

NORTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT – ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018
1185 New Litchfield Street * Torrington, CT 06790 * 860 626 7222 * www.nwcd.org

The Northwest Conservation District (NWCD) is a local environmental non-profit organization serving 34 municipalities in northwestern Connecticut. Our mission is to promote the conservation and sound use of natural resources through education and technical assistance services.

TECHNICAL SERVICES AND PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION

We partnered with your town's land use commissions and staff on site development reviews and field inspections for land use types ranging from residential and agricultural to commercial and urban settings. Each time we review and make recommendations on any proposed land use change, we balance development with protection of water, soil and other sensitive natural resources. We provide practical science based solutions using the latest technologies, including Low Impact Development (LID), to ensure that projects work with the landscape instead of against it and are designed to address changes in our climate.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION

NWCD provided many environmental education workshops on topics including soil health, permaculture, wildlife conservation, stormwater management and residential rain gardens. We worked with the Town of Brookfield to re-design and construct a failing detention basin adversely affecting water quality in the Still River. We worked with the Town of Morris land use boards to create and implement a Low Impact Sustainable Development and Stormwater Management Design Manual for use in designing land use projects protective of town wide valuable soil and water resources

EDUCATION AT AN EARLY AGE LEADS TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE FUTURE

Our support for the CT Envirothon Program helps provide hands-on science for high school aged students. This year, as part of the program's natural resource based curriculum and field day competition, each team prepared a design plan for Horsebarn Hill, Storrs that provides for the needs of the farm operation while allowing low impact recreation opportunities in a manner protective of bobolinks and other grassland birds. The statewide Field Day competition held at the Topsmead State Forest in Litchfield County saw teams competing from local schools including Housatonic Valley Regional, Wamogo High School and Northwest Regional 7. Visit www.ctenvirothon.org for more information.

EARTH DAY PLANT SALE, FISH AND PONDS

This year marked the 37th anniversary of our Annual Earth Day Plant Sale. Thanks to the efforts of many loyal and energetic volunteers, our three day annual event at the Goshen Fairgrounds resulted in thousands of native shrubs, trees, edibles and perennials being planted in our 34 towns and far beyond. Our wide selection of plants were chosen to provide habitat, food sources and shelter for native creatures; enhance streamside buffers and rain gardens for water quality protection; and encourage back yard gardening. Native plants for pollinators, and migratory birds were featured in support of the National Audubon's 2018 initiative "Year of the Bird", the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Act. We continued our Trout Stocking programs for the renewal of appropriate aquatic resources in local ponds and streams.

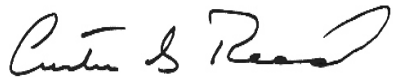
OUR OUTREACH AND WEBSITE ---

The District publishes the "Voice of Conservation" newsletter bi-annually and continues to increase our ability to communicate with our members electronically through our website, nwcd.org and Facebook, thus further conserving our valuable natural resources.

THANKS TO YOU!

The Northwest Conservation District is very grateful for the ongoing support and partnership of the 34 municipalities that we serve and the generous contributions of local individuals, our funders and many faithful volunteers.

Dated this 9th day of August, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curtis S. Read". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'C' and 'R'.

Curtis S Read, Chairman

NORTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT