

Introduction

This report highlights how the Town of Milford benefits from its participation in the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District’s (NRSWMD) Household Hazardous Waste Program. This program is funded by municipal assessments, user fees, and a grant received by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission from the NH Department of Environmental Services. The following charts and figures reflect data from waste collection events held during 2023.

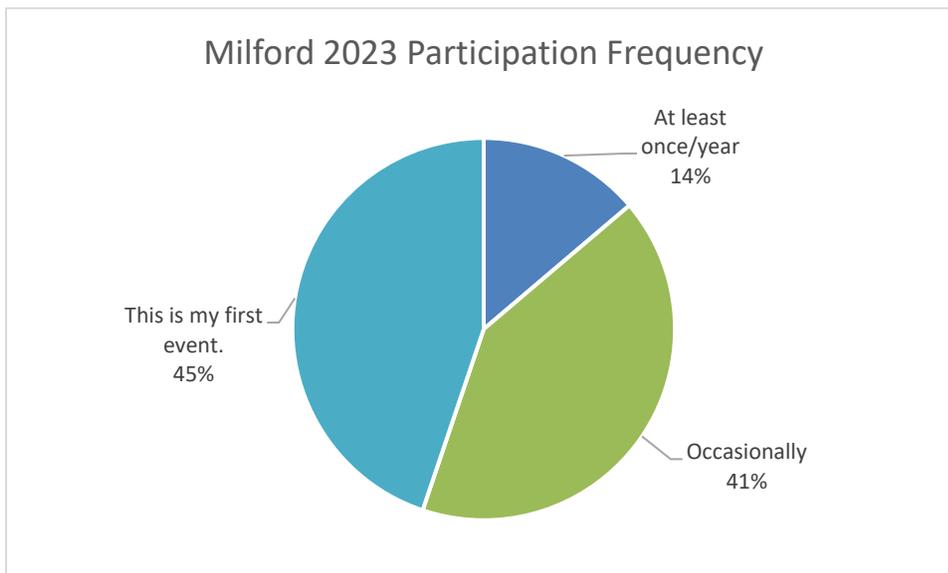
Collection Overview

Six events were held during 2023: five in Nashua and one satellite event in Pelham. Residents from any of the eleven NRSWMD member municipalities could participate in any event. In even-numbered years, the satellite event is typically held in Milford.

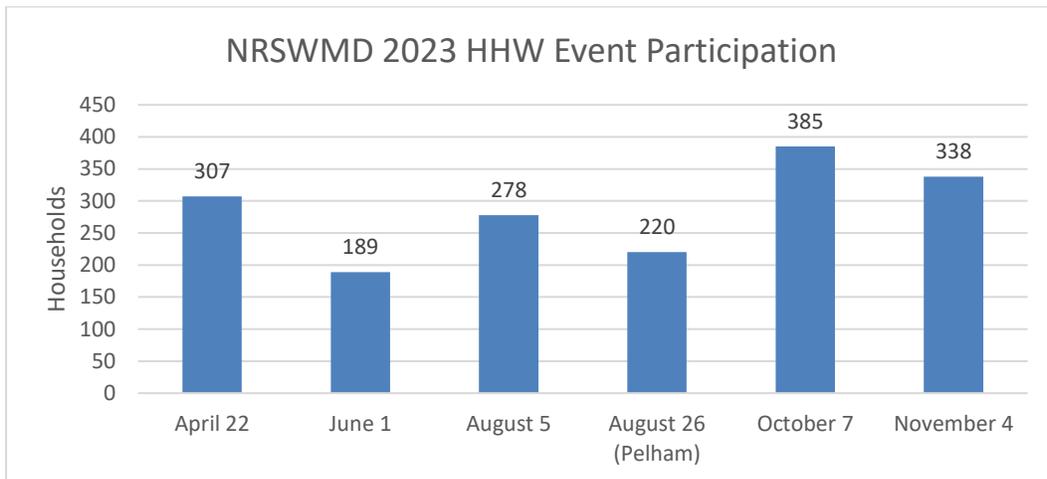
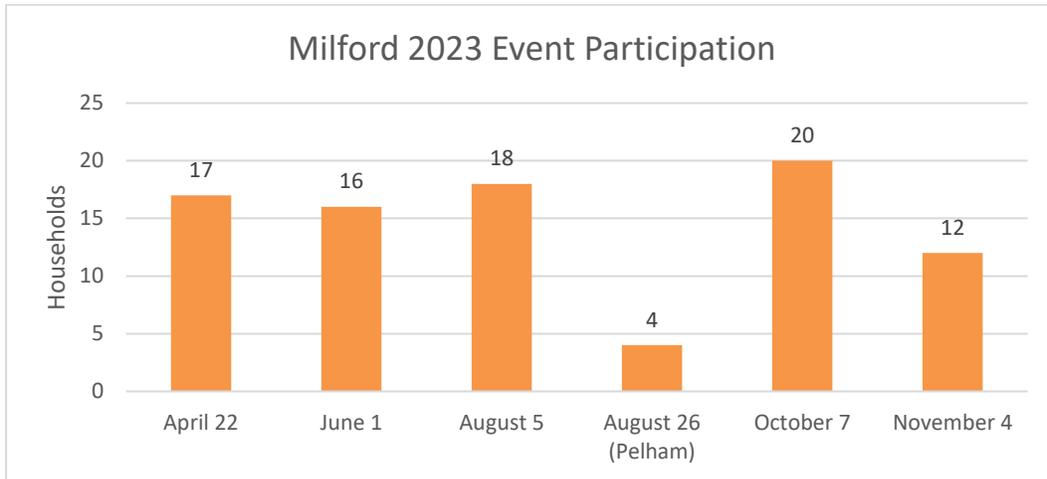
Saturday April 22, 8am-12pm, in Nashua	Saturday August 26, 8am-12pm, in Pelham
Thursday June 1, 3pm-7pm , in Nashua	Saturday October 7, 8am-12pm, in Nashua
Saturday August 5, 8am-12pm, in Nashua	Saturday November 4, 8am-12pm, in Nashua

Total Participation

In 2023, a total of 1,717 households participated in the HHW collections. Of those, 5.1%, or 87 households, came from Milford. According to the NH Office of Planning and Development’s 2022 population estimates, the population of the NRSWMD region is approximately 231,812. The 2022 estimates show a population of 16,590 for the Town of Milford, which is 7.2% of the district’s total population. Milford residents utilized the collection events at a lower rate than expected based on its share of the regional population, which is typical for a year without a satellite event in Milford. Forty-five percent of the participants from Milford indicated this was their first time attending an event, while 41% reported attending occasionally, and 14% reported attending at least one event every year. The most popular event for Milford residents was on October 7.



Households	Apr 22	June 1	Aug 5	Aug 26 (Pelham)	Oct 7	Nov 4	Total	Share of Region
Milford	17	16	18	4	20	12	87	7.2%
NRSWMD	307	189	278	220	385	338	1717	100%
Share of Event	5.5%	8.5%	6.5%	1.8%	5.2%	3.6%	5.1%	

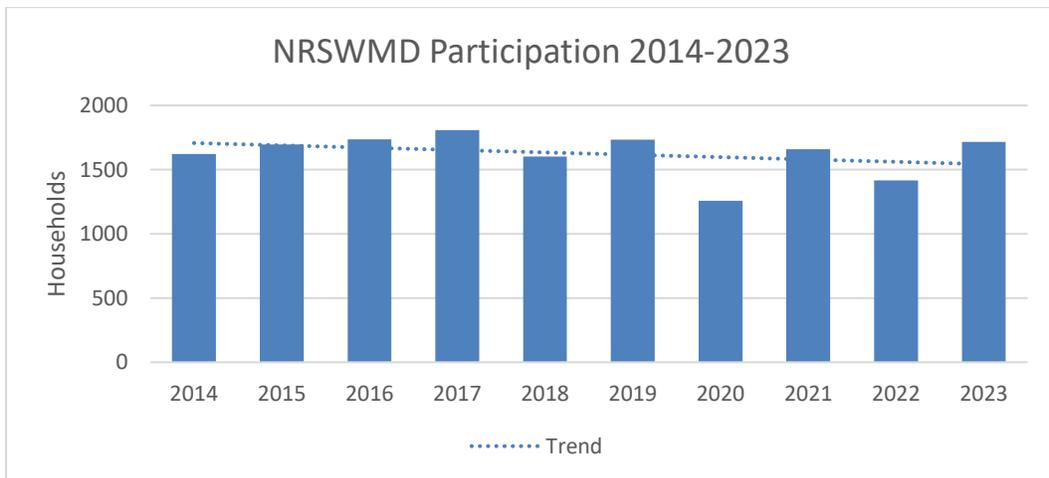
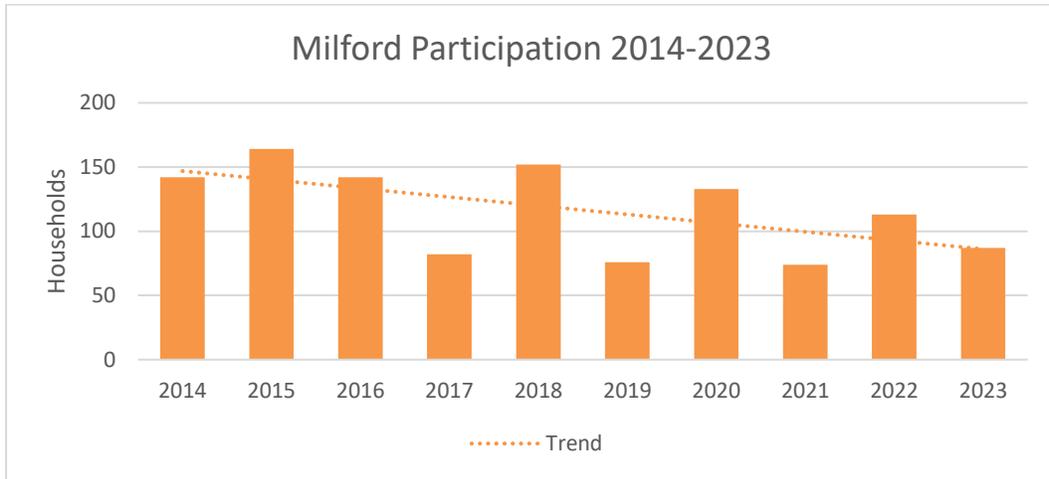


Historic Participation Trends

NRSWMD began charging a \$10 user fee per vehicle in 2008, which was raised to \$15 in 2019. While participation rates trended consistently upward between 2014 and 2017, they have fluctuated up and down since 2018. The district held seven events in 2016 and 2017, and only four events in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The last three years have shown participation rates similar to pre-2020 years, although waste volumes have continued to increase. Milford’s 2023 attendance was up from 2021, the most recent year without a satellite event in Milford.

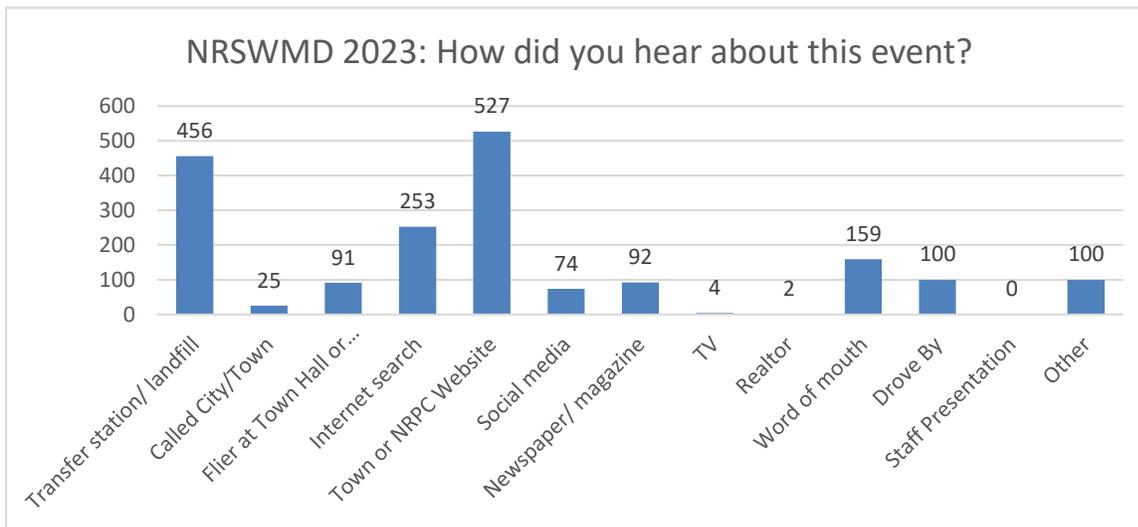
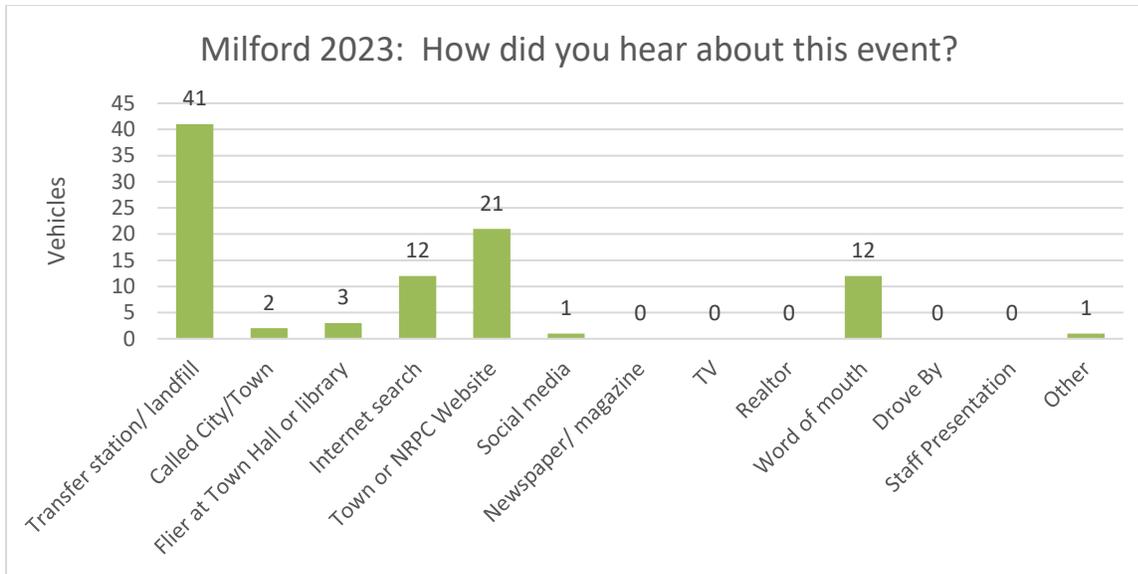
A Decade at a Glance

Households	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Milford	142	164	142	82	152	76	133	74	113	87
District	1,623	1,696	1,736	1,808	1,603	1,734	1,258	1,659	1,416	1,717
Milford % of Total	8.8%	9.7%	8.2%	4.5%	9.5%	4.4%	10.6%	4.5%	8.0%	5.1%



Marketing & Outreach

By tracking how participants learn about HHW events, the district can better target its marketing and outreach. In 2023, most Milford participants learned about the collection events from the transfer station (41 vehicles) or the town or NRPC website (21 vehicles).



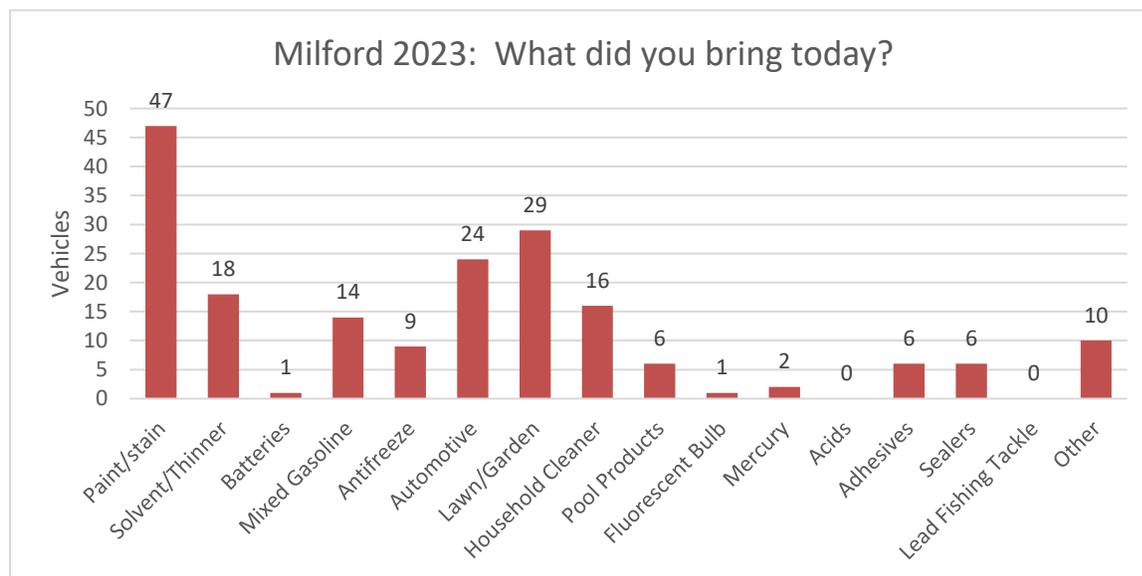
Materials Collected

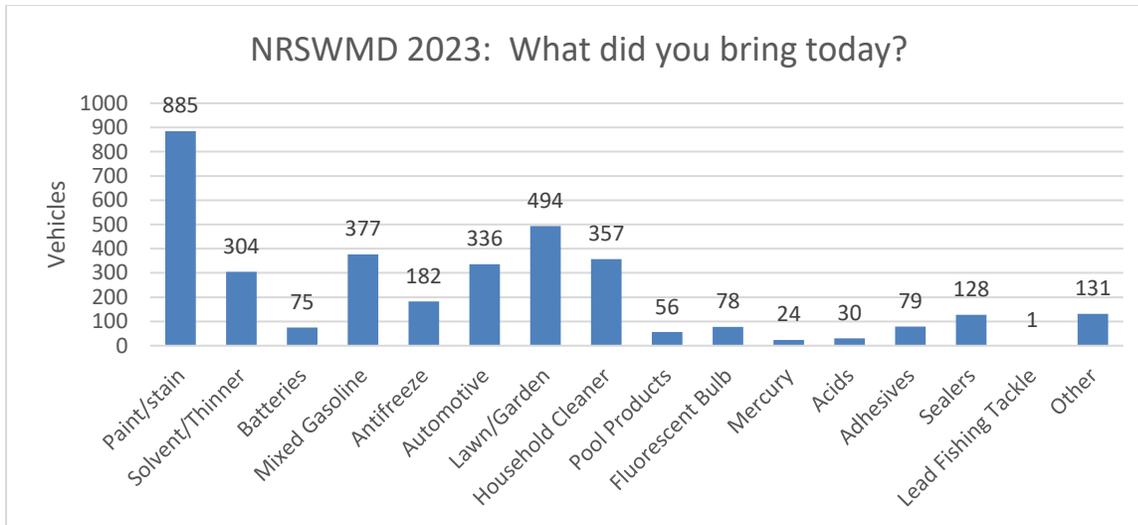
The district manifested a total of 158,598 pounds of waste during the 2023 collection season. Of this, 141,278 pounds were hazardous, and 17,320 pounds were universal wastes. This is an increase of 22,862 pounds from the 2022 total (135,736 total pounds of waste in 2022: 121,857 pounds hazardous and 13,879 pounds universal).

2023 Volume by Event (Pounds)			
Date	Haz	Non-Haz	Total
4/22	23,944	4,489	28,433
6/1	13,475	2,415	15,890
8/5	34,926	2,505	37,431
8/26	23,583	1,390	24,973
10/7	26,811	4,445	31,256
11/4	18,539	2,076	20,615
2023 Totals	141,278	17,320	158,598

Participant surveys provide more detailed information on the types of waste being collected from each community. The types of waste collected in 2023, as reported on participant surveys, are shown in two charts below: one highlighting Milford and the other with data from the entire district.

Milford households reported paint/stain (47 vehicles), lawn/garden (29 vehicles), and automotive (24 vehicles) as the three most common types of waste. District-wide, paint/stain continues to be the most common item reported: more than 800 vehicles in the district brought paint/stain to a collection event. Lawn/garden was the second most common item reported this year (494 vehicles), followed by mixed gasoline (377 vehicles).





Conclusions

Total event attendance and volume of waste both increased since last year, and Milford attendance was strong when compared to other years without a satellite event in Milford. Labor shortages, rising costs, and waste stream delays have put pressure on our communities and environmental contractor. The proper disposal of household hazardous waste is enormously important as it decreases our impact on the environment and the risks of accidental poisonings in the home. The dedication of our members and professional expertise of our environmental contractor have been vital to the success of this program: Thank you.

Milford Representatives to the NRSWMD:

Tammy Scott, Recycling Administrator

Leo Lessard, Public Works Director