**Title:** Weeds in Wilcox Woods

**Date:** Saturday, May 18, 2019

**Time:** 11 AM – 1 PM

**Event Type:** Hike and Woodland Management

**Event Host:** City of Middletown Commission on Conservation and Agriculture

**A description of the event that highlights the sustainability focus and how that focus will be demonstrated.**

We hiked the area, showing people the variety of natural habitats, the evidence of historical uses, the badly conceived pine tree plantation, the amount of garbage, and the areas where invasive plants are located. This gave some on-the-ground examples for a summary of the management plans that the city has paid for, but never implemented. We also talked about how such woodlands can be maintained for the benefit of wildlife and human recreation and then spent some time picking up garbage as we hiked the trails.

**Identification of the municipal support provided (financial and/or with in-kind services)**

The city provided a portable toilet for the event, garbage bags, work gloves, bottled water (left over from the charrettes about which I have very mixed feelings), but not the snacks that were promised. Public Works will pick up the garbage after the event.

**Number of participants at event**

16 volunteers and 3 members of the CCA = 19

**Other quantifiable data from event**

At the event, we collected several tires, auto parts, couch cushions, springs, many glass bottles, 6 bags of garbage, 10 bags of invasive plants, and a large pile of plants (not bagged)

**Follow-up actions/activities, lessons learned, and/or contacts for future planning**

1. Our Vocational Agriculture student who is a UConn Conservation Ambassador mapped the entire area as a school project and created a poster showing "Areas of Interest and Concern". She displayed her poster and is working to get high school students involved.
2. A trail map was made by Chair Liz Holder working in concert with The Connecticut Forest and Park Association. These maps were handed out and will be posted at critical trail junctions.
3. Implementation of the Wilcox Management Plan, which was supposed to begin in 2018.
4. Collected contact information from any participant willing to help with future work.