

Appendix B. RECREATION UPDATE- Wantastiquet 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. The State of NH joined VT in making boater education mandatory. Local subcommittee members posted river maps and boat speed cautions at launch sites.
River access improved	Brattleboro improved downtown riverfront access.
Recreational programs offered	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. The Brattleboro Museum & Art Center hosted a major exhibit, <i>The American River</i> , and held a program about the Connecticut River.
Area trail connections developed	Chesterfield and Hinsdale celebrated the opening of a new trail in the Wantastiquet/Monadnock Greenway and Trail network, that will eventually connect the Connecticut River, Mt. Wantastiquet and Mt. Monadnock. A management plan was developed for the West River Trail. Windmill Hill Pinnacle Association created a map for its Nature Reserve & Trail Conservation Area. The Windham Regional Commission developed a bikeway route on the Connecticut River Byway.
Recreation land conserved	Putney Conservation Commission developed a conservation site at Sackett's Brook. The Monadnock Conservancy began active conservation work in the region.
Connecticut River Byway established	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 won 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. Windham Regional Commission published a brochure on the region's historic bridges.
Byway visitor centers built	Brattleboro and Bellows Falls stepped forward to serve as byway waypoint communities. Bellows Falls opened its waypoint visitor center to serve area towns on both sides of the river, and Brattleboro designed its visitor center and is awaiting funding for construction. CRJC provided a set of four byway exhibit panels to these and eight other waypoint communities.
Scenic views inventoried	The seven regional planning commissions inventoried scenic views along the Byway.