

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS****FORESTRY PROGRAM**

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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>	<u>Actual 2012</u>	<u>Actual 2013</u>	<u>Estimated 2014</u>	<u>Projected 2015</u>
1. Acreage of Forest Land Managed	4,441	4,441	4,711	4,711
2. Acres of Harvested Forest Land	28	10	32	25
3. Value of Timber Sales	\$27,000	\$0	\$21,000	\$14,000

2015 GOALS

1. Administration
  - a) Prepare monthly reports to inform the Conservation Commission and Planning Division 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 a proposed timber sale at Spear Park and the Warren Richards Community Forest, and blaze the boundary of the Whispering Heights/Broken Ground property.
  
3. Trail Work - The goal of the trails program is to allow 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 City trails and construct new trail improvements as needed.
  - b) Continue to update the Trails Guidebook as new trails are added to the City's trail system.
  - c) Review opportunities for improving public access to the Whispering Heights/Broken Ground property including hosting a public workshop to discuss recreational uses, trails and possible parking area locations with East Concord residents.
  - d) Work with members of the Trails Committee to identify new trail connections and seek the necessary landowner agreements or easements for the trails that cross over privately owned land.
  - e) Increase public awareness of the Concord trail system.
  - f) Continue to coordinate with volunteer groups to maintain and improve Concord's trail system.
  
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 Spear Park and the Warren Richards Community 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.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS****FORESTRY PROGRAM**

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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. The program also includes the monitoring and control of invasive plants on City Forest land.

- 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 and maintain the open field areas.

6. Open Space, Trails and Outdoor Recreation Plan

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

2014 GOALS STATUS1. Administration

- a) Prepare monthly reports to inform the Conservation Commission and Planning Division of the status of all forestry projects and programs.

9-Month Status: This is ongoing. Reports are submitted monthly to the Conservation 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 Division 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.

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.

9-Month Status: The property boundaries at the Broad Cove Forest within the vicinity of the proposed timber sale have been marked.

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 work is ongoing.

**FORESTRY PROGRAM****PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

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- b) Construct a bridge at the Rossview 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.

9-Month Status: A new bridge was constructed on the Rossview Farm property at the West End Farm Trail. The proposed trail between Marjory Swope Park and the West End Farm Trail has been laid out and should be constructed this spring.

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

9-Month Status: This work is ongoing.

- 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.

9-Month Status: The conservation intern has mapped the existing trails within the vicinity of Russell Pond. Planning staff has met with the General Services Department to discuss recreational access to the pond. It was agreed that there were opportunities to expand the trail system into the watershed property and incorporate educational signage to inform residents of the importance of protecting the watershed to Penacook Lake.

- 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.

9-Month Status: The Trails Committee is reviewing possible trail connections between Winant Park, Marjory Swope Park and Rossview Farm, and is pursuing access rights across private property.

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

9-Month Status: The Trails Committee coordinated with NH Audubon and Five Rivers Conservation Trust to host a public event to walk the West End Farm Trail in November. The Trails Committee also partnered with Five Rivers Conservation Trust to host a moonlit walk at Carter Hill Orchard in January.

- g) Continue to coordinate with volunteer groups to maintain and improve Concord's trail system.

9-Month Status: The City has partnered with student volunteer groups from St. Paul's School and Concord High School to complete trail maintenance at Marjory Swope Park and Oak Hill.

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.

9-Month Status: The timber sale contract was awarded to Hopkinton Forestry and Land Clearing. The logger started work in early January and finished the logging in late March. The City has netted \$20,852 and one more payment is expected.

- 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.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS****FORESTRY PROGRAM**

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- 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.

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

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

- d) 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 and maintain the open field areas.

9-Month Status: All of the sites mentioned above were brush hogged this fall.

6. Open Space, Trails and Outdoor Recreation Plan

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

9-Month Status: This work was not funded in the FY 2014 budget.

**FORESTRY PROGRAM****BUDGET DETAIL**

	2011 ACTUAL	2012 ACTUAL	2013 ACTUAL	2014 BUDGETED	2014 ESTIMATED	2015 BUDGET
<b>REVENUE</b>						
SALE OF PUBLICATIONS	\$376	\$307	\$190	\$200	\$200	\$200
MISCELLANEOUS	\$0	\$50	\$0	\$0	\$10	\$0
FRM FOREST TRUST OR SALES	\$18,209	\$40,946	\$24,895	\$35,000	\$22,400	\$65,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,585</b>	<b>\$41,303</b>	<b>\$25,085</b>	<b>\$35,200</b>	<b>\$22,610</b>	<b>\$65,200</b>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS</b>						
COMPENSATION	\$1,500	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
OUTSIDE SERVICES	\$17,085	\$38,253	\$22,085	\$32,200	\$19,600	\$62,200
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,585</b>	<b>\$41,253</b>	<b>\$25,085</b>	<b>\$35,200</b>	<b>\$22,600</b>	<b>\$62,200</b>

**FUNDING IMPACT**

**FORESTRY PROGRAM**

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This budget has no significant funding changes.

**FORESTRY PROGRAM**

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