



New Hampshire Rivers Management and Protection Program Local Advisory Committee News



Heads Up!

2019 LAC Annual Reports Are Due to Municipalities: The municipalities along your rivers want to know all the exciting things your LAC has been up to this past year! 2019 annual reports are due early in 2020. Please remember to copy Rivers Program staff when you send them, as we use highlights from your reports when we report to the New Hampshire legislature. You can see how we used your 2018 annual report in the draft [FY 2018-2019 RMPP Biennial Report](#). Annual reports may be submitted as a letter, or you may use the [2019-2020 LAC Report Form](#).

Get Involved and Stay Informed! Upcoming Meetings, Workshops, and Events

- **January 9, 2020 - Social Media Outreach Webinar:** Do you use social media? If so, would you like to better craft content for your desired audience? The New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) is co-hosting a free webinar on social media and online communication. Please visit the [NEIWPCC website](#) for more information or to register.



- **January 17, 2020, 1:00 PM - Rivers Management Advisory Committee Meeting:** All Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) meetings are open to LAC members and the public! Please visit the [RMAC Forum](#) for more information.

- **March 13, 2020 – Water and Watershed Conference:** This is a great annual opportunity to meet with over 175 academics, regulators, non-profit organizations, water resource professionals, land use planners, elected officials, and others to share information on water resource information. Please visit the [Plymouth State University conference page](#) for more information.



- **March 27, 2020 - Wild and Scenic Film Festival:** The New Hampshire Rivers Council will be hosting its 10th annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival at Red River Theatres. This festival, which sells out every year, includes a social hour with tasty food and great live entertainment and offers a way for people to get energized and empowered to work in the community and get involved in the Council's initiatives. Stay tuned for more information as it becomes available on the [New Hampshire Rivers Council](#) website.



- **April 11, 2020 - LAC Workshop, SAVE THE DATE!** Planning for the Local Advisory Committee Workshop, hosted by the Rivers Program and New Hampshire Rivers Council, is underway. If you have any recommendations for topics and/or speakers, please let us know. More information will be emailed and posted on the [LAC Forum](#) soon.

If you have an upcoming event that you would like to share with other LAC members, please let us know and we will post it to the LAC Forum and work with you to distribute the information to other LACs.

LAC Membership Updates

- **Welcome Back Saco-Swift Rivers LAC!** After being dormant for several years, the Saco River LAC and the Swift River LAC were recently reincarnated as the combined Saco-Swift Rivers LAC. With two former members of the Swift River LAC having joined forces with new members from the greater Saco River watershed, the new LAC is eager to make a difference in their communities and protect their river. Please join us in welcoming them! 
- **Member Recruitment Proving a Success:** Since the Rivers Program has been fully-staffed this year, Mariah Mitchell has been working diligently to support LACs in need of additional members. In 2019 the Rivers program assisted the Cold River, Pemigewasset River, and Saco-Swift Rivers LACs in recruiting members from underrepresented municipalities. There have been 24 new members who joined LACs in 2019! Please contact the Rivers Program staff if your LAC would like assistance in recruiting new members.
- **Is Your Membership Term Expiring?** Have you forgotten when you are due to renew your LAC membership? You can check your term expiration on our [member list](#) on the LAC Forum (updated quarterly) to ensure you remain an active member. If you have any questions about the reappointment process, please feel free to contact Rivers Program staff. The [LAC Nominee Form](#) can be found on both the NHDES website and the LAC Forum.
- **Financial Disclosure Form No Longer Required for LAC Members:** Due to changes in the member appointment processes, LAC members are no longer required to fill out a financial interest form.
- **LAC Survey Responses Analyzed – Here's What You Told Us!** Thank you to the 69 LAC volunteers who participated in the LAC survey! Your opinions, comments, and suggestions are key to making the Rivers Program a continued success and ensuring that program staff are providing the support and tools you need. For example, many of you asked for more direct communication from program staff, so we have sent this LAC Newsletter directly to you! Both a [one-page summary](#) of the top survey responses, including feedback on how Rivers Program staff plans to follow up on your requests, and the [comprehensive LAC Survey analysis](#) can be found on the [LAC Forum](#). 
- **Interested in Creating a Facebook Page or Website in 2020?** Social media platforms are a great way to become known by the general public and to share all of the exciting things your LAC does. A Facebook page or a simple website (created using a free service such as Wix, Weebly, or WordPress) are easy and effective ways to reach community members. To ensure that content is kept current, consider appointing one or two members to be in charge of updating and monitoring your website or Facebook page. The Rivers Program is happy to assist in the development of a website or Facebook page. Among all of the [LAC websites](#), we recommend taking a look at the [Cold River](#), [Contoocook and North Branch Rivers](#), and [Isinglass River](#) LAC sites, which were all redesigned in 2019! LACs with active Facebook pages include the [Exeter-Squamscott River](#), the [Upper Merrimack River](#), the [Souhegan River](#), and the [Connecticut River Joint Commissions](#).

Wetland Rule Revisions Mean New Processes for LACs

LACs continue to play an important role in the review of many wetland permit applications. As such, we have created a few helpful tools to help you navigate these changes. Check the [LAC Forum](#) regularly for updates!

- [Wetland Permit Guidance for LACs](#)
- [Wetland Permit Application Review Process Flow Charts for LACs](#)
- [Quick-Reference Guide to Wetland Permit Applications for LAC Review](#)
- [Wetland Permit Planning Tool \(WPPT\)](#): The WPPT is designed to help applicants find the information they need to fill out a wetlands application form. It includes designated rivers, lot numbers, and historical permits in addition to natural resource map layers.



McQuesten Brook, Manchester
Photo by Stephen C. Landry
(Upper Merrimack River LAC)

To Review or Not to Review: Hazardous Waste Generator Permit Applications

The Rivers Program is occasionally forwarded hazardous waste generator permit applications received by NHDES for entities located within designated river corridors. The hazardous waste generated is wastewater that is either treated or contained on site and indoors, or sent to a public wastewater treatment facility. Do you want to review these permit applications? Please let us know!

New and Improved Website Planned for NHDES

In mid-2020, NHDES will publish a new website. The design and organization of this new website will look and function much differently than the current one. Information on the new site will be current, informative, and easily searchable/accessible. Not all information on the current website will be transferred to the new site. We will keep you updated on progress as it occurs.



Need Money? Funding Sources for LACs

The best source of funding for your LAC's proposed project depends on the size and type of project you are considering. Below is a list of a few potential sources of funds. Program staff also forwards any relevant grant announcements received.

- [New Hampshire state grants](#): Links to state grant programs by project type.
- New Hampshire Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program- Planning Evaluations: Towns may apply for stormwater planning loans and receive 100% principal forgiveness up to \$75,000. LACs are invited to work with their towns to accomplish river corridor management goals. Contact Deb Loiselle at Deborah.Loiselle@des.nh.gov or 603-271-1352 for more information.
- [New Hampshire Charitable Foundation grants](#)
- [New Hampshire Grassroots Fund Grant Programs](#)
- [New Hampshire Moose Plate Grants](#)
- [New Hampshire Fish and Game Small Grants Program](#)
- Water Quality Monitoring Equipment: If your LAC is in need of water quality monitoring equipment, please contact Tracie Sales at Tracie.Sales@des.nh.gov to see if the Rivers Program can help.

It's Time to Start Tracking 2020 Legislation in New Hampshire



This legislative season, please consider becoming involved in legislative matters of which are important to your LAC. The Rivers Program has guidance documents that can assist you throughout the legislative process. One that may be particularly helpful is [Local Advisory Committee Involvement and Influence with New Hampshire Legislation](#). It truly makes a difference when LACs, CRJC and CRJC subcommittees write letters of testimony and attend and/or testify at hearings, as legislators do listen to the voices of their constituents whether they be in favor or opposed. The best thing you can do is be involved! Please contact Rivers Program staff with any questions you may have about the legislative process.

New Information, Maps, and Tools

- [**Tips for Organizing and Conducting Volunteer Cleanup Events**](#): Are you looking to organize a volunteer cleanup this spring? Since 2000, over 1,000 volunteers for the [Manchester Urban Ponds Restoration Program](#) have spent over 3,000 hours collecting 2,394 bags of trash at 116 cleanups! This does not include the items illegally “dumped” such as the 98 shopping carts, 437 tires, car batteries, construction debris, and other items. This publication is based upon the experience and “lessons learned” by the program over time. The document is a guide for individuals and groups seeking to coordinate and conduct a volunteer cleanup event.
- [**National Inventory of Dams**](#): The National Inventory of Dams is a Congressionally-authorized database documenting dams in the U.S. It is maintained and published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in collaboration with FEMA. The inventory is updated annually and is now publicly accessible. Users can search for information about a specific dam or find all dams located in a particular county or at a particular hazard level.
- [**NHDES ARM Fund Aquatic Resource Mapper**](#): Are you looking to determine restoration and mitigation opportunities in your towns that will improve stream connectivity, restore important fish habitat, and increase flood resiliency? This interactive mapping tool contains data on stream crossings (culverts and bridges), flood hazards at roads, and environmental conservation. Check it out!
- [**WeTransfer**](#): Have you ever been emailed a large set of permit plans and wondered how to distribute them to your LAC members for review? Using “WeTransfer” is one option, allowing you to send up to 2 GB free with no registration required.



Volunteers at Stevens Pond cleanup, Manchester
Photo by Jen Drocik

Remember to Share Your Activities, Events, Photographs, and Publications with Us!



NHDES is eager to promote LAC-hosted activities, events, photographs, and publications with our 5000+ followers on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) (@NHDES), and [YouTube](#). So be sure to share these with Rivers Program staff!