



**Bloomfield**

**East Hartford**

**Hartford**

**Newington**

**Rocky Hill**

**West Hartford**

**Wethersfield**

**Windsor**



## Healthy Land – Healthy Water

The MDC, which is the second-largest land owner in the state, owns and manages 31,000 acres of forests that surround its reservoirs. This land naturally protects the water by filtering, buffering and controlling pollutants.

“Since water can drain into our reservoirs from anywhere in the watershed, the quality of land in the watershed plays a direct role in the quality of our water,” explained Carol Youell, watershed administrator at the MDC (pictured here at the West Hartford Reservoir). “We promote the growth of healthy, sustainable forests on this land, which provide the best protection for the water we drink and use.”

The MDC has certified foresters who follow a long-term plan to manage the land. They carefully harvest trees to weed out poor growers and open up the forest floor to new crops of trees. This creates continuous ground cover that holds soil, intercepts runoff, and filters water. The MDC’s diverse forests reduce the risk of damage from storms, fire, insect and disease infestation, and more.

The District works with other watershed landowners to encourage land protection. It conducts annual inspections of residences, businesses and farms to check septic systems, underground fuel storage, pesticide and fertilizer use, illegal dumping, soil erosion, and other potential concerns.

These are just a few of the steps we take to protect our forests – and ultimately your water.

### A Look at Commissioner Richard Vicino



MDC Commissioner Richard W. Vicino was appointed to the Board of Commissioners by then Speaker of the House Moira K. Lyons in May 2004. Today he serves as chairman of the MDC’s Bureau of Public Works, where he encourages vigorous review and discussion from all committee commissioners.

“It is important to be fair and patient in order to ensure that our end product reflects the overall benefit of each member town,” he says.

Vicino feels this is an exciting time for the MDC, especially with the Clean Water Project underway. “The most important aspect of the project is to improve sewers so clean water flows from MDC facilities into the Connecticut River and eventually into Long Island Sound,” he explained.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The MDC is one of approximately 170,000 public water systems in the United States. When combined, these systems provide drinking water to 90 percent of all Americans.





**READERS' "FAVORITE SPOT"**

Ever wonder where to find the best hiking and biking trails in your area? Look no further than the MDC's West Hartford Reservoir, which was chosen as the "best hiking and biking trails in Greater Hartford," according to Hartford Magazine's fifth annual readers' poll. The magazine's May issue reports our "30 miles of paved and gravel roads, plus dirt paths, five reservoirs and 3,000 acres of woodlands, make this a favorite spot." The MDC appreciates those who voted and use our recreational facilities.



**OUR CITIZENS ADD VALUE**

The Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) meets monthly and provides valuable input and suggestions into the projects and plans associated with the MDC's Clean Water Project. Members of the committee have experience in such areas as grass roots advocacy, community relations and environmental health. They are a key component to the success of our program.



**Awards Received – Job Well Done!**

**F**or residents along Tower Avenue in Hartford, severe rainstorms used to cause sewer backups, basement flooding, and street flooding. The MDC worked with the City of Hartford to address these complex problems by using innovative construction techniques. They installed 6,000 feet of storm drain pipes, a 72-inch reinforced concrete pipe under active railroad tracks, and 700 feet of new, separated sewer drains.

Today, runoff has been re-directed to the Connecticut River and overflows to the sewer system have been significantly reduced. Drainage has been improved at locations that were prone to flooding during heavy rains and Tower Avenue has been repaved to help water flow. This work, which was funded by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Clean Water Fund, has reduced the amount of harmful combined sewer overflows into the Connecticut River. Ultimately, this project helps protect the public health and the greater environment.

In May, the MDC's innovative work on this \$7.5 million project was recognized with two awards from the Connecticut Society of Civil Engineers: the Achievement in Civil Engineering Award in the Water Resources category, and an Award of Merit in the construction category. These awards highlight the MDC's creative problem solving and the complexity of designing and constructing infrastructure in an urban landscape – skills that the MDC also is putting to use daily with the Clean Water Project.



**WHO'S WHO ON THE CLEAN WATER PROJECT**

Jim Wyso, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) analyst, coordinates mapping and data information such as pipe and sewer locations, the age and history of our utilities, and where overflows may be located. To obtain town maps, visit [www.themdc.com](http://www.themdc.com) and click on "GIS and Mapping."