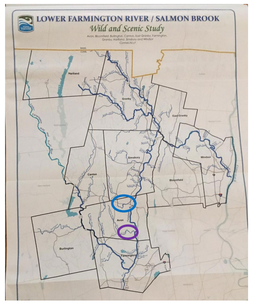
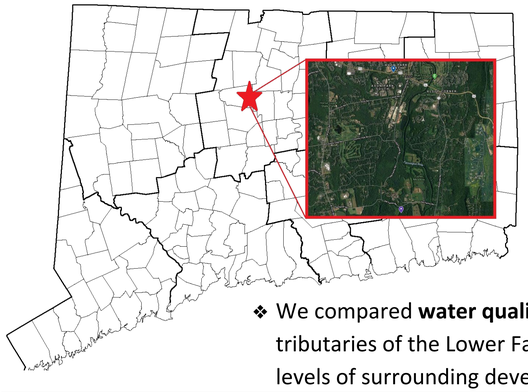
Comparison of Two Farmington River Brooks

Our Project

- We are all residents of Avon and enjoy and appreciate living in the Farmington River Valley
- The Farmington River is an 80.4 mile river located in northwest & central CT
- Major tributaries extend into southwest MA
- The upper 14 miles located in CT were designated as a Wild and Scenic River by the U.S National Park Service in 1994
- The Lower Farmington River and Salmon Brook achieved the Wild and Scenic designation in 2019





- We compared **water quality** & **bird diversity** at two tributaries of the Lower Farmington River with different levels of surrounding development

Site Descriptions

Water quality samples were measured in “riffles” (rocky or a shallow part of the stream with rough water) within two tributaries of the **Lower Farmington River**:

- Our **Nod Brook** site runs through an urban location, within a cluster of municipal buildings in a heavily-trafficked and noisy area with a large asphalt parking lot.
- Our **Thompson Brook** site is in a much quieter and less busy area, surrounded by trees with large marshes nearby. Coincidentally, during the summer of our study, about a mile away from this site, evidence was unearthed dating back 12,500 years ago to the earliest human civilization in Southern New England. That site is now called the Brian D. Jones Paleoindian Site.

Methods

- We used the **epicollect5** app to record the following water quality parameters at Thompson Brook (July 19) & Nod Brook (Aug 2) during summer 2019:

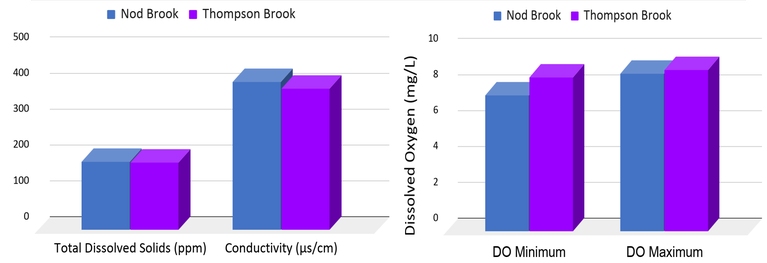
  Conductivity, Total Dissolved Solids, Dissolved Oxygen (max & min), Temperature, pH, Ammonia, and Phosphate

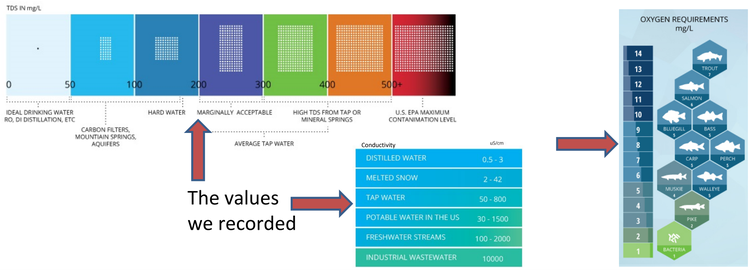
- We used the **Song Sleuth** app to identify the bird species present at each site and the **iNaturalist** app to identify the tree species

Nod Brook

Thompson Brook

Water Quality





The values we recorded

Bird Observations

Birds Observed	Nod Brook	Thompson Brook
Blackburnian Warbler	✓	
Cedar Waxwing	✓	✓
European Starling		✓
Northern Cardinal	✓	✓
House Sparrow	✓	
House Finch	✓	✓
Hermit Thrush		✓
Downy Woodpecker		✓
American Goldfinch	✓	✓
Black Capped Chickadee		✓
Sparrow		✓
Blue Jay		✓

SongSleuth

Conclusion

- Based on our test results and observations, the water quality at both Nod Brook and Thompson Brook were within “normal” range for the parameters we measured
- We observed a diversity of bird species at the two locations
- We inferred from this that in spite of traffic noise and human development, some bird species are able to adapt to their surroundings
- This project helped us connect more with nature and understand the importance of healthy water quality

References

- You can access additional project information by scanning the QR code or visiting: **http://s.uconn.edu/52c**
- The bird photos shown here are from the Song Sleuth App

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