

APPENDIX B: PROGRESS - **Mt. Ascutney Region**

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. State of NH joined VT in making boater education mandatory.
River access improved	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. Protection of Sumner Falls was assured through the Settlement Agreement for the new license for the Fifteen Mile Falls hydro development.
River camping & 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. In 2000 Springfield constructed the Toonerville Trail, a paved bicycle trail along an old trolley line from a trail head parking area near the Cheshire Bridge to the center of town.
Profile raised for river recreation	The CT River was named an American Heritage River in 1998, drawing Vice President Al Gore to canoe the river in Cornish and Windsor the following summer.
Recreation & information programs offered	Area outfitters began to offer guided canoe tours of the Mt. Ascutney region. Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site launched a series of environmental education programs for the public, and hosted a CRJC meeting which included a visit by EPA Regional Administrator John DeVillars. The Nature Museum at Grafton and US Gen New England initiated the Watershed Center and Fish Ladder "Twilight Series" of programs at the Bellows Falls dam. Ascutney Audubon chapter has sponsored the Herrick's Cove Wildlife Festival. Connecticut RiverFest offered high school River Days to area schools.
Trails Alliance organized	The Upper Valley Trails Alliance started up with funding from CRJC and other organizations. Further CRJC funding helped the Alliance offer training and tools to local trail maintainers.
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, Connecticut River Watershed Council, 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.
Local towns focus on the river	Windsor Improvement Corporation sponsored a plan for improving recreation access as part of the town's waterfront revitalization, and cleaned up the riverbank north of the bridge; Charlestown Economic Development Association developed multi-use trails; and Meeting Waters YMCA developed an Environmental Area in Springfield, VT, all with grants from CRJC's Partnership Program. The Black River Watershed Action Team started holding annual clean-ups of the Black River, and Weathersfield's conservation commission entered a float in the town parade- "Invasion of the Bio-snatchers" - with a display of invasive plants.
Scenic views inventoried	The seven regional planning commissions inventoried scenic views along the Byway.