

APPENDIX B. PROGRESS SINCE 1997

Actions Taken since Publication of the Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan In 1997

Boater education provided	CRJC published “Boating on the Connecticut River in NH & VT” with help from the VT Agency of Natural Resources and US Gen New England, and posted recreation maps of the river on its web site. Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission prepared maps to show public river access sites and varying suitability for power boating. CRJC also established new pages of information and links for paddlers and other recreationists. Boating pamphlets have been provided free of charge to the public and to local outlets. The State of NH joined VT in making boater education mandatory.
River access improved	Lyme established its first public river access, a car-top access at the mouth of Hewes Brook. Local subcommittee members posted river maps and boat speed cautions at launch sites. VT Fish & Wildlife Department offered assistance to CT River towns to improve car-top boat access to the river.
Profile raised for river recreation	Lebanon updated the land use chapter of its master plan with prominent attention to river access and protection, and is updating the recreation chapter. The CT River was named an American Heritage River in 1998.
River camping and public recreation access improved	With funding from CRJC, the Upper Valley Land Trust published a map of Connecticut River Canoe Campsites and worked to increase awareness of public access on conserved lands. Subsequent grants allowed the Land Trust to work with farmland owners to resolve challenges in permitting public access to conserved farmland. Piermont landowners conserved a half-mile of river frontage and a beach popular with boaters. Lebanon’s Conservation Commission conserved Signal Hill and planned for its recreational use. Lebanon Rotary Club developed and made progress on its “String of Pearls” project. The City and Rotary Clubs pursued recreational opportunities at the Westboro rail yard and at Two Rivers Park.
CT River Birding Trail created	The George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Area assisted a valley birding expert to develop the CT River Birding Trail, a set of 46 nature observation sites from Springfield VT to Haverhill, NH. Funding from CRJC and others helped publish a trail guide. The Conte Refuge and others are now working on extending the effort both north and south, with the goal of a “trail” from the source to the sea.
Recreational programs offered	Lebanon’s Conservation Commission and Recreation Department co-sponsored "Wild about Lebanon," a series of year-round local outings to acquaint people with the City’s conserved public lands. Orford’s Conservation Commission held a Conservation Festival. Vital Communities of the Upper Valley published two volumes of Valley Quest books. Hanover’s Conservation Council continued its series of explorations and walks for the public. Area outfitters began to offer guided canoe tours of the Upper Valley region. West Central Services initiated an annual “Paddle Power” canoe trip on the river to highlight suicide prevention awareness. The Upper Valley Nordic Network focused public attention on long-distance skating in the region. The Dresden Rowing Club began to offer rowing instruction on the river, and became the Upper Valley Rowing Foundation.
Trails Alliance organized; area trails improved	The Upper Valley Trails Alliance started up with funding from CRJC and other organizations, and is approaching a project to create a regional trails map. Further CRJC funding helped the Alliance offer training and tools to local trail maintainers, and assist the Rivendell Interstate School District Interstate School District to start on a major project to build the Cross-Rivendell Trail linking Orford NH, Fairlee, W. Fairlee, & Vershire VT, including a new trail up Mt. Cube. Hartford protected 20 acres at Dothan Brook and the Connecticut, including part of the Hazen Trail, a riverside path from Wilder to the Montshire Museum. Norwich repaired the Gile Mountain Fire Tower on a popular local trail. The Piermont Conservation Commission created trails at a town-owned property. Lyme’s Conservation Commission published trail maps and guides to the town’s five conservation properties. Hanover and Norwich have updated their trails maps. The Montshire Museum opened a new riverfront trail. Lebanon published a map of recreational trails in the city, and Hartford a brochure about town parks.

<p>Connecticut River Byway established</p>	<p>CRJC established the Connecticut River Byway, a focus for natural and cultural tourism along the river, and a mechanism for protecting recreational assets. The seven regional planning commissions inventoried recreational and cultural assets along the Byway. CRJC set up the Connecticut River Scenic Byway Council and initiated "River Byway News," now published twice each year. CRJC promoted designation of Byway routes, sponsored Byway marketing research, supported establishment of waypoint centers, and developed a Byway web site. CRJC arranged for a signage study for these communities and sought federal funding to cover towns' signage costs. The NH Office of State Planning brought the idea to the valley and funded the first CT River Byway map and brochure. The VT Agency of Transportation also provided support. Both states appropriated funds to develop the Byway web site. White River Junction stepped forward to serve as a byway waypoint community. The State of Vermont opened a welcome center in the WRJ rail station. CRJC provided a set of four byway exhibit panels.</p>
<p>Scenic views inventoried</p>	<p>The seven regional planning commissions inventoried scenic views along the Byway. Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission conducted a detailed study of scenic aspects viewed from the Byway in Lyme, Orford, and Piermont.</p>