



Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Quarterly Report

Winter 2022

Volume 60

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 Plan of Work](#) 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 TRBP meeting, Donna Merrill, President of Pollinator Pathway Northeast, gave a presentation on the history of the Pollinator Pathway initiative and how it has expanded into 10 states in the northeastern region of the United States. The focus of the initiative is to improve pollinator habitat and pollinator habitat connectivity. Indirect impacts include improved water quality and carbon sequestration. The main premise of the program is to encourage landowners to voluntarily participate in the initiative by reducing the size of their lawns, incorporating more native plants including native flowering trees, shrubs and herbaceous wildflowers, limiting herbicide and avoiding pesticide use. Municipalities enrolled in the Sustainable CT program that also enroll in the Pollinator Pathway initiative can earn points toward their Bronze, Silver or Gold status. By focusing on butterflies, bees, wasps and other critters as pollinator ambassadors, landowners can increase the biodiversity of pollinators that visit their land. To learn more about the Pollinator Pathway initiative or to review its excellent resource list, please visit the website <https://www.pollinator-pathway.org/>. For more information and/or to receive their newsletter, email them at info@pollinator-pathway.org.

TRBP Updates

Due to an error in the online meeting registration process, there was no Fall 2021 TRBP meeting in October. We are grateful to our speaker for her willingness to postpone her presentation until the Winter 2022 meeting.

The TRBP Annual Report was prepared and submitted to The Last Green Valley in December.

The Last Green Valley has renewed its support of the TRBP Coordinator position for another year ending on September 30, 2022.

The TRBP website is up to date with documents and paid up through late fall.

The TRBP Plan of Work update due in 2021 was not completed. Effort to complete this task with the working group will be scheduled as time permits with an expectation that the draft Plan of Work update will be presented at the April 2022 meeting.

The TRBP FB page now has 215 followers. The FB page is active through sharing of posts by partnering organizations and random other items I believe will be of interest to the group. If any of our partnering organizations wish to have their message shared on the TRBP website, please send me the information in a cut and paste format. Pictures are encouraged.

TRBP Floating Workshop planning is ongoing. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Connecticut Inland Wetlands Act and the Federal Clean Water Act. Ideas to promote these golden anniversaries are welcome, including special speakers. The Quinebaug River will be the backdrop of this workshop and it will include a tour of the Plainfield Trout Hatchery and a paddle on the Quinebaug River. The workshop will take place on a Friday in early June. Contact Jean.Pillo@Comcast.net if you would like to assist with planning this year's event.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) Project Summaries

The 2014 Farm Bill included new ways for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to innovate, leverage additional contributions, offer impactful solutions and engage more participants. One such program is the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). The purpose of the program is to promote coordination with partners to deliver conservation assistance to agricultural producers and landowners. This is done by providing technical assistance through agreements and direct funding for conservation practices. Through Thames River Basin Partnership, partners meet to discuss ways to collaborate on projects like these. TRBP is conducting outreach for three Regional Conservation Partnership Programs.

FY14/15 (State level funding): The Last Green Valley was lead partner in this \$400,000 NRCS RCPP project entitled **Improving Soil Health and Water Quality in the Thames River Watershed**. The project addressed two national priorities (soil health and water quality), and all five Connecticut state priorities (water quality degradation, soil erosion, soil quality degradation, degraded plant conditions and livestock production limitations). Through the TLGV RCPP, four collaborating partners implemented soil health conservation practices on cropland in eastern Connecticut's Thames River Watershed. Funding to implement the practices was provided by Natural Resources Conservation Service through its Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The long-term objective of the project was to improve soil health, as well as edge-of-field and in-stream water quality by decreasing nutrient and turbidity levels.

Project update: Funding for the TLGV RCPP expired on June 25, 2021. A full project update is pending the final report.

FY15/16 (State level funding): The University of Connecticut is the recipient and lead partner in an RCPP project entitled **Path to Reduce Pathogens in CT Agricultural Runoff (PATH)**. This \$669,000 NRCS RCPP is focused on reducing high bacteria levels in Connecticut's rivers and shellfish beds, which is, in part, caused by runoff from agricultural operations. To address water quality degradation, ten conservation partners are collaborating to achieve the objectives of the project: University of Connecticut, Eastern Connecticut Conservation District, The Last Green Valley, Inc., CT Department of Agriculture Bureau of Aquaculture, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, CT Sea Grant, Stonington Shellfish Commission, CUSH, Inc. (Clean Up Sound & Harbors), the Thames River Basin Partnership and UCONN Extension.

Project update: ECCD, in partnership with NRCS, is working on conservation plans for several farms in the watershed, with recommendations for practices to improve manure storage and management. Some of the practices include manure storage facilities and bedded pack facilities requiring Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs). All the financial assistance available through the project has been expended, but technical assistance is still available. A portion of the technical assistance funding has been appropriated to updating the Muddy Brook and Little River Water Quality Improvement Plan (Woodstock, Putnam, Pomfret, Thompson).

FY16/17 (National level funding): The Last Green Valley (TLGV) was awarded \$6,144,000 through NRCS' RCPP for **Accelerating the Pace of Conservation in the Southern New England Heritage Forest**. The Southern New England Heritage Forest (SNEHF) is a uniquely positioned forest corridor stretching north along the Connecticut and Rhode Island border to the Quabbin Reservoir in Massachusetts. A remarkable partnership of non-profit organizations and regional, state and municipal agencies is offering private woodland owners a suite of NRCS tools for sound management and forestry conservation practices through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Permanent protection through easements under the Healthy Forests Reserve Program is also available. To accelerate the pace of conservation in SNEHF, the project serves as a "conservation pipeline" of forest and bird habitat plans, EQIP practices and HFRP easements on private forestlands.

Project update: Through efforts of The Last Green Valley (TLGV), the MassConn Sustainable Forest Partnership (MassConn) and the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District (NRICD), the project has resulted in 7000 acres of forestland under contract for forest management plans with half of the FMPs completed! The purchase of conservation easements has been proceeding slowly and none have closed to date. A new round of assistance for development of Forest Management Plans opened in October and closed on December 17, 2021.

The forestry RCPP program has been extended until September 2023.

Landowners of large, forested acreage not selected for the project (10 landowners with a combined 800 acres of forested land) collaborated to apply for conservation easements through the Forest Legacy Program. That application was submitted and is undergoing review. For more information, visit the [TLGV website](#).

For more information about USDA NRCS RCPP opportunities, please visit the NRCS website at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmland/rcpp>.

Partner Reports

The Last Green Valley has continued its funding support for the Thames River Basin Partnership and The Last Green Valley Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator positions through September 30, 2022. Future funding for these programs will depend on continuing support for the National Heritage Corridor programs through the National Park Service. TLGV is one of 30 programs whose funding expired on September 30, 2021 but have continued to receive some limited funding through a continuing resolution until a national budget is passed. There is strong bipartisan support for extended funding but no certainty of funding continuance.

Again in 2022, TLGV will be accepting proposals for Spring Outdoors activities. Over 14000 people participated in programs in Spring 2021. To download an event form or to get more information, use this link <https://thelastgreenvalley.org/explore-the-last-green-valley/spring-outdoors/>.

It's time to plan your cleanup and green up The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. The Last Green Valley, Inc. (TLGV) has committed cleanup and green up funds for 2022 to help organizations and municipalities organize events. The program is funded, in part, thanks to the support of *bankHometown*. *bankHometown* has been a supporter of TLGV since 2008 and has sponsored the cleanup program since 2019. TLGV is expanding the program this year to include efforts to plant pollinator gardens or eradicate invasive species harming the region's ecosystem. Thanks to the funding over the past 10 years, 11,498 volunteers have collected 504,003 pounds of trash from parks, rivers and roadways throughout The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor. Organizations and municipalities in The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor can request up to \$500. Those outside the corridor, but still in the Thames River watershed, can request up to \$250. <https://thelastgreenvalley.org/its-time-for-2022-cleanups-and-greenups/>

Building off a successful 2021 Youth Engagement Grant Program, TLGV has committed \$15,000 to focus on the needs of youth. The 2022 Youth Engagement Grant is designed to benefit youth (under 21) in projects to conserve, celebrate or enhance The Last Green Valley National Heritage Corridor's significant natural and historic resources or promote economic development. Projects enhancing access for diverse audiences to the abundant natural and historic resources of the National Heritage Corridor are encouraged. Projects developed or led by youth will receive priority consideration. The grant is open to non-profits, municipalities and schools. <https://thelastgreenvalley.org/tlgv-offers-2022-youth-engagement-grants/>

The Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD)

Environmental Review Team

ECCD is participating on the Environmental Review Team with CT RC&D for the Airline Trail State Park Master Plan. The goal of the ERT review for the Master Plan is to inventory and map unique and critical natural resources along this 50-mile trail. The Master Plan will evaluate the

economic significance and value of the Air Line Trail, making connections to local communities and assts along the trail. For more information see the first paragraph on page 8 below under CT RC&D.

NOAA B-WET Grant, Project Oceanology Outdoor Learning Alliance

ECCD is partnering with Project Oceanology to implement projects with funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's B-WET Program. The funding is to install outdoor learning spaces at 6-9 schools in distressed communities in eastern CT. It is a 3-year project and ECCD will assist to design and develop the outdoor learning spaces, including roofed pavilions, creating and installing educational signs, community gardens, rain gardens, pollinator habitat and more, depending upon the specific needs of the schools. The project also involves teaching students about nonpoint source pollution and its impact to the environment. During the first year of the project, Project Oceanology and ECCD are working with the Thames River Magnet School in Groton and the Charles Barrows STEM Academy in Windham.

Little River Agricultural Waste Storage and Management Project

With CWA §319 funding, ECCD, in collaboration with NRCS and Elm Farm in Woodstock, CT, has been constructing an agricultural waste storage and management facility. The roofed facility, a free-stall barn with a manure pit, manure scrape alleys and manure pumping capacity, is nearly complete. Project partners anticipate that the structure will be finished by mid-March and that Elm Farm will move its herd back into the barn soon thereafter. Once complete, the facility will protect water quality directly in May Brook, but also Roseland Lake and Little River. Little River provides drinking water to the Town of Putnam so this project will improve the quality of Putnam's drinking water and hopefully reduce water treatment costs for the residents of Putnam.

Green Schoolyards (CFEC)

With funding from Community Foundation of Eastern CT, ECCD is creating 2 green schoolyards in underserved communities in eastern CT, Putnam and Windham. At Barrows STEM Academy in Windham, ECCD is collaborating with teachers, students and volunteers to install cedar raised bed gardens for vegetable production, a composting system, a rain garden, a rainwater collection system and educational signage. At Putnam's Elementary School, several options have been discussed with school staff including rain gardens, pollinator habitat, a sensory garden, downspout planters, wildlife cameras, and a river trail with educational signage. Final plans for the green schoolyard will be developed in collaboration with school staff.

Little River WBP

ECCD is updating the Muddy Brook and Little River Water Quality Improvement Plan (2009). With funding from The Last Green Valley's RCPP (NRCS funding) and University of CT's RCPP (NRCS funding), as well as a source water protection grant from Connecticut's Council on Soil & Water Conservation (NRCS funding), ECCD is revising the watershed plan to include an in-depth assessment of agricultural operations and practices in the Little River watershed. Once complete, the revised plan will provide more detailed recommendations for producers in the watershed and suggest eligible NRCS practices to improve production while protecting the environment. Revising the watershed plan will allow the watershed to be eligible under NRCS's National Water Quality Initiative which will expand funding options for producers through

various programs. The Little River provides drinking water to the Town of Putnam, so expanding funding for farmers will improve the quality of Putnam's drinking water.

Planning and outreach for revising The Plan included, in partnership with the Woodstock Agricultural Commission and the Senexet Grange, conducting a Pie and Farm Talk workshop series in Fall 2021. These workshops were geared toward smaller farms and hobby farmers. Featured topics included Forest Management Plans, Animal Grazing 101, Manure and Nutrient Management and Soil Health. The talks were recorded and can be downloaded from the Quick updates section of the ECCD website homepage. <https://www.conservect.org/eastern>.

Niantic River Watershed 4-Town Bio-Infiltration, Filtration & Water Collection Project

With CWA §319 funding, ECCD is implementing a suite of best management practices (BMPs) in the four towns of the Niantic River watershed, Waterford, East Lyme, Salem and Montville. To date, 30 rain barrels have been distributed and 8 rain gardens have been installed. This spring and summer, another 12 rain gardens will be planted, 20 storm drain filters will be installed and 4-6 tree filters will be manufactured and installed.

Long Island Sound Futures Fund Awards

Long Island Sound Futures Fund announced its awards for its 2021 grants. ECCD has received funding for two proposals: 1) *Quanaduck Cove Multi-Residential Low Impact Development Demonstration Site* and 2) *From Rain Gardens to Riparian Buffers: Pollinator Pathways for Healthy Watersheds*. The Quanaduck Cove project involves developing a demonstration site for stormwater best management practices that can be installed at condominium complexes. At Quanaduck Cove, ECCD and the condominium association will install rain gardens, riparian buffers and downspout planters. Additionally, ECCD will develop a stormwater BMP guide for condominium associations which will be distributed throughout eastern CT. The *Pollinator Pathways* involves installing rain gardens and riparian buffers that will double as pollinator pathways, providing important habitat for a variety of pollinators while treating contaminated stormwater.

New Staff

ECCD has hired three new staff persons: Paul Burgess, Lindsay Beutler and Heather Palardy. Paul Burgess is a Professional Engineer who primarily is conducting erosion & sediment control inspections at solar power installations, but assisting on other projects as needed. Lindsay Beutler and Heather Palardy are Conservation Technicians who will be managing a wide variety of projects and assisting ECCD to expand its operations and increase its environmental impact in eastern CT.

ECCD Plant Sale Is BACK!

ECCD will be resuming its annual plant sale this year. Following a 2-year hiatus due to Covid-19, the plant sale will be held at only one location, The Brooklyn Fairgrounds. The southern location at Ocean State Job Lot in Gales Ferry is not available for use. We apologize to our southern customers for any inconvenience but hope you will still support our plant sale. The drive from New London is a brief 40-minute ride featuring scenic Rt 169. Follow this link with plant descriptions. <https://conservect.org/eastern/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-Winter->

[Newsletter-PLANT-SALE-FINAL.pdf](#). An online order form is available at <https://conservect.org/eastern/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/plant-sale-2022.pdf>. Orders must be postmarked by April 4.

CT DEEP reported that a \$4.5 million investment for trail improvements at the Moosup Valley State Park has been approved. This will include building a connection to an existing Rhode Island trail system along the Moosup River.

A Bolton Lakes and Watershed-based Management Plan for Upper, Middle and Lower Bolton Lakes was drafted on behalf of the Towns of Bolton, Vernon, Coventry and Tolland. The Bolton Lakes are in the Hop River/Willimantic River watershed. Public comment on the review draft were solicited through January 25, 2022. To review the Plan, use this link. https://www.coventryct.org/DocumentCenter/View/5767/BLWMP_Draft2022-0110

CT DEEP has completed drafting its technical prologue to the Natchaug Healthy Watershed Protection Plan (NHWPP). The NHWPP is an implementation plan prepared for the Natchaug River watershed by the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District in 2020. Once the inhouse review of the document is complete, a public review period will be announced. This may take 1 – 2 months.

The State of Connecticut has set aside \$7.5 million for the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program. RFPs for open space conservation were accepted through November 19, 2021. The review of the applications is ongoing.

CT DEEP has resumed its online training program for municipal Inland Wetland and Watercourse volunteers. The multipart award-winning series is of benefit for anyone to view whether serving on a municipal wetland agency or not. To register for free training, visit this link. https://clear.uconn.edu/training/DEEP_IWA_training.htm The award-winning video series includes the following topics:

Introduction - Connecticut's Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Act
Map Reading & Site Plan Review
The Functions and Values of Wetlands and Watercourses

The state-endangered Brook Floater, a freshwater mussel that is also a regional species of greatest conservation need, received a much-needed boost in conservation with the recent award of a Competitive State Wildlife Grant for nearly \$1M to help partnering states advance conservation planning, propagation, and restoration, as well as population and habitat assessments in more States and watersheds. Did you know that North America harbors the highest diversity of freshwater mussels in the world, yet 30 species have become extinct and more than 65% are considered imperiled? Northeastern states identified the Brook Floater mussel as one of the most critically imperiled in the Northeast Region. Connecticut is pleased to join GA, MA, ME, MD, NH, NJ, NY, NC, SC, VT, VA and WV in this important effort to protect freshwater mussels. Learn more at [https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=service-announces-\\$74-million-in-grants-to-help-protect-imperiled-&_ID=37035](https://www.fws.gov/news/ShowNews.cfm?ref=service-announces-$74-million-in-grants-to-help-protect-imperiled-&_ID=37035) and discover Connecticut's freshwater mussels at https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/wildlife/pdf_files/nongame/fwmuslpdf.pdf

Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area is continuing its effort to produce an Airline Trail State Park Master Plan that includes linkages to other trails and off trail amenities and potential environmental impacts of promoting those linkages. The Airline Trail State Park extends from Portland to Thompson, CT. A series of Environmental Review Team site walks were scheduled. The six-chapter master plan is a conservation-based plan that will include write ups on watershed issues, nutrient factors and runoff, potential pollinator pathways, for example. The review includes four focus areas as examples of what communities can do to link up to the trail. In Pomfret, two site walks focused on larger landscape scale systems. In Lebanon, the review was focused on water quality and wildlife systems.

RC&D is continuing its Soil Health cooperative agreement with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. For more information, visit <https://ctrctd.org/agriculture/soil-health-initiative/>

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service New London County office reported that it is working to issue contracts for all applicants that applied for the first round of cost share projects. The second round of applications has closed and NRCS will only be able to fund some of the projects. In total, there were 45 applications with four of them being for larger manure composting projects.

The closing date for the Conservation Stewardship Program was February 14, 2022.

Willimantic Whitewater Partnership (WWP) was awarded \$500,000 from the state bonding commission to develop its downtown Willimantic Whitewater Park located off Bridge Street in Willimantic. WWP, established in 2002, is a non-profit organization composed of volunteers. The group aims to restore the Willimantic River, develop a riverside park, and create a prime spot for kayaker and paddle sport enthusiasts. WWP has already received funding and developed portions of the Air Line and Hop River Trails. The park on Bridge Street will serve as a regional recreation and trail hub for eastern CT, connecting the Airline Trail, Hop River Trail and East Coast Greenway to the Willimantic River National Water Trail.

The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station requests the public to be on the lookout for Spotted Lantern Flies and, if noted, to please report them. For more information about Spotted Lantern Flies and how to report them, use this link <https://portal.ct.gov/CAES-SLF>.

In January 2022, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the State of Connecticut officially designated the Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve in the Federal Register. The Connecticut Reserve is the 30th reserve in the national system and includes unique habitats and species that are not currently found in reserves within the Northeast. The designation of the Connecticut Reserve is consistent with the Biden-Harris Administration's America the Beautiful initiative, which commits to conserving at least 30% of U.S. lands and waters by the year 2030 and aims to address nature loss, climate change, and inequitable access to the outdoors. Check out the NERRS webpage for the Connecticut Reserve: <https://coast.noaa.gov/nerrs/reserves/connecticut.html>.

In 2021, the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with federal, state, and local partners, permanently protected 1,204 acres across 13 farms in the state, bringing the total number of farmland acres protected in perpetuity to 47,346.

If you are interested in learning about the monitoring that MassDEP's Division of Watershed Management conducted in 2021, its Annual Monitoring Review is available here:

<https://www.mass.gov/lists/annual-monitoring-summaries>

News from Municipalities

Have you seen what is playing on Groton Municipal Television?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qxr4vsTMwRc>

In the inaugural episode, Clean Water Ways host Lauren Post talks "All Things Water" with featured guest Nicole Davis, Save the Sound's watershed coordinator. Learn about Save the Sound's environmental conservation and restoration efforts, how physical changes to our habitat and impervious surfaces have altered water paths, why clean water efforts must be regional, and the many ways communities can improve water quality. Also, get a child's perspective in the "Wat-er You Talking About?" segment, with guest host Jessica Patterson. Town of Groton employees initiated the collaboration to support the education and engagement goals of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's General Permit for the Discharge of Stormwater from Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, commonly known as MS4. For more information, visit <http://www.savethesound.org/.../stopping-water-pollution> or contact Town of Groton (CT) Public Works MS4 Coordinator at 860-448-4544

The Town of Groton drafted its annual report as required by the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System general permit. The Town's Department of Public Works staff has listed all outfall repairs.

At the pump station on the Thames River, the Town of Groton removed an underground storage tank and replaced it with an above ground tank.

The Town of Woodstock Conservation Commission will be continuing its [Pollinator Pathway](#) initiative for a third year. They are planning to kick off the season with a presentation by Lydia Pan, Executive Director of the Mountain Laurel Chapter of Wild Ones in early April.

The Town of Windham Pollinator Pathway group is developing a Pollinator Pathway website.

The Town of Tolland Conservation Commission has an Open Space Management Guideline and Process approved by the Town Council. The Commission is exploring new models for open space management.

Land Trust Updates

The Avalonia Land Conservancy has saved an ecologically and historically significant property in North Stonington, signing the final documents on June 10, 2021. The Herman E. Sheets

Family Forest is an 86-acre parcel that includes Laurel Glen, one of North Stonington's original historic villages, while also providing critical habitat for a wide array of wildlife and birds.

The Wyndham Land Trust recently acquired 364 acres in Pomfret from the Townshend family. The land—the largest single acquisition by the land trust in its 46-year history—includes a large scenic wetland with open water, marshlands, shrub swamp, and forested swamp that form the headwaters of Nightingale Brook. The woodlands that surround the wetlands support important forest-nesting birds such as Canada Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler. The property sits in a remote corner of Pomfret that borders Eastford to the west and Woodstock to the north. The Wyndham Land Trust is actively working to protect this area of extensive woodlands and has christened it the 'Nightingale Forest.' The Nightingale Forest now covers 1,120 acres of protected land, of which almost 800 were donated by or purchased from the Townshend family.

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 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Next meeting will be on April 19, 2022, via Zoom.

If you are not already on the e-distribution list for this publication, sign on to our TRBP Distribution list <http://thamesriverbasinpartnership.org/subscribe>, or you can download previous versions of this quarterly publication from the TRBP website <http://thamesriverbasinpartnership.org/newsletters>.

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. Funding support for FY 22 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.