



PUBLIC WORKS NEWSLETTER

Public Works – WHAT WE DO

Public works play a crucial role in sustaining the infrastructure and services that are essential for maintaining and enhancing community life. These efforts are managed by various departments, each dedicated to different aspects of community upkeep, ensuring that residents enjoy a high quality of life through well-maintained facilities and essential services.

The **Parks & Facilities Department**, a dedicated team of four individuals, is tasked with managing an impressive 120 acres of municipal property. Their wide-ranging responsibilities include maintaining athletic fields, caring for town facilities, and overseeing the upkeep of park grounds. This involves a variety of tasks such as landscaping, mowing, building repairs, and ensuring the upkeep of play areas, restrooms, fencing, the splash pad, and other essential structures. Through their tireless and dedicated efforts, the department ensures that these public spaces remain safe, visually appealing, and enjoyable for all community members. By doing so, they create numerous opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and community gatherings, fostering a vibrant and welcoming environment for everyone to enjoy.



The **Fleet Mechanic** fulfills a crucial role by overseeing the maintenance of approximately 60 vehicles, trailers, and pieces of equipment utilized by various town departments, including Public Works, Police, the Senior Center, Recreation, and Town Hall.

By coordinating regular inspections, repairs, and updates, our one mechanic ensures that all vehicles and equipment remain in optimal condition, facilitating uninterrupted town operations and enhancing the overall efficiency

of municipal services. Their expertise not only extends the lifespan of the fleet but also contributes to the safety and reliability of town services, thereby playing an indispensable part in supporting the community's daily functions.



Public Works – WHAT WE DO (Continued)

The **Highway Department** is responsible for the maintenance of approximately 90 miles of roadways and 35 miles of drainage systems throughout the town, all managed by a four-person team. Their duties encompass the oversight of 1,800 catch basins, town-owned detention ponds, waterways, and guide rails. Additionally, they maintain various town facilities, including parking lots and the roadways adjacent to Town Hall, as well as those of the Police and Fire stations.

Key functions of the department include pothole repairs, maintenance of catch basins and drainage systems, management of snow and ice, street cleaning, roadway mowing, tree maintenance along town roads, signage and safety upkeep, and pavement management. These activities are essential for ensuring that the town's roadways remain safe, clean, and efficient for all users, thereby facilitating smooth travel and transportation.



The **Recycling and Waste Management** team plays a crucial role in providing a variety of waste and recycling services. The Recycling Center offers multiple disposal options, including single-stream recycling, household trash, bulky construction waste, electronic waste, textiles, paint, hazardous materials, tires, food waste, and brush and leaves.

Their mission is centered around fostering environmental responsibility within the community while maintaining a high standard of cleanliness. These initiatives are vital for promoting a sustainable environment and encouraging residents to practice responsible waste management.

For those who wish to learn more about the Public Works services offered, residents are encouraged to visit the town's official website or their Facebook page, where updates and additional resources are regularly shared.



[FACEBOOK.COM/SOMERSPW](https://www.facebook.com/SOMERSPW)



[SOMERSCT.GOV](https://www.somersct.gov)



860-763-8234

MEET THE
PUBLIC WORKS
STAFF

Director



Park & Facilities



Highway



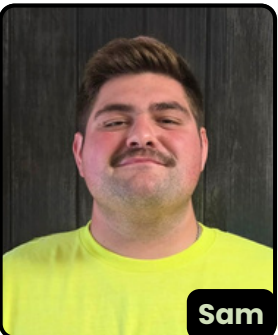
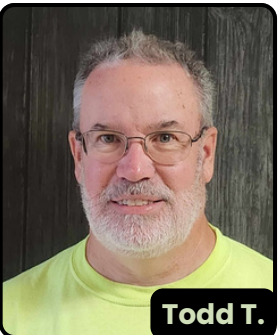
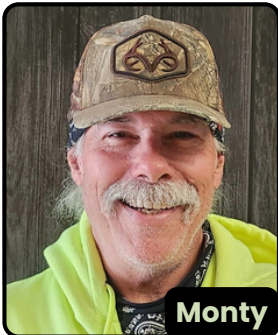
DPW Administrator &
Recycling Coordinator



Fleet Mechanic



Recycling Center



Highway Department

This year marks the second phase of our five-year road resurfacing plan, with a budget nearing \$7 million. In the previous year (2025), we successfully resurfaced twenty-one roads, covering approximately 6.46 miles, which included the installation of new curbing and catch basins as required. This year, we have completed twenty-two roads, totaling approximately 6.57 miles.

As we wrap up our second year, we wish to inform residents of several important updates as we prepare to embark on our third-year next spring/summer. The initial phase of road work will commence following the winter season. The Highway crew will assess catch basins and roadways to identify any additional wear that may have occurred during the winter months. We will also annotate and mark areas for "Call Before You Dig" as we undertake necessary repairs prior to the arrival of the construction crews for the upcoming resurfacing activities.



During this period, I, Chris, your Highway Foreman, will serve as your primary point of contact. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the roadwork. Our team is dedicated to minimizing disruptions and ensuring a smooth transition throughout these improvements.

We recognize that road construction can be inconvenient; however, these efforts are vital to maintaining the safety and quality of our infrastructure. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we work diligently to enhance the roads within our community. Regular updates will be provided through our website and local bulletins, ensuring you remain informed throughout the process.

Looking ahead, our goal remains to enhance the quality and longevity of Somers's roadways, thereby ensuring a safer and more efficient travel experience for all residents and visitors. Thank you for your support and cooperation as we continue to build a better Somers together.



Please call 911 when you see any trees down. This includes on the roadways or on lines. This will allow the appropriate personnel to be dispatched to the area.



Mechanic Safety Focus

Making sure your vehicle ready always ready.

Essential Vehicle Maintenance Checklist

1. Visibility

- Clean wipers and replace them if they are worn out.
- Ensure head and taillights are clean.

2. Fluid Levels: Confirm that all fluid levels are at their appropriate levels.

3. Hoses & Belts: Inspect for cracks, fraying, or excessive wear, and replace as necessary.

4. Battery: Check for clean, tight, and corrosion-free connections.

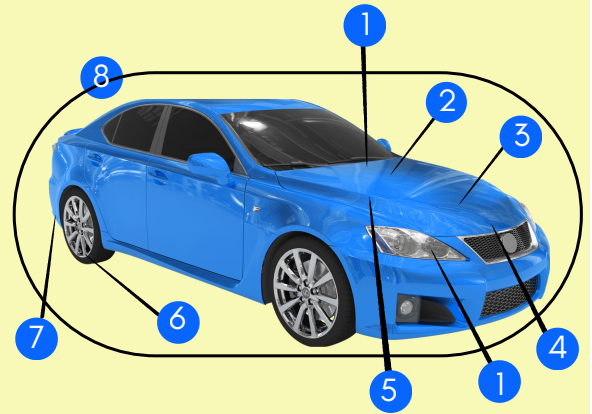
5. HVAC:

- Ensure your cooling system is functioning properly.
- When was the last time you changed your cabin air filter?

6. Brakes & Tires: Inspect tires and brakes to make sure they are within safety limits.

7. Exhaust System: Look for any leaks, damage, or broken supports.

8. Tune-Up: Schedule a tune-up as needed.



Parks & Facilities

In recent years, parks have become a sanctuary for those seeking solace and recreation amidst urban hustle. As stewards of these cherished green spaces, it's our responsibility to ensure they remain pristine for everyone to enjoy. E-bikes have become a favored mode of transportation for many individuals. Unfortunately, a recent incident involving e-bike riders joyfully navigating the park's grassy areas has caused considerable damage to the grounds. Whether this was accidental or deliberate, such behavior impedes current projects and places additional financial strain on park resources.

We kindly remind our community of the following regulations:

- Bicycles and e-bikes are allowed **ONLY** on sidewalks, roadways, and parking lots.
- Bikes are **NEVER** permitted on footpaths or grassy areas.

We strongly encourage everyone to follow these guidelines to help protect our shared spaces and reduce unnecessary repair costs. Thank you for your cooperation in preserving the beauty of our park.



Recycling Coordinator

What is a Circular Economy?

Many people, often without realizing it, already participate in circular economy practices. The circular economy aims to minimize the use of materials, redesign products to be less resource-intensive, and recover resources from waste for reuse. This involves reclaiming materials once considered waste to create new products. To support the growth of a circular economy, it's crucial to channel these materials to the appropriate destinations and individuals.

Recycling plays a vital role in this process, but it must be executed correctly. Glass bottles can be transformed into new bottles or jars, plastic jugs can be repurposed into carpet or clothing, and metal from an empty soup can be reshaped into new aluminum cans, beverage containers, automotive parts, or construction materials. Our roadways may even have incorporate glass or asphalt shingles within the pavement. One of the most significant and costly elements in our waste stream is food waste, which can be converted into biofuel.

The circular economy focuses on reducing the negative life-cycle impacts of materials, minimizing the use of harmful substances, and decoupling material consumption from economic growth, all while addressing societal needs. This initiative aims to reduce waste and toxic materials, promote the reuse of essential minerals during manufacturing and processing, and create a more sustainable future for all.

The Impact Of Food Waste

Food waste is not only the most substantial waste we face, but it also carries significant financial implications. This waste adversely affects our communities and the environment, primarily due to methane emissions. It occurs at various stages of the food supply chain, with nearly half of it being generated our households. To combat this issue, we have implemented a practical strategy aimed at reducing food waste at home. By being mindful of our consumption habits, we can make a substantial difference. Here are some steps you can take to help reduce food waste and participate in our program:

- ✓ **Plan Your Meals:** Create a weekly meal plan and make a shopping list before heading to the grocery store. This prevents impulse buys and ensures you only purchase what you need.

- ✓ **Store Food Properly:** Learn the best ways to store different types of food to extend their shelf life. For example, keep fruits and vegetables in separate drawers and maintain your fridge at the ideal temperature.

- ✓ **Understand Expiration Dates:** Don't be too quick to toss items based on the date on the package. "Best by" and "sell by" dates are often about quality, not safety.

✓ **Embrace Leftovers:** Get creative with leftovers by incorporating them into new meals. A little bit of leftover chicken can be transformed into a hearty soup or salad.

✓ **Recycle Your Scraps:** Join Somers Food Scrap program and remove this waste from your trash. More information can be found on our Facebook page or Somersct.gov



By making small changes in your daily routine, you can significantly reduce food waste, save money, and contribute positively to the environment. Let's work together to be part of the solution, one meal at a time!



Volunteer Thank You!

With the assistance of dedicated volunteers, the Recycling Center maintains a clean and welcoming environment. Numerous volunteers ensure that the Treasure Chest remains organized and inviting for all community members. Their commitment

enables residents to easily locate and repurpose items, fostering a culture of sustainability and sharing. We express our sincere gratitude for their hard work and enthusiasm, which are essential to the success of our recycling initiatives.

We would like to extend a special thank you to George, one of our volunteers who has dedicated many hours since the reopening of the Treasure Chest November 2025. George has played a crucial role in educating residents about acceptable recycling items while generously contributing his time and energy. His efforts not only benefit the environment but also enhance the community spirit in Somers.

If you are interested in joining this passionate group of volunteers, we warmly invite you to participate. Volunteering offers a rewarding experience that significantly impacts both our environment and community. For more information on how to get involved, please contact the Recycling Coordinator directly. Together, we can make a difference, one recycled item at a time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Paintcare @ Recycling Center

September 5 | October 3, 2026 | 7:30am-11:30am

Household Hazardous Waste in Manchester

An appointment is required. Please visit somers.gov and navigate to the Recycling Center page for more information. CREOC HHW

- Saturday, September 19, 2026 | 8am-1pm
- Saturday, October 31, 2026 | 8am-1pm
- Saturday, February 6, 2027 | 8am-1pm
- *Saturday, October 3, 2026 | 8am-1pm Outreach (21 Main Street, Ellington) No Appt Needed*

RECYCLING CENTER NEW HOURS

Thursday & Saturday 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday 11:30 am to 4:30 pm

Closure Dates for the Somers Recycling

Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 26, 2026

Easter, Sunday, March 28, 2027

