

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 2007</u>	<u>Actual 2008</u>	<u>Estimated 2009</u>	<u>Projected 2010</u>
1. Acres of protected space	4,758	4,917	5,414	5,714
2. Percent of total City area protected	11.67%	12.06%	13.28%	14.01%
3. Wetland applications received	20	17	22	18
4. Trail mileage maintained	42.8	42.8	42.8	42.8
5. Open Space Plan **	25%	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 **	30%	25%	25%	25%
9. Trails Work **	10%	15%	15%	15%
10. Land Acquisition/Easement Investigations **	10%	25%	25%	25%
11. Assistance to Other Cons. Committees **	5%	5%	5%	5%

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

2010 GOALS

1. The Conservation Commission will continue to protect priority open space through acquisition of fee ownership or easements.
2. The Conservation Commission will continue to identify, evaluate, and utilize, as practicable, innovative financing techniques to leverage acquisition of open space and conservation easements.
3. The Conservation Commission will develop an open space monitoring and stewardship program for City-owned land and easements.
4. The Conservation Commission will 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. The Conservation Commission will continue its efforts to improve trail development and maintenance.
6. The Conservation Commission will 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. The Conservation Commission will continue to work with the Planning Board to establish trails and trail linkages within new subdivisions.
8. The Conservation Commission will 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. The Conservation Commission will 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.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2009 GOALS STATUS

1. The Conservation Commission will continue to protect priority open space through acquisition of fee ownership or easements.
9-Month Status: The Commission has recently completed the acquisition of several parcels of priority open space. The land transactions include the 84.8 acre parcel that was donated to the City by the Winant family. The acquisition of this property also includes the conveyance of a conservation easement to the Five Rivers Conservation Trust and St. Paul's School has provided an easement for the construction of a trailhead and trail access off of Fisk Road. The land will be known as Winant Park and the Commission will manage the property for passive recreational use. The Commission has successfully negotiated the fee purchase of the agricultural land to the south of Gully Hill Road, along the Merrimack River. A 29 acre parcel was acquired by the City in March along with an agreement to purchase the remaining land in the future. The family of Warren Richards has also donated a 114 acre property known as "The Warren Richards Community Forest" to the City, on which the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests also holds a conservation easement. Lastly, the Commission is in the process of finalizing the purchase of approximately 46 acres of land off of Lake View Drive. The property is located within the Penacook Lake watershed, and will be purchased with the assistance of a NHDES grant.
2. The Conservation Commission will continue to identify, evaluate, and utilize, as practicable, innovative financing techniques to leverage acquisition of open space and conservation easements.
9-Month Status: The Conservation Commission has been actively forming partnerships with the Trust for Public Lands, The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and the Five Rivers Conservation Trust. The City's expenditures have been leveraged with a combination of Federal and State grants and private donations. This year the Commission completed the land swap with Unitil. The project involved a complex real estate transaction to trade an existing open space parcel in East Concord, for 139 acres owned by Unitil, along the Merrimack River off of exit 16. The land in East Concord was conveyed to Unitil with a conservation easement, which will be held by the City, and the City gained the land along the river as open space. The Commission has asked the Five Rivers Conservation Trust to hold the conservation easement on a 77 acre open space parcel off of Hoit Road, which is being donated to the City as a condition of the cluster subdivision approval. The proposed purchase of the 46 acre parcel in the Penacook Lake watershed has also been leveraged with a NHDES Water Supply Land Grant, which will contribute 25% of the total cost associated with the protection of the property.
3. The Conservation Commission will continue to use the wetland mapping that has been prepared with consultant assistance, and which is available as a layer in the City's GIS system.
9-Month Status: This is an ongoing effort.
4. The Conservation Commission will continue its efforts to improve trail development and maintenance in accordance with the recently adopted ten-year improvement plan and budget, in cooperation with Groundwork Concord.
9-Month Status: This is an ongoing effort. With the cooperation of the Groundwork Concord Green Team and other volunteers, nine kiosks have been installed at trailheads throughout the City. Laminated trail maps have also been posted in each kiosk to assist trail users. This past summer, the Green Team worked with the City's consultant forester on a number of routine trail maintenance projects. In addition to their efforts, two Boy Scouts have focused their Eagle Scout projects on improving the trail systems at Oak Hill and the Contoocook River Park. Due to changes in the level of staffing at Groundwork Concord, the Planning Division has taken over the administration of the trails volunteers, and will also coordinate the seasonal trail clean-up this spring.

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5. The Conservation Commission will 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 review subdivision applications with respect to the location of the proposed open space and also continues to make recommendations for the establishment of public trails within new cluster and conventional subdivisions.

6. The Conservation Commission will 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: The Commission continues to conduct site walks and provide regular reports to the Planning Board on applications for Conditional Use Permits related to impacts within the wetland, bluff, and shoreland buffers. The Commission also provides the Wetlands Bureau with comments on NHDES wetlands permit applications.

7. The Conservation Commission will continue to develop innovative mechanisms to expand the City's street tree planting program with the intent of planting 50 street trees annually in urban neighborhoods and achieving a maximum survival rate for trees planted in previous fiscal year.
9-Month Status: This past year, 21 street trees were planted in the South End, to replace diseased or hazardous trees that were removed from the public right-of-way. One tree was also replaced on Main Street and the trees along Main Street between Interstate 393 and Pleasant Street were pruned by a professional tree care company. The Planning Division and the Conservation Commission are currently collaborating with Main Street Concord, Groundwork, and Concord 2020 to development a Master Plan for the improvement of the existing street trees along Main Street, including the identification of new tree planting locations. This spring, the Commission partnered with Groundwork Concord, by hiring General Services to plant approximately 70 trees that were donated to Groundwork.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION**BUDGET DETAIL**

	2006 ACTUAL	2007 ACTUAL	2008 ACTUAL	2009 BUDGETED ENCUMBERED	2009 ESTIMATED	2010 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET
APPROPRIATIONS						
OUTSIDE SERVICES	\$3,649	\$3,275	\$2,577	\$3,850	\$2,750	\$1,575
STREET TREE PROGRAM	\$11,090	\$14,075	\$13,165	\$31,245 \$10,245	\$25,270	\$5,000
ARBOR DAY TREE	\$0	\$285	\$398	\$400	\$300	\$0
Total	\$14,740	\$17,635	\$16,140	\$35,495 \$10,245	\$28,320	\$6,575

FUNDING IMPACT**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Grounds and Horticultural Supplies (Reduction of \$16,000)

Funds will still be available for maintenance and limited tree replacement. Planting of new trees will be curtailed unless private donations of labor and materials can be garnered.

Arbor Day Program (Reduction of \$300)

This cost center is largely driven by the one tree planted as part of the annual program. Reduction will eliminate this ceremony unless a private donation of labor and materials can be garnered.

Professional Development (Reduction of \$1,875)

Elimination of membership to Association of Conservation Commissions (\$1,175); reduction in photocopying expenses (\$100); reduction in publication of trails guides (\$500); reduction in office supplies (\$100).

Postal and Delivery Services (Reduction of \$400)

Members of the Conservation Commission will now pick up meeting packets or refer to limited table copies at meetings.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

NOTES