

Update

Thames River Heritage Park

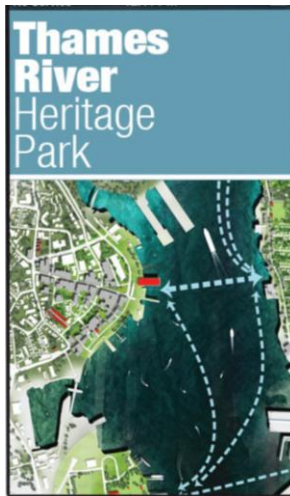
By

Penny Parsekian, Chair

TRHP Steering Committee

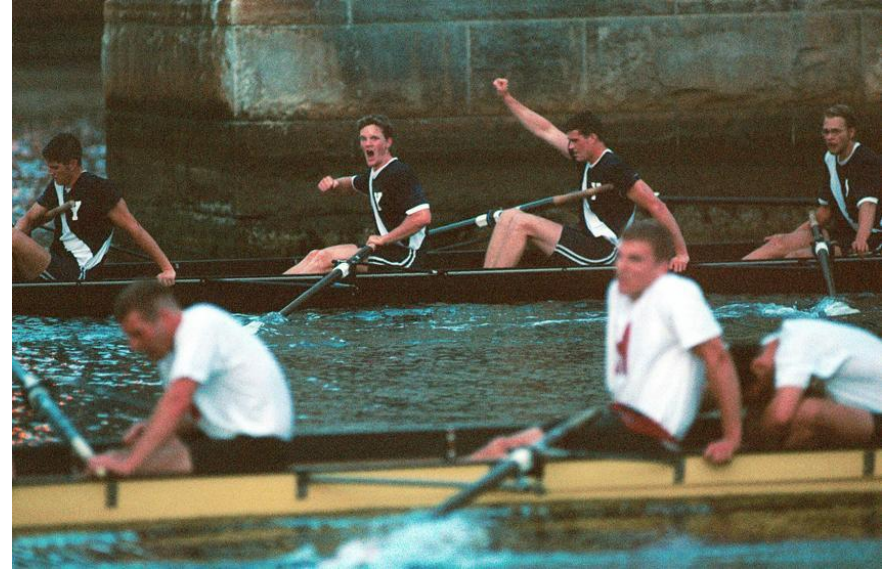
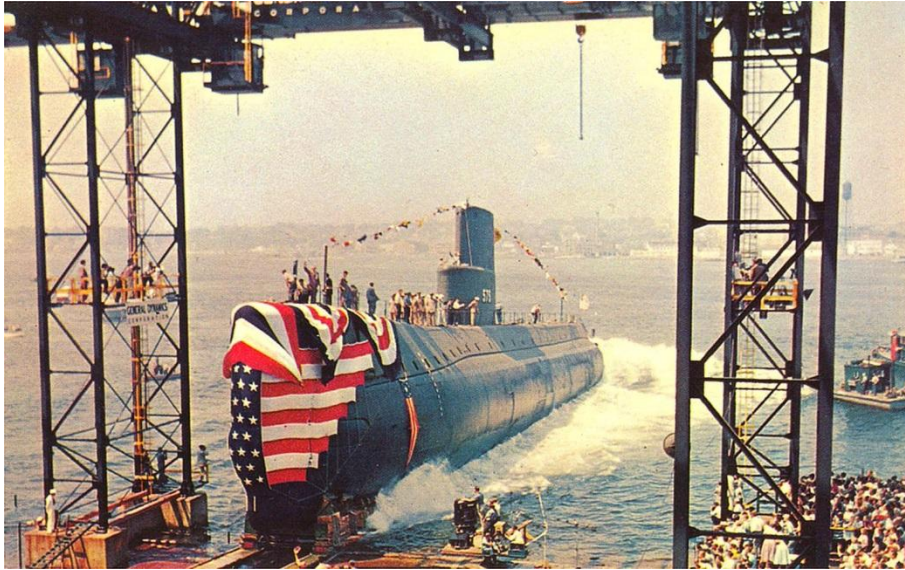
& Consultant to Avery-Copp House

What is the Thames River Heritage Park? What does the Avery-Copp House have to do with it?



The Avery-Copp House has provided the funding and leadership to re-start the effort to complete the heritage park in the estuary. The heritage park is a proposal whose time has finally come. Quick gloss:

Thames River Heritage Park, *where past and present are linked by the water*





The area's historic relationship with the sea extends through four centuries.





The region has an enviable transportation hub that includes rail, bus and ferries, and a deepwater port facility.





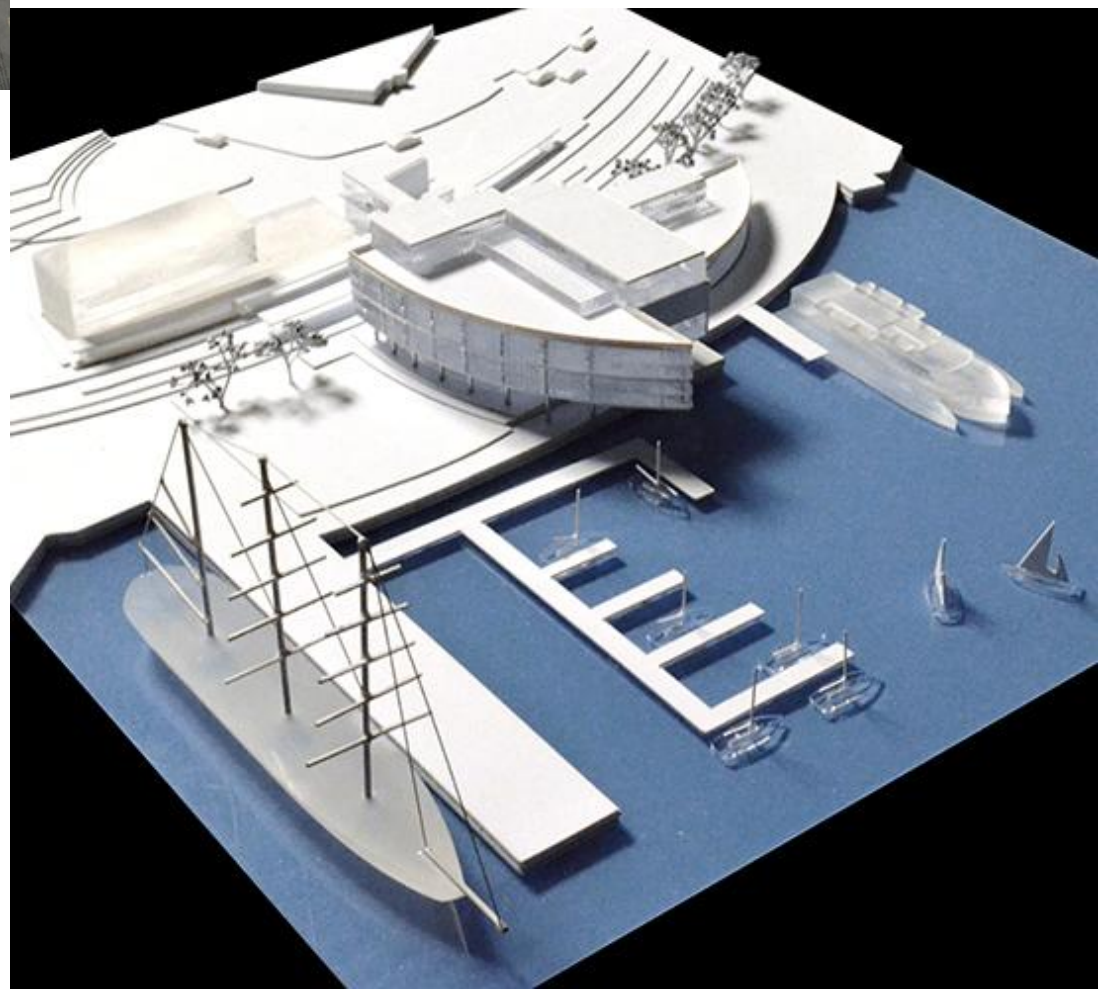
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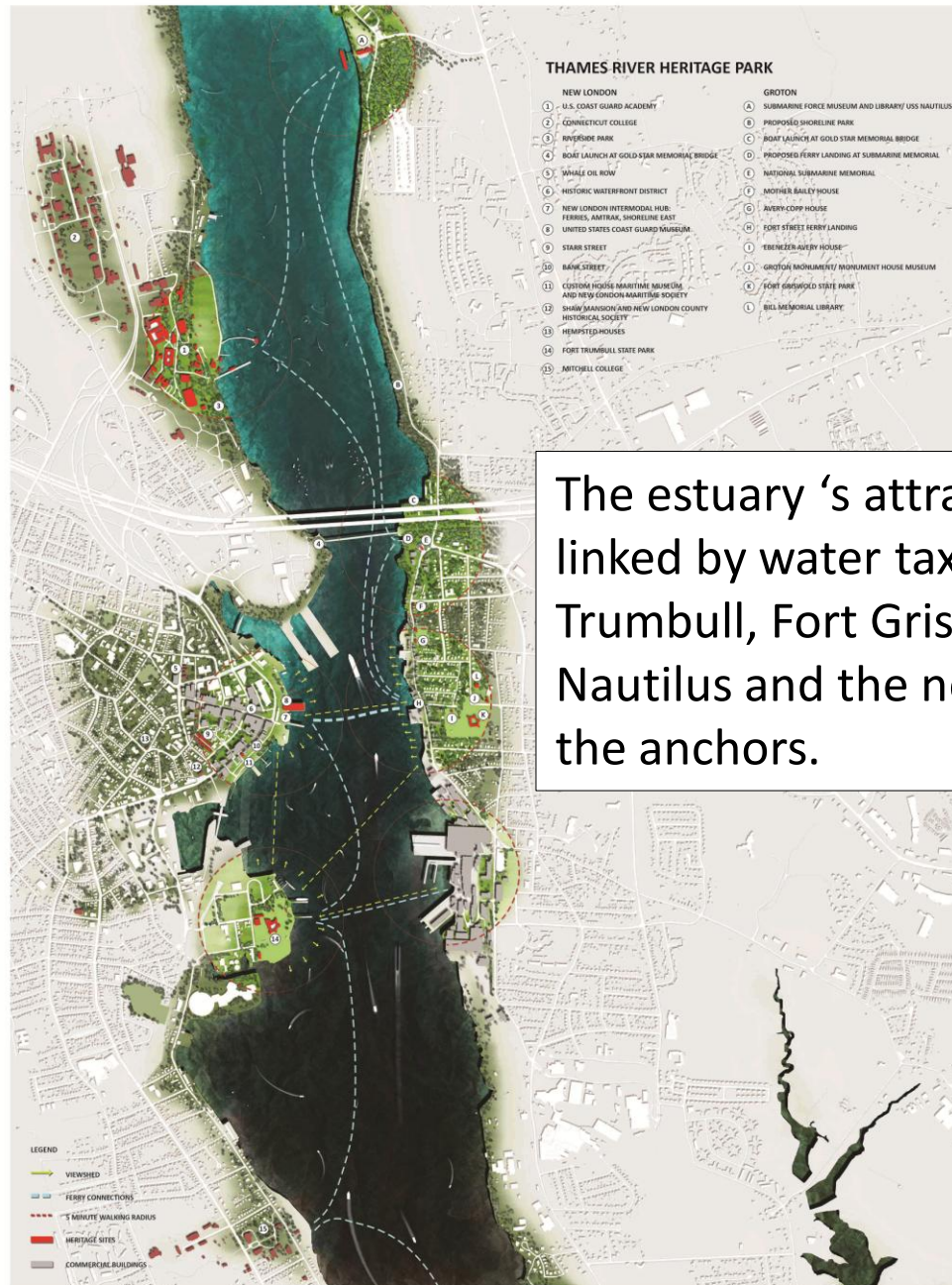
The region hosts considerable cultural assets.



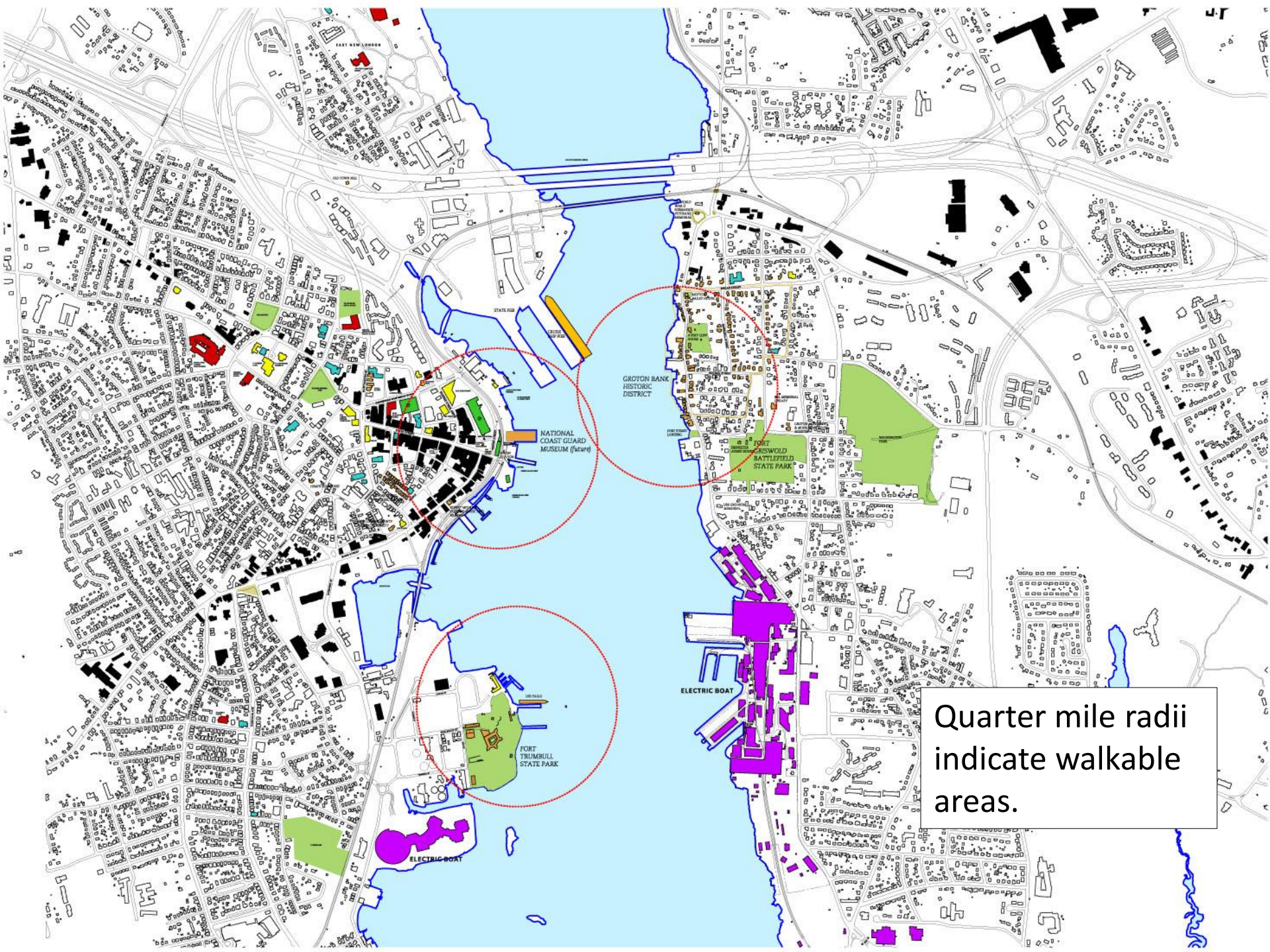


With more planned – the USCG Museum

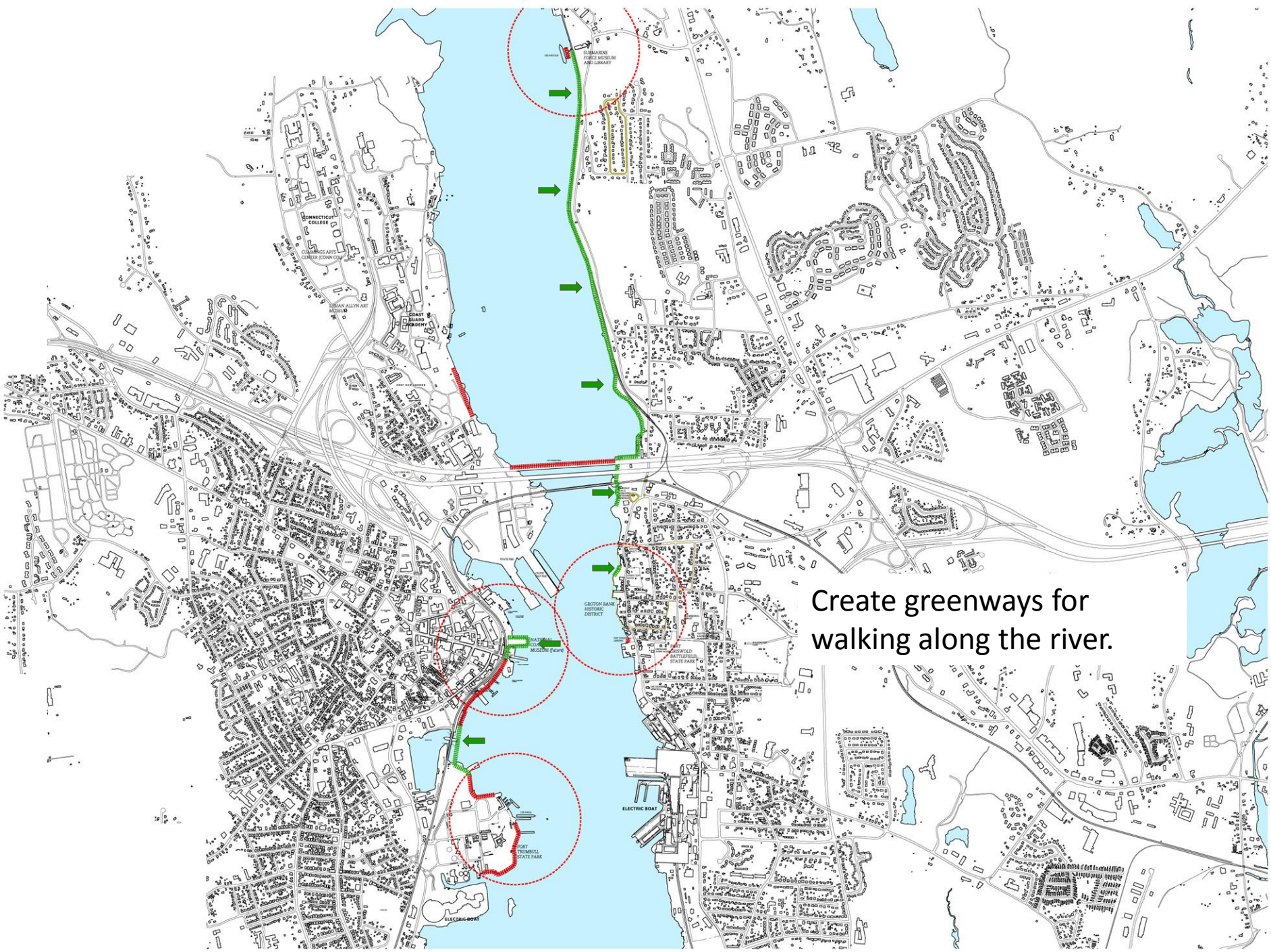




The estuary 's attractions can be linked by water taxi, with Fort Trumbull, Fort Griswold, the Nautilus and the new museum as the anchors.



Quarter mile radii indicate walkable areas.



Create greenways for walking along the river.

Regional Impact & Impetus

- The Heritage Park is not simply a plan to increase tourism to the region, but also a framework for regional transportation and economic development, as well as for cultural and educational initiatives and environmental management.
- Prepare for the arrival of the Coast Guard Museum and leverage the new museum's visibility and visitation, while mitigating the negative effects of traffic and parking through a regional traffic and parking management plan.
- Improved access to and use of the Thames River waterfront, including new and improved circulation, with options for pedestrians, bicycles, and especially a water taxi linking New London, Groton and the Submarine Museum.
- Would help New London and Groton present a cohesive image as a destination to better compete with other destinations for tourists.
- With Electric Boat's expansion into New London, and with UConn Avery Point students using dorm space at Mitchell College, the need to get employees and students across the river has created a new market for water shuttle service.
- Heritage institutions, large and small, are struggling for funding, visibility and relevance. Collaboration established by the park could increase visitation and provide a more compelling case for funding.

Past accomplishments to create the park

- Enabling legislation enacted 1987
- \$2.5 million in state funding allocated & expended on infrastructure and other amenities, such as the floating dock and waterfront park in Groton, below
- Negotiations with Navy completed to permit a floating dock at Nautilus



Recent developments

1. Contracted with Yale Urban Design Workshop to create an updated plan and help guide the effort.



Yale Urban Design Workshop
Center for Urban Research

1203 Chapel St. New Haven CT 06511

2. Laid the groundwork for support locally and in Hartford.

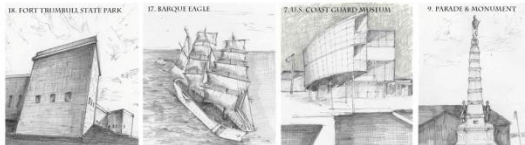




NEW LONDON

CONNECTICUT

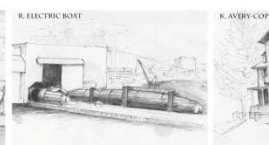
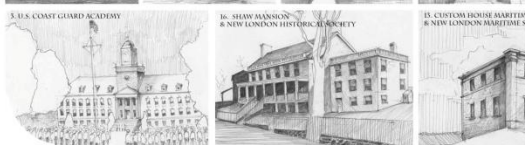
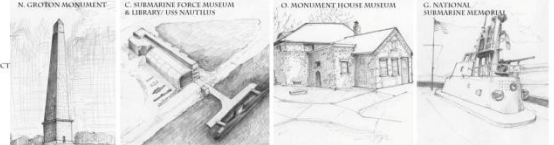
GROTON



- 1. MICHIGAN SUN CASINO
- 2. CONNECTICUT COLLEGE
- 3. U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY
- 4. STATE PIER
- 5. SHORT POINT FERRY
- 6. BLACK ISLAND FERRY
- 7. U.S. COAST GUARD MUSEUM
- 8. UNION STATION
- 9. PARADE & MONUMENT
- 10. NATHAN HALE SCHOOL HOUSE
- 11. WHALE OIL ROW
- 12. FISHERS ISLAND FERRY
- 13. CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM & NEW LONDON MARITIME SOCIETY
- 14. RAMP STREET
- 15. STARR STREET ICEBERG RECOVERY
- 16. SHAW MANSION & NEW LONDON MARITIME SOCIETY
- 17. BARQUE EAGLE
- 18. FORT THUMBALL STATE PARK

- A. FOXWOODS RESORT CASINO
- R. NORWICH
- C. SERAPINE FORCE MUSEUM
- G. LIBRARY / USS NATHAN
- G. LEOPOLDO VALLI BRIGATTA
- E. GOLD STAR BRIDGE
- I. INTERSTATE 95
- C. NATIONAL SUBMARINE MEMORIAL
- H. ANOTHER BULLY HOUSE
- D. THAMES STREET

- J. FORT STREET FERRY LANDING
- K. AVERY COFF HOUSE
- L. GROTON BANK HISTORIC DISTRICT
- M. BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
- N. GROTON MONUMENT
- O. MONUMENT HOUSE MUSEUM
- P. FORT GRIDWOLD STATE PARK
- Q. EBENEZER AVERY HOUSE
- R. ELECTRIC BOAT



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Yale brought talent to the effort. This birds eye view was hand drawn by a Yale intern.



Gateway Marker

Horizontal Orientation & Wayfinding
with Granite Support

QR Code Marker



Vertical Orientation & Wayfinding
with Granite Support

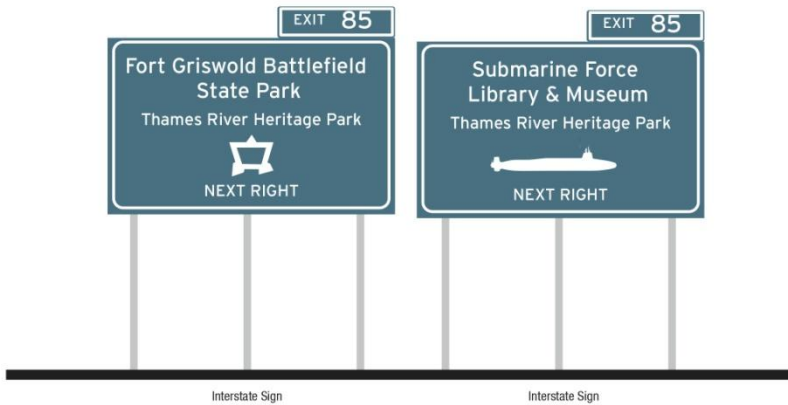
Vertical Orientation & Wayfinding
with Granite Support



Vertical Orientation & Wayfinding
with Steel Support

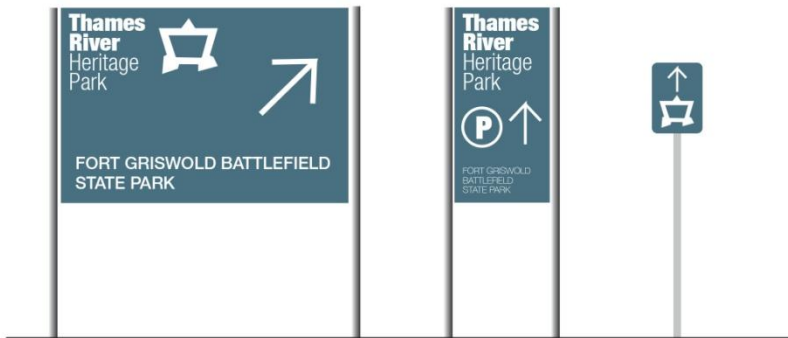
Horizontal Orientation & Wayfinding
with Steel Support

Yale has developed new conceptual plans for the park, along with graphics, granite markers, way finding signs, and



Interstate Sign

Interstate Sign



Large Scale Local Automobile Sign
(End of Highway Ramp
or Regional Routes)

Medium Scale Local Automobile Sign
(Primary Local Routes)

Small Scale Automobile Sign
(Local Streets)

highway directional
signage



and suggested ways to make the park more accessible.

Meanwhile, we have been building support

- Created a TRHP Steering Committee of representatives from both sides of the river
- Secured the endorsement of the SE CT legislative delegation. Representative Wright successfully introduced legislation to streamline the process to create the park
- Brought 44 stakeholder organizations on board
- Garnered 24 letters of support
- Met with The Day editorial board
- Secured endorsement of the Governor for water taxi and met with commissioners of DEEP, DECD, and DOT

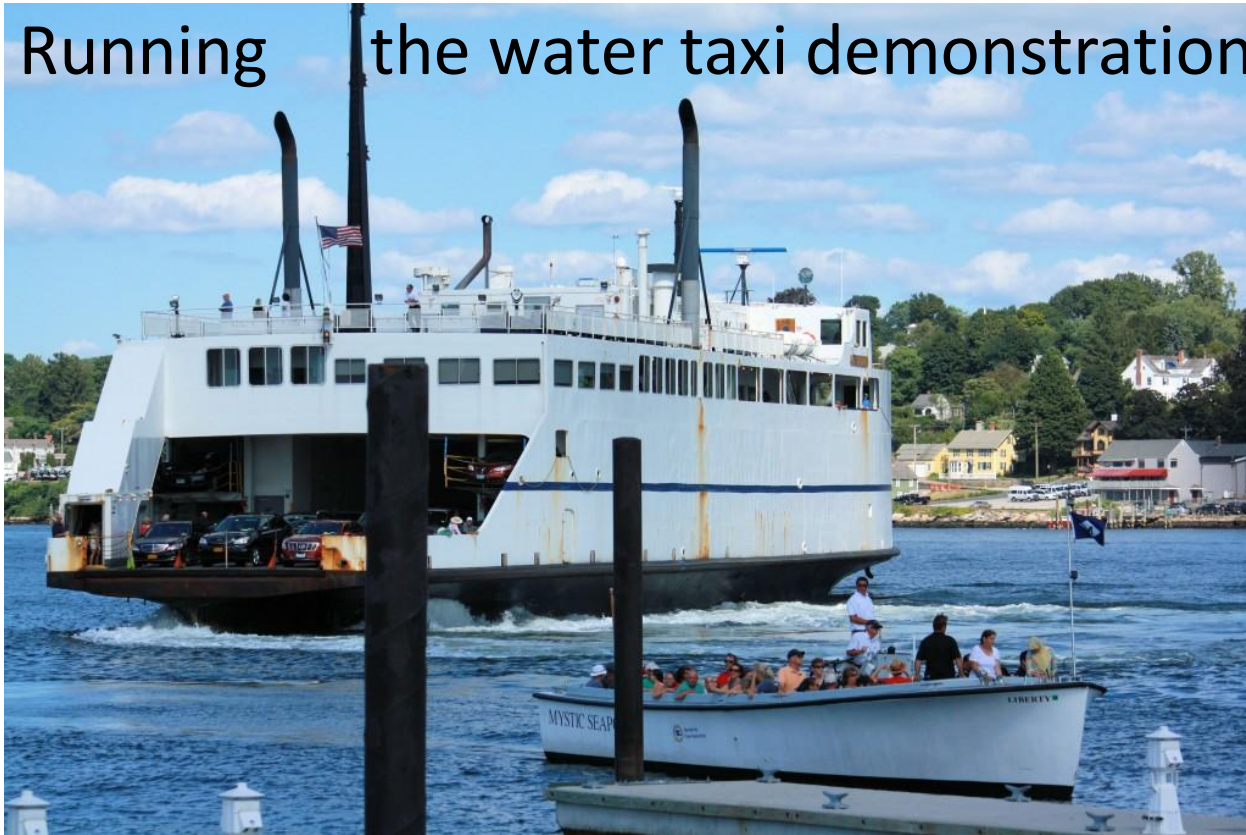
THAMES RIVER HERITAGE PARK VISION STATEMENT

The Thames River Heritage Park will be a network of people, communities, institutions, sites and stories connected by and to the historic waterfront and natural landscape of the Thames River and Long Island Sound.

The Park will engage residents and visitors in a rich program of events, culture and experiences that celebrate the diverse peoples and traditions that have shaped the life of the region.

The Park will be designed, programmed and promoted to make that heritage and culture vivid and accessible to all.

Running the water taxi demonstration



- 4,000 passengers
- 97 percent enjoyed it
- 93 percent would use it if regular operation
- Many would commute, catch train/ferry/bus, dine, get to school

Evidence of water taxi impact

- Businesses on both sides of the river reported increased sales, with lines around the block at Paul's Pasta.
- Avery-Copp House had the highest attendance ever recorded – 400 – at an event.
- Taxi passengers reported visiting sites they had never before visited and going to New London or Groton for other activities just to enjoy the ride.



Important impact: the Governor's attention & ultimately his endorsement for the taxi



Coming Up

- Yale report/blue print for action is due out this fall and will include implementation and management strategies
Please plan to be there!
- Regional response and organization
- Envisioning the right ferry service that will attract passengers and tie our region and heritage sites together such that the whole will indeed be greater than the sum of its parts.



Ferry on the Miles River in the Chesapeake