



Boscawen
Bow
Canterbury
Concord
Franklin
Northfield

PO Box 3019 | Denacook, NH 03303

**The Upper Merrimack River Local Advisory Committee
Top 10 List of Permit Review Wish List Comments**

as presented at the May 13, 2017 Local Advisory Committee Workshop

1. **Stream Crossings:** the UMRAC recommends that stream crossings, culverts, and bridges incorporate open-bottom bridge and culvert structures whenever possible with appropriate channel alignment to facilitate aquatic organism passage and conveyance of other wildlife species throughout the system.
2. **Outdoor Lighting:** whenever buildings, bridges, parking lots, or other structures are proposed for construction within sight of the river, and outdoor lighting fixtures are proposed, the UMRAC request
 - a. Any lighting fixtures affixed to the exterior of buildings should be designed with down-shaded light shields to minimize disturbances to wildlife within the river corridor. Excessive lighting at night interrupts nocturnal life cycles of many organisms and leads to mortality in many cases.
 - b. Any parking lot fixtures should incorporate down-shaded, hoods to minimize impacts to the river and associated species in the corridor.
 - c. Any bridges being rehabilitated or replaced over the river should eliminate outdoor lighting all together.
3. **Parking Lot Islands:** The UMRAC discourages the construction of traditional, closed-curb, parking lot islands and urges, curb-cut, inverted, parking lot islands that allow for infiltration of stormwater. These bioinfiltration islands support a mix of trees and shrubs that mature over time and provide critical shading to reduce temperatures of stormwater runoff and the harmful effects of thermal pollution to receiving waters.
4. **Dump No Waste Markers:** The UMRAC recommends that all catch basins be marked with metal tags that remind the public that catch basins are not connected to wastewater treatment facilities. Metal, catch basin, tags should be installed with messaging like "Dump No Waste – Drains to River" etc.
5. **Snow, Salt, and Sand Storage Areas:** The storage of snow and ice manage materials on-site should be noted on all plans with notes about how the sand and salt are contained and covered to eliminate runoff. The storage areas for snow should be depicted on plans and preferably not located on or in stormwater BMPs that are not designed to accommodate snow loads.

6. **New Hampshire Certified Green SnowPro Program:** when reviewing plans for commercial properties or sub-divisions that will require snow and ice management by contractors, the UMLAC always encourages that owners/managers consider only hiring Green SnowPro certified contractors. If owners have long-standing relationships with their snow and ice management contractors, the UMLAC recommends that the owner urge their contractor to become certified, as they will benefit from limited liability protection granted through the certification and save resources and money in the short and long term. More information at: <http://t2.unh.edu/green-snowpro-certification>
7. **Wildlife-friendly Erosion Control Products:** the UMLAC recommends the use of wildlife-friendly, erosion control products that eliminate mortality among reptiles, amphibians, and mammals that often get strangled or smothered in traditional, plastic-based, non-biodegradable, non-natural material, erosion control blankets or similar products. New Hampshire Fish and Game requires use of these products at all their public access construction sites, and the UMLAC urges the same for all construction projects within the corridor. More information at: <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/eco/nongame/wildlife-friendly-erosion-control.pdf> or on the UMLAC website.
8. **Seed Mix and Wetland Plantings:** During review of permits that involve seed mix and/or wetland seed mixes for slope stabilization and/or mitigation on-site, the UMLAC urges the use of New England Seed Mix and New England wetlands species or their equivalent to reduce the spread of invasive species and to increase viability of what is planted.
9. **Trees and Shrubs Instead of Managed Turf:** whenever managed turf areas are the recommended finished, site condition, the UMLAC encourages consideration of more natural areas with mixtures of shrubs, trees, and less maintenance intensive landscaping practices. Managed turf requires mowing, watering, and far more resources than shrubs and trees. Trees mature and provide habitat and shaded areas that reduce temperatures of runoff, and make for a more comfortable and desirable employee/customer destination on the property for taking breaks or having outdoor lunches etc.
10. **Gravel Wetlands:** Many site development plans incorporate detention or retention basins to store and treat stormwater. When those systems store water for extended periods of time, the resulting pool of water heats up, loses oxygen, and leads to thermal pollution and other negative impacts to receiving surface waters and the biological communities within them. The UMLAC urges the incorporation of gravel wetlands as a preferred best management practice that infiltrates stormwater rather than storing it and releasing it over time. Gravel wetlands reduce stormwater runoff temperatures and the infiltration through the wetland media removes nutrients and other pollutants before the stormwater reaches rivers, lakes, wetlands, and ponds. The UNH Stormwater Center has reference materials for gravel wetlands on their website.