07. Phasing & Next Steps

This Plan is intended to be used as a framework for the establishment of the Thames River Heritage Park. In the section that follows, recommendations discussed in the body of the report are organized according to priority and phasing. For the Park to realize its full potential, many recommendations of this plan will need to be initiated and delivered by different groups. While the internal, core operations (Andrei, is there any way to spell this out a little more? I found myself re-reading this several times. Maybe just add "such as"?) of the Heritage Park will be initiated by the park non-profit entity (in collaboration with various groups), larger, related projects which involve municipal and regional planning will need to be delivered by Groton, New London, the State of Connecticut, or private developers.

In the following matrix, we have broken down recommendations into 3 phases of work. The first phase of 1-3 years focuses on the establishment of the park - creation of the park administrative entity, development of a communications design and marketing plan, and deployment of signage and the water shuttle. The second phase of 2-5 years is focused on developing the resources available through the park, including educational and thematic programming, educational collaborations, and events. The third phase identifies long range projects. In all three phases, core Heritage Park activities are generally listed first, followed by recommended activities that would be carried on by outside partners, such as the aforementioned planning and development projects.

While all of the recommendations of the report have long-term implications in terms of funding, maintenance and management, some recommendations, due to their scale, complexity and expense may take years to develop. In the meantime, it is extremely important to identify and carry out short term projects that can translate the energy and concerns of the planning process into immediate and visible action. These short-term projects have over-riding importance as momentum builders and as a demonstration of the regional commitment to creation of the park.

While this plan provides a framework and overview of the form of the Thames River Heritage Park, how it might function, and what benefits might be received by the Thames River community, it is not an implementation plan. As the park administrative non-profit entity is established, a detailed and specific, task-oriented, long range plan should be developed with goals, milestones and funding sources to guide the next 10 years of Thames River Heritage Park development.

Acronyms used in the following table include:

City of NL City of New London

CT DECD Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development

CT DEEP Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

CT DOT Connecticut Department of Transportation

HPNP Heritage Park Non Profit