

**NORTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023**  
1185 New Litchfield Street \* Torrington, CT 06790 \* 860 626 7222 \* [www.nwcd.org](http://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 protect the environment through education and technical assistance services.

**TECHNICAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO MUNICIPALITIES**

During 2022-2023, we assisted our towns' land-use departments and citizens on site development reviews and field inspections of sites in a variety of land use settings. Our recommendations on proposed land use changes balance development with protection of the natural environment. 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. Our professional soil scientist is able to review inland-wetland delineations.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES AND PROJECTS ACROSS THE DISTRICT**

We conducted workshops on topics including LID and stormwater management, residential rain gardens, soil health, renewable energy options, pollinator gardens, home composting, invasive plant management, cover crops and other best agricultural management practices. We support the work of the state-wide Pollinator Pathway Northeast ([www.pollinatorpathway.org](http://www.pollinatorpathway.org)),

We provide support to USDA-NRCS's conservation planning program and to farms in our District through our Climate Smart Agriculture Initiative that provides free cover crop seed to farmers to help them transition to healthy soil practices.

The CT Envirothon Program ([www.ctenvirothon.org](http://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 and the winning team competes at a National Conservation Foundation (NCF) competition. 26 teams participated in the event. NWCD participating schools included Nonnewaug High School which won the statewide competition and went on to the international competition held in Canada; Housatonic Valley Regional; Northwest Regional 7; and Marvelwood School from Kent.

**EARTH DAY PLANT SALE**

Our Earth Day Plant Sale is held annually at the Goshen Fairgrounds over a three-day period in late April. Through the plant sale, we continue to encourage people to make personal changes to promote clean air, clean water, healthy soils, and quality habitat. This year we provided extensive educational material with an expanded display of literature and information boards on many topics and we shared literature from many of our northwest corner partners. NWCD staff and Master Gardeners are on hand to help people select the right plants for their needs and growing conditions.

**OUTREACH AND WEBSITE**

We continue to publish our "Voice of Conservation" bi-annual newsletter, as well as a new yearly "Education Edition" in print form and electronic offerings through our website, and Facebook. Recorded webinars and educational articles are now offered on our website with news and links on our Facebook page, and we are planning additional resources for on-line outreach to help readers conserve natural habitats and wildlife. Our goal is to make our educational programming available to a wider audience. To be added to our mailing list, email [info@nwcd.org](mailto:info@nwcd.org).

**THANKS TO YOU!**

NWCD appreciates the ongoing support and partnership of the District's 34 municipalities, the generous contributions of local individuals, our funders, and many volunteers. We welcome feedback and requests for information, assistance, and educational programming.

Lawrence Rousseau, Chairman, Northwest Conservation District