

## **Conservation Commission**

With the 2024 hunting season behind us, the commission hopes that hunters have had a safe, enjoyable, and productive 2024 deer season. As a reminder, in accordance with the rules & regulations section on each permit issued for hunting on town properties: Only temporary stands/blinds are allowed on town properties, must be installed in a manner that does not damage trees, and all temporary stands/blinds need to be removed at the end of each season.

The conservation commission has been continuously working towards the revitalization of our Coe Hill open space. The commission has posted a Request for Proposals to invite forestry firms to submit letters of interest in developing a forestry management plan for the property. This management plan will be essential to the town's efforts to control invasive plant species and improve forest health and wildlife habitat. The commission is excited to be moving forward with this project and would like to hear suggestions from residents for improvements or new additions to the property.

On a similar note, the commission would like to solicit feedback from residents in order to gain an understanding of residents' use of our town's natural resources. It is important for the commission to understand how these resources are used, what residents enjoy about them, how they could be improved, and any other recommendations residents may have.

In order to facilitate this, we would like to invite residents to complete a brief, anonymous survey. The survey can be accessed via the QR code below.



This survey will also be accessible by visiting the Conservation Commission's page on the Town of Middlefield website. The feedback we receive will help direct the commission's efforts throughout the year. No idea is too big or too small. If you have an idea or input that is not covered by the survey, we encourage you to attend one of our monthly meetings, which are held every third Monday at 7 pm at the community center. Alternatively, we invite you to reach out to us via email: [Bdumas@MiddlefieldCT.org](mailto:Bdumas@MiddlefieldCT.org).

As spring quickly approaches, we hope that residents are excited to hit the trails, waters, and spring turkey woods. On the topic of turkeys, Connecticut DEEP Wildlife staff are gearing up for a wild turkey study. Check out this excerpt from their newsletter:

*“In the coming months, the Wildlife Division will be initiating a wild turkey research project. Staff biologists are seeking observations of wild turkeys for the purposes of live-trapping birds to research hen, nest, and poult survival, harvest rate, and disease prevalence.*

*When the settlers first arrived in Connecticut, wild turkeys were abundant. However, a combination of large-scale forest clearing and a series of severe winters eliminated the turkey from Connecticut’s landscape by the early 1800s.*

*Thanks to dedicated funding made possible by the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, free-roaming wild turkeys were live-captured and translocated from several neighboring New England states between 1975 and 1992. As a result of these reintroduction efforts, wild turkeys have become a common sight in Connecticut” (CT DEEP, 2025).*

You can help their efforts by reporting wild turkey sightings by scanning the QR code below!

