

TO: WCSU University Senate
From: Frank J. Dye, Director, Westside Nature Preserve (WNP)
Subject: Annual WNP Report (2003-2004)
Date: 2 May 2005

Maintenance and Development

The extension of University Boulevard on the Westside campus and construction of the magnet school adjacent to the Westside Nature Preserve have begun - Ron Nault (engineer for the City of Danbury and WCSU), Tom Carlone (Director of Planning and Engineering for WCSU), and I will continue coordination of plans to minimize the environmental impact of this work. In fact, a natural water-treatment facility, that will double as an environmental education exhibit, is under construction.

Vandalism this past year continues to be less of a problem than it has been in previous years.

New signage for plants has been ordered and will be placed in the field by the end of May.

Community Outreach

A second edition of the self-directed, guide to the Westside Nature Preserve has been produced. Copies of these guides have again been distributed to the Connecticut Welcome Center (Exit 2, I-84), and to the two "Free Brochure" boxes on the WNP trail. In addition, two single-page, self-directed, tour guides are in the brochure boxes.

Both websites, www.wcsu.edu/wnp and www.wcsu.edu/wnptoday, are periodically updated.

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

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

A display case is maintained in Higgins Hall with continuously changing exhibits related to the Westside Nature Preserve.

In the Fall of 2004, slide-illustrated lectures on the WNP were presented to the Danbury Garden Club and to the Danbury Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution.

We continue to work with members of the Danbury community on matters ranging from vandalism to the impact of the magnet school.

We are again listed in Connecticut Vacations (2005) and, in the first issue of Unwind-both publications of the Northwest Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau.

