Upper Natchaug River Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan

Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Project Manager
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

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There’s a hollow in Mansfield where three rivers converge.
The Corp dammed up the valley. Farmland was submerged.
Where Naubesatuck glistens under the sun.
The Natchaug Watershed is ~175 square miles.

ECCD documented pollution sources completed a watershed based plan for the lower 10 square miles Natchaug watershed in 2014.

Previously, EPA Clean Water Act funds were only available to clean up pollution from non-point sources.

Upper Natchaug Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan may allow federal funds to be used for pollution prevention in the future.
Natchaug CAP Re-CAP

Holly Drinkuth
The Nature Conservancy
Why the Upper Natchaug was selected for the first Healthy Watershed Plan in CT

Eric Thomas, Watershed Manager
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
What are we trying to accomplish

• In partnership with CT DEEP, ECCD will identify (map) where the streams, lakes and ponds are not polluted and share this information with the municipalities.

• ECCD will identify and recommend cost-effective methods to protect those high quality waters and watershed services they provide to the local communities.

• With guidance from the Stakeholders, ECCD will develop and conduct a community outreach campaign to build an increased awareness regarding the natural ecosystem services and long-term benefits of healthy watersheds for resilient communities.

• The final Natchaug River Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan will enhance the capacity (Towns, health districts, COGs and others) to support the healthy watershed planning process (including reduced drinking water treatment and infrastructure costs).

• Identify where strategic protection and anti-degradation measures are needed.

• Develop an implementation roadmap that will include a schedule of watershed action projects and milestones for guidance.
What is a healthy watershed?

Review of the Natchaug River Values Survey
Healthy or Unhealthy?
Healthy or Unhealthy?

Photo by G. Leslie Sweetnam
Healthy or Unhealthy?
Healthy or Unhealthy?
Healthy or Unhealthy?
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Healthy or Unhealthy?
Healthy or Unhealthy?
Healthy or Unhealthy?
Healthy or Unhealthy?
DEEP 2016 Watershed Assessment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station Name</th>
<th>Total Nitrogen mg/l</th>
<th>Total Phosphorus mg/l</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Bungee Brook</td>
<td>0.438</td>
<td>0.057</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Bigelow Brook</td>
<td>0.038</td>
<td>0.034</td>
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<td>3 Mount Hope River</td>
<td>0.170</td>
<td>0.042</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Fenton River</td>
<td>0.348</td>
<td>0.019</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Knowlton Brook</td>
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<td>0.031</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Natchaug River</td>
<td>0.108</td>
<td>0.028</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Stonehouse Brook</td>
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<td>0.026</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Still River</td>
<td>0.488</td>
<td>0.113</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upper Natchaug HWP Goals

Group discussion
Possible topics for a concurrent workshop series

(minimum of 3)
Follow up meetings (scheduling approximate)

November - DEEP will present a Nutrients-based Watershed Plan for the watershed

February/March - Working meeting
• review first draft Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan
• draft a model checklist for guidance to for conservation and development of local projects for compatibility with the Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan

June/July - Presentation of the Final Healthy Watershed Implementation Plan, implementation timeline and final checklist
Closing thoughts?