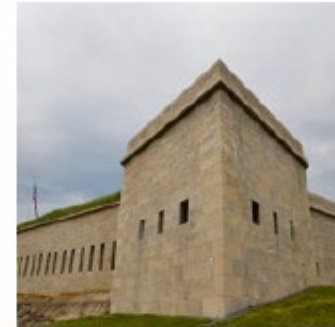
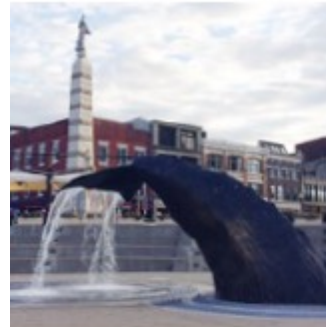


# Thames River Heritage Park

ONE RIVER. A THOUSAND STORIES.



# Thames River Heritage Park Funding Request – Water Taxi Operation

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
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
<b>Income</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
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](mailto:Robert.LaFrance@ct.gov) (or, Elizabeth McAuliffe, DEEP Legislative Liaison, at 860.424.3458 or [Elizabeth.McAuliffe@ct.gov](mailto: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



NEW LONDON

Thames  
River  
Heritage  
Park

WATER TAXI



# DISCOVER THE THAMES





**HEMPSTED HOUSES  
JUNETEENTH ★ JUNE 11**

Connecticut

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THE  
THAMES**

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**HISTORIC BOAT TOURS ★ JUNE 11 – SEPT 11**

Connecticut

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SUBMARINE FORCE /  
USS NAUTILUS MUSEUM

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GARDE ARTS CENTER

**DISCOVER  
THE  
THAMES**

1-95 North Exit 83  
[DISCOVERTHETHAMES.COM](http://DISCOVERTHETHAMES.COM)

# THAMES RIVER HERITAGE PARK MAP & GUIDE

# DISCOVER THE THAMES

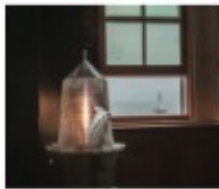
Connecticut



COMING IN FALL 2022  
Nautilus Dock

**Key**

- Water Taxi Landing
- One Way Traffic
- Information
- Ferry Terminal
- Parking
- AMTRAK
- ATM
- Public Restrooms



**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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
Hempsted 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**

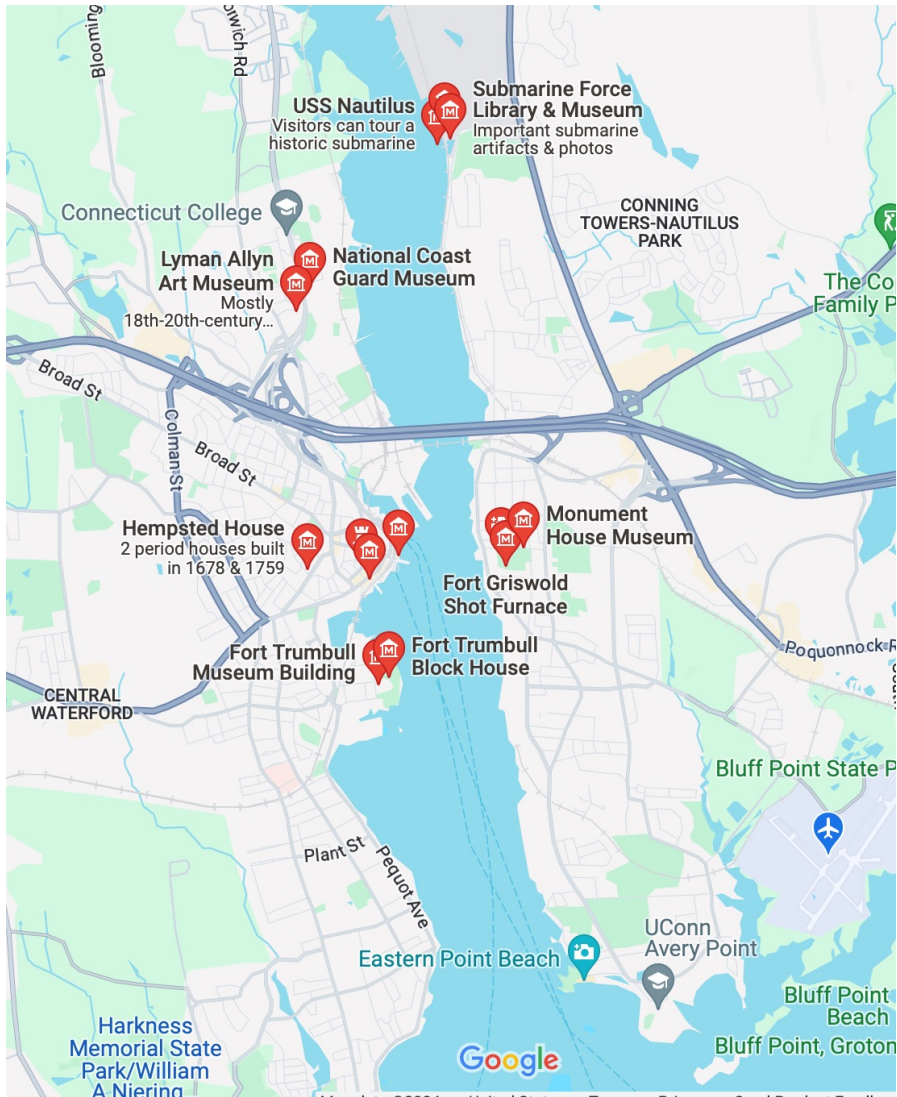
**Earth and Sky: Nature Meditations in Word and Watercolor**

Judy Benson, Journalist and Author

Roxanne Steed, Illustrator

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

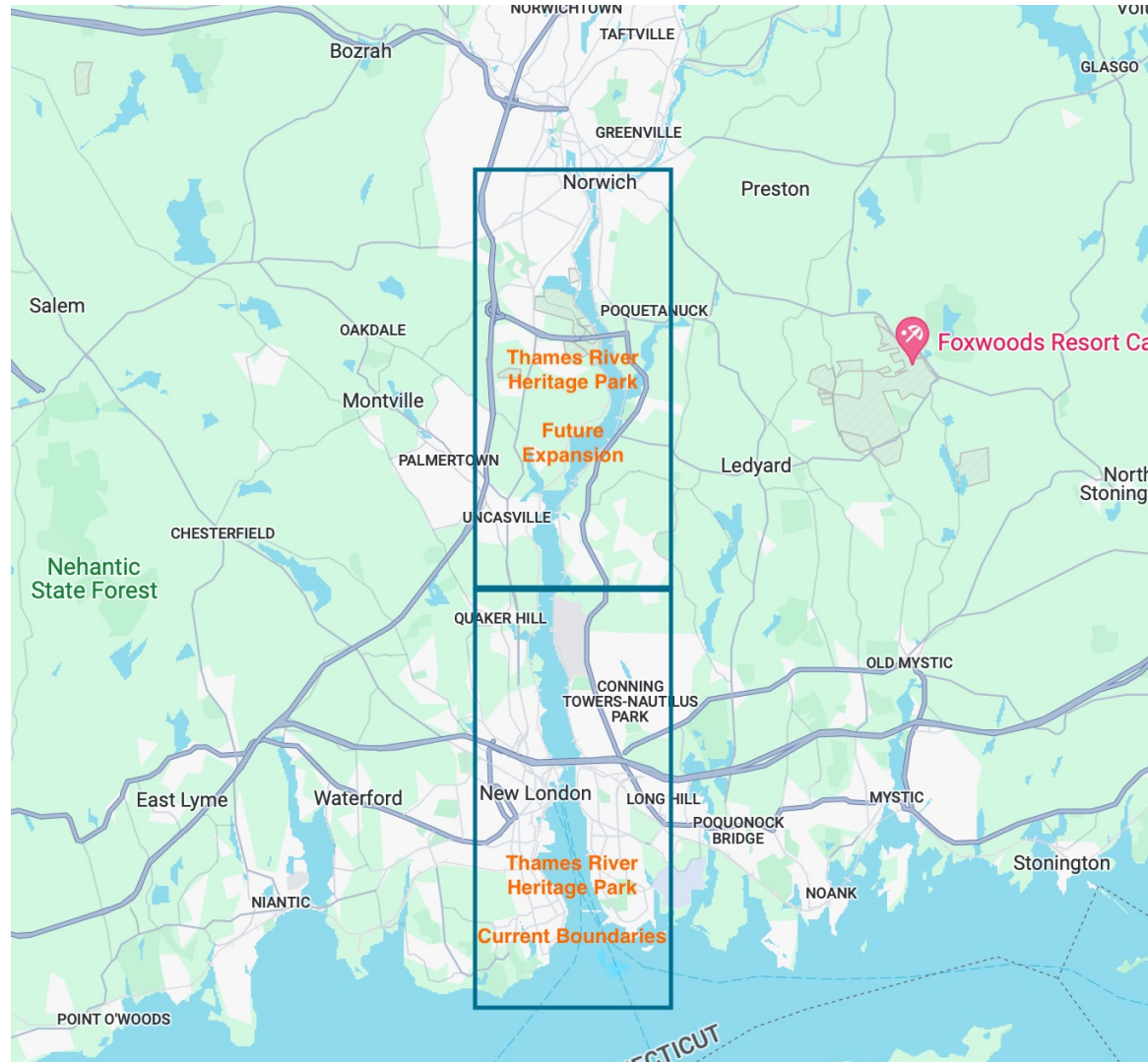
# TRHP's Current Footprint



As of March 2024 Thames River Heritage Park includes 22 heritage sites and 13 institutional partners located in the southern end of the Thames in Groton and New London.

- [Avery-Copp House Museum](#)
- [Bill Memorial Library](#)
- [Cedar Grove Cemetery](#)
- [Custom House Maritime Museum](#)
- [Ebenezer Avery House](#)
- [Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park](#)
- [Fort Trumbull State Park](#)
- [Garde Arts Center](#)
- [Hempsted Houses](#)
- [Historic Groton Bank](#)
- [Ledge Lighthouse](#)
- [Lyman Allyn Art Museum](#)
- [Monte Cristo Cottage](#)
- [Nathan Hale School House](#)
- [NL Historic Waterfront District](#)
- [NL Black Heritage Trail](#)
- [NL Mural Trail](#)
- [NL Old Town Mill](#)
- [Pequot Chapel](#)
- [Shaw Mansion](#)
- [St. James Episcopal Church](#)
- [Submarine Force USS Nautilus Museums](#)
- [US SUBVETS WWII National Memorial East](#)
- [Ye Antientist Burial Ground](#)

# TRHP's Future Footprint



Future Plans expand the reach of Thames River Heritage Park to include the northern end of the Thames and the heritage sites in Quaker Hill, Gales Ferry, Montville, Uncasville and Norwich.

## Potential Sites

Leffingwell House Museum	Slater Memorial Museum
Well's Dinosaur Haven	Old Norwichtown Cemetery
Tantaquidgeon Museum	Fort Shantok
Bean Hill Historic District	Norwich Historical Society
Norwich Harbor Water Trail	Uncas Leap Heritage Park

Dr. Daniel Lathrop Schoolhouse  
Miantonimo/Miantonomo Memorial  
Stoddard Hill State Park Scenic Reserve  
Joseph Carpenter Silversmith Shop and History Museum  
Nathan Lester House & Tool Museum

# Thames River Heritage Park a State of Connecticut Heritage Park

Office / Visitor's Center



# Thames River Heritage Park Funding Request – Water Taxi Operation

<b>Expense</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>
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State of CT DOT			\$ 200,000
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**Thank  
you!**  
THAMES

