



Report to: Lamprey River Advisory Committee

From: Great Bay Stewards – Soak Great Bay Project

Date: Sept 6, 2016

This report is submitted in fulfillment of our commitment to the Lamprey River Advisory Committee – Wild and Scenic to report on the results realized from the use of the small grant awarded to the SOAK –Great Bay project in June 2016. We greatly appreciate the assistance from LRAC which enabled us to hire a small bobcat to dig out and remove huge granite rocks and boulders on the site of a rain garden installation. The SOAK-Great Bay project works with homeowners to inform them about the potential for stormwater to carry excess nutrients, sediment and other pollutants into our rivers and streams. We also assist homeowners to install good stormwater management practices to help infiltrate stormwater on their property.

We usually install the practices by hand with volunteers, however, occasionally the property has conditions that make it very difficult to use volunteers. This was the case with a rain garden installation at #37 Briallia Circle in Newmarket. As the project manager I dig perk holes to ensure we are placing any proposed practice in an area where the water will infiltrate. Digging on this site turned up numerous rocks even with the simple perk test which concerned me. Happily LRAC agreed to help us hire a small bobcat to dig the initial 10'x20' hole 18" deep. Once the bobcat operator started working it was clear we could never have accomplished the project with hand tools. He removed two small pick-up truck loads of very large boulders from the site. Pictures were submitted separately showing the initial site, the boulders being removed and the final rain garden installation. The operator worked for 5 and half hours removing boulders. LRAC originally budgeted \$240 for 4 hours of work including driving time (from Greenland). The final cost was actually \$330 and LRAC, very generously agreed to support the additional expense.

This project was especially useful because it is the first of its kind in a close knit neighborhood where many of the homes are built on slanted slopes that feed stormwater runoff to the street and catchment basins. The catchment system drains the stormwater directly into to Little River which flows into the Lamprey River. We are hoping that this installation in the front yard of the house next to the front door will be an effective model project for the neighborhood. We will

The Great Bay Stewards
Great Bay Discovery Center
89 Depot Road, Greenland, NH 03840
603-778-0015, ex. 350
info@greatbaystewards.org

follow-up with the homeowner after the first big storm to ensure that the garden is functioning properly and we will also follow up next spring as the garden regrows to ensure the plants survived their first winter. If there are any problems we can adjust the inflow and outflow areas of the garden and can replace a few plants if necessary.

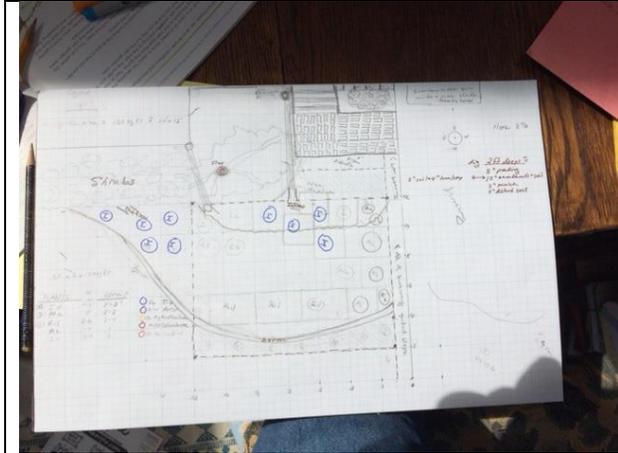
As part of the LRAC grant the homeowner agreed to allow us to host an event open to the neighborhood to show off the finished rain garden. That event was held July 16, (flyer sent separately) and six households attended. We received two additional requests for SOAK property assessments from that community event.

The rain garden installation at # 37 collected water from two downspouts, draining approximately 861 square feet of roof top. One of the downspouts collected in the rain garden had previously been running down the paved driveway so that results in additional pollutant reductions. As part of this project the Department of Environmental Services is calculating the approximate pollutant reductions from each installation. When this calculation is completed we will be able to forward that information to you as well.

Thank you again for supporting this project and for helping the communities around the Lamprey River and the Great Bay work for cleaner, healthier water. If you need any additional information please let me know.

Laura Byergo
Great Bay Stewards
Soak Up the Rain – Great Bay, Project Manager
E-mail: Lgbyer@yahoo.com

The Great Bay Stewards
Great Bay Discovery Center
89 Depot Road, Greenland, NH 03840
603-778-0015, ex. 350
info@greatbaystewards.org



plans for the rain garden



rock removed from the yard



the finished garden



post-installation neighborhood garden party

The Great Bay Stewards
Great Bay Discovery Center
89 Depot Road, Greenland, NH 03840
603-778-0015, ex. 350
info@greatbaystewards.org