

Grant Work

Grant work accounted for a considerable portion of District staff time. The pursuit of new Clean Water Act Section 319 nonpoint source projects encompassed much of the fiscal year, yet most of the active grant work was funded through other projects as described below.

Water Quality Enhancement Projects

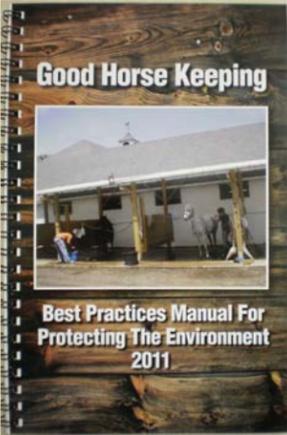
319 & 604b Grants

While the District completed a 319 implementation project involving installation of a hydrodynamic separator and a vegetated swale on Olcott Street in Manchester, and continued work toward implementing a 319 contract to install a hydrodynamic separator on Adams Street in Manchester, a much larger proportion of the fiscal year was spent initiating future 319 nonpoint source contracts and 604b water quality planning management contracts, both under the Clean Water Act, funded by EPA and administered by CT DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, formerly CT DEP). These new 319 projects, to be completed within the next two fiscal years within the Hockanum River Watershed, include construction of a bioretention area to treat parking lot runoff at Lake Street School in Vernon within the smaller Tankerhoosen Watershed, and reconfiguration of stormwater pipes and a stormwater pond that drain the Parkade on West Middle Turnpike in Manchester, discharging directly to Bigelow Brook. The new 604b contract facilitates water quality studies, focusing on the effect of nutrient enrichment on aquatic life in freshwater streams.



Stormwater outfalls and pond, Bigelow Brook, West Middle Turnpike, Manchester, to be reconstructed as part of a newly obtained 319 grant.

Other Grants



Phragmites australis within Laurel Marsh in Manchester

HEAP Manual

The District acted as project manager to edit, complete, print, & distribute a Horse Environmental Awareness Program manual. The District sought funding from the CT Environmental Review Team and the CT Council on Soil and Water Quality to supplement existing funding from NRCS to print 5,000 copies rather than the 300 originally planned.

Laurel Marsh Invasive Removal

The District was able to secure funding through the competitive *Long Island Sound Fund*, largely supported by the license plate program, to remove invasive plants from Laurel Marsh in Manchester. Phragmites australis, an invasive aquatic plant that has formed a monoculture throughout much of the marsh, along with invasive Japanese knotweed, will be removed through a three year treatment plan incorporating mowing and herbicide application. The treatment is intended to allow native plants to inhabit the area, to better support wildlife.



Lake Basile in Granby, subject of the biological survey.

Lake Basile Restoration Program

Funding was obtained from the CT Federation of Lakes to assist the Lake Basile Community Organization in completing a biological survey of Lake Basile, and to decide how to address the issues currently impacting water quality within the lake. The survey report has been completed, and the group is currently seeking additional funding to implement the recommendations.

Supplemental Environmental Project — Brookside Park, Ellington, CT

The District received Supplemental Environmental Program (SEP) funding through CT DEEP to complete a project within the Broad Brook watershed, following recent completion of the Broad Brook Watershed Report. The District proposed a project designed to incorporate stormwater quality treatment and streamside buffer enhancement on a tributary of Broad Brook, which runs along a paved parking area and sports fields in Brookside Park in Ellington, CT. Once approved, the District engaged its staff, board, and volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 96 from Ellington to implement a planting plan designed by District staff. A grassed bioretention area was installed adjacent to the north side of the parking lot to treat stormwater before it enters the stream through a culvert. A streamside buffer planting, over 200 feet in length, consisting of native shrubs, was planted along the eastern edge of the parking lot, along with three smaller clustered plantings to the north. The District also managed the purchase, engineering, and installation of a 30-foot pedestrian bridge to allow those using the sports fields to cross the stream at a convenient location without eroding the stream bank.



Landscape Design and Buffer Projects

The District's landscape design capability adds a valuable component to the services provided by the District. Over the past year, the District offered suitable *planting ideas*, as well as formalized *concept designs*, to many individuals and organizations. The plan to the right is a portion of a planting plan designed by District staff for Ellington Center Cemetery. The full concept plan takes into account views to and from the cemetery from various locations and sensitive areas, and includes several overlays.

The District also takes part in streamside buffer plantings alongside other organizations. District staff creates conceptual planting designs and participates in the ordering and planting. This year, these projects have primarily been in association with the Farmington River Watershed Association, an organization that has been very active in several towns within the District. Volunteers from local businesses or organizations are often involved in the planting days as well. An example planting from this year took place at Northwestern Community College in Winsted. Volunteers from the college helped to plant a streamside buffer and butterfly garden, depicted in photos below.

