



Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) Annual Report Oct. 1, 2021 - Sept. 30, 2022

As required by RSA 483 and the NH Rivers Management & Protection Program, representatives from eight 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.

- **Land Protection:** The LRAC committed \$185,505.00 to the Southeast Land Trust (SELT) towards permanent land protection projects totaling 247 acres along the Lamprey River in Deerfield, Durham, and Epping.
- **Outreach:** As Covid 19 began to wane, in-person outreach efforts began to return. Work on upgrading the committee's website, www.LampreyRiver.org, was completed and the new site was made available to the public in early 2022. River-related articles were shared with towns for e-newsletters.
- **Project Review:** The committee reviewed 15 development or redevelopment projects in 6 towns that require NHDES permits for wetlands, shoreland, and alteration of terrain. Comments were sent to the NHDES, applicants, and 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.
- **Recreation:** Many local residents made good use of *Explore the Lamprey River* and the public paddling access maps that were updated and released in 2020. The guides cover the towns of Epping, Lee, Durham, and Newmarket.
- Trail and signage improvements at the Little River Park nature trail in Lee were completed using a Community Grant from the LRAC.
- Trail and signage improvements were completed at Heron Point Conservation Area in Newmarket using a Community Grant from the LRAC.
- Safety improvements at the Lee Public Canoe Access were planned and permits were secured. Work will begin in late fall 2022 or late summer 2023.
- **Water Quality:** The LRAC continued to support volunteer water quality testing throughout the Lamprey River watershed.
- For a second year, the LRAC funded analysis of bacterial contamination at several recreational areas to determine the source of the bacteria: human or otherwise. Results will be made public in late 2022.
- The LRAC also funded the purchase of two new stream gages for the North Branch River in Candia and the Pawtuckaway River in Nottingham, as well as data-sharing software, that will help NHDES to update the Instream Flow Management Plan.

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