North Central Conservation District

Annual Report

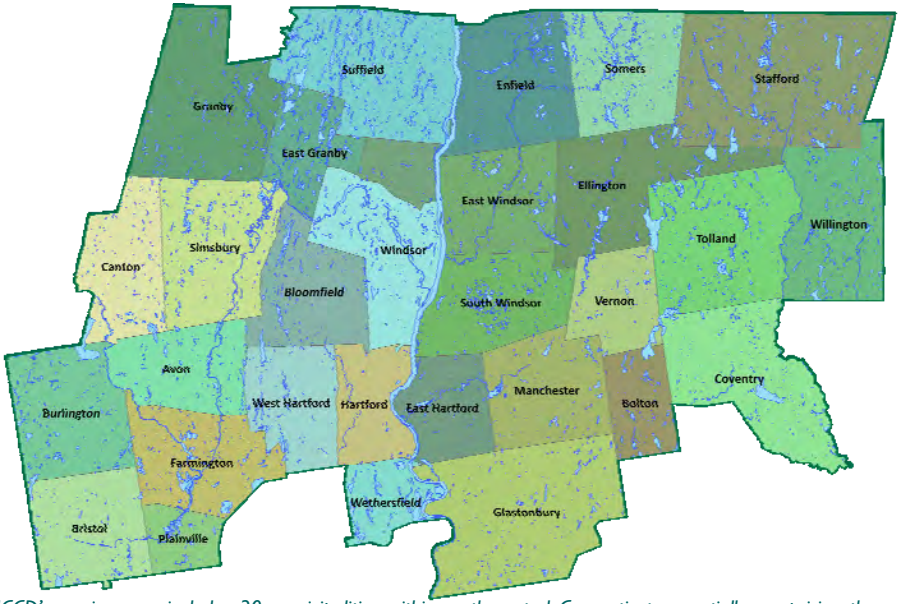
Fiscal Year 2012–2013

www.conservect.org/northcentral

North Central Conservation District

Introduction

This Annual Report summarizes work performed by the North Central Conservation District (NCCD, or the District) during the 2012-2013 fiscal year. The District is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, financed through municipal contributions, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP) funding, US EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 non-point source grants, an annual Plant and Seedling Sale fundraiser, and private grants and contributions.



NCCD's service area includes 30 municipalities within north central Connecticut, essentially comprising the area within the northern Connecticut River watershed. The North Central Conservation District office is located in Vernon.

The District 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. The District 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 (Rt. 30) in Vernon, at 7:00pm on the fourth Thursday of most months. Please visit www.conservect.org/northcentral or call (860) 875-3881 for details.

Board of Supervisors

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

Staff

David Askew	Executive Director
Barbara Kelly	Program Coordinator
Ruth Miller	Landscape Specialist
Joanna Shapiro	Natural Resource Specialist
Salvatore DeCarli	Environmental Planner
Heidi Cerrigone	Bookkeeper
Barbara Gridley	Secretary—*Retired after 30 years, and will be missed.*

Chairman's Year in Review

The District provided services to municipalities by *reviewing development plans and wetland boundaries*, as well as serving as *wetland agent* in Somers, Bolton, and Granby, and acting wetland agent in Windsor. The District also assisted landowners with natural resource concerns.

A team of students completing the soils exam on field day

The District coordinated the *Connecticut Envirothon* program. Educational workshops were held throughout the year for high school students to learn about aquatics, forestry, soil, wildlife, and the current issue, habitat management. The annual field day competition was held at Sessions Woods WMA in Burlington.

The District supported *natural resources education* by awarding two $1,000 college *scholarships*. This year's recipients were Carrie LaSala of Tolland High School and Jennifer Heslin of Plainville High School.

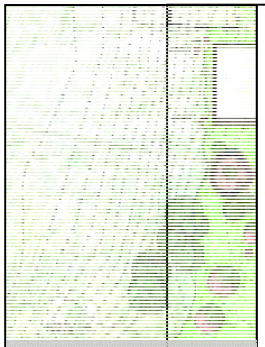
The District provided *nutrient management* services to *local farmers*, collecting soil samples from cornfields in early summer. The UCONN soils lab provided the results and fertilizer recommendations. The program has helped local producers to reduce fertilizer usage.

The *Plant and Seedling Sale* and *Fish Fingerling Sale* were successful fundraisers, promoting ecological landscaping and open space enjoyment. Master Gardeners contributed vast knowledge at the plant sale. Related *workshops* were held, including planting for wildlife, CT forest history, and planting & pruning.

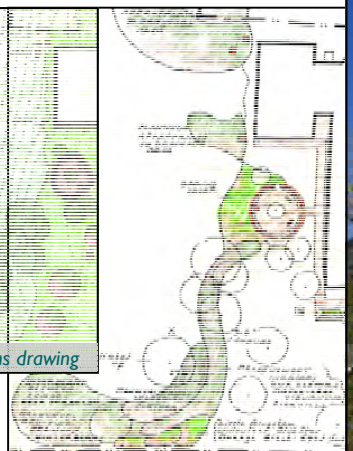
A master gardener providing assistance at the plant sale

Landscape Design Projects

Throughout the year, the District provided *planting instruction*, as well as formalized *concept designs*, to individuals and organizations. The images below depict the First Church in Windsor. The District consulted for the Farmington River Watershed Association to redesign the landscape to improve conditions along the Farmington River. The plan included invasive plant removal and rain garden installation.



Existing conditions drawing



Conceptual planting design

Volunteers implementing the design plan

See inside for grant project information

CENTRAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, INC.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT*

July 2012—June 2013

Income

State of CT	50,000
319 Grant Projects	229,348
NRCS Grant	33,616
CT DoAG Grant	7,675
LIS Restoration Grant	36,250
Seedling/Fish Program	45,163
Municipal Fee for Service	39,321
Town Donations	32,229
Interest/Investments	14,980
Soil Testing Services	1,026
Misc.	512
Total	**490,120**

Expenses

Salaries & Benefits	233,846
Taxes and Insurance	19,587
319 Grant Projects	178,972
NRCS Grant	10,828
CT DoAG Grant	622
LIS Restoration Grant	35,600
Seedling and Fish Sale	33,582
Rent	8,264
Office Expenses/Postage/Equipment	6,430
Auto Expenses and Mileage	5,058
Scholarships	2,000
Audit	2,500
Dues	1,395
Misc.	1,970
Total	**540,654**

*Detailed financial statement available upon request

Grant Work

Laurel Marsh Ecological Restoration

The District has been implementing a plan to remove invasive plants from Laurel Marsh in Manchester, using a *Long Island Sound Fund* grant. The project primarily targets Phragmites Australis, an invasive aquatic plant that has formed a monoculture throughout much of the marsh. The District has completed two years of a three year treatment plan, involving both mowing and aquatic herbicide treatment. The treatment is intended to allow native plants to re-inhabit the area and better support wildlife. With one year of treatment remaining, we have observed impressive results.

Laurel Marsh following two years of mowing and spraying.

Clean Water Act, Non-Point Source 319 Grants

The District, in cooperation with the Town of Manchester, completed a stormwater project, with primary funding through the EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source program, locally administered through the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The District oversaw construction of a stormwater quality pond along West Middle Turnpike in Manchester, intended to treat polluted stormwater before it discharges into Bigelow Brook, a tributary of the Hockanum River. New pipes, outfalls, forebay, spillway, and grasses were also installed. The District identified this project during a previous 319-funded watershed-based plan for the Hockanum River Watershed in Manchester. The District also made progress on several other 319 Projects during the fiscal year, including North Branch Park River watershed management, with an implementation grant to follow, and applying for and developing future 319 projects.

Pre-construction photos of the stormwater outfalls and basin in Manchester, the site of a 319 project.

Construction photos of a stormwater pond with new outfalls, forebay, & spillway, primarily funded through a CWA Section 319 Grant.

Completed stormwater pond with vegetation

Agriculture Grants

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Grant—NRCS

Working in conjunction with the Council on Soil and Water, all five CT Conservation Districts have continued their assistance to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) Partnership agreement. This District has completed many tasks ahead of schedule, completing four *Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans*, five *Irrigation Water Management Plans*, purchasing a *manure composting tumbler* to test its capacity to manage nutrients at equine facilities, sponsoring a horse best management practice *workshop*, and providing over one hundred hours of technical assistance throughout the District. The District is eager to continue its partnership with NRCS and expand upon the skills and experience gained from the CTA Partnership.

Manure Tumbler

Dairy Cow Operation—CTA Project Site

Equine Workshop

Farmland Restoration Grant—CT DoAG

The Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAG) has contracted with the District to assist with the Farmland Restoration Program. The Farmland Restoration Program is a grant available to farmers and land-owners who are working to reclaim former production farmland. The grant can be used for various related costs, including tree removal, well development, stump removal, and fence installation. The District's role in the program is to provide technical assistance and create *Restoration Plans* for each farmer that utilizes the District's assistance. The District is also assisting the Connecticut Department of Agriculture with monitoring over 200 conservation easements, and has completed several monitoring reports and site investigations. The District has further helped the DoAG in digitizing hundreds of easement parcel boundary maps. The District will also be applying for several Agriculture Viability grants in the next fiscal year.