

Concord Conservation Commission

Celebrating 50 Years of Preserving and Protecting Concord's Natural Resources



A Special Report

December 2021

The Concord Conservation Commission is proud to celebrate the 50th anniversary of its establishment in 1971 by the Concord City Council. Over the past fifty years, the Commission has served an important role in the protection of the City’s natural resources, including the City’s watershed resources. In implementing its mandate of “multiple uses of natural resources and open space,” the work of the Commission is necessarily forward-thinking. The land and natural resources that we protect today is a legacy for future generations.

The work of the Conservation Commission would not be possible without the support of the City Council, the many dedicated employees of the City, and our network of volunteers who serve on the Commission’s Trails Subcommittee and Tree Subcommittee, and those who volunteer their time as trail stewards, participating in trail maintenance and leading guided public hikes on the City’s trails. The Commission wishes to specifically thank Assistant City Planner Beth Fenstermacher for the outstanding support she has provided to the Commission and its subcommittees over the past 7 years in connection with all aspects of its work. We also thank Lisa Weaver for keeping the Commission organized, attending our monthly meetings and preparing minutes.

I. KEY MILESTONES FOR THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1971 – Concord’s City Council establishes the Conservation Commission

The Concord Conservation Commission was created by the Concord City Council in 1971 under N.H. R.S.A. 36-A, which authorized the establishment of conservation commissions “for the proper utilization and protection of the natural resources and for the protection of watershed resources of said city or town.” Consistent with that authorization, the 1971 ordinance charges Concord’s Conservation Commission with “protecting, promoting, and developing” the City’s natural resources, and “protecting the watershed resource of the City.” The first members included: Robert Johnson II, Roland Hok, Virginia Clark, William Ayer, Dennis Tewksbury, and Joel Potter. For members throughout the years, see the attached list.

1978 – Conservation Commission Adopts First Open Space Plan

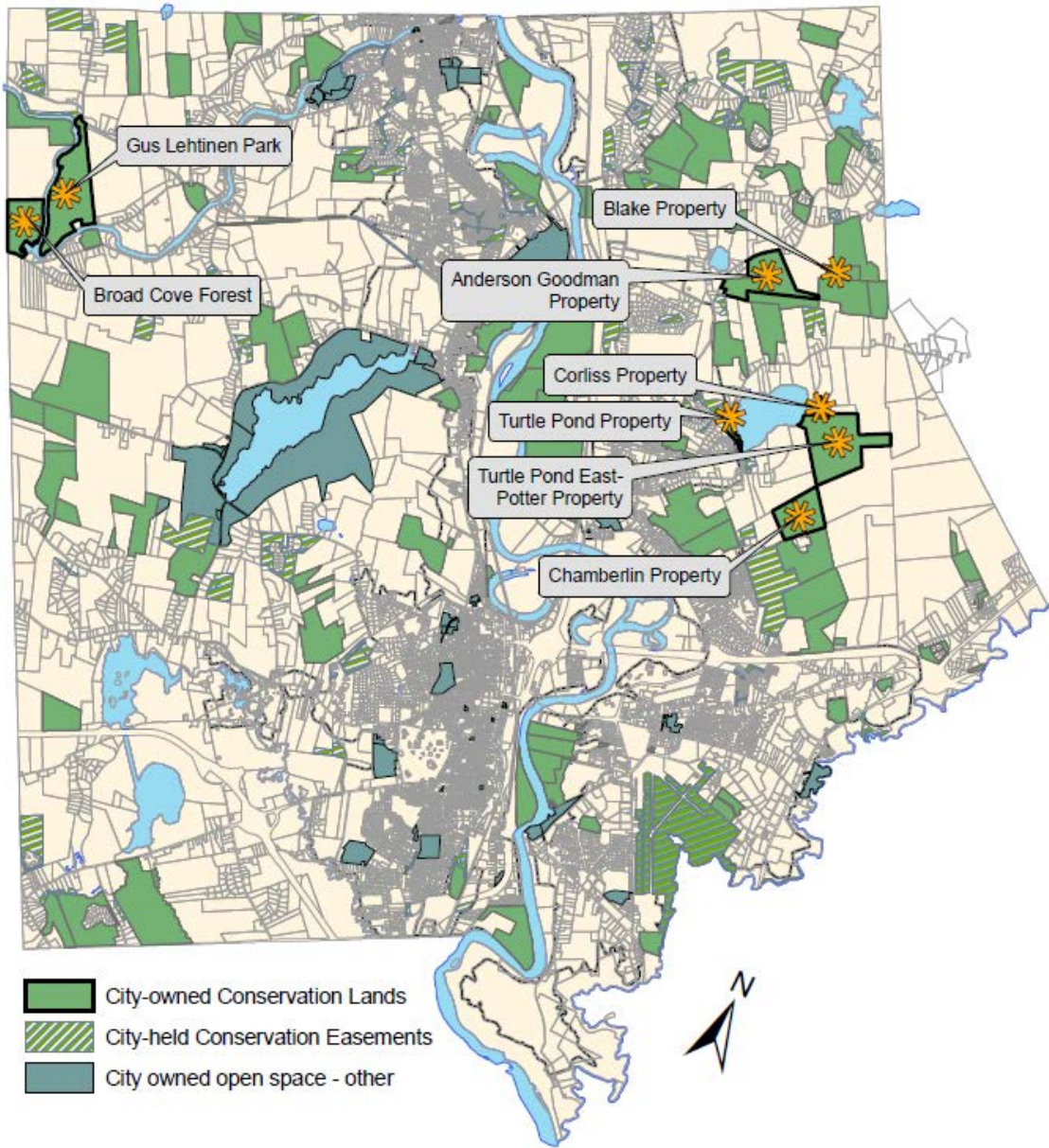
The City Council charged the Conservation Commission with preparing and adopting a conservation and open space plan that is generally consistent with the land use plan or Master Plan for the City. The Commission’s first Open Space Plan, aptly named “A Legacy for Future Generations,” was adopted by the Planning Board and the Conservation Commission in 1978.

1971-1981 – The First 10 Years Land Acquisitions for Conservation

The original members of the Commission identified key areas of the City for protection. Broken Ground was identified as an area to be preserved for wildlife as well as an area for the Commission to work together with the Planning Board to develop a trail system. Oak Hill was also identified as a key area to protect in the City’s overall land use plan and pending open space plan. The City acquired eight properties for conservation purposes in the first ten years, identified below.

Oak Hill and Turtletown/Turtle Pond Area

Turtle Pond Property	September 7, 1974
Turtle Pond East – Potter Property	September 12, 1975
Corliss Property	September 12, 1975
Anderson Goodman Property	October 14, 1975
Blake Property	June 4, 1980
<i>Broken Ground</i>	
Chamberlin Property	February 13, 1979
<i>Other</i>	
Broad Cove Forest	June 12, 1974
Gus Lehtinen Park	December 20, 1974



1979 – 1980 The First Trails

Senior Planner Bob Pollock began planning the first recreational trails in 1979. The first trails created by the Commission were cleared and blazed at Broken Ground by Eagle Scouts in 1980 led by Mr. Howie Nowell.

Conservation Commission began working on guidelines for trail development in 1982 with the help of David Gerwitz, a summer intern attending Yale Forestry School. He began to map the existing trails and determine whose property they were on and possible connections to be made.

1987 – Consultant City Forester

The City began their first forest management program in 1979 by hiring a college intern, Jeffrey Reed, to perform an inventory of the City Forest lots. The Plan was implemented by the State of New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands under their Community Assistance Program until the funding discontinued in the mid 1980s. In 1987, the City hired FORECO (Forest Resource Consultants), and Ron Klemarczyk from FORECO has been the Consultant City Forester since that time. The Forest Management Plan was updated in 1995 and 2010, and is updated with new properties as they are acquired. The Forest Management Plan mainly focuses on timber production; however, it considers the multiple-use management of City Forests, including: recreation, wildlife habitat, educational opportunities, and watershed protection.



Ron Klemarczyk (photo from Concord Monitor)

Late 1980s - Trail System and the “Trail Meisters”

In an attempt to familiarize the City’s residents with various City Forests, hiking trails were constructed on many of the forests during the late 1980s and early 1990s. The trails were mostly laid out using old logging roads or skidder trails, and the parking lots were former log yards. A group of active citizens and members of the Conservation Commission formed a group to build and maintain the trails, naming themselves the “Trail Meisters”. A hiking trail guide was first published in the mid-1990s, and is periodically updated with the latest edition to be published in 2022.

1988 - City Council Votes to Dedicate 25% of Land Use Change Tax Revenue to Conservation

New Hampshire has a Current Use Taxation statute¹, the purpose of which is “to encourage the preservation of open space, thus providing a healthful and attractive outdoor environment for work and recreation of the state’s citizens, maintaining the character of the state’s landscape, and

¹ N.H. R.S.A. 79-A Current Use Taxation.

conserving the land, water, forest, agricultural and wildlife resources.”² Under New Hampshire law, property owners who have 10 acres or more of undeveloped land that is left in its natural state as forest land, wetlands, farm land or unproductive lands may apply for current reduced taxation. If that property is subsequently developed or falls under the 10-acre minimum, a one-time tax of 10% of the market value of the land at the time it fails to qualify for the lower current use assessment.³

Consistent with the purpose of the Current Use Taxation law, the statute allows towns and cities to place tax revenue collected when land is taken out of current use and subject to the Land Use Change Tax (“LUCT”) into a conservation fund.⁴

In 1988, the City Council votes to allocate 25% of LUCT revenue to the Conservation Fund established at the time the Conservation Commission was created.

1993 – Conservation Commission adopts “Endowment for the 21st Century: Conservation & Open Space Plan

On December 13, 1993, the City Planning Board and Conservation Commission adopted the second edition of Concord’s Open Space Plan. The 1993 plan is signed by four long-time members of the Commission: Chair Marjory Swope; Vice Chair Edwin Robinson, Secretary Christopher (Kit) Morgan, and Member Terry Frost.

2000 - Concord’s Vision 20/20

In early 2000, Concord initiated its 20/20 Vision project. This 20/20 Vision Plan is intended to provide a framework to guide the City in its future development. The plan includes, as one of its five principles, “Preservation and access to the natural environment.” In addition, one of the plan’s three themes is “Rivers of Water, Open Space and History.”

2001 – City Protects Water Resources with Overlay Protection Districts

The City takes an important step in protecting its water resources in 2001 with the City Council’s adoption of the Penacook Lake Watershed Overlay District, which is intended to help protect the City’s drinking water supply, and the Shoreland Protection Overlay District, which requires varying setbacks and buffers from surface waters within the City.



Marjory Swope was an impassioned environmentalist, dedicated conservationist and civic leader in the City. She was long time member and chair of the Conservation Commission, and served on the Concord City Council and School Board. (Photo courtesy of John Swope)

² N.H. R.S.A. 79-A:1 Declaration of Public Interest.

³ N.H. R.S.A. 79-A-7 Land Use Change Tax.

⁴ N.H. R.S.A. 79-A:25 Disposition of Revenue and 79-A:25-a Land Use Change Tax Fund.

2002 – City Council Votes to Dedicate 100% of Land Use Change Tax Revenue to Conservation

In 2002, the City Council votes to dedicate 100% of the City’s LUCT revenue to the Conservation Fund. In so doing, Concord joins a growing list of New Hampshire communities voting to increase funding for conservation in response to increasing development and loss of open space. The City Council resolution states that the revenues are to be used “for acquisition of the fee or lesser interest in land, and expenses associated therewith, to retain and link open space, consistent with the City’s Master Plan, for the purpose of protecting natural resources and wildlife habitat, preventing environmental degradation, and providing opportunities for dispersed recreation.”

At the time of this vote, City staff estimates that there are approximately 3,915 acres of land in protected conservation areas, representing approximately 9.6% of the City’s total land area of 40,768 acres.⁵

2002 – City Council Approves \$5 Million Conservation Bond

In 2002, the City Council authorizes a \$5 million bond for conservation that may be used for the purchase of land or easements. The bond will be used in the years that follow for large projects that cannot be financed alone by the Conservation Fund and available grants.

2007 – City Council Changes Land Use Change Tax Revenue Allocation

The City Council votes to reduce the contribution of Land Use Change Tax Revenue to the Conservation Fund from 100% to 50%.

2008 – Conservation Commissions adopts updated Conservation and Open Space Plan

As part of the City’s Master Plan 2030, the City adopts an updated Conservation and Open Space Plan.

2010 – Wildlife Habitats, Natural Communities, and Rare Species Analysis

In 2005, the New Hampshire Fish & Game releases its original Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) for the entire State. In 2010, Dan Sperduto of Sperduto Ecological Services, LLC completes a City-wide analysis for Concord in a report titled *Wildlife Habitats, Natural Communities, and Rare Species Analysis for Concord, New Hampshire*. Based on the detailed data compiled and analyzed in this report, the report identifies conservation priorities for Concord that are critical to biodiversity protection. This planning document is an important reference tool for the Conservation Commission in making decisions about land conservation.

2010 – City adopts Aquifer Protection District

Groundwater resources are another important sources of drinking water. Based on a recommendation in the 2008 Open Space Plan, the City develops and adopts the Aquifer

⁵ City of Concord Planning Division Memorandum to City Manager, dated May 7, 2002.

Protection Overlay District in 2010 to protect the quality and quantity of groundwater resources to be used as drinking water supplies. The overlay district covers approximately 2,788 acres.

2017 – Conservation Commission updates Conservation and Open Space Plan

Working with Moosewood Ecological, LLC, the Conservation Commission updated its Conservation and Open Space Plan in 2017. As with prior plans, this most recent update of the Commission’s Conservation and Open Space plan incorporates new data and provides guidance on future decisions regarding conservation efforts. In response to evidence regarding climate change and the City’s recent experience with invasive species affecting forest resources, this updated Plan addresses the importance of ecological resiliency in the planning process and identifies the characteristics of resilient landscapes.

2018 – Trails Subcommittee Formalized and Tree Subcommittee Formed

By 2018, the trail system had expanded to over 80 miles, and the Conservation Commission saw the benefit in formalizing the Trail Meisters group into an official subcommittee. The Trails subcommittee meets monthly, and is charged with the mission to advise the Commission on developing, maintaining and promoting the mixed-use trail system for the City of Concord consistent with the Open Space chapter of the current Master Plan, and the Commission’s Conservation and Open Space Plan. There are 7 full members, and 3 alternates.



Trail committee members at work

In late 2015, City Council adopted a Street Tree Policy that was drafted by a Council Ad-hoc committee. One of the members of the ad-hoc committee was Councilor Jan McClure, who was also the Council representative on the Conservation Commission. Councilor McClure was interested in a volunteer committee to help implement portions of the Street Tree Policy. It made sense to create that committee under the Conservation Commission. A call for volunteers went out, and in late 2018, the Concord Tree Subcommittee was formed. Their mission is to promote appropriate tree plantings and maintenance on public and private property to enhance the urban tree canopy.

2018 – Outstanding Achievement Award

At the 2018 New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, the Concord Conservation Commission was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award for the Central NH region. The selection committee stated that the City’s accomplishments show how great results are possible when you form a strong partnership with City officials and local organizations.

2020 – COVID Pandemic

In March 2020, the stay at home order forced many people to find local sources of outdoor recreation. The use of the extensive trail system grew exponentially as residents across Concord and visitors from nearby towns (and States) learned of this amazing resource that was available for free, and provided ample space for social distancing. The increased usage of the trails highlighted the need for more staff assistance to ensure safe and sustainable use of the trails.

2021 – City Council approves a Trail and Open Space Ranger Position

As part of the Fiscal Year 2022 budget, the City Council created a part-time Trails and Open Space Ranger position to provide consistent monitoring on the trails and open spaces. Melina Caron is hired to fill this position and introduced to the City as “Ranger Mel.”

2021 – Concord Trails Plan

On October 21, 2021, the Planning Board formally adopts the Concord Trails Plan on the recommendation of the Conservation Commission. This comprehensive City-wide plan includes the over 80-miles of public trails that are located on conservation lands throughout the City and are managed by the Conservation Commission and its Trails Subcommittee. This plan, which includes findings about the City’s current trails and recommendations to sustainably maintain this valuable resource, was developed by the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission with guidance and support from City Planning Staff, a steering committee with representatives from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Trails Subcommittee, and input from the public.



Trail overlooking Hoit Road Marsh (Photo credit: Kathy Healy)

II. THE RESULTS OF FIFTY YEARS OF CONSERVATION PLANNING AND ACTION

With the support of the City Council, the Conservation Commission's first 50 years has been successful. The conservation of land and natural resources requires vision, long-range planning, funding, and implementation through informed decision-making. Today, those efforts are seen across the City. In this report, we highlight some of the conservation projects that are now part of the fabric of the City's landscape.

A. Watershed Protection

The Conservation Commission is charged with "protecting the watershed resource of the City." The City's water resources represent some of our most fragile ecosystems and are particularly sensitive to various types of land use.

Protection of these water resources has been an important aspect of the Commission's work over the past 50 years. The City has approximately 286.5 miles of shoreline along its water bodies and water courses. Approximately 76 miles or 26% of these shoreline resources have been conserved to some extent. In addition, there are nearly 6,700 acres of wetlands within Concord, approximately 23% of which have been conserved.⁶

One recent example of a conservation project that provides watershed protection, and serves other conservation purposes, is the 2017 acquisition of approximately 106 acres of land located on Lakeview Drive, abutting Penacook Lake. The property was purchased utilizing grant funds from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) through the Aquatic Resources Mitigation Fund Grant and the Local Source Water Protection Program. The matching funds were through the City of Concord Conservation Trust Fund.



Vernal pool on Haller Property

B. Forested Lands, Wetlands and Wildlife

The City of Concord has significant forest resources outside of the urban growth boundary. The forested lands that have been protected from development through conservation provide many benefits. These forest resources support diverse ecological functions, such as nutrient cycling, carbon sequestration, and water quality maintenance through sediment trapping. Wildlife habitat

⁶ Conservation and Open Space Plan (June 2017).

of statewide and regional importance is located on many of the unfragmented tracts of forested land within the City.

One recent example of a conservation project that provides wetland and upland protection, and serves other conservation purposes is the 2019 acquisition of approximately 234 acres of land known as Country Hill Forest, abutting the Rossview Farm at the end of the District 5 Road. This forested land includes high quality wetlands and the headwaters for Ash Brook, which is a tributary of the Turkey River. The acquisition was funded in part by a \$350,000 grant from NH DES Aquatic Resources Mitigation (ARM) Fund.



Wetlands on Country Hill property

The City has a Forest Management Plan prepared by the City’s consulting forester. The primary mission of Concord’s Forestry Program is to promote sound forest management on City-owned lands. A second mission is to ensure that forest management is financially self-sustaining. The City’s consulting forester is responsible for implementation of the Forest Management Plan. Timber harvests also aid in the multiple uses of forested conservation lands, with many trails located on old timber roads and timber sales are used to help maintain the views and vistas along the trails on these lands.

Ron Klemarczyk is the City’s long-time consulting forester is, but he is so much more than that. Ron’s breadth of knowledge about the history of the City’s conservation lands is unparalleled. A walk through the woods with Ron is always an education. In addition to preparing the City’s Forest Management Plans and overseeing timber sales, Ron works closely with the Commission and the Trails Subcommittee on trail planning, development and maintenance.

Oak Hill (1978-2018)

Oak Hill rises northerly of Broken Ground, between Shaker Road and Oak Hill Road. Hot Hole Pond lies at the northerly foot of the hill. The Oak Hill area was an early focus of the Conservation Commission. The City acquired lands on Oak Hill for informal recreation. After timber sales were conducted, hiking trails and scenic



Fall Hike on Oak Hill Trails

outlooks were developed. The trail network on Oak Hill remains one of the more popular trail systems in Concord.

In 2018, the City added to the Oak Hill conservation area with the acquisition of the “Knowlton Woods” property from the Hardy family. This parcel, which is within a focus area in the Open Space Plan, extends from Hot Hole Pond Road up to the conservation lands along the Oak Hill ridge.

Broken Ground (2013)

In 2013, the Conservation Commission acquired 270 acres of conservation land in the Broken Ground area of East Concord, between Curtisville Road and Portsmouth Street. The City Council authorized the use of \$975,000 from the bond it approved in 2002 to allow this land to be conserved.

This land is part of a larger unfragmented tract of land, known as Broken Ground, that contains an extensive wetlands complex, ponds, forested lands and some open lands. The conservation of this land also protects wildlife habitat.

The Conservation Commission’s Trails Subcommittee worked with our consulting forester to lay out a network of public trails that allow for public use of the Broken Ground lands while minimizing impacts to wildlife. The Commission also partnered for the first time with the central New Hampshire chapter of the New England Mountain Bike Association to develop a trail on the Broken Ground conservation area designed for mountain bike use.



Nesting Herons at Broken Ground (Photo credit: Stefan Mattlage)

C. Agricultural Lands

The Commission has been active in protecting farmland in Concord through the acquisition of lands and conservation easements. In addition to protecting prime agricultural soils and agricultural soils of statewide significance, the conservation of farm land and associated forest and wetlands also protects wildlife habitat and other natural resources. The ability and willingness of the City to contribute financially to these acquisitions from the Conservation Fund or the conservation bond make it possible to seek grants from state and federal sources.

Agricultural Lands Along the Merrimack River - The Merrimack River runs for nearly 15 miles through the heart of the City. The river and its floodplains provide significant wildlife habitat, and the floodplains along the Merrimack River contain prime agricultural soils. Conservation funds have been used to help purchase lands along the river in fee or to purchase conservation easements on those lands. This includes agricultural fields off West Locke Road and West Portsmouth Street, and the Gully Hill parcels located on the east side of the river between Manchester Street and Loudon Road. The City leases these lands to local farmers for agricultural purposes.



Carter Hill Orchard

Photo credit: Dawn Cerrato

Carter Hill Orchard - An active orchard has existed on Carter Hill in Concord since the mid-1700s. In 2001, Carter Hill Orchard was permanently protected from development by placing 155 acres under a conservation easement. The City's contribution of \$150,000 from the Commission's conservation fund was combined with grants from the state Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) and the federal Farmland Protection Program funding to make this project possible.

Dimond Hill Farm - The Dimond Hill Farm is located in West Concord. The farm, including approximately 112 acres of forest and farmland and the iconic yellow barn and farmhouse, were placed under various conservation easements in 2006. The City's contribution of funds from the conservation bond to protect the agricultural and forest lands helped to secure matching grants and private donations.

Rossview Farm - In 2007, the State of New Hampshire acquired a conservation easement on approximately 550 acres of the 670-acre Rossview Farm, which straddles

the District 5 Road in Concord. The purchase of this conservation easement from the Ross family was negotiated by the Trust for Public Land and made possible through a \$1.97 million U.S. Forest Service Forest Legacy Program grant, which was matched by \$300,000 in state funding from LCHIP, \$300,000 from the City's conservation fund, and private donations. Concord Mayor Michael L. Donovan said at the time the purchase was announced that, "What a community chooses to save is what a community chooses to say about itself. What the City of Concord says is that we value our natural resources and farmlands and that we will work with our residents, like the Ross family, to protect those resources for our residents of today and our future generations."⁷

Stickney Hill agricultural lands – In 2011, the Commission coordinated a land protection effort with Five Rivers Conservation Trust to purchase a 76.5-acre conservation easement on the property known as Maplewood Farm off Stickney Hill Road. One-half of the \$680,000 purchase price for this easement was funded by the City Council's authorized issuance of a bond in the amount of \$340,000 and the balance was funded by a matching Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Grant. As a result of this acquisition, a neighboring landowner donated a conservation easement on an additional 18 acres of land to Five Rivers.

D. Open Space Donations

Concord is extremely fortunate to have community members who value open space and have donated lands to the City for preservation and public access. Notable donations that are now part of the fabric of this community include the Marjory Swope Park and Winant Park.

Marjory Swope Park

Marjory Swope was an original member of the Conservation Commission and later served as the Commission's chair. When Marjory later became a City Councilor, she continued her service to the Commission in that capacity.

After Marjory passed away in 2007, her husband John donated over 77 acres of land off Long Pond Road as a memorial to her. The land was donated to the City with a conservation easement that is held by Five Rivers Conservation Trust. The City worked with the Swope family, Five Rivers and St.



⁷ Trust for Public Land, Rossview Farm Conservation Completed (NH), February 15, 2007, available at <https://www.tpl.org/media-room/rossview-farm-conservation-completed-nh>.

Paul's School to create Marjory Swope Park, which includes several miles of trails, a magnificent vista of Penacook Lake and views to the west from the top of Jerry Hill. St. Paul's School made a significant contribution to this conservation project by donating the 68-acre Jerry Hill Conservation, Trail and Access Easement adjacent to the Swope donation.

Winant Park

The 85-acre Winant Park was created in 2009 in honor of New Hampshire Governor John Winant and his wife Constance. The park is a gift to the City of Concord from the late governor's son, Rivington Winant, and his wife Joan. In addition to the Winant family's generous donation of land and funding for this beloved park, St. Paul's School allowed construction of a parking area and trailhead and an access trail from land it owns on Fisk Road to Winant Park. Governor Winant was a student at St. Paul's School, and taught history at St. Paul's School both before and after World War I. Five Rivers Conservation Trust collaborated on the preservation of this land and the creation of Winant Park. The land donated by the Winant family is owned and managed by the City, subject to a conservation easement held by Five Rivers.⁸



Winant Park at Sunset

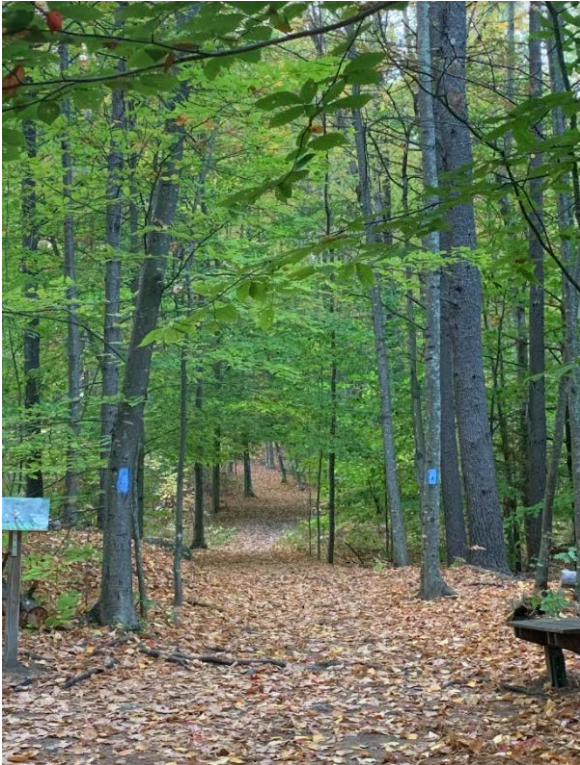
Photo credit: Alicia Coffee

The trails at Winant Park lead to a summit trail that includes a vista of the State House dome to the east, and mountain vistas to the west.

⁸ For more information about the establishment of Winant Park and a brief biography of John Winant, see <https://5rct.org/concord-winant-park/>.

E. Public Trails on Conservation Lands

The multiple use of the City's conservation lands includes recreational use where such use is consistent or compatible with the conservation purposes for which the land was acquired or otherwise protected. The City currently has over 80 miles of trails, most of which are located on conservation land.



Winant Park

Photo credit: Alicia Coffee



West End Farm Trail

Photo credit: Dawn Cerrato

As the Commission reflects back on its first 50 years, we celebrate the many dedicated trail volunteers who devoted countless hours to laying out trails, clearing those trails and maintaining those trails. We are fortunate to have an active Trails Subcommittee. Our City's consulting forester, Ron Klemarczyk, is also a critical part of these efforts.

No look back at the Conservation Commission's establishment of trails during its first 50 years would be complete without recognizing the work of our early trail blazers, including Win Robinson and Terry Frost. Win and Terry, who both served on the Conservation Commission for more than two decades, worked tirelessly to develop and maintain a network of trails for the people of Concord.



Long-time Conservation Commission member and trail volunteer, Terry Frost.



Win Robison on the Oak Hill trail that bears his name. Photo credit: The Robinson Family

III. THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS

As the Conservation Commission celebrates fifty years of protecting and preserving Concord's natural resources, we are also looking ahead to the future. In this era of climate change, the City's dedication to conserving land and natural resources from development contributes to the resiliency of our natural environment and the health of our community. As we build upon the work that has already been done, the Commission is guided by the specific conservation open space and stewardship goals set forth in its 2017 Conservation and Open Space Plan:

1. Permanently protect open space in Concord for current and future generations, including development of a coherent interconnected system of conservation open spaces.
2. Foster the wise management of the City's land and water resources while ensuring sustainable and productive use, where appropriate.
3. Support the multiple use of conservation open space area to the extent that such use does not adversely affect its primary functions and natural and cultural resources.
4. Maximize the opportunities for the citizens of Concord to have pedestrian and bicycling access to public conservation open space through linkages between the city's villages and neighborhoods and the network of conservation open space areas.
5. Protect and enhance surface and ground water quality, and to maximize the potential for the use of these water resources as potable water supplies.
6. Protect and enhance the air quality of the region.
7. Preserve prime and significant farmland soils for agricultural uses, and encourage the retention and diversification of agricultural uses within the City.
8. Preserve important forest soils and encourage the use of best management practices on protected lands in the City.
9. Retain and restore habitat for the City's indigenous species of wildlife, including migratory species and those species that have been identified as rare or may be identified as such, and provide adequate area that will foster the perpetuation of these species, and facilitate their movement through and within the city and beyond its borders.
10. Protect and maintain significant natural plant communities and rare plant species that have been or may be identified within the City.
11. Maintain and enhance scenic views and vistas for residents, visitors, and future generations.
12. Incorporate the results of ongoing research regarding climate resilience.

Attachment(s):

Conservation Commission Members

The Conservation Commission includes seven regular members, three alternative members, and one City Council representative. Members are appointed by the City Manager.

Current Members of the Conservation Commission

Kris Tardiff, Chair
Jim Owers, Vice Chair
Rick Chormann
Katherine Healy
Chris Kane
Jeff Lewis
Emily Landry, Alternate
Brent Todd, Council Representative

Past Members of the Conservation Commission

Robert Johnson II - 1971-1984	Edwin (Win) Robinson 1987- 2009
Roland Hok 1971-1974	Maureen Oliver 1987 -1992
Virginia Clark 1971 – 1973	Roderick Cyr – 1998 - 2005
William Ayer 1971 – 1972	Stephanie Vaine
Dennis Tewksbury, 1971 - 1977	Terrance (Terry) Frost – 1989 – 2004
Joel Potter 1971 – 1991	Christopher (Kit) Morgan 1988 - 2016
Marjory Swope 1974 – 2007	Bruce Gilday
John Morrill 1974 – 1984+	Sylvia Larsen
Willian Ingham 1974-1980	Courtney Lockwood
David Rogers – 1974 – 1978?	Pamela Hunt
Howard Nowell	Tracey Boisvert
Carolyn Tolles	Stefan Matlage
Sue Cobler 1974 –1987	Susan O Dudley
Joyce Prowse 1976 - 1979	J. Van Lund
Edward Kyle 1978 – 1990+	Joyce Read
Robert Morrill – 1978-1980	David Nudd
William Hauser – 1984 - 1989	George Laramie

City Council Representatives to Conservation Commission

Councilor Marjory Swope
Councilor Robert Blackney
Councilor Jan McClure
Councilor Mark Coen
Councilor Brent Todd

2020-2021 Trails Subcommittee

The mission of the Trails Subcommittee is to advise the Conservation Commission on developing, maintaining and promoting the mixed-used trail system for the City of Concord consistent with the Open Space chapter of the current Master Plan, and the Commission's Conservation and Open Space Plan. The current members of the Trails Subcommittee are:

Rob Knight, Chair
Scott Daniels, Vice Chair
Gail Page, Secretary
Greg Mannesto
Fran Philippe
Rob Talmadge
Judy Weatherbee
David Ross, Alternate
Ben Stephenson, Alternate
Rik Van Riel, Alternate
Ron Klemarczyk, Consultant Forester
Jeff Lewis, Conservation Commission Liaison

2020-2021 Tree Subcommittee

The mission of the Trails Subcommittee is to promote appropriate tree plantings and maintenance on public and private property to enhance the urban tree canopy. The current members of the Tree Subcommittee are:

Ted Diers, Chair
Peter Breu
Elizabeth Corell
Craig Tufts
Rick Chormann, Conservation Commission Liaison
Chris Kane, Conservation Commission Liaison

City Staff

The Conservation Commission receives invaluable support and assistance from the Planning Division staff. Those providing direct support to the Commission and its subcommittees over the years include:

Randy Raymond, City Planner
Doug Woodward, City Planner
Robert Pollock, Senior Planner (1974 to 2006)
Becky Hebert, Senior Planner (2006 to 2014)
Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner (2015 – present)