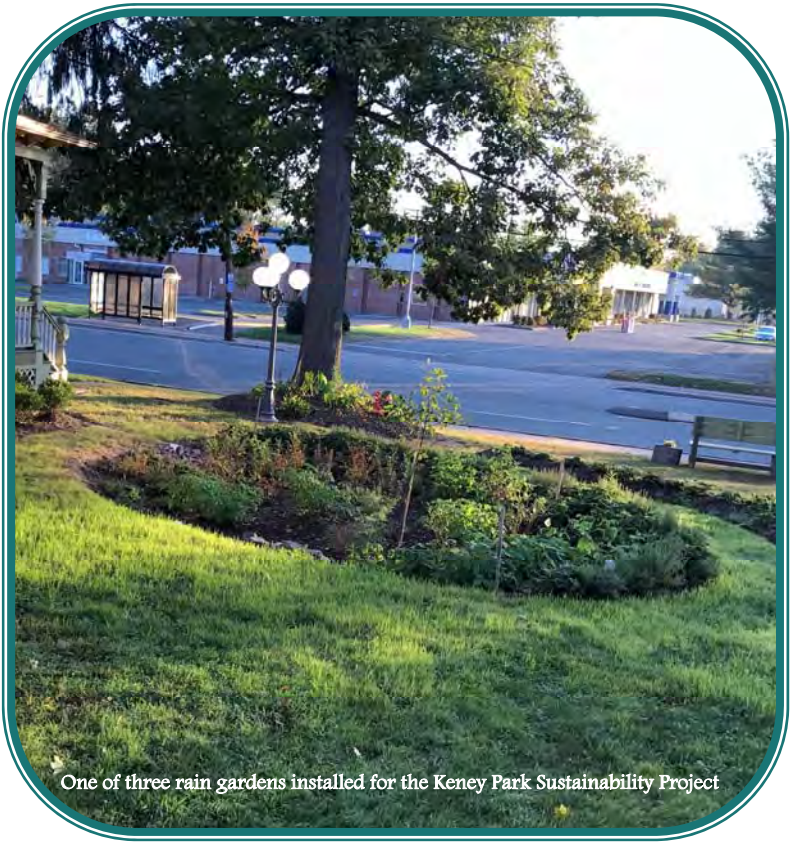
# North Central Conservation District



One of three rain gardens installed for the Keney Park Sustainability Project

# Annual Report

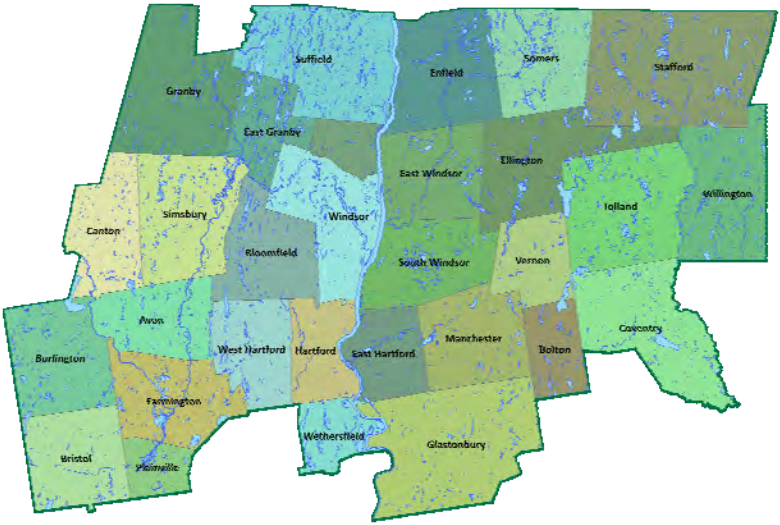
## Fiscal Year 2016-2017

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 2016-2017 fiscal year. NCCD is a quasi-governmental agency, created by state statute to "assist the Commissioner of Environmental Protection in identifying and remedying the problems of soil and water erosion," and is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The District is financed through municipal contributions, US EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 non-point source grants, technical assistance contracts with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, an annual Plant and Seedling Sale fundraiser, and private grants and contributions.




*NCCD's service area includes 30 municipalities within north central CT, essentially comprising the area within the northern Connecticut River watershed. NCCD's office is located in Vernon.*

The District is governed by a volunteer board of directors comprised 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, the CT Association of Conservation Districts, and the CT Resource Conservation and Development Council. Meetings are open to the public and are typically held at the Tolland County Agricultural Center, 24 Hyde Avenue (Rt. 30) in Vernon, at 7:00pm on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please visit www.conservect.org/northcentral or call (860) 875-3881 to learn more.

## Board of Supervisors

| | |
|---|---|
| Jack Collins, *Chairman* | Enfield |
| Jeff Folger, *Vice Chairman* | Ellington |
| Lin Marino, *Secretary/Treasurer* | Tolland |
| Dan Camerota | West Hartford |
| Bob DePietro | Bolton |
| Harold Eastwood | Somers |
| Michael Mocko | Stafford Springs |
| Jane Seymour | Tolland |
| John S. Weedon-*Resigned 2017* | Manchester |

## Staff

| | |
|---|---|
| Joanna Shapiro | Executive Director |
| Barbara Kelly | Program Coordinator |
| Ruth Miller | Landscape Specialist |
| John Dudula | Natural Resource Specialist |
| Tina Pelletier | Bookkeeper |

# Year in Review

The District provided valuable technical services to municipalities by *reviewing development plans and wetland boundaries*, as well as serving as *wetland agent* to inland wetland and conservation agencies in Somers and Bolton. Our primary service has been assessing proposed *erosion control measures, stormwater management, and wetland impacts* of proposed developments. The District also assisted many landowners with natural resource issues, providing technical support regarding soil erosion solutions, invasive plant control, planting guidance, pond maintenance, and more.

The annual *Plant and Seedling Sale* promoted ecological landscaping and open space enjoyment, and provided funds to help support District programs. Volunteer Master Gardeners from the current class and various prior classes helped with setup and also assisted plant sale customers, answering many planting questions. The online ordering option returned this year, a convenience that many customers appreciated.

*Plant sale pre-orders ready for pickup*

*Customers picking up plant sale orders and shopping for additional offerings*

A popular and topical *educational workshop* was held in early spring, leading up to the plant sale. The pollinator-focused workshop was entitled "Landscaping for Birds, Bees, and Butterflies Using Native Plants."

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 annual current issue topic, which for 2016-2017 was Agricultural Soil and Water Conservation Stewardship. The field day competition was at the Tolland County Agricultural Center in Vernon.

*Winning team from Housatonic Valley High School*

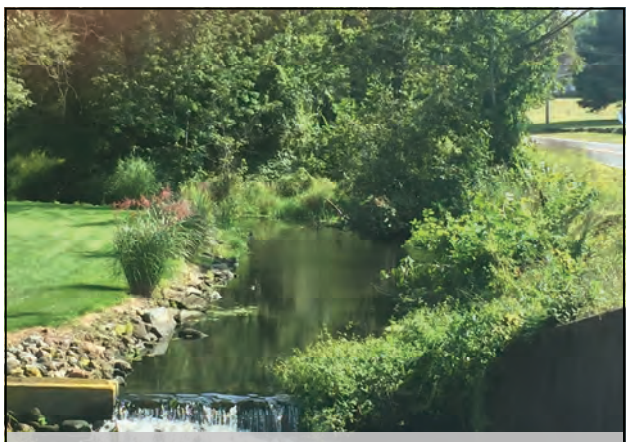
*Students evaluating a soil pit during the field day competition*

**Look inside for project information**

# Grant/Project Work

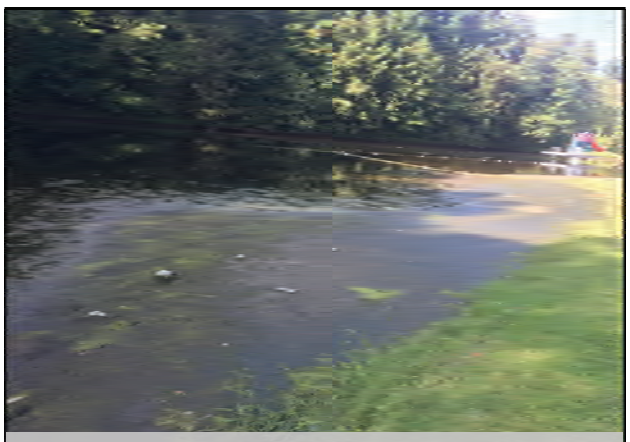
## Broad Brook Watershed Based Plan Phase 2

With funding through the EPA Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source program, locally administered by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the District prepared the Broad Brook Watershed Based Plan Phase 2. The project expanded upon a prior plan for the Broad Brook Watershed, which includes portions of the towns of Ellington, East Windsor, Somers and Tolland. Storm water from areas in the watershed eventually drains to Broad Brook, and contributes to its overall water quality. In this phase, we sought specific locations of concern for nonpoint source pollutants within the Broad Brook Watershed. From the locations identified as priorities in this effort, largely consisting of agricultural land, we proposed water quality enhancement projects that could feasibly be implemented. If some or all of these projects are completed in the future, there would be notable improvement in water quality within Broad Brook, which would represent significant progress toward delisting Broad Brook from the Connecticut Impaired Waters List, the ultimate goal of Clean Water Act Section 319 projects.



*Homeowner maintain manicured lawns up to Broad Brook*

*Stream crossing through Kibbes Brook at a dairy farm*



*East Windsor Park pond lacks a vegetative buffer*

*Two outlets that flow into Broad Brook Millpond*

*Heavy use area that has become bare on a dairy farm*

*Sediment pond of a sand and gravel operation on Sadds Mill Road*

## Farmland Restoration Grant

The District has continued to assist the Connecticut Department of Agriculture (DoAG) with implementation of the Farmland Restoration Program. The Farmland Restoration Program was created to increase food and fiber production state-wide, and helps farmers and landowners to reclaim former production farmland or to expand existing farmland. The program can fund various activities that will expand agricultural production, including tree removal, well development, stump removal, access improvement, and fence installation. The District's role in the program is to provide technical assistance, complete initial site inspections, and prepare *Restoration Plans*. This work has provided District staff with an opportunity to assist many farms throughout the state.

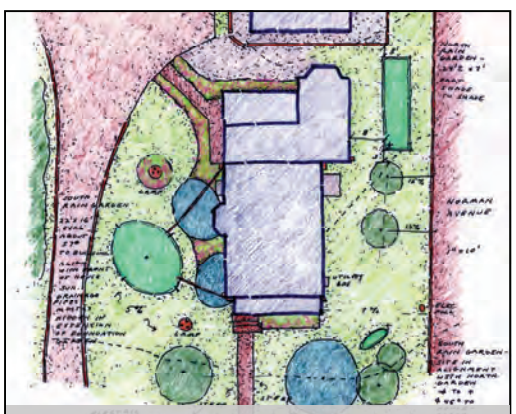
*Proposed restoration work in Tolland/Vernon*

*Proposed restoration work in Somers*

*Proposed restoration work in Suffield*

## Landscape Design and Planting Projects

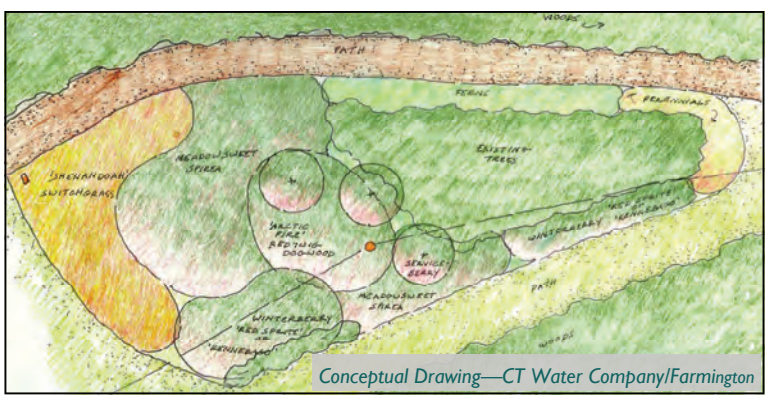
Throughout the year, the District provided *native planting instructions*, as well as formalized *concept designs*, created by our in-house *landscape designer*, to individuals and organizations. The images below represent a collaboration between the District, the Farmington River Watershed Association (FRWA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Towns of Windsor and Hartford for the Keney Park Sustainability Project in Windsor. Three rain gardens were designed and constructed, the largest of which is filled with edible plants to be used by the Keney Park Sustainability Project. Keney Park was designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and his firm in the late 19th century, and serves as a significant landmark in the Towns of Windsor and Hartford. The Farmington River Watershed Association attained Supplemental Environmental Project funds through CT DEEP to financially support this project. The District provided the landscape design and plant selection work, and participated in the site preparation and planting effort. Several summer youth groups with a focus on outdoor environmental projects helped to implement the plan.



*Conceptual Drawing— 3 Rain Gardens in Keney Park*

*Newly Planted Rain Gardens Containing Edible and Native Plants, Keney Park Sustainability Project, Windsor, CT*

The images to the right show the District's ongoing project in partnership with the Town of Farmington, CT Water Company, and FRWA. In Phase 2, a buffer planting was installed over an aquifer area that had been infested with Japanese Knotweed. The District provided the design and plant selection work; CT Water Company, FRWA, and the Town of Farmington purchased the plants; and CT Water Company staff helped to plant the Spirea and Switchgrass. Phase 3 will complete the project once funding is attained.




*Conceptual Drawing—CT Water Company/Farmington*

NORTH CENTRAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT, INC.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENT*

July 2016—June 2017

## Income

| | |
|---|---|
| CWA Section 319 Grant Projects | 31,000 |
| State of CT | 0 |
| Fee for Service | 36,964 |
| Plant/Seedling Sale | 59,408 |
| Town Contributions | 30,887 |
| NRCS Technical Services Contract | 66,123 |
| CT DoAG Farmland Restoration | 23,310 |
| Interest/Investments | 9,416 |
| **Total** | **257,133** |

## Expenses

| | |
|---|---|
| Salaries & Benefits | 142,196 |
| DEEP Grant Projects | 9,300 |
| Seedling/Fish | 41,581 |
| NRCS Technical Services Contract | 60,346 |
| Taxes and Insurance | 12,970 |
| Rent for Office Space | 7,296 |
| Office Expenses/Postage/Equipment | 3,868 |
| Auto Expenses and Mileage | 3,103 |
| Audit | 2,500 |
| Outreach | 2,000 |
| Dues | 295 |
| **Total** | **285,456** |

*Detailed financial statement available upon request