



Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) Annual Report Oct. 1, 2019 - Sept. 30, 2020

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.

- **History:** LRAC was pleased to create and fund the kiosk panel at Thompson Forest in Durham. This former dairy farm is being transformed to shrub-meadow habitat and includes a walking trail through forest and field. A public tour was offered in November.
- **Outreach:** COVID19 made gatherings risky, so outreach efforts turned largely to computer-based modes. *Chick and Dee-Dee's Lamprey River Adventure* children's book was made available for free viewing via www.LampreyRiver.org. Two new videos featuring an interview with naturalist author and artist David Carroll were completed and were made available for viewing on the website. River-related articles were shared with towns for e-newsletters.
- **Project Review:** The committee reviewed 19 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:** With travel restrictions imposed by COVID 19, people spent significantly more time outside exploring the river and visiting local parks and conservation areas. In response, the LRAC created a new public paddling access map and guide that includes sites from Raymond to Newmarket and updated and expanded the 2008 recreation map and guide that covers the Wild and Scenic towns of Epping, Lee, Durham, and Newmarket.
- **Water Quality:** The LRAC funded a UNH graduate student to study nutrient budgets along segments of the main stem Lamprey River. A key finding from most sampling stations showed that natural processes that remove nitrogen are being outpaced by non-point source inputs, (those that cannot be easily traced to a particular source). A grant to the Raymond Conservation Commission was used to fund a wetland inventory and recommend zoning changes to maximize protection of the town's drinking water.
- **Wildlife and Ecology:** Using a grant from the LRAC, the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association developed a pilot program using side-scan sonar to locate invasive variable milfoil in the lake, thus helping to prevent infestation in the river.

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

Respectfully Submitted By:

Joseph Foley

Joseph Foley, Chair
Lamprey River Advisory Committee