



August 2017

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Welcome!

Site visits are starting! The applications have been distributed to the Review Panel members, everyone is reading and scoring applications, and we are preparing for site visits to applicant projects. The chance to become better acquainted with both the projects and the applicants is one of the most enjoyable parts of our work at LCHIP.

LCHIP's two summer interns will be wrapping up their summer projects this month. Both Historic Resource Intern Paige Kamal and Natural Resource Intern Andy Healey have made real contributions to the program and have been both interesting and enjoyable to have around.



Paula Bellemore and Andy Healey review natural resource applications

Dijit Taylor
LCHIP Executive Director

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LCHIP Spotlights Colonial Theatre, Laconia

Laconia's Colonial Theatre was a significant component of a lively downtown when it was built in 1913-1914. The complex included a 1200-seat theater plus active commercial storefront spaces and eighteen one-bedroom apartments. The passing years were not kind to the theatre or the city. Maintenance was deferred as the building passed to different owners and uses downgraded from live theater to large movie theatre and community event venue to five small multiplexes to closure. In 2010, the New Hampshire



Colonial Theatre in August 2016

Preservation Alliance identified it as one of the seven most endangered buildings in the state. Just over a hundred years after it was built, the tide of interest and capacity changed. In 2016, the city of Laconia embarked on an ambitious revitalization project to restore the [Colonial Theatre](#) to its original glory. A \$500,000 LCHIP grant is part of the \$14,000,000 "funding stack" to make the project happen.

Musquash Conservation Area, Londonderry

Nearly 40 years ago the Town of Londonderry, led by its Conservation Commission, purchased a 534-acre tract slated to become a 400-500 home residential development and established the [Musquash Conservation Area](#). The Conservation Commission's goals were to encourage outdoor recreation while sustainably managing the land for timber production, wildlife habitat and protection of drinking water resources.



Wetland and surrounding forest in the Musquash Conservation Area

This past summer, the Southeast Land Trust of New Hampshire (SELT), in partnership with the NH Fish & Game Department (NHFG), built upon the excellent conservation work of the Town and added 175 acres to the Musquash, which now exceeds 1,575 acres and offers miles of managed trails popular for hiking, trail biking, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. The expansive and well-managed forests and wetlands of the Musquash filter drinking water for thousands of people who rely on private wells and the Pennichuck water system. Through a partnership with NHFG, portions of the Musquash are actively managed to provide habitat for the endangered New England Cottontail Rabbit.

LCHIP is pleased to have provided a \$278,000 grant to SELT in support of its Expanding the Musquash Conservation Initiative and congratulates SELT and NHFG on their successful conservation collaboration.

LCHIP Road Trip

Musquash Conservation Area

Londonderry's Musquash Conservation Area is not just a recent LCHIP grant award winner, it's a great place for a late summer or early fall walk or bike ride through the woods! There are more than 20 miles of trails to enjoy. You can watch for moose, deer, beaver, turtles and a wide variety of songbirds, or visit the numerous cellar holes that dot the landscape. (Hint: Follow the Heron Trail and watch for the interpretive marker and old homestead sites just westerly of junction 50!) Visit the [Town of Londonderry website](#) to view photos and download a [detailed trail map](#).



One of the many trails in the Musquash Conservation Area. Courtesy photo.

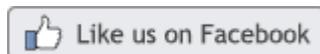
2016 LCHIP Grant Recipients

Albany - Pine Hill Community Forest - Bald Hill	Kensington - Bodwell Fields and Forest
Alstead - Chase's Mill	Laconia - Belknap Mill Planning Study
Ashland - Town Planning Study	Laconia - Colonial Theatre
Barrington - Barr Conservation Easement	Lebanon - Rogers House
Bath - Peters Family Farm Easement	Londonderry - Expanding the Musquash
Belmont - Library Planning Study	Meredith - Page Pond Community Forest
Candia - Tower Hill Pond	Moultonborough Falls Conservation Area
Center Harbor - Town House	Nashua - Sullivan Farm
Claremont - City Hall Planning Study	New Durham - WidowMaker Farm
Conway - Pine Hill Community Forest	Northumberland - Cape Horn Connectivity
Danbury - Deuink Conservation Easement	Portsmouth - John Paul Jones House
Derry - First Parish Church	Portsmouth - Penhallow House Planning Study
Exeter - Winter Street Cemetery	Portsmouth - South Church Planning Study
Francestown - Collins Brook Headwaters	Rochester - City Hall Annex
Gilmanton - Kelley Corner Schoolhouse #1	Salem - Salem Town Forest Expansion
Haverhill - Blackmount Farm	Statewide - Preservation Planning Block Grant
Jaffrey - Meetinghouse	Swanzey - Windyhurst Farm
Keene - Cheshire County Courthouse	Wakefield - Town Hall



The **NH Conservation License Plate (Moose Plate) Program** supports the protection of critical resources in our state. You can purchase a Moose Plate at any time - for your new car, for a car that's already registered, or even for a friend! Find out more at **mooseplate.com**. Income from the Moose Plate Program pays for much of LCHIP's administrative expenses. LCHIP thanks Moose Plate holders for their support!

Headline Photo: LCHIP 2016 site visit to the Musquash Conservation Area



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