

Community Engagement and Education

Goal:

Engage people of all ages to appreciate and protect the resources and services provided by the Lamprey rivers and the surrounding landscape using a variety of educational media and experiences.



Background

Since its formation in 1991, the Committee has offered brochures, newsletters, videos, displays, and a website to the public. It has provided educational materials and training for teachers. Committee members have given testimony to local and state officials and presented programs to the public to support legislation that protects the rivers. Committee members have offered recreational programs that help to build relationships between people and the rivers.

Community engagement and educational activities are viewed by the Committee as vital underpinnings of resource conservation. The Committee's efforts seek to engage the public to appreciate and protect the outstanding resources of the rivers: clean, abundant water, wildlife, scenic beauty, historic and archaeological features, and recreation. These resources depend on an informed and appreciative public. Enjoyment of the rivers in a manner that preserves the resources must be a part of the Committee's efforts.

Key Future Actions

- Create a continuing education program for Committee members and extend it to the public when appropriate.
- Continue to expand community engagement and education efforts beyond the four lower Wild and Scenic towns to all Lamprey River towns.

- Inform the public, town governments, and state and federal partners about LRAC goals and achievements through written annual reports.
- Distribute quarterly newsletters to all towns.
- Work with upstream towns that might want to consider Wild and Scenic designation.
- Fund and guide the LRAC community engagement and education specialist.
- Partner with schools to offer river-related science trips.
- Partner with local colleges to assist with environmental education instruction.
- Offer information and programs to a wider audience.
 - Provide articles to local media with wide public appeal and distribution.
 - Offer at least one outreach component per year in conjunction with the working groups that are engaged in land protection, recreation, history and archaeology, water resources, and wildlife.
 - Offer Community Grants to teachers to integrate Lamprey River topics into their classroom studies.
- Enlist the help of partners to inform the public about the rivers and the committee's work.
 - Invite members of regional planning commissions, land trusts, and conservation organizations to speak to the committee on specific subjects or projects that could be co-sponsored, e.g., public tours of conserved land, film festivals.
 - Continue to support Community Grant outreach projects that support management plan objectives.
 - Continue to inform the public about invasive, non-native species that threaten native wildlife and habitats.
 - Strengthen partnerships with schools, libraries, and town recreation departments as a way to offer programs to a wider audience, especially those people for whom access can be challenging due to financial or physical limitations.
- Develop and promote a program to encourage wide buffers around streams in the watershed. Share a one-page sheet of best-management-practices that includes ten tips and lists additional resources.
- Recognize influential conservationists of the watershed. Invite them to make presentations.

To view past Community Engagement Accomplishments, click [here](#) or go to Appendix C, page 52.