



NORTHWEST CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2021-2022
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The Northwest Conservation District Inc. (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 2021-2022, we partnered with our 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

In order to safely continue our educational initiatives, we offered virtual workshops on topics including LID and stormwater management, residential rain gardens, soil health, renewable energy options, pollinator gardens, home composting, invasive plant management, and best agricultural management practices. We led a district-wide No-Mow-May initiative and supported the state-wide Pollinator Pathway Northeast (www.pollinatorpathway.org). Many of our "virtual" programs also support SustainableCT towns with their certification efforts.

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 and the winning team goes on to compete at a National Conservation Foundation (NCF) competition. Because of the pandemic, the workshops were again adapted to an online format. Monthly webinars or material releases for the four main stations – Aquatics, Forestry, Soils and Wildlife were placed on CT Envirothon's Youtube channel. The Field Day Competition, held at the Tolland County Agricultural Center, saw 21 teams competing including 6 teams from NWCD area schools; Housatonic Valley Regional, Nonnewaug Regional 14, Northwestern Regional 7 and Marvelwood. The Field Day winning team, Housatonic Valley, participated in the NCF July competition in Oxford, Ohio. Visit www.ctenvirothon.org for more information.

EARTH DAY PLANT SALE

Our Earth Day Plant Sale was held at the Goshen Fairgrounds as a "Pre-order – Scheduled Pick-Up" three-day event in late April with overwhelming support from our many faithful customers. We continue to encourage people to make personal changes to promote clean air, clean water, healthy soils, and quality habitat for all.

OUTREACH AND WEBSITE

The "Voice of Conservation" bi-annual newsletter, and a new yearly "Education Edition" in print form and electronic offerings through our website, and Facebook. Recorded webinars and educational articles are offered on our website and items of interest on our Facebook and Instagram pages. We are planning additional on-line outreach to conserve valuable resources and reaches 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. The generous support that we have received this year and past years allowed us to move forward on a long-term goal to provide scholarships for graduating high school seniors and college students interested in pursuing careers in environmental sciences and becoming future environmental stewards. We are here to serve you and welcome feedback and requests for information, assistance, and educational programming.

Lawrence Rousseau, Chairman, Northwest Conservation District