

TO: WCSU University Senate  
From: Frank J. Dye, Director, Westside Nature Preserve (WNP)  
Subject: Annual WNP Report (2007-2008)  
Date: 7 April 2008

### **Maintenance and Development**

The extension of University Boulevard on the Westside campus and construction of the magnet school adjacent to the Westside Nature Preserve has been completed for over two years. A Senior Research Student, Martha Puccio, doing bioassays with onion root tips and mouse cells in cell culture, is monitoring the quality of the water in the holding ponds, on the WNP and near the new magnet school.

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

The middle bridge, over the Westconn Brook, has been stabilized; signs have been erected along University Boulevard, directing visitors to the trail entrance; pallets (boardwalks) have been positioned over the heretofore roughest parts (roots and rocks) of the original trail: supplies have been ordered to refurbish the informational kiosk at the beginning of the trails; and a 2<sup>nd</sup> brochure box has been positioned at the Middle River Road end of the trails.

### **Community Outreach**

Copies of the second edition of the, self-directed, guide to the Westside Nature Preserve have continually been distributed to the two "Free Brochure" boxes on the WNP trails. In addition, two, single-page, self-directed, tour guides are in the brochure boxes.

The website, [www.wcsu.edu/wnptoday](http://www.wcsu.edu/wnptoday), is periodically updated.

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, members of the WCSU administration, and the CSU Board of Trustees.

A display case is maintained in the Science Building, with seasonally changing exhibits related to the Westside Nature Preserve.

In April of 2007, members of the Women's Club of Danbury were taken on a tour of the WNP (a member of the CSU-BOT is a member of the club). In the December of 2007, a slide-illustrated lecture on the WNP was presented to the Men's Club of Danbury. During January of 2008, slide-illustrated lectures on the WNP were presented to residents of The Village at Brookfield Commons and to residents of Ridgefield Crossings University. On January 20, 2008, a public hike on the WNP was undertaken; even though it was a Sunday morning, the temperature was in the 20s, and the wind was blowing, there was a good turnout of members of the community.

We are again listed in *Connecticut Vacations (2008)* as well as in *Unwind-* both publications of the Northwest Connecticut Convention and Visitors Bureau.

### **Financial Statement**

The WNP Center continues to be financially solvent.

Thanks to the generosity of Friends of the Westside Nature Preserve, our operating budget is several thousand dollars.

Our endowment continues to grow as we use the operating budget to spare the endowment. and interest generated by the endowment continues to be added to the principal.

Respectfully submitted,

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