The City of Waterbury
CONNECTICUT
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Environmental Justice Policy for the
Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway Project

The City of Waterbury is a recognized “Environment Justice Community” under Connecticut State law. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency defines Environmental Justice as “The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”

The Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway is the most comprehensive riverfront transportation and revitalization effort undertaken in the history of the City of Waterbury. This sustainable project is providing a network of public parks, open space, multi-use trails, river access and transit alternatives through the construction of a high-quality, paved, multi-use bicycle/pedestrian path along the City’s riverfront linking to the downtown core and Train Station and connecting neighborhoods directly to each other. The Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway is projected to foster the remediation of corridor brownfields; catalyze corridor business growth and development; raise the City’s quality of life; and, promote sustainable, neighborhood redevelopment. The project will also protect human health and the environment by creating protected open space, non-motorized transportation options, and new recreational amenities in the City of Waterbury.

The City of Waterbury is committed to the fair treatment of people of all races, ages, cultures and incomes; and that they shall all be fully considered during the City’s planning, decision-making, development and implementation of project components and activities. The intent of this policy is to ensure that people, regardless of race, age, culture, or income are duly informed about opportunities to participate in the development and implementation of the City’s Naugatuck River Greenway project.

The City of Waterbury is committed to incorporating environmental justice in the City’s Naugatuck River Greenway project planning, decision-making, development and implementation by making reasonable efforts to:
1. Identify and strategically engage the public via a public participation framework (i.e., periodic public meetings and workshops) so as to appropriately foster communication and collaboration prior to taking actions that have an impact on the environment; and

2. Distribute project information to educate, provide awareness, and encourage participation in the public process by City residents, i.e., provide periodic project information on the City’s website and periodically distribute written material in both English and Spanish particularly to the City’s minority and low-income population.

This policy, effective immediately, shall apply to all projects related to the Waterbury Naugatuck River Greenway. This includes any work funded by the TIGER Discretionary Grant program for the Waterbury Active Transportation and Economic Resurgence project.

Dated at Waterbury, this 10th day of April, 2014.

Louis J. Spina, Director
Public Works Department