

Statement of Management Philosophy

The Lamprey River and its major tributaries (Little, North, North Branch, Pawtuckaway, and Piscassic rivers) have been recognized as significant ecological, historic, recreational, and water supply resources by the New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program. In addition, the lower 23 miles of the main stem Lamprey River have been designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Both programs require an advisory management plan to aid in protecting and managing the resources of the rivers. The Lamprey River Management Plan must provide balance among its three main goals:

1. Protect the ecosystem and associated ecological functions of the rivers and their corridors.
2. Promote responsible community use of the rivers and the surrounding land.
3. Respect the interests of property owners and municipalities while enlisting their support as guardians of the rivers' assets.

The Lamprey River, the tributaries, and the Greater Seacoast face two main threats:

1. The human population of the Greater Seacoast area is increasing rapidly. The rivers and the land surrounding them face increasing pressure from development and, to a lesser degree, recreational use. As the natural landscape shrinks, the ability of the land to adapt and be resilient also decreases.
2. The changing climate is causing more extreme weather and greater uncertainty.

In light of these threats, how do we keep our waters clean? How do we ensure that people and wildlife can access enough clean water to survive? How do we ensure that wildlife and the habitats on which they depend remain viable?

The Lamprey River and its tributaries contribute a significant amount of water to Great Bay. The Great Bay Estuary and tidal portions of the Lamprey River are showing signs of decline and do not meet federal Clean Water Act criteria for several indicators. Special attention must be paid to mitigating the increase in nitrogen, sediment, and other pollutants that reach the waterways, as well addressing areas of low dissolved oxygen. The condition of the rivers and Great Bay reflects the actions of individuals, commercial interests, and communities that populate the land surrounding these bodies of water.

Engaging the public and working together to attain the management plan goals are critical to our shared future. Central to this work will be pursuing collective efforts that are needed for protection now and into the future. The future of the rivers and Great Bay as community assets rests squarely on the willingness of everyone along the river to be knowledgeable and careful stewards. Together we can ensure that positive future.