

# A River of Life

*An Educational Initiative of the  
Connecticut Science Center & Metropolitan District Commission*

## **Background**

The Connecticut River is the source of the natural, human and industrial origin of life as we know it in this region. The watersheds of the river and its tributaries remain among the state's most valuable natural resources. The River and its story hold valuable lessons in science, and science holds crucial solutions to the continued viability of this life-giving resource.

## **Purpose**

Increase knowledge about our most precious natural resource, water, and the need and ways to protect it through awareness, education and science.

## **Strategy**

The Connecticut Science Center raises awareness and knowledge about science-related issues by bringing them home to where they matter. We seek ways to teach science principles by showing people real-world applications and examples that show that these concepts really mean something in the real world of the average person. Water is a powerful example.

As the steward of much of our region's water, the MDC shares with the Science Center the goal of increasing appreciation for the role, potential and fragility of water. Together, we will draw citizens into experiences and activities where they discover the importance of water in their lives and the life of the world around them. They will learn about the geology, biology, botany and zoology within and around the watershed, and be motivated to appreciate and protect it. These future leaders of our community will understand why our population is centered around the Connecticut River, and how the river helped build the civilization and industry we know today.

## **Partnership**

The Connecticut Science Center has created a leading edge interactive and educational exhibit gallery, which dramatically overlooks the Connecticut River in its new building on the Riverfront. This gallery will be the platform for ongoing exhibits and educational programs for many years to come. In supporting the presentation of the *River of Life Gallery*, the MDC provides valuable information resources, and enables the Science Center to continually refresh and improve its educational efforts and performance in the science of water.