

# Land Use Change

**P**lants and animals are not the only living things that rely on their landscape for survival. People have relied on the river and its surrounding resources for thousands of years for shelter, food, water, recreation, energy and transportation. When people use natural resources they can alter the landscape around them and ultimately change the use of the land.

Land use change is the process by which human activities change or transform a landscape. In the early 1600s settlers began altering the landscape across the northern United States by clearing forests, plowing and planting fields, grazing farm animals, logging trees, and building structures such as homes, dams, and bridges along rivers. The Lamprey River was an important component of early commercial and industrial growth with the construction of sawmills and gristmills along the river.

Evidence of land use change can be seen all around our landscape. In the old days, a farmer marked the boundaries of their land by placing rocks that had been removed from their pastures or cultivated areas to form low stonewalls. Many of these stonewalls still exist today even though the forest has regrown where the pasture once was. Foundations for homes and dams also pepper lands around the Lamprey River. Do you see any evidence of land use change where you are standing?

Throughout history the Lamprey River and surrounding lands have been used in many ways, and only time will tell how future generations will use the land and its resources. Can you think of some examples of how you might use the resources around the Lamprey River?



**Remnants of a dam in Mary Folsom Park, Epping, New Hampshire.**

Credit: Abigail Gronberg



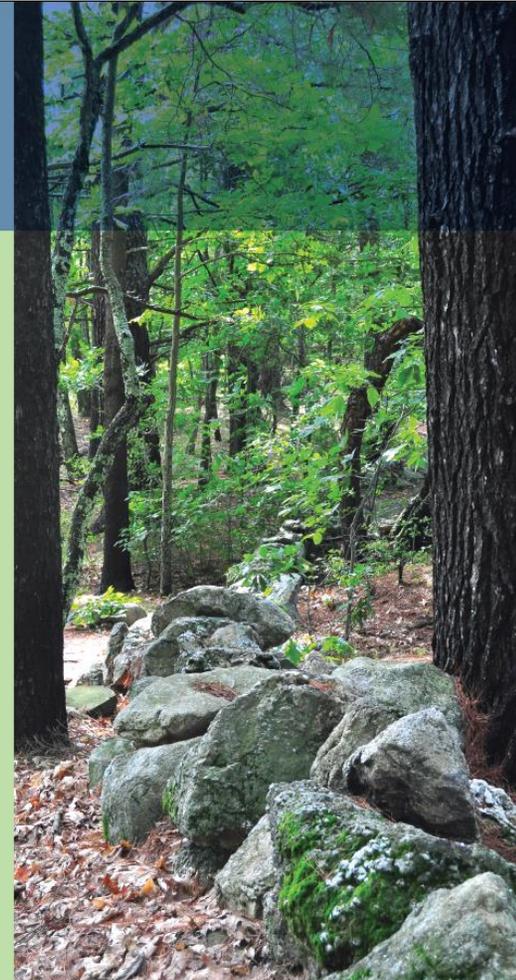
**Former bridge crossing in Mary Folsom Park, Epping, New Hampshire.**

Credit: Abigail Gronberg



**Stones found within a farmer's pasture were collected and used to create low stonewalls. Many can still be seen around New Hampshire.**

Credit: Abigail Gronberg



**Evidence of a stonewall potentially built to mark the edge of the property when it was a pasture. The trees have since regrown and converted the once pasture into forest.**

Credit: Abigail Gronberg