

Newsletter Fall 2024



Interweave Project Links the Lamprey River, Nature, History, and Town Pride in Newmarket



Sample Interweave mini-looms, photo courtesy of Newmarket Arts, Culture, and Tourism Commission

Over the summer, the Newmarket Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission invited Newmarket residents to participate in a new community arts project. Interweave was designed to celebrate the unique community, culture, and environment of Newmarket. The creative focus was on the significance of the Lamprey River. People of all ages and skill levels gathered to consider how the river has influenced their lives and what they could do to help protect this valuable resource. They wrote about it and then created these looms, symbols of interconnectedness.

Communities are stronger when common good is a priority. The Lamprey River has sustained lives—both human and a rich variety of species—for thousands of years. This biodiversity is essential for the health of the environment. The degradation or loss of just one species can impact many others, including us! Our future well-being depends on our ability to take care of one another and the natural world.

We don't often stop to consider the ways in which both society and environment contribute to our personal happiness and success. The Interweave program was an invitation to honor these gifts creatively and commit to protect the Lamprey River and the land through which it flows so that the community of Newmarket and all of its inhabitants continue to thrive at the river's edge.

Interweave© was designed and facilitated by Christine Destrempe and Susan Lunt.

The program was funded through a Lamprey River Advisory Committee community grant awarded to the Newmarket Arts, Culture & Tourism Commission.

"The Lamprey River flows seaward collecting all the influences, good and bad, along the way. It connects land to sea, plants and animals, living and nonliving, nature and people. We are all part of the river community."

Interweave project participant

"It's a give and take with the river. Take what gives you joy and give back by protecting it."

Interweave project participant

"The river provides peace, beauty, and life to all who take the time to look."

Interweave project participant

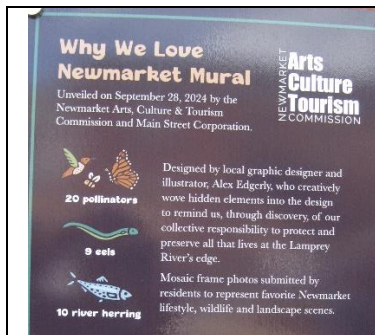
Willey House Central Park Opens

Great things often come in small packages. Willey House Central Park in downtown Newmarket is one of those things. This small park encompassing just a few hundred square feet is starting to feel a lot bigger. A beautiful mural created by Alex Edgerly has just been installed and serves as the main draw. It features scenes of Newmarket and is

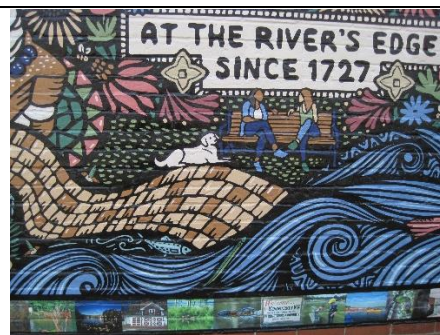
framed by photos donated by residents. A free-standing mini-gallery boasts some beautiful Lamprey River artwork by highschooler Avery Ahumada on the exterior and some small sculptures donated by other Newmarket artists inside. The artwork will change, so frequent visitors can look forward to new things. An area has been set aside where kings, queens, and other chess pieces can reign and residents can play. For the grand reveal on sunny September 28, other artists shared their music, ballet dance, and poetry. More improvements are planned, such as lighting, benches, and gardens. This little park will be a gem for Newmarket at the river's edge. The LRAC was pleased to contribute funding for the mural.



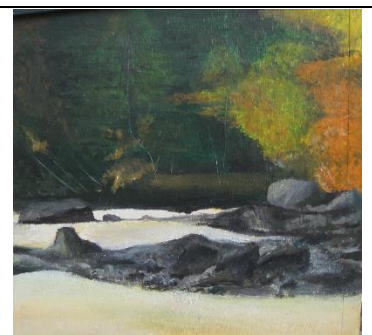
The Willey House Park mural, unveiled September 28, 2024



mural details



up-close view



painting on mini-gallery

A Step in the Right Direction

The Lamprey River Advisory Committee has been trying for several years to address some safety and erosion concerns at the Lee Public Canoe Access near Wadleigh Falls. There were delays in acquiring materials and then all the rain in 2023 made the river's water too high and too fast. The wait is now over and the job is complete.



Before the work, the bottom step was being undercut by the river and the step off was a doozy. Now paddlers can step onto a new granite slab without going up to their waists during normal flow.



New water bars will help to disperse and divert stormwater, reducing erosion. Once the grass becomes established, paddlers will be able to drag their boats in this area rather than using the stairs.

Photos courtesy of Grace Levergood

In addition to the photos above, the parking area was regraded and compacted, thus reducing the deep, mucky puddles that had formed earlier. The LRAC was happy to provide funding and supervision for this work.







Improvements to the Old Lee Trail in Newmarket and Newfields

The Old Lee Class A Trail, formerly the Old Lee Class VI Road, is a popular entry way to SELT's Piscassic Greenway conservation area. The trail needed repairs and upgrades to protect the trail corridor, prevent runoff into the river, and improve safety for visitors. The LRAC was pleased to provide a community grant to the Newmarket Conservation Commission to address several issues this past summer:

- Fixed major drainage problems by adding two armored rock dips to move water

under and across the trail as well as several other swales to lead water away, then the trail was crowned to better shed water during rain events. These improvements will greatly reduce erosion and provide better trail tread, especially during mud seasons.

- Added a second railing to improve safety of the bridge.
- Created and installed a 11" x 17" interpretive sign at the bridge.

<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Piscassic River</h2> <p>The Piscassic River is a major tributary of the Lamprey River, meandering 15 miles from its beginning in the northeast corner of Fremont, through Brentwood, Epping, Newfields, then Newmarket, where it flows into the Wild & Scenic Lamprey River.</p> <p>The Piscassic River is the only waterway within the entire Lamprey River watershed classified as Class A—the highest water quality standard in New Hampshire.</p>  <p>The beautiful, native cardinal flower grows along the shoreline of the Piscassic River. Photo by Ellen Snyder</p> <p>Maintaining natural vegetated river corridors throughout the Piscassic River watershed—or any watershed—helps maintain healthy land and water for people and nature.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Take only photos. Leave only footprints.</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">     </div> <p style="font-size: small;">Funding for this sign and improvements to Old Lee Class A Trail were provided by the National Park Service under CFDA 15.962 - National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.</p>	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The new Old Lee Trail sign and improved bridge.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Photo courtesy of Ellen Snyder</i></p>
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Stream Team Part 2: Unpermitted Clearing



Shoreland is prized property for many people. Building a house or business next to the water can be alluring and a point of pride. Who wouldn't want to see the sparkle of sunlight or moonlight on the water, or enjoy the open space over the water? Who wouldn't enjoy the thrill of seeing wildlife right outside the window?

Building next to the water is a privilege, but it is also a responsibility. Despite the temptation to remove the trees and shrubs between you and the water, those trees serve very important functions: protection from erosion, protection of soils from heavy rain, protection of water from storm run-off, shade, habitat, and ultimately, protection of

people's investment in the property. New Hampshire has a legitimate need to ensure that shorelands remain intact for the public welfare and for ecological integrity. A shoreland permit from NHDES must be obtained before any alteration to the "protected shoreland" can proceed. Legally, the protected shoreland in New Hampshire begins at the normal high-water mark and extends 250 feet inland. "Protected shoreland" rules apply to land that abuts saltwater, most large rivers, and rivers in the NH River Management and Protection Program. The area that includes the first 50 feet from the water's edge is especially vulnerable to damage and is afforded the most stringent protection. State law forbids almost all alterations to the natural vegetation here with very few exceptions. Outside that 50-foot zone, some trees may be cut, but a certain percentage of trees must remain. In almost all cases, a permit is needed.

Some people believe, incorrectly, that as landowners they have the right to do whatever they want on their property. When landowners clear the shoreland, they endanger the water, nature, and the public's right to enjoy these communal goods. When actions on one property result in harm to other areas or to people, this is a form of "tort" or civil wrong. For the legal details, please visit [swqpa-summary.pdf \(nh.gov\)](http://swqpa-summary.pdf(nh.gov))

Some alteration in the protected shoreland is allowed, but only when proper procedures are followed and a permit is granted. Paddlers and hikers might witness signs of shoreland alteration. As a rule, determining what is permitted and what is not is tricky. Remember, as a private citizen you do not have the right to trespass on private property or to enforce rules: this is best left to the authorities. If you see fresh bare soil, newly cut trees, or a change from previous conditions, take a photo with GPS enabled and then contact the town's code enforcement officer.

	<p>Note the freshly cut stumps and the steep slope.</p> <p>☹️</p>		<p>This site had a grand-fathered shoreland permit, but it was cited for unpermitted expansion.</p> <p>☹️</p>
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Welcome Fall!

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers."

-Anne of Green Gables

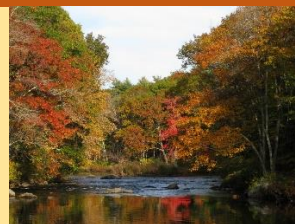


Photo by RH Lord