

Implementer Bill for Thames River Heritage Park

Priority Items

1. Regular funding line item to support:
 - a. water taxi harbor cruise and history-themed boat tour operation;
 - b. marketing and promotion of Park and its heritage sites, programs and events;
 - c. coordination of collaborative Park-wide and themed programs;
 - d. general administration.
2. Office space at Fort Trumbull State Park or alternate site in prominent location to promote Park.
3. Designated liaison from DEEP administration.
4. Full inclusion in State marketing such as. https://www.ctvisit.com/new_london
5. Listing as State Park on DEEP website.

Thames River Heritage Park Foundation
Executive Summary Items for State of Connecticut

DOT active partnership and commitment might include, but is not limited to:

- Line-item funding to support the annual maintenance, operation and storage of 3 water taxis (former navy utility boats). Approximate current costs are \$210,000 - \$50K per boat for annual maintenance and operation and \$60K for winter boat storage (\$20K/boat) for FYE 2024 and 2025.
- Assistance with securing boat winter storage at Fort Trumbull State Park or other State property on the Thames, which is estimated to decrease costs by \$40-50K/year in storage and contractor fees.
- Support with grant applications sought by the Foundation – letters of support, research, etc.
- Lead for transportation related grant applications available only to state agencies.

DEEP active partnership and commitment might include, but is not limited to:

- Addition of Thames River Heritage Park to the listing of state parks, historic parks and museums, field trip sites, Park ConneCT, Find Park by Activities (boat tours, harbor cruises), etc. on DEEP website and materials
- Office and welcome center at Fort Trumbull State Park
- Use of the parks and park infrastructure: docks, office, storage, meeting facilities
- DEEP liaison at State level to the Foundation
- Staff support to help develop TRHP programming for DEEP initiatives, such as “No Child Left Inside” and “Sky’s the Limit”, to add THRP to DEEP’s Heritage Passport program, and other collaborations as mutually agreed.
- Support with grant applications sought by the Foundation – letters of support, research, etc.
- Lead for grant applications related to parks, recreation and heritage sites available only to state agencies.
- Guide and assist with additional highway signage to promote Park.

DECD active partnership and commitment might include, but is not limited to:

- Promotion and increased presence of Thames River Heritage Park and recognition on State’s tourism website, CTVisit.com
- Promotion of Thames River Heritage Park by CT Office of the Arts
- Increased promotion of Thames River Heritage Park by local Designated Regional Service Organization
- Increased presence in CT marketing campaigns
- Lead for grant applications related to history, heritage and culture initiatives available only to state agencies.

With the knowledge and consent of DEEP, DOT and DECD, the **Foundation’s active partnership and commitment** would continue, but is not limited to:

- Administration of the boat operator contract for the water shuttle operation.
- Procurement of public/private funding for the operations and marketing of the Park.
- Creation of partnerships with cultural institutions, private businesses, educational institutions, military institutions and municipalities.
- Development of the Park experience including membership, collaborative program development, themes and stories.
- Development of the Nautilus dock and water shuttle to / from the Nautilus dock to City Pier to connect with the shuttle to Fort Trumbull and Groton Landing.
- Recruitment, selection and management of the staff to support the programming and operational initiatives of Foundation.