

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 2012</u>	<u>Actual 2013</u>	<u>Estimated 2014</u>	<u>Projected 2015</u>
1. Acres of protected open space by the City	6,025	6,316	6,598	6,698
2. Percent of total City area protected by the City	15.48%	16.23%	16.95%	17.21%
3. Wetland applications received	13	4	8	8
4. Miles of trails maintained	60	65	65	65

2015 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 easements.
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 comments 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 improve the management of and public access to the City-owned conservation land.
11. Update the City of Concord's Open Space Plan.

2014 GOALS STATUS

1. Continue to protect priority open space through acquisition of fee ownership or easements.
9-Month Status: The Commission held a public hearing in August for the acquisition of an 18 acre conservation easement on the Pierce property at 84 Stickney Hill Road. The land is adjacent to Maplewood Farm and Hope Butterworth's property, which have both been protected by conservation easements. This is the last parcel of agricultural land identified for protection in the Stickney Hill neighborhood. A Purchase and Sale Agreement was signed in January. The Commission closed on the purchase of the Whispering Heights property in November and is working with NHDES to draft conservation restrictions to be placed on a portion of the property. The Commission is discussing land protection options with several landowners throughout the city and continues to review possible grants to leverage these projects.

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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 is partnering with Five Rivers Conservation Trust on the protection of the Pierce property. Five Rivers is applying for a NRCS Farm and Ranchland Protection Program Grant, which will contribute 50% of the purchase price of the easement (\$91,000). Five Rivers has also received an LCHIP grant for the remaining cost of the project (\$91,000). This reduces the City's cost to only what is needed for the closing (legal fees, survey and title insurance). The Commission also worked with NHDES to have the wetland mitigation payment (\$80,626) given directly to the City as a contribution to the purchase of the Whispering Height property, in lieu of depositing the funds in the State's Aquatic Resource Mitigation account.
3. Continue to monitor and provide stewardship for City-owned land and conservation easements and work with landowners to resolve identified issues.
9-Month Status: The Conservation Commission, together with the Planning Division, worked with two landowners to correct an easement violation off of Locke Road. The violation involved clearing of trees and vegetation within the conservation easement area. The landowners have developed and implemented a restoration plan to mitigate the impacts of the logging operation. The Conservation Commission hired an intern to monitor the remaining City-held conservation easements that had not yet been monitored. The intern completed monitoring reports for all of the easement properties and no violations were observed. All of the City-held conservation easements (889 acres) have been monitored once since the program started in 2011.
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: Ongoing. See the description of the trail improvements in the Forestry Program narrative.
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. The Planning Board approved one new cluster subdivision during the fiscal year.
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 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-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 years.
9-Month Status: The Commission worked with the City's Tree Crew to plant several trees throughout the City this fall. The funds reserved for the tree program were used by the General Services Department to purchase

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trees that were planted by the City. This was the most economical way to plant the greatest number of trees with the funds available.

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10. 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 Americans with Disabilities Act.
9-Month Status: Ongoing.

11. Update the City of Concord's Open Space Plan.
9-Month Status: This work was not funded in the FY 2014 budget.

BUDGET DETAIL**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

	2011 ACTUAL	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGETED	2014 ESTIMATED	2015 BUDGET
REVENUE						
CONTRIB TO TREE PROGRAM	\$407	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$407	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
APPROPRIATIONS						
OUTSIDE SERVICES	\$2,640	\$2,362	\$1,727	\$2,550	\$2,400	\$2,550
STREET TREE PROGRAM	\$2,250	\$13,508	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500
Total	\$4,890	\$15,870	\$1,727	\$5,050	\$4,900	\$5,050

CONSERVATION COMMISSION **FUNDING IMPACT**

This budget contains no significant funding changes.

NOTES

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