

The Heart of New England

From its start in the remote mountains and lakes of New Hampshire, flowing south to its mouth at the sandy estuary of Long Island Sound, the Connecticut River unites New England. Here, where the region's longest river winds through rural, suburban, and urban landscapes, you'll find rich tidelands, fertile floodplains, and abundant recreational opportunities.

This diverse landscape, known as the Connecticut River Watershed, is defined as the **7.2 million acres** of land that drain into the Connecticut River.

Over **2.4 million people** live, work, and play here, and while nearly three-quarters of the Watershed is forested, containing some of the most intact and connected landscapes in New England, it's also home to several of the largest cities, with more than 80% of the population living in urban areas. *The Watershed is vital for both people and nature and is essential to the communities that call this place home.*

Named after Congressman Silvio O. Conte (R-MA), the **Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge** was established in 1997 with the goal of promoting a healthy and resilient Connecticut River Watershed. It is the only multi-state National Fish and Wildlife Refuge defined by a watershed boundary and is comprised of **23 divisions of land owned and managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**. Centered on an inclusive, cooperative approach to land conservation and management, the Refuge stewards **43,000 acres of land** and counting throughout Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. For over 25 years, partnerships between the Conte Refuge and organizations with a shared vision for the Watershed have been key to this ongoing story of conservation success.



A Regional Conservation Partnership

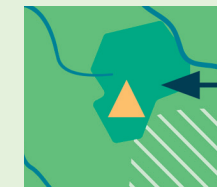
Formed in 2005, the Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge (Friends of Conte), now the **Connecticut River Watershed Partnership (CRWP)**, is a diverse coalition of over 70 public and private organizations and individuals dedicated to forging partnerships that benefit wildlife, people, and environmental quality in the Connecticut River Watershed. **CRWP provides a forum and foundation for organizations of all sizes and types with varied missions** related to the watershed, including land trusts, watershed associations, federal and state agencies, regional planning commissions, tribal organizations, municipalities, and other interests. Our partnership believes in the benefits of working together to accomplish goals in service of the Watershed and together we aspire to foster a collective, inclusive, and shared vision to achieve positive impact across the region.

CRWP enables members to coordinate with a **network** of allied organizations and individuals. Partners share information and resources, define mutual priorities, and collaborate on action items in the Watershed. Together, we advocate and secure funds for land protection, aquatic connectivity and restoration, creation of recreation infrastructure, and environmental education initiatives. **We place particular emphasis on remedying historical inequities in access to nature.**

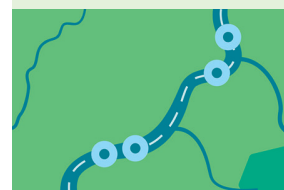
Accomplishments

Our collaborative approach to conservation has a long history of delivering meaningful results for the Connecticut River Watershed and the people it supports. **CRWP has:**

Secured over \$32 million from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for key conservation projects in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont (see map).



Advocated successfully for full and permanent funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which provides over \$900 million to conservation and recreation projects each year.



Launched the development of the Connecticut River Paddlers Trail, which now includes several campsites and access points (see map).

Obtained designation of the Connecticut River as the nation's first and only National Blueway.

Established educational "Conte Corners" in area museums, highlighting the value of the Refuge to residents and visitors alike (see map).



Drafted and led a federal legislative process to create a dedicated funding stream to leverage state, local, and private investments to support nonregulatory conservation, recreation, and education efforts in the Watershed.

Join Us

Stewarding the Connecticut River Watershed and the communities it supports is an essential part of ensuring that New England is a place where nature is valued, opportunities to enjoy the outdoors are abundant and equitable, and the landscape around us is resilient in the face of a changing climate. The partners who comprise the Connecticut River Watershed Partnership work collaboratively to develop and implement shared goals. This robust partnership advances critical community-centered conservation vision on a regional scale.

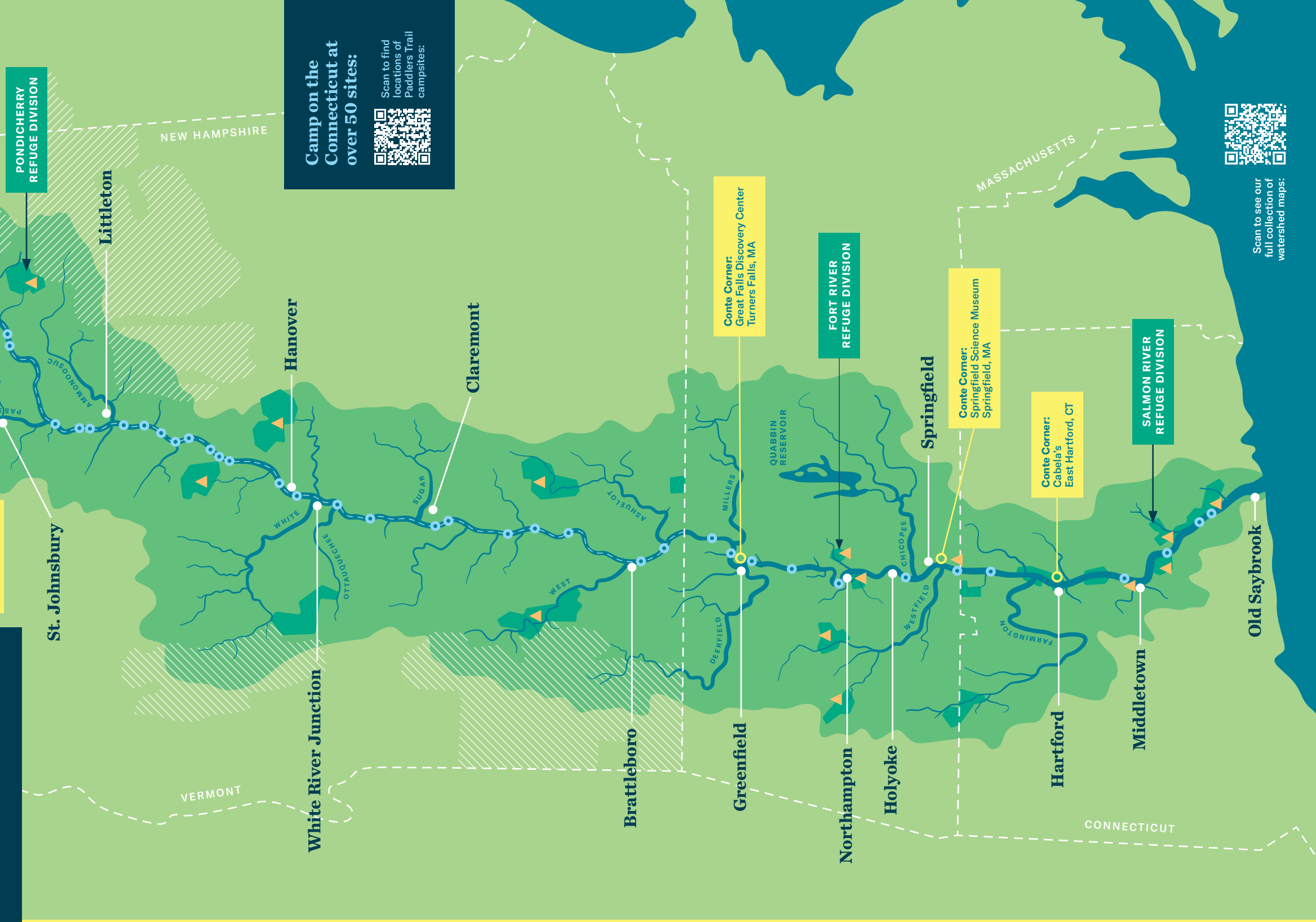
All organizations and individuals who share our mission are welcome to join us. Membership is voluntary and free and provides those who join the opportunity to network, coordinate, and collaborate with partner organizations. Partners are also able to make their voices heard on issues impacting the region and can volunteer to bring to life our shared vision of the future in the Watershed. Together, we can support and enhance the Connecticut River Watershed to ensure that the heart of New England is a model of conservation success.

To learn more about joining the partnership, scan the QR code below or visit our website: ctriverwatershed.org



The Connecticut River Watershed

- Connecticut River Watershed
- Conte Refuge Divisions
- Green Mountain National Forest
- White Mountain National Forest
- LWCF Conservation Project
- Conte Corner
- Paddlers Trail Campsite



Camp on the Connecticut at over 50 sites:

Scan to find locations of Paddlers Trail campsites:

Scan to see our full collection of watershed maps:

Connecticut River Watershed Partnership

Connecting communities from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound, the Connecticut River Watershed is home to countless opportunities for conservation initiatives and world-class recreation.

