



**Niantic River Watershed Committee
Plan of Work - January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2016**

Overarching Goal: *To restore and preserve the Niantic River and its tributaries so that they fully support all uses, including shellfishing, fishing, swimming and habitat for aquatic-life.*

(See pages 25-32 of the NRWPP Guided Summary)

Priority *

Partners

Status

Goal:	Maintain a Sustainable Coalition of Partners to Manage the Niantic River Watershed	1		
	<i>*create a coalition of watershed stakeholders to take a leadership role for the implementation of this plan</i>			
Activities:	Conduct regular meetings of the Niantic River Watershed Committee	H	NRWC, municipalities	meet monthly
	Support watershed coordinator position (including securing funding source)	H	NRWC, municipalities	monthly coord report
	Obtain 501c3 designation	H	NRWC, municipalities	submitted 2015
	Recruit new Board and Subcommittee members	H	NRWC, municipalities	Feb-15
	Create WBP Implementation Subcommittee	H	NRWC	
Goal:	Improve Water Quality and Biological Monitoring for the Niantic River and its Tributaries	2		
	<i>*establish a comprehensive long-term water quality monitoring program for the Niantic River watershed</i>			
Activities:	Conduct water quality monitoring in the Niantic River and tributaries	H	STR-STH, USGS, NRWC, Dominion, Waterford	on-going
	Conduct review and analysis of previous studies (RFP)	H	NRWC, NR Nitrogen Work Group (J. Vaudrey)	on-going
	Maintain contact with researchers conducting research in the NRW, River and Bay	H	UConn- Avery Point, Others	on-going
	Support volunteer water quality monitoring efforts watershed-wide	M	NRC, Partners	on-going
	Support bacteria sampling in Niantic River	L	STR-STH	on-going
	Establish a repository for monitoring data	M	NRC, Partners	on-going
	Conduct stream corridor assessments using NRCS streamwalk protocol	H	municipalities, NRWC	on-going
	Conduct macro-invertebrate assessments of streams using CT DEEP protocol	H	municipalities, CT DEEP	on-going
	Develop and distribute Water Quality report card	H	NRWC	2014
	Support municipalities with MS-4 program requirements	M	NRWC, municipalities	pending
	Support continued funding for Latimer Brook stream gauge	H	East Lyme, East Lyme Harbor Management	on-going
	Draft a report on water quality monitoring results	H	NRWC	
Goal:	Support Designated Uses for Shellfishing and Contact Recreation	3		
	<i>*reduce bacteria loads from stormwater outfalls, runoffs and direct discharges</i>			
Activities:	Support installation of municipal sewer system at Saunders Point	H	Town of East Lyme	in planning stages
	Support pumpout boat program	H	NRWC, STR-STH, DEEP	on-going
	Niantic Tree filter project (\$319 grant project)	M	Town of East Lyme, ECCD, DEEP	2015
	Mago Point Tree filter project (\$319 grant project)	M	Town of Waterford, ECCD, DEEP	2016
	Support Clean Marina program	M	NRWC, STR-STH, DEEP	on-going
	Develop watershed-wide development design standards for local implementation	M	NRWC, Towns	

Goal:	Raise Stakeholder Awareness and Involvement by Implementing a Watershed Management Information and Education Campaign	4		
	<i>*educate stakeholders about the Niantic River and its tributaries and watershed management</i>			
Activities:	Establish and maintain Niantic River watershed website (www.nianticriverwatershed.org)	H	NRWC	on-going
	Assist land-use staff to implement NRWPP recommendations	L	NRWC, Watershed land-use staff	
	Attend Celebrate East Lyme Day with NRWC booth/exhibit	M	NRWC STR-STH Cons. Comm	on-going
	Attend annual kayak regatta	L	NRWC, STR-STH	on-going
	Increase stakeholders' level of knowledge about nutrient loading and the health of the Niantic River	H	NRWC	on-going
	Increase stakeholder awareness about the link between shellfish closures and sources of bacterial pollution in the Niantic River	M	NRWC, Shellfish Commissions	on-going
	Encourage land-use decision making to include review of Vulnerability Analysis	M	NRWC	
	Establish an outreach and tracking program for landowners about on-site septic system maintenance	M	NRWC, Ledge Light HD, Watershed towns	
	Organize motorboat regatta	L	NRWC, STR-STH	
	Create Watershed Ambassador	L	NRWC, municipalities	
	Partner with other organizations to conduct outreach	L	NRWC, others	
	Conduct periodic watershed summits	M	NRWC, DEEP, municipalities, DNC, UConn, CT College, others	
	Conduct or support stream and waterside clean-ups	L	NRWC, municipalities, others	
	Develop "State of Watershed" or similar report	H	NRWC	2014
	Conduct riparian buffer outreach and education for homeowners	H	NRWC, municipalities	
Goal:	Support Designated Uses for Aquatic Life	5		
	<i>*reduce nutrient loading from stormwater outfalls and runoff</i>			
Activities:	Niantic Tree filter project (\$319 grant project)	M	Town of East Lyme, ECCD, DEEP	awaiting contract
	Mago Point Tree filter project (\$319 grant project)	M	Town of Waterford, ECCD, DEEP	awaiting contract
	Develop watershed-wide design standards for local implementation	M	NRWC, municipalities	
	Advocate stream channel connectivity	M	Municipalities, TU, DEEP, others	
	Conduct stormwater retrofits through the watershed	H	NRWC, ECCD, municipalities, DEEP	
	Conduct nutrient management reduction outreach and implementation	H	NRWC, ECCD, municipalities, DEEP	
	Assist CT DEEP with the development of bacteria TMDL appendices for Latimer and Stony I	H	NRWC, municipalities	
Goal:	Protect and Restore Natural Stream Channels	6		
	<i>*minimize flooding impacts by improving peak and volume controls from impervious surface</i>			
	<i>*preserve and restore critical wetland and watercourse vegetative buffers</i>			
Activities:	Work with watershed municipalities to establish impervious cover guidance	M	NRWC, municipalities	
	Identify and implement riparian buffer restoration projects	M	NRWC, municipalities	in planning stages
	Support LID Implementation throughout Watershed	H	NRWC, municipalities	

Completed Activities									
	Educate land use decision makers about the value of vegetated riparian buffers in the protection of water quality		NRWC, CT SeaGrant					conducted workshops 2010	
	Conduct riparian buffer workshops in conjunction with CT SeaGrant		NRWC, CT SeaGrant					completed 2011	
	Appoint representatives from watershed towns to board of directors		municipalities					completed 2011	
	Adoption Watershed Compact by municipalities		municipalities					completed 2011	
	Establish social marketing strategy to encourage residents to use water-friendly landscaping practises		NRWC, area nurseries and landscapers					2011	
	Establish water quality teaching tools for watershed teachers		NRWC, watershed schools					2011	
	Establish watershed-wide water quality monitoring program.		NRWC					Established 2012	
	Perform a Preliminary Biogeochemical assessment of the Niantic River Estuary Eutrophication Process to determine whether it has a deleterious effect on eelgrass and sea life in the Niantic River Estuary.		NRWC					completed 2012	
	Colony Road tree filter project (\$319 grant project)		Town of East Lyme, ECCD, DEEP					completed 06/13	
	Pursue 501c3 designation		NRWC, municipalities					2015	
	Conduct riparian buffer restoration at Clark Pond in East Lyme		NRWC	East Lyme	Friends of Oswegatchie Hill		DNC	2012-2013	
	Install demonstration Coastal Riparian Buffer at Mago Park, Waterford		NRWC	Town of Waterford	DEEP			2014	
	Conduct stream corridor assessment of Latimer Brook		NRWC	local volunteers				2014	

* Based on Committee ranking conducted on 1-8-15. Subject to periodic review and revision.
H - high priority activity M - medium priority activity L - low priority activity