

RECREATION AND PUBLIC ENJOYMENT



Visitors have a dog-gone good time on the river. Photo by Breakaway Media.

Background

Because water is so essential to our survival, emotional well-being, and sense of beauty, people have a natural affinity for water; they seek to be near it and enjoy activities associated with it. These activities include walking, bird-watching, picnics, photography, fishing, boating, and swimming. When people can enjoy the natural and cultural assets of a river and its corridor, they form a connection to the river and are inspired to protect it. Long-term enjoyment of rivers is dependent on being able to access the rivers and enjoy them appropriately through low-impact activities. The recreational resources along the Lamprey River and its tributaries were recognized by the State of New Hampshire in designating the rivers into the Rivers Management and Protection Program. The importance of these resources was also recognized by their inclusion in the 1995 *Lamprey River Management Plan* created during the Lamprey River Wild and Scenic Study.

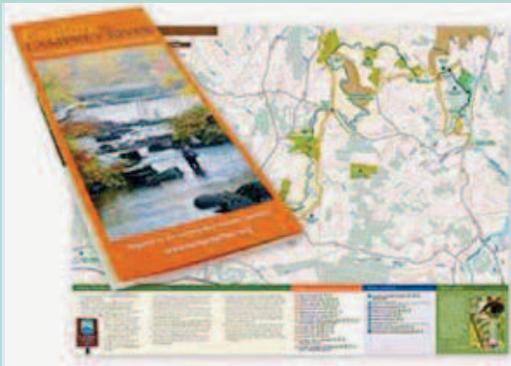
Goal

Improve and increase appropriate, non-motorized opportunities for public enjoyment along and in the Lamprey River and its state-designated tributaries (Little, North, North Branch, Pawtuckaway, and Piscassic rivers).



Kevin Martin next to a (NH Big Tree Program) champion black gum he discovered while exploring the Lamprey River

Photo by S. Petersen



River Profiles

Explore the Lamprey River map and tour guide was an accomplishment that I am most proud of in the more than 15 years that I served with the LRAC. We had worked hard to protect open land along the river and I thought it was important that people see and appreciate the newly conserved properties and other landmarks on the Lamprey. As chair of the Recreation Workgroup, I pushed the idea of a tour guide that directed people to important sites in the Wild and Scenic towns.

Others on the workgroup took up the challenge and we worked together to bring this to reality. Residents in the towns were consulted about the best sites for the public, pictures were chosen, and the LRAC Recreation Workgroup members wrote up descriptions of their towns and the sites in them. After much hard work with a graphic designer, the guide was edited, designed and printed with an online version included for the LRAC website.

Explore the Lamprey River map and tour guide brings people to special places along the river for hiking trails, paddling access, and historic sites and helps them appreciate this National Wild and Scenic River almost as much as I do.

Kevin Martin,
former LRAC representative and chair

Key Accomplishments

- Created the popular *Explore the Lamprey River* [map](#) and [guide](#) for passive, river-based recreational opportunities in the Wild and Scenic River towns of Epping, Lee, Durham, and Newmarket.
- Provided a Small Grant to the Town of Deerfield to develop the Deerfield Community Trail network and map, now widely used.
- Purchased land in Lee, gave it to the town, and constructed a launch for non-motorized boats with signage on Highway 152 near Wadleigh Falls.
- Partnered with town recreation departments and the Lamprey River Watershed Association to offer family fun days and paddling trips.
- Provided a Small Grant for the [Lamprey River Big Tree Tour](#).
- Investigated the [feasibility of creating a foot path](#) along the Wild and Scenic segment of the river.
- Investigated the feasibility of improving canoe passage through selective [relocation of large woody obstacles](#).
- Partnered with the Town of Raymond to install signage for a nature trail.
- Partnered with the Town of Newmarket to design a kiosk and install kayak racks at two river sites for town-owned kayaks.
- Partnered with the Newmarket Recreation Department to establish the annual “Lamprey River Splash and Dash” kayak race and boat parade.

Key Future Actions

- Identify grants that help towns improve their river-based recreational areas.
- Work with towns and landowners to incorporate access for a footpath that roughly parallels the Lamprey River along the Wild and scenic section based on findings from the 2015 feasibility study.
- Expand and enhance plans for recreation and public enjoyment activities that include the entire Lamprey River and its five designated tributaries.
- Expand recreational opportunities for people with handicaps.
- Create a recreational tour map and guide to include the towns along the middle and upper Lamprey River and the tributaries.
- Work with partners (including town recreation, conservation, and historical committees) to support events with river activities at riverside parks each year.
- Advocate for appropriate, ecologically sound use of river recreational resources, including canoe passage around or through downed trees.



(L-R) Dick Lord, Preston Samuel,
Kevin Martin, Jake Poirier
Photo by Dick Lord

Sign of the Times

Nov. 2014

Travelers on Route 152 near Wadleigh Falls will notice a new sign marking Lee's only public canoe access. The site and ramp, donated to the Town of Lee by the LRAC, has been open since 2011. LRAC representatives Dick Lord, Preston Samuel, and Sharon Meeker led the effort to create the sign. Kevin Martin designed and built the framework. UNH student Jake Poirier helped with the installation. All costs were generously covered by the LRAC. Although winter is not paddling season, the sign will be a strong reminder that the river is ours to enjoy and protect.

By the Numbers: Recreation and Public Enjoyment

Item Description	Count
Explore the Lamprey River Map and Guide distributed	~ 3000
miles of Deerfield Community Trail investigated or mapped	20
river access sites acquired, developed or improved	3
family fun days, paddling trips or activities offered per year	> 2
passive recreation grants awarded	2