



**Connecticut**  
Resource Conservation  
& Development Area

**2023-2025**

# **IMPACT REPORT**

Enhancing natural resource conservation, agriculture,  
and rural economies in Connecticut since 1968





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Our mission is to cultivate a diverse, equitable, and resilient Connecticut through partnership-driven solutions that enhance natural resource conservation, agriculture, and rural economies.

# Message from the President



Dear Valued Friends and Partners,

**For nearly 25 years, I have seen the Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area develop, change, and grow. Over that time, we have not been strangers to “living in interesting times.”**

We have lost federal support, seen a number of our peer organizations around the country struggle, merge, or shut down entirely. We have seen our state and federal funding sources disappear, shift, restart, and occasionally boom. Despite the current uncertainties that face nonprofit groups and government funding, we are still here. We will continue to be here.

The reason for RC&D’s resilience and persistence in Connecticut is no deep mystery. CT RC&D has a proven track record of success in building partnerships, providing technical assistance, and implementing innovative solutions to the challenges facing our communities. We understand the needs. We see the opportunities. We deliver effective programs.

As President of this organization for more than two decades now, I am continually proud of all we have accomplished, mostly through the talents and hard work of our extraordinary staff and our ever-widening network of partners. If there is anything we on the Council leadership have done correctly, it is hiring the right people and getting out of the way as they do their great work.

It is because of this extraordinary track record, across the years and the challenges, that I remain confident that by working together, we will continue to assist in ensuring that Connecticut’s natural resources, agricultural communities, and rural economies are resilient, thriving, and capable of meeting the needs of future generations.

On behalf of the entire CT RC&D team, thank you for your trust, your passion, and your continued partnership. Onward!

*John Guskowski*

**CT RC&D PRESIDENT**



**If there is anything we on the Council leadership have done correctly, it is hiring the right people and getting out of the way as they do their great work.**

# Our Story



*An early Environmental Review Team in action.*

## CONSISTENT, ADAPTABLE, THRIVING

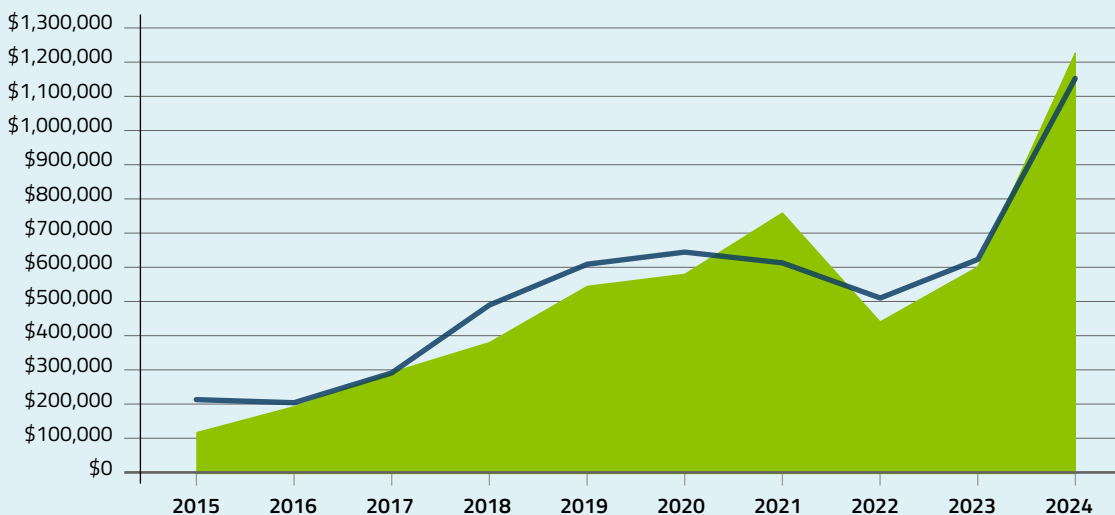
The Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area (CT RC&D) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1968 with the mission to cultivate a diverse, equitable, and resilient Connecticut through partnership-driven solutions that enhance natural resource conservation, agriculture, and rural economies. Fifty-seven years of project implementation across the state of Connecticut demonstrates conclusively that CT RC&D is a reliable leader in agriculture and conservation that brings high value to partnership-driven initiatives that drive local economic growth.

The Resource Conservation and Development Program was established in the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962 (now the Farm Bill). From 1962 until 2011, each Farm Bill provided funding for RC&Ds, serving nearly 400 locally-focused RC&D areas at its peak. While funding for RC&Ds across the country was eliminated from the Farm Bill in

2011, and many of these organizations closed up operations, CT RC&D has thrived. It took time to overcome the challenges presented to the organization from this change. It took creativity and flexibility to secure stable funding to continue to address the agricultural, natural resource, and economic issues brought to our attention. Most of all it took determination and organizational resilience from the Council and its staff.

The strength of this organization is in its deep roots within communities across Connecticut. These connections put us at the forefront of observing and responding to the needs of Connecticut's farmers, agricultural rural small businesses, municipalities, land trusts, and communities of many types. We identify and fill programming gaps to reach these audiences. We do this by working collaboratively with our broad partnerships across the state and region.

### CT RC&D REVENUE & EXPENSES: 2015–2024



By successfully pursuing grants over the past decade, CT RC&D has dramatically increased its revenue while holding the line on expenses.

■ REVENUE  
— EXPENSES

## Agricultural Enhancement Grant

# Path to Victory Program

In 2024, CT RC&D received funding from the CT Department of Agriculture through an Agriculture Enhancement Grant to support and empower historically underserved military Veterans in Connecticut who are interested in agriculture. CT RC&D partnered with the Connecticut Chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition, which serves as a consultant to implement the grant through the development of the Path to Victory Program. This initiative builds upon the existing Veteran FarmUP program by addressing three key priorities: improve funding and resources to support agricultural producer training opportunities, improve access to grants, and improve access to technical assistance.

Those Farmer Veterans who have previously participated in the Veteran FarmUP program or CT Veteran Grown initiative may also join the Path to Victory program. The Path to Victory program will provide 100 hours of one-on-one consultations to support Connecticut Veterans interested in agriculture, as well as current Farmer Veterans seeking to expand or improve their agricultural operations. These consultations cover areas such as marketing and business assistance and promotion through the use of the Homegrown by Heroes logo.

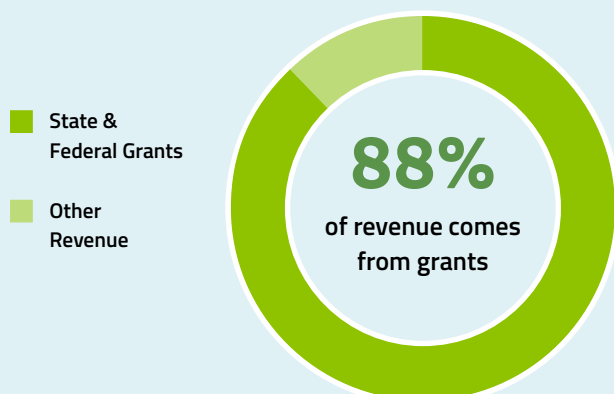
A key component of the Path to Victory program is fostering connections between Farmer Veterans.



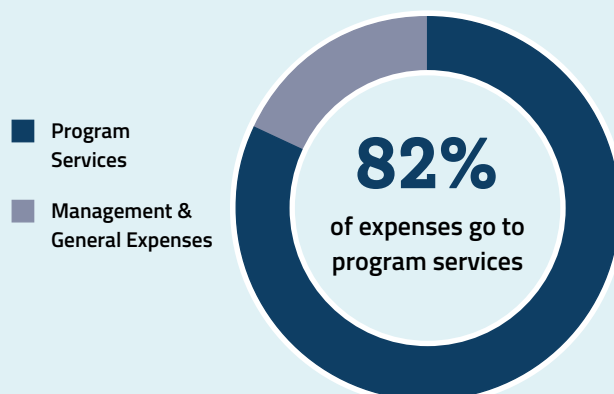
*Path to Victory will provide 100 hours of one-on-one consultations to Farmer Veterans.*

Experienced Farmer Veterans, especially those skilled in agribusiness development and grant writing, will mentor existing or aspiring Farmer Veterans. The goal is to support up to 25 Farmer Veterans in applying for grants, 20 newly established Veteran-owned agribusinesses with registering with the State of Connecticut, and 20 Veteran-owned farms in securing their Farm Tax Exemption Permits.

### CT RC&D REVENUE: FY 2024



### CT RC&D EXPENSES: FY 2024



With creativity and flexibility, CT RC&D has secured stable funding to continue addressing agricultural, natural resource, and economic issues across Connecticut.



# Climate Smart Agriculture Grant Program



*Long Table Farm received an award to purchase a stationary trommel screener with electric motor for compost production, as well as stone for the new composting pad and a Ford Lightning Electric Truck.*

In May 2023, CT RC&D was awarded \$1 million from the Connecticut Department of Agriculture Climate Smart Agriculture & Forestry Grant. The grant, established by the Community Investment Act (C.G.S. Sec. 22-26k), focuses on supporting, implementing, or expanding agricultural practices related to on-farm energy, such as energy efficiency, renewable energy, and soil health. This program awards \$500,000 to Connecticut farmers and establishes four equipment-sharing hubs across the state furnished with \$250,000 worth of agricultural equipment for cooperative use.



*Seacoast Mushrooms received an award to install a 155.5 kW roof- and ground-mounted solar array capable of powering 100% of the farm's usage for all operations.*

## Sub-Grants Lead to Long-term Resilience

Through a competitive process, CT RC&D awarded 20 Connecticut farms with sub-grants to support their innovative projects. The \$500,000 awarded to these farms has catalyzed over \$1.5 million in total investments in on-farm energy and soil health projects. These projects play a vital role in advancing long-term agricultural productivity and resilience. Of the 20 sub-grants, 11 were for on-farm energy, 7 were for soil health, and 2 were a combination of both.

**Of the 20 CSAG awards, the 11 on-farm energy projects alone will offset more than 141 metric tons of CO2 annually.**





*The CSAG Mobile Unit Trailer-houses BCS, attachments and hand tools in three hubs throughout Connecticut.*



*The Esch Seed Drill is housed at Hathor Hill Farm, Lakeside, Connecticut.*



*BCS walk-behind tractors are housed at three separate farms throughout the state.*

### ▲ Equipment-Sharing Hubs Provide Access to Sustainable Practices

With guidance from the agricultural community, CT RC&D established an Equipment Sharing Hub in each of the following regions: Northeastern CT, Northwestern CT, and CT River Valley. A fourth Hub is housed by and benefits the Farmer Veteran community. As of Summer 2025, more than 25 farms are actively utilizing the Equipment Sharing Hubs, with additional interest growing.

These Hubs help eliminate the financial barrier associated with acquiring costly machinery.

By offering shared access to equipment, transportation trailers, and technical assistance, CT RC&D is empowering farms to adopt sustainable and innovative practices while fostering a collaborative information-sharing network.

Partners in this project include the Lower Connecticut River Valley Council of Governments, Connecticut's Conservation Districts, UCONN Extension, and Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Association.

#### EXAMPLES OF AVAILABLE EQUIPMENT



- BCS Tractor Mobile Unit with Attachments
- Transplanter
- Roller Crimpers
- No-Till Seed Drills
- No-Till Corn Planter & Crimper
- 3 Ton Fertilizer Spreader
- Post Hole Digger, Driver, and Pounder
- Flail Mower
- Compost Tea Mobile Unit with Components
- Sub Soiler
- No-Till Cultivator
- Hand Tools

*\*Trailers are provided for transporting larger equipment.*

# CT Farm Energy Program

The CT Farm Energy Program (CFEP) is one of CT RC&D's flagship initiatives. Launched in 2009 as a pilot project, it provided grant writing assistance and raised awareness about energy programs for agricultural producers and ag-based rural small businesses in Eastern Connecticut. By 2011, the demand for the program was so high that CT RC&D expanded the program to service the entire state.

For 16 years, CT RC&D has supported farms and ag-based rural small businesses by serving as a trusted resource and clearinghouse for information about on-farm energy solutions, funding opportunities, financial incentives, loan programs, and energy audits. The CFEP offers technical assistance through CT RC&D's skilled staff, including personalized grant writing support, guidance through the USDA Rural

## CT FARM ENERGY BY THE NUMBERS

Since its inception, the CT Farm Energy Program has assisted Connecticut's farms and ag-based rural small businesses secure funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects statewide.



**\$8 million**

in USDA REAP grants and loans

**\$36 million**

in investments for statewide energy projects

Development Rural Energy for American Program (REAP) grant process, and referrals to consultants for free energy efficiency audits and renewable energy assessments. Each winter, the CFEP hosts three workshops across Connecticut to educate farmers and ag-based rural small businesses interested in implementing energy projects.

Thanks to a \$437,163 USDA Rural Development REAP Technical Assistance Grant awarded in 2023,

CT RC&D expanded the reach and impact of the CT Farm Energy Program. This program not only provides direct technical assistance resulting in financial and operational benefits to the agribusinesses served but also contributes to a reduction in carbon emissions.

In 2023 and 2024 alone, CT RC&D helped 39 farms apply for REAP grants, resulting in \$4.1 million in grant awards and \$12.2 million in completed on-farm energy projects.



*In 2023 Prides Corner Farm installed a 298.6 kW ground mounted solar project at their farm in West Suffield, CT.*



*Gray Friesian Farm installed a 6.4 kW roof mounted solar project at their farm in Easton, CT in 2023.*



*Bethany Farm and Nursery installed LED grow lights at their greenhouse in Woodbridge, CT.*



*Aquila's Nest Vineyards installed a 35.1 kW carport solar PV system at their farm located in Newtown, CT in 2024.*





CT RC&D co-hosted a number of soil health workshops. 1) March 2025 - Assisted the CT Compost Alliance with an on-farm compost tours at Long Table Farm. 2) May 2024 - Agroforestry & Soil Health Farm Field Day with partner organizations NWCD and BAV at Adamah Farm. 3) October 2024 - BCS and Compost Tea demo workshop in partnership with CT NOFA at Artza Mendi Farm.

## CT Soil Health Initiative

Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&Ds) have long maintained strong partnerships with the USDA, including the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). Both organizations share common natural resource concerns. In Connecticut, for CT RC&D and CT NRCS, a shared focus is on soil health. Soil is a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and people. Ensuring its continued capacity to function as such is critical to the future of farms and food systems.

The CT Soil Health Initiative is a longstanding program dedicated to promoting soil health education and practices. Healthy soils, rich in organic matter, have better drainage, disease resistance, and water-holding capacity during droughts. CT RC&D organizes and hosts workshops, educational events, and pilot programs in partnership with USDA NRCS staff, who provide expertise and instruction to participants. These events, typically held on working farms, attract a wide range of attendees including agricultural producers, nonprofits, federal and state agencies, and universities.

To enable these efforts, CT RC&D has a Cooperative

Agreement with the USDA NRCS that funds the implementation of the CT Soil Health Initiative. In the fall of 2023 CT RC&D entered into a new five-year agreement to expand and continue the program. CT RC&D collaborates with partners statewide to implement the goals and scope of work for the CT Soil Health Initiative.

In the past two years, through the CT Soil Health Initiative, CT RC&D has continued to support the CT Compost Alliance by providing administrative services, including facilitating monthly meetings, updating the Alliance's website, monitoring the email account, and acting as the fiscal sponsor. A major accomplishment was hosting the first in-person CT Compost Conference in March 2024, which had over 200 attendees. This year, we will assist the Alliance in hosting compost tours around the state.

In addition to educational workshops, CT RC&D also promotes NRCS conservation practices available through its EQIP program and plays a role in advancing soil health policy by participating in the CT Council on Soil and Water Conservation's Soil Health Committee and collaborating with stakeholders across the state.

### SMALL FARMS INNOVATION PROJECT

Small farms face many challenges, but from challenges come innovations. CT RC&D is partnering with the University of Connecticut through the College of Engineering and the College of Agriculture, Health and Natural Resources to provide farms with support to explore and/or build innovative ideas for their farm through the Small Farm Innovations Project. This project is being funded by a USDA NIFA Higher Education Challenge grant. Through an application process, farmers are connected to a team of students, faculty, and UCONN Extension educators and agriculture service providers to help them with an on-farm challenge. The project seeks to provide students with design experience by implementing practical needs for agricultural ventures through project-based learning that encourages agriculture focused career paths. Farmers are compensated with a stipend for their time and reimbursed for their prototype expenses. This multi-year project is scheduled to conclude in 2027 and will have multiple rounds of application signups over the course of several semesters.

# CT Veteran Grown



In 2023, with support from a Congressional Directed Spending grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration, CT RC&D launched the CT Veteran Grown initiative. This program has two primary goals: to create a virtual resource hub for Farmer Veterans and to promote the Homegrown by Heroes/CT Grown brand to consumers throughout Connecticut.

On Veteran's Day 2023, CT RC&D officially launched the website [CTVeteranGrown.org](http://CTVeteranGrown.org), a dual-purpose site designed for both Farmer Veterans and consumers. The website offers Farmer Veterans the opportunity to participate in the CT Veteran Grown map, which provides them with a unique landing page where they can share details about their farm including business history, contact information, social media links, military affiliation, and purchasing options for consumers. This online resource hub also provides access to trainings, programs, and events for the Farmer Veteran community. Consumers who visit the site can use the map to easily find Veteran-owned farms near them by entering their zip code. They can also search for specific products, certifications, and on-farm experiences.

CT Veteran Grown also offers a 1-on-1 assistance program providing Farmer Veterans with free

professional support. CT RC&D is partnering with the Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC) to provide business consultations, Miranda Creative to provide marketing consultations, and Mad River Creative to assist farmers with website creation.

## EXTRA EXTRA!

To date, CT Veteran Grown has been featured in:

- 2 press conferences
- 8 news segments
- 8 radio and podcast segments
- many conferences, events and more!



On Veteran's Day of 2024, CT RC&D premiered a mini documentary titled "Served Then, Still Serving Now". This short film highlights the transition from military service to agriculture for 10 CT Farmer Veterans who collectively represent all 5 major branches of the U.S. military. The documentary was produced by Emily DeLuca of Crosscourt Media and its release was celebrated with a viewing party at Priam Vineyards, a Veteran owned agribusiness. Crosscourt Media is also producing four 30-second commercials to further promote the CT Veteran Grown initiative. All of this content, and more, can be viewed on the CT Veteran Grown YouTube channel.



*In 2024, CT Veteran Grown and CT Farmer Veteran Coalition partnered to host a Homegrown by Heroes Farmers' Market at Guardians Farm in Southbury. It was a huge success, drawing over 200 customers!*







On Veteran's Day 2024, Priam Vineyards hosted a viewing party for the mini-documentary "Served Then, Still Serving Now," which was created thanks to CT Veteran Grown.

## CT VETERAN GROWN BY THE NUMBERS

How many Veteran-owned farms have benefited from services offered through this program?



**41** featured on CTVeteranGrown.org interactive map



**24** received one-on-one consultations with Industry Experts



**9** featured in commercials and documentary



**32** received one-on-one consultations with CT RC&D staff via Veteran FarmUP



**17** received professional photography sessions for use in their marketing as well as CT Veteran Grown brand promotion



**15** featured on radio or TV segments

# FarmUP and Veteran FarmUP

CT RC&D recognizes the unique challenges that farm owners and ag-based rural small business owners face in starting and operating an agribusiness. In 2019, CT RC&D launched the FarmUP Program to address a critical gap in business support services for Connecticut's agricultural community. Soon after FarmUP began, CT RC&D recognized a growing need among Veterans transitioning from military service to farming for similar support. In response, the Veteran FarmUP program was introduced in 2020 to provide targeted technical assistance for Farmer Veterans statewide. Additionally, CT RC&D played a key role in helping establish the Connecticut Chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition (CT FVC), which elected its first Board of Directors in 2023.



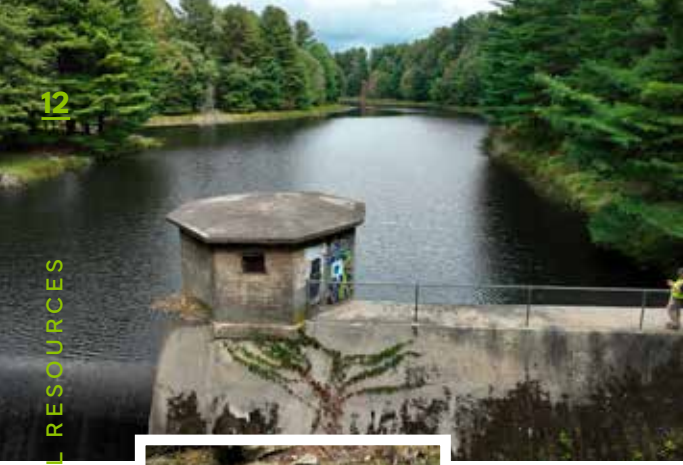
Through Farm UP and Veteran FarmUP, CT RC&D facilitates connections to business support resources, assists participants in navigating federal, state, and local programs and funding opportunities, and offers tailored educational opportunities. CT RC&D provides one-on-one confidential consultations to help Connecticut's agribusinesses access the right tools and information for their success. The FarmUP and Veteran FarmUP programs are delivered in collaboration with a broad network of experienced partners in the agricultural and business sectors. The program is supported with funding support from the U.S. Small Business Administration and previous funding from USDA Rural Development.

**CT RC&D has provided 35 FarmUP and 43 Veteran FarmUP consultations. That's nearly 80 agribusinesses assisted through one-on-one, confidential consultations and support!**

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!  
@CTVETERANGROWN







*From left: Randolph Steinen at the Seymour site visit, September 2024; Seymour Great Hill Reservoir Dam slated for removal or repair in the future; ERT Team at Hebron site visit, April 2025.*



## IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS

**750+**

acres inventoried for Connecticut's municipalities and land trusts

**8**

ERT Natural Resource Inventories completed

**30+**

towns assisted in Natural Resource planning

**\$625,000**

value of in-kind volunteer donated time

# Environmental Review Team

The Connecticut Environmental Review Team (ERT) program is another one of CT RC&D's flagship initiatives. Since 1969, the ERT program has provided technical assistance to municipalities and land trusts, largely through natural resources inventories. These inventories catalog and offer feedback on a wide range of topics. The ERT program provides information and resources to urge towns and land trusts to consider natural resources in their open space and agriculture development plans.

CT RC&D is grateful for the ongoing support from CT DEEP's Passport to the Parks Program, which provides essential funding to administer and expand the program. As of 2024, CT RC&D has completed 1,012 Environmental Review Team inventories and reports. These would not be possible without the team of enthusiastic volunteers, each an expert in their own field, who contribute their time and expertise to the program. Thanks to their dedication, the ERT program has inventoried over 350,000 acres in 162 of Connecticut's 169 municipalities.

In 2023, the program completed reports for a 165-acre parcel in Middletown's Red

Maple Swamp and a 162-acre parcel in the Town of Plainfield near Kate Downing Road. In 2024, a natural resources inventory site visit and report was completed for the Town of Seymour on a 93.8-acre parcel abutting Oxford's Rockhouse Hill Sanctuary and State of Connecticut land. This year, the ERT has made multiple site visits to a 115-acre parcel acquired for open space by the Town of Hebron.

In recent years, the program has also contributed to efforts such as organizing a working group to address the aquatic invasive hydrilla in the Connecticut River, a planning study in Lebanon to understand affordable farming options in Connecticut, organizing a 12-town working group to develop the Air Line State Park Trail Master Plan, and supporting groups such as the Salmon River Watershed Partnership, Eightmile River Watershed National Wild & Scenic Partnership, and the Thames River Basin Watershed Partnership.

Looking ahead, CT RC&D plans to expand support for Connecticut's land trusts, increase municipal outreach, and offer "ERT Mini Reports" to serve a broader range of constituents.

## REVIEW TOPICS

- Best Management Practices for Land Use
- Critical Natural Resources & Species Inventory
- Agricultural Value & Farmland Preservation
- Recreation & Trail Mapping
- Historical & Archaeological Significance
- Transportation & Public Access
- Community Gardens
- Runoff & Wastewater
- Public Drinking Water
- Watersheds
- Geology/Soils
- Topography

# Job JumpStart Program

The primary goal of CT RC&D's Cooperative Agreement with NRCS is to support the delivery, development, and promotion of soil, water, and wildlife conservation programs available through NRCS. In addition to the CT Soil Health Initiative, the Cooperative Agreement funds the continuation and expansion of CT RC&D's Job JumpStart program.

Established 8 years ago, the Job JumpStart program fosters the professional development of individuals pursuing careers in agriculture or conservation by offering full-time positions in NRCS offices across the state.

Through the Job JumpStart program, CT RC&D provides NRCS with staff to implement conservation planning projects and provide technical assistance to agricultural producers. A key indicator of the program's success is that 90% of Job JumpStart staff who moved on in their careers

have secured permanent positions with NRCS. To date, 21 individuals have advanced their careers through the Job JumpStart program.

**A key indicator of the program's success is that 90% of Job JumpStart staff who moved on in their careers have secured permanent positions with NRCS.**

CT RC&D currently employs 6 Job JumpStart staff and looks forward to filling an additional 5 positions that are funded by the Cooperative Agreement. This team is an integral part of CT RC&D's impact because they are the next generation of agriculture and conservation professionals.



## CURRENT JOB JUMPSTART ROLES

- Conservation Nutrient Management Planner
- Conservation Planner
- Conservation Soil Technician
- Archaeology Field Technician



*Job JumpStart Staff at CT RC&D's 2024 Annual Meeting*



# Air Line State Park Trail Master Plan and Alliance



In November 2018, forty-five enthusiastic stakeholders and supporters from the twelve towns of the Air Line State Park Trail region, along with representatives of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), gathered for a roundtable discussion.

Over the course of two hours, the group engaged in a conversation about the merits, challenges, and concerns surrounding the Air Line State Park Trail's future. The major question that came out

Interviews with stakeholders and public meetings provided critical input at each stage. This plan aims to encourage and support leadership from the Air Line State Park Trail region and CT DEEP to create a dynamic, safe, and culturally enriching experience for both residents and visitors.

In May 2023, CT RC&D received a \$75,000 grant from the CT DEEP Rec Trails Grant program to establish a formal nonprofit, the Air Line State Park Trail Alliance, and promote the trail. This new



**12 towns**  
that make up the Air Line  
State Park Trail region



**3 years**  
to research and produce  
the Master Plan



**\$75K grant**  
to establish an Alliance  
to promote the trail

of the meeting was, "How do we best manage and improve the trail?" By the end of the session, the group unanimously agreed to move forward with a proposal for a master planning process to better coordinate trail stewardship across the twelve towns and CT DEEP. This decision marked the beginning of a dynamic partnership to address this question and unite the stakeholders of the Air Line State Park Trail region. The planning process, supported with funding from CT DEEP, was comprehensive and collaborative, involving consultants, town officials, trail committees, educators, land use and conservation planners, scientists, trail enthusiasts, neighboring towns, and regional partners.

The Air Line State Park Trail Region Master Plan, published in May 2023, represents the culmination of three years of surveys, research, mapping, site visits, and professional evaluation of economics, land use, infrastructure, and marketing analysis.

organization serves as a connection for the towns and stakeholders along the trail to communicate with CT DEEP on implementing cost-effective and timely maintenance and improvements on the trail. The Alliance will collaborate with the State Office of Tourism to promote local amenities and "stay and play" options for trail visits. Furthermore, the Alliance will support trail-oriented business growth by partnering with local economic development commissions and business associations. In early 2025, the Air Line State Park Trail Alliance achieved a major milestone by adopting its first bylaws and elected its inaugural Board of Directors.

While CT RC&D has led both the Air Line State Park Trail master planning process and the effort to establish the Air Line State Park Trail Alliance, it is the enthusiasm and dedication of the region's stakeholders and CT DEEP that helps drives the vision for the Trail forward.



As a partnership-driven organization, CT RC&D leverages its connections within the conservation, agriculture, and rural business communities. CT RC&D sends a monthly AGvocate e-blast newsletter to 1,775 recipients, often including information about the 65 Main Street workshops. CT RC&D also created flyers for 10 of the 12 workshops and posted them on the CT RC&D website, Facebook, and Instagram feeds, reaching an average of an additional 2,700 viewers per workshop. Although not all viewers attended the workshops, these posts helped raise awareness about the 65 Main Street project.



An aerial photograph of a park area. In the foreground, there is a large green field. To the left of the field is a red-roofed building. To the right of the field is a yellow building with a spiral staircase. The park is surrounded by trees and a fence. A blue banner with the text "SS" is visible in the top left corner.

Looking ahead, CT RC&D will continue to support the project by assisting with program development and providing a representative for the first Board of Directors of the Tourtellotte Center for Small Business, Inc, the nonprofit that will operate from the facility. The project focuses on enriching the community's economic vitality, enhancing agricultural business viability, and encouraging the sustainable use of natural resources, all which align with CT RC&D's mission.



**2,700  
viewers**

saw posts about each of the public workshops through the CT RC&D website and social media feeds.



# Thank You to Our Partners



In 2024, CT RC&D welcomed U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small for a visit to eastern Connecticut. Board members and staff joined Congressman Joe Courtney and Connecticut Department of Agriculture Commissioner Bryan Hurlburt to host Small at Running Brook Farms in Killingworth, CT, where the farm has installed several energy projects.

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