



Thames River Basin Partnership Annual Report for FY 2021

The Thames River Basin Partnership met four times this fiscal year using a Zoom platform for virtual meetings due to the ongoing Covid Pandemic.

October 2020: The special presentation for this meeting featured ECCD's Assistant Director, Judy Rondeau who gave an overview of the Eastern Connecticut Stormwater Collaborative.

January 2021: The special presentation for this meeting featured Tom Olson and Larry Dunn of the Town of Groton Conservation Commission. They provided an overview of the Towns Open Space and Conservation Plan.

April 2021: The special presentation for this meeting featured Ashley Helton, Associate Professor at UCONN, who gave a presentation on her current research focus "Can Watershed Landuse Legacies Inform Nitrogen Management?"

July 2021: The summer TRBP 2021 meeting featured a special presentation featuring Jeanne Davis, Executive Director of the Connecticut Resource Conservation and Development Area (CT RC&D). Jeanne updated us on the status of the Air Line Trail Master Plan her agency is involved with.

After each quarterly meeting, a newsletter, the Thames River Basin Partnership Partners in Action Report was compiled based on Partner reports at the meetings and other sources. These newsletters are available for download on the TRBP website. <https://thamesriverbasinpartnership.org/newsletters/>

The annual Thames River Basin Partnership Floating Workshop #21 in June 2021 focused on Coastal Embayments of Eastern Connecticut. The eastern end of Long Island Sound has good water quality, but many of the embayments along the coast are impaired for one or more water quality conditions. This year's floating workshop focused on water quality parameters and how to interpret them, impacts of degraded water quality on eel grass and shelf fish, and various actions underway to address the degraded water quality. The event was held at Bluff Point State Park and included a socially distanced paddle down the Poquonuck River to Bushy Point Beach. A story map summarizing the event can be viewed at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/2d2ba0a6568548cbb1f25529b2680957>.

The Thames River Basin Partnership website has been kept up to date, and between newsletters, partner updates were shared via the Thames River Basin Partnership Facebook page.

A committee was formed to update the three-year plan of work.

Report compiled by Jean Pillo, TRBP Coordinator