

# LivableNashua

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The City of Nashua is accelerating its commitment to sustainability with the recent acquisition of several new electric vehicles for key municipal departments. This move marks a significant step in the city's ongoing efforts to transition to a more efficient, and environmentally friendly fleet.

The Parking Department has welcomed two new Honda Prologue electric SUVs into its operations. They will primarily utilize these vehicles for parking enforcement duties, allowing parking officials to patrol city streets and parking facilities with zero tailpipe emissions.

## NASHUA SHIFTS GEARS WITH NEW ELECTRIC VEHICLES HITTING CITY STREETS



Meanwhile, Nashua Fire Rescue has expanded its capabilities with four Ford F-150 Lightning electric pickup trucks. These electric trucks will serve the Fire Marshal's Office, providing them with reliable and environmentally friendly transportation for fire investigations, inspections, and public safety calls. The Ford Lightnings are noted for their practicality, offering ample storage for equipment and the ability to run electrical equipment off of the vehicle's own battery power, eliminating the need for a generator in the field.

By transitioning portions of its fleet to electric power, the city aims to reduce fuel costs, cut down on maintenance costs, and lead by example in the adoption of greener technologies. This investment also aligns with Nashua's broader "Livable Nashua Plan," which outlines strategies for sustainable transportation and a reduction in the City's emissions.

[Learn About Sustainable Transportation in Nashua](#)



# Rain Can't Stop Nashua's Green Spirit



Photo: Dan Splaine / [Dan Splaine Photography](#)

Nashua's third annual Sustainability Fair truly outdid itself this year, drawing an impressive crowd despite the unexpected move inside the Nashua Public Library, due to heavy rain. What could have been a setback actually emphasized the community's deep commitment to a greener future, with families and friends flocking to engage in the day's activities. Attendees explored a captivating live caterpillar exhibit from The Caterpillar Lab, contributed to a collaborative art project, browsed the Eco-Market featuring local products, and gained valuable insights from various sustainability vendors. Even with the event's electric vehicle showcase needing to be cut from the program, the fair's overall impact on educating and inspiring sustainable practices solidified its place as a pivotal event for Nashua's environmental efforts.

[More About the Sustainability Fair](#)

# Nashua Nabs Nature Crown: Tops NH in First City Nature Challenge!



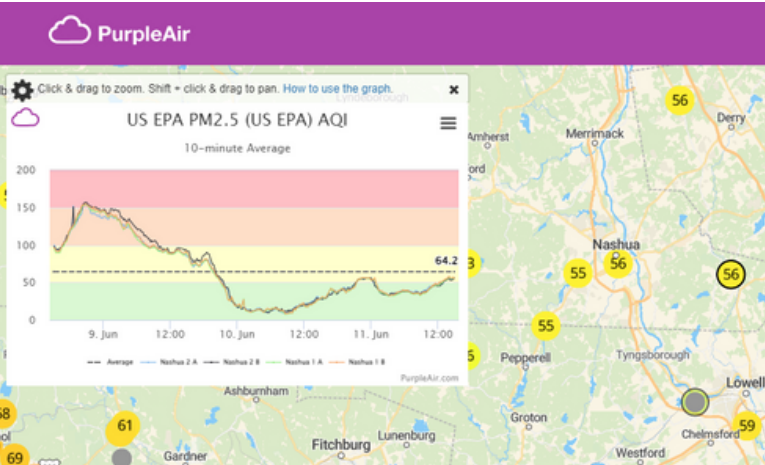
During the same weekend as the Sustainability Fair, Nashua emerged as the clear winner among all participating communities in New Hampshire for this year's global City Nature Challenge. With an impressive 405

observations recorded, and 183 different species identified, Nashua outshone all other cities in the state, including the more populous Manchester, in this friendly bioblitz competition. Observation highlights included, a barred owl, a common watersnake, eastern red-backed salamanders, and a six-spotted tiger beetle. This remarkable achievement, in the first year that any New Hampshire community officially took part in the challenge, shines a light on the biodiversity thriving within Nashua's city limits. Keep an eye out for information on next year's City Nature Challenge happening April 24 – April 27, 2026.

[See More Observations Highlights](#)



# Air Quality Briefly Unhealthy while Nashua Grappled with Distant Wildfire Smoke



Nashua experienced hazy skies and reduced air quality throughout early and mid-June, as smoke plumes from extensive Canadian wildfires drifted across New England. While New Hampshire largely avoided the most severe impacts seen in other Midwestern and Northeastern cities, on June 8th, local air sensors briefly registered "Unhealthy" air pollution levels.

These wildfires were largely triggered by lightning strikes, though some may have been human-caused. Climate change, however, significantly worsened these blazes. Unusually warm and dry conditions, with shorter winters, and prolonged droughts led to tinder-dry forests. This heightened "fire weather" allowed fires to ignite more easily, spread rapidly, and burn with greater intensity, producing the vast smoke plumes that reached far beyond Canada's borders.

The primary concern is fine particulate matter (PM2.5), which can be inhaled deep into the lungs. Exposure can cause coughing, wheezing, and breathing difficulties, especially for those with existing respiratory or heart conditions. Even healthy individuals may experience temporary lung function reduction.

To stay safe during such events:

- **Stay Indoors** - Limit outdoor activity and keep windows/doors closed.
- **Set HVAC to recirculate** with a high-efficiency filter.
- **Limit Strenuous Activity** - Reduce the intensity and duration of outdoor exercise to minimize inhalation of pollutants.

Monitor wildfire smoke via the [AirNow fire and smoke map](#), which shows Nashua's local air sensors as well as other air monitors in the region.



[Check Nashua's Air Quality Now](#)



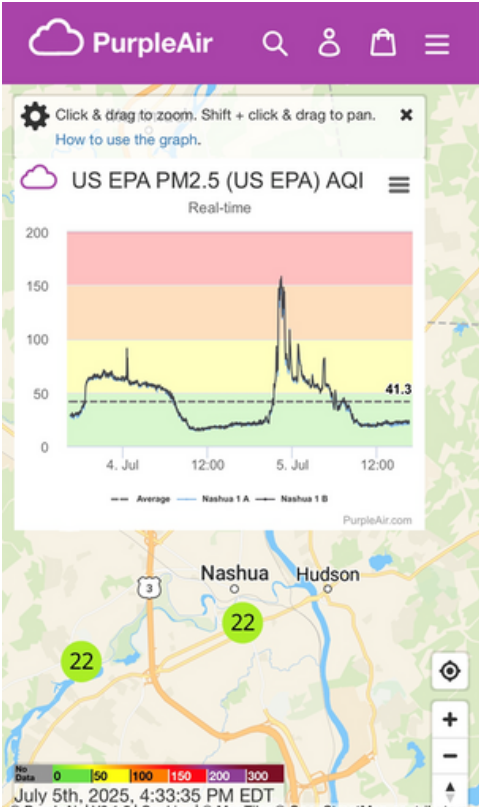
# Widespread Fireworks Cause Air Quality Spike



A significant spike in particulate matter was once again noted on July 4th, but this time it was not due to wildfire smoke. This increase in air pollution was caused by the widespread use of at-home fireworks across the city during Independence Day celebrations. The sheer volume of fireworks ignited within a short time period led to a high concentration of fine particulate matter (PM2.5) and other airborne pollutants. For a few minutes around 11pm, air quality monitors registered PM2.5 levels reaching the "unhealthy" threshold on the air quality index, a stark contrast to the "good" air quality just an hour prior.

Experts emphasize that while fireworks are a beloved tradition, large-scale, individual displays contribute disproportionately to air pollution. For a healthier and safer celebration, residents are encouraged to attend professional fireworks shows. These displays, typically conducted in open areas with controlled conditions, generate less localized pollution compared to numerous private setups and allow for better dispersal of emissions, ultimately resulting in a reduced overall impact on air quality for the community.

For those looking for alternatives to at-home fireworks, consider celebrating with:



- **Glow sticks and LED lights:** These offer a safe and environmentally friendly way to create a festive atmosphere.
- **Bubbles:** A fun activity for all ages, especially when illuminated with lights.
- **Confetti poppers** (biodegradable): A festive and less impactful option for a celebratory pop.
- **Sparklers** (used with extreme caution and adult supervision): While still producing some smoke, they are generally smaller in scale than aerial fireworks.
- **Decorative lighting displays:** Get creative with string lights and other outdoor illuminations.

[Check Nashua's Air Quality Now](#)

## Did You Know?

The hottest temperature ever recorded in Nashua, NH, was 106°F on July 4th, 1911.

This year, on June 24th, we set a new record for June, with a temperature of 101°F, surpassing the previous record of 100°F set on June 28th, 1901.



Source: [National Centers for Environmental Information \(NCEI\) | noaa.gov](#)

## Electric, Solar Generator Bolsters Fun and Resilience in Nashua



Nashua's Economic Development Division has acquired a new electric generator with solar panels for their rentable Block Party Trailer which will soon be available to anyone in the community for block party type events. Moreover, this generator is set to transform outdoor events like Nashua Pride, Summer Stroll, and Holiday Stroll, while also enhancing the city's emergency preparedness.

Unlike traditional diesel generators, this electric generator produces zero direct emissions, reducing air pollution and Nashua's carbon footprint. It is also much quieter, improving event experiences for everyone. The generator's portability offers flexibility for event organizers too, allowing them to power activities in diverse locations across the city, meaning more dynamic and accessible events for residents and visitors alike.

Beyond events, this new generator serves as a vital backup power source for emergency situations. In the event of an outage, it bolsters Nashua's resilience, ensuring essential services and communication points can remain operational. This strategic investment demonstrates Nashua's commitment to both sustainability and community safety.



## Solar-Powered Trash Compactors for More Sustainable Waste Management



Nashua's Division of Public Works recently deployed 16 new Bigbelly Sense Max waste bins, which are solar-powered, automatic compacting trash cans. 14 of these new trash cans are located on Main Street, while an additional 2 have been placed at Roby Park as a trial. These innovative "smart bins" use solar energy to power an internal compaction mechanism. By compacting waste on-site, the bins can hold five times more trash than traditional receptacles, leading to a significant reduction in the number of trips required by garbage trucks. This translates directly to lower fuel consumption, meaning a decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, and less air pollution for the city. Furthermore, the increased capacity of these bins helps prevent overflow, reducing windblown litter, deterring pests, and maintaining a more aesthetically pleasing urban environment. As such, the implementation of these trash cans aligns with Nashua's broader goals for a more livable community.

[Learn How Nashua is Reducing Waste](#)

## Merrimack River Spill Drill Boosts Readiness, Protects Water Supply



The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), in close coordination with EPA Region 1, recently conducted an oil spill response exercise on the Merrimack River in Nashua. This vital training simulated a spill scenario occurring upstream from Nashua, allowing the agencies to practice deployment of containment booms, and coordinate communication strategies, and assess environmental impacts. The exercise aimed to enhance preparedness and ensure a swift, effective, and unified response to potential oil spills, protecting the Merrimack River, which serves as a critical drinking water source.



## Celebrate Local Triumph: "The Work of 1000" Documentary Screening!

Join the **Nashua Public Library** and the **Sustainability Department** for a special screening of **"The Work of 1000,"** a powerful documentary that tells the inspiring story of how one woman, Marion Stoddart, mobilized an entire community to clean up the Nashua River. It is a compelling reminder of what we can achieve when we work together for a sustainable future.

**Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate a true local success story!**

**Date:** Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025

**Time:** 6:00pm - 7:00pm

**Location:** Library Theatre, Nashua Public Library

This event is **free** and **open to the public**. We look forward to seeing you there!