SOAK UP THE RAIN in BOW

This past fall, MCCD volunteers and workers along with the Bow Conservation Commission and NH Department of Environmental Services came together to build a rain garden at the Baker Free Library in Bow. In partnership with Soak Up The Rain, a program within New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, this new rain garden aims to protect and restore clean water around the library and promote similar practices around the community.

LAWN CARE EDUCATION SERIES

Community comes together to learn organic practices for their lawns

Merrimack County Conservation District (MCCD) partnered with Northeast Organic Farming Association of New Hampshire (NOFA-NH) and Complete Land Organics along with several other local organizations to create a series of organic lawn care workshops in an effort to educate residents about the importance of organic lawn care. This was made possible through an Urban Development Grant from the National Association of Conservation Districts.
2019 GLEANING WRAP-UP

In 2019 we gleaned over 30,000 lbs of fresh food from local farms

It’s been a great year! We’re still counting all of the donations and still receiving gleans. Check out our website in January for the final total.

A huge thanks to the farms and gardens who donated:

- Brookford Farm
- Carter Hill Orchard
- Canterbury Shaker Village
- Concord Boys & Girls Club Garden
- Concord Headstart School Garden
- Franklin Parks and Recreation Garden
- Giovagnoli Egg Farm
- Good Enough Farm
- Gould Hill Farm
- Grounding Stone Farm
- Hackleboro Orchard
- Hop N Hen Farm
- LaValley Farms
- McKenna Correctional Facility Teaching Garden
- Muster Field Farm
- Pearl and Son Farm
- Penacook Community Center Community Garden
- Picnic Rock Farm
- Spring Ledge Farm
- Windswept Farm
- Windswept Maples
- Work Song Farm
- And the growing number of home orchards and gardens who contributed this year.

And many thanks to the volunteers who made it all possible:

- The Friends RSVP Program
- NHTI Sustainability Club
- Tilton School
- The Youth Group at Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Church
- And the wonderful individuals who signed up with NH Gleans at www.nhgleans.org.

What is Gleaning?

Gleaning is the act of collecting excess food from area farms, farmers’ markets and gardens and donating it to local charitable organizations.

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MCCD’s partnership with NOFA-NH allowed for the connection with Britt Phillips, owner of Complete Land Organics in Wilmot. Britt agreed to a series of workshops in which she spoke to residents about how and why to practice organic lawn care.

Britt spoke to residents of Concord, Bow and Hooksett in three separate workshops. She effectively disseminated information about the importance of soil health in building a healthy, sustainable lawn. Attendees were also informed of the longevity of synthetic chemicals used in non-organic lawn care products and the negative effects they can have on humans, the environment in our homes, and on our beloved four legged friends.

Participants received a lawn ruler to show the best height to keep your lawn at: 3-4 inches tall, higher than most people usually keep it. Tall grass is healthier and promotes thicker turf that leads to fewer weeds. Throughout the workshop, participants learned the importance of testing the pH levels of their soil and what to add in order to bring the level back to where it should be.

While synthetic chemicals suppress weeds, they also damage soil health and can cause problems for future lawn regeneration. Organic lawn care including learning more about your soils, understanding what organic practices to use, and building healthy soil in your backyard that can regenerate for years to come.

Soil health is vital to land conservation because it leads to healthy plants, which in turn feed and house healthy insects and wildlife. A healthy lawn can also prevent soil erosion which means that NH residents can help to maintain a healthy coating of topsoil across our beautiful state.

MCCD, NOFA, and other partners will continue our Organic Lawn Care work in 2020. Stay tuned!

Thank you again to all who worked with us on this series.
We’re getting ready for our 2020 Conservation Sale!

This includes native tree and shrubs, fruit trees, berry plants, perennial bulbs, potted native perennials, or others.

If you have any bulk order requests or items that you would like to see us offer, please email us at info@merrimackccd.org

WHAT’S NEW?

NH DES updated wetland rules
Beginning December 15, 2019

- The new rules reflect best available science and will increase Streamlining of projects with temporary or minimum impact
- The rules will establish Project Specific Criteria and objective standards
- For consistent interpretation of the rules
- With other DES and sister state agency programs
- With US Army Corps of Engineers Programmatic General Permit

Changes to the Wetlands Dredge and Fill Law
- Exemption changes
- Statistical turnaround time mandate
- Amendment as 20% change
- Time extensions
- New statutory notices—Utilities, Routine Roadway
- New prime wetland waiver, buffer change
- New PBN: MIE and permit by rule
- LAC Right of Intervention/LAC notice

Changes to Other State Programs
- New Shoreland standards and rules
- New surface water quality standards
- Designated River Local Advisory Committees
- LAC process expanded
- Invasive species law and grant program
- Certified wetland scientist (RSA 310-A)
- New Alteration of Terrain rules
- New Subsurface rules

For more information, please go to des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/process-improvement.htm

CONSERVATION NEWS 2019
MERRIMACK COUNTY WINTER FARMERS’ MARKETS

Canterbury Holiday Farmers’ Market
Saturday, December 14, 10am—1pm
Canterbury Elementary School Gym
15 Baptist Rd, Canterbury

Winter Farmers’ Market at Cole Gardens
November-April, Saturdays, 9:30am—12:30pm
430 Loudon Rd, Concord

Downtown Concord Farmers’ Market at Eagle Square
November-April, Saturday, 10-1pm
3 Eagle Square, Concord

Contoocook Farmers’ Market
November-May, Saturday, 9am-noon
Maple Street School, 194 Maple St.

Danbury Blazing Star Grange Farmers’ Market
November-April, 1st Saturdays, 9-1pm
Grange Hall, 15 North Road, Danbury

Riverhill Grange Farmers’ Market
October—April, Wednesdays, 3-6 pm
Riverhill Grange, 32 Horsehill Rd, Penacook