

**Thames River Basin Partnership
Plan of Work – July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007**

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.

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

ACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
DEP*	Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection
ECCD*	Eastern Connecticut Conservation District
EPA*	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FSA	U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency
GVI	Green Valley Institute
NRCS*	U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service
RC&D*	U.S. Department of Agriculture Resource Conservation & Development
Project O*	Project Oceanology
QSHC	Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc
SCCOG*	Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TU	Trout Unlimited – Thames Valley Chapter
UConn CES	University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension System
WINCOG	Windham Regional Council of Governments
USGS*	U.S. Geological Survey
Others:	Towns of Hampton, Killingly, Lisbon, Thompson, Woodstock, Willimantic River Alliance

Legend

High/Medium/Low 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 Q	Green Valley Institute	Windham Regional COG	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		X				L	X	X				X	Windham, Woodstock	
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 at Woodstock Fairgrounds, RC&D Bike Ride "Tour des Farms"	Medium		X		L	X						X	L						Woodstock	
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			X			Pfizer
D. Continue Natural Resource Inventory assistance in upper Quinebaug Shetucket Heritage Corridor			X					X												
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. Willimantic Streamwalk assessment in progress. (Note: Possible coordination with Action Item 4.A.) 604(b) grant.	High	X	L	X		L			X		X					X				CT Audubon Soc, WRA
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				TNC
1. Volunteer stream monitoring program, utilizing Project Oceanology's Citizen Monitoring Resource Center, CT DEP's expertise and others	Medium	X	X	X		X	X			X	L					X		L		CT Audubon Soc, Pfizer
2. Initiate basin-wide monitoring outreach event	Low	X		X							X	X								
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				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	

Thames River Basis Partnership
2006/2007 Plan of Work

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		<u>DEP</u>	<u>ECCD</u>	<u>EPA</u>	<u>RC&D</u>	<u>NRCS</u>	<u>Project Q</u>	<u>Green Valley Institute</u>	<u>Windham Regional COG</u>	<u>SCCOG</u>	<u>USGS</u>	<u>QSHC</u>	<u>Farm Service Agency</u>	<u>UCONN CES</u>	<u>Army Corps of Engineers</u>	<u>Trout Unlimited</u>	<u>TNC</u>	<u>TRBP coordinator</u>	Local Communities	Other
E. Initiate stream restoration project to fulfill 319 grant requirement	High	X	X		X	X		X							X		L			

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Goal 3: Promote Activities to Protect the Region's Biodiversity																				
A. Participate in educational outreach on the subject of biodiversity considerations in regional planning. Statewide forest resource plan. Statewide wildlife strategy. Promote statewide plans through links in TRBP website. Interact with Massachusetts; sponsor rollout of eco-region maps.	Medium	X	X			X											X	X		
B. Learn about MA BioMap and Living Waters programs in uppermost Thames River Basin in Massachusetts. Develop bio-maps with assistance from DEP Wildlife Division.	Low	X	X			X				X							X		X	CT Audubon Soc, Bird Conserv Research
1. Develop GIS database layers at watershed scales for use in Natural Resource Inventory map sets	Low	X				X				X							X			
Goal 4: Promote Activities to Improve Habitat and Natural Resource Conditions																				
A. Review previous stream walk survey assessments to identify potential opportunities to restore degraded aquatic habitats. Review French River riparian buffer project in Thompson. Look into October 2005 flooding impacts areas in upper Thames River Basin. Work with 319 Coordinator to research funding sources. (Note: Possible coordination with Action Item 2.A.)	Medium	X	L	X		X					X						X	X		WRA, FRC
B. Promote and encourage fish passage initiatives and fish habitat restoration. Cooperate with DEP regarding initiatives related to river flow impacts on habitat. Hallville Fishway.	Medium	X	L	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 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			CT Coast Guard vessel?
B. Assist Project Oceanology with water quality monitoring teachers training program. Match teacher training offers with appropriate age levels.	Medium							L										X		

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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. 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	
B. Continue working under the guidance of a Steering Committee with rotating leadership. The Steering Committee will continue meeting between the quarterly full Partnership meetings.	Core	X	X	X		X	X			X	X							X	
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	
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 TRB 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.	Medium	X	X	X		X	X			X	X							X	