

**Thames River Basin Partnership
Plan of Work – July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010**

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	SCCOG*	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
DEP*	Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection	TLGV	The Last Green Valley
DPH	Connecticut Department of Public Health	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
ECCD*	Eastern Connecticut Conservation District	TU	Trout Unlimited
EPA*	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency	UCONN CES	University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System
FRC	French River Connection	WINCOG	Windham Regional Council of Governments
FSA	U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency	USFWS	United State Fish and Wildlife Service
GVI	Green Valley Institute	USGS*	U.S. Geological Survey
NDDH	Northeast District Department of Health	WRA	Willimantic River Alliance
NECCOG	Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments	WWP	Willimantic Whitewater Partnership
NEMO	Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials		

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

**Thames River Basin Partnership
2009/2010 Plan of Work**

Goals & Action Items	Ranking	Partners																			
		DEP	ECCD	EPA	RC&D	NRCS	Project.O	Green Valley Institute	Windham Regional COG	NECCOG	SCCOG	USGS	TLGV	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 Last Green Valley Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee	Core	X	X		X	X		L												Thompson Woodstock	
B. Natchaug River Protection Strategies - implement key strategies of Natchaug Basin Conservation Action Plan	Medium							X	X									X		Eastford Chaplin Ashford Hampton Mansfield Willington Windham	Woodstock Naubatusack Watershed Council
C. Participate in planning and publicizing annual regional agricultural event with the farmers in the Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor: "Celebrating Agriculture" event	High		X		X	X							X	L	X					Woodstock	First Pioneer Farm Credit
D. Borderlands Village Innovation Pilot Project - Develop recommendations and implementation strategies that focus new community growth in new or existing village centers and protects natural resources.	Medium							X		X								X		Killingly Exeter, RI	Orton Family Foundation Washington County Reg Planning Com
E. Continue Natural Resource Inventory assistance in upper Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor	Medium	X				X		L												Woodstock	
Goal 2: Promote Activities to Protect and Improve Ground and Surface Water Quantity, Quality and Recreational Value that are being Threatened or Degraded.																					
A. Support upload of volunteer water quality data to EPA WQX system.	Low	X		X		X							X								CAS
B. Promote and support stormwater retrofit projects in urban areas	Medium	X	X																		
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			
1. Support volunteer stream monitoring program	Medium	X	X	X		X	X					X	L					X			CAS FRC
2. Continue Thames Estuary monitoring	Low	X		X			X					X									
F. Develop a Watershed Based Plan that addresses water quality issues in the Mashamoquet Brook Watershed	Medium	X	L	X		X				X										Woodstock Pomfret	CAS
G. 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					X				X	X		X	WRA WWW FRC AMC

Goals & Action Items	Ranking	Partners																			
		DEP	ECCD	EPA	RC&D	NRCS	Project O	Green Valley Institute	Wincham Regional COG	NECCOG	SCCOG	USGS	TLGY	Farm Service Agency	UCONN CES	Army Corps of Engineers	Trout Unlimited	TNC	TRBP coordinator	Local Communities	Other
Goal 3: Promote Activities to Improve the Coastal Zone Resource Conditions																					
A. Continue support for watershed restoration project/ <i>Phragmites</i> control at Poquetanuck Cove	High	X	X																	Ledyard, Preston	ALC USFWS
Goal 4: Promote Activities to Improve Habitat, Biodiversity and Natural Resource Conditions																					
A. Promote completed restoration/retrofit projects, via TRBP newsletter and other means, as a model for other communities	High	X				X													X		
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		X				
D. Promote and encourage fish passage initiatives and fish habitat restoration.	Medium	X	X	X		X					X						X				
E. 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								X	X	X		
F. Cooperate with DEP regarding initiatives related to river flow impacts on habitat.	Medium	X	X	X		X					X						X				
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 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	X		
B. Continue to feature guest presenters at TRBP quarterly meetings in an effort to involve greater participation in TRBP activities.	Medium																		X		
C. Develop resource list for classroom water quality related educational outreach.	Long Range						X					X					X				CAS
D. Support municipal initiatives to educate local citizenry and land use decision makers on topics related to land use impacts on water quality, low impact development strategies, stormwater authority opportunities and alternate energy opportunities.	Low	X	X	X	X	X		X										X			ASRWWA
E. Develop fact sheet or fact sheet series in partnership with USGS	Long Range											L									

Goals & Action Items	Ranking	Partners																			
		DEP	ECCD	EPA	RC&D	NRCS	Project O	Green Valley Institute	Windham Regional COG	NECCOG	SCCOG	USGS	TLGV	Farm Service Agency	UCONN CES	Army Corps of Engineers	Trout Unlimited	TNC	TRBP coordinator	Local Communities	Other
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.	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			
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.	Core	X	X	X		X	X	X			X	X						X			
D. Maintain the www.trbp.org website for the promotion of the organization and its goals, and to disseminate information to the membership.	Core	X	X	X		X	X				X	X									
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			
F. Conduct long range strategic planning to ensure sustainability of partnership	Medium		X		X	X	X	X										X			ASRWVA