

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**FORESTRY PROGRAM**

MISSION

The mission of the Forestry Program is to promote sound forest management practices on City-owned land. Good forest management promotes the development of quality forest products, effective wildlife management and recreational use of the City forestlands. A second mission of the forest program is to assure that the management of the City forests is financially self-sustaining. Funds for this budget are generated from the revenue from forest products. That revenue is then transferred to the Forest Trust Fund. These funds provide funding for the services of a forest consultant to manage the City forests, to prepare and update the forest management plan, and to assure the City of long term forest related income.

FORESTRY PROGRAM**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

<u>SERVICE INDICATORS</u>	<u>Actual 2010</u>	<u>Actual 2011</u>	<u>Estimated 2012</u>	<u>Projected 2013</u>
1. Acreage of Forest Land Managed	4,230	4,324	4,442	4,602
2. Acres of Harvested Forest Land	70	40	28	15
3. Value of Timber Sales	\$65,782	\$27,000	\$22,000	\$8,400

2013 GOALS**1. Administration**

- a. Prepare monthly reports to inform the Conservation Commission and City Staff of the status of all forestry projects and programs.
- b. Provide Assistance to the Conservation Commission when conservation projects involve City Forest lots and review proposed land acquisitions for future forestry management potential.
- c. Provide written descriptions of the conservation values of proposed land acquisitions, such information to be included in the baseline documentation of newly acquired conservation land.
- d. Coordinate with the City's consultant forester to prepare the Forestry Program budget.

2. Boundary Line Identification

The goal of the boundary lines program is to insure that all of the City Forest boundaries are well identified to limit any forestry activities to the intended parcel and to help prevent accidental trespass on the part of abutters. This includes establishing all corner bounds and maintaining the boundaries with periodic blazing and painting.

- a. Identify and blaze boundary lines in preparation of proposed timber sales on the Oak Hill property and Riley lot.
- b. Repaint the painted blazes along the boundary of the Winant Park property.
- c. Identify and blaze the boundary of the Hardy property off of Peaceful Lane.

3. Trail Work

The goal of the trails program is to allow the City's residents to enjoy the City Forest land and to provide them with a safe hiking experience while limiting their impact to the environment.

- a. Continue to coordinate and perform routine maintenance of trails located on City Forest land.
- b. Complete the trails at the Rossview Farm property and construct a trailhead and parking off of District #5 Road. Construct the trail connection from Rolinda Avenue to Russell Martin Park and assist the Friends of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail with the construction of a trail kiosk and related trail amenities along the Merrimack River southerly of Loudon Road. Complete the construction of the trails and trail amenities at Marjory Swope Park off of Long Pond Road.
- c. Continue to update the Trails Guidebook as new trails are added to the City's trail system.
- d. Work with members of the Trails Committee to identify new trail connections and seek the necessary land owner agreements or easements for the trails that cross over privately owned land.
- e. Increase public awareness of the Concord trail system.
- f. Continue to provide staff support to the Trails Committee.
- g. Coordinate with the Youth Environmental Services Team (Y.E.S. Team) and other volunteer groups to maintain and improve Concord's trail system.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**FORESTRY PROGRAM****4. Forest Management**

The goal of forest management is to maintain a forest that will provide for a sustainable timber harvest program that, in turn, provides a dependable and continuous source of income to the forest management program, while incorporating the concerns and needs of wildlife, watershed protection, recreation and education.

- a. A timber sale is proposed at the Riley lot off of Hoit Road and/or the Oak Hill property. A timber cruise, along with the necessary bid documents to set up the timber sale, will need to be completed.
- b. Continue to update the Forest Management Plan as new lands are added to the City's forest inventory.
- c. Continue to work on the forest type maps for the Forest Management Plan.

5. Wildlife Management

The goal of the wildlife management program is to ensure that critical wildlife habitats on City properties are protected and that other habitats are maintained to provide diversity and to support self-sustaining wildlife populations, especially in areas adjacent to land that has been converted to development.

- a. Investigate the potential of having the Fire Department perform prescribed burning to enhance wildlife habitat.
- b. The Riley lot, Morono Park, and Healy Park areas need to be brush hogged to control the occurrence of invasive plant species.
- c. Coordinate with the Y.E.S. Team, or another volunteer/service oriented conservation group, to assist with the removal of invasive plant species on City forests.
- d. Coordinate with the State of New Hampshire to monitor the possible spread of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the City.

2012 GOALS STATUS**1. Administration**

- a. Prepare monthly reports to inform the Conservation Commission and City Staff of the status of all forestry projects and programs.

9-Month Status: This is an ongoing item. Reports have been submitted every month to the Commission.

- b. Provide Assistance to the Conservation Commission when conservation projects involve City Forest lots and review proposed land acquisitions for future forestry management potential.

9-Month Status: The City's consultant forester and Planning Staff continue to attend all meetings that involve trails and City Forests.

- c. Provide written descriptions of the conservation values of proposed land acquisitions, such information to be included in the baseline documentation of newly acquired conservation land.

9-Month Status: This work is ongoing.

- d. Coordinate with the City's consultant forester to prepare the Forestry Program budget.

9-Month Status: This work is ongoing.

2. Boundary Line Identification

The goal of the boundary lines program is to insure that all of the City Forest boundaries are well identified to limit any forestry activities to the intended parcel and to help prevent accidental trespass on the part of abutters. This includes establishing all corner bounds and maintaining the boundaries with periodic blazing and painting.

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- a. Identify and blaze boundary lines in preparation of proposed timber sales.

9-Month Status: The boundary line for the proposed Penacook Lake watershed timber sale was marked. The boundaries of the Swope property have also been blazed.

3. Trail Work

The goal of the trails program is to allow the City's residents to enjoy the City Forest land and to provide them with a safe hiking experience while limiting their impact to the environment.

- a. Continue to coordinate and perform routine maintenance of trails located on City Forest land.

9-Month Status: This past summer, the "YES" Team completed routine trail maintenance throughout the City. The City Forester also continues to routinely clean up trails after severe storms. Members of the Trails Committee patrol the trails and notify staff of maintenance concerns.

- b. Coordinate with the State of New Hampshire to develop a trailhead, parking, and trail system at the Rossvie Farm property. Construct the trail and related trail amenities for the "West End Farm Trail" which will connect Dimond Hill Farm, Rossvie Farm, and Carter Hill Farm with a hiking trail.

9-Month Status: The Commission has secured trail agreements with private landowners to connect a trail from Dimond Hill Farm to Carter Hill Orchard. The YES Team, together with the consultant City Forester, constructed two bridges at the Rossvie Farm property, and a trail was constructed at Morono Park. The West End Farm trail has been constructed and blazed with trail markers. The City also organized volunteer work days to construct a section of the proposed Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT). Two groups of volunteers from St. Paul's School also assisted with the MRGT trail and worked to improve the trails at Winant Park.

- c. Continue to update the Trails Guidebook as new trails are added to the City's trail system.

9-Month Status: Ongoing.

- d. Work with members of the Trails Committee to identify new trail connections and seek the necessary land owner agreements for the trails that cross over private land.

9-Month Status: The Trails Committee has been working with a land owner in the South End to construct a trail to connect the neighborhood off of Rolinda Avenue with Russell Martin Park. The release and acceptance of the new easement was approved by City Council in January.

- e. Review the need to improve the parking and pedestrian access to Lehtinen Park, with the anticipated increase of use due to the installation of the Heroes Memorial Bridge.

9-Month Status: Not yet begun.

- f. Increase public awareness of the Concord trail system.

9-Month Status: The Planning Division has assisted the Five Rivers Conservation Trust with the design of a trail brochure and map to be placed at the Winant Park trailhead. New trail signs were also purchased for Dimond Hill Farm and the West End Farm Trail.

4. Forest Management

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- a. A timber sale is proposed for the District #5-Jerry Hill compartment of the Penacook Lake watershed. The property is located off of Long Pond Road, to the southwest of Penacook Lake. A timber cruise, along with the necessary bid documents to set up the timber sale, will need to be completed.

9-Month Status: The timber sale contract was awarded to Chuck Rose. The sale grossed approximately \$28,000.

- b. The Riley lot, Morono Park, and Healy Park areas need to be brush hogged to control the occurrence of invasive plant species.

9-Month Status: All of the aforementioned areas were brush hogged this past summer.

- c. Continue to update the Forest Management Plan as new lands are added to the City forest inventory.

9-Month Status: Draft Forest Management Plan has been reviewed.

- d. Complete the forest type maps for the Forest Management Plan.

9-Month Status: The maps are being digitized.

6. Wildlife Management

The goal of the wildlife management program is to ensure that critical wildlife habitats on City properties are protected and that other habitats are maintained to provide diversity and to support self-sustaining wildlife populations, especially in areas adjacent to land that has been converted to development.

- a. Investigate the potential of having the Fire Department perform prescribed burning to enhance wildlife habitat.

9-Month Status: This work has not yet started. The City Forester will coordinate with the Fire Department when weather conditions are appropriate for a prescribed burn.

- b. Coordinate Plus Time NH Youth Environmental Services Team (Y.E.S. Team, formerly known as the "Green Team"), or some other volunteer or service oriented conservation group, for the removal of invasive plant species on City Forests.

9-Month Status: The YES Team had a successful summer. Commission will continue to coordinate with volunteer groups for trail and forestry related improvements.

- c. Coordinate the removal of invasive plants at the O'Reilly/Fleetham trailhead.

9-Month Status: Invasive Japanese Knotweed was removed from the O'Reilly/Fleetham trailhead and parking area.

FORESTRY PROGRAM**BUDGET DETAIL**

	2009 ACTUAL	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 BUDGETED	2012 ESTIMATED	2013 FISCAL BUDGET
REVENUE						
SALE OF PUBLICATIONS	\$52	\$0	\$376	\$400	\$200	\$200
MISCELLANEOUS	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$10	\$0
FRM FOREST TRUST OR SALES	\$21,572	\$32,760	\$18,209	\$36,600	\$36,350	\$36,850
Total	\$21,624	\$32,760	\$18,585	\$37,000	\$36,560	\$37,050
APPROPRIATIONS						
COMPENSATION	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
OUTSIDE SERVICES	\$21,624	\$31,260	\$17,085	\$49,508	\$35,530	\$34,250
Total	\$21,624	\$32,760	\$18,585	\$52,508	\$38,530	\$37,250

FUNDING IMPACT**FORESTRY PROGRAM**

This budget contains no significant funding changes.

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NOTES
