

Action Implementation Blueprints



ACTION NAME

Assess and improve Concord's tree canopy.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Concord's tree canopy is core to the Town's character and provides climate mitigation, resilience and health benefits. This action will evaluate and develop a plan to ensure Concord's tree canopy (public and private street and setback trees) is resilient to the projected impacts of climate change and develop a management plan that considers location, tree type, long-term growth, care and maintenance.

CHAMPION

Concord Public Works and Natural Resources Division

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS	PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS	
	TIME FRAME	KEY PARTNERS
1. Engage town stakeholders to understand baseline data and identify additional stakeholders. Develop scope for tree canopy management plan and appropriate board, committee, or town department to charge with implementation. Plan should consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Annual public tree removal tracking; private tree census. b. Establish a Town goal for tree canopy of minimally no net loss of trees, but preferably restoration to a defined level of diversity. c. Establish town policies for equal replacement for public tree removals. d. Establish incentives for public tree planting on private land. e. Conduct a health impact assessment to guide tree and canopy placement. 	2020-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Public Works • Natural Resources Division • Sustainability Division • Planning Division
2. Evaluate the costs and benefits of applying to be an Arbor Day Tree City USA. Revise current Town codes with program requirements (e.g. establishing a tree board, adopting a tree care ordinance, instituting an arbor day observance and establishing public funding source for tree planting of \$2/capita ~\$34k/year).	2020-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPW – Park and Tree Division • Planning Division • Natural Resources Division • Arbor Day Foundation • Sustainability Division
3. Develop community awareness and educational materials about "Trees of Concord."	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPW – Park and Tree Division • Natural Resources Division • Sustainability Division • Planning Division • Public Information Office
4. Formalize a tree canopy management plan and embed within an existing town department, committee or board with authority and charge to restore and preserve Concord's tree canopy.	2022-2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPW – Park and Tree Division • Natural Resources Division • Sustainability Division • Planning Division

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FINANCING RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

- Arbor Day Foundation
- MA Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Grants
- MVP Action Grants

TRADEOFFS (CHALLENGES/BARRIERS)

- Need to consider tree maintenance in coordination with utilities and public works.
- Need to plan for long-term tree growth and impacts on city infrastructure (e.g. sidewalks and underground utilities).

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Ensure equitable distribution of street tree and tree canopy placement across the entire Town.
- Prioritize programs and improvements based first on areas with higher instances of urban heat island or temperature fluctuations.

TRACKING SUCCESS

Outputs:

- Updates to Treekeeper software
- Tree canopy management plan
- Community outreach materials on value of trees
- Increase in % of tree canopy coverage (including private property).
- Increase in # of public trees planted annually
- Increase # of private tree incentives utilized annually

Outcomes:

- Improved air quality and decreased respiratory health impacts.
- Health benefits of exposure to green space.
- Increased wildlife and biodiversity support.
- Improved water quality and stormwater management.

ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

- Engage street teams to survey tree canopy sites.
- Town committees and community groups with sustainability missions can help to build community support.
- Engage the community – schools, seniors, volunteer groups, faith organizations, etc. to participate and/or sponsor planting days.
- Implement Adopt-A-Tree programs with local organizations.