

**2008 Annual Report**  
**Connecticut River Joint Commissions**  
**Local River Subcommittees**

This year the Connecticut River Joint Commissions (CRJC) have considered issues as wide-ranging as the status of shoreland and fluvial erosion hazard protection in New Hampshire and Vermont to the effort to restore a riverbank and tributary delta in Colebrook. We hosted site visits at the Colebrook Business Park for Governor Lynch and fisheries biologists, regional and state agency staff, other river experts, and local officials, and devoted considerable time and energy to raising funds for this project. We also completed a new five-year strategic plan to guide the work of the Commissions.

CRJC's five local river subcommittees met throughout the year, preparing their *Connecticut River Recreation Management Plan* for publication and selecting key recommendations of their new *Connecticut River Water Resources Management Plan* to implement in their communities. These include pursuit of conservation funding for a major parcel of floodplain forest and migratory waterfowl resting habitat in Hinsdale to assistance with an alert system for riverfront landowners in times of unexpected high water from Murphy Dam in Pittsburg and conservation of five miles of river frontage in Pittsburg and Clarksville. The subcommittees reviewed a number of permit applications for projects that could affect the river, including projects proposed for the Vermont side of the river. CRJC and the subcommittees also provided advice to the US Fish and Wildlife Service as it moves forward with its new Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, identifying areas for habitat conservation either through partnerships with local landowners or easements.

CRJC supports efforts to safeguard the valley's natural, agricultural, and historic assets, and is working with businesses and the states to strengthen the local base for tourism through the Connecticut River Byway. In 2008 we completed a major project to install byway signage along the 500 miles of the designated National Scenic Byway in New Hampshire and Vermont. CRJC maintains a web site for the Byway at [www.ctrivertravel.net](http://www.ctrivertravel.net). CRJC's home web site at [www.crjc.org](http://www.crjc.org) includes a calendar of events, useful information and links, and our newsletters, *River Valley News* and *River Byway News*.