



Niantic River Watershed Committee Plan of Work: 1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023

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.

Objective	Partners	Status	Funding Source	Progress Notes
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT GOAL: <i>Raise Stakeholder Awareness and Involvement through the implementation of the Watershed Management Plan and Education Campaign</i>				
Objective: Youth outreach and education programs				
Participate in annual public events (East Lyme Day, Earth Day)	NRWC, municipalities, schools, UConn, CT DEEP, ECCD, Ledge Light HD, SCCRA	In Progress	Dom 2022	
Pursue opportunities for grant support for educational programming	NRWC, municipalities, schools, UConn, CT DEEP, ECCD, Ledge Light HD, SCCRA	Not Started		
Create NR Watershed curriculum and develop, implement program (Enviroscape)	NRWC, municipalities, schools	In Progress	Dom 2022	
Participate in school programs (EL Stormwater Outdoor Classroom)	NRWC, municipalities, schools	In Progress	Dom 2022	
Objective: Expand our social media presence				
Maintain, expand, and promote Niantic River watershed website (www.nianticriverwatershed.org)	NRWC	Ongoing Initiative	Dom 2022	Needs Refresh
Maintain, expand, and promote NRWC Facebook page	NRWC	Ongoing Initiative	Dom 2022	Requires continuous updating, need to specify manager
Objective: Adult public outreach and education				
Promote 2020 NRWPP Update including a watershed summit in 2021	NRWC, partners	In Progress	Cmy Found 2016	
Produce communications highlighting NRWC activities and programs	NRWC	Ongoing Initiative	Dom 2021	
Increase stakeholder awareness about the link between shellfish closures and sources of bacterial	NRWC, Shellfish Commissions	Ongoing Initiative	Dom 2021	
Maintain awareness of and comment on any large development proposals in watershed	NRWC	Ongoing Initiative	Dom 2022	
Encourage land-use decision making to include review of the Plan's Vulnerability Analysis	NRWC, municipal and regulatory staff	Not Started	Not funded	
Attend annual Celebrate East Lyme Day with NRWC booth/exhibit	NRWC, STR-STH, Cons. Comm	Ongoing Initiative	Dom 2022	
Continue to support projects such as stormwater tree filter, infiltration and rain gardens installations	citizens, municipalities, property owners		Dom 2015	Support should include a request for completion notice for NRWC compilation
Conduct riparian buffer outreach and education for homeowners and businesses	NRWC, municipalities	Not Started	Dom 2021	
Establish an outreach and tracking pilot program for landowners about on-site septic system	NRWC, Ledge Light HD, Watershed towns	Unfunded	Not funded	STR pursuing on small-scale
Conduct periodic watershed summits (bi-annual?)	NRWC, DEEP, municipalities, DNC, UConn, CT College, others	Resource Needed	Not funded	
Conduct or support stream and waterside clean-ups	NRWC, municipalities, STR-STH, high schools	Ongoing Initiative	Dom 2022	
Conduct Small Farms BMPs outreach and workshop	NRWC, East Lyme Ag Committee	Not Started	Dom 2015	
Objective: Support Partner Organizations				
Partner with other organizations to conduct targeted community outreach	NRWC, others	Not Started	Dom 2022	
Support by disseminating educational outreach materials for pumpout boat program	NRWC, STR-STH, DEEP	In Progress	Dom 2015/2022	
Assist municipal and agency land-use staff to implement NRWPP recommendations	NRWC, Watershed land-use staff	Not Started	Not funded	
Attend annual STR Niantic River kayak regatta	NRWC, STR-STH	Ongoing Initiative	** NFN	
Maintain awareness and support of activities of watershed partners	NRWC	Ongoing Initiative	** NFN	
Support Clean Marina program (information dissemination)	NRWC, STR-STH, DEEP		Dom 2021	currently managed by the CT
Objective: Disseminate and Share Monitoring and Research Results about the NRW				
Develop "State of Watershed" or similar report for community distribution	NRWC	In Progress	Dom 2021	
Disseminate information from Jamie Vaudrey's NWG report (CT)				



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Disseminate results of Uconn's Vaudrey embayment study	NRWC	Ongoing Initiative	Dom 2022	
Utilize NPS Tracking Tool, share with partners, develop linked online mapping application	NRWC, partners	Not Started	Various	establishing in 2021??
PUBLIC OUTREACH GOAL: Maintain a Sustainable Coalition of Partners to Manage the Niantic River Watershed				
Objective: Recruit new NRWC members				
Recruit new Board and Subcommittee members; update/disseminate board handbook	NRWC, municipalities	Resource Needed	Not funded	
Conduct regular meetings of the Niantic River Watershed Committee and subcommittees	NRWC, municipalities	Ongoing Initiative	NFN	
Create, develop and pursue membership program to support organization/activities	NRWC	Resource Needed	Not funded	
Objective: Sustain and grow the NRWC				
Support watershed coordinator position (including securing funding source)	NRWC, municipalities	Ongoing Initiative	Various	
Maintain 501c3 federal tax exemption designation; incl. annual audits and reports	NRWC	Ongoing Initiative	NFN	
Identify funding sources to support work and projects	NRWC, municipalities, DEEP, EPA, land trusts,	Ongoing Initiative	Various	
Create WBP Implementation Subcommittee to identify/pursue projects and funding	NRWC	Not Started	NFN	
Compile schedule (due dates) of funding opportunities	NRWC	Ongoing Initiative	Various	



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RESOURCE PROTECTION GOAL: Improve Water Quality and Biological Monitoring Network for the Niantic River and its Tributaries				
Objective: Monitor water quality and stream characteristics within the Niantic River and its Tributaries.				
Conduct macro-invertebrate assessments of targeted streams using CT DEEP RBV protocol	municipalities, CT DEEP	Ongoing Initiative	NFN; COFU interest	annual
Establish an accessible repository for monitoring data (such as EPA ATTAINS)	NRWC, Partners	Not Started	Various	2020- established WQX acct
Support volunteer water quality monitoring efforts watershed-wide	NRWC, Partners	Not Started	NFN	
Develop program for Niantic River stormwater outfall testing	NRWC, Waterford, East Lyme (DPWs and schools)		* OBF	pilot project 2020
Continue to monitor and support STR-STH efforts to eliminate impacts for the solar farm in the Niantic			NFN	
Conduct bacteria sampling of recreation-impaired tributaries(Latimer & Oil Mill Brks)	NRWC, municipalities, health district, DPH, DEEP		* OBF	
Support pathogen bacteria sampling in Niantic River	STR-STH, Save the Sound Unified Water Study		* OBF	
Maintain or support maintenance of Latimer Brook stream gauge	NRWC, DEEP, USGS	Discontinued		re-established in 2020 by USGS,
Conduct water quality monitoring in the Niantic River and tributaries, including T monitoring	STR-STH, NRWC, Dominion, Waterford	Discontinued		episodic sampling begun 2017
Conduct stream corridor assessments using NRCS or similar streamwalk protocol	municipalities, NRWC	On Hold		as needed
Investigate feasibility to conduct a fluvial geomorphic assessment of tributaries - Latimer, Oil Mill &	NRWC, CT DEEP, Trout Unlimited, others	Unfunded	Not funded	
Pursue funding and develop program for Niantic River stormwater outfall testing	NRWC, Waterford, East Lyme		* OBF	Review Town MS4 Stormwater
Promote development of watershed-wide design standards for local implementation	NRWC, municipalities		Dom 2021	
Advocate for stream channel connectivity	Municipalities, TU, DEEP, others		Dom 2021	
Review, comment and assist DEEP with aquatic life assessment of Latimer Brook	NRWC		Dom 2021	
Assist CT DEEP with development of bacteria TMDL appendices for Latimer and Stony Brooks	NRWC, municipalities		* OBF	Check with DEEP TMDL program
Objective: Share data with research partners (e.g. UCONN) and participate in local symposia and events				
Update and distribute Water Quality report and report card	NRWC	In Progress	Dom 2021	annual distribution
Maintain contact with researchers conducting research in the NRW, River and Bay	UConn- Avery Point, NRNWG, Others		NFN	
Provide connection to WQ sampling and analysis by others (Vaudrey, Unified Water Study)			NFN	
Support municipalities with MS-4 stormwater program minimum control measures (MCMs)	NRWC, municipalities		Not funded	as requested
Objective: Support and identify opportunities for LID BMPs				
Support installation of municipal sanitary sewer system extension at Saunders Point	Town of East Lyme, DEEP		NFN	
Work with watershed municipalities to establish impervious cover guidance	NRWC, municipalities, CT DEEP, CT NEMO	Not Started	Not funded	
Support LID Implementation throughout Watershed based on Plan priority areas	NRWC, municipalities, others		Dom 2021	
Identify potential stormwater retrofits throughout the watershed	NRWC, ECCD, municipalities, DEEP		Not funded	
Identify and implement riparian buffer restoration projects	NRWC, municipalities, others		Dom 2015	



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COMPLETED:				
Obtained grant funding awards to support programs and activities (319NPS, Dominion Foundation,		2008 - present		
Developed initial Board member Handbook		completed 2009		
Educate land use decision makers about the value of vegetated riparian buffers in the protection of water	NRWC, CT SeaGrant	conducted workshops 2010		
Developed NRWC mission statement and Committee bylaws		completed 2010		
Established initial NRWC website (www.nianticriverwatershed.org)		completed 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	completed 2011		
Establish water quality teaching tools for watershed teachers	NRWC, watershed schools	completed 2011		
Developed and hosted the first Niantic River State of the Watershed Forum		Conducted in 2011		
Establish watershed-wide water quality monitoring program.	NRWC	Established 2012		
Perform a Preliminary Biogeochemical assessment of the Niantic River Estuary Eutrophication Process to	NRWC	completed 2012		
Colony Road stormwater tree filter project (\$319 grant project)	Town of East Lyme, ECCD, DEEP	completed 2013		
Conduct riparian buffer restoration at Clark Pond in East Lyme	NRWC, East Lyme, Friends of Oswegatchie Hill, DNR	completed 2012-2013		
Install demonstration Coastal Riparian Vegetated Buffer at Mago Park, Waterford	NRWC, Town of Waterford, DEEP	completed 2014		
Conduct stream corridor assessment of Latimer Brook	NRWC, local volunteers	completed 2014		
Pursue 501c3 tax exempt designation by US IRS, CT Secretary of State	NRWC, municipalities	completed 2015		
First NRWC Awards (3) with award ceremony and media release		completed 2015		
Obtain 501c3 tax exempt designation from US IRS and CT Secretary of State	NRWC	completed 2015		
Niantic Stormwater Tree filter project (\$319 grant project), including informational signage	Town of East Lyme, ECCD, DEEP	completed 2016		
Mago Point Stormwater Tree filter project (\$319 grant project), including informational signage	Town of Waterford, ECCD, DEEP	completed 2016		
Submitted letter to Federal Rail Administration commenting on the NEC Tier 1 EIS		completed 2016		
Submitted letter to East Lyme Zoning Commission regarding Os. Hills housing devel.		completed 2016		
Participated in Stones Ranch-Camp Niantic Joint Land Use Study meetings		completed 2016		
Participated in TNC Municipal Coastal Resiliency workshops		completed 2016		
Complete first audit review of NRWC finances		completed 2016		
Developed initial NRWC membership brochure		completed 2016		
Participated in Organizational Training workshops - fundraising, nonprofit governance, etc.		2016 & 2017		
Submitted letter(s) of support for New England Forest Foundation application for open space funding		2016 & 2017		
Submitted letter of support for East Lyme Land Trust for open space grant application		2017		
Complete 5 year monthly water quality monitoring program in Niantic River freshwater tributaries		completed mid 2017		
Install stormwater management practices on Grand St, Niantic	ECCD, East Lyme, NRWC	completed 2018		
Install stormwater management (bio-retention) practice at East Lyme High School	ECCD, East Lyme, NRWC	completed 2018		
Participated in lawn fertilizer behavioral change campaign	ECCD, NRWC, TNC, LISS, CT Sea Grant	pilot completed 2018		
Submitted letter to ACOE in support of clean water value of commercial shellfish operation application	NRWC	2018		
Submitted letter of support to CT DEEP for acquisition of watershed land in Latimer Brook watershed on		2019		
Install stormwater management (infiltration) practice at East Lyme High School	ECCD, East Lyme, NRWC	summer 2019		
Review/update Niantic River Watershed Protection Plan (NRWPP)	NRWC, partners	completed August 2020		
Participate in LISS Fertilizer Behavior Change Campaign	NRWC, local partners, TNC, UConn, LISS, DEEP	2017-2019, completed		
Conduct Rain Garden Initiative	NRWC, residents	2017 triennius are completed		



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* Based on Committee ranking conducted on 1.05.23. Subject to periodic review and revision.

H - high priority activity M - medium priority activity L - low priority activity