Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2010-2011

North Central Conservation District

www.conservect.org/northcentral

FINANCIAL STATEMENT*

July 2010—June 2011

NORTH CENTRAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, INC.

Income	
State of CT	50,000
319 Grant Projects	93,500
SEP Grant	25,000
HEAP Grant	9,900
Seedling/Fish Program	40,652
Municipal Fee for Service	48,812
Town Donations	35,608
Interest/Investments	13,037
Soil Testing Services	1,699
Misc.	818
Total	319,029

Expenses	
Salaries & Benefits	200,843
Taxes and Insurance	20,718
All Grants	70,323
Seedling and Fish Sale	28,086
Rent	6,503
Office Expenses/Postage/Equipment	5,990
Auto Expenses and Mileage	4,202
Scholarships	2,000
Audit	1,250
Insurance	2,245
Dues	895
Total	339,314

*Detailed financial statement available upon request

North Central Conservation District

Board of Supervisors

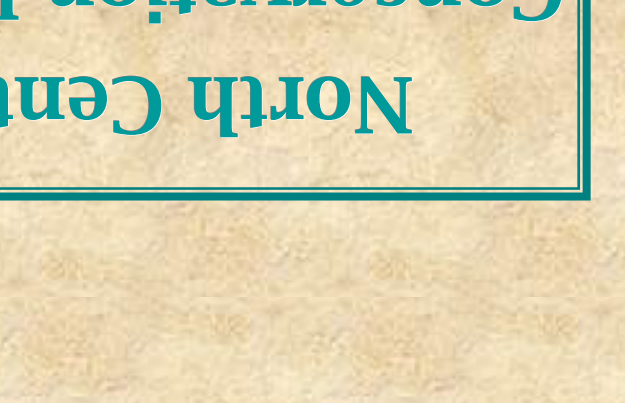
Jack Collins *Chairman*	Enfield	
Jeff Folger *Vice Chairman*	Ellington	
Lin Marino *Secretary/Treasurer*	Tolland	
Dan Camerota	West Hartford	
Pamm Cooper	Vernon	
Harold Eastwood	Somers	
Michael Mocko	Stafford Springs	
Jane Seymour	Tolland	
John Spencer	Glastonbury	
John Weedon	Manchester	

Staff

David Askew	Executive Director
Barbara Kelly	Program Coordinator
Ruth Miller	Program Coordinator
Joanna Winkler	Natural Resource Specialist
Barbara Gridley	Secretary
Heidi Cerrigone	Bookkeeper

Introduction

NCCD's service area includes 30 municipalities within north central Connecticut, essentially comprising the area within the northern Connecticut River watershed. Offices are located in Vernon and in Windsor.



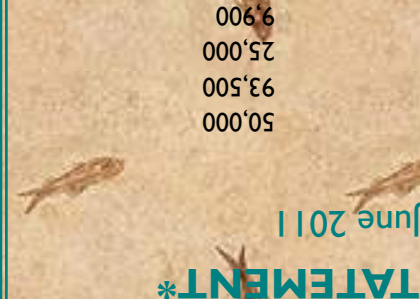
This Annual Report summarizes work performed by the North Central Conservation District (NCCD, or the District) Board of Directors and staff during the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

While NCCD's Board remained consistent, the staff was affected by the departure of Chris Bunce, who left Connecticut in June 2011 to move to the west coast. We wish him the best of luck on his journey.

NCCD is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization financed through municipal contributions, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP) funding, US EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 non-point source grants through CT DEP, an annual Plant and Seedling Sale fundraiser, and private grants and contributions. It is governed by a volunteer board of directors made up of local landowners with expertise and interest in the management and protection of our natural resources. NCCD is also an active member of the CT Envirothon Steering Committee, the Council on Soil and Water Conservation, and the CT Association of Conservation Districts. Meetings are open to the public and are held at the Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue (Route 30) in Vernon, at 7:00pm on the fourth Thursday of most months. Please visit www.conservect.org/northcentral or call staff at (860) 875-3881 for details.

Chairman's Year in Review

As the weak economy progressively curbed development, the District continued to fulfill diverse natural resource needs for the many *municipalities, individuals, and organizations* seeking assistance. *Plan review requests* by municipalities for large development applications continued to decline, yet the District maintained its services to municipalities by also *reviewing wetland boundaries* and *serving as wetland agent* for several towns. The District continued to function as *wetland agent* for the towns of Somers, Bolton, and Granby, and became acting wetland agent for the Town of Enfield. A much larger town than the others, Enfield required a significant amount of staff time for many site/plan reviews and frequent meetings.



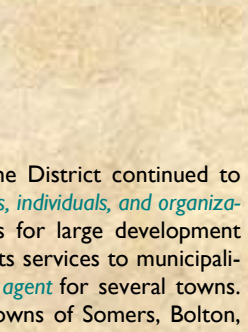
Both the 1st and 2nd place 2011 CT Envirothon teams were from Housatonic Valley Regional High school. The ***Agriscience team won 1st place, and went on to compete*** *at the North American Canon Envirothon in New Brunswick, Canada, where they placed 5th of 54 teams from the U.S.*

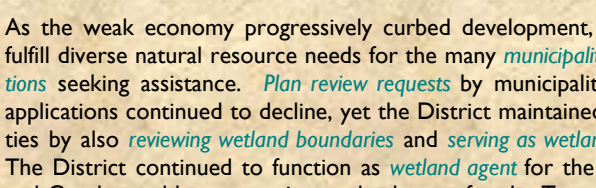
This year marked the 20th Anniversary of the *Connecticut Envirothon* program, which includes a series of educational workshops for high school students about aquatics, forestry, soil, wildlife, and this year's current issue, estuaries. The program culminated with the field day competition at Rocky Neck State Park in East Lyme. In celebration of 20 years of CT Envirothon, desserts were made to represent each testing station, and Envirothon t-shirts from 20 years of field days were strung across the room. District staff acts as coordinator for the CT Envirothon Program, and as the main point of contact for participating teachers and steering committee members.

The District continued to support *education* in natural resources and agriculture by awarding two annual $1,000 college *scholarships*. This year's recipients were Rachel Dern of Suffield High School, and Brady Callahan of Southington High School.

Due to popular demand, the District again co-sponsored *workshops*, including flame weeding for *invasive plant removal*, basics of *planting and pruning,* and an additional workshop on *Connecticut's Forests: Past, Present & Future*.

The District provided *nutrient management* services to *local farmers*, collecting soil samples from cornfields in early summer and corn stalks in late summer in order to communicate to growers whether any additional nutrients are needed.





Substantial staff time was spent on the Spring *Plant and Seedling Sale* and *Fish Fingerling Sale*. Both were successful. Master Gardeners provided invaluable assistance at the plant sale.

See inside and back for additional information.

Grant Work

Grant work accounted for a considerable portion of District staff time. The pursuit of new Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source projects encompassed much of the fiscal year, yet most of the active grant work was funded through other projects as described below.

Water Quality Enhancement Projects

319 & 604b Grants

While the District completed a 319 implementation project involving installation of a hydrodynamic separator and a vegetated swale on Olcott Street in Manchester, and continued work toward implementing a 319 contract to install a hydrodynamic separator on Adams Street in Manchester, a much larger proportion of the fiscal year was spent initiating future 319 nonpoint source contracts and 604b water quality planning management contracts, both under the Clean Water Act, funded by EPA and administered by CT DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, formerly CT DEP). These new 319 projects, to be completed within the next two fiscal years within the Hockanum River Watershed, include construction of a bioretention area to treat parking lot run-off at Lake Street School in Vernon within the smaller Tankerhoosen Watershed, and reconfiguration of stormwater pipes and a stormwater pond that drain the Parkade on West Middle Turnpike in Manchester, discharging directly to Bigelow Brook. The new 604b contract facilitates water quality studies, focusing on the effect of nutrient enrichment on aquatic life in freshwater streams.

Stormwater outfalls and pond, Bigelow Brook, West Middle Turnpike, Manchester, to be reconstructed as part of a newly obtained 319 grant.

Other Grants

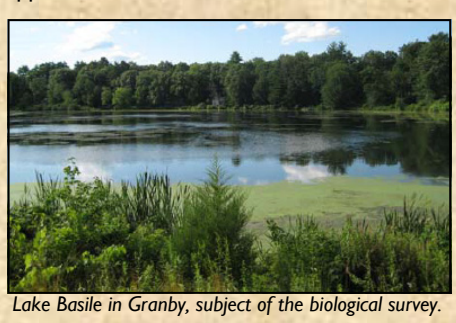
Phragmites australis within Laurel Marsh in Manchester

HEAP Manual

The District acted as project manager to edit, complete, print, & distribute a Horse Environmental Awareness Program manual. The District sought funding from the CT Environmental Review Team and the CT Council on Soil and Water Quality to supplement existing funding from NRCS to print 5,000 copies rather than the 300 originally planned.

Laurel Marsh Invasive Removal

The District was able to secure funding through the competitive *Long Island Sound Fund*, largely supported by the license plate program, to remove invasive plants from Laurel Marsh in Manchester. Phragmites australis, an invasive aquatic plant that has formed a monoculture throughout much of the marsh, along with invasive Japanese knotweed, will be removed through a three year treatment plan incorporating mowing and herbicide application. The treatment is intended to allow native plants to inhabit the area, to better support wildlife.



Lake Basile in Granby, subject of the biological survey.

Lake Basile Restoration Program

Funding was obtained from the CT Federation of Lakes to assist the Lake Basile Community Organization in completing a biological survey of Lake Basile, and to decide how to address the issues currently impacting water quality within the lake. The survey report has been completed, and the group is currently seeking additional funding to implement the recommendations.

Supplemental Environmental Project — Brookside Park, Ellington, CT

The District received Supplemental Environmental Program (SEP) funding through CT DEEP to complete a project within the Broad Brook watershed, following recent completion of the Broad Brook Watershed Report. The District proposed a project designed to incorporate stormwater quality treatment and streamside buffer enhancement on a tributary of Broad Brook, which runs along a paved parking area and sports fields in Brookside Park in Ellington, CT. Once approved, the District engaged its staff, board, and volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 96 from Ellington to implement a planting plan designed by District staff. A grassed bioretention area was installed adjacent to the north side of the parking lot to treat stormwater before it enters the stream through a culvert. A streamside buffer planting, over 200 feet in length, consisting of native shrubs, was planted along the eastern edge of the parking lot, along with three smaller clustered plantings to the north. The District also managed the purchase, engineering, and installation of a 30-foot pedestrian bridge to allow those using the sports fields to cross the stream at a convenient location without eroding the stream bank.

Landscape Design and Buffer Projects

The District's landscape design capability adds a valuable component to the services provided by the District. Over the past year, the District offered suitable *planting ideas*, as well as formalized *concept designs*, to many individuals and organizations. The plan to the right is a portion of a planting plan designed by District staff for Ellington Center Cemetery. The full concept plan takes into account views to and from the cemetery from various locations and sensitive areas, and includes several overlays.

The District also takes part in streamside buffer plantings alongside other organizations. District staff creates conceptual planting designs and participates in the ordering and planting. This year, these projects have primarily been in association with the Farmington River Watershed Association, an organization that has been very active in several towns within the District. Volunteers from local businesses or organizations are often involved in the planting days as well. An example planting from this year took place at Northwestern Community College in Winsted. Volunteers from the college helped to plant a streamside buffer and butterfly garden, depicted in photos below.