

TO: WCSU University Senate  
From: Frank J. Dye, Director, Westside Nature Preserve (WNP)  
Subject: Annual WNP Report (2003-2004)  
Date: 7 April 2004

### **Maintenance and Development**

Built and set in place (done by John Butkus, Grounds Supervisor at WCSU, and his crew) additional lengths of recycled, plastic, boardwalks over what have become chronically wet spots.

The proposed extension of University Boulevard on the Westside campus and construction of the magnet school adjacent to the Westside Nature Preserve has been delayed because of court action- when the project is back on track, Ron Nault (engineer for the City of Danbury and WCSU), Tom Carlone (Director of Planning and Engineering for WCSU), and I will resume coordination of plans to minimize the environmental impact of this work. In fact, we are planning a natural water-treatment facility that will double as an environmental education exhibit.

Vandalism this past year has been less of a problem than in previous years.

### **Community Outreach**

A second edition of the self-directed, guide to the Westside Nature Preserve is being produced. Copies of these guides will again be distributed to the Connecticut Welcome Center (Exit 2, I-84), and to the two "Free Brochure" boxes on the WNP trail.

Both websites, [www.wcsu.edu/wnp](http://www.wcsu.edu/wnp) and [www.wcsu.edu/wnptoday](http://www.wcsu.edu/wnptoday), are periodically updated (with help from Steve Veillette and Ryan Grossi).

Periodically, sent out to the university community mini-essays on what is happening on the Westside Nature Preserve. Comments have been very positive. Regularly posted issues of the **WNP Newsletter** on the kiosk where the nature trails begin.

Created an original greeting card, using a photo taken at the WNP, and sent copies out (during the December holiday season) to Friends of the Westside Nature Preserve and members of the WCSU administration.

Maintained a display case in Higgins Hall with with continuously changing exhibits related to the Westside Nature Preserve.

Dealt with members of the Danbury community on matters ranging from vandalism to the impact of the proposed magnet school.