



Lewis Creek Association 2020 Program Highlights

Lewis Creek Association was busy with new projects this past year. Many reliable and talented volunteers and town and state staff helped to grow our community service programs, especially nature conservation activities and our water quality education and improvement program “Ahead of the Storm” (AOTS). Our area of work includes the middle Lake Champlain Valley and the Lewis Creek, LaPlatte, Thorp/Kimball/Holmes, and McCabe’s watersheds. We focus on the health of Lake Champlain and its basin feeder streams, which send the bulk (~80%) of phosphorus pollution to the lake when streams are experiencing their more frequent high flow events. LCA’s “Ahead of the Storm” program helps towns and landowners design more resilient stormwater fixes and habitat enhancements that consider the emerging impacts from our climate crisis.

This year, your contributions were critical in helping to secure funds from towns and others including seven new grants this year. With this support, we have been able to afford the projects highlighted below. Our partner network continues to grow, and includes town, state and regional groups. To visit a board meeting or assist with special projects and board activities, please do contact us. Visit our growing library at lewis creek.org, and learn about our daily activities on Facebook.

Program Highlights (\$200,000 annual budget)

Restoration and Conservation

- AOTS. Completed construction and plantings to restore the floodplain near the Hinesburg town garage
- AOTS. Worked with Champlain Valley School District to complete construction of two water quality improvement projects (at SCS and CVU), including work with students to select plants for the final project
- Completed aquatic invasive species surveys and management plan for Lewis Creek, Bristol Pond, and Monkton Pond, and sponsored a boat launch steward program at Bristol Pond
- Thorp / Kimball invasive European Frogbit and other invasive plant control – year 12 (Charlotte)
- LaPlatte Natural Area invasive European Frogbit and other invasive plant control – year 9 (Shelburne)
- Second year of invasive Yellow Iris control study on lower Lewis Creek (Charlotte/N. Ferrisburgh)
- First year of non-native invasive Flowering Rush control study (Charlotte)
- Worked with Charlotte Invasives Collaborative to manage Charlotte’s invasive plants
- Received a grant to begin studying restoration of an upstream area of Hollow Brook (Starksboro)
- AOTS. Project identification, development and design work for a LaPlatte water quality improvement/stormwater treatment project that includes wetland restoration (Hinesburg)
- Continued development efforts for a Lewis Creek corridor conservation project plan in Starksboro

Planning and Data Collection

- Completed water quality sampling plan reports with ACRWC for Lewis Creek, LaPlatte River, Patrick Brook, McCabe’s Brook, Thorp Brook, and Kimball Brook with a reduced sampling season due to COVID
- Continued stream reclassification planning activities for Lewis Creek in cooperation with VT DEC
- Worked with an intern to list and prioritize potential projects for the Lewis Creek watershed for input into DEC’s Watershed Projects Database
- Began community outreach to properties in Shelburne to encourage stormwater improvements
- Worked with CCRPC to place our water quality “scorecard map” online with multiple additional layers

Education and Outreach

- Created new water quality and aquatic invasive species presentations (recorded and placed online), and gave three Zoom webinars
- Participated in water quality planning meetings including State Tactical Basin Plan and Clean Water Network update meetings, CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee meetings, Watersheds United Vermont meetings and the Shelburne Stormwater Advisory Committee
- Shared water quality condition reports with Towns, State, RPCs and private groups

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