

**Contoocook and North Branch Rivers Landowner and Public Officials Survey
October-December 2009**

1. Do you own property in any of the following towns?				
Sub-group	Abutters		Non-abutters	
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Concord	1.2%	1	0.0%	0
Peterborough	27.2%	22	0.0%	0
Hillsborough	16.0%	13	4.2%	1
Hancock	9.9%	8	0.0%	0
Henniker	9.9%	8	58.3%	14
Antrim	17.3%	14	0.0%	0
Deering	3.7%	3	4.2%	1
Bennington	9.9%	8	12.5%	3
Hopkinton	3.7%	3	0.0%	0
W. Hopkinton	1.2%	1	0.0%	0
Greenfield	7.4%	6	4.2%	1
Stoddard	2.5%	2	8.3%	2
Jaffrey	2.5%	2	0.0%	0
Boscawen	1.2%	1	0.0%	0
Contoocook	12.3%	10	0.0%	0
Rindge	1.2%	1	8.3%	2
Penacook	0.0%	0	0.0%	0
<i>answered question</i>				105
<i>skipped question</i>				1

2. Does your land abut the Contoocook River or North Branch River?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	76.4%	81
No	23.6%	25
<i>answered question</i>		106
<i>skipped question</i>		0

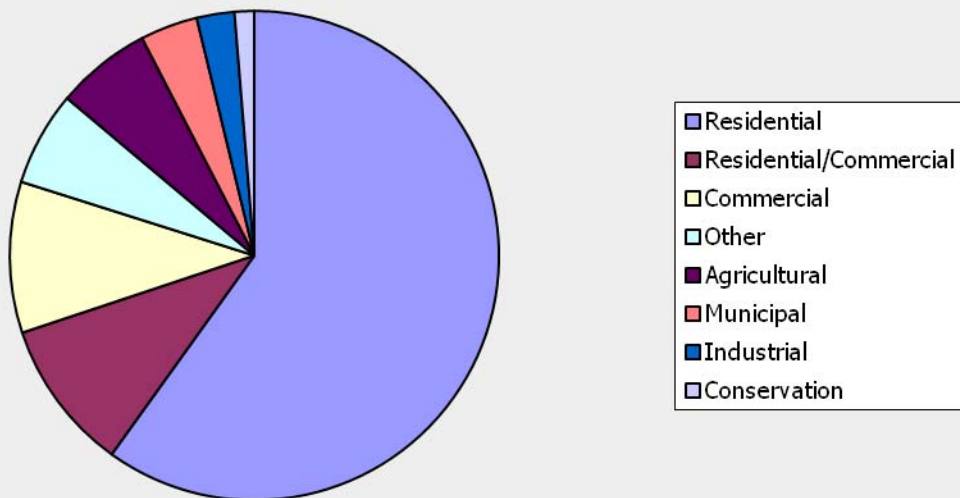
3. Did the Contoocook or North Branch River play a role in your decision to live here?

Sub-group	Abutters		Non-abutters	
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	58.8%	47	32.0%	8
No	33.8%	27	60.0%	15
N/A	7.5%	6	8.0%	2
<i>answered question</i>				105
<i>skipped question</i>				1

4. How many years have you or your family enjoyed living near the Contoocook or North Branch River?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0-10 years	38.8%	38
10-25 years	28.6%	28
25-50 years	21.4%	21
50+ years	11.2%	11
<i>Mean</i>		24 years
<i>Median</i>		15 years
<i>answered question</i>		98
<i>skipped question</i>		8

5. How is your property zoned? (Abutters)



6. List three things that you like best about the river.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Aesthetic qualities (views and sounds)	69%	61
Wildlife/fishing	49%	44
Canoeing/kayaking/boating	29%	26
Other	29%	26
Quietness/privacy	19%	17
Other recreation (hunting, hiking, biking)	18%	16
Cleanliness	16%	14
Undeveloped space/greenspace	12%	11
Swimming	9%	8
Cultural/historical sites	2%	2
<i>answered question</i>		89
<i>skipped question</i>		17

Other values include: attracting visitors to the region; a place for kids to play; productive potential; and beauty in combination with other features.

7. What recreational activities do you or other members of your household enjoy on or along the Contoocook or North Branch Rivers? Please check all that apply.		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Walking	79.3%	73
Canoeing/kayaking	69.6%	64
Birding/wildlife watching	63.0%	58
Fishing	59.8%	55
Nature photography	39.1%	36
Swimming	37.0%	34
Cross-country skiing	26.1%	24
Hunting	23.9%	22
Other	20.7%	19
<i>answered question</i>		92
<i>skipped question</i>		14

The other recreational activity with the most responses is biking (6). Other responses include: just looking at it, horseback riding, tubing, haying for agriculture, and boating in Powder Mill Pond.

8. How many times per year/season do you enjoy some aspect of the Contoocook or North Branch River?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
1-3 times	6.5%	6
4-7 times	6.5%	6
8-11 times	9.7%	9
12+ times	77.4%	72
<i>answered question</i>		93
<i>skipped question</i>		13

9. Do you permit public access across your property? If yes, please list which uses you allow.		
Sub-group	Abutters	
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Walking	10.3%	8
Canoeing/kayaking	9.0%	7
Birding/wildlife watching	0.0%	0
Fishing	15.4%	12
Nature photography	1.3%	1
Swimming	0.0%	0
Cross-country skiing	0.0%	0
Hunting	6.4%	5
All activities listed in Question 7	11.5%	9
Motorized boating	3.8%	3
Timber harvesting	1.3%	1
Snowmobiling	1.3%	1
Camping	0.0%	0
Trapping	1.3%	1
Yes - uses not specified	6.4%	5
No	51.3%	40
N/A	6.4%	5
<i>answered question</i>		93
<i>skipped question</i>		13

10. Have you had any problems related to public use of the Contoocook or North Branch River on or near your property? If yes, what kind? Please describe briefly.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
No	67%	61
Litter	7%	6
Noise	7%	6
Trespassing	4%	4
Problems w/ motorized boats (noise, wake, invasive species, oil/gas residues)	3%	3
Unauthorized land-based motorized vehicle use	2%	2
Unauthorized hunting	2%	2
Theft	1%	1
N/A	8%	7
<i>answered question</i>		91
<i>skipped question</i>		15

11. Have you noticed any of the following trends along the Contoocook or North Branch Rivers? Please check all that apply.

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Excessive erosion and/or bank destabilization	42.6%	29
Recreational abuses (rowdy behavior, over-crowding, noise, littering)	42.6%	29
Stormwater runoff/non-point source pollution	30.9%	21
Exotic species	29.4%	20
Illegal dumping	23.5%	16
Lack of enforcement	22.1%	15
Other	22.1%	15
Sedimentation	20.6%	14
Land conversion (i.e. loss of farmland/forest)	17.6%	12
Disturbance to wetlands	17.6%	12
Loss of fish/wildlife habitat	14.7%	10
Inadequate public access	13.2%	9
Loss or damage to historical or cultural sites	4.4%	3
Failing septic systems	2.9%	2
Haven't noticed any trends	2.9%	2
<i>answered question</i>		68
<i>skipped question</i>		38

Other trends noticed include flooding, hydro plants not operating, increased industry in proximity to the Contoocook River, and over-regulation.

12. From the list above, please choose the ones that concern you the most, ranked from highest to lowest (1 being most concern, 3 being least concern).			
Answer Options	1. Most concern	2.	3. Least concern
Excessive erosion and/or bank destabilization	13	10	4
Stormwater runoff/non-point source pollution	12	4	2
Illegal dumping	8	2	4
Recreational abuses (rowdy behavior, over-crowding, noise, littering)	7	15	4
Exotic species	6	4	1
Other (please specify)	6	3	2
Land conversion (i.e. loss of farmland/forest)	5	2	4
Loss of fish/wildlife habitat	4	2	2
Failing septic systems	2	1	0
Lack of enforcement	2	1	4
Sedimentation	2	5	1
Inadequate public access	1	2	2
Disturbance to wetlands	0	3	3
Loss or damage to historical or cultural sites	0	0	1
<i>answered question</i>			68
<i>skipped question</i>			38

Other concerns include: under-utilization of dams to prevent flooding, increased industry and land development, over-regulation of timber harvesting and other activities, and hydro plants not operating.

13. Rank the measures (1 being the highest, 21 being lowest) needed to protect the Contoocook and North Branch Rivers.

Ranking

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	
More incentives for landowners to voluntarily manage land appropriately	14	6	5	5	1	4	0	1	2	0	1	1	2	1	5	3	2	1	0	0	1	55
Wetland conservation and protection	13	7	2	8	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	55
Water quality monitoring with local volunteers	13	3	3	4	5	2	4	5	2	3	0	1	2	2	4	1	1	2	0	0	1	58
No additional protection needed	13	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	2	3	11	8	46
Limit shoreline development through land use zoning	12	4	6	5	3	4	1	5	2	1	1	0	1	2	0	0	3	0	3	1	1	55
Conservation easements to protect sensitive areas	11	6	4	5	6	1	4	1	2	4	1	2	1	0	1	0	1	3	0	0	1	54
Landowner education	11	1	4	1	4	4	4	4	2	9	3	0	2	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	55
Community education	10	1	1	6	2	5	5	2	4	3	2	5	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	53
Open space/conservation planning in subdivision designs	8	1	10	4	2	1	1	1	1	3	5	5	2	3	1	1	1	1	0	0	2	53
Adoption of water quality goals, objectives, and recommendations into local Master Plans	8	6	5	5	1	4	6	2	3	1	5	1	2	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	1	56
Other	8	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	8	19
Conservation planning in utility and highway projects	7	9	5	3	0	3	3	1	2	6	3	5	2	2	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	55
Stricter enforcement of local and state regulations	7	3	4	1	0	2	0	0	3	0	1	2	2	1	7	2	2	4	1	1	3	46
Stronger state regulations	7	2	1	0	4	1	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	1	5	1	3	42
Academic education (elementary, middle school, high school, and college)	7	2	1	1	4	2	4	3	4	2	2	4	4	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	1	48
Establishing and maintaining riparian buffers	6	2	4	2	4	1	1	2	4	1	3	6	2	2	3	2	2	1	0	1	1	50
Fewer state regulations	6	3	3	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	3	1	5	7	4	4	44
Fewer local regulations	6	2	2	1	1	1	0	2	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	4	6	7	2	2	43
Coordination of planning among watershed towns	5	6	4	4	6	2	3	1	1	1	2	4	4	4	2	3	0	1	0	0	1	54
Stronger local regulations	4	3	5	3	1	1	1	0	2	3	1	1	1	4	2	2	4	1	2	3	2	46
Conducting outreach to residents and visitors	3	5	2	2	3	5	2	4	2	2	3	4	4	5	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	50

Other priority measures include: aggressive millfoil control/removal; improved measures to notify residents regarding dam usage or fluctuations in water quality; wetlands conservation; rezoning commercial/industrial land; establishing a hydro or other green source power facility; and posting and enforcement of speed and wake limits on power boats.