

Steps

Development, Dams, Land and Water Use / Management, and Invasive Species.

DRAFT - March 2006

Objective/Strategy	Activity	Strategic Action	Action Steps:				
1 Protect and Restore Water quality			1	2	3	4	5
Maintain or improve the chemical, sediment and temperature regimes of watershed streams, and thereby maintain or improve the viability of riparian and benthic habitats.							
A Poor Water Quality - Identify streams and tributaries within the watershed where fishable, swim able water quality standards are not being met.	Gather Data and Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Conduct water quality monitoring at sites throughout the watershed. __Consult with local health departments and CT DEP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Encourage CT DEP to continue funding Water quality monitoring programs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Seek Local, State and private funding for monitoring programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Involve local schools in monitoring efforts (i.e. CT DEP Project Search Program) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Recruit volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Review data with environmental experts to solicit recommendations and analysis before sharing monitoring data with the public, town leaders and health officials. (Annual Report)
B Identify sources of system degradation.	Gather Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Conduct stream walks. __Consult with fisherman, homeowners, public works departments, Aquarion Water Company, CT DEP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Lead annual training for volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Conduct workshops for citizens about sources of degradation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Share monitoring data with the public, town leaders and health officials. (Annual Report) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Detect illicit discharges 	
C Educate and reach out to implement specific projects protecting and enhancing water quality	Residential Properties - collect and disseminate information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Distribute available septic care brochures from Southwest Conservation District in areas where water quality data indicates potential septic concern. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Septic System Maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Municipal Housekeeping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Promote beneficial landowner property management 		

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D	Create Tributary and branch specific action plans	Assimilate data	_Report findings to pertinent stakeholders _Prioritize tributary and branches for study based on need	_Identify criteria impairments and resolutions	_Identify long range practices behavior changes, routine cleanups, etc.		
E	Implement projects to pre-empt future degradation	Planning	_Assist towns to develop effective Phase II programs. (Stormwater management)	_Determine status of each town's planning efforts.	_Identify funding needs and knowledge or resource gaps.	_Sponsor workshops to develop collaboration between Phase II planners from the eleven watershed towns	
F	Investigate and document threats to ground water quality.	Gather Data	_Survey town health departments to learn their concerns about well water quality and aquifer protection	_Encourage state to require well testing as part of mortgage approval.	_Compare and contrast existing regulations for conservation, planning and zoning, waste management, etc. in watershed towns	_Prepare and share review of strengths and weakness of regulations and practices on website or printed report.	_Share data and concerns with the public, town leaders and health officials. (Annual Report)

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2 Protect and Restore Stream Flow Conduct modeling of in-stream flows, especially in the lower watershed, to provide information (to inform water regulators (CT DEP) and water users) on current flow in the river and potential over allocation of the resource.				A Support efforts to model the hydrology of the Saugatuck River Watershed to better understand stream flow and environmental impact of water use and withdrawal.	Hydrology Modeling	_Use model to identify river and stream reaches stressed by water withdrawal.	_Obtain funding for reactivation of USGS Stream gauge in the lower watershed.	1	2	3	4	5
3 Land Use and Management Engage in outreach and education to encourage better land management practices.												
A Develop stronger collaboration between Partnership and representatives of commissions in charge of health, land use and water supply		_Seek to have an appointed staff from health, land use and water and waste control boards participate in Partnership project development.	_Develop reporting routine between partnership and commissions and policy makers	1	2	3	4	5				
B Create awareness of land stewardship and responsibilities.	Plan and execute workshops to educate	_Coordinate land use workshop with Sierra Club, NEMO and other partners for citizens and town officials.	_Work with towns to develop demonstration projects showcasing best management practices for land management.	1	2	3	4	5				

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C	Encourage best gardening practices	Collaborate with garden clubs and nurseries	Coordinate meetings or workshops to provide guidance on best gardening practices	Encourage towns to establish and advertise yard waste compost sites	Involve commercial gardening centers, town garden clubs and individuals in outreach and education efforts.	Work with local tree wardens and arborists			
D	Implement projects to protect and enhance natural watercourse buffers.	Identify degraded or threatened stream buffers	Conduct vulnerability assessment to identify priority properties that impact watershed health	Obtain permission to implement restoration projects at specific sites	Identify projects eligible for grants.	Engage Watershed Partnership in stream-bank/riparian zone, wetland, estuary and in-stream restoration projects.	With local nurseries, develop planting plans to restore native streamside vegetation		
E	Encourage Implementation of Low Impact Development Strategies	Support Educational Workshops and circulation of educational material	Recruit workshop leaders to discuss environmental impacts of development including water, pesticide, herbicide and fertilizer use and other land management practices.	Work with municipal leaders, conservation commissions, facilities and ground operations and municipal emergency management directors/supervisors to adopt best land management and water usage practices.					
F	Encourage towns to implement Best Management Practices for street maintenance	Develop working groups to meet with Public Works directors of the watershed towns.	Develop questionnaire on street management practices.	Identify environmentally sensitive streams and habitats most influenced by road runoff.	Prioritize catch basin cleaning to address these areas as early after the winter as possible.	Work with towns to identify best locations for installation of filters or swirl concentrators.			

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4 Invasive Species Control							
Maintain or improve the viability and diversity of aquatic species by reducing the impact of invasive species.							
<p>A Prevent further spread of invasive species, (plants and animals) in priority areas</p>	<p>Control and Limit Spread of Invasive Species</p>	<p>__ Mobilize volunteers, staff or contractors as appropriate to eradicate established populations of invasive species.</p>	<p>__ Work with partners to educate others about invasive species</p>	<p>__ Support efforts by partners to develop teams for early detection and rapid elimination of invasive species</p>	<p>__ Support bans on invasive plants, and support nurseries that do not sell them.</p>	<p>__ Sponsor workshops and training to educate about invasives and the threats they pose to biodiversity.</p>	
5 Restore Diadromous Fish Passage							
Improve riverine function and increase available stream miles and accessible habitat for fish and aquatic species.							
<p>A Map historical distribution of diadromous fish</p>	<p>Identify Restoration Needs</p>	<p>__ Map present distribution</p>	<p>__ Map target area for restoration.</p>	<p>__ Identify restoration strategies - education, streambank or habitat restoration, fishways</p>	<p>__ Develop cost estimates and timelines.</p>		
<p>B Expansion of available stream habitats for fish and other aquatic species.</p>	<p>Develop Restoration Plans</p>	<p>__ In cooperation with CT DEP and dam owners, develop plans for fishways, dam modifications or dam removal.</p>	<p>__ Secure landowner permission at all sites</p>	<p>__ Secure necessary permits from State and local regulating authorities</p>	<p>__ Secure funding for project construction and complete work plans</p>	<p>__ Recruit volunteers and hire machine operators for construction phase</p>	<p>__ Schedule and complete projects</p>
6 Development Guidelines							
Encourage towns to develop and adopt regulations sensitive to the health of the watershed.							
<p>A Compare and contrast zoning regulations in the eleven towns - and each town's plan of Conservation and Development</p>	<p>Municipal regulations review</p>	<p>__ Develop workgroup to report back on existing regulations in the watershed towns.</p>	<p>__ Identify towns currently rewriting plans of Conservation and Development and offer contributions.</p>	<p>__ Work to link Towns' Plans of C & D with Zoning regulations</p>	<p>__ Recommend environmentally sound guidelines for wetland and intermittent watercourse crossing</p>	<p>__ Suggest counting impervious surface as lot coverage</p>	<p>__ Encourage establishment of adequate regulated areas around wetlands and along streams</p>

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7 Monitoring					
Conduct thorough monitoring programs of conservation targets throughout the watershed					
A Develop programs to monitor targets.	Review Conservation Targets and incorporate in program priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Compile data into a State of the Watershed Annual report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Collaborate with Earth Place River Watch Program on water quality monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Liaison with other local committees and commissions working on Saugatuck River and its environs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Coordinate survey of Saugatuck estuary and river mouth (including, water quality analysis, fish and shellfish health, sediment and invasives)
8 Communications					
Develop communication with local media and municipalities					
	Involve all stakeholder groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Outreach to children, school involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __PTA special programs - Share news of local efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Connect stakeholder groups with projects of specific interest to them. 	
A	Examine best means to communicate watershed activities on a regular schedule	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Develop system for specific communication practices. Consider applicability of Partnership Website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Develop an approval system for press releases 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Develop two-way channel of communication with local stakeholder groups for information flow about Partnership activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Consider newsletter for the partnership- summarizing events, opportunities, support needs. If appropriate determine frequency
B	Develop organization structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Establish workgroups and organization options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Select best organization option 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Develop municipal conservation pact that CEOs of watershed towns agree to sign.
					<ul style="list-style-type: none"> __Consider piggybacking Partnership news on existing newsletters

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9 Funding Develop grant proposals and solicitations to support the partnership						
A Develop financial plan and budget systems	Form Financial working group	_Develop Financial plan	_Compile a list of potential grant sources for specific projects and partnership support	_Develop solicitation approach for private fundraising	_Identify lead partner for each grant.	_Develop Income and Expenditure reporting format
10 Progress						
Review and revise Action Plan and strategies						
A Determine Review Calendar	Review and revise strategies and work plans as necessary		DRAFT			