

Falmouth Conservation Commission

2021 Council Update

April 11, 2022



Photo courtesy of Mich

Mission

The Falmouth Conservation Commission shall strive to **protect the natural resources** of Falmouth, including fresh and coastal waters, and **improve the Town's ecological integrity and wildlife diversity**.

It shall increase **public awareness** of the intrinsic value of the Town's interconnected ecosystems and shall work to **study, protect, and conserve** them.



Photos courtesy of Michael McDade

2021 Accomplishments

Pesticide and Fertilizer Ordinance

- Oversaw the implementation of the pesticide and fertilizer ordinance
- Compiled and analyzed pesticide applicator report data
- Maintained relationships with local applicators
- Researched water testing strategies and provided recommendation to Council
- Water testing strategy approved by Council in November 2021



Photo courtesy of Michael McDade

2021 Applicator Report Results

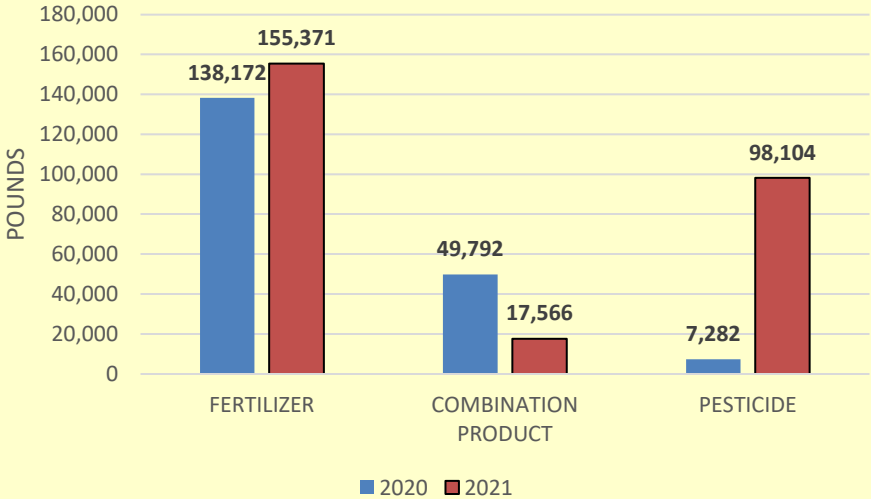
2021 Ordinance Compliance

- 32 licensed, professional applicators registered
 - 11 more than 2020
 - Many of the new applicators are pest professional companies (ants, mosquitos, house pests)
- 30 annual applicator reports submitted
 - 11 more than 2020
 - Not surprisingly, this **58% increase** in the number of submitted reports resulted in a significant increase in the reported volumes of fertilizers and pesticides applied in 2021.

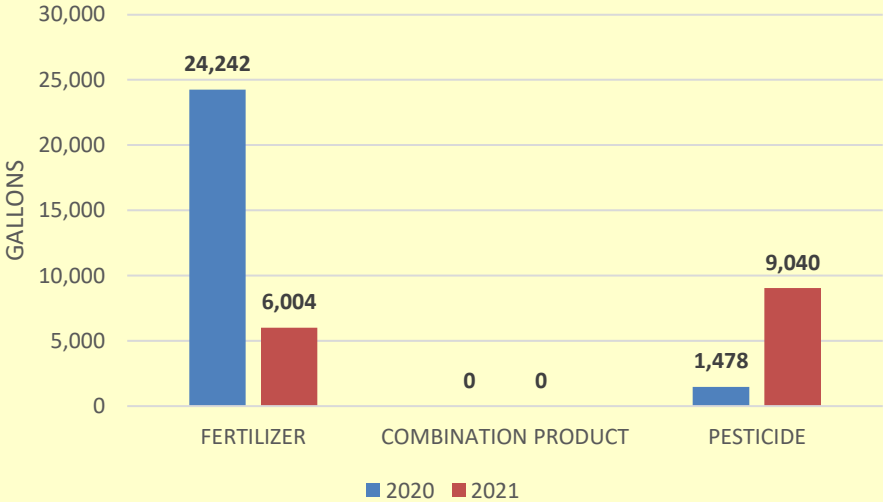
2021 Applicator Report Results

2021 Total Usage

TOTAL POUNDS OF PRODUCT USED
IN 2020 AND 2021

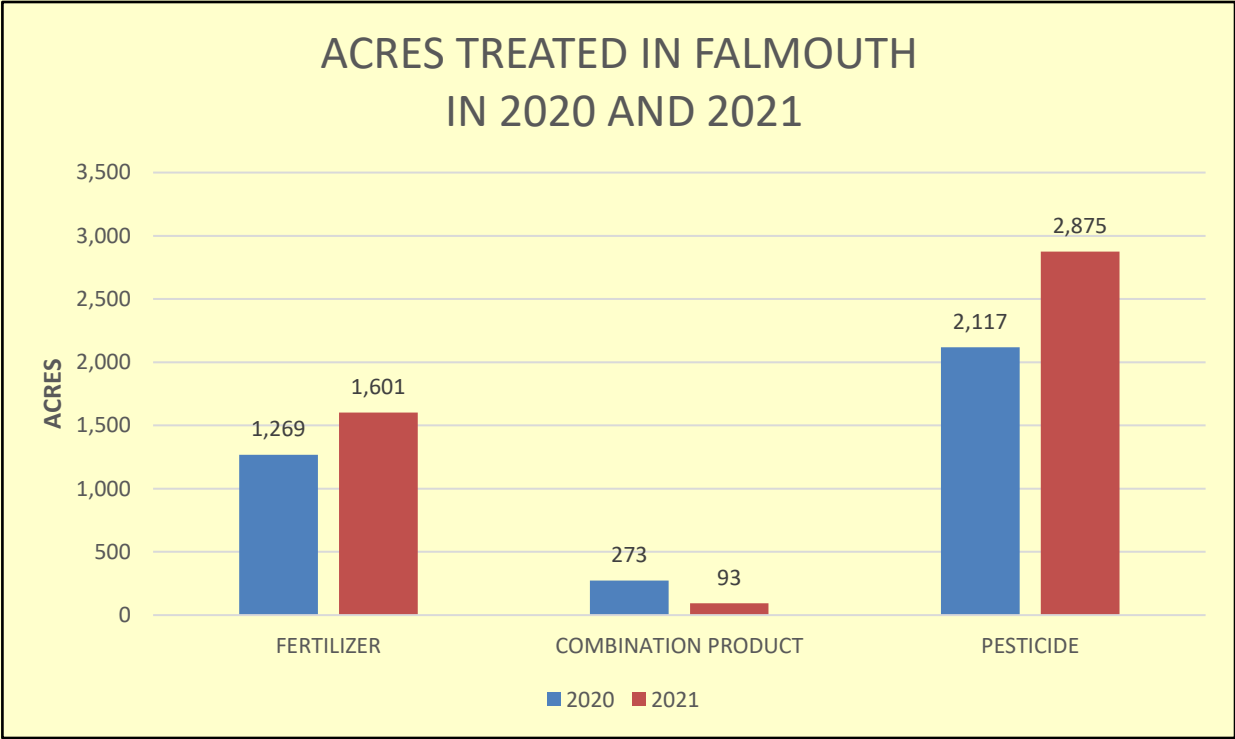


TOTAL GALLONS OF PRODUCT USED
IN 2020 AND 2021



2021 Applicator Report Results

Acres Treated



Note: Due to inconsistencies in the data reported these numbers are not considered to be 100% accurate but can be used as a rough reference point.

2021 Applicator Report Results

Key Takeaways

- Increased awareness and compliance
- Pesticide usage increased dramatically
- Most products used were synthetic

Next Steps

- The Conservation Commission recommends amending the Pesticide and Fertilizer Use ordinance with the following goals in mind:
 - Clarify some potentially confusing terminology
 - Add further restrictions of the use of certain insecticides
 - Update the reporting requirement to increase accuracy and ease the burden on applicators

2021 Accomplishments

Continued Living Lawns Campaign

- Continued to implement a robust education campaign for residents
- Hosted *YardScaping: Healthy Lawn Care Made Easy* workshop given by Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Provided lawncare tips via *Falmouth Focus* and Town social media channels
- Surveyed residents on lawn care practices

Watershed Health

- Continued to oversee the development of the Strategic Watershed Plan in partnership with Town Staff, the DEP, GPCOG, and ATTAINING: Sustainable Solutions



The Falmouth Focus

News & Updates from the Town of Falmouth



LIVING LAWNS LAWN CARE TIPS

Living Lawns offers lawn care tips that help make your lawn healthy and vibrant.

Tip #12: In a recent post, we recommended reducing the size of your lawn with ground covers and garden beds. Another way to do so is by establishing a No Mow Zone. This area is mowed only one or two times a year and allows native plants and grasses to grow. A No Mow Zone is a designated area that can progress through succession to return to a natural state. These areas provide an excellent habitat for pollinators such as native bumblebees. These zones allow plants to flower, which in turn provides a place for pollinators to stop and have a meal.

Tip #13: It is not the right time to fertilize your lawn! Applying extra fertilizer in the heat of summer can burn your lawn and create a flush of tender growth that will struggle in the hot summer weather. Never fertilize dormant lawns: Rather, wait until they green up in the fall if your soil test depicts needed nutrients. If you're leaving your grass clippings behind when you mow, you're giving your lawn all the fertilizer it needs, and it's free!

For more information on healthy lawn care, visit:

<https://www.falmouthme.org/environmental-initiatives/pages/living-lawns-your-healthy-lawn-care-resource>

2021 Accomplishments

Invasive Terrestrial Plant Management

- Continued to educate residents about invasive plants
- Participated in the Maine Invasive Species Network webinar February 23-24 and an invasives identification workshop led by Caleb Hemphill for Town Staff
- Assisted with developing the invasive management strategy for 2021 – with a focus on Pine Grove Preserve in anticipation of the harvest



Working for an **Invasive-Free** Falmouth

2021 Accomplishments

Tree City USA

- Held a “Treemendous” Falmouth Arbor Day Scavenger Hunt May 16-22 with a search for 10 trees in Town
- Planted a black cherry tree at the River Point Conservation Area on May 17 to ensure that Falmouth’s Tree City USA designation continues with the yearly planting of a tree

Earth Day

- Held two trash pick-ups in recognition of “Restore Our Earth” at River Point on Route 100 and along Route 1 from Waldo's to Bucknam Road
- Delighted that other Falmouth groups (Scouts, students, various neighborhoods) participated on an ad hoc basis at different times



2021 Accomplishments

Plastics Pollution

- Planned educational campaign to reduce plastic pollution
- Met with Wastewater team and Casella to better understand the dangers of microplastics
- Placed signage at Town Landing

Climate Action Planning

- Two FCC representatives are serving on the Climate Action Planning Committee
- Voted to support the Carbon Fee and Dividend Approach at the Federal Level



2022 Goals

Mission Update

Pesticide & Fertilizer Initiative

- Manage ordinance compliance
- Work with Council on ordinance next steps
- Support FBE water testing program

Living Lawns Educational Campaign

- Continue ongoing outreach and education

Invasive Terrestrial Plant Management

- Continue ongoing outreach and education
- Oversee Invasive Management Plan
- Focus on removing invasives at Pine Grove and Tidewater Farm

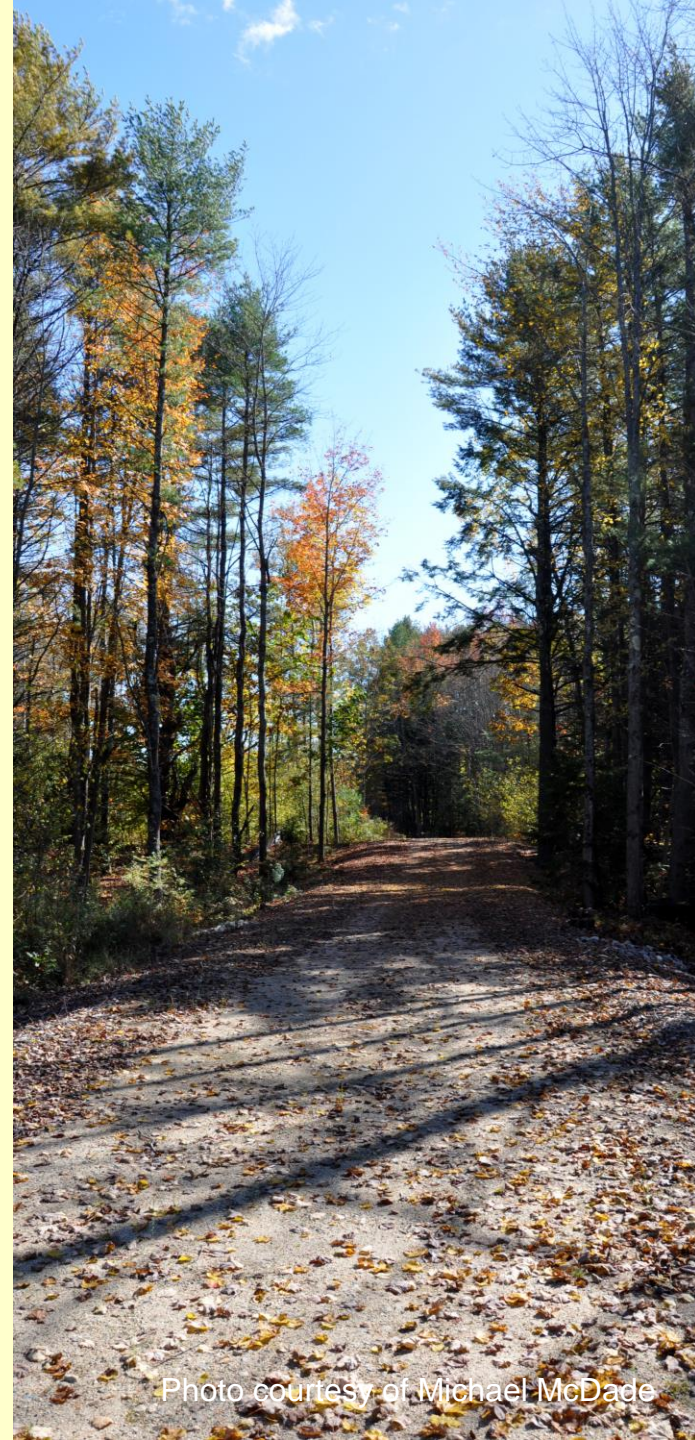


Photo courtesy of Michael McDade

2022 Goals

Strategic Watershed Plan

- Support implementation of plan once it is accepted by Town Council

Plastics Pollution Plan

- Develop education and outreach campaign

Tree City USA & Arbor Day 2022

- Tree planting and cleanup event

Earth Day

- Organize community cleanups in recognition of “Invest in Our Planet” theme
- River Point Cleanup April 23rd, 9am-12pm

Liaison with Other Committees

- Continue to collaborate with REAC, LMAC, the Planning Board, and HLLT

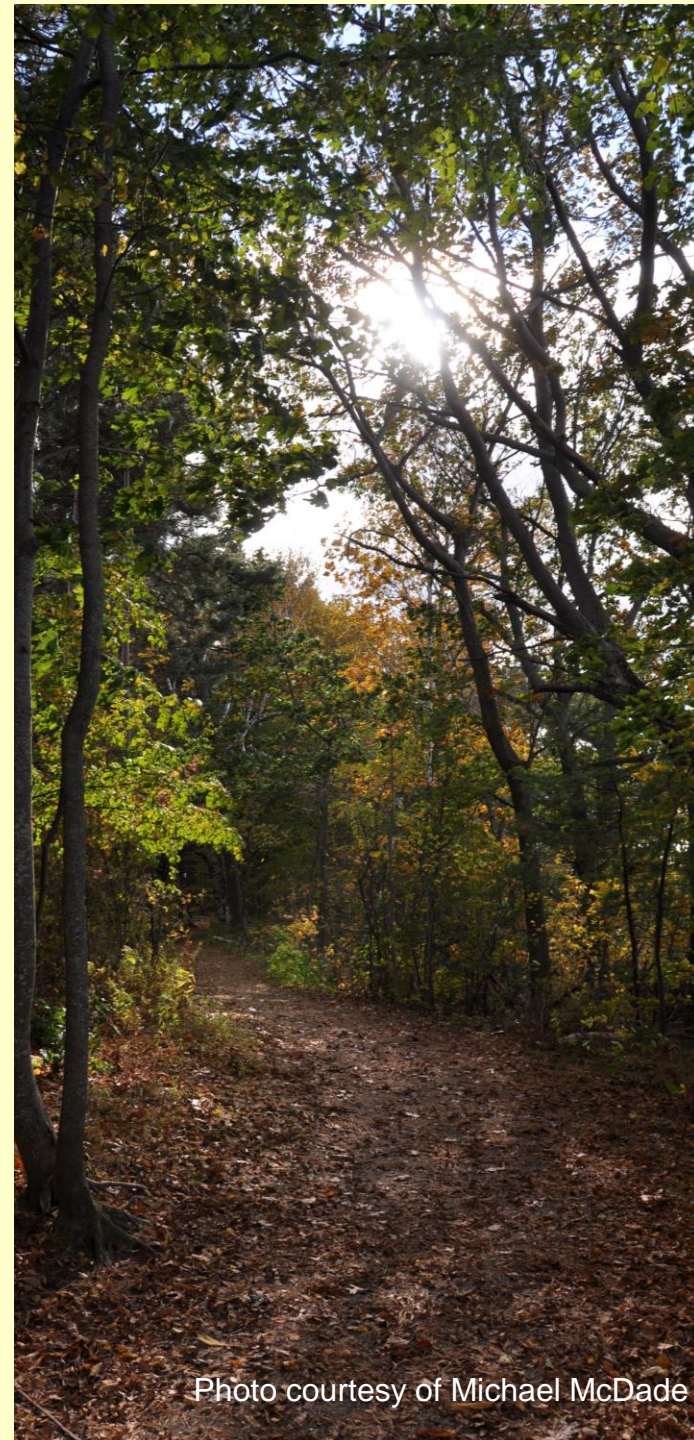


Photo courtesy of Michael McDade

A scenic sunset over a body of water, likely a lake or wide river. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm orange and yellow glow across the sky and reflecting on the water. Silhouetted trees and a grassy hill are in the foreground, and a distant shoreline with some structures is visible across the water.

The Conservation Commission thanks the Town Council for this opportunity and for your ongoing support.

Committee Members:

Nancy Lightbody, Chair
Sarah Boudreau
Jerry Goodall
Rich Bicknell

Steve Merz
J.P. Connolly

Council Liaison:

Tommy Johnson

Staff Liaison:

Ashley Krulik