Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative

in collaboration with the Farmington River Watershed Association

Mary Rickel Pelletier, LEED AP
(860) 881-5089
maryvvrp@parkriver.org
The Park and Farmington River Watersheds meet along the Metacomet Ridge – and so overlap into seven shared municipalities.

MDC drinking water supplies are drawn from the Farmington River Watershed into the Park Watershed.

11,263 sq miles
to minimize sprawl, design successful high density urban areas
pavement and the water cycle

More Runoff
Arriving Faster
water quantity problems
flooding and erosion
The #1 water quality problem in the U.S.

non-point source pollution
46.4% of basin developed in 2002
improving the absorbency of landscapes is a cost effective solution
plus, healthy landscapes increase property values
who owns and manages watershed land and waterways?

state government properties

municipal properties
(cemeteries, parks, flood plains, schools, ect.)

corporate and institutional campus properties

farms and community gardens

commercial and retail properties

private residential yards
US EPA Green Infrastructure Pilot Project Designation

Benefits:

- federal funding for pilot projects
- technical assistance
- assistance in negotiating consensus

How to become part of the pilot program:
- align interested government stakeholders
- meet together to discuss terms of the pilot
- involve elected municipal officials
Chicago City Hall
William McDonough + Partners
Chicago, Illinois
completed 1999
Green Streams
Watershed Protection Strategy
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Photos courtesy of Kevin Shafer, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

$27 million supplemental environmental project funds
conservation easements and a greenways initiative
Green Infrastructure Examples: Street Design

- Tree plantings
- Swales and bioretention
- Porous pavers

(GreenWorks)
Environmental Benefits of Green Infrastructure

- Reduces sewer overflows
- Filters polluted stormwater
- Recharges groundwater
- Reduces heat island effect
- Improves air quality
- Provides wildlife habitat and recreational space
- Protects stream banks
- Conserves energy
- Conserves water
- Prevents flooding
- Captures carbon
- Improves urban aesthetics

Maplewood, MN. Photo Courtesy of Bob Newport, U.S. EPA, Region 5
How to spend $800 million dollars for a sustainable future?

On underground concrete storage:
- Reduce sewage overflows

OR

Green Infrastructure Strategies:
- Reduce sewage overflows
- Restore stream corridors
- Create urban open space
- Generate green jobs
- Increase real estate values
- Mitigate climate change
- Reduce summer heat deaths
- Conserve energy and water
- Create recreational areas
- Strengthen flood controls
- Expand habitat corridors
- Renew urban forests
- Etc, ...
Watershed Management in NY and CT

This map reflects the management status of watersheds in NY and CT within the greater Long Island Sound Watershed.
create a networking resources for watershed information

**Park River Watershed Revitalization Initiative**

**Events**

- **Sep. 27** EPA Stormwater in the City
  - Conference at CT Legislative Office Building - Hearing Rm 20 in Hartford
  - [agenda](#) and [online info](#)

- **Sep. 29** Citizens Clean-up:
  - In conjunction with the 20th annual Farmington River Watershed Association Clean-up and the Source-to-Sea Clean-up
  - [local contacts](#)

- **Oct. 7** Walking Tour with co-host Hog River Journal
  - [click here for details](#)

- **Oct. 9** Park Watershed Symposium at Trinity College
  - [register online](#)

- **Oct. 14** South Park Walk
  - with co-host Hartford Preservation Alliance
  - [More Info](#)
  - Meet at the Design Center, 1429 Park St., at 10am

- **Oct. 27** CT Coalition for Environmental Justice Annual Conference
  - Conference at UConn School of Business 100 Constitution Plaza, Hartford
  - [about](#)

**Other Important Watershed Meetings and Events:**

- Conservation Commission Meetings (will be posted asap)
- Farmers Markets
- Hartford County NOFA Farm Network
- Bike to Work
- Riverfront Recapture
Trinity College Green Campus

2007 Source-to-Sea Clean-up along the South Branch
2008 Source-to-Sea Clean-up along the South Branch
new design solutions will depend upon innovative collaborations
wish list

progressive leaders with a green vision willing to delegate and able to change.

factual environmental reporting.

focus on the value of healthy ecosystems.

ongoing collaboration with academia, statistical research and civic activism.