



WELCOME NEW PROPERTY OWNERS!

www.newcanaan.info

As you settle into your new home and property, we hope you find this flyer, provided by the Inland Wetlands Department, informational and helpful. We encourage you to contact us with any property questions.



WHAT IS A WETLAND? For many people, the perception of a wetland is limited to swamps and marshes. In fact, surface-dry woodlands, meadows and even lawns can be identified as wetlands. New Canaan has numerous types of wetlands.

WHY DO WE PROTECT WETLANDS? Wetlands provide important ecological, economic and social benefits. They provide habitat for fish, wildlife and plants, reduce flooding, and support cultural and recreational activities. Wetlands also provide privacy between neighboring properties.

Be sure to contact the Inland Wetlands staff as you contemplate potential projects so we can provide guidance and resources and most importantly, advise you if a permit is required for your project. It is our goal to assist you in achieving a successful project outcome.

AM I REQUIRED TO REMOVE DEAD/FALLEN TREES IN WETLANDS? If a tree falls in a wetland its removal is not required unless it is causing blockage of a watercourse or river. Leaving fallen trees creates additional wildlife habitat. If you decide to remove a fallen tree, it must be hauled out by hand, as heavy equipment will damage the wetland. The stump must be left in place. If you decide to chip the tree or branches, you can use the resulting mulch for landscaping in your yard in areas that are greater than 50' away from wetlands.

Multiple trees that are dead, dying or diseased may be removed after review by the Inland Wetlands staff. It is recommended that you first hire a licensed arborist to evaluate the health of the trees that you wish to remove. The land should be clearly marked by a licensed surveyor prior to any tree removal. Once the trees have been identified, contact the Inland Wetlands staff and site-specific guidance will be provided. Similar guidance applies to the removal of invasive plants. Clearcutting of wetlands is not permitted. Contact the Tree Warden if the tree is on Town Property: Treewarden.@newcanaanct.gov

HOW DO I CONTROL MOSQUITOES IN WETLANDS? Healthy, functioning wetlands typically have a balanced predator/prey relationship that provides natural mosquito control measures. As a reminder, the draining or filling of wetlands is prohibited by regulations except under special permitted circumstances. They are not appropriate methods of controlling mosquitoes.

WHERE CAN I FIND RECORDS FOR MY PROPERTY?

Visit <https://newcanaantownct.documents-on-demand.com>

Kathleen Holland, Director of Inland Wetlands and Floodplain Manager

Lola Sweeney, Administrative Assistant/Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning

Kathleen.holland@newcanaanct.gov (203) 594-3036 Lola.sweeney@newcanaanct.gov (203) 594-3042