



Old Saybrook Conservation Commission

Quarterly Newsletter

2Q 2021

“Trash Talking” and More Recycling Options

You may have read that the waste-to-energy plant in Hartford will not be upgraded due to the overall cost to repair and lack of funding. MIRA has been trucking much of our garbage out of state. Needless to say, there is a critical need to find alternatives for disposing the trash in our state. While our state and local officials work out a solution there are many ways we can reduce the amount of trash we throw out.



- Salvation Army - New London - pick-up option for larger items
- Habitat for Humanity Stores - Waterford and Cromwell

Consignment Shops

- Cedar Chest III Family Consignments - Old Saybrook
- The Stork & Fashion Exchange - Westbrook
- Fantasia Consignments - Old Saybrook - women’s items

Do you have household items or clothes that you no longer need or want but are still in good condition? And might they be useful to someone else. Here is a comprehensive list of resources (most are local) where you can donate these items and give them a second life.

Please note: due to the pandemic some of these options may be limited at this time, however, keep them in mind once things start opening up!

Used Books

- Acton Public Library - check their website (www.acton-library.org) for donation events
- Harbor Books - 146 Main St., Old Saybrook, takes used books on consignment
- Book Barn - Niantic - will buy or give store credit for used books
- Free Little Libraries around town

Thrift Stores

- Estuary Council of Seniors Thrift Store - household items
- Shoreline Soup Kitchen & Pantries - food items
- Goodwill - Clinton



Online Options to Resell or Gift Items

- Facebook - Marketplace - great place to sell a variety of items within our geographic area
- Saybrook Resale
- Shoreline Yard Sale
- Buy Nothing Old Saybrook (gifting community)
- Poshmark, Ebay, Offerup - other options for selling your items
- Swap and Thredup - send your goods to them and they sell for you for store credit or cash



Don't forget the “Free Table” at the Old Saybrook Transfer Station!



In The Preserve, there is a red oak wolf tree that was recently measured. Its circumference at breast height was 140 inches

which translates to a diameter of 44 inches. Based on some New England growth charts, this tree could be about 289 years old which means it started its life in 1731!

Why Shrink Your Lawn?

Note: the following information was taken from the March 2021 Connecticut Magazine. Please refer to the issue for the complete article which is very informative.

- U.S. lawns emit 25 million tons of carbon dioxide annually.
- Turfgrass, otherwise known as lawn, is not native to Connecticut. It's cheap to plant, but it's expensive to maintain - while also contributing to climate change, air and water pollution and wasting water.
- An estimated 7 million wild birds are killed each year by homeowner's use of lawn pesticides, according to Audubon New York.
- The average leaf blower produces 65-80 decibels at 50 feet away from the person operating it, while the World Health Organization recommends daytime outdoor noise should not exceed 55 decibels.
- Nearly 80 million pounds of pesticide and 90 million pounds of chemical fertilizers are used on U.S. lawns annually.
- Lawn mower engines lack pollution controls and pollute more than cars per mile. Mowing releases 26.7 million tons of air pollutants annually, accounting for approximately 25% of all non-road gasoline emissions.



- Nine billion gallons of water are used daily for residential outdoor water use in the U.S., mainly for watering landscapes. 70% of the water used in



southern CT is used outside. Homes with automatic sprinkler irrigation systems use about 40% more water than homes without automatic sprinklers.

- Climate change brings bigger flash-flood rainfalls; rainfall is absorbed better in gardens that in turf. When a house is surrounded by grass, the stormwater runoff drains into sewers and ends up polluting rivers; if stormwater is absorbed into the soil, it's purified before it ends up in groundwater.



Eagle in Osprey nest at juncture of Plum Bank and Great Hammock Rds
Jan 20, 2021 taken by Peter Jeskey

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