



## 2024 Salmon River Watershed Partnership Outreach & Monitoring Activities Related to Stormwater & Water Quality

(Bolton, Colchester, Columbia, East Haddam, East Hampton,  
Glastonbury, Haddam, Hebron, Lebanon & Marlborough)

During the 2024 year, SRWP conducted a number of outreach, education, and monitoring activities as reported below.

Activities presented in this format:

**Date/Event/Description/Audience and estimated number of individuals reached and/or participated**

**February 2024/Webinar Presentation to CT Society of Civil Engineers/Request by Society of Civil Engineers for a presentation on watershed management activities in Salmon and Eightmile River Watersheds/society members/30+**

**March 2024/Water Quality Monitoring Report/Release of report summarizing 2023 summer baseline stream monitoring with volunteers/board members, town officials, volunteers, and general public/100+ general public.**

**March 2024/Spring Fling with Friends of Sunrise and Machimoodus State Parks/Booth set-up with display on SRWP activities and live “touch” tank with aquatic bugs to discuss lifecycle impacts from stream pollution. Display showing all water quality monitoring sites and a take home brochure including steps landowners can take to protect water quality/100s+ general public.**

**March 2024/Annual Newsletter/Annual newsletter covering a variety of SRWP activities and news items related to protecting watershed resources and preserving water quality. The 2024 edition included articles on the importance of floodplains and associated management, aquatic ecosystems and land preservation in the watershed as a means to protect water quality and habitats. Sent for general distribution to all 10 watershed towns, shared on social media, available on the website, and used as handouts for in-person events/100+ general public.**

**May-September 2024/Launching and Field Checking HOB0 Stream Temperature Loggers/Field work and intern training: partnering with DEEP Water Quality Monitoring and Fisheries Depts. Documenting summer stream temperatures using HOB0 loggers. Loggers take hourly readings and are launched in 10 locations throughout the watershed. Loggers were**

retrieved and data downloaded in October and November 2024 and will be added to watershed temperature mapping to compare with local land-use. Regional data storage site (<http://db.ecosheds.org/>)/Staff & Volunteers (5), in partnership with town land-use staff and board members.

**May 2024/Presentation on Aquatic Invasive Species/**Co-host a presentation on aquatic invasive species with the CT Office of Aquatic Invasive Plants/general public/20

**June-August 2024/Field Monitoring at Local Streams/**Second year monitoring from previous routes that were monitored from 2013-2017, after a five-year gap. The two routes include 11 sites throughout the watershed to establish baseline data and track future changes. Volunteers were trained on hand-held monitoring equipment and took weekly samples for temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, total dissolved solids, and salinity. A summary report will be generated and forwarded to all 10 watershed towns and shared with DEEP/10 community volunteers and 10 watershed towns.

**June 2024/Hebron Day/** Booth set-up with display on SRWP activities showing all water quality monitoring sites and results, information on the importance of land preservation for protecting water quality and a take home brochure including steps landowners can take to protect water quality/100s+ general public.

**July 2024/SRWP Watershed Tour/**Leg four (and final) of the watershed tour for board members and other guests focusing on Salmon River Coves. Tour included a paddle on Salmon River Cove to discuss water quality impacts, invasive species and future management activities. /15 board members & guests.

**September 2024/Haddam Neck Fair/**Booth set-up for three-day event with display on SRWP activities and sign-up for water quality monitoring. Special focus on impacts of water quality to macroinvertebrates, display showing all water quality monitoring sites and a take home brochure including steps landowners can take to protect water quality/100s+ general public.

**September-November 2024/Field Stream Assessment with Community Volunteers/**Classroom and outdoor field training presentation and 8 Stream Macroinvertebrate Assessments conducted in 2024. Volunteers collected and identified benthic macroinvertebrates as part of CT DEEP protocol for conducting stream assessments to establish whether segments are meeting state water quality goals for aquatic life support/24 community volunteers.

**October 2024/RHAM High School Stream Assessment at Blackledge and Fawn Brook in Marlborough/**Classroom and field program following DEEP protocol for benthic macroinvertebrate assessments. Field portion also included potential impacts to streams, road crossing design and general river terms/15 RHAM High School students in UCONN Environmental Science Class and teachers.

**October 2024/Coventry High School Stream Assessment at Raymond Brook in Hebron/**field assessment program which included discussions on land-use impacts to stream, importance of

floodplains and drought conditions. UCONN Environmental Science and AP Bio Classes/35 Coventry High School students and teachers.

**November 2024/Meeting with Town Officials and National Park Service/**Meeting to discuss next steps of SRWP and Q&A with the National Park Service on Wild & Scenic designation and a potential request for a Reconnaissance Survey/town leads, board members and National Park Service representative/15

**December 2024/Presentation by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/SRWP** was requested to host a presentation and provide input on potential treatment of Salmon Cove for Hydrilla (CT River species)/10 town leaders & stakeholders.

**Year round/Launching and Field Checking HOB0 Stream Conductivity Loggers/**Partnership project between GZA, Inc. Green Team (funding also received by GZA for 3 of the loggers) and SRWP. SRWP currently manages 8 conductivity loggers and sites are selected for monitoring after consultation with the towns and various state departments for any areas of concern. Data is shared with DEEP and USGS/3 GZA Green Team members, DEEP Fisheries and Water Quality staff and SRWP staff.

**Year round/SRWP Outreach and Activities/SRWP** is funded primarily through 7 of the watershed towns. The Watershed Coordinator represents the partnership on statewide issues related to water quality and non-point source pollution. Information is shared with 10 towns for their dispersal and use. Coordinator also comments (as requested) on town activities, regulations or planning projects specific to water quality and stormwater/10 watershed towns.

**Year round/SRWP Outreach on Facebook/**<https://www.facebook.com/10towns/> Salmon River Watershed Partnership information pertaining to watershed monitoring efforts, opportunities to participate, and actions local citizens can do to help protect streams/100s+ general public.

**Year round/SRWP Outreach on Website/**[www.salmonriverct.org](http://www.salmonriverct.org) Website contains reports on water quality and monitoring and offers information and links on issues related to Best Management Practices for homeowners, animal owners, and business owners/100s+ general public.

**Year round/SRWP Outreach on Instagram/**[www.instagram.com/salmonriverct](http://www.instagram.com/salmonriverct) Salmon River Watershed Partnership initiated an Instagram account for sharing information pertaining to watershed resources and outreach/100s+ general public.