

**Thames River Basin Partnership  
Plan of Work – July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009**

***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 seven 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 Area
ASRWWA	Atlantic States Rural 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
NDDH	Northeast District Department of Health	USGS*	U.S. Geological Survey
NECCOG	Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments	WRA	Willimantic River Alliance
NEMO	Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials	WWP	Willimantic Whitewater Partnership

**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

Updated July 15, 2008

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Goals & Action Items	Ranking	Partners																			
		DEP	ECCOD	EPA	RC&D	NRCOS	Project O	Green Valley Institute	Windham Regional COG	NECCOG	SOCOG	USGS	QSHC	Farm Service Agency	UCONN CES	Army Corps of Engineers	Trout Unlimited	TNC	TRBP coordinator	Local Communities	Other
<b>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</b>																					
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	
B. Natchaug River Protection Strategies - conduct Natchaug Basin Conservation Action Planning inFY09	Medium							X	X									X		Eastford Chaplin Ashford Hampton Mansfield	Naubesatuck Watershed Council
C. Participate in planning and publicizing annual regional agricultural event with the farmers in the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor: "Celebrating Agriculture" event September 20, 2008	High		X		X	X							X	L	X					Woodstock	First Pioneer Farm Credit
D. Encourage local development of a natural resource inventory in the Lower Thames River Basin based on a program developed by the Green Valley Institute.	Low	X	X			X	X	X		X								X			NEMO
E. Continue Natural Resource Inventory assistance in upper Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor	Medium	X				X		L													Lisbon Coventry Preston Charlton Canterbury
<b>Goal 2: Promote Activities to Protect and Improve Ground and Surface Water Quantity, Quality and Recreational Value that are being Threatened or Degraded.</b>																					
A. Support upload of volunteer water quality data to EPA WQX system.	High	X		X		X							X						X		CAS
B. Promote and support stormwater retrofit projects in urban areas	Medium	X	X																X	Killingly Norwich	
C. 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
D. Support volunteer stream monitoring program	Medium	X	X	X		X	X				X	L					X	X	X		CAS FRC
E. Continue Project O Thames Estuary monitoring	Low	X		X			X				X										Pfizer
F. As part of QSHC Source to Sea Initiative, 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.	Medium	X	X	X		X		X					L				X	X			WRA WWF FRC QRT ALC AMC
G. 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 ASRWWA
H. Liaison with CT DEP and facilitate TRBP's involvement in TMDL development, peer review and dissemination to municipalities and the public	High	X	X																L		
G. Develop a report that inventories existing, scheduled, and/or planned implementation actions available in support of the Eagleville Brook TMDL	High	X	X									X								L	Mansfield UCONN, WRA

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<b>Goal 3: Promote Activities to Protect the Region's Biodiversity</b>																					
A. Participate in educational outreach on the subject of biodiversity considerations in regional planning. Promote statewide plans and other available data through links in TRBP website.	Medium	X				X	L										X	X	X		
B. Rollout QSHC (CT-section) Eco-regional Mapping. Learn about MA BioMap and Living Waters programs in uppermost Thames River Basin in Massachusetts.	Medium	X					L								X				X		UMass CES, Opacum Land Trust
1. Continue to develop GIS database layers at watershed scales for use in Natural Resource Inventory map sets	Low	X				X	X										X				NEMO
2. Expand GVI work and develop GIS based mapping as necessary for Lower Thames Basin	Long Range																				NEMO
<b>Goal 4: Promote Activities to Improve the Coastal Zone Resource Conditions</b>																					
A. Continue support for watershed restoration project/ <i>Phragmites</i> control at Poquetanuck Cove	High	X	X				X	X		X		X						X	L	Ledyard, Preston	ALC, USFWS, NEMO
B. Initiate education campaign on Long Island Sound TMDL for nitrates	Medium	X	X				X			X		X							L	Nonwich	
<b>Goal 5: Promote Activities to Improve Habitat and Natural Resource Conditions</b>																					
A. Promote completed restoration/retrofit projects, via TRBP newsletter and other means, as a model for other communities	Low	X				X													X	Thompson Coventry Killingly	NEMO
B. Disseminate available technical and funding resources for potential restoration projects. (Funding from partners and affiliates, governmental)	Low	X					X												X		
C. Support \$100,000 FY09 appropriation request to conduct Thames Basin Reconnaissance Study.	Medium														X		X				
D. 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				
<b>Goal 6: Provide Informational and Educational Opportunities on Natural Resource Issues to Individuals and Groups throughout the Thames River Basin</b>																					
A. Develop and conduct a Thames River "Floating Workshop" to address current resource issues related to the greater Thames River watershed. This annual event provides educational opportunities for municipal officials, local businesses, and concerned citizens.	Core	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X						x	L		
B. Participate in planning and publicizing the 2009 QSHC "Source to Sea" events. This series of events offers a means to distribute educational materials related NPS outreach.	Medium	X										L			X	X			X		FRC/AMC WRA
C. Continue to feature guest presenters at TRBP quarterly meetings in an effort to involve greater participation in TRBP activities.	Medium																		L		
D. Develop resource list for classroom water quality related educational outreach.	Long Range						X					X					X		X		CAS
E. Develop derivative fact sheet or fact sheet series in partnership with USGS	Long Range										L										

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		<a href="#">DEP</a>	<a href="#">ECCOD</a>	<a href="#">EPA</a>	<a href="#">RC&amp;D</a>	<a href="#">NRCS</a>	<a href="#">Project O</a>	<a href="#">Green Valley Institute</a>	<a href="#">Windham Regional COG</a>	<a href="#">NECCOG</a>	<a href="#">SocOG</a>	<a href="#">USGS</a>	<a href="#">QSHC</a>	<a href="#">Farm Service Agency</a>	<a href="#">UCONN CES</a>	<a href="#">Army Corps of Engineers</a>	<a href="#">Trout Unlimited</a>	<a href="#">TNC</a>	<a href="#">TRBP coordinator</a>	<a href="#">Local Communities</a>	<a href="#">Other</a>
<b>Goal 7: Partner with Individuals and Groups to Address Regional Environmental Issues, Strengthen the Partnership's Organizational Structure and Increase the Diversity of Stakeholders</b>																					
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 monitor 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. Promote TRBP activities to the region, which shall include distribution of the TRBP Plan of Work, annual reports, fact sheets, workshop information, <i>Partners in Action Report</i> etc. and development of mapping and other visual media.	Core	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	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 (i.e. Poquetanuck Cove Preservation Committee, Floating Workshop Committee, Brownfields) to focus on specific issues.	High	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			X	X						X	X		
F. Facilitate collaborations between partners to implement those planned activities. Potential activities include: 1) Work with towns and Partner agencies within the Thames River Basin watershed to create a database of potential storm water retrofit, stream bank stabilization projects and other NPS source remedies in 303d listed watersheds; 2) Coordinate with Partner agencies in the completion of one grant application for remediation of a NPS problem; 3) Organization of a focus group meeting of municipal leaders to exchange information to better address storm water and NPS problems.	High																		X		
G. Conduct long range strategic planning to ensure sustainability of partnership	Medium		X		X	X		X										X			