

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**FORESTRY PROGRAM**

MISSION

The mission of the Forestry Program is to promote sound forest management practices on City-owned land and to manage the forests for multiple uses, including outdoor recreation, wildlife habitat, educational opportunities and watershed protection. Good forest management promotes the development of quality forest products, enhances wildlife habitat and promotes 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> | Actual <u>2011</u> | Actual <u>2012</u> | Estimated <u>2013</u> | Projected <u>2014</u> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Acreage of Forest Land Managed | 4,324 | 4,441 | 4,441 | 4,711 |
| 2. Acres of Harvested Forest Land | 40 | 28 | 10 | 63 |
| 3. Value of Timber Sales | \$22,000 | \$27,000 | \$0 | \$5,000 |

2014 GOALS1. 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.

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 sale at Broad Cove Forest.

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. Construct a bridge at the Rossvie Farm property at the stream crossing for the West End Farm Trail and construct a kiosk for the West End Farm Trail off of District #5 Road; construct the trail connection from Swope Park to the West End Farm Trail; and construct the trail connection from Rolinda Avenue to Russell Martin Park.
- c. Continue to update the Trails Guidebook as new trails are added to the City's trail system.
- d. Review the possibility of formalizing the recreational use of the Russell Pond area at the intersection of Long Pond Road and Lake View Drive, and incorporate these trails with the Marjory Swope Park trail system.
- e. 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.
- f. Increase public awareness of the Concord trail system.
- g. Continue to coordinate with 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 Broad Cove Forest. 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, Langley Parkway field and Healy Park areas need to be brush hogged to control the occurrence of invasive plant species.

6. Open Space, Trails and Outdoor Recreation Plan

Assist with the preparation of the City's Open Space, Trails and Outdoor Recreation Plan.

2013 GOALS STATUS1. 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.

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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.

9-Month Status: The boundaries of Russell Martin Park and Oak Hill within the vicinity of the proposed timber sale have been marked.

- b. Repaint the painted blazes along the boundary of the Winant Park property.

9-Month Status: The boundaries of Winant Park and Marjory Swope Park have been blazed.

- c. Identify and blaze the boundary of the Hardy property off of Peaceful Lane.

9-Month Status: This work has not yet started.

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's consultant forester also continues to routinely clean up trails after severe storms. Members of the Trails Committee also patrol the trails and notify staff of maintenance concerns.

- b. Complete the trails at the Rossvie 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.

9-Month Status: The Trails Committee completed the construction of the trails at Rossvie Farm. The Committee is working with the Planning Division and the Parking Committee to establish on-street parking along District #5 Road to accommodate parking for the trail. The YES Team, together with the City's consultant forester, constructed a loop trail at Russell Martin Park and the location of the trail connection to Rolinda Avenue has been laid out. The Planning Division also organized a small timber sale at Russell Martin Park to remove several large trees that have blown down. Staff will meet with the landowner at 11 Rolinda Avenue to finalize the layout of the trail connection this spring.

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

9-Month Status: Maps of the West End Farm Trail and Marjory Swope Park have been added to the City's trail system on the website.

- 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.

9-Month Status: The Planning Division has secured all the necessary trail agreements for the West End Farm Trail and is pursuing additional trail agreements to expand the trail system at Marjory Swope Park.

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

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9-Month Status: The Trails Committee has established a Concord Trails Facebook page and hosted a public event to dedicate the West End Farm Trail.

- f. Continue to provide staff support to the Trails Committee.

9-Month Status: This work is ongoing.

- g. Coordinate with the Youth Environmental Services Team (YES Team) and other volunteer groups to maintain and improve Concord's trail system.

9-Month Status: The Planning Division coordinated with the YES Team to volunteer on City trails this past summer. The City has also hosted two groups of volunteers from St. Paul's School to help with the maintenance of trails at Winant Park and Marjory Swope Park.

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.

9-Month Status: The Conservation Commission held a site walk to view the proposed timber sale at the Oak Hill Forest. The timber sale at both Russell Martin Park and Oak Hill are complete.

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

9-Month Status: This work is ongoing.

- c. Continue to work on the forest type maps for the Forest Management Plan.

9-Month Status: This work is ongoing.

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.

9-Month Status: This work has not yet started.

- 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 sites mentioned above were brush hogged this fall.

- c. Coordinate with the YES Team, or another volunteer/service oriented conservation group, to assist with the removal of invasive plant species on City forests.

9-Month Status: This work has not yet started.

- d. Coordinate with the State of New Hampshire to monitor the possible spread of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in the City.

9-Month Status: This work is ongoing.

FORESTRY PROGRAM**BUDGET DETAIL**

| | 2010 ACTUAL | 2011 ACTUAL | 2012 ACTUAL | 2013 BUDGETED | 2013 ESTIMATED | 2014 BUDGET |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| REVENUE | | | | | | |
| SALE OF PUBLICATIONS | \$0 | \$376 | \$307 | \$200 | \$200 | \$200 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | \$0 | \$0 | \$50 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| FRM FOREST TRUST OR SALES | \$32,760 | \$18,209 | \$40,946 | \$36,850 | \$29,800 | \$35,000 |
| Total | \$32,760 | \$18,585 | \$41,303 | \$37,050 | \$30,000 | \$35,200 |
| APPROPRIATIONS | | | | | | |
| COMPENSATION | \$1,500 | \$1,500 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| OUTSIDE SERVICES | \$31,260 | \$17,085 | \$38,253 | \$34,250 | \$27,000 | \$32,200 |
| Total | \$32,760 | \$18,585 | \$41,253 | \$37,250 | \$30,000 | \$35,200 |

FUNDING IMPACT

FORESTRY PROGRAM

This budget has no significant funding changes.

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NOTES
