

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The mission of the Concord Conservation Commission is to promote, protect, manage, and develop for public use, the natural resources of the City of Concord.

<u>SERVICE INDICATORS</u>	<u>Actual 2010</u>	<u>Actual 2011</u>	<u>Estimated 2012</u>	<u>Projected 2013</u>
1. Acres of protected open space by the City	5,748	5,894	6,068	6,340
2. Percent of total City area protected by the City	14.77%	15.14%	15.59%	16.29%
3. Wetland applications received	13	14	12	15
4. Trail mileage maintained	56	56	60.5	64
5. Open Space Plan **	10%	10%	10%	10%
6. Trails & Brooks Studies **	5%	5%	5%	5%
7. Implement Open Space Plan **	15%	15%	15%	15%
8. Wetlands Board and other items for review **	25%	25%	25%	25%
9. Trails Work **	15%	15%	15%	15%
10. Land Acquisition/Easement Investigations **	25%	25%	25%	25%
11. Assistance to Other Conservation Committees **	5%	5%	5%	5%

*** Indicators represent estimated Conservation Commission Workload Allocation.*

2013 GOALS

1. Continue to protect priority open space through acquisition of fee ownership or easements.
2. Continue to identify, evaluate, and utilize, as practicable, innovative financing techniques to leverage acquisition of open space and conservation easements.
3. Continue to monitor and provide stewardship for City-owned land and conservation easements and work with landowners to resolve identified issues.
4. Continue to use the City's GIS system, together with the wetlands mapping and regional conservation data, to evaluate properties that are of interest to the Commission for land acquisition.
5. Continue efforts to improve trail development and maintenance.
6. Continue to review proposed open space land within cluster subdivisions, and make recommendations to the Planning Board regarding the configuration of the open space areas and review the terms of the conservation easement.
7. Continue to work with the Planning Board to establish trails and trail linkages within new subdivisions.
8. Continue to conduct site walks and provide reports to the Planning Board, the NH Department of Environmental Services Wetlands Bureau, and developers on projects with proposed wetlands or other environmental impacts; especially those projects that involve applications for Dredge and Fill Permits and for Conditional Use Permits for disturbance of wetland buffers.
9. Continue to develop innovative mechanisms to expand the City's street tree planting program, with the intent of planting street trees annually in urban neighborhoods and achieving a maximum survival rate for trees planted in previous fiscal years.
10. Continue to post information on the City of Concord's website.
11. Continue to improve the management of and public access to the City's conservation land and conduct an assessment of City-owned properties and trails to ensure compliance with the American with Disabilities Act.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2012 GOALS STATUS

1. Continue to protect priority open space through acquisition of fee ownership or easements.
9-Month Status: The Commission has received City Council approval for the fee simple acquisition of a 27 acre parcel southerly of Dimond Hill Farm, off of Hopkinton Road, and for the acquisition of an executory interest in a conservation easement on 76 acres of agricultural land at Maplewood Farm. The Commission is working to complete both of these transactions, with anticipated closings in June 2012 and August 2012. The City also received a donation of 77 acres of land from the Swope Family.
2. Continue to identify, evaluate, and utilize, as practicable, innovative financing techniques to leverage acquisition of open space and conservation easements.
9-Month Status: The Commission has partnered with the Five Rivers Conservation Trust on the two land protection projects mentioned above. Both of these projects will be funded by the federal Farm and Ranchland Protection grant program.
3. Develop an open space monitoring and stewardship program for City-owned land and easements.
9-Month Status: This past summer, the Commission hosted an intern from Antioch University's Graduate School. The intern completed the organization of the conservation easement files, created standard forms for the City to use when monitoring conservation easements, reviewed the conservations for violations using the GIS aerial photography, and performed field monitoring visits for 20 of the 41 conservation easements. The Commission is in the process of following up with the landowners to correct easement violations.
4. Continue to use the City's GIS system, together with the wetlands mapping and regional conservation data, to evaluate properties that are of interest to the Commission for land acquisition.
9-Month Status: Ongoing.
5. Continue efforts to improve trail development and maintenance.
9-Month Status: The Concord Boys and Girls Club "YES" Team completed routine trail maintenance and construction this past summer with the assistance of the City's consultant forester. The Trails Committee (subcommittee of the Conservation Commission) continues to work on constructing a new trail system at Rossvie Farm off of District #5 Road. The Committee has secured trail access in the form of landowner agreements to construct a trail from Silk Farm Road to Carter Hill Orchard. The trail will cross through Dimond Hill Farm and Rossvie Farm, connecting the "West End" farms. The trail has been constructed and blazed with trail markers from Dimond Hill Farm to Carter Hill Orchard. There is a small section of trail that extends northerly from District #5 Road that still needs to be marked. The Committee is working to secure a trail agreement with the land owner to utilize this trail. The Commission also continues to be an active partner with the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail to facilitate the implementation of the proposed shared use path in Concord. The Planning Division organized two volunteer work days to construct a walking path along the river in the approximate location of the proposed shared-use path and to remove trash and debris from the banks of the river. The Commission and Trails Committee are also working on the layout and construction of the trails and parking area for Marjory Swope Park off of Long Pond Road. The location of the parking lot and trailhead were recently cleared.
6. Continue to review proposed open space land within cluster subdivisions, and make recommendations to the Planning Board regarding the configuration of the open space areas and review the terms of the conservation easement.
9-Month Status: Ongoing.

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7. Continue to work with the Planning Board to establish trails and trail linkages within new subdivisions.
9-Month Status: This is an ongoing effort. The Conservation Commission continues to make recommendations for the establishment of public trails within new cluster and conventional subdivisions.
8. Continue to conduct site walks and provide reports to the Planning Board, the NH Department of Environmental Services Wetland Bureau, and developers on projects with proposed wetlands or other environmental impacts; especially those projects that involve applications for Dredge and Fill Permits and for Conditional Use Permits for disturbance of wetland buffers.
9-Month Status: Ongoing.
9. Continue to develop innovative mechanisms to expand the City's street tree planting program with the intent of planting street trees annually in urban neighborhoods and achieving a maximum survival rate for trees planted in previous fiscal year.
9-Month Status: The Conservation Commission has contracted with Bartlett Tree Services for the fertilizing and tree care of the downtown street trees. The downtown street trees were also pruned this winter.
10. Improve communication and visibility on the City of Concord's website.
9-Month Status: The Commission now has a webpage on which it publishes documents, meeting minutes, agendas, and trail information, as well as member listings. This is updated monthly.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION**BUDGET DETAIL**

	2009 ACTUAL	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGETED	2012 ESTIMATED	2013 FISCAL BUDGET
REVENUE						
CONTRIB TO TREE PROGRAM	\$0	\$0	\$407	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$0	\$0	\$407	\$0	\$0	\$0
APPROPRIATIONS						
OUTSIDE SERVICES	\$3,177	\$1,500	\$2,640	\$2,675	\$2,050	\$2,675
STREET TREE PROGRAM	\$11,590	\$12,460	\$2,250	\$14,180	\$14,180	\$6,000
Total	\$14,767	\$13,960	\$4,890	\$16,855	\$16,230	\$8,675

FUNDING IMPACT**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

This budget contains no significant funding changes.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NOTES