

Connecticut River Valley Partnership Program 2002 Awards

Project Summary	Applicants	Awards	
Total	64	40	63%
NH	21	15	71%
VT	23	13	57%
Regional	20	12	60%
Funding	\$300,007	\$145,000	48%

Water Quality

Passumpsic River Basin Buffer Inventory and Establishment

Grant awarded: \$5,000

Project location: St. Johnsbury, VT

Submitted by: Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District

Funding will be used to identify and map priorities for buffer establishment along the Passumpsic River and its major tributaries, and to establish a forested buffer along a highly visible stretch of the Sleepers River.

Mill Brook Monitoring Project

Grant awarded: \$5,000

Project location: Windsor, VT

Submitted by: Mill Brook Watershed Association

The association will purchase water-quality monitoring equipment and establish a network of local residents to carry out sampling and data collection on Mill Brook, an important recreational resource for swimmers and fishermen.

Elizabeth Mine Restoration Project

Grant awarded: \$5,000

Project location: South Strafford and Thetford, VT

Submitted by: Elizabeth Mine Study Group

Funds will help the study group review and critique EPA plans for the Elizabeth Mine, work with community members in understanding those plans, and continue to monitor the biological health of the Ompompanoosuc River downstream of the site.

Ashuelot River Water Quality Monitoring Program

Grant awarded: \$4,000

Project location: Washington to Hinsdale, NH

Submitted by: Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee

The grant will provide water quality monitoring equipment and cover the cost of phosphorus testing during the summer of 2002, bringing consistency to efforts to monitor the water quality of this Connecticut River tributary.

Ottawaquechee Watershed Council

Grant awarded: \$3,000

Project location: Pomfret, Barnard, Bridgewater, Woodstock, Plymouth, Hartland, Hartford, Killington, Mendon, Shrewsbury, Plymouth and Reading, VT

Submitted by: Two Rivers-Ottawaquechee Regional Commission

Funds will help to establish a broad-based citizen group to develop recommendations for future land uses within the Ottawaquechee River watershed, and provide an information conduit for residents of the region.

Agriculture and Forestry

VT/NH Milk Marketing Study Group

Grant awarded: \$3,700

Project location: Connecticut River Valley

Submitted by: UNH Cooperative Extension

The grant will fund a series of workshops for dairy farmers on both sides of the Connecticut River to discuss milk marketing strategies and ways to adapt their operations to face the changing agricultural landscape and remain economically viable.

Vermont Fresh Network Recruitment in the Connecticut River Valley

Grant awarded: \$2,000

Project location: Connecticut River Valley

Submitted by: Vermont Fresh Network

Vermont Fresh Network will recruit local farmers and restaurateurs in the Connecticut River Valley, encourage partnerships between them, and increase consumer awareness of the benefits of buying locally produced foods.

South Acworth Market Garden

Grant awarded: \$1,400

Project location: South Acworth, NH

Submitted by: Acworth Historical Society Inc.

The Society will establish a community market garden behind the community-run South Acworth Village Store, which will provide local produce for sale to the community and allow for stewardship of the parcel itself, which abuts the Cold River.

Bag Hill Town Forest Access Improvement

Grant awarded: \$1,300

Project location: Northumberland, NH

Submitted by: Northumberland Conservation Commission

The town will use these funds to improve access to the Bag Hill Town Forest, to allow implementation of its management plan, including improvements to wildlife habitat and establishment of a nature trail.

CSA Shares for Morningside Shelter

Grant awarded: \$1,200

Project location: Brattleboro, VT

Submitted by: Morningside House

Funds will purchase Community Assisted Agriculture shares in a local farm, which will distribute fresh produce throughout the growing season to low-income families receiving assistance through Morningside House, an emergency shelter in Brattleboro.

Recreation

Increase Awareness of Public Access on Conserved Lands

Grant awarded: \$5,000

Project location: 40 Vermont and New Hampshire towns

Submitted by: Upper Valley Land Trust

Funds will assist the land trust to encourage public use of lands protected by conservation easement, by erecting signs on trails and trailheads in the Upper Valley, developing a web site, and creating and distributing an informational brochure.

Recreation in the Nulhegan Gateway Region

Grant awarded: \$4,800

Project location: Essex County, VT, and Coos County, NH

Submitted by: Nulhegan Gateway Association

Funding will be used to devise and implement a variety of recreational programs for four-season, non-motorized use of the Nulhegan Gateway Region's nature-based resources.

Mount Orne Canoe Access

Grant awarded: \$4,500

Project location: Lunenburg, VT

Submitted by: Vermont Leadership Center

Vermont Leadership Center's youth crews will establish a formal boat access to the Connecticut River at Lunenburg, installing steps to reduce riverbank erosion and planting trees to restore the riparian buffer. A badly eroded unauthorized access on the NH shore will be restored with stabilization measures, tree planting and erection of obstacles to prevent future use of the site.

Skills and Tools for Voluntary Conservation

Grant awarded: \$2,700

Project location: 46 towns in Vermont and New Hampshire

Submitted by: Upper Valley Trails Alliance

Funds will be used to purchase tools for a lending shed, for use by volunteers in the continued maintenance of trails in the Upper Valley. The Trails Alliance will also hold workshops on trail-building skills and related issues.

Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat

Ecological Assessment and Conservation Planning in the Upper Connecticut River Watershed

Grant awarded: \$5,000

Project location: Pittsburg, Clarksville, Stewartstown, Colebrook, Columbia, Stratford, Northumberland, Dalton, Littleton and Monroe, NH; Canaan, Lemington, Bloomfield, Brunswick, Maidstone, Lunenburg, Concord, Waterford and Barnet, VT

Submitted by: The Nature Conservancy, New Hampshire Chapter

The grant will allow The Nature Conservancy to complete an environmental assessment of significant natural resource areas along the Connecticut River, including an 11,000-acre parcel along Fifteen Mile Falls currently owned by the US Generating Co. which will soon be protected by conservation easements.

Migratory Fisheries Restoration Initiative **Grant awarded: \$5,000**

Project location: All Vermont and New Hampshire towns in the Connecticut River Watershed

Submitted by: Connecticut River Watershed Council

The grant will fund a comprehensive approach to reconnecting river habitat by removing barriers such as derelict dams on tributaries in both states in order to restore migratory and resident fish populations.

**Mascoma River Watershed Study - Phase III:
Inventory and Map Wildlife Habitat Areas** **Grant awarded: \$5,000**

Project location: Canaan, Dorchester, Enfield, Grafton, Hanover, Lebanon, Lyme, Orange and Plainfield, NH

Submitted by: Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

The grant will be used to map and inventory prime wildlife habitat in the Mascoma Watershed and then disseminate that information to local boards and commissions that craft planning policies in the region.

Chateaugay-No Town Natural Resources Inventory **Grant awarded: \$4,000**

Project location: Barnard, Bridgewater, Stockbridge and Killington, VT

Submitted by: The Conservation Fund

Funding will be used to complete a wetlands survey of the 60,000-acre area, to support landscape-level conservation for watershed protection, wildlife habitat and appropriate recreational opportunities.

Future Land Use

Northern Connecticut River Conservation Initiative **Grant awarded: \$5,000**

Project location: Coos County, NH, and Essex County, VT

Submitted by: The Conservation Fund

Grant funds will support natural resource inventories of critical habitat links between already protected tracts of land in the northern watershed of Coos County in NH and Essex County in VT.

Herrick's Cove Important Bird Area Conservation Project **Grant awarded: \$4,900**

Project location: Rockingham, VT

Submitted by: Audubon Vermont

Grant funds will establish a citizen-scientist-based program for monitoring and wildlife activities at Herrick's Cove, home to 300 species of birds and a major stopover for migrating waterfowl. Data collected will guide future management of the property.

California Brook Natural Area Partnership **Grant awarded: \$4,500**

Project location: Keene, Swanzey, Chesterfield and Winchester, NH

Submitted by: Monadnock Conservancy

Funds will be used to help identify and permanently protect significant forest lands, wetlands, riparian areas and trail corridors within the 6,000-acre California Brook watershed, one of the largest remaining undeveloped regions in southern NH.

Enrita Carlson/Woodchuck Mountain Stewardship Project **Grant awarded: \$4,000**

Project location: Newbury, VT

Submitted by: Newbury Board of Selectmen

Grant funds will assist the Town of Newbury in permanently conserving a state-owned, environmentally significant 115-acre parcel on Woodchuck Mountain, and developing a management plan for the property.

Riparian Buffer Model Ordinance Design Project **Grant awarded: \$3,000**

Project location: Five New Hampshire communities within the Riverbend Subcommittee area

Submitted by: North Country Council Inc.

Funds will allow the Council to work with municipalities in developing ordinances that both protect environmentally valuable riverfront land and respect local sensitivity about private land use issues.

Connecticut River Scenic Byway

Identification of Priority Resource Protection Projects Along the Byway

Grant awarded: \$5,000

Project location: Lyme, Orford, Piermont and Haverhill, NH

Submitted by: Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission

Funds will allow the planning commission to identify and develop a list of priority conservation projects along the river in four communities, with an emphasis on protection of visual resources.

Restoration of Shutters for Alumni Hall Interpretive Center

Grant awarded: \$5,000

Project location: Haverhill, NH

Submitted by: Haverhill Heritage Inc.

The group will use this grant to continue its work of transforming a mid-19th-century former courthouse into a Connecticut River Scenic Byway interpretive and cultural center.

Fitting Up the Claremont Waypoint Interpretive Center

Grant awarded: \$5,000

Project location: Claremont, NH

Submitted by: Claremont Industrial Development Authority

Funds will be used to install displays and interpretive materials in the Claremont facility which will showcase the history of Claremont and other area towns, with emphasis on how the Connecticut River has helped shape that history.

GIS Development of Natural Resources Along the Scenic Byway

Grant awarded: \$4,000

Project location: Lancaster, NH

Submitted by: Lancaster Conservation Commission

Funds will support a computerized inventory of riparian habitat, buffers, wetlands, wildlife habitat and prime agricultural land along 13-miles of the Connecticut River. The Town will use the inventory for planning and management of these resources.

Connecticut River Birding Trail Guide

Grant awarded: \$4,000

Project location: New Hampshire and Vermont between Springfield, VT, and Haverhill, NH

Submitted by: Connecticut River Birding Trail

Funds will help publish a Connecticut River Birding Trail Guide, an educational, nature-oriented map and bird-watching itinerary spanning both sides of the river. The guide will be available at visitor centers along the Connecticut River Byway.

Education

Cross-Rivendell Trail

Grant awarded: \$5,000

Project location: Orford, NH, and Vershire, Fairlee, West Fairlee, VT

Submitted by: Rivendell Interstate School District

Funding will help continue work on the 35-mile-long trail that crosses the Connecticut River linking the towns of the school district; integrate the trail into the school's curriculum; and complete an archaeological assessment of the VT portion of the trail.

Connecticut River Youth Conservation Coalition

Grant awarded: \$4,000

Project location: Charlestown and Claremont, NH, and Springfield, VT

Submitted by: Student Conservation Association

The grant will support a collaborative composed of schools, environmental, conservation and youth organizations, and local businesses, to provide experiential service learning opportunities that address the area's conservation needs.

Preserving Walpole's River Corridor for Tomorrow

Grant awarded: \$4,000

Project location: Walpole, NH

Submitted by: Walpole School

The grant will allow students to work with the local conservation commission to inventory wetlands and other special habitats in town, establish nature trails, and develop management plans for town forests and protected local natural resource areas.

River Valley Writing Project

Grant awarded: \$3,500

Project location: Keene, Marlow, Marlborough, Chesterfield, Nelson, Harrisville, Westmoreland and Roxbury, NH

Submitted by: Antioch New England Institute of Antioch Graduate School

Antioch faculty will guide Keene High School environmental studies students through research and reporting on water quality issues and pollution prevention on the Ashuelot River. Student articles will appear in the Keene Sentinel, a daily newspaper.

Ompompanoosuc River Project**Grant awarded: \$3,000***Project location: South Strafford and Strafford, VT**Submitted by: Newton Elementary School*

Building on data already gathered by students working on erosion issues with the Strafford Select Board, students and ecological consultants will work together to diagnose and remediate a site along the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River.

Adopt a Salmon for the Wild Ammonoosuc River**Grant awarded: \$3,000***Project location: Bath, NH**Submitted by: Bath Village School*

Grant funds will enable students in grades kindergarten through 6 to participate in an intensive year-long study of watersheds, aquatic ecosystems, Atlantic salmon history, and measuring a river's water quality.

Watershed Stewardship Educational Program**Grant awarded: \$2,000***Project location: Southeastern Vermont, with particular emphasis on Brattleboro, Dummerston and Brookline**Submitted by: Bonnyvale Environmental Education Center*

The grant will support Bonnyvale's development and implementation of this new program in three area elementary schools. This hands-on, environmentally based program teaches the science of water quality and the power of individual action.

Curriculum Assistance**Grant awarded: \$2,000***Project location: Marlow, Gilsum, Surry, Sullivan, Roxbury, Keene, Westmoreland, Chesterfield, Swanzey, Troy, Hinsdale, Winchester, Richmond and Fitzwilliam, NH**Submitted by: Southwest Region Planning Commission*

Grant funds will permit the Planning Commission to collaborate with environmental science faculty members at four area high schools in the Ashuelot River watershed to develop classroom lessons based on the Atlas of the Ashuelot River.

Nature Based Educational Programs on Kingdom Trail**Grant awarded: \$2,000***Project location: East Burke, VT**Submitted by: Kingdom Trails Association*

The Kingdom Trails Association will develop a series of seasonal programs along its network of trails led by experienced naturalists and open to tourists and residents. A brochure will publicize the programs in hopes of making them self-sustaining.

The American Rivers Project**Grant awarded: \$2,000***Project location: Langdon, Acworth and Alstead, NH, and Brattleboro, VT**Submitted by: Fall Mountain Educational Endowment Association*

Students from nine classes in the Fall Mountain Regional School District will explore the artistic impact of the Connecticut River through visits to art exhibits, poetry workshops and classroom activities, and will create a poetry/art booklet.

Fort at No. 4 Riverbank Interpretation**Grant awarded: \$1,000***Project location: Charlestown, NH**Submitted by: Old Fort No. 4 Associates*

The grant will allow the Fort to provide opportunities for its visitors to this living history museum to witness and understand the need for riverbank stabilization and vegetative buffers.