

The Niantic River Watershed Committee Years 2 and 3



The Watershed Committee identified three areas on which to focus:

- Board Development
- Monitoring
- Outreach and Education

Board Development Group



The Board Development Group focused on executive duties:

- Defined the purpose of watershed committee
- Drafted a Mission Statement: *“To restore and preserve the Niantic River Watershed through inter-municipal cooperation and the sound development of land use practices that mitigate pollution of the watershed, and that support all uses including shell fishing, fishing, swimming, habitat, and drinking water supplies.”*
- Drafted by-laws
- Drafted a Watershed Compact that was signed by the three selectmen and mayor to confirm municipal commitment to support NRWC
- Developed of Logo that represents goals and purpose of NRWC
- Recruited and appointed directors to board
- Developed a Work Plan based on recommendations of NRWPP and Guided Summary to help summarize and prioritize proposed implementations.

Monitoring Group

- The purpose of the Monitoring Group was to get an idea of water quality in the Niantic River Watershed.
- The monitoring group was charged with investigating and compiling existing water quality monitoring data.
- The end goal was to retain a consultant to consolidate, analyze and report on the existing data.
- The group is currently searching for funding to create a Request for Proposal (RFP) to retain a consultant to conduct the data analysis.



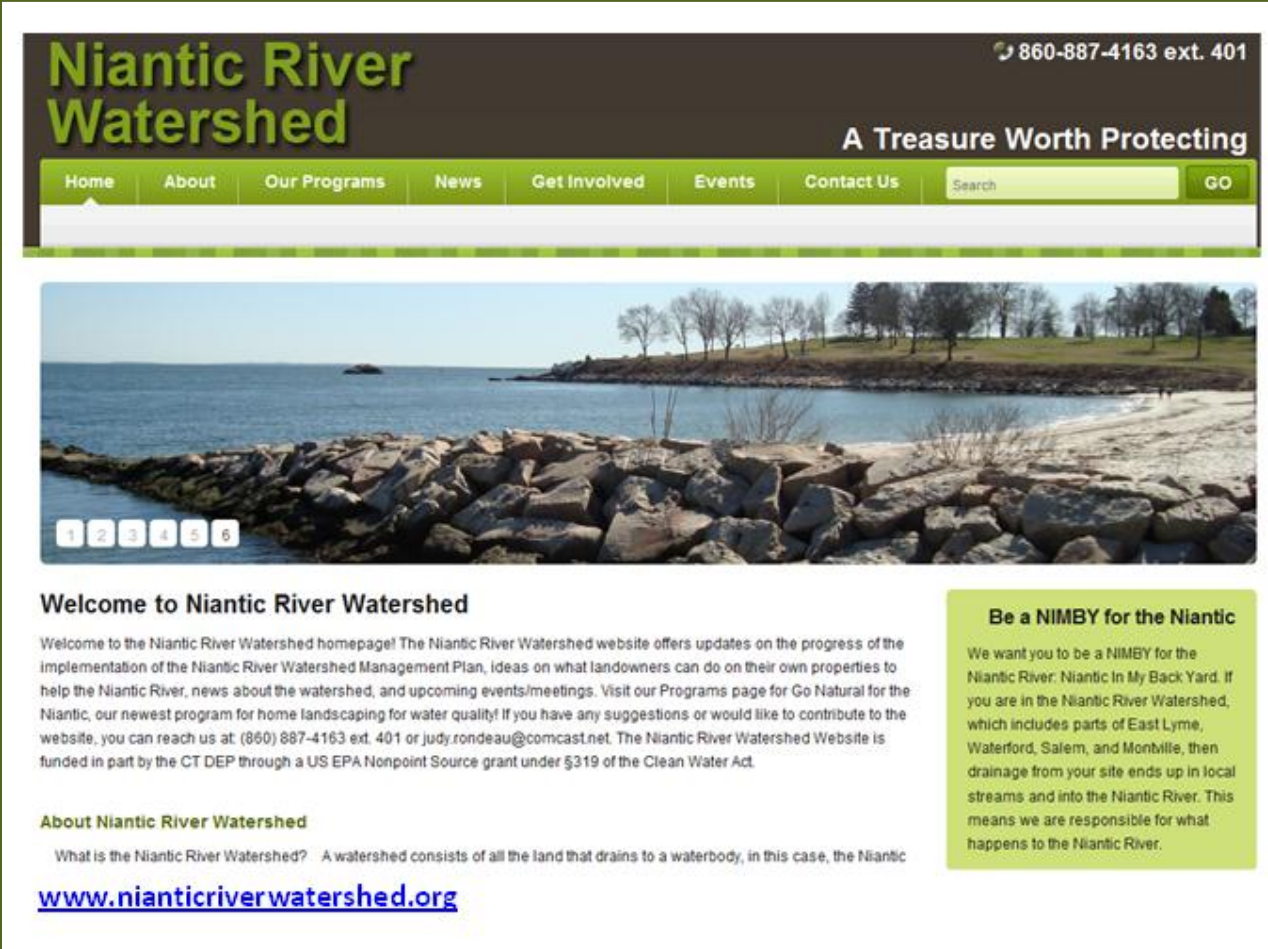
Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring

- The monitoring group began developing a watershed-wide volunteer water quality monitoring program to fulfill the need for water quality data. Collected data will include basic parameters such as temperature, pH, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen. Testing will also be conducted for nitrogen, which is a major contaminant to both the Niantic River and Long Island Sound.
- The volunteer WQM program will conduct Rapid Bio-assessment for Volunteers (RBV), a CT DEEP-developed program that examines stream-dwelling insects as an indicator of the relative health of a stream.
- To support development of a WQM program, the Coordinator applied for and received funding. NRWC also applied for equipment from the US EPA Volunteer Water Quality Equipment Loan Program for equipment to test water chemical properties and nutrients.



Education & Outreach Group

The Niantic River Watershed website was created to provide information about the Niantic Watershed and Committee activities.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Niantic River Watershed website. At the top, the title "Niantic River Watershed" is displayed in green and white text on a dark background. To the right of the title is the phone number "860-887-4163 ext. 401". Below the title is the tagline "A Treasure Worth Protecting". A navigation menu is located below the tagline, with links for "Home", "About", "Our Programs", "News", "Get Involved", "Events", and "Contact Us". There is also a search bar with a "GO" button. Below the navigation menu is a large photograph of a rocky shoreline with a body of water and trees in the background. Below the photograph is a row of six small numbered icons (1-6). Below the photograph is the heading "Welcome to Niantic River Watershed" followed by a paragraph of text. To the right of the main text is a green box with the heading "Be a NIMBY for the Niantic" and a paragraph of text. Below the main text is the heading "About Niantic River Watershed" followed by a paragraph of text and the website URL www.nianticriverwatershed.org.

Niantic River Watershed 860-887-4163 ext. 401
A Treasure Worth Protecting

Home About Our Programs News Get Involved Events Contact Us Search GO

1 2 3 4 5 6

Welcome to Niantic River Watershed

Welcome to the Niantic River Watershed homepage! The Niantic River Watershed website offers updates on the progress of the implementation of the Niantic River Watershed Management Plan, ideas on what landowners can do on their own properties to help the Niantic River, news about the watershed, and upcoming events/meetings. Visit our Programs page for Go Natural for the Niantic, our newest program for home landscaping for water quality! If you have any suggestions or would like to contribute to the website, you can reach us at: (860) 887-4163 ext. 401 or judy.rondeau@comcast.net. The Niantic River Watershed Website is funded in part by the CT DEP through a US EPA Nonpoint Source grant under §319 of the Clean Water Act.

About Niantic River Watershed

What is the Niantic River Watershed? A watershed consists of all the land that drains to a waterbody, in this case, the Niantic

www.nianticriverwatershed.org

Be a NIMBY for the Niantic

We want you to be a NIMBY for the Niantic River: Niantic In My Back Yard. If you are in the Niantic River Watershed, which includes parts of East Lyme, Waterford, Salem, and Montville, then drainage from your site ends up in local streams and into the Niantic River. This means we are responsible for what happens to the Niantic River.



Community Outreach

- Participated in Celebrate East Lyme Day 2009-2011 to raise awareness about the Niantic River watershed
- Partnered with SeaGrant to conduct a series of Riparian Buffer workshops for municipal land-use boards and watershed residents in 2010
- Participated in Joe Pye Day at Perennial Harmony Nursery in 2010
- Supported Clean Vessel and Clean Marina programs among local marinas
- Supported Save-the-River/Save-the-Hills pump-out boat program



Celebrate East Lyme Day 2011



East Lyme Inland Wetland
Commission workshop

Community Outreach

Hosted a Low Impact Development program for land-use boards and residents in September 2010 in Waterford presented by Jessica Morgan, LID Coordinator for CT DEP.



Watershed Management and Low Impact Development in the Niantic River Watershed

Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

Watershed, Lakes and NPS Programs

Jessica Morgan – LID Coordinator

Wednesday, September 29th, 2010

Waterford, CT

Landscaping for Water Quality

Developed Landscaping for Water Quality program in partnership with area nurseries and landscaping businesses to promote landscaping practices that protect water quality.

- Presented Landscaping for Water Quality Program to DAR in New London.
- Promoted program at 2011 Celebrate East Lyme Day.
- Conducted rain barrel sale to support Landscaping for Water Quality program



Education Outreach

- Presented the movie “Flow” at Waterford High School in 2010
- Received funding to create water quality teacher loan kits which will be available to middle and high school teachers in watershed schools to teach water quality concepts
- Partnered with UConn Environmental and Resource Policy Class entailing student research involving regulatory approaches to enhancing expansion and protection of riparian buffers in the Niantic River watershed
- NRWC member Dr. John Jasper presented a program to Wesleyan University students on the decline of Eelgrass in the Niantic River. He has also presented this report to Trout Unlimited members with great success.



Completion Status of the Key Implementation Steps in the Niantic River Watershed Protection Plan

Key Implementation Steps	2009	2011
Town endorsement of the Plan	Partial ¹	Yes
Create a Watershed Coordinator/Planner position	Yes	Yes
Establish a Project Implementation Committee	Yes	Yes
Establish a Watershed Coalition or Partnership	Partial ²	Yes
Prioritize management issues	Partial	Yes
Establish a long-term monitoring program	No ³	Partial
Homeowner education and outreach	Partial ⁴	Yes
Developer/Homebuilder education and involvement	Partial ⁴	Partial
Retrofit existing storm sewers currently discharging to the river	Partial ⁵	Partial ⁵
Implement municipal Stormwater Management Program Plans	Partial	Partial
Limit new impervious surfaces and reclaim unpaved land when practical	No	Partial
Incorporate appropriate stormwater techniques on all new development	Ongoing	Ongoing
Protect or restore vegetative buffers along the River	Partial ⁶	Partial
Discourage waterfowl feeding	Ongoing	Ongoing
Encourage pet waste pick-up and proper disposal	Ongoing	Ongoing
Enforce No Discharge Area	Partial	Partial

¹ East Lyme and Waterford have been very cooperative and active within the Niantic River Watershed Subcommittee meetings

² An Advisory Working Group has started looking at making a Niantic River Watershed Board

³ Steps have been taken by the Niantic River Watershed Monitoring Subcommittee to collect all data presently available related to the Niantic River

⁴ Workshops will be held by the Niantic River Watershed Education and Outreach Subcommittee in the near future

⁵ Current Eastern CT Conservation District grants focus on stormwater retrofits to Niantic River and tributaries

⁶ Juliana Barrett of the CT Sea Grant is working on a grant working on riparian buffers along the Niantic River

A photograph of a stream flowing over a rocky bed in a wooded area. The water is clear and reflects the surrounding environment. The rocks are of various sizes and colors, some covered in moss. The background shows bare trees and a concrete structure on the left side.

Questions???

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