

Appendix B. Progress since 1997

Since publication of the first *Connecticut River Corridor Management Plan* in 1997, water quality is improving as river communities work to eliminate combined sewer overflows and upgrade their wastewater treatment plants. Voters are also investing more funds in land conservation to discourage polluting uses, and many landowners are improving pollution control on their property by enhancing riparian buffers and reducing use of fertilizers and pesticides near waterways.

The mouth of the Black River has long been noted for the heavy mats of floating algae which develop there during warmer months, deterring swimmers and discouraging many boaters. Since Vermont was alerted to this problem by the 1997 edition of this *Plan*, the state has worked with the Town of Springfield to upgrade the wastewater treatment facility to remove the phosphorus believed to be the cause of this heavy algal growth.

The State of New Hampshire has also applied the protections of the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act to the New Hampshire side of the Connecticut River, and in some cases, local governments have enacted even stronger water quality protection for their shorelines. In early 2007, Vermont's citizen-based basin planning program turned its attention to the Black and Ottauquechee Rivers. Both states have greatly improved public access to water quality information in the last several years, through their web sites. Vermont's regional planning commissions have made significant contributions by conducting bridge and culvert surveys for their communities, and seeking and applying hundreds of thousands of dollars to assess brownfields sites in Windsor, Springfield, and Rockingham, putting them on the path to redevelopment.

Perhaps even more encouraging is the news that watershed groups have formed around several of the tributaries, most notably the Black River Watershed Action Team. Citizens have also become involved in efforts to improve the Sugar River in New Hampshire and Mill Brook in Vermont.