



Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) Annual Report October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021

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 September 26, 2013, is available at town offices and on www.LampreyRiver.org.

- **Outreach:** COVID19 continued to make gatherings risky, so outreach efforts turned largely to small groups of mostly older adults. Work on upgrading the committee's website, www.LampreyRiver.org, commenced and the new site should be available to the public in early 2022 or sooner. River-related articles were shared with towns for e-newsletters.
- **Project Review:** The committee reviewed 22 projects in 9 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:** Local people continued to stay closer to home and spent significantly more time outside exploring the river and visiting local parks and conservation areas. Many 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.
- Improvements at the Little River Park nature trail were undertaken using a Community Grant from the LRAC. The Lee Conservation Commission built a kiosk and installed an informative panel to describe the trail and various sub-habitats. Future improvements to the trail will include wooden bridges over mucky areas and a bench at the trail's end for viewing the Little River.
- **Water Quality:** The LRAC funded two UNH research projects this summer. One grant enabled the purchase of new and upgraded continuous monitoring equipment that tracks key water quality indicators at Wiswall Falls in Durham and will enable public access to the data. The other grant funded analysis of bacterial contamination at several recreational areas and determined the source of the bacteria, human or otherwise. Results will be made public in late 2021.
- **Wildlife and Ecology:** The LRAC awarded a grant to a UNH graduate student who mapped the locations of invasive Japanese knotweed along the river and will study whether this weed has an effect on riverbank erosion compared to naturally vegetated areas. This work will inform mathematical models that could be used on other rivers.

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