

Westbrook Land Conservation Trust

As I gaze off my porch here in the middle of August, I am deprived of watching my grass grow, and my leaves are already falling from the trees. Severe drought conditions are visually evident locally and throughout New England. Connecticut's Water Planning Council site online at <https://portal.ct.gov/Water/Drought> has information, maps, and tips regarding water usage, water sources and drought conditions, locally to nationally. I read here that as of August 13, most of Connecticut was mapped at -4 (extreme) on the NOAA Drought Severity Index. USGS maps reveal our having 'much below normal' streamflow. The National Weather Service pinpoints local 90-day precipitation levels at 25%.

At times like these, the importance of preserving watershed and watercourse lands and inland wetlands cannot be understated. The Town of Westbrook and the Land Trust, together with state and federal governments, continue to work towards these goals.

The Westbrook Land Conservation Trust owns 31 land parcels of conserved open space, totaling 141 acres, as well as the conservation rights to an additional 51 acres. Founded in 1968, the Land Trust is a small organization that requires annual dues from members. If you appreciate the natural areas we preserve, and are interested in helping us to maintain them, please consider joining the Land Trust. There are plenty of opportunities, including website help, neighborhood stewardship of properties, bi-annual clean ups, promoting conservation, newsletter writing, leading a hike or becoming an active Board Member.

Visit our website www.Westbrooklct.org, our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WestbrookCTLandTrust>, or email us at Westbrooklct@gmail.com, or simply write us at Westbrook Land Conservation Trust, PO Box 1124, Westbrook, CT 06498.