

Introduction

This report highlights overall participation in the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District's (NRSWMD) 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Program. This program was funded by municipal assessments, user fees, and a grant received by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission from the NH Dept. of Environmental Services. 2020 has been a much more challenging season than any since this program began. The Covid-19 Pandemic severely impacted the spring months of the collection season and forced the cancellation of the April, May (Milford), and June events. Events were greenlighted, with new Covid-19 Protocols, in August and the Milford satellite event was rescheduled for August 29. The August 1, October 3, and November 7 events were held in Nashua at 25 Crown Street instead of the Public Works Garage. Overall, the season lost 2 events to the pandemic and did create a significant amount of pent-up demand for HHW disposal.

As a result of the change in protocols for conducting the collection events this year not all the data points collected in previous years will be represented in this report. Surveys were done verbally by NRPC staff and collected the participants town of residence, number of households represented, and the frequency in which they participate in the HHW collection events. The collection of other data points will resume when the District deems it appropriate.

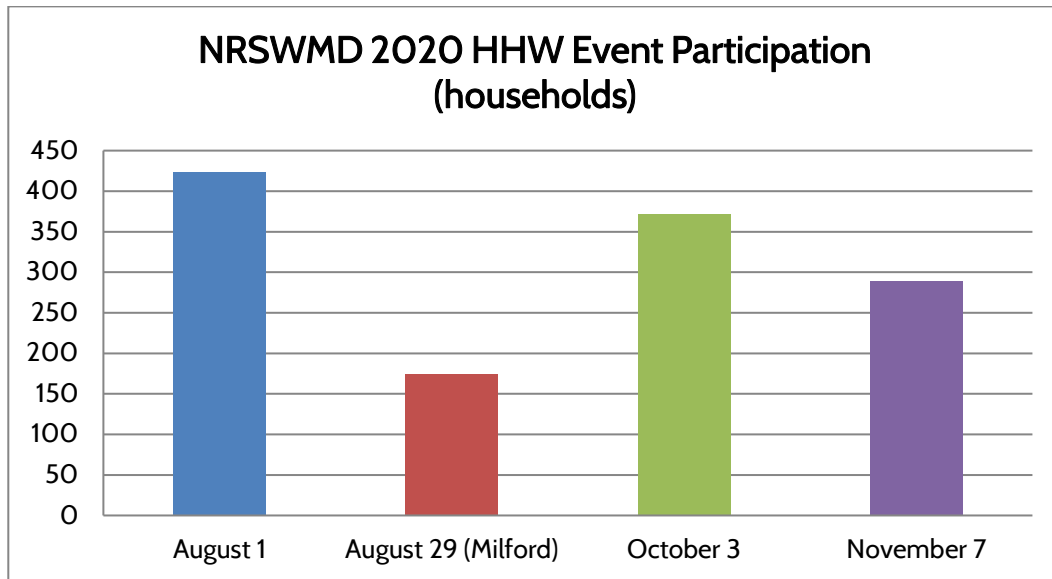
2020 Collection Overview

Four collections were held during the 2020 HHW season. Three of the events were located at the Nashua City Park & Ride at 25 Crown Street and one satellite event was held in Milford. Residents from any NRSWMD member municipality can participate in any event.

Saturday August 1, 8am-12pm, in Nashua	Saturday October 3, 8am-12pm, in Nashua
Saturday August 29, 8am-12pm, in Milford	Saturday November 7, 8am-12pm, in Nashua

2020 Total Participation

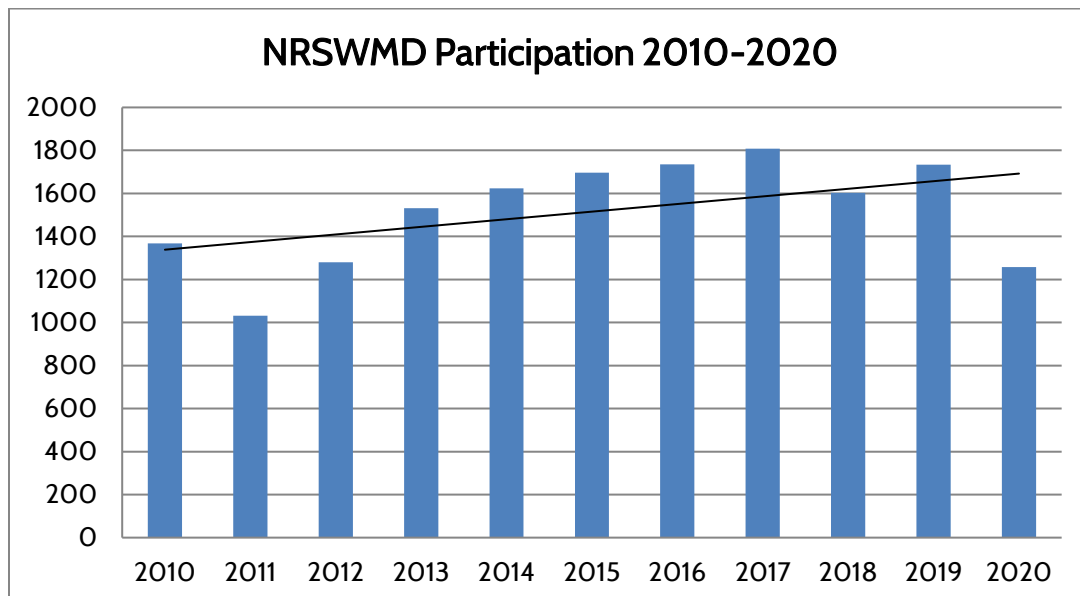
In 2020, a total of 1,258 households participated in the HHW collections District-wide. 49.5% of survey participants were first time attendees, 45.5% of participants reported attending every few years, and 4.5% Reported



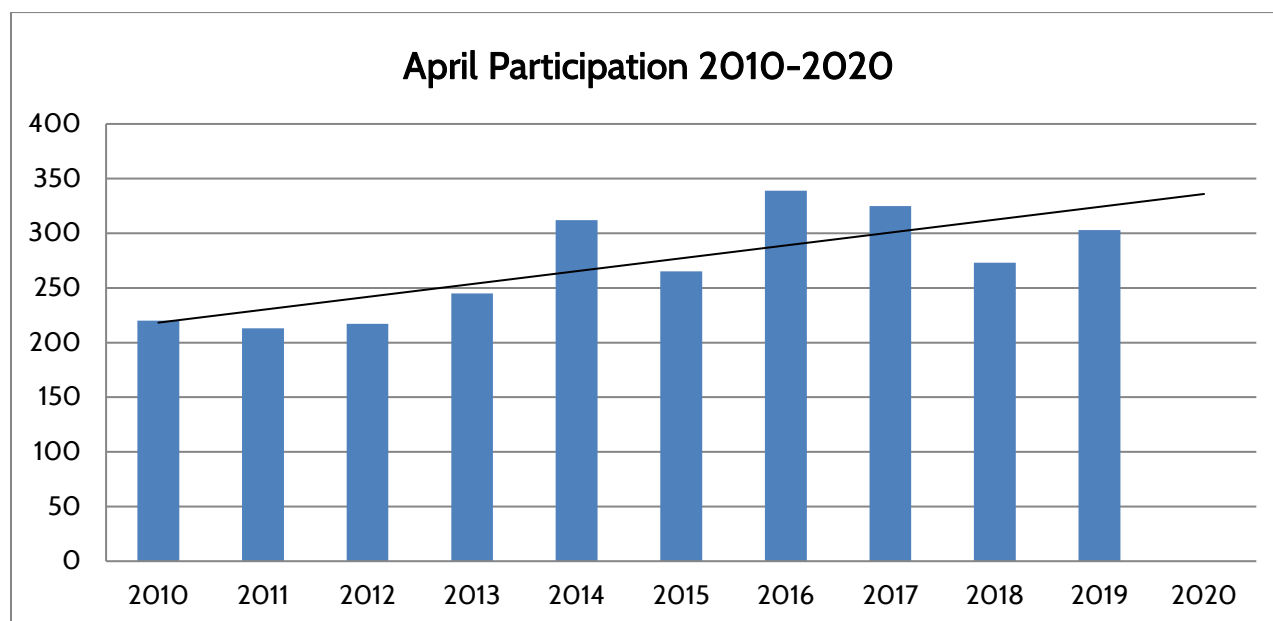
Historic Participation Trends

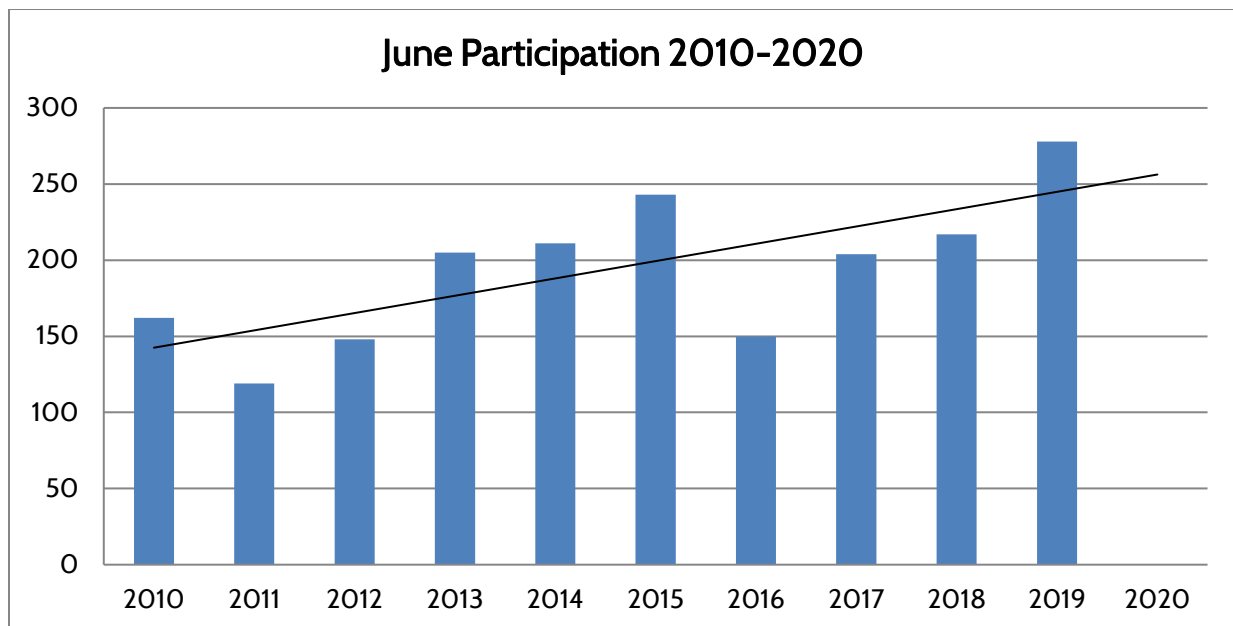
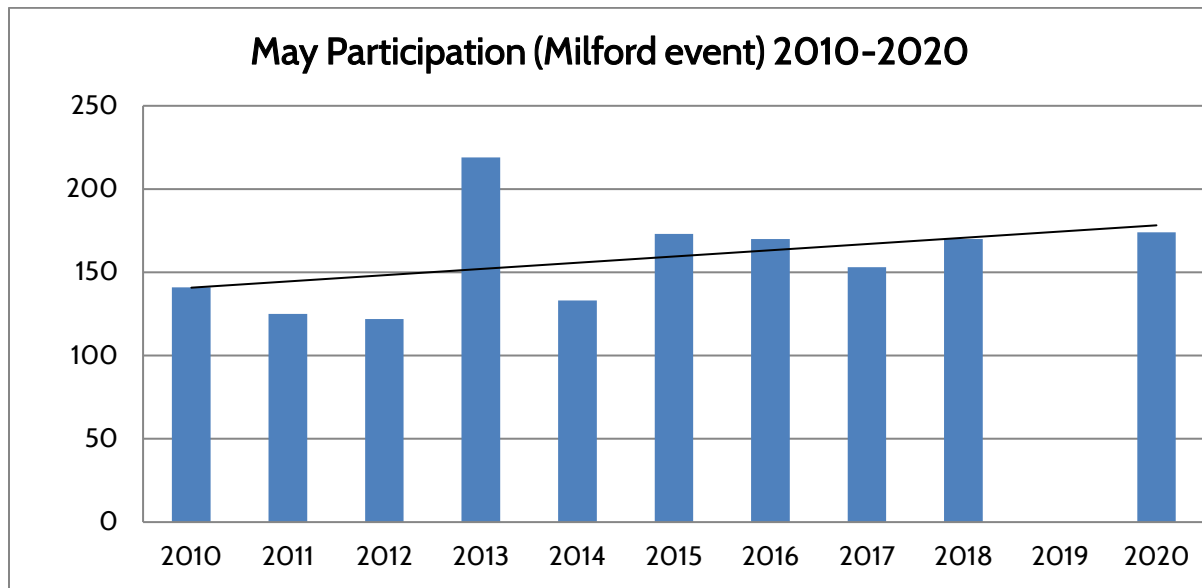
The Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District began charging a \$10 user fee per vehicle in 2008, which was raised for the first time to \$15 in the 2019 collection season. While participation rates have trended upward for the past, they were down slightly District-wide in 2019 and 2020 from the 2017 highs. That said, it is important to note that the District went from holding seven to six events starting in 2018, and the Covid-19 Pandemic has had a major impact on participation in 2020.

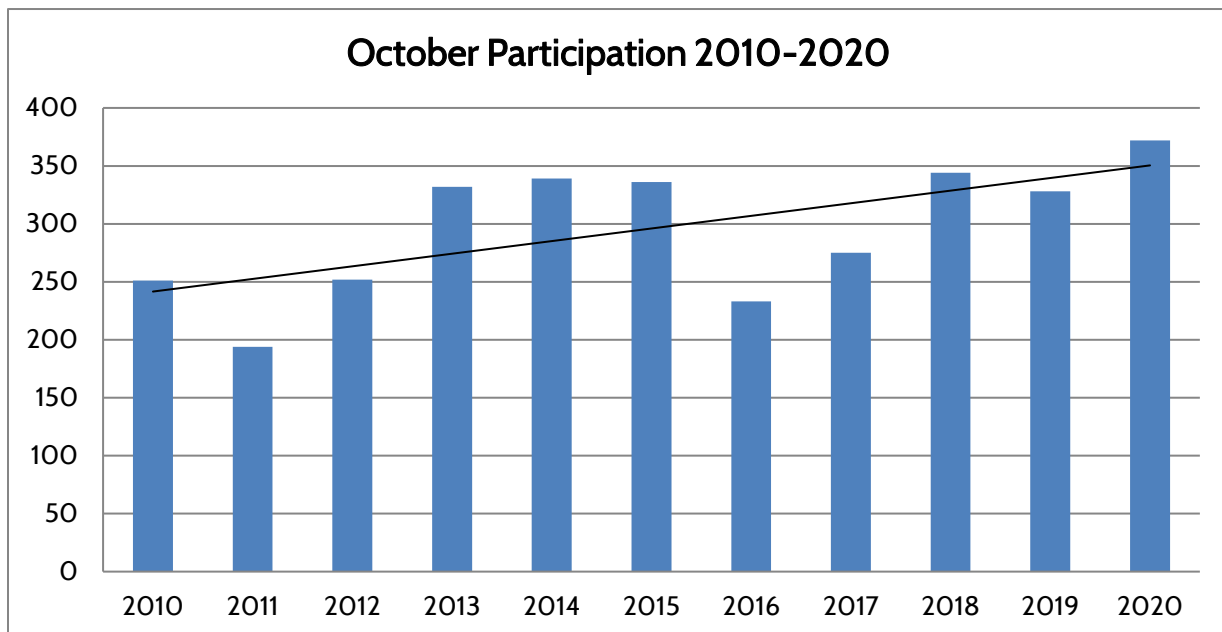
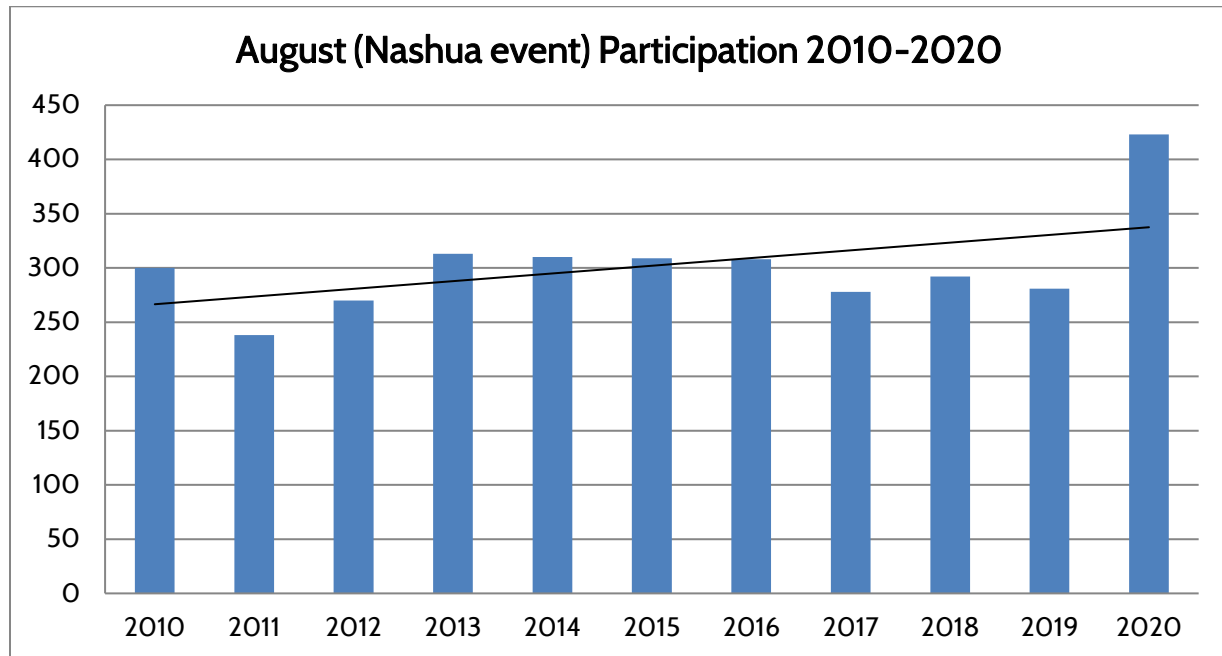
A Decade in a Glance

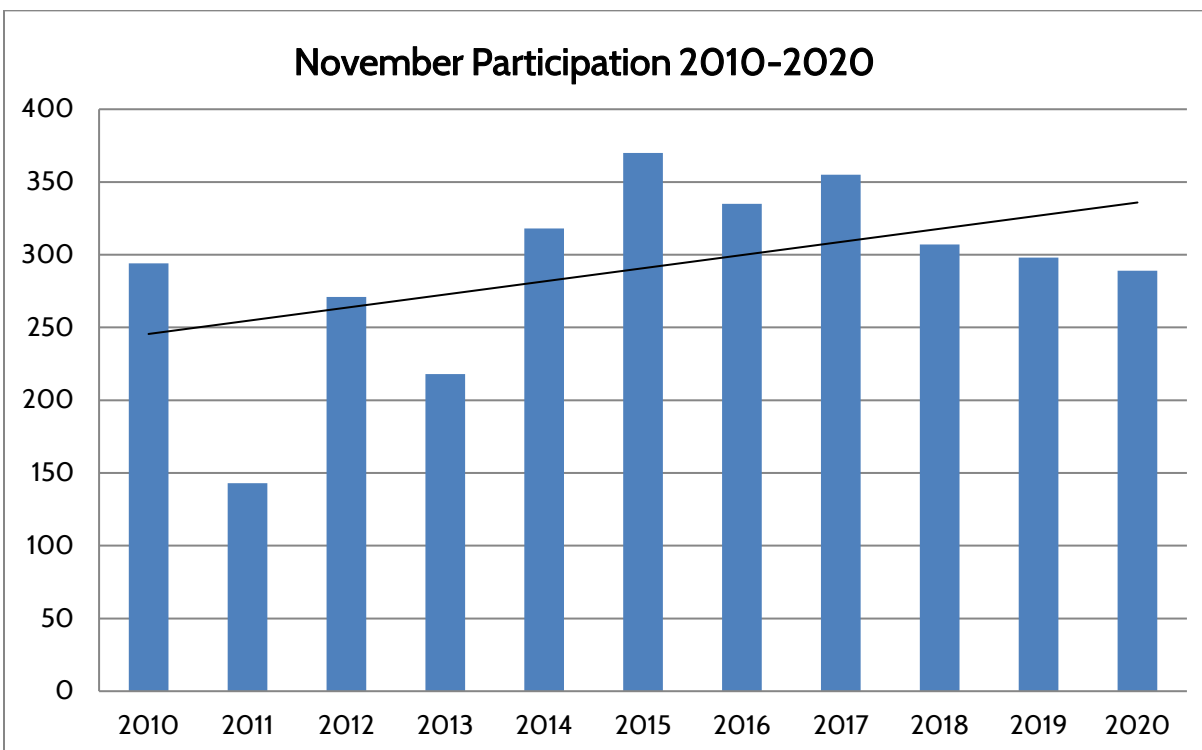


Year	April (Nashua)	May (Milford)	June (Nashua)	Aug. (Nashua)	Aug. (Pelham)	Oct. (Nashua)	Nov. (Nashua)	Total Households
2020	N/A	174 (Held in late August)	N/A	423	N/A	372	289	1,258
2019	303	N/A	278	281	246	328	298	1,734
2018	273	170	217	292	N/A	344	307	1,603
2017	326	153	204	278	217	275	355	1,808
2016	339	170	150	308	201	233	335	1,736
2015	265	173	243	309	N/A	336	370	1,696
2014	312	133	211	310	N/A	339	318	1,623
2013	245	219	205	313	N/A	332	218	1,532
2012	217	122	148	270	N/A	252	271	1,280
2011	213	125	119	238	N/A	194	143	1,032
2010	220	141	162	300	N/A	251	294	1,368









Materials Collected

The Solid Waste District manifested a total of 129,965 pounds of waste during the 2020 collection season. Of this, 118,529 pounds were hazardous, and 11,436 pounds were universal wastes. This is an increase of 34,164 pounds from the 2019 total (95,801 total pounds of waste in 2019; 83,792 pounds hazardous and 12,009 pounds universal). This is a considerable increase in waste over the previous year. There are several major variables that seem to be influencing the volume of waste collected this year. First the pandemic has driven up the number of people disposing hazardous waste that had been stored in their homes. Second, home sales have kept a strong pace despite the pandemic which is always a source of hazardous waste.

2020 Volume by Event (Pounds)			
Date	Haz	Non-Haz	Total
8/1/2020	26,070	4,185	30,255
8/29/2020 (Milford)	12,220	2,420	14,640
10/3/2020	42,657	2,215	44,872
11/7/2020	37,582	2,616	40,198
2020 Totals	118,529	11,436	129,965

Conclusions

The 2020 season has been challenging in several aspects, despite this waste volumes were high and participation at the average event has remained steady when viewed averages by event. The proper disposal of household hazardous waste is enormously important as it lessens our impacts on the environment and the risks of accidental poisonings in the home. The success of the collections this season is a testament to the resilience and continued importance of the HHW Program. The dedication of our members and continued flexibility of our environmental contractor has been vital, thank you.