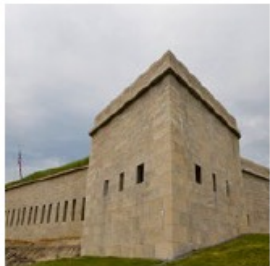


Thames River Heritage Park

ONE RIVER. A THOUSAND STORIES.



Thames River Heritage Park Funding Request – Water Taxi Operation

Expense	Description	Unit	Subtotal
Boat Operation	Boat Manager, Captains and Crew, Maintenance and Repairs, Fuel, Insurance, Licenses etc. – 3 boats	\$ 50,000	\$ 150,000
Administration	Tour Coordination, Scheduling, Ticket Admin., Bookkeeping, Software, etc.	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Promotion	Digital Communications Coordination, Ads, Brochures, etc.	\$ 55,000	\$ 55,000
Total Expense			\$ 250,000
Income	Description	Unit	Subtotal
State of CT DOT			\$ 200,000
Sales	Ticket Sales, Charters, Sponsorships		\$ 50,000
Total Income			\$ 250,000

Thames River Heritage Park a State of Connecticut Heritage Park

Sec. 23-10h. Heritage parks: Legislative policy. The General Assembly recognizes that the cities in the state have a rich historical and cultural heritage, that many of the **cities are in need of economic revitalization** and that **preservation and interpretation of such heritage can foster revitalization by encouraging private sector investment and tourism.** Therefore, the General Assembly declares that it is the policy of the state to develop new recreational opportunities in conjunction with the preservation and interpretation of such heritage through the designation of a **system of heritage parks so that the quality of life for Connecticut residents may be improved.**

Thames River Heritage Park a State of Connecticut Heritage Park

July 1990

**CT Department of
Environmental Protection**

designates

Thames Maritime Heritage Park

(predecessor of Thames River Heritage Park)

as a State park.



Thames River Heritage Park a State of Connecticut Heritage Park

Raised Senate Bill No. 314 *AN ACT CONCERNING THE HERITAGE PARK ADVISORY BOARDS*

Public Hearing – March 7, 2014 Environment Committee
Testimony Submitted by Interim Commissioner Robert J. Klee
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Susan K. Whalen

***DEEP supports the further development of the
concept of a “heritage park” ... and the Yale
Urban Design Workshop to develop a framework
for a community-based Thames River Maritime
Heritage Park ... and we are anxious to play a role
in the development of this project...***



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Public Hearing – March 7, 2014
Environment Committee

Testimony Submitted by Interim Commissioner Robert J. Klee
Presented By Deputy Commissioner Susan K. Whalen

Raised Senate Bill 314 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE HERITAGE PARK ADVISORY BOARDS

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding Raised Senate Bill 314 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE HERITAGE PARK ADVISORY BOARDS. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) welcomes the opportunity to offer the following testimony.

DEEP supports the further development of the concept of a “heritage park” after discussions with legislators and community leaders in the New London and Groton area. A large group of stakeholders in the area has been working over the past months with each other, legislators, the Department of Economic and Community Development, and the Yale Urban Design Workshop to develop a framework for a community-based Thames River Maritime Heritage Park, incorporating a wide array of cultural and historic sites on both sides of the Thames River. Fort Trumbull State Park in New London, and Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park in Groton are important elements of the local fabric of tourism destinations, and we are anxious to play a role in the development of this project if it comes to fruition.

The language of the proposed bill revisits statutory language that was created many decades ago when a string of state owned and managed heritage parks across the state was envisioned. With the passage of time, enthusiasm and financial support for that direction has waned, and new models of local and regional cooperation are actively under exploration.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the Committee and proponents of Raised Senate Bill 314 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE HERITAGE PARK ADVISORY BOARDS to discuss further and to advance our shared goal of a Thames River Maritime Heritage Park which includes participation by all the local, regional and state stakeholders.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this proposal. If you should require any additional information, please contact Robert LaFrance, DEEP's Director of Governmental Affairs, at 860.424.3401 or Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov).

Thames River Heritage Park a State of Connecticut Heritage Park

November 11, 2014

[The Day - Four more groups join push for Thames River Heritage Park](#)

"The Thames River Heritage Park is not a mere plan to **increase tourism to the southeast region of Connecticut** but a **framework for regional transportation and economic development** that would incorporate cultural, educational and environmental initiatives."

John Riccio Jr.
Chairman, Newington-based Maritime Commission

Thames River Heritage Park a State of Connecticut Heritage Park

Raised Bill No. 345 *AN ACT CONCERNING THE WATER TAXI AT THE HERITAGE PARK IN THE TOWNS OF GROTON AND NEW LONDON.*

January Session 2015

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (*Effective July 1, 2015*) The sum of **one hundred thousand dollars** is appropriated to the city of Groton, from the General Fund, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016, for the purpose of **funding the water taxi connecting the cities of Groton and New London at the Thames River Heritage Park.**



Thames River Heritage Park a State of Connecticut Heritage Park



City of Groton



City of New London



Town of Groton

Thames River Heritage Park a State of Connecticut Heritage Park

Mission

- ⚓ Connect
- ⚓ Support
- ⚓ Promote
- ⚓ Sustain





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SUBMARINE FORCE /
USS NAUTILUS MUSEUM

Connecticut

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GARDE ARTS CENTER

Connecticut

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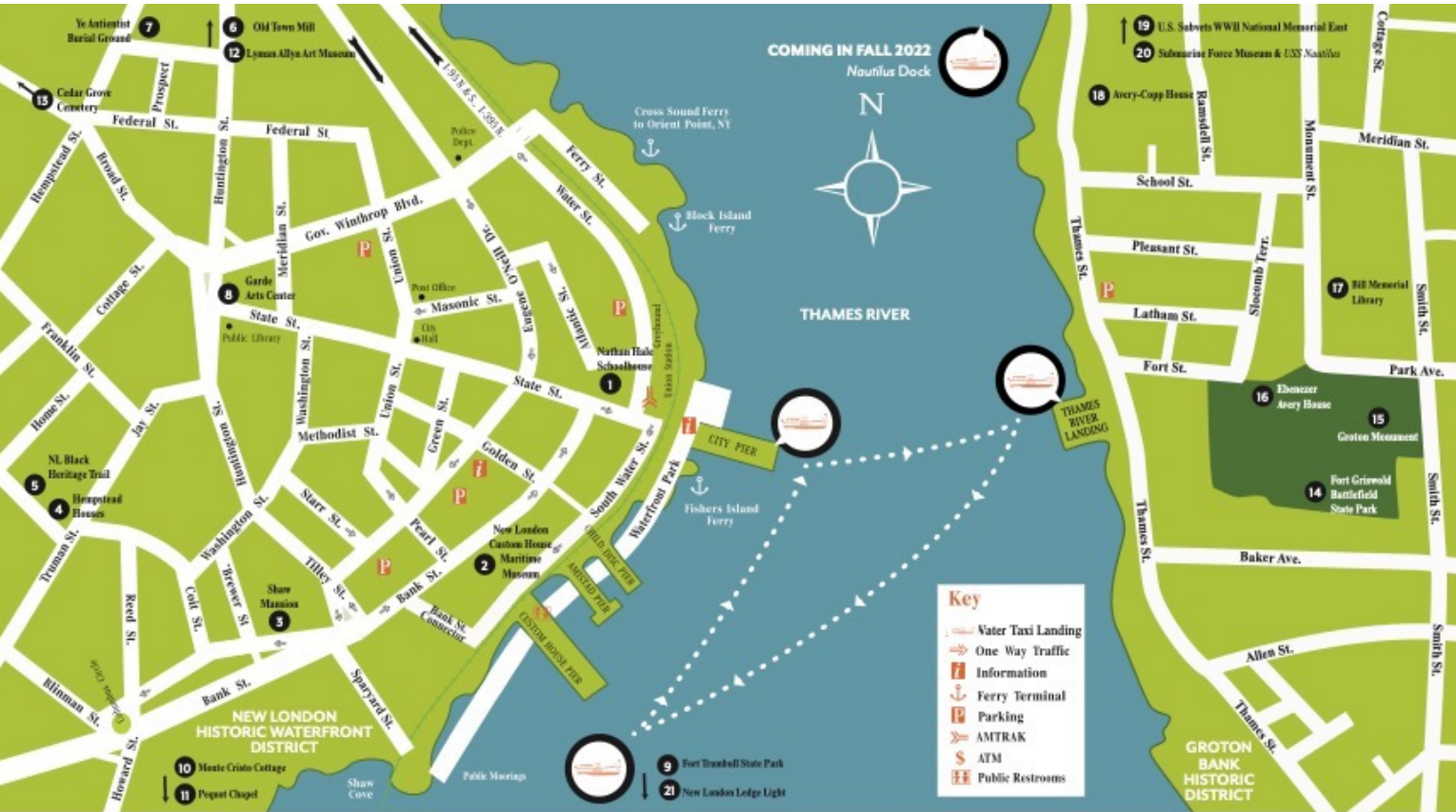
THAMES RIVER HERITAGE PARK MAP & GUIDE

DISCOVER THE THAMES

Connecticut



ThamesRiverHeritagePark.org



BOARD FROM ANY LANDING The water taxi makes three (3) stops each hour in a continuous hop-on, hop-off loop from 11am -7pm

TICKETS:

Hop-on Hop-off Harbor Cruise Round Trip Pass

Adults - \$10

Children 4-12 and Active Military* - \$5

Children 3 and Under - Free | All trips after 5 PM - \$5

Rates subject to change without notice. | *Active Military ID Req.

SEASON PASSES:

Adult \$50 | Child \$30 - All rides / All Season

Passengers may disembark and reboard. Water taxi runs rain or shine.

Bicycles accommodated, space permitting. Well-behaved dogs welcome.

WATER TAXI / HARBOR CRUISE SCHEDULE

Saturday, Sunday & Holidays

June 11 - Sept 11 • 11AM-6PM

FORT TRUMBULL STATE PARK, New London: on the hour

CITY PIER New London: 20 minutes after the hour

GROTON LANDING Groton: 40 minutes after the Hour

NEW LONDON SITES

NEW LONDON'S HISTORIC WATERFRONT DISTRICT



1. NATHAN HALE SCHOOL HOUSE
One-room schoolhouse where Hale taught from 1774-1775 just before he enlisted as spy in the American Revolutionary War. 0.1 Miles*



2. NEW LONDON CUSTOM HOUSE MARITIME MUSEUM
Exhibits New London's maritime and whaling history, *La Amistad*, and regional lighthouses. 0.2 Miles*



3. SHAW MANSION
Built in 1756 by Capt. Shaw. Hosted General George Washington. Served as headquarters for CT's state navy and local privateers. 0.3 Miles*



4. HEMPSTED HOUSES
Two homes which served 9 generations of Hempsted's and survived the burning of New London in 1781. 0.6 Miles*



5. NL BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL
Celebrates three centuries of Black strength, resilience, and accomplishment while telling the stories about Black life in New London. 0.6 Miles*



6. OLD TOWN MILL
Originally built in 1650 by John Winthrop Jr., the founder of New London and later governor of CT. One of the oldest industrial sites in CT. 1.2 Miles*



7. YE ANTIENLIST BURIAL GROUND
One of the earliest graveyards in New England and the oldest colonial cemetery in the county. 1 Mile*



8. GARDE ARTS CENTER
Beautifully restored 1920's movie palace and vaudeville theatre with an exotic Moroccan design – a regional center for the arts. 0.4 Miles*



9. FORT TRUMBULL STATE PARK
1852 fort with world-class visitor center and museum depicting 225 years of military history.



10. MONTE CRISTO COTTAGE
Childhood home of Eugene O'Neill, America's only Nobel Prize winning playwright and setting for his *Long Day's Journey into Night*. 1 Mile*



11. PEQUOT CHAPEL
Opened in 1853, decorated with two stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany, a regular summer visitor. Sunday services June - early September at 10:55AM. 2.2 Miles*



12. LYMAN ALLYN ART MUSEUM
A 2,600-year period collection, Louis Comfort Tiffany exhibit, art depicting whaling industry and special exhibitions. 1.8 Miles*



13. CEDAR GROVE CEMETERY
Park-like final resting place of many of the city's most significant citizens: colonial-era diarist, ship captains, top elected officials and wealthy Gilded Age industrialists. 0.6 Miles*

GROTON SITES

NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT



14. FORT GRISWOLD BATTLEFIELD STATE PARK
Site of an infamous 1781 massacre by British troops aided by turncoat Benedict Arnold. 0.5 Miles*



15. GROTON MONUMENT
The 1st obelisk completed in the U.S., the 135' monument is open for climbing in season. 0.5 Miles*



16. EBENEZER AVERY HOUSE
Sheltered the wounded after the tragic massacre at Fort Griswold. 0.1 Miles*



17. BILL MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Built in 1890 the library displays the Bill family's collection from around the world and the sword that killed Colonel Ledyard at the Battle of Groton Heights. 0.4 Miles*



18. AVERY-COPP HOUSE
Victorianized colonial with original 19th and 20th century treasures that tell the story of domestic life during these periods. Special focus on Irish domestics. 0.4 Miles*



19. SUBVETS WWII NAT'L MEMORIAL EAST
Sail of *USS Flasher* graces this memorial dedicated to 3,617 submariners who lost their lives during WWII. 0.6 Miles*



20. SUBMARINE FORCE LIBRARY & MUSEUM
WATER TAXI LANDING COMING FALL 2022
Experience the world's first nuclear submarine and view the nation's finest exhibits and collections of America's submarine heritage. 2.5 Miles*



21. NEW LONDON LEDGE LIGHTHOUSE
Perched out in Fishers Island Sound at the mouth of the Thames River, Ledge Light has served as a navigation aid since 1909 and is a symbol of maritime New London.

* Walking distance from closest water taxi landing.

= At or within walking distance to Water Taxi Landing

THANK YOU TO OUR SEASON SPONSORS





Thames River Heritage Park
DOCENT ACADEMY

**History lovers,
 you are in for a treat!**

Join the 2nd Cohort!

10-week training program
 for current and prospective volunteers

**Lively Informative Talks and
 Presentations**

Tours of Heritage Sites

See the 10-week schedule on back.

Every Tuesday, 9 AM – 12 Noon
 Tuesday, February 21, 2023 – April 25, 2023
 Make-Up Date: Tuesday, May 4, 2023

[More Information / Registration](https://ThamesRiverHeritagePark.org/Docent-Academy)
<https://ThamesRiverHeritagePark.org/Docent-Academy>

A collaborative effort by
 heritage sites that comprise

**Thames River
 Heritage Park**
 ONE RIVER. A THOUSAND STORIES.

**Docent Academy
 Tentative Schedule**

Week 1

Welcome
 Park Overview
Mohegan Life on the Thames
 Fort Trumbull State Park,
 Fort Trumbull Conference Center*

Week 2

Colonial Life on the Thames
 Hemsted Houses, Shaw Mansion,
 Old Town Mill, OIC*

Week 3

American Revolution on the Thames
 Bill Memorial Library*, Fort Griswold Battlefield
 & Museum State Park, Ebenezer Avery House

Week 4

**Whaling Industry and
 The Immigration Story on the Thames**
 Avery-Copp House Museum*
 Hidden Thames Street Quest

Week 5

The Gilded Age on the Thames
 Pequot Chapel, Monte Cristo Cottage
 Fort Trumbull Conference Center*

Week 6

Military on the Thames
 Submarine Force Museum and Library*

Week 7

**Public Speaking Basics
 Guiding People w Special Needs
 NL Black Heritage Trail**
 Fort Trumbull Conference Center *
 NL Black Heritage Trail

Week 8

**The Visitor Experience
 The Arts on the Thames - Part I**
 Lyman Allyn Art Museum*

Week 9

The Arts on the Thames - Part II
 Garde Arts Center*, Hygienic Art
 NL Waterfront Park Quest

Week 10

Fort Trumbull Quest/ Narrated Boat Tour
 Graduation & Commission**
 Fort Trumbull Conference Center*

* The day starts here.
 ** Pending boat availability.



Stories from the Park Lecture Series

In partnership with Lyman Allyn Art Museum

Morton Plant: Gilded Age Gossip, Giving and the (income) Gap

Gail MacDonald, Journalist and Author

Wednesday, 1/4/2023 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Love and Brutality: The Mysterious Saga of Gallows Road.

Lisa Brownell, Author

Wednesday, 1/25/23 | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

For Adam's Sake: A Family Saga in Colonial New England

Allegra DiBonaventura, Author

Wednesday, 2/15/23 | 6:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Homegrown Terror: Benedict Arnold and the Burning of New London

by Eric Lehman, Author

Wednesday, 3/8/23 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Spooky Trails and Tall Tales Connecticut: Hiking the State's Legends, Hauntings, and History

Stephen Gencarella, Author

Wednesday, 3/29/2023 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Earth and Sky: Nature Meditations in Word and Watercolor

Judy Benson, Journalist and Author

Roxanne Steed, Illustrator

Wednesday, 4/19/2023 | 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Thames River Heritage Park a State of Connecticut Heritage Park

Office / Visitor's Center



Thames River Heritage Park Funding Request – Water Taxi Operation

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DISCOVER THE
Thank you!
THAMES

