

**Thames River Basin Partnership
Plan of Work – July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008**

Partnership Mission:
The Thames River Basin Partnership is a voluntary, cooperative effort to share organizational resources and to develop a regional approach to natural resource protection.

The partners support the six goals presented in this Plan of Work. In executing the plan, the Partnership finds its strength in being a dynamic organization. In this regard, projects typically include a variety of named partners whose participation ranges in degree of involvement depending on each partner's interest or commitment to the project.

In addition to the partners, other organizations and individuals may participate in projects that are of particular interest to them. It is also possible for partners to have considerations or resource constraints unique to their organization that exclude or limit their participation in certain projects.

Current Partners (others are welcome to become partners at any time)

ACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	NRCS*	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
ALC	Avalonia Land Conservancy, Inc.	RC&D*	USDA Resource Conservation & Development
ARSWWA	Atlantic Rural State Water and Wastewater Association	Project O*	Project Oceanology
CAS	Connecticut Audubon Society Center at Pomfret	QRT	Quinebaug River Team
DEP*	Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection	QSHC	Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor
DPH	Connecticut Department of Public Health	SCCOG*	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
ECCD*	Eastern Connecticut Conservation District	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
EPA*	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	TU	Trout Unlimited
FRC	French River Connection	UCONN CES	University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System
FSA	U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency	WINCOG	Windham Regional Council of Governments
GVI	Green Valley Institute	USFWS	United State Fish and Wildlife Service
NECCOG	Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments	USGS*	U.S. Geological Survey
NEMO	Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials	WRA	Willimantic River Alliance

Legend

High/Medium/Low or Long Term Priorities as currently supported by the Partnership
 Core = Core activities of the TRBP
 L=Lead for that activity
 X=Participant
 *= Current organization with member(s) on the Steering Committee

Goals & Action Items	Ranking	Partners																			
		DEP	ECCD	EPA	RC&D	NRCS	Project O	Green Valley Institute	Windham Regional COG	NECCOG	SCCOG	USGS	QSHC	Farm Service Agency	UCONN CES	Army Corps of Engineers	Trout Unlimited	TNC	TRBP coordinator	Local Communities	Other
Goal 1: To Identify Needs and Promote Activities to Protect the Region's Agricultural and Natural Areas that are being Threatened and Affected by Land Use Changes																					
A. Continue to participate in the land use issues initiative through the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee of the Quinebaug- Shetucket Heritage Corridor.	Core	X	X		X	X	L						L	X	X				X	Thompson, Woodstock	
1. Locally Important Ag Soils	Medium					X	X													Ashford, Chaplin, Eastford, Hampton, Lebanon	
2. Natchaug Protection Strategies	Medium						X										X			Eastford, Chaplin	
B. Participate in planning, developing, and publicizing a regional agricultural event with the farmers in the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor: "Celebrating Agriculture" event in September 22, 2007 at Woodstock Fairgrounds.	High		X		X	X							X	L	X					Woodstock	First Pioneer Farm Credit
C. Encourage local development of a natural resource inventory in the Lower Thames River Basin based on a program developed by the Green Valley Institute.	Medium	X	X			X	X	X		X					X				X		Pfizer, NEMO, Sea Grant
D. Continue Natural Resource Inventory assistance in upper Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor	Medium	X				X	L														Lisbon
Goal 2: Promote Activities to Protect and Improve Ground and Surface Water Quantity, Quality and Recreational Value that are being Threatened or Degraded.																					
A. Review previous stream walk survey assessments to identify potential opportunities to improve water quality.	High	X		X		L		X			X					X		X			CAS
1. Distribute documents from Willimantic Stream Walk assessment	Medium	X	X															X			WRA
2. Convene Stream Walk Advisory committee	Medium	X	X			X	X				X	X				X	X				
B. Promote and/or participate in water quality monitoring projects. Nutrient enrichment and river flow issues are recognized as the highest priority concerns	Medium	X	X	X			X				X	X				X	X	X			CAS
1. Volunteer stream monitoring program QSHC	Medium	X	X	X		X					X	L				X	X	X		Several	CAS
2. Project O Thames Estuary monitoring	Low	X		X			X				X										Pfizer

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C. Work with partners to assess and develop access sites for small boats and fishing within the Thames River Basin: a) to make the rivers more accessible, thereby increasing public awareness of water quality, and b) to facilitate clean-up projects.	Low	X	X	X		X	X					X			X	X					Sprague, Mansfield, Brooklyn
1. Convene advisory committee to lead to recommendations to work with partners. (1 to 2 meetings)	Long Range	X										X									QRT
D. Participate in standing committee of Little River watershed sourcewater protection team to implement Sourcewater Protection Plan developed in early 2006.	Low	X	X																	Woodstock, Putnam - Lead	CT DPH, NDDH
1. Report on base line water monitoring for Little River watershed	Low	X	X																		ARSWWA, CT DPH, NDDH
E. Continue watershed restoration project to fulfill 319 grant requirement at Poquetanuck Cove	High	X	X			X				X		X				X	X	L		Ledyard, Preston	ALC, USFWS
F. Initiate Stormwater retrofit project to fulfill 319 grant requirement	High	X	X															L			
Goal 3: Promote Activities to Protect the Region's Biodiversity																					
A. Participate in educational outreach on the subject of biodiversity considerations in regional planning. Promote statewide plans through links in TRBP website. Link to available data (ie BCR Inc)	Medium	X				X		L								X	X	X			
1. Statewide Forest Resource workshop for partners	Low	X												X							DEP, wildlife, CAS, Forestry
2. Wildlife Strategies (grassland habitat) workshop	Low																				DEP, wildlife, CAS
B. Rollout CT eco-region mapping. Learn about MA BioMap and Living Waters programs in uppermost Thames River Basin in Massachussetts.	Medium	X						L													
1. Continue to develop GIS database layers at watershed scales for use in Natural Resource Inventory map sets	Low	X				X		X								X					
2. Expand GVI work and develop GIS based mapping as necessary for Lower Thames Basin	Long Range																				

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Goal 4: Promote Activities to Improve Habitat and Natural Resource Conditions																					
A. Reference stream assessments to identify potential opportunities to restore degraded aquatic habitats. (Note: Possible coordination with Action Item 2.A.)	Medium	X	L	X		X	X				X					X	X			WRA, FRC	
1. Review French River riparian buffer project in Thompson as a model for other communities following completion Sept. 07. (Consider outreach (signs, website, map) to highlight riparian improvements.)	Low	X				L													Thompson		
2. Compile available technical and funding resources for potential restoration projects. (Funding from partners and affiliates, governmental)	Low	X					X											X			
3. Support proposed Thames Basin Reconnaissance Study	Medium														X		X				
B. Promote and encourage fish passage initiatives and fish habitat restoration. Cooperate with DEP regarding initiatives related to river flow impacts on habitat.	Medium	X	X	X		X					X					X					
1. Hallville Fishway - Poquetanuck Brook	Low		L																		
2. Scotland Dam - Shetucket River	Long Range	X														L	X				
3. Use website to offer clearing house for Thames Basin restoration projects to initiate interest	Long Range																				
Goal 5: Provide Informational and Educational Opportunities on Natural Resource Issues to Individuals and Groups throughout the Thames River Basin																					
A. Develop and conduct a Thames River "Floating Workshop" to address current resource issues related to the greater Thames River watershed. This workshop is an annual event that provides educational opportunities for municipal officials, local businesses, and concerned citizens.	Core	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X				X			L	CT Coast Guard vessel?	
1. Expand workshop series to reach different land use decision makers through out Thames Basin (See goals 3A, and B) Create workshop series	Medium																		L		
B. Assist Partners with classroom water quality related educational outreach.	Low						X									X		X		CAS	

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Goal 6: Partner with Individuals and Groups to Address Regional Environmental Issues, Strengthen the Partnership's Organizational Structure and Increase the Diversity of Stakeholders																					
A. Continue to enhance the Partnership's organizational structure in order to develop a sustainable and balanced workload, while achieving desired outcomes. Develop metrics to monitoring plan of work - implementation measures.	Core	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X						X	X		
B. Continue working under the guidance of a Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will continue meeting between the quarterly full Partnership meetings.	Core	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X						X	L		
C. Outreach activities to the region, which shall include distribution of the TRBP Plan of Work, annual reports, fact sheets, workshop information, etc. and development of mapping and other visual media.	Core	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X						X	L		
1. Derivative fact sheet or series fact sheets in partnership with USGS	Long Range											L									
2. Development of an Information & Education campaign with partnership resources on TMDL's following pre, post and proposed management strategies. Provide DEP with a summary of the Information and Education Activities. i.e. brochures, fact sheets on web site, and information presentation.	High	X	X																L		
D. Maintain and enhance a website for the promotion of the organization and its goals, and to disseminate information to the membership. Develop a regular column about the TRBP and its resources.	Core	X	X	X		X	X				X	X							L		
E. Promote greater participation, and establish workgroups (e.g. Thames River Estuary, or outreach) to focus on specific issues.	High	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X						X	X		
F. Facilitate inter-agency and inter-municipal cooperation to create an FY '07-08 TRBP plan of work that includes activities which target NPS pollution problems and issues. Facilitate collaborations between partners to implement those planned activities. Potential activities include: 1) A business outreach project along an impaired segment; 2) Creation of a reference publication to inform watershed stakeholders regarding assistance available from Partnership members; 3) Organization of a focus group meeting of municipal leaders to exchange information to better address stormwater and NPS problems.	High																			X	
G. Conduct long range strategic planning to ensure sustainability of partnership	Medium		X		X	X		X										X			