



## Lewis Creek Association 2022 Program Highlights

Lewis Creek Association was busy with new projects this past year (see projects on a map at [bit.ly/LCA-Projects-2022](https://bit.ly/LCA-Projects-2022)). 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 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 seven new grants awarded 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 contact us. Visit our growing library at [lewis-creek.org](https://lewis-creek.org), and follow our daily activities on Facebook.

### **Program Highlights** (\$100,000 annual budget)

#### Restoration and Conservation

- Coordinated a boat launch steward program at Bristol Pond & Monkton Pond
- Thorp / Kimball invasive European Frogbit and other invasive plant control – year 14 (Charlotte)
- LaPlatte Natural Area invasive European Frogbit and other invasive plant control – year 11 (Shelburne)
- Helped receive funding for bridge abutment removal, Hollow Brook (Starksboro)
- AOTS. Received funding for, and contracted with construction firm to restore a wetland behind the United Church of Hinesburg in 2023
- AOTS. Completed final documentation of new AOTS sites at Charlotte Library & Last Resort Farm (Monkton)
- AOTS. Received funding for designing stormwater improvements in residential area (Hinesburg)
- Planted trees and shrubs on 3.4 acres along Lewis Creek (Ferrisburgh)
- Received grant and completed engineering design work related to stormwater at Cota Ballfields (Starksboro)
- Began participating in a joint grant to create a watershed action plan for the Lake Iroquois-Patrick Brook watershed (Hinesburg)

#### Planning and Data Collection

- Developed water quality sampling plan in cooperation with VT DEC and ACRWC, and monitored 16 sites nine times over the spring and summer with the help of 26 volunteers (Charlotte, Ferrisburgh, Hinesburg, Shelburne, Starksboro)
- Continued grant to prioritize, and create three concept designs for, McCabe’s Brook water quality improvement projects (Shelburne & Charlotte)
- Created storymap showing water quality sampling results (available at [bit.ly/LCA-WQ-2021](https://bit.ly/LCA-WQ-2021))

#### Education and Outreach

- Presented three webinars on water quality (Charlotte, Ferrisburgh, & Hinesburg)
- AOTS. Began creating a manual that will help landowners determine how to improve stormwater management on their property, and will hold workshops to explain why it is important
- Received training to educate students about watersheds, visited schools (Hinesburg)
- Participated in water quality planning meetings including State Tactical Basin Plan update meetings, CCRPC Clean Water Advisory Committee meetings, Basin Water Quality Council meetings, Watersheds United Vermont meetings

#### *LCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF*

*Abel Fillion – Shelburne; Louis duPont & Chris Runcie - Starksboro; Callie Douglass - Ferrisburgh; Peter Erb & Andrea Morgante - Hinesburg; Myra Handy - Charlotte; Glynda McKinnon - Vergennes; Stevie Spencer - Administration; Kate Kelly - Program Manager*