

# Action Implementation Blueprints



## ACTION NAME

**Assess the vulnerability of natural resources most at risk to projected climate changes.**

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Concord's natural resources are threatened by a changing climate (increase in temperatures and seasonal pattern changes, change in precipitation patterns, riverine flooding, and drought). This action is to conduct a vulnerability assessment of natural resources most at risk from impacts of climate change. This study will assess the current conditions of habitats, landscapes, wetlands, forests, fields, and water resources on Town conservation and water supply lands at risk of climate change, identify vulnerable areas, species, habitats, ecosystem process, ecosystem services, and identify best practices.

### CHAMPION

Natural Resources Division

### IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

### PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

#### TIME FRAME

#### KEY PARTNERS

1. Review existing assessments and analysis. Prepare detailed list of assets and resources – according to [climate change vulnerability assessment \(CCVA\) tool box and methods 2014](#), prepare sets of maps, prioritize assets and develop matrix of typologies.

**2021-2022**

- Natural Resources Division
- CPW – Water/Sewer Division
- Sustainability Division
- Planning Division

2. Establish a regional working group to coordinate water shed level natural resources and other cross municipal habitats.

**2021-2023**

- Natural Resources Division
- Metrowest Conservation Alliance
- MA Association of Conservation Commissions
- MA Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals
- Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife
- State agencies

3. Engage stakeholders including property owners and state and local agencies. This group will participate in the long term monitoring process and development of strategies.

**2021-2023**

- Natural Resources Division
- Metrowest Conservation Alliance
- MA Association of Conservation Commissions
- MA Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals

4. Based on the prepared list of resource types – prepare a supporting program for long term monitoring. Standards on the ground monitoring with Landsat/drown mapping and other technological solutions.

**2023-2025**

- Natural Resources Division
- Example for satellite monitoring – Green City Watch or Sensible City Lab MIT

5. Best practices, recommendations, and pilot projects. Review Town ordinances and policies, develop recommendations for revisions to enhance resilience and preserve natural resources.

**2023-2025**

- Natural Resources Division
- Sustainability Division
- CPW – Water/Sewer Division
- Planning Division



## FINANCING RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

- MVP Action Grants
- Regional partnerships

### TRADEOFFS (CHALLENGES/BARRIERS)

- Monitoring and identifying natural resources conditions is time and labor intensive. Coordination with multiple agencies, stakeholders, and institutions will be necessary.
- Active protection and conservation of resources will require land acquisition and development rights and restrictions.
- The scale of these natural resources extends beyond municipal boundaries and will require coordination with state agencies and abutting municipalities.

### EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS

- Allocate resources to education and engagement of multiple stakeholders with emphasis on a diversity of voices and perspectives.
- Prioritize long term and capacity building programs to develop stewardship.
- Ensure equitable access to natural resources and open space.

### TRACKING SUCCESS

#### Outputs:

- List of vulnerable natural resources with prioritization for solutions
- Methodology for monitoring and long-term analysis
- Recommendations for policy and regulations

#### Outcomes:

- Preservation of natural resources
- Health benefits of exposure to green space
- Increased and connected wildlife habitat
- Increased biodiversity
- Improved water quality and stormwater management

### ENGAGING THE COMMUNITY

- Engage the community – schools, seniors, volunteer groups, faith organizations, etc. to participate and/or sponsor tours and monitoring days.