

Thames River Basin Partnership Plan of Work January 2012 - 2015



What Is The Partnership?

The Partnership is a voluntary, cooperative effort to share resources and to develop a regional approach to resource protection. The Partnership grew out of the locally led workshops held by the region's Conservation Districts. Priority areas of concern for the basin are:

- Protect the region's agricultural and natural areas being threatened by land use changes;
- Protect ground and surface water quantity and quality being threatened and degraded by contamination;
- Protect the region's biodiversity; and
- Improve the coastal zone resource conditions.

The Partnership is a fluid organization. Any government agency, non-profit conservation organization, educational institution, industry, municipality or individual with a focus on our key areas of concern in the greater Thames River watershed and surrounding areas is welcome to participate in the quarterly meetings and other events.

TRBP Plan of Work Steering Committee

Jean Pillo, Watershed Conservation Coordinator
Eastern Connecticut Conservation District

Eric Thomas, Watershed Manager
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

Elaine Trench
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The Nature Conservancy and Community Natural Resource Planning Program

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The Last Green Valley, Inc

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Thames River Basin Partnership Annual Plan of Work
January 2012 – January 2015

Goal 1: Protect the region’s agricultural and natural areas being threatened by land use changes

Action Items

- A. Participate in the land use issues initiative through The Last Green Valley Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
- B. Support implementation of the key strategies of Natchaug Basin Conservation Action Plan
- C. Promote relevant land use educational programs conducted by the Community and Natural Resource Planning Program, CLEAR and other UConn Extension programs.
- D. Participate in planning and publicizing annual regional agricultural event with the farmers in the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor: “Celebrating Agriculture” event
- E. Encourage development of locally important farm soil mapping
- F. Promote land stewardship through the continuance of the NRCS Healthy Soils initiative
- G. Provide assistance to farms to develop and implement Best Management Practices that will reduce NPS contaminated runoff
- H. Continue to promote the creation and support of Municipal Agriculture Committees/Commissions through the AGvocate program

Goal 2: Protect ground and surface water quantity and quality being threatened and degraded by contamination

Action Items

- A. Facilitate sharing of water quality data through various means
- B. Promote and support stormwater retrofit projects
- C. Promote and/or participate in water quality monitoring projects. Nutrient enrichment and river flow issues are recognized as the highest priority concerns
 - a. Support volunteer stream monitoring programs
 - b. Continue Thames Estuary monitoring
 - c. Support stream flow studies and gauging stations
- D. Support the develop Watershed Based Plans for impaired waters
 - a. Amos Lake, Preston, CT
 - b. Flat Brook, Ledyard, CT
- E. Promote and assist with NPS reduction implementation projects recommended in completed [Watershed Based Plans](#) as posted on the CT DEEP website
- F. Promote funding assistance opportunities for water quality projects provided by partnering organizations
- G. Work with partners to assess and develop access sites for small boats and fishing within the Thames River Basin
- H. Facilitate Planning for, and Protection of, Sustainable Drinking Water Supplies
- I. Support and promote information exchange related Total Maximum Daily Load pollution load allocation development and outreach

Goal 3: Protect the region's biodiversity

Action Items

- A. Participate in educational outreach on the subject of biodiversity considerations in regional planning. Promote statewide plans and other available data through links on the TRBP website
- B. Promote funding assistance opportunities for habitat improvement projects provided by partnering organizations
- C. Promote the use of native plant landscaping and invasive species management
- D. Promote and encourage fish passage initiatives, fish habitat restoration and culvert assessments.
- E. Promote the use of online natural resource mapping programs to help develop priorities for land use and open space planning
- F. Cooperate with CT DEEP regarding initiatives related to river flow impacts on habitat

Goal 4: Improve the coastal zone resource conditions

Action Items

- A. Continue support for watershed restoration project/ Phragmites control at Poquetanuck Cove
- B. Facilitate Coastal Management Plan Assistance
 - a. Develop a Conservation Action Plan for Poquetanuck Cove
- C. Provide small farm manure management assistance in the coastal zone region
- D. Facilitate Planning and Local Land Use Response to Sea Level Rise

Goal 5: Provide Informational and Educational Opportunities on Natural Resource Issues to Individuals and Groups throughout the Thames River Basin

Action Items

- 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. (Willimantic River focus in 2012)
- B. Develop and conduct workshops included on the 2009 Thames River Basin Partnership [Municipal Survey](#)
 - a. Climate Change Adaptation and Coastal Resilience Tools
 - b. Home landscaping best management practices
 - c. Low Impact Development strategies to help promote local regulation revisions
 - d. online mapping resources related to preparing a natural resource inventory and other planning tools
- C. Support “A New Look at the Natural World” training and advanced training for municipal officials

Goal 6: Partner with Individuals and Groups to Address Regional Environmental Issues, Strengthen the Partnership’s Organizational Structure and Increase the Diversity of Stakeholders

Action Items

- A. Continue to enhance the Partnership’s organizational structure in order to develop a sustainable and balanced workload, while achieving desired outcomes.
- B. Promote TRBP activities to the region, which shall include distribution of the TRBP Plan of Work, annual reports, fact sheets, workshop information, *Partners in Action Report* etc.
- C. Maintain the www.trbp.org website for the promotion of the organization and its goals, and to disseminate information to the membership.
- D. Promote greater participation, and establish workgroups (I.e. Poquetanuck Cove Preservation Committee, Floating Workshop Committee, Brownfields) to focus on specific issues.
- E. Conduct long range strategic planning to ensure sustainability of partnership