

NORTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019-2020
1185 New Litchfield Street * Torrington, CT 06790 * 860 626 7222 * www.nwcd.org

The Northwest Conservation District (NWCD) is an 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 2019-2020, 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. When we review and make recommendations on proposed land use changes, we balance development with protection of natural resources. We provide practical, science-based solutions using the latest techniques, 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, renewable energy options, and best agricultural management practices. These programs also support SustainableCT towns with their certification efforts. Because of in-person meeting restrictions, we offered on-line formats to safely continue our educational initiatives.

The CT Envirothon Program (www.ctenvirothon.org) provides hands-on science for high school students through workshops and educational support. Participating schools take part in an annual May Field Day statewide competition. The winning team usually competes in a National Conservation Foundation (NCF) competition. This year, the onset of COVID, meant the cancellation of both the CT Field Day competition and the NCF competition. CT Envirothon shifted to a virtual competition with NWCD staff taking a lead to create and conduct the June event addressing "Water Resources Management: Local Control and Local Solutions". Twelve teams participated in the virtual event with NWCD schools, Northwest Regional 7, with two teams placing first and second, and Housatonic Valley Regional, placing third.

EARTH DAY PLANT SALE, AND ANNUAL FISH SALE

This year, the 50th Anniversary year of Earth Day, the pandemic caused the cancellation of our 3-day Earth Day Plant Sale. A mini-Plant sale was held to honor pre-paid orders and plants for projects with many of our partners. We continue to encourage people to make changes to promote clean air, clean water, healthy soils, and quality habitat. Our Trout Stocking program promotes renewal of aquatic resources in ponds and streams.

OUTREACH AND WEBSITE

The "Voice of Conservation" bi-annual newsletter continues along with electronic offerings through our website, and Facebook. Recorded webinars and educational articles are now offered on our website and we are planning additional resources for on-line outreach which conserves valuable resources and to and makes our educational programming available to a wider audience. To be added to our mailing list, email 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.

Lawrence Rousseau, Chairman

NORTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT