

Newsletter Summer 2017



New Hampshire Charitable Foundation Awards \$5000 for Canoe Passage Project

Isn't it frustrating to set off on a paddling adventure and have to encounter a blocked river? How about facing eight of these in the course of a few miles? Scenes like this are what paddlers have been finding on the Lamprey River between the Route 87 bridge in Epping and the Public Canoe Access near Wadleigh Falls in Lee. Until this summer...



Photo by Ryan Foley

In March, the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee and the Lamprey River Watershed Association were notified that the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation had awarded a grant of \$5000 toward addressing obstacles to paddlers on the Lamprey River. The money will be used to help offset costs associated with evaluating each blockage, creating a strategy for creating a passageway through the obstacle, and the actual work of removing wood and repositioning it nearby instream to retain the ecological value to fish and other animals that need places to hide and obtain food. This pilot project seeks to balance recreational access and ecological protection and will be performed in cooperation with Trout Unlimited. Work will commence in June and, if the weather cooperates, will be complete by the end of summer. Stay tuned!

2nd Annual Lamprey River Splash and Dash, Saturday, August 19



Are you eager for a great adventure out to Great Bay? Join the fun and make waves for a good cause! Kids ages 10-15 can do the short .5 km circuit in Newmarket harbor. Youths age 16 and adults can go the 3km distance out to Great Bay and back. All paddlers can join the "It's a jungle out there" theme parade by dressing up

themselves and their boats. Prizes will be awarded for fastest times, most creative, and a few surprise categories. Proceeds will go toward supporting recreation programs in Newmarket. Participants had a great time last year and this year promises to be even better. Contact Newmarket Recreation at <http://www.newmarketrec.org/lamprey-river-splash-dash/>

Schoppmeyer Park Begins to Take Shape

Newmarket is abuzz with activity to honor the memory of one of town's finest, Chris Schoppmeyer, who died in 2016. Chris's career included enforcement stints with NH Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife, and NOAA. In addition, Chris was active in local activities that sought to connect people with nature: conservation commission, fishing derby, School to Career Program, and Lamprey River Advisory Committee.

A new, 3 acre park is being created along the Lamprey that will include parking for 6-8 vehicles, carry-in canoe access, park benches, and a kiosk. The Lamprey River Wild and Scenic Subcommittee donated \$10,000 toward the easement for the park and will help with the design and construction of the kiosk.



February 27, 2017 Newmarket town officials and members of the Schoppmeyer family attend the signing of the easement creating Schoppmeyer Park. Photo by Dick Lord

As an under-cover agent, Chris Schoppmeyer knew,
Character is who you are when no one is looking. Unknown

Junior Rangers Wanted

Do you know a youngster who might like to spend time visiting the Lamprey River to earn a badge and then share his or her knowledge with others? Summer is a great time to become a Lamprey River Junior Ranger! Details can be found at <http://www.lampreyriver.org/for-fun-junior-rangers>



Mast Road Natural Area Opens for Visitors

May 20 was a big day to celebrate the rebirth of nature: the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) held a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Mast Road Natural Area in Epping. This 531 acre property has been transformed and is starting its new life as a nature-lover's haven. It features outstanding ecological diversity and an easy walking trail from which to enjoy it.



This was once a rutted, degraded ATV pit. Through careful restoration, it is now a functioning wetland.

Photo by S. Petersen

The site, once slated to be a golf course, was acquired by SELT in 2011 with funding from the Lamprey River Advisory Committee and the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Tons of tires, discarded machinery, and general garbage have been removed. Access to unauthorized motorized vehicles has been blocked using gates and guard rails. Deep channels caused by reckless ATV use have been reconfigured to retain water and revert to ponds and vernal pools. The former eyesore has been carefully restored to maximize multiple habitats for use by rare birds, turtles, and mammals. The efforts are already paying off.

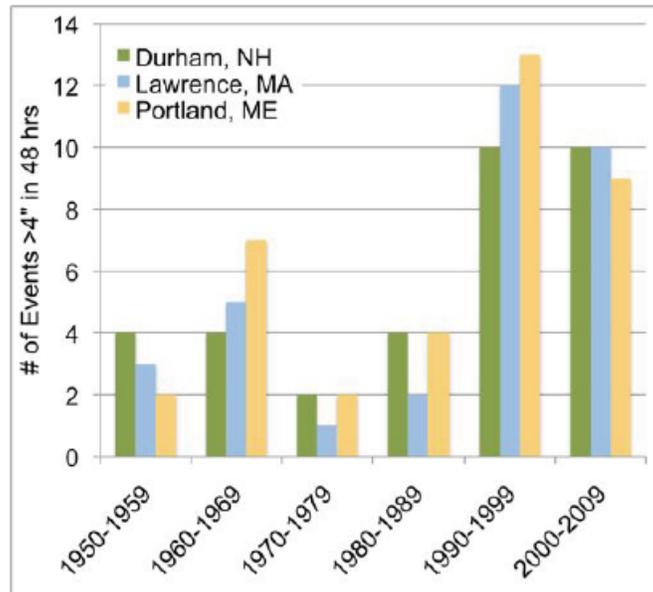
The main access is Gate 3 off Mast Road. The path is generally flat and covers about 2 miles, passing by swamps, vernal pools, a beaver pond, shrubland, and an open field. Work to make this path handicap accessible is in process. This can be a wet area, so expect some muddy patches in spring and after heavy rain.

The Mast Road Natural Area is open for your walking and viewing pleasure. Please stay on the marked trails and out of areas identified as wildlife areas: nature is hard at work.

How Well Will Your Town's Stream Crossings Handle a Severe Storm?

This is not a question that most people ask until it's too late, but it's a question that municipalities should be prepared to anticipate. As the saying goes, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound (or many more dollars) of cure.

Extreme Precipitation Events 1950-2009



www.climatesolutionsne.org

Like many forms of public infrastructure, culverts and other stream crossings are aging and being asked to handle more than they were designed for. Culverts that once effectively handled a few inches of rain probably will not be able to handle an extreme storm that deposits ten or more inches of rain. Replacing culverts to accommodate the effects of heavy rain is expensive, but towns and citizens can be better prepared if they know and understand what is most vulnerable if a culvert fails.

In early 2016, a consultant was hired by the NH Fish and Game Department to assess priority stream crossings in the Lamprey River watershed and evaluate their ability to meet safety and ecological needs. Current conditions were assessed to determine whether the crossing showed signs of impairment such as rusting or damaged pipes, erosion, debris dams, and slopes. "Hydraulic capacity" (the ability to withstand extreme storm events that can be expected to occur once every 10, 50, and 100 years) was evaluated by computer modeling based on the drainage area, slopes, and other factors. The ability of wildlife to move freely up and down a stream was also determined.

The results of this work are compiled into a [summary report](#), [maps for each town](#), and [vulnerability tables for each town](#), available at www.lampreyriver.org. It is hoped that towns will use these findings to plan wisely for the future by replacing and improving culverts that pose the greatest risk of failure. In the process of improving safety, it is hoped that the needs of wildlife can also be addressed.

This work was paid for in part by the Lamprey Rivers Advisory Committee through the National Park Service under CFDA 15.962 – National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.