

Team 2: French River Boat Launch - Thompson, CT 06255

Sponsored by: Town of Thompson
Sponsor Advisor: Charles Elias



From left to right: Joseph Leone, Nicholas Venuti, Emily Bousaada, Samuel Couch

The Town of Thompson looks to extend a paddling route outlined by the multi-state conservation group, The Last Green Valley. The route along the French River reaches far into southern Massachusetts, but ends abruptly at a dam in North Grovesnordale, preventing kayakers from continuing on down river. The purpose of the proposed design is two fold: 1) to allow kayakers and canoes to portage around the dam, and 2) to provide residents of Thompson and North Grovesnordale additional access to the paddling trail.

The site is located in North Grovesnordale, Connecticut off State Highway Route 12. It is a small town owned parcel situated between Route 12 (Riverside Drive) and the French River. The front of the site (closest to Route 12) will be a parking area. A trail with ample space for transporting canoes and kayakers will lead from the parking area to the river, where these can be launched safely from the proposed small boat launch. The front of the property currently serves as a driveway to the neighboring property. The parking lot will be designed in such a way to allow an existing residential driveway on site to remain in use. The site is currently littered with garbage, glass, fallen trees, and an old foundation.

The design is split into three parts. The first part to be designed is the trail starting at the parking lot, winding through the property where it ends at the boat launch. Next, the boat launch will be designed. The boat launch shall be designed with input from the local kayakers who currently use the paddling route. The final design approval will come from The Town of Thompson. Third, the parking area will be designed last to minimize imported or exported fill.

The Town of Thompson intends for the project to be designed and constructed using a minimal amount of money. The topographic survey was self-performed by Team #2 group members. In addition, the site design will show that Team #2 placed emphasis on simplicity, cost efficiency, and ease of construction. The initial vision was to provide a safe, accessible, and efficient way for kayak and canoe enthusiasts to launch their vessels into the French River.

