TO: WCSU University Senate  
From: Frank J. Dye, Director, Westside Nature Preserve (WNP)  
Subject: Annual WNP Report (2011-2012)  
Date: 30 May 2012  

**Maintenance and Development**

Two new informational kiosks have been purchased and put in place, one at the beginning of the trails at the University Boulevard entrance to the WNP and one at the Middle River Road entrance to the WNP.

**Research**

Seven biology students, Donal Keith, Erick Orozco Morato, Chantal Ridlon, Jessica Jahr, Juliana Pangaio, Jillian Penchina, Remya Christison, Fernanda Carvalho, and Allane Oliveira, carried out bioassay research, analyzing the quality of water in the WNP brook, during the 2011-2012 academic year.

**Teaching**

A number of Biology courses, including BIO 100, Concepts of Biology; BIO 103, General Biology I; BIO 200, Ecology; and BIO 311, Developmental Biology, include field trips on the WNP.

**Community Outreach**

New plant signage has been ordered, received, and placed on selected species of trees on the WNP at the beginning of June 2012.

Copies of the current edition of the, self-directed, guide to the Westside Nature Preserve continue to be distributed to the two “Free Brochure” boxes on the WNP trails.

Our updated, multicolored, brochure has been distributed to various venues, including the Connecticut Welcome Center at Exit 2 (East-bound) on Interstate 84.

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.

During the Spring 2012 semester, student members of the Biology Club worked on trail maintenance on the WNP; additionally several of these students received 10 different Oak saplings and planted them on the WNP.

We are listed in Connecticut Vacations (2009) 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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