

## TAKE SEE CLICK FIX OUT FOR A WALK THIS SPRING

Spring is in the air. Taking a walk on a Town trail? Watching a game at a town field? Enjoying a warm spring day at a town park? Take SeeClickFix along with you to report non-emergency issues - such as trees down across a trail, playground equipment problem at the schools, or litter in the parks – which will be reported directly to the appropriate Town of Wilton department to be addressed and resolved.

With free SeeClickFix web based and mobile app tools, Town of Wilton residents can provide the appropriate Town of Wilton departments with pictures, videos, specific descriptions, and more — valuable information needed to get the job done efficiently. Residents can also view, comment on, and vote to fix problems submitted by their neighbors and create their own “watch areas” to receive notifications about all the issues reported in their neighborhood, enabling them to follow the progress of all service requests — not just the ones they report. In addition, the SeeClickFix platform provides officials with a centralized issue management system to manage issues from creation to resolution — engaging town residents throughout the process.

The SeeClickFix mobile app is available for download on Android , iPhone and Blackberry

In addition to the mobile apps, citizens can send reports to the Town of Wilton website and [seeclickfix.com](http://seeclickfix.com).

**SeeClickFix**



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## Wilton Conservation Commission Newsletter



### PROTECTING WILTON'S OPEN SPACE LAND

The Wilton Conservation Commission is the part of our town government that identifies open space land parcels that have a high conservation value and are worth protecting. It also manages and maintains existing protected open space land owned by the Town. Additionally, the Commission also oversees the stewardship of privately-owned land which is permanently dedicated to conservation uses through land easements or restrictions. Over 1200 acres of public land much of which includes hiking trails are managed by the commission.

The Conservation Commission is not the only group working to protect land in town. The Wilton Land Conservation Trust (WLCT) is the Conservation Commission's partner in preserving and protecting natural areas in Wilton. The WLCT is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to land conservation. This organization owns, or protects with a conservation easement, over 830 acres of land in town.

The partnership between the Conservation Commission and the WLCT is very important because both groups can utilize their strengths to manage and protect our natural resources. The WLCT has a strong membership base (over 400 and growing). Their strong community network allows them to support residents that are interested in permanently protecting their land through direct donation or by way of a conservation easement attached to the property deed. The Conservation Commission provides technical expertise and support for the management of natural areas and advises the Board of Selectman when they need to make policy decisions on conservation related matters.

Both organizations are actively planning volunteer trail work days, guided hikes and sponsoring lectures at the Wilton Library this year. These activities will be posted in the local newspapers so keep your eyes out for fun outdoor events happening soon.

*– Mike Conklin, Director of Environmental Affairs*



*Colleen O'Brien, Conservation Commissioner*

## HOUSEHOLD HAZWASTE COLLECTION DAYS

Every year the Wilton Conservation Commission hosts a Household HazWaste Collection for residents to dispose of their leftover or unwanted household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable or reactive ingredients. The annual town event is held in October, however, due to a multi town partnership Wilton residents can participate in seven (7) other collections throughout the year.

Products such as cleaners, oils and pesticides that contain potentially hazardous ingredients require special care when they are disposed to ensure they do not lead to personal injury, enter the food chain, or contaminate drinking water. Items accepted include but are not limited to; aerosol cans, antifreeze, asphalt and roof sealer, bathroom and other household cleaner, brake fluid, furniture metal and car polish, herbicides, fungicides, pesticides, chemicals, rodent poison and kerosene. Items that are not accepted include; paint or stain which can be recycled through the Connecticut PaintCare program, electronics and light bulbs that can be recycled at the Wilton Transfer Station, waste oil which can be recycled at AutoZone, ammunition, radioactive materials, medical or biological waste, and asbestos.

Household HazWaste 2018 Schedule	
April 28: Weston	August 25: Norwalk
May 5: Greenwich	September 15: New Canaan
June 2: Darien	September 22: Westport
July 14: Stamford	October 13: Wilton

For more information on acceptable and unacceptable materials and collection dates please visit the Hazardous Waste page: <http://www.wiltonct.org/departments/publicworks/transferstation/index.html>

– Jenn Fanzutti, *Environmental Analyst*

## HOW TO BREAK UP WITH PLASTIC

Do you ever consider what an impact one time use items have on our planet? On average it takes 450 years for a plastic bottle to decompose. That means that all of the plastic bottles used over the span of your life are still in existence! And it is not only plastic bottles! Batteries can take up to 100 years to decompose, Styrofoam cups 50 years, diapers 250-500 years, aluminum cans 80-200 years, plastic bags 10-100 years, cigarette butts 10-12 years. The list of items that we use once and dispose of is endless. We live in a world full of one time use convenience products without thinking much about the impact, however, if we make a conscious effort to reduce our waste we can live more environmentally friendly and less impactful lives. Here are 10 simple ways to reduce your waste:

1. Cut out the use of single use plastic bottles by carrying a reusable water bottle or mug
2. Keep reusable shopping bags in your car to avoid having to use plastic bags at the store
3. Purchase non packaged foods and eliminate using plastic produce bags at the grocery store
4. Use tupperware containers instead of plastic wrap/bags to store food
5. Purchase bars of soap instead of soap packaged in plastic bottles
6. Skip using plastic straws, utensils, and to-go containers at restaurants by bringing your own
7. Fill a reusable coffee pod with coffee of your choice in single cup coffee machines
8. Utilize washable towels for cleaning instead of paper towels
9. Use matches over disposable plastic lighters
10. Ensure that recyclable materials are recycled and not thrown into the trash or turned into litter

– Jenn Fanzutti, Environmental Analyst

## LESSONS IN LITTER

Last month over 200 Wilton residents volunteered their time on a Saturday morning to help the Conservation Commission pick up litter around town. A total of 3,200 pounds of litter was collected and our roadsides and public spaces are much improved. While our shopkeepers in Wilton Center take on the lion's share of keeping the Center free of litter, sending their employees each morning to sweep-up their parking areas and surrounding plantings, it falls to each of us in the community to ensure the attractiveness of the Center and our neighborhoods by picking-up any trash we happen to drop and depositing it properly in either a trash receptacle or a recycling bin. We now have single-stream recycling capability in Wilton, so taking home recyclable materials to discard with our household recyclables is not a big effort, and does make a difference to our environment.

It may seem overly fussy to worry about litter when the world has much more impactful concerns at-hand, but the look and feel of the place where we live and work each day may set the tone for how we address our life – it can give an upbeat sense of pride and well-being, or it can be depressing and result in a ‘no-can-do’ attitude. In addition, and perhaps more importantly, many of the items that are carelessly discarded along our roads or left at our recreational sites are materials that have value – aluminum cans, glass bottles, plastic containers and bottles that could be recycled to make the world a little less toxic by their reusability. Refuse that is left lying about our Town Center eventually ends up in the Norwalk River and pollutes our waterways – if it goes on the ground, it goes in the Sound!

Those who use our parks to enjoy lunch or play a sport and then leave behind their sandwich wrappers and drink containers may be thinking of other concerns when they walk away, but we urge them to take a moment to check around the area where they've been sitting, and pick-up and take with them all the materials they brought with them.

Wilton Parks and Recreation implemented a Carry-in/Carry-out pilot program effective this past August for trash and recyclables at Town-owned fields, parks and trails. With exception of parks and fields that host sports teams (e.g., Middlebrook, Merwin Meadows, Veteran's Memorial Stadium; Kristine Lilly Soccer Field, Middlebrook Softball Fields (Field 1 & 2), and Schenck's Island), the program requires all field, park and trail users to be responsible for removing all their own trash and recyclables. Signs have been posted informing users of the program.

Wilton does not provide trash bins in all the parks in Town, so it falls to each of us to Carry Out what we've Carried In.

As adults in the community, we model the behaviors of good citizenship. How we treat our waste materials is a lesson our children take from us by watching. If we are conscientious about cleaning-up and recycling, our kids will learn to do that, too. If we are not, they are unlikely to be, either. Raising children who care about their world and their town falls to us as grown-ups. Let's teach them to become responsible citizens by showing them how it's done right.

– Jackie Algon, Conservation Commissioner

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