

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
Lake Saltonstall, 100 Hosley Avenue, Branford
(Meet at the Fish Shack)

AGENDA

Regular Meeting of Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

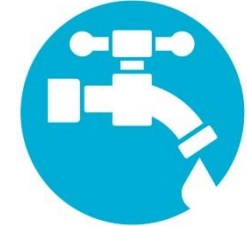
1. Safety Moment
2. Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2025 meeting
3. RWA Police update: Capt. Paul Ruggiero
4. Updates on land and RWA properties, including invasive species update
5. Other land items
6. Reminder: volunteers for upcoming Authority meetings:
 - a. October 23, 2025 - J. Mowat Young
 - b. November 20, 2025 – J. Oslander
 - c. December 18, 2025 – G. Malloy
 - d. January 22, 2026 – P. Betkoski
7. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.
8. Adjourn

*In the event of rain *ONLY*, the meeting will be held in-person at 90 Sargent Drive, New Haven, Connecticut. To view meeting documents, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/3antbz44>. For questions, contact the board office at 203-401-2515 or by email to jslubowski@rwater.com

SAFETY MOMENT

FALL SAFETY

Tap Into
Safety



Regional Water Authority

Autumn is a beautiful season; but equally dangerous. We all appreciate the beauty around us during the autumn season from the colorful leaves to the pumpkin-spiced fragrances, it is undeniably splendid. However, it is a season that can be fraught with danger as the chances of falling are heightened. Fallen leaves obscure slip risks on the ground. Wet leaves create slippery, dangerous surfaces without grip that make slipping and falling more likely.

MINIMIZE THE RISK BY:

1. Watching your step – Be mindful of what could be underneath a leaf pile
2. Cleaning up fallen leaves – Regularly rake up fallen leaves to avoid slipping
3. Driving with awareness – Slow down and allow extra distance between you and the car in front
4. Being visible – Wear reflective clothing when working outdoors in diminishing daylight



Service – Teamwork – Accountability – Respect – Safety

9/11

Safety is a core company value at the Regional Water Authority .
It is our goal to reduce workplace injuries to zero.

 Regional Water Authority

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
South Central Connecticut Regional Water District
September 10, 2025

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Land Use Committee (“Committee”) of the Representative Policy Board (“RPB”), of the South Central Connecticut Regional Water District (“RWA”), took place on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, at the Lake Whitney Dam, 945 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, Connecticut. In Chair Levine’s absence, Ms. Young presided.

Committee Members Present: M. Levine, P. Betkoski, P. DeSantis, B. Eitzer, G. Malloy, J. Oslander, and J. Mowat Young

RPB: R. Harvey, N. Campbell, J. DiCarlo, C. Havrda, and S. Mongillo

FMA: C. LaMarr

Management: V. Benni, J. Hill, L. Marcik, C. Savoy, and J. Triana

Staff: J. Slubowski

Ms. Young called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. She reviewed the Safety Moment distributed to members.

Ms. Young offered the opportunity for members of the public to comment. There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

On motion made by Mr. Eitzer, and seconded by Mr. Oslander, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of its August 13, 2025 regular meeting.

Mr. Marcik the RWA’s Capital Program Lead, and Mr. Savoy, the RWA’s Sr. Project Engineer, provided an update of the Lake Whitney Dam & Spillway Improvements Phase I – Initial Design Project. Including the historical background of the dam from its origin as a hydro-mechanical dam to support Eli Whitney’s manufacturing obligations in 1861 to the current plans underway. The update also included an explanation of the design and contracting process and the use of an independent third party consultant review prior to the upcoming bid.

Discussion took place regarding rationales for the coffer dam, plans, various improvements, eels, permitting, bidding process, and high hazard dam standards as well as the Probable Maximum Flood standard requirements. At the conclusion of the meeting, a tour of the dam was provided.

At 4:55 p.m., Chair Levine entered the meeting.

Update on *The Land We Need for the Water We Use Program* – Mr. Triana, the RWA’s Real Estate Manager, reported:

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
August 31	75%	87%	74%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
August 2025	1.42	6.31	3.96
Fiscal YTD (6/1/24 –	4.74	15.49	11.38

Land We Need for the Water We Use Program (Dispositions/Acquisitions)

- Madison, Weber property – Completed marking the boundaries. Foresters collected data for the QFR.
- Cheshire, former Bis property (CH 5) – Certificate of Title was completed and forwarded to DEEP. FMA passed resolution to enter into grant agreement and convey the conservation easement.
- North Branford, Amatrudo Farm – Sent letter of support to TPL and NBLCT for their OSHA application for this property.
- Hamden, Davis St., and Hartford Tpk. (HA 5A) – Received notification from DOT that they were condemning a portion of the property at Davis St. and Hartford Tpk. for a sidewalk project. Sent them the forms agreeing to the transfer and compensation.
- Seymour, 56 Squantuck Rd. (SE 5) – Signed P&SA with the town giving a deadline of mid-October to close.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Reviewed public notice of the public hearing.

Forestry Update

- Collected quotes and information for multiple projects as part of a New England Forestry Foundation grant through USDA that will allow us to potentially perform three projects on RWA lands. The grant application is for approximately \$600,000.
- Inventoried forest resources at the new Weber property for the Qualified Foresters Report and a PA-490 tax abatement application.
- Worked with RWA Arborist and others to plan for the restoration of a hillside at Maltby Lakes following a small crown fire.
- Explored an opportunity to become an NRCS Technical Service Provider (TSP), including a conversation with HR for a COI review.

Recreation

- Moth event at Lake Menunketuc had 24 attendees.
- Kids archery event at Lake Gaillard had 6 attendees.
- Contractor cleared the orange trail at Lake Bethany.
- Milford Boys & Girls Club brought a summer camp group to the Maltby Lakes to participate in our fishing opportunity program. There were 35 attendees.
- The Water Wagon attended six events in August.

	August		July	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Permit Holders	4,916	4,880	4,861	4,929

Special Activity Permits

URI (Ari Locklear and designees) – Release biological agent, moth *Hypena opulenta* to help control the population of invasive plants black and pale swallowwort, Lake Gaillard, Lake Saltonstall (7/17/2025)

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Madison, 702 Summer Hill Rd. (MA 9) – Abutter contacted Gesick about the survey. Set boulders along the line in the rear.
 - Agricultural agreements – Corresponded with potential tenants found through FarmLink. Signed license agreements with Hammarlund for two fields in Guilford.
 - North Branford, 1790 Middletown Ave. (NB 16) – Sent final draft of license agreement to abutter.
 - Branford, Cherry Hill Rd. (BR 10A) – Sent regular letter via US Mail. Abutter responded. Sent them a draft of a license agreement for the yard. Contractor removed the last autumn olive behind the yard.
 - East Haven, Barberry Rd. fields (EH 9, 10, 11, &13) – Signed a one-year access agreement with GreenVest to assess site hydrology to evaluate surface water and groundwater conditions to determine suitability for wetland restoration and/or creation.
 - Bethany, Downs Rd. turnaround (BE 17) – Contacted town staff about their need to send us notification about continued use of the turnaround at the end of the road.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Madison, Guilford, East Haven, North Branford, Bethany and Branford. Experimented with lowest rate of herbicide on the swallowwort patch in North Branford off of the watershed. Conducted post-harvest flight for the Furnace Pond water chestnut harvest.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	21 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	2.75 acres

- Woodbridge, Racebrook Rd. access (WO 10) – Property owner said she forwarded our draft agreement to her attorney.
- North Branford, UI watermain easement – Murtha sent North Branford the documents they needed to complete. UI staff indicated that they are unwilling to grant the easement across their properties.
- Hamden, Walmart at Hamden Mart easement – Notified by property owner that in order to expand the store, UI would have to move their lines behind the building and required a subordination of our easement. After consideration, we decided that we would not subordinate our easement to UI's.
- Killingworth, Church Brook culverts (KI 4) – Unblocked two sets of culverts that take Church Brook over the woods road. Put in work order for Operations to repair the road.
- Killingworth, Kroupa Pond (KI 8) – Received letter and certificate about (partial) ownership of the Kroupa Pond dam. Filed in vault after consulting with Engineering.

Assignments were made for volunteers to attend Authority meetings on:

- October 23, 2025 – J. Mowat Young

Representative Policy Board
Land Use Committee
September 10, 2025

- November 20, 2025 – J. Oslander
- December 18, 2025 – G. Malloy
- January 22, 2026 – P. Betkoski

There were no other land items to report.

The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.

At 5:15 p.m., on motion made by Mr. Malloy and seconded by Mr. Betkoski, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting.

Jamie Mowat Young, Acting Chair

October 22, 2025
Land Use Committee Meeting

Reservoir Levels (Percent Full)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average	Drought Status
September	68%	80%	68%	None

Rainfall (inches)

	Current Year	Previous Year	Historical Average
September 30	1.66	1.30	3.81
Fiscal YTD (6/1/24 – 9/30/25)	6.40	16.79	15.20

Land We Need for the Water We Use Program (Dispositions/Acquisitions)

- Cheshire, former Bis property (CH 5) – Corresponded with DEEP regarding grant.
- Hamden, Davis St. and Hartford Tpk. (HA 5A) – Resent DOT the forms for the condemnation.
- Hamden, Treadwell St. (HA 7) – Sent DOT forms for these condemnations.
- Prospect - Corresponded with property owner of 16+/- acres.
- Cheshire, Cheshire Rd. properties – Provided letter of support to Cheshire Land Trust for an OSWA application they are submitting for properties on the North Cheshire Wellfield Aquifer.
- Seymour, 56 Squantuck Rd. (SE 5) – Received the fully executed P&SA from the town.

Rental houses:

- Hamden, 233 Skiff St. (HA 9A) – Public hearing was held on September 25, 2025.

Forestry Update

- Received approval for grant funding through the New England Forest Foundation (NEFF). Stakeholders from NEFF visited three project sites from the proposed 500 acres that the RWA would like to advance timber markets on through timber stand improvement.
- Madison, Weber property (MA 6B) – QFR submitted with 490 application to the town assessor.
- Signed up for NRCS's Technical Service Provider training and met with HR staff regarding eligibility for incentive payments.

Recreation

- Lake Gaillard Walk-a-thon had about 160 attendees.
- Oak tree walk at Lake Saltonstall had 6 attendees.
- Contractor cleared trails at Lake Bethany and Lake Chamberlain.
- Checked bog bridges at Lake Hammonasset.
- Made 25 bags of recycled bait for future fishing events.
- Peter Hlousek retired from the recreation staff.
- The Water Wagon attended three events in September.

	September		August	
	2025	2024	2025	2024
Permit Holders	4,892	4,846	4,916	4,880

Special Activity Permits

- University of New Haven (Dr. Albert C. Nyack) - studying qualitative and quantitative data at different locations along the West River watershed. Lesson entails sampling flow rate, water's width, DO, temperature at the Lake Bethany Dam culvert on the downstream side (9/15/2025 – 9/19/25 8 am – 3 pm, 80 students and instructors).
- CTDEEP (Alexander J. Amendola, Forester) - utilize the shoreline of both reservoirs as sample areas for mesic soil-affiliated species of shrubs and trees species (primarily Salix spp., Cephalanthus spp., Ulmus spp., and others and to observe the effects of changing water tables on these species of woody plants. This data will be compared to growth habits of the same species in more static ecosystems with less dynamic hydrological fluctuations. No physical samples will be removed; only measurements taken. Lake Gaillard-North Branford, Lake Hammonasset-Killingworth (9/22/2025-9/22/2026).
- New England Intercollegiate Geologic Conference (Ryan Deasy) - college students and faculty will visit several exposures of rock ledge as part of a field trip with the New England Intercollegiate Geologic Conference. The visit is observational only no sample collection or alteration of the rock exposures; Maltby Lakes (10/3/2025).
- Univ. of New Haven Army ROTC Program Coordinator (Robert Clark) - Squad Tactical and Platoon Tactical Training - 1955 Litchfield Turnpike/West River Training Area, Woodbridge (9/23/25 – 9/23/26).
- New Haven Bird Club (Glen Cummings, Gilles Carter)-to maintain and monitor bluebird nesting boxes, Christmas Tree Fields (North Street and Great Hill Road) North Branford, (3/21/26-8/31/26).

Other items

- Encroachments/agreements –
 - Madison, 702 Summer Hill Rd. (MA 9) – Abutter will move shed and shipping container after installing underground utilities.
 - North Branford, 1790 Middletown Ave. (NB 16) – Executed license agreement for lawn and footbridges.
 - Branford, Cherry Hill Rd. (BR 10A) – Executed license agreement for lawn.
 - Bethany, Downs Rd. turnaround (BE 17) – Town sent letter asking to invoke final 5-year term of this license agreement.
- Invasive plants – Treated or documented invasive plant populations in Prospect, Bethany, and Branford. Met with CAES staff to discuss the pilot study to see if steam had a negative effect on swallowwort seed viability and germination.

Invasive Species Documented/ Mapped (ac)	12.5 acres
Invasive Species Treated (ac/MH)	2.25 acres

- Woodbridge, Racebrook Rd. access (WO 10) – Abutter to respond to RWA's query on the purpose of the easement.
- Deer hunt – Flagged boundaries and researchers were notified about the dates of the hunt. Pre-hunt meetings were held.
- Madison, Race Hill Rd. erosion (MA 2A) – Notified Madison town engineer about erosion issue occurring on our property off of Race Hill Rd. coming from storm water discharge.
- Bethany, Green Haven/Rocky Corner – RWA's teams working with DPH on well radius and other ownership/operation agreements.
- Hamden, Connolly Parkway (HA 9A) – Fence damage caused by vehicle being investigated by RWA PD.

- Bethany, Carrington Rd. guide rail (BE 6A) – Town notified RWA of installing a guiderail which would affect some of our frontage.
- Hamden, WPCA work (HA 5) – Notified our tenant bee keeper of activity by WPCA in their easement adjacent to Lake Whitney later this winter.
- Drone flights – RWA's teams commenced a pilot study to explore use of drone sensors to determine earthen dam stability.

Attachments

- September 8, 2025 - Fewer deer killed by Connecticut hunters and drivers in 2024, report shows – NH Register
- September 19, 2025 - Dry conditions drive up fire risk in New England; Connecticut at lower risk – CT Insider
- September 25, 2025 - An historic CT dam needs extensive work. Here is what the structure does and what plans call for. – Hartford Courant
- September 30, 2025 - Look out for spotted lanternfly egg masses in Connecticut this fall – WTNH
- October 6, 2025 - Brush fire risk remains 'high' in CT Monday as conditions stay dry, officials say – NH Register
- September 16, 2025 - CT fall foliage forecast looks colorful, state forester says – CT Public Radio

Upcoming Agenda Items
November 2025 -

Fewer deer killed by Connecticut hunters and drivers in 2024, report shows

By Jesse Leavenworth - Sep 8, 2025 – New Haven Register

The number of deer killed by hunters and car crashes in Connecticut, along with the animals' overall population in the state, has declined, according to a recently released report.

A total of 9,768 deer were killed in the state last year, including 898 hit by vehicles, 4,249 taken by bowhunters, 2,750 killed by hunters with shotguns and rifles and 864 by farmers trying to protect crops. The remainder were killed by private landowners and by hunters with muzzle-loading firearms, according to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's 2024 Deer Program Summary.

In 2024, people reported a total of 9,768 deer deaths.

DEEP's estimate of the deer population peaked at 152,000 statewide in the early 2000s, then declined to about 110,000 and has remained fairly stable, with a slight decline since 2020, according to the report. In the past three years, the number of harvested deer (excluding roadkill) has declined by 10.7%, the report says.

Although the report did not include numbers of deer killed by bears, coyotes and bobcats, the populations of those animals has increased in Connecticut, and hunters who were surveyed said predators are affecting the deer population.

Other highlights from the report include:

- Deer hunting permits issued in 2024 declined to 40,462 from 41,219 the year before. The main goals of the state's deer management program, the report says, are "to maintain the population at levels compatible with available habitat and land uses and to allow for a sustained yield of deer for use by Connecticut hunters." Permit issuance increased steadily from 1975 to 1992, remained relatively stable until 2009 and has been declining for the past 13 years, the report says.
- A malady that kills deer, moose and other animals called chronic wasting disease has been kept out of Connecticut, according to DEEP. The disease can be spread by exposure to infected deer urine, and the state has banned hunters' use of natural urine to attract deer since 2020.
- The number of deer killed in the 2024 hunting season declined by 7% from the year before. The trend in harvested deer over the past 49 years has been similar to the downward trend in permits, according to the report.
- Last year, most of the 898 deer killed in vehicle crashes were in the state's most populated areas, including central, southwestern and shoreline sections. However, the number of deer killed in crashes in the state's southwestern section has declined steadily, affected by a replacement tag program, extension of the archery season, allowing the use of bait on private land, allowing the use of crossbows, and Sunday hunting, DEEP reported.
- Spending for deer hunting in Connecticut last year included permit sales totaling \$1,243,091, a slight drop from the year before, and \$6.3 million on deer hunting goods and equipment, which was an increase from the \$5.7 million spent the year before, according to DEEP's report.
- A survey of hunters who were asked to rank factors affecting the state's declining deer harvest showed 44% cited increasing predator numbers as the top reason and fewer hunters as the second-ranked factor. They also cited a decreasing deer population in Connecticut and decreasing access to land among other significant factors.
- Acorns are a preferred food for white-tailed deer during fall and winter, and acorn availability affects the animals' movement patterns and herd health. Of Connecticut hunters surveyed last year, 43% ranked the fall acorn crop as moderate, 42% as abundant, 12% as scarce, and 3% as non-existent. The spongy month has caused considerable damage to the state's oak trees. The long-term outlook is still unknown, although surveys over the past few years show recovery, DEEP reported.

Dry conditions drive up fire risk in New England; Connecticut at lower risk

CT Insider | By Peter Yankowski | Sept. 19, 2025

Windy, dry conditions were driving up the risk of wildfire in Massachusetts and other New England states Friday. Connecticut appeared to be less at risk, according to state officials.

The state's Daily Forest Fire Danger Report set the risk level statewide at moderate.

The designation means a restriction on burning brush doesn't apply. When the risk level is high or greater, local permits residents obtain to burn brush are no longer valid if the burning is within 100 feet of grassland or woodland.

In Massachusetts, the National Weather Service issued a special weather statement across the state warning that the dry air and wind "will result in elevated fire weather conditions Friday afternoon." The statement covers most of the state, excluding the eastern shore, and much of southeastern Massachusetts, including Cape Cod.

The statement noted the area was expected to see wind gusts up to 25 mph, with minimum relative humidity values between 38 and 45 percent. It also cited a "prolonged period of dry weather" and dry fuels.

Relative humidity, a measure of the amount of moisture in the air, is relevant to wildfire risk because fuels — material such as dead leaves, sticks and brush — can both absorb or give off moisture into the air depending on how dry the air is. When the air is very dry, it absorbs moisture from fuels, making them more likely to burn if a fire were to be ignited.

Most fires start from human activity.

Similar special weather statements also have been issued for parts of Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine and upstate New York warning of fire-prone conditions.

So far the weather service has not issued any alerts regarding fire weather risks Connecticut and Rhode Island, the two most southern states in New England.

In Connecticut, wind gusts were only expected to get up to around 15 mph Friday afternoon. The air will also be slightly more humid than in Massachusetts.

Much of northern New England meanwhile also is in drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Parts of eastern Vermont, central New Hampshire and southern Maine are considered to be in "extreme drought," or D3, the second-driest designation from the drought monitor.

Southern Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut, meanwhile, are not in drought. Southern areas of Connecticut, including the Fairfield County shoreline, most of New Haven County and all of Middlesex and New London counties, are considered "abnormally dry," according to the U.S. Drought monitor. The dry conditions also extend slightly into southern Hartford, Tolland and Windham counties.

The warnings about fires come as the state is headed into the fall fire season. Last year saw several major fires in the region, including a deadly fire on Lamentation Mountain in Berlin that required the National Guard to dump water from helicopters to put out.

An historic CT dam needs extensive work. Here is what the structure does and what plans call for.

September 25, 2025 – Hartford Courant

There is a dam that's been holding back water in Connecticut for more than 150 years and it needs some work for a number of reasons, according to the state and the agency that [oversees the structure](#).

"The Whitney Dam was completed in 1861 and has been in service since the Civil War. It must be upgraded and fortified to withstand future extreme weather events, to meet modern engineering standards," a spokesperson for the [South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority](#) said.

This is "to comply with evolving regulations, and to ensure that it can continue to serve the region's drinking water supply long into the future," the spokesperson said.

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority serves 17 South Central Connecticut towns. The dam is in [Hamden](#).

According to the state [Department of Energy and Environmental Protection](#), the Lake Whitney Dam and Lake Whitney are "critical water supply infrastructure necessary for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority to provide clean and abundant drinking water."

The dam has been "improved over the years to impound the lake to serve as a reservoir feeding the Lake Whitney Water Treatment Plant to supply at an average rate of 4 million gallons per day," according to DEEP. Further, the dam is part of the original [Eli Whitney Gun Factory Site](#) and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, according to DEEP.

The [water authority](#) has done "inspections and analyses that have identified items related to the durability of the dam," but while "minor dam stability improvements have been included in previous dam expansion projects, there have been no projects completed since the dam's original construction that have been solely performed to significantly improve the dam's stability," DEEP reports.

The proposed project will improve stability (to prevent sliding or overturning of the dam), reduce seepage (leakage of water through the dam) and increase spillway capacity (ability to convey normal water flow over the dam).

The dam is a Class C high hazard dam in [accordance with state regulations](#), according to DEEP and under "regulatory definition, failure of a Class C dam would result in 'probable' loss of life," [the agency reports](#).

"If a failure of the Lake Whitney Dam were to occur and result in an extended loss of supply availability during a historical drought of record, the SCCRWA would be at risk of not having adequate reservoir storage to provide a reliable source of public drinking water supply to the region," DEEP reports. "This has potentially catastrophic implications for public health and safety, including shortages of water for fire-fighting and critical customers such as hospitals, nursing homes, and other medical facilities...(and) a dam failure or loss of the reservoir would also have dire economic consequences, including impacts to manufacturing, food services, recreation activities, and the agricultural industry."

"The Whitney Dam was completed in 1861 and has been in service since the Civil War. It must be upgraded and fortified to withstand future extreme weather events, to meet modern engineering standards," a spokesperson for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority said. (Contributed)

The water authority spokesperson said the agency has "completed the design phase of the upcoming project, selecting a rehabilitation approach that maintains the Whitney Dam's historic stone façade, and which is mindful of community and environmental impacts."

The authority also has been in discussion about the project with the [State Historic Preservation Office](#) and other stakeholder groups, according to DEEP.

"We are currently working with early-stage contractors, who are likely to perform the dam rehabilitation work, while pursuing the required permitting. The final project cost will depend on the outcome of these efforts and other factors," the water authority spokesperson said in an email.

However, the spokesperson said. executing agreements and proceeding with the construction phase "will first require a public hearing and approval by the RWA's Representative Policy Board, which is 21-member board "comprised of members from of each RWA community, plus a member appointed by the governor, which, among other things, must vote on all capital projects in excess of \$3.5 million"

According to the water authority, the dam project goals are

- To enhance the dam's stability;
- To Increase the spillway capacity;
- To control water seepage, (common with all dams, as the stored water seeks paths of least resistance through their foundations);

- To upgrade the rainfall capacity of the dam to safely handle 34 inches of rain over three days due to climate change and more intense storms.

The water authority provided an example for comparison, noting “the largest rainfall event recorded in Hamden was in June of 1982, when nearly 12 inches of rain fell over a three-day period.”

“The Whitney Dam was completed in 1861 and has been in service since the Civil War. It must be upgraded and fortified to withstand future extreme weather events, to meet modern engineering standards,” a spokesperson for the South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority said. (Contributed)

The authority anticipates construction to begin during the second half of 2026.

DEEP also noted that the water authority considered “many alternative design approaches to seek solutions to a variety of issues, including cost savings and minimizing impacts to the environment. The selected alternative is to repair the dam on the upstream side, thus preserving the historic façade of the dam.”

History buffs might be interesting knowing the water authority notes, “After years of trying to raise money for this new system, people turned to [Eli Whitney II](#) to assist with building a waterworks. In 1859, Whitney began construction of a dam that backed up the Mill River for miles and formed a reservoir, appropriately named Lake Whitney. Distribution of water to the residents of New Haven began on January 1, 1862.”

Look out for spotted lanternfly egg masses in Connecticut this fall

by: [Kiara Smith](#) - Sep 30, 2025 - WTNH

CONNECTICUT (WTNH) — Spotted lanternflies have made their presence known in Connecticut.

The insects are still being spotted in Fairfield, Litchfield, Hartford, New London and New Haven counties, according to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES).

These insects are known to be quick, vibrant and invasive.

In the coming weeks, a local expert said that residents may start to see the egg masses of these insects.

New Haven smoke shops must get new city license under ordinance

“The females leave eggs on vertical surfaces, anything brick, I’ve seen egg masses on lights and vehicles,” Gale Ridge, an associate scientist at CAES, said. “Anything that’s vertical and hard, they will lay their eggs on, so now is the time to look for those egg masses.”

Ridge described the egg masses as thin, grayish-muddy patches that appear on surfaces. The lanternflies often aggregate on the trunks of trees.

The station reported that the insect feeds on the stem and tree leaves while also leaving behind a sticky residue called honeydew. This can reduce photosynthesis, allowing for the growth of black or ‘sooty mold’ and ruining the value of the crop.

If spotted lanternfly aggregations are found, Ridge said residents can use household pesticide spray to kill them. However, it should be used only on the focus areas to avoid hitting non-targeted insects, including pollinators.

Reports have shown that insects, including yellowjackets, other species of wasps, spiders, praying mantises, and even birds, play a role in attacking spotted lanternflies.

Ridge told News 8 that adult spotted lanternflies are expected to be around from July until early October, and after that, she said they will start to die off.

Brush fire risk remains 'high' in CT Monday as conditions stay dry, officials say

By [Peter Yankowski](#), NH Register - Oct 6, 2025

With more sunny and dry weather expected on Monday, [the risk of brush fires is "high" across the state](#), officials with the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection said.

The agency made the announcement in its Daily Forest Fire Danger Report. It functions as something of a restriction of open burning — when the risk of fires is high or greater, permits issued to residents by local authorities to burn brush are no longer valid if the burning is within 100 feet of grassland or woodland.

The National Weather Service has not issued any warnings, watches or advisories for fire weather for Connecticut. But parts of northern New England — New Hampshire and Maine — are under a [special weather statement](#) warning of fire-prone weather conditions.

The high risk of fires in Connecticut Monday comes as parts of southeastern Connecticut are under moderate drought, with the rest of the state considered abnormally dry, according to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#). The area considered to be in drought includes all of southern New London and Middlesex counties along the shore, and the southeastern tip of New Haven County.

Another factor potentially contributing to the risk posed by fires Monday is the lack of moisture in the air. Relative humidity values are expected to get as low as 35 percent in parts of western Connecticut Monday afternoon.

Dry air can pose a risk because the organic materials that burn in a brush fire, called fuels, exchange moisture with the air. When the air is dry, it can draw moisture from fuels, making them more apt to burn if a fire is ignited.

Winds were to be a little breezy Monday, with gusts expected to get up to around 15 mph.

After Monday, similar dry weather is expected for Tuesday, with highs in the low 80s. The next round of precipitation arrives with showers Tuesday night into Wednesday as a cold front approaches the area. High pressure will then keep the area dry, but cooler, through the end of the work week.

CT fall foliage forecast looks colorful, state forester says

Connecticut Public Radio | By Chris Polansky - September 16, 2025

Connecticut residents and visitors can expect a typical, vibrant showing from the state's changing leaves this fall.

"It's a wonderful time of year," said Christopher Martin, Connecticut's state forester and director of forestry at the state's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP).

In a Tuesday interview, Martin said the dry end to summer shouldn't negatively impact the foliage season because of ample rain in the spring growing season.

Martin predicts that "the show will start" in Connecticut's northeast and northwest corners around mid-October.

"Right around Columbus Day, peak color occurs in the northeast and the northwest hills of Connecticut, and then it will progress through Central Connecticut the third, fourth week of October," he said. "And then it wraps up in lower Fairfield County, along the coast, [and] the mouth of the Connecticut River about the first, second week of November."

Martin said autumn is the perfect time for Nutmeggers to "take a pause and just be thankful about where we live and the beauty of it."

In addition to appreciating the changing colors, Martin said fall also makes for a good time to assess forest health and check trees for invasive pests like the Asian long-horned beetle.

"If you were to come across a tree with a dime-sized hole in it, or, you know, some charismatic beetle that's jet black with white spots and blue feet, that should cause some curiosity and maybe a phone call to some professionals," he said.

A map with a week-by-week forecast of foliage color progression can be found on DEEP's website.