

Celebrating Connecticut's Water

World Water Day • March 22, 2017



Water stewardship protects our environment and makes economic sense!

RICH Is Connecticut water-rich?

Abundant Rain and Snow

On average, Connecticut receives more than 40 inches of precipitation per year, and some areas average more than 50.

Numerous Water Bodies

According to Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, our state has about 450,000 acres of wetlands, 6,000 miles of streams and rivers, over 2,000 lakes and reservoirs, 618 miles of coastline and 600 square miles of estuarine water in Long Island Sound.

Valuable Groundwater

Connecticut's natural aquifers provide storage for water underground, in the spaces between grains of sand and gravel, or in the cracks of bedrock.

Groundwater supplies water for over 250,000 private wells and can replenish flow to streams in drought conditions.

SMART Is Connecticut water-smart?

Highest Standards for Drinking Water

Connecticut is one of only two states in the U.S. (the other is Rhode Island) that does NOT allow any surface supply of drinking water to be downstream of a wastewater treatment plant.

Ecologically Sensitive

Connecticut's laws protect wetlands and our streamflow regulations protect the ecological needs of some rivers. These regulations require dam operators to release appropriate (seasonally variable) flows to support aquatic species and habitats.

Smart Planning for the Future

Connecticut is currently developing a State Water Plan to integrate and balance the many demands on our state's waters.

Many states do not do water planning until there is a serious water supply crisis and/or water-related conflict.

THREATENED Is Connecticut's water protected?

Polluted Runoff

The rain and snowmelt that runs off buildings, paved areas, and lawns can send vast amounts of polluted water into our rivers and streams.

Over-allocations

The amount of water that can legally be removed from some rivers and streams exceeds their total flow!

Inadequate Groundwater Protection

Groundwater is out of sight but critically important. We must prevent the contamination and over-pumping of our groundwater.

Climate Change

As our weather becomes more unpredictable and extreme, stream flows, water reserves, and stream temperatures will all be affected.

A Deeper Dive

Drought Conditions

The drought continues! More about drought conditions is at www.ct.gov/waterstatus. This website includes information about the status of the state's drinking water reservoirs.

Also, at water.weather.gov/precip, you can choose "Connecticut" and then have several options for viewing the state's water status.

Rivers Alliance of Connecticut also has a web page about drought conditions, with several helpful links, at www.riversalliance.org/drought2.cfm.

State Water Planning Council

The State Water Planning Council website is at www.ct.gov/water/site/default.asp. Here you can find many links to orient you to the water planning process: background information, publications, subcommittees and workgroups, and a calendar of meetings you can attend.

Extensive commentary on State Water Planning is available on this Rivers Alliance webpage: www.riversalliance.org/Topics/Water_Planning.cfm.

Groundwater Information

For the status of groundwater, you may want to start with your local health district/department, which should be aware of any local water concerns, new permits, etc.

Or you can go to groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov, select "Connecticut Groundwater Network," and then choose your county of interest, to see status of US Geological Survey wells.

"All the water that will ever be is, right now."
~National Geographic

United Nations World Water Day website: www.un.org/en/events/waterday

For more information, contact:

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