



Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) Annual Report Oct. 1, 2018 - Sept. 30, 2019

As required by RSA 483 and the NH Rivers Management & Protection Program, representatives from ten towns in the Lamprey River watershed continued implementing the *2013 Lamprey Rivers Management Plan* with help from multiple partners*. The final plan, approved on Sept. 26, 2013, is available at town offices and on www.lampreyriver.org.

- **Project Review:** The project review subcommittee reviewed 29 projects in 9 towns that require NHDES permits for wetlands, shoreland, and alteration of terrain. Comments were sent to the NHDES, project engineers, and affected town conservation commissions and planning boards. Per RSA 483, the LRAC cannot grant or deny permits, but its comments must be considered by the NHDES.
- **Education and Outreach:** LRAC again partnered on a river herring day at Macallen Dam, attended events at schools, libraries, and local fairs, and sponsored a guided eco-paddle. *Chick and Dee-Dee's Lamprey River Adventure* was shared at libraries and elementary schools. Articles were published and special topics were presented at libraries and senior centers.
- **Recreation:** LRAC funded two kiosks along the river: Tilton Conservation Park in Epping and the Thompson Forest in Durham. A grant to the Epping Conservation Commission enabled the floodplain trail at Tilton Conservation Area in Epping to receive new sign posts and three new bridges to help visitors understand and navigate this special habitat. A canoe access sign was installed to identify the site for paddlers.
- **Water Quality:** LRAC funding ensured that years of volunteer water quality data were not interrupted. The third phase of trend analysis covering 23 years of river water quality data was completed.
- **Wildlife:** Two videos featuring interviews with naturalist David Carroll were commissioned and will be available in 2020.
- **Land Protection:** The Wild and Scenic Subcommittee helped permanently protect 113.5 acres in Epping, with over 1 mile of Lamprey River frontage. A grant to the Barrington Conservation Commission was used to create maps of overlapping natural resources most in need of protection. A grant to the Raymond Conservation Commission will be used to map and prioritize wetlands.

Plans for 2020 and Items to Watch: The committee will continue to do project reviews and work on goals and actions identified in the *Management Plan*. A historical panel for Doe Farm in Durham will be created. LRAC Community Grants will include support for the development of a nutrient budget for segments of the main stem river and improvements and signage for the Little River Park in Lee.

*Funds to support this work were provided by the National Park Service under CFDA 15.962 – National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.