



# Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Quarterly Report

Fall 2016

Volume 40

The Thames River watershed includes the Five Mile, French, Moosup, Natchaug, Pachaug, Quinebaug, Shetucket, Willimantic, and Yantic Rivers and all their tributaries. We're not just the "Thames main stem."

*Greetings from the [Thames River Basin Partnership](#). Once again this quarter our partners have proven their ability to work cooperatively on projects compatible with the [TRBP Workplan](#) and in support of our common mission statement to share organizational resources and to develop a regional approach to natural resource protection. I hope you enjoy reading about these activities as much as I enjoy sharing information about them with you. For more information on any of these updates, just click on the blue website hyperlinks in this e-publication, but be sure to come back to finish reading the rest of the report.*

*Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Project Manager  
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District  
And TRBP Coordinator*

## Special Presentation

If you missed the fall meeting of the Thames River Basin Partnership at the Hampton Community Center, you missed a presentation by Min Huang of CT DEEP Wildlife Division, who gave an overview of the 2015 update of Connecticut's [Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy](#) (Wildlife Plan). Min overviewed the changes in the Wildlife Plan since the original plan was approved in 2005. One major change in the updated version of the Wildlife Plan is the inclusion of ten key habitats involving plant communities and 54 sub-habitat types. The TRBP Partners include land trusts, and the information contained in the Wildlife Plan can be used as a tool to emphasize the need for land preservation in areas with special habitats that contain species with Greatest Conservation Needs as outlined in the Wildlife Plan.

## TRBP Updates

Planning is already underway for Floating Workshop XVII to be held in June 2017. The focus will be on the Little River watershed (Woodstock/Putnam, CT), a National Water Quality Initiative watershed. Much effort to restore water quality and prevent soil erosion in the watershed has already taken place. An agenda is under development that will feature the Partners that have been involved with this effort. Contact the [TRBP Coordinator](#) if you would like to be involved with planning or featured in next year's Floating Workshop.

The Last Green Valley (TLGV) has once again pledged funding to the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) in support of TRBP and TLGV water quality monitoring program

coordination services. This funding will allow the TRBP Coordinator to continue the basic services to the TRBP including organizing quarterly meetings, preparing the quarterly TRBP Partners in Action Report and planning the annual Floating Workshop.

The TRBP website is still static. The website [www.TRBP.org](http://www.TRBP.org) is available online, but the TRBP Coordinator has been unable to update the website since August 2015 when the software used to create the website became obsolete. Please be patient while we continue to look for funding to create a new website.

The Last Green Valley (TLGV) is temporarily hosting a [TRBP page](#) on its website where recent meeting agendas, notes, newsletters and the TRBP Plan of Work can be downloaded. If you are not able to activate the hyperlinked text above, go to [www.thelastgreenvalley.org](http://www.thelastgreenvalley.org) and look for watershed protection under the “learn and protect” tab. TRBP is an option under watershed protection.

TRBP has an active [Facebook](#) page. The [TRBP coordinator](#) will post your upcoming event announcements to the page upon request. If you use Facebook, please “Like” the TRBP page and TRBP postings will show up in your feed, and then please “share” the featured partner activities with your “Friends” to generate interest in our organization.

### Partner Reports

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) recently completed an aerated composting facility for dairy mortalities on a dairy farm in Woodstock. This project was funded in part by an EPA Clean Water Act § 319 NPS grant through the CT DEEP. The aeration system is solar powered with a backup generator and deep-cycle batteries. The compost bays are sheltered under a roof structure to prevent nutrients from leaching out of the compost during wet weather events.

Expected Average Pollutant Removal Rates*	
Total Suspended Solids Removal	>83%
Nitrogen Removal	>43%
Phosphorus Removal	>60%
Heavy Metal Removal	33% - 95%
Bacteria Removal	57% - 85%
Oil & Grease Removal	>85%
* Based upon published 3rd party testing by University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center; University of Massachusetts Stormwater Technologies Clearinghouse; University of Virginia Stormwater Center	

*Pollution reduction potential per tree filter unit.*

ECCD also recently completed two stormwater filtering projects, one at Mago Point in Waterford and the other at the Colonial Townhouse Apartments in Mansfield. Both projects were funded in part by EPA Clean Water Act § 319 NPS grants through the CT DEEP. At Mago Point, four [tree filter units](#) were installed to intercept and infiltrate stormwater runoff from a parking area. At the Colonial Town House Apartments, three tree filters and seven rain gardens were installed, reducing the amount of Nonpoint Source Pollution (NPS) entering the Natchaug River in Willimantic.

A Watershed Based Plan has been completed by ECCD for Ekonk Brook, a small tributary of the Moosup River. Ekonk Brook is located in Plainfield and Sterling, CT. This document contains

recommendations for reducing pollutants, primarily *E.coli* bacteria and other pathogens that are degrading the water quality in Ekonk Brook.

In partnership with UCONN professor Jack Clausen and graduate student, David Rosa, ECCD staff began collecting data for its “Monitoring Edge-of-Field Monitoring Project.” This project was designed to compare the formal Edge-of-Field Monitoring Protocols outlined in NRCS practice codes 201 and 202 to a modified edge-of-field monitoring protocol that is much more cost friendly. Samples from both runoff collection systems will be assessed with simplified methods using nutrient test strips and a turbidity tube to be compared to formal assessment at a laboratory. During the two months of active data collection, a drought has limited the amount of usable data. The systems have been shut down for the winter months. Sampling will resume next spring.

ECCD has hired two new staff to focus primarily on projects funded through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Michael Soares replaced Matt Snurkowski, who left ECCD to work for the NRCS in the Danielson field office. Michael can be reached at our Norwich office by calling 860-319-8809 or by email at Michael.Soares.ECCD@Comcast.net. Maura Robie has joined ECCD initially on a part-time basis. While she is going through her training, she will be working on Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of our Norwich office and sharing a phone line with Judy Rondeau. That phone number is 860-319-8807. Maura’s email address is Maura.Robie@Comcast.net. Judy Rondeau will be working from our Brooklyn office on the days Maura is in Norwich. The number to reach Judy at on those days is 860-774-9600 x 13. In Norwich, ECCD is co-located with the USDA NRCS and the entire office recently went through a change in the phone system. To reach Dan Mullins, his new phone number is 860-319-8808. You can reach Kate Johnson at 860-319-8806. ECCD requests you update your contact information.

New projects underway at ECCD include:

- Installation of a silage leachate collection system and subsurface drainage for a silage bunker, as well as construction of a conveyance system and receiving tank for milkhouse waste and manure. This project complements an USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service effort to install two large concrete storage tanks on the farm in Woodstock, CT.
- Installation of a Woodchip Bioreactor and purchase of a precision planter at another dairy farm in Woodstock, CT. A Woodchip Bioreactor is essentially a subsurface trench filled with woodchips, through which water from a subsurface field tile drain system is allowed to flow before leaving to drain towards a surface waterbody. The woodchips are a carbon source in the trench that serves as a substrate for bacteria that break down the nitrate through denitrification or other biochemical processes. Some studies show this process will also reduce *E. coli* concentrations in the subsurface drainage outflow. The precision planter is able to plant corn through a living cover crop with minimal soil exposure to reduce erosion.
- An Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant will allow ECCD to partner with Grow Windham and other community garden partners to design a model garden using Best Management Practices to reduce impacts from stormwater runoff. The project includes a series of workshops that will be advertised through various means, including the ECCD Facebook page.

The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has gone through a reorganization due to staffing reductions that resulted from budget cuts for State agencies. The updated [DEEP Water Bureau organization chart](#) is viewable by clicking the hyperlinked text. The first flow chart has a few colored polygons - you can click each of those to see a new page with expanded staff listings. Other organizational charts are listed and hyperlinked below:

- [Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse Land and Water Resources Division](#)
- [Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse Water Planning and Management Division](#)
- [Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse Remediation Division](#)
- To view a list of all current DEEP staff and their contact information, click [here](#).

#### Additional news for CT DEEP

- CT Open Space and Watershed Lands Acquisition Grant Program – current grant round is open through 2/2/2017.  
[http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2706&q=323834&deepNav\\_GID=1641](http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2706&q=323834&deepNav_GID=1641)
- The DEEP Nonpoint Source Pollution Management Program will soon be accepting proposals through its federally funded Section 319 grant program to address nonpoint source (NPS) water pollution issues. The primary focus of the grant program will be to address NPS pollution impacts to waterbodies listed as impaired in the 2016 State of Connecticut Integrated Water Quality Report which will be released later this year. Funding for the grant is provided to DEEP by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act. Funds can be passed on to communities, local conservation groups, and other organizations for NPS projects, plans, and statewide efforts. Please keep an eye on the [DEEP NPS Pollution Management Program](#) website for announcement of the FY2017 grant round and related details.
- DEEP puts a spotlight on the importance of drinking water supply aquifers with release of a new educational video entitled, [What is an Aquifer?](#) Aquifers are one of our most precious natural resources, providing clean, safe, reliable sources of water for drinking, bathing and other household uses. Groundwater from our aquifers is used in large quantities for industry, agriculture, manufacturing, fire protection and energy production. Groundwater provides base flow to our streams, rivers and lakes. Approximately two-thirds of Connecticut's residents rely on groundwater for their drinking water supply, whether it be from private wells or public water supply wells.
- The General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems ([MS4 General Permit](#)) is the product of a mandate by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) as part of its Stormwater Phase II rules in 1999. This general permit requires each municipality to take steps to keep the stormwater entering its storm sewer systems clean before that stormwater enters waterbodies. One important element of this permit is the requirement that towns implement public education programs to make residents aware that stormwater pollutants emanate from many of their everyday living activities, and to inform them of steps they can take to reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff. In eastern Connecticut, four towns were added to the Tier 1 list: Brooklyn, Killingly, Mansfield and Plainfield. The new MS4 permit goes into effect on July 1, 2017.
- Pursuant to Public Acts 12-152 and 14-169, DEEP is updating the Connecticut Comprehensive Open Space Acquisition Strategy ([Green Plan](#)) and prioritizing the

Department's actions through 2020 to best achieve the State's changing open space acquisition goals and meet new plan component requirements. The public comment period for the updated Green Plan recently closed and efforts are underway to achieve final approval of the document by the end of the calendar year.

- DEEP is in the process of developing a comprehensive management plan for Barn Island Wildlife Management Area in Stonington. Stakeholders and the public were given the opportunity to comment on a [Management Assessment Report](#) prepared by Connecticut College. The department is currently compiling the comments and preparing a final draft of the management plan. As soon as it is available, the draft will be posted for public review.

The Last Green Valley (TLGV) recently completed the requirements of a CT Recreational Trails Grant. More kiosks were installed at public boat launches along the 85 miles of National Recreation Water Trails in parts of the Quinebaug, Shetucket and Willimantic Rivers. An updated paddle guide has been printed and is available for a nominal charge or it can be downloaded for free [here](#).

Walktober 2016 was a very successful series of events sponsored by multiple local partners. This year, over 280 events were available to choose from.

Next year, between the spring equinox and summer solstice, TLGV will be coordinating Spring Outdoors! Like Walktober, Spring Outdoors will feature events from walks, to paddles to bike rides and outdoor festivals that are open to the public. This will be the second year of Spring Outdoors. If your organization would like to host an event during Spring Outdoors, or if you just want more information, click [here](#).

TLGV has applied for a \$7.6 million grant through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Regional Conservation Partnership Program. This grant, if funded, will be a boost to forest and open space conservation in the [MassConn](#) area. The multiyear project includes funding for landowners to pay a forester to develop a Forest Management Plan and/or to conduct forest bird habitat assessments. The bulk of the grant funding is earmarked for purchasing easements on forested land, and includes certain land transaction costs such as surveys and land deed research. The forest easements will be through the NRCS. The private landowners who voluntarily sell these easements would be obligated to maintain the land as written in the Forest Management Plan. A final decision on whether this project has been approved is expected by the end of this calendar year.

TLGV Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program updates:

- A second year of bacteria monitoring in the Quinebaug River was completed in 2016 and demonstrated similar results as 2015. The Quinebaug River water quality report card will be updated. Many of the sites at boat launches will remain categorized as "use caution" due to elevated bacteria levels in the water following rain events. A survey of water quality at the Shetucket River Recreation Trail boat launches is being planned for 2017.
- Data was downloaded from Temperature data loggers at nine locations in the upper Natchaug River watershed and two in Lebanon. Loggers were observed to have remained submerged in all locations despite the summer drought conditions. In addition

to temperature data, each site was monitored for temperature, DO, pH, conductivity and turbidity using a multi-parameter probe as part of a QC check on the loggers.

- Riffle bioassessment season is underway. Low flows have made selection of monitoring locations a challenge. Where possible, HOBO sites are being monitored using the RBV method for a more complete data set from those locations.
- The monitoring protocols for TLGV's RCPP Edge-of-Field Monitoring have been developed. A partial order of GKY FirstFlush Samplers has been shipped and will be ready to deploy once management plans and EQIP applications are submitted to NRCS.

The staff in the New London County USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service have new phone numbers due to a recent update of the office phone system. The New London County office is located at 238 West Town Street in Norwich, CT. Please update your contact information for them.

Garrett Timmons	District Conservationist	860-319-8803
Tammy Knowles	Program Assistant	860-319-8801
Charlie Galgowski	Civil Engineer	860-319-8805
Jesse Raymond	Soil Conservationist	860-319-8802

The State of Connecticut is developing a State Water Plan to develop a comprehensive strategic water plan for the State of Connecticut. The State Water Plan will provide the framework for managing Connecticut's water into the future, and help balance the way it meets all of our needs as new climate trends emerge and new needs develop. The Plan will address the quality and quantity of water for drinking, ecology, recreation, industry, agriculture, energy, and wastewater assimilation. For those that want to stay informed on the process, The Connecticut Water Planning Council maintains a website [www.ct.gov/water](http://www.ct.gov/water).

It was reported that although the Thames River Water Taxi service got off to a late start this spring, the program was deemed successful. The TRBP Floating Workshop followed the Thames River Water Taxi route during our June event.

### **Open Space News**

The New Roxbury Land Trust recently closed on 85 acres of land comprising two parcels in Union, CT. This land was purchased in part with funding through the CT Open Space and Watershed Lands Acquisition Grant. A 31 acre woodland parcel on Carion Road abuts the Nipmuck State Forest. A nearby 54 acre parcel includes open meadows and woodlands.

Wyndham Land Trust recently received a donation of 58 acres of land in Woodstock. The land, known as Rocky Hill Refuge sits on the highest point of Rocky Hill Road and includes a combination of an agricultural field and forest. Portions of the land were previously subdivided into a 12-lot subdivision, which was reversed due to the generosity of the donors and the landowner.

Avalonia Land Conservancy recently added three new preserves to their holdings, which now number 92 properties amounting to over 3,500 acres of land in conservation.

- Benedict Benson Preserve, North Stonington: this 94 acre preserve is known amongst birders as being home to cerulean warblers, a small sky blue bird which is "one of the species of highest concern" in the eastern United States.
- The Nature Conservancy transferred a 79 acre property adjacent to their existing Bell Cedar Swamp Preserve in North Stonington. Collectively, the property will now be known as Bell Cedar, which now includes almost 140 acres of rare and varied habitats with a beautiful trail starting on Boom Bridge Road.
- Samuel Lamb and Forsberg Preserve, Ledyard: This 6 acre donation adjoins Town open space and is bordered by Williams Brook and shrubby wetlands habitat.

There is a very rugged, rocky 201-acre site in Groton, CT, owned by Tilcon, Inc. Under the Recreation and Natural Heritage Trust Program, the CT DEEP has signed an agreement with Groton Open Space Association, Inc (GOSA) to act as cooperators for the purchase and management of the site. GOSA will contribute 15% (\$117,750) of the \$785,000 purchase price. The state will subsequently own and insure the property (as a WMA) while GOSA will provide "boots on the ground" for stewardship activities. This special property features historic granite quarries and, at 44 acres, has arguably the largest pitch pine ridge in CT, one of Connecticut's "13 imperiled ecosystems."

The first Connecticut farm to complete the NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program and its Agricultural Land Easement portion (ACEP-ALE) Process has been preserved in Lebanon, CT. The ACEP-ALE process provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands. The 34 acres scenic farmland is owned by John and Dawn Drum. It was purchased by their ancestors in 1946. On their land, named Scooter Hill Farm, the Drums tap approximately 400 sugar and red maple trees, grow hay, and raise beef cows. A partnership was formed between NRCS, the Connecticut Farmland Trust, and the Town of Lebanon in order to secure this conservation easement.

Following an extensive public process, and with overwhelming public support, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has finalized the creation of the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge, dedicated to conserving and managing shrubland and young forests for wildlife in New England and eastern New York. The approval of the refuge marks a key step, enabling the Service to now work with willing and interested landowners to acquire land. The Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge includes 10 target areas of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island. To view a fact sheet explaining the new National Wildlife Refuge, click [here](#).

### **News from the Municipalities**

The Ashford Conservation Commission recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of their newly developed trail in the town-owned Langhammer Property on Lustig Road. Charlotte Pyle, Landscape Ecologist, and Gwen Haaland, member of Conservation Commission, were on hand to discuss the history of the land and the geology, plants and wildlife of the property. The new trail includes a spur link to Fenton-Ruby Park in Willington. The Ashford and Willington Conservation Commissions worked together on linking the two trails.

The Woodstock Conservation Commission held an open meeting to facilitate a discussion on the benefits of voluntarily developing an aquifer overlay area on a suspected high yielding sand and gravel aquifer in the southeastern part of town. Little River flows through this area. Marc Cohen of Atlantic States Rural Water and Wastewater Association gave a presentation at the meeting.

From Webster, MA: The WLA has received the funds designated for Webster Lake in Amendment 251 of the FY2016 State Budget. The money has been allocated, in its entirety, for projects that will maintain and enhance Webster Lake, including the Sucker Brook Restoration Project. The Sucker Brook Restoration Project is a three-year plan to restore open water conditions to the mouth of Sucker Brook Inlet Cove. The goals of the project are to control non-native invasive plant species growth, and to reclaim open water lost to emergent aquatic plant growth. The project commenced in June, as part of the annual invasive aquatic plant species treatment.

An event co-sponsored by the Mansfield Agricultural Committee and the Connecticut Farm Bureau Farm featured a presentation on Transition Planning and a Tour of Westford Hill Distillers: This event featured Nationwide Financial Network's Evan Groot, a tax professional and financial advisor who develops comprehensive financial strategies for his clients, and travels across the country speaking on financial issues. This event was held in November.

## **Other News**

Eastern Long Island Sound received an A- (92%), the best grade of the Sound in the 2016 Long Island Sound Report Card. This Report Card was produced by Save the Sound, a bi-state program of Connecticut Fund for the Environment, and published in October 2016 using 2015 data. Funding was provided by the Long Island Sound Funders Collaborative. Science direction was provided by Jamie Vaudrey, Ph.D. and Jason Krumholz, Ph.D. The Report Card provides a geographic assessment of annual Long Island Sound ecosystem health for 2015. Visit [www.longislandsound.ecoreportcard.org](http://www.longislandsound.ecoreportcard.org) for information on specific methodologies, indicators, thresholds, grading and subregion designations.

The state of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) delivered emergency spill response trailers to six cities and towns Thursday, assets that officials described as crucial to protecting local waterways. The 16-by-9-foot trailers contain tools and materials to help manage the initial response to a spill and contain leaked material until a contracted cleanup team arrives. One of the new trailers will be located in Sturbridge, MA.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) announces the launch of a new Massachusetts Clean Water Tool Kit website, which serves as the state's primary public education resource related to nonpoint source pollution. The Toolkit, developed for MassDEP by Geosyntec Consultants, includes sections focused on the major categories of nonpoint source pollution, 127 fact sheets on best management practices to reduce pollution, and a collection of "Interactive Scenarios" based on Massachusetts landscapes.

The Interactive Scenarios allow users to explore ways to reduce pollution and improve water quality in a variety of highly detailed landscapes that are typical in Massachusetts, including residential, agricultural, urban, roads, construction and shoreline restoration.

To view the Clean Water Toolkit, go to <http://prj.geosyntec.com/npsmanual>. For more information, contact Malcolm Harper at [Malcolm.harper@state.ma.us](mailto:Malcolm.harper@state.ma.us).

**Save the Date:** The 28th Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference for the New England states and New York will be held on April 12-13, 2017 at the Hotel Northampton in Northampton, Massachusetts. This conference, which is coordinated by New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC), in partnership with member states and EPA, has become the premier forum for sharing information about nonpoint source pollution (NPS) issues and projects in this region. In 2017, the conference sessions will reflect the following theme: “Lessons Learned: What Worked, and What Didn’t?” For more information about this conference, please visit [www.neiwpcc.org/npsconference](http://www.neiwpcc.org/npsconference).

EPA released a series of fact sheets, "What Climate Change Means for Your State," which focus on the impacts of climate change in each of the 50 states and the territories of Guam and Puerto Rico. These 52 fact sheets compile information from previously published synthesis and assessment reports to provide a handy reference for state and local policymakers, businesses, and individuals who are looking to communicate impacts of climate change in a given state.

- [What Climate Change Means for Connecticut](#)
- [What Climate Change Means for Massachusetts](#)
- [What Climate Changes Means for Rhode Island](#)

EPA released a draft guide, [Community Solutions for Stormwater Management: A Guide for Voluntary Long-Term Planning](#), to assist states and local governments in developing and implementing effective long-term stormwater plans. Urban stormwater continues to be a significant source of water pollution and public health concerns. As communities continue to grow and develop their local economies, they look for sustainable and effective approaches to reduce these existing and emerging sources of pollution.

EPA is also developing a new web-based Stormwater Toolkit to be released at a later date. This toolkit will include technical and financing resources to walk communities through the long-term stormwater planning process provided in the Community Solutions for Stormwater Management guide.

EPA has issued a final rule to designate the Eastern Long Island Sound Dredged Material Disposal Site to receive dredged sediment from ports and harbors in Connecticut and New York that has passed stringent testing requirements and for which practicable alternatives are not available. The Eastern Long Island Sound Disposal Site (ELDS) is located immediately to the west of the current New London Disposal Site, entirely in Connecticut state waters. The existing New London Disposal Site will be closing on Dec. 23, 2016. For more information, click [here](#).

EPA awarded \$4.8 million to six universities to research water quality benefits. Three of the grants were awarded to universities in the northeast region. The following universities have benefitted from this funding:

- Clark University, Worcester, MA will estimate water quality benefits throughout river systems in the Northeast.
- Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH will create a framework for linking the health of small streams to water quality indicators and ecosystem services that people recognize and fundamentally value.
- University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT will quantify the value of changes in water quality, both in terms of the value to the environment and their value to the economy.

For more information about these grants:

[https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncer\\_abstracts/index.cfm/fuseaction/recipients.display/rfa\\_id/583/records\\_per\\_page/ALL](https://cfpub.epa.gov/ncer_abstracts/index.cfm/fuseaction/recipients.display/rfa_id/583/records_per_page/ALL).

More information about water research grants: [www.epa.gov/research-grants/water-research-grants](http://www.epa.gov/research-grants/water-research-grants).

EPA announces the release of a new publication: [Green Infrastructure and Climate Change: Collaborating to Improve Community Resiliency](#). As different parts of the country become drier, wetter or hotter, community leaders and citizens are looking to green infrastructure to improve their community's resiliency to the effects of climate change. In 2015, EPA convened charrettes, or intensive planning sessions, in four cities to demonstrate how this type of planning could be applied to communities dealing with a range of challenges. Each city's charrette focused on different issues based on the most pressing climate change impacts they were facing and their current level of green infrastructure implementation. This new publication summarizes those issues and the recommendations developed by each charrette.

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If you would like your organization's efforts included in the next edition of the TRBP Partners in Action Report, consider attending one of our quarterly meetings. It includes a [TRBP Plan of Work](#) activity reporting session, which is an informal "round the table" discussion of Partner activities. It is a great time to network with like-focused organizations. All meetings begin at 9:30 AM. Generally, the TRBP meets quarterly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month.

The next TRBP meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17, 2017. The meeting location and special presentation have not been determined at this time.

Contact [Jean Pillo](#) at (860) 928-4948 for more information or to be added to the TRBP distribution list.

If you are not already on the e-distribution list for this publication, contact [Jean Pillo](#) by email and request to be added, or you can download the past versions of this quarterly publication from the [TRBP website](#).

The Thames River Basin Partnership is a voluntary, cooperative effort to share resources, and strives to develop a regional approach to resource protection. The Partnership is made up of a variety of agencies, organizations, municipalities, educational institutions, companies, and individuals interested in the environmental health of the greater Thames River basin. Partial funding support for FY 17 for TRBP Coordinator time has been provided by The Last Green Valley. Additional sources of funding are being sought to continue the TRBP Coordinator position. Please consider making a donation to the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District and designate it to support the Thames River Basin Partnership Coordinator position.