



Lewis Creek Association 2024 Program Highlights

Lewis Creek Association was busy with new projects this past year (see projects on a map at bit.ly/projects-24). Many reliable and talented volunteers and town and state staff helped to grow our programs in 2024. We focused on restoration and conservation activities and on our water quality education and improvement program “Ahead of the Storm” (AOTS). Our area of work is the middle Lake Champlain Valley including the Lewis Creek, LaPlatte River, Patrick Brook, Thorp/Kimball/Holmes Brooks, and McCabe’s Brook 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 and support helped provide matching funds to secure resources from grantors (Lake Champlain Basin Program and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources/Department of Environmental Conservation), including several new grants awarded this year. With this support, we have been able to afford the projects highlighted below, and we completed a strategic plan. Our partner network continues to grow, and includes town, state and regional groups. To visit a board meeting or assist with special projects, please contact us. Visit our growing library at lewis-creek.org, and follow our daily activities on Facebook or Instagram.

Program Highlights (\$100,000 annual budget)

Restoration and Conservation

- Coordinated a boat launch steward program at Bristol Pond & Monkton Pond, and began knotweed removal initiative (Ferrisburgh)
- Thorp / Kimball Brooks invasive European Frogbit and other invasive plant control – year 16 (Charlotte)
- LaPlatte Natural Area invasive European Frogbit and other invasive plant control – year 13 (Shelburne)
- AOTS. Managed grant to restore a wetland behind the United Church of Hinesburg
- AOTS. Managed project to design stormwater improvements in a residential area (Hinesburg)
- Partnered with the Orianne Society to complete abundance surveys for native riparian species, prioritize projects, and create a proposal for restoration work (Lewis Creek watershed)
- Completed project development for several river restoration projects in the Lewis Creek watershed
- Designed a natural fix (floodplain lowering, wood additions & plantings) for McCabe’s Brook (Shelburne)
- Coordinated with partners to complete a Lake Iroquois-Patrick Brook Watershed Action Plan (Williston/Richmond/Hinesburg)
- Received grant to complete a native tree and shrub planting along Lewis Creek in Hinesburg
- Partnered with UVM Extension, Audubon Vermont, and other watershed groups to continue work to identify priority sites with the maximum potential impact for water quality, habitat improvement for priority bird species, and carbon benefits.
- Received grant to design improvements for a private road (Common Ground Center, Starksboro)

Planning and Data Collection

- Developed water quality sampling plan in cooperation with VT DEC, and monitored 15 sites eight times over the spring and summer with the help of 21 volunteers (Charlotte, Ferrisburgh, Hinesburg, Shelburne, Starksboro, Monkton)
- Created storymap showing water quality sampling results (available at bit.ly/LCA-WaterQuality)

Education and Outreach

- Presented three talks on water quality (Shelburne, Charlotte, & Monkton)
- AOTS. Completed a manual to help landowners determine how to improve stormwater management on their property, and held workshops to explain why it is important (Shelburne & Hinesburg)
- Visited Hinesburg Community School to teach about water quality and wildlife habitat
- Collaborated with Vermont Master Naturalist to develop a program in the Lewis Creek watershed
- Participated in water quality planning meetings including State Tactical Basin Plan update meetings, CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee meetings, Basin Water Quality Council meetings, and Watersheds United Vermont meetings

LCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

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