

# Urban Stormwater Management Tour

## Niantic River Watershed



The Niantic River, an estuary in eastern Long Island Sound, appears, from the surface, to be a healthy coastal embayment. However, the river has been designated as impaired for multiple uses, including aquatic life, recreation and direct consumption of shellfish due to contaminants that are transported into the river by stormwater from the heavily developed shoreline.



*The Niantic River watershed (outlined in grey) is located in the towns of East Lyme, Montville, Salem and Waterford.*

In 2006, the Niantic River Watershed Protection Plan was approved by the (then) CT DEP and USEPA. In 2008, the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District (ECCD) received funding from CT DEEP through the Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source grant program to commence implementation of the watershed plan, including the establishment of the Niantic River Watershed Committee and creation and staffing of a watershed coordinator position.

Since that time, ECCD, working in partnership with the Niantic River Watershed Committee and the watershed towns, has obtained funding to install multiple stormwater management practices in the watershed, including many in the village of Niantic. Judy Rondeau, Assistant Director of ECCD and the Niantic River Watershed Coordinator and Victor Benni, East Lyme Town Engineer will take you on a guided tour of the some of the stormwater management practices installed in the Niantic River watershed and describe how, in combination, they are improving water quality in the Niantic River and Niantic Bay.