

**NORTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018-2019**

1185 New Litchfield Street \* Torrington, CT 06790 \* 860 626 7222 \* [www.nwcd.org](http://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 conservation and protection of natural resources through education and technical assistance services.

**TECHNICAL SERVICES AND PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION**

During 2018-2019, we partnered with your town's land use commissions and staff on site development reviews and field inspections for land use in residential, agricultural, 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 and are designed to address changes in our climate.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PROJECTS IN SUPPORT OF OUR MISSION**

NWCD provided many educational workshops on topics including LID and stormwater management, residential rain gardens, soil health, wildlife conservation, horse farm pasture and manure management, recycling and energy conservation. These programs simultaneously support SustainableCT registered towns with their efforts towards certification.

Our support for the CT Envirothon Program provides hands-on science for high school students. We provide educational support for our regional high school's teams as they prepare for the statewide competition. This year, as part of the program's natural resource based curriculum and Field Day Competition, each team prepared a design plan for a 25-acre farm with grazing pastures, tilled fields, forest land and a surface-fed pond. The plans support best management practices, protection of natural resources on the property, and promote environmental sustainability. At the statewide Field Day Competition, held at Spring Meadow Farm in Tolland, teams competed from around Connecticut including several NWCD area schools: Housatonic Valley Regional, Nonnewaug Regional 14, Northwestern Regional 7 and Wamogo. Visit [www.ctenvirothon.org](http://www.ctenvirothon.org) for more information.

**EARTH DAY PLANT SALE, FISH AND PONDS**

The year marked the 38<sup>th</sup> 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. Each year, our wide selection of plants is chosen to provide habitat, food sources and shelter for native creatures; enhance streamside buffers and rain gardens for water quality protection; and encourage backyard gardening. We partnered with the Litchfield Hills Audubon Society to staff a "Plants for Birds" table in support of National Audubon's Plants for Birds program. We continued our Trout Stocking program for the renewal of appropriate aquatic resources in local ponds and streams.

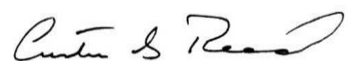
**OUTREACH AND WEBSITE**

The District publishes the "Voice of Conservation" newsletter bi-annually and continues to improve our outreach electronically through our website, [nwcd.org](http://nwcd.org) and Facebook. In these ways we are increasing our efforts to conserve valuable natural resources. To be added to our mailing list, email [info@nwcd.org](mailto:info@nwcd.org).

**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. We are here to serve you and welcome feedback and requests for information, assistance and educational programming.

Dated this 26th day of September, 2016

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 a long, sweeping underline.

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Curtis S Read, Chairman

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