

# Connecticut River Joint Commissions Partnership Program 2004 Awards

<i>Project Summary</i>	<i>Applica nts</i>	<i>Awards</i>	<i>Percent</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Funding</b>	<b>\$174,082</b>	<b>\$84,600</b>	<b>49%</b>

## *Water Quality*

### **Stevens River Watershed Assessment**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project location: Barnet & Peacham, VT*

*Submitted by: Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District*

The county conservation district, Stevens River Watershed Council, and local volunteers will conduct a Phase I geomorphic assessment of the Stevens River and three key tributaries, survey bridges and culverts, examine stream stability and land uses both current and historic, and hold a public forum to present results to landowners.

### **Stream Geomorphic Assessment at Ball Mountain Brook**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project location: Stratton & Jamaica, VT*

*Submitted by: West River Watershed Alliance*

This project is a combined volunteer and professional effort that will enable informed management decisions by local planners concerning stream restoration, and help identify likely erosion-prone areas in the Ball Mountain Brook watershed. This project is a first step in developing a basin-wide strategy to address sediment loading in the West, Williams, and Saxtons Rivers, major tributaries of the Connecticut River.

### **Slade Brook Management Plan**

**Grant awarded: \$4,000**

*Project location: Hanover, NH*

*Submitted by: Hanover Conservation Council*

The Council will inventory plants and animals and develop a land management plan for 35 acres along Slade Brook near its confluence with the Connecticut River. This parcel is to be acquired and conserved by the Council as part of a plan for a housing development. The project will include water quality testing and contact with homeowners and neighbors to share information on conservation easements.

### **Ashuelot Watershed Monitoring**

**Grant awarded: \$4,000**

*Project location: Ashuelot River Mainstem and Tributaries, NH*

*Submitted by: Ashuelot Valley Environmental Observatory*

The project will coordinate efforts of the NH DES Volunteer Bio-monitoring Program in the Ashuelot River watershed, involving the Ashuelot River Local Advisory Committee, NH DES Watershed Management Bureau, and local schools, citizens' groups, and volunteers.

### **West Branch Ompompanoosuc Mini-Watershed Plan**

**Grant awarded: \$4,000**

*Project location: Strafford & Thetford, VT*

*Submitted by: Two Rivers - Ottauquechee Regional Commission*

The regional commission will draft a preliminary mini-watershed plan to address the top issues, threats, and concerns facing the West Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River, based upon community comments and scientific data, and in cooperation with the Ompompanoosuc Watershed Council and the Stratford Conservation Commission.

### **Mill Pond Acre: River Assessment**

**Grant awarded: \$4,000**

*Project location: Acworth, NH*

*Submitted by: Acworth Historical Society & Acworth Recreation Committee*

This project will produce an assessment of the river environs of Mill Pond Acre, including the bank of the Cold River and historic dam remains, and will involve the Cold River Local Advisory Committee and students at the Acworth Primary School. This assessment will create the foundation of a plan to revitalize Mill Pond Acre as a community space.

## ***Recreation***

### **DeBanville Access Conservation Project**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project location: Bloomfield, VT*

*Submitted by: Vermont River Conservancy*

The Conservancy will purchase a public access and conservation easement for a canoe launch on the Connecticut River at the confluence of the Nulhegan River, and then convey the easement to the VT Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation, the agency that will be responsible for future management. The site will provide new access to the sole designated “natural” segment of the Connecticut River.

### **UVLT Website Enhancement with Mapping & Data**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project location: 40-town bi-state region (Ryegate, VT & Haverhill, NH to Springfield, VT & Charlestown, NH)*

*Submitted by: Upper Valley Land Trust*

The Upper Valley Land Trust will expand and enhance its website with GPS data, ArcView maps in downloadable form, and interpretive data for all recreation trails. The site will educate users of the land trust’s trails and campsites, and reinforce the benefits of land conservation in the region.

### **Cow Mountain Pond Trails**

**Grant awarded: \$4,000**

*Project location: Granby, VT*

*Submitted by: Vermont Leadership Center*

The Leadership Center’s Kingdom Corps of area youth will work with local volunteers from the Cow Mountain Pond Committee, the Passumpsic Valley Land Trust, and the Green Mountain Club to clear the trails, reduce erosion, and repair a number of failed bridges at the Cow Mountain Pond Municipal Forest.

### **SCA Canoe Campsite Improvement**

**Grant awarded: \$3,500**

*Project location: Charlestown, NH*

*Submitted by: The Student Conservation Association, Inc.*

SCA will engage its Connecticut River Youth Conservation Corps to improve the primitive canoe campsite located on its campus and open to the public. This will include design and construction of a set of steps from the campsite access point to the river, a composting toilet facility, trail improvements, and educational materials and signs.

### **Wyoming Dam Portage**

**Grant awarded: \$2,750**

*Project location: Guildhall, VT*

*Submitted by: Vermont River Conservancy*

The Conservancy, the Town of Guildhall, private landowners, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and the Vermont Leadership Center will work together to ensure a safe and responsibly managed portage around the breached Wyoming Dam. The project will identify land easement boundaries, define the public portage corridor, install fencing, preserve the existing riparian buffer, and place signage at the river landing and at the town’s riverfront property.

### **Lyman Falls Privy Construction**

**Grant awarded: \$1,500**

*Project location: Bloomfield, VT*

*Submitted by: Nulhegan Gateway Association*

Partnership funds will provide for the construction of two privies at Lyman Falls State Park, a 40 acre riverfront site recently purchased and protected by the Vermont River Conservancy and the State of Vermont with assistance from CRJC’s Partnership Program. The privies will serve new primitive campsites for the use of Connecticut River canoeists.

### **Lebanon Trails & Recreation Map**

**Grant awarded: \$1,500**

*Project location: Lebanon, NH*

*Submitted by: Lebanon Parks & Recreation Department & Lebanon Conservation Commission*

Trail maps will be published for 11 conservation properties in the City of Lebanon. These maps will include detailed information about recreation facilities, school facilities, and state owned facilities to create the first comprehensive publication of its kind for public information and use in the field.

***(Continued next page)***

## ***Future Land Use***

### **Natural Resources Along the Connecticut River Byway in Colebrook**

**Grant awarded: \$4,500**

*Project location: Colebrook, NH*

*Submitted by: Town of Colebrook*

This project will provide the town with inventory, management, and planning tools and a comprehensive, updatable, digital inventory of existing natural resources and the riparian buffer zones for future use in all aspects of planning for growth along the Connecticut River in Colebrook, a waypoint community along the Byway.

### **Natural Resource Inventory for Orange County Headwaters**

**Grant awarded: \$2,000**

*Project location: Corinth & Washington, VT*

*Submitted by: Orange County Headwaters Project Steering Committee*

A natural resources inventory of the Waits River headwaters region will document surface waters, wetlands, Natural Heritage sites, cultural resources, critical habitats, and other natural resources. The project involves cooperation among 40 landowners, the two towns, the Upper Valley Land Trust, the Conservation Fund, Vermont Land Trust, and George D. Aiken Resource Conservation and Development Council.

## ***Agriculture & Forestry***

### **Livingston Farm Conservation**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project location: Claremont, NH*

*Submitted by: Upper Valley Land Trust*

The Livingston Farm is part of UVLT's ongoing New Hampshire Farmland Conservation Initiative, which aims to permanently protect highly productive farmland and cultural resources in the Upper Valley. Partnership funds will assist UVLT in purchasing development rights on a 69 acre parcel, including 47 acres of prime agricultural soils with significant frontage on the Connecticut River.

### **“From Stump to Mill” - An Historical Compilation**

**Grant awarded: \$1,000**

*Project location: Coos & Essex Counties, NH & VT*

*Submitted by: The Canaan (VT) Historical Society*

This project will collect and publish a series of recollections by longtime Canaan forester Fred Cowan, of the timber history of the forest lands at the Connecticut River's northern headwaters. Historical notes originally appearing in the Colebrook News & Sentinel will be assembled and prepared for archiving according to professional standards and for wide public distribution. The Canaan Historical Society will seek to involve other local historical societies, the State Historians, and present owners of former paper company lands.

## ***Education***

### **Valley Quest II**

**Grant awarded: \$2,000**

*Project location: 21 towns in VT & NH*

*Submitted by: Vital Communities*

The Partnership grant will support publication of *Valley Quest II*, a sequel to the highly successful *Valley Quest*, describing 75 more treasure hunts in the Connecticut River Valley from Woodsville to Keene, NH and Peacham to Springfield, VT. The new volume will feature the community self-study of more than 1000 students, teachers, parents, and community members. Quests foster sense of place and focus on local natural and cultural heritage features.

### **Black River Watershed Brochure**

**Grant awarded: \$2,250**

*Project location: Black River Watershed, Southern Windsor County, VT*

*Submitted by: Southern Windsor County Regional Planning Commission*

The commission will work with the Black River Watershed Action Team and Concerned Citizens of Cavendish to produce a brochure on this tributary watershed, including a GIS map identifying public access and amenities, an introduction to invasive plants, and information on riparian buffers and how the public can best respect landowners, wildlife, and the river.

***(Continued next page)***

## ***Fisheries & Wildlife Habitat***

### **Citizens Primer & Outreach on Removing Derelict Dams**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project location: All towns in the Connecticut River Watershed*

*Submitted by: Connecticut River Watershed Council*

The Watershed Council will complete and distribute a booklet and public presentation on the reasons for and benefits of removing derelict dams on Connecticut River tributaries, in order to enlist communities, non-profit and citizen organizations, and landowners in restoring streams and their aquatic habitat.

### **Town-Wide Wetlands Resources Inventory**

**Grant awarded: \$5,000**

*Project location: Bradford, VT*

*Submitted by: Bradford Conservation Commission*

The local conservation commission will coordinate a professional wetlands resources inventory for the town of Bradford, and engage tenth grade students in a study of vernal pools in the Waits River watershed. An educational component will be incorporated through a partnership between the Bradford Conservation Commission, Oxbow High School, and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science's Community Mapping Program.

### **Upper CT River Important Bird Areas Project**

**Grant awarded: \$4,500**

*Project location: VT and NH Towns along the Connecticut River*

*Submitted by: Audubon Vermont*

Audubon Vermont will work with the Audubon Society of New Hampshire to map and identify Important Bird Areas in the Upper Connecticut River corridor. These efforts will be the first steps in protecting habitat critical to birds along this significant migratory flyway, and help to engage local volunteers and groups in monitoring and conserving these sites.

### **Mammal Tracking & Mapping in the Upper Watershed**

**Grant awarded: \$2,000**

*Project location: Brunswick, Lewis, Ferdinand, Bloomfield, & Maidstone, VT*

*Submitted by: Keeping Track, Inc.*

High school students in Vermont Audubon's TakePART program will collect data on the presence of wide-ranging mammal species in the Nulhegan Basin and West Mountain Wildlife Management Area. Data will be used by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, VT Agency of Natural Resources, and local communities toward stewardship of wildlife habitat.

## ***Scenic Byway & Historic Preservation***

### **"Agri + Culture" Promotional Program**

**Grant awarded: \$1,100**

*Project location: Bellows Falls, VT*

*Submitted by: Great Falls Regional Chamber of Commerce*

Funds will support the newly organized Bellows Falls Farmers' Market, create a web presence for the Bellows Falls Waypoint Center, and purchase historical resource materials related to the six communities surrounding the new Byway Waypoint Center. The Farmer's Market will take place at the Center weekly from late May until late October.

### **Bringing Back Barnet**

**Grant awarded: \$1,000**

*Project location: Barnet, VT*

*Submitted by: Barnet Town Library on behalf of the Town of Barnet, the Lakeview Grange in Barnet, the Barnet Historical Society, and the Trustees of McIndoes Academy*

In partnership with the Vermont Museum and Gallery Alliance, Barnet volunteers will return three newly-restored painted theater curtains to hang once again at local landmarks. The Town Hall curtain, removed 50 years ago, will return to the Town Hall Stage; the Grange Hall curtain will move from storage at the Fairbanks Museum to the Grange's new home; and the long-lost curtain at the McIndoes Academy will be reinstalled.