. The Hooksett Library Staff and Board wish to thank the Hooksett Kiwanis Foundation and the entire Hooksett community for this special recognition.



ASSESSING STATISTICAL UPDATE SCHEDULED FOR 2023

State Law (RSA 75:8-a) requires that cities and towns conduct a full value property reassessment at least every five years. Since the last revaluation took place in 2018, Hooksett's Assessing Department will be conducting a full value property reassessment in 2023. This is done so that property assessed values will reflect statewide current market values. As the real estate market fluctuates – up and down – our assessments may be out of sync with current market values. State law requires assessments between 90% and 110% of current market values when conducting a revaluation or update.

Our 2022 assessment ratio is 63.1% of the current market value. It is strongly encouraged for taxpayers to review their PRC (Property Record Card), to verify the data is accurate, this can be done online from the online database which is a link on the assessing page at hooksett.org. If anyone finds any discrepancies, please call the office to set up an inspection. Having better data upfront will make the update process smoother for all in the long run. Please call Jon Duhamel in the Assessing office with any questions, 603-268-0078.

LITHIUM-ION BATTERY SAFETY

Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The Problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

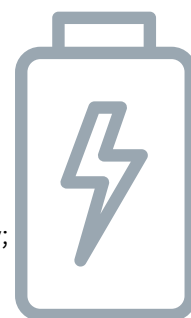
- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call 9-1-1.

Battery Disposal

Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash. Recycling is always the best option. Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions. Do not put discarded batteries in piles. Charging an E-bike Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



Green Grass & Clear Water

Water-quality friendly lawn care and fertilizer recommendations for northern New England

According to a recent survey, it's likely that you and your neighbors believe having a lawn that is safe for the environment is very important.¹ However, some lawn care practices can create water quality problems. Plants need nutrients to grow, but excess nutrients (including nitrogen and phosphorous found in fertilizers) that run off our properties into local waterbodies can trigger algal blooms that cloud water and rob it of oxygen.

Many of us enjoy the time we spend working on our lawns and are willing to try new practices as long as our lawns continue to look good.¹ Here are some easy practices for creating and maintaining a truly healthy lawn that is both attractive and safer for the environment.



Town of Hooksett
Department of Public Works
210 West River Road
Hooksett NH 03106
(603) 668-8019



For additional fact sheets and videos, please visit:

**[www.extension.unh.edu/tags/
home-lawn-care](http://www.extension.unh.edu/tags/home-lawn-care)**

Simple Recommendations for Every Lawn

1. Choose the Right Grass Seed

Consider limiting lawn area to locations where grass will grow easily and will actually be used for outdoor activities.

Choose grass varieties that require less maintenance. For northern New England, choose seed mixes with higher percentages of turf-type tall fescues, compact-type tall fescues and/or fine fescues. Choose mixes with smaller percentages of Kentucky bluegrass and/or perennial ryegrass. Overseed bare spots.

In shaded areas, select shade-tolerant turf grasses like fine-leaf and tall fescues.

Up to 10% of total seed mix can be white clover to help fix nitrogen in soil naturally. Avoid clover if anyone in the household is allergic to bee stings.

2. Don't Overwater

1" of water per week (from rain or irrigation) is usually enough. Overwatering can cause excess nutrients to move out of the root zone and into waterbodies or groundwater.

3. Test Your Soil

To have your soil tested, please visit this site:

extension.unh.edu/programs/soil-testing-services.

Sometimes adjusting the soil pH or organic matter are the only treatments needed to improve a lawn. If your soil test results are acceptable but your lawn is not, check for other problems like pests, grass variety, or sun/shade conditions.

4. Mow Smart

Mow grass no shorter than 3" high. Cut no more than one-third ($\frac{1}{3}$) of the blade each time you mow to encourage longer, stronger roots. Leave the clippings after mowing so they can return nutrients to the soil. NEVER dispose of clippings in drainage areas, storm drains, or waterbodies!



Recommendations for Lawns That Need Fertilizer

1. Determine How Much to Apply

Measure the dimensions of the area where you plan to apply. The square footage of the area will determine how much fertilizer to purchase and use.

Only use what you need. Nearly half of homeowners mistakenly use the entire bag whether it is needed or not.¹ Seal and store opened fertilizer bags in an airtight container or share excess with others.

Lawns older than 10 years usually need less nitrogen than newer lawns, especially if the clippings are left, so apply only half of the amount directed on the bag. Only apply more if there's no improvement over time in turf color and density. Staying under four applications per season at this reduced rate helps keep the overall application at the recommended level² for water-quality friendly practices.

Lawns less than 10 years old may need the full amount of nitrogen as indicated on the fertilizer instructions. Apply less than four times per year.

2. Know When & Where to Apply

Avoid applying fertilizers mid-summer when turf growth naturally subsides or before a big rain when it can run off into nearby waterways or leach into ground water.

In northern New England, apply no earlier than spring green-up and no later than mid-September to ensure the proper soil temperature for grass to take up the nutrients.

Know your local and state laws related to fertilizer application. For example, do not apply any fertilizers within 25 feet of water bodies in New Hampshire.

3. Choose the Right Fertilizer

Avoid combination products that include both pesticide and fertilizer unless confident you need both. Unnecessary applications of fertilizers and pesticides can lead to soil and water contamination.

Select lawn fertilizers with low or no phosphorus unless your soil test indicates otherwise. The fertilizer formula (e.g., 20-0-15) tells the relative percentages of nitrogen (N), phosphorous (P) and potassium (K), in that order.

3. Choose the Right Fertilizer, cont.

Slow release formulations (>50% water insoluble nitrogen, "WIN") are generally preferable. Only use quick release products when there is a need to grow turf very quickly, for example, to prevent erosion of bare soil during a new seeding. Check the product label to see what type of nitrogen it contains.

Organic fertilizers are typically slow release and contain micronutrients that are beneficial to soil. They are not petroleum-based like most synthetic fertilizers. Overapplying any type of fertilizer or over-irrigating fertilized turf can lead to water quality problems.

For more home lawn care information:

www.extension.unh.edu/tags/home-lawn-care

Contact:

UNH Cooperative Extension Education Center
329 Mast Road, Suite 115
Goffstown, NH 03045
answers@unh.edu
(877) 398-4769

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¹Survey references from:

Changing Homeowner's Lawn Care Behavior to Reduce Nutrient Losses in New England's Urbanizing Watersheds: the Report of Findings from Social Science Research. Eisenhauer, B.W. and B. Gagnon. 2008.
USDA CSREES project # 2006-51130-03656

²Recommendations adapted from:

New England Regional Nitrogen and Phosphorus Fertilizer and Associated Management Practice Recommendations for Lawns Based on Water Quality Considerations. 2008. Karl Guillard (ed.). Turfgrass Nutrient Management Bulletin B-0100. College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of Connecticut.
USDA CSREES project # 2006-51130-03656.

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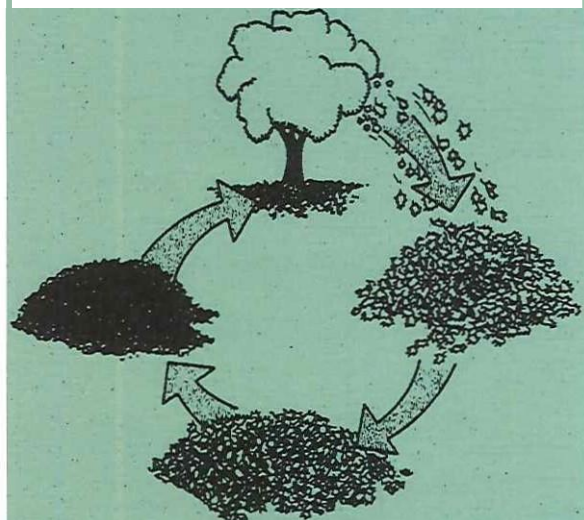
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BACKYARD COMPOSTING

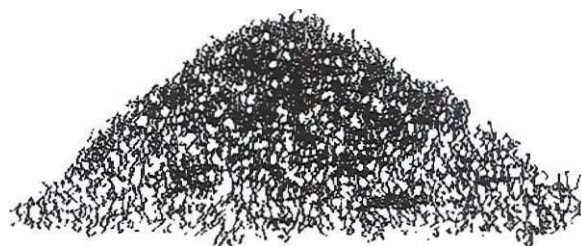
Nature's Way of Recycling



from the N.H. Department
of Environmental Services

What is compost?

Composting is nature's way of recycling. Composting is a natural process of decomposition of organic material into a rich soil amendment.

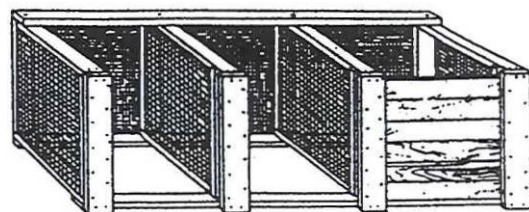


Why should I compost?

There are two basic reasons for composting. The primary reason people compost is to create a beneficial product from what is traditionally viewed as a waste. Gardeners have long known this secret. By composting leaf and yard waste, gardeners create a useful soil amendment to be incorporated into flower and vegetable gardens,

used as a mulch around trees or as a top dressing on lawns.

The second reason is that it is beneficial to the environment. Composting is done to reduce the amount of waste that makes its way to New Hampshire's landfills and incinerators.



What can I compost?

The following lists are a guide to the types of materials that are good and not good to compost. To produce the best quality compost, material thicker than *W'* should be shredded or chopped.

USE

leaves
lawn clippings
pine needles
weeds
straw
hay
sawdust
wood ashes
shredded newspaper
animal manures
coffee grounds
fruits & vegetables
crushed eggshells

DON'T USE

meats
bones
fatty foods
oils
dairy products
colored newspaper
coal ashes
dog or cat wastes
pressure treated wood
plywood
anything not bio-degradable

How can I use compost?

Compost can be applied to enrich the flower and vegetable garden, to top-dress the lawn, and as mulch around trees and shrubs. House plants and planter boxes will benefit from combining compost with potting soil.

Before using, it's best to sift the compost through a 1/2" mesh hardware cloth. The remaining coarse material may then be put back into a new compost pile for further decomposition.

Heavy clay or light sandy soil will benefit most from the addition of compost. Apply a 2" layer on the soil surface and thoroughly work it into the upper six to eight inches of soil.

HOW DOES COMPOSTING WORK?

Biology

Organic waste material decomposes through the actions of the soil micro-organisms. They start the process of decaying matter by breaking down plant tissue. Soon, fungi and protozoans join in and later centipedes, millipedes, beetles and earthworms do their part. These micro-organisms work best when sufficient oxygen, moisture and nitrogen are supplied.

Materials

Anything growing in the yard -leaves, weeds, grass clippings, kitchen waste (except meat, bones, dairy products, and fatty foods)-is potential food for the tiny micro-organisms working in the pile. Avoid using diseased plant materials.

Surface Area

Material decomposes faster if the micro-organisms have more surfaces with which to work. Chopping garden waste with a shovel, running it through a shredding machine or lawnmower, speeds its composting.

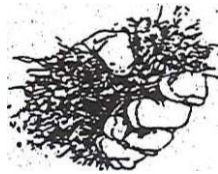
Size

The ideal size for the pile is four feet wide and four feet high by any convenient length.

Smaller piles have trouble holding heat and larger piles may have aeration difficulties.

Moisture and Aeration

The microbes work best when the pile is as moist as a wrung-out sponge and has plenty of air passages. Too much sun will dry out the pile and too much water will make it soggy.



Time and Temperature

The hotter the pile, the faster the composting. Ideal composting temperatures range from 100°F-140°F. With proper amounts of water, air, and materials, compost can be made in two to three months.

Carbon to Nitrogen Ratio

All living organisms need relatively large amounts of the element carbon (C) and smaller amounts of nitrogen (N). To speed composting, combine carbon-rich "brown" materials such as leaves with nitrogen-rich "green" materials such as grass clippings. The ideal compost combination is 30 parts carbon to one part nitrogen.

For more information

Refer to the guide *Composting to Reduce the Waste Stream* published by the UNH Cooperative Extension and available at all New Hampshire public libraries. For more information, please contact the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Family, Home and Garden Education Center toll-free at 877-398-4769, or contact the N.H. Department of Environmental Services, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0095. Information is also available at your local lawn and garden centers.

What's wrong with my compost?

Symptom: The compost has a bad odor.

Problems: Not enough air; pile too wet.

Solutions: Turn it; add coarse materials such as straw, corn stalks, etc.

Symptom: The center of the pile is dry.

Problems: Not enough water; too much woody material.

Solutions: Turn; moisten; add fresh green wastes; chop coarse wastes.

Symptoms: Compost is damp and warm only in the middle.

Problem: Pile too small.

Solutions: Get more material; mix old ingredients into a new pile.

Symptoms: The pile is damp and sweet-smelling, but won't heat up.

Problem: Lack of nitrogen.

Solutions: Mix in a nitrogen source such as food waste, fresh grass clippings, fresh manure, bloodmeal or ammonium sulfate.

Symptoms: Pest problems-birds, animals, rats, dogs, etc.

Problem: Undesirable food wastes.

Solutions: Remove any fish, meats, bones or dairy products. Be sure to cover or bury vegetable scraps.

COMPOSTING YARD WASTES

Selecting a Method

Your compost pile can be a simple heap of materials in a corner of your yard, or a bin to help organize the pile and keep it from blowing around your yard. Ready-made and easy-to-assemble bins can be purchased at local hardware and garden supply stores. Many people prefer to use their own method or create a bin themselves. There are many different types of methods or units to choose from.



Heaps/Piles

What are they? Heap composting doesn't require a structure. It is simply a pile placed in your yard.

How? Combine organic materials together in a heap/pile measuring about five feet wide and three feet high. Materials may be added as they become available, or stockpiled until enough materials are available to make a good-sized heap. Water to the damp sponge stage. The pile may be turned regularly or not at all.

Pros/Cons? This is the least expensive method, but if no turning is done, composting will take many months.

Mulching

How? Spread leaves and grass clippings around the base of plants a few inches from the stem. Chipped woody waste can be used as mulch around trees and shrubs.

Pros/Cons? Yard waste works first as mulch then decomposes into a soil amendment. The disadvantage is you have to buy or rent power equipment to chip woody wastes.

Variations: Chipped materials can be used to make informal garden paths.

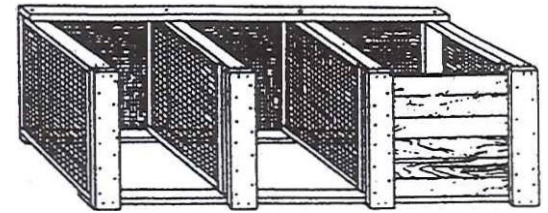
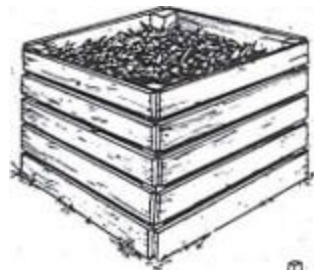
Holding Units

What are they? Simple containers or bins that hold yard and garden waste until composting is complete.

How? Add organic material to the holding unit as it is generated. The composting process can be hastened by chopping or shredding organic materials, mixing high-nitrogen and high-carbon materials, maintaining proper moisture, or turning the pile.

Pros/Cons? Holding units are easily made and are a relatively inexpensive method of composting. Composting may take six months to two years, depending upon the organic materials and conditions present.

Variations: Possible holding units are circles of wire fencing or hardware cloth, old wooden pallets wired or tied together, snow fencing or wire framed in wood. In any case, the unit should be constructed to allow air transfer through the sides and back.



Turning Units

What are they? A series of three or more bins, or a rotating barrel/rolling ball that allows wastes to be turned regularly. This unit works well for gardeners with a large volume of yard waste, or for those requiring faster composting.

How? Layer alternately high-carbon and high-nitrogen materials in a 30:1 ratio. Moisten to the damp sponge state. When the temperature of the pile decreases substantially, turn it into the next bin. Again, dampen if not moist and add high-

nitrogen material if heating doesn't occur. After the pile heats and cools again, turn into the third bin. The compost should be ready for use after two weeks in the third bin.

Pros/Cons? Produces a high-quality compost in a short time with a large amount of care and labor. Units may be expensive to build or buy.

Variations: Turning units may be built of wood, concrete blocks, or a combination of wood and wire. There are also barrel/rolling ball composters that tumble the wastes.



The Hooksett Village Water Precinct would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to those residents and businesses that have been or will be impacted by recent and ongoing construction activities in the RT3A / Vista Drive / Hooksett Road areas. These construction projects are important for the long-term sustainability of the fire protection and drinking water systems in the Village area. We appreciate your patience and understanding as the work is completed. Please contact us if you have any questions, suggestions or concerns related to the projects.