

Action Implementation Blueprints



ACTION NAME

Develop forest management plan to enhance health of Concord's forests.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Climate change poses threats to public and private forest resources. This action is to develop a management plan for forests on Town conservation land, water supply lands, and forests managed by land trusts and other forest managers.

CHAMPION

Natural Resources Division

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

TIME FRAME

KEY PARTNERS

1. Convene land managers to identify common goals and scope of forest management plan. Review existing studies/tree inventories of forest lands and data available to assess health, species and age structure.

2021-2022

- Natural Resources Division
- Local Land Trusts
- CPW - Water/Sewer Division

2. Develop scope for plan that incorporates current and future threats including shifts in the ranges of significant tree species expected with a changing climate.

2021-2022

- Natural Resources Division
- Local Land Trusts
- UMass Extension
- The Nature Conservancy

3. Develop a plan that establishes decision criteria for management activities that may evolve with a changing climate and creates actionable recommendations for all landowners in Concord.

2022-2024

- Natural Resources Division
- Local Land Trust

4. Implement priority actions identified in the planning process.

2022-2030

- Natural Resources Division
- Local Land Trusts

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FINANCING RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

- Grants from programs such as LWCF, EOEAA, MAPC, or MVP Action Grants
- CPA grants
- Partnerships with land trusts and regional organizations
- Regional partnerships

TRADEOFFS (CHALLENGES/BARRIERS)

- Climate projections are uncertain
- Will need to anticipate how plant communities will change and adapt
- Coordination required with adjacent landowners
- Balancing needs of forest users with ecological functions
- Forest management plan is a large undertaking and will require dedicated resources

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Ensure opportunities for diverse groups to engage with the plan development.
- Continue to ensure appropriate access to open land in Concord by all.

TRACKING SUCCESS

Outputs:

- Understanding extent of local forests, their health and threats, and carbon sequestration potential
- Plan of actionable management solutions
- Ongoing meeting and coordination among conservation landowners / managers

Outcomes:

- Improvement Across USDA [Forest Health Indicators](#)
 - Vegetation Diversity & Structure
 - Tree Damage & Mortality
 - Crown Condition
 - Soil Conditions and woody debris
 - Lichen communities
- Carbon sequestration
- Reduced heat island

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

- Inform community of the value of forests and why forest health is important.
- Develop a brand identity for the plan and include this identity on signage or other materials posted where forest management activities are taking place.
- Use QR Codes or similar means to connect activities in the field with information and other resources to learn more and contribute to the goals of the plan.