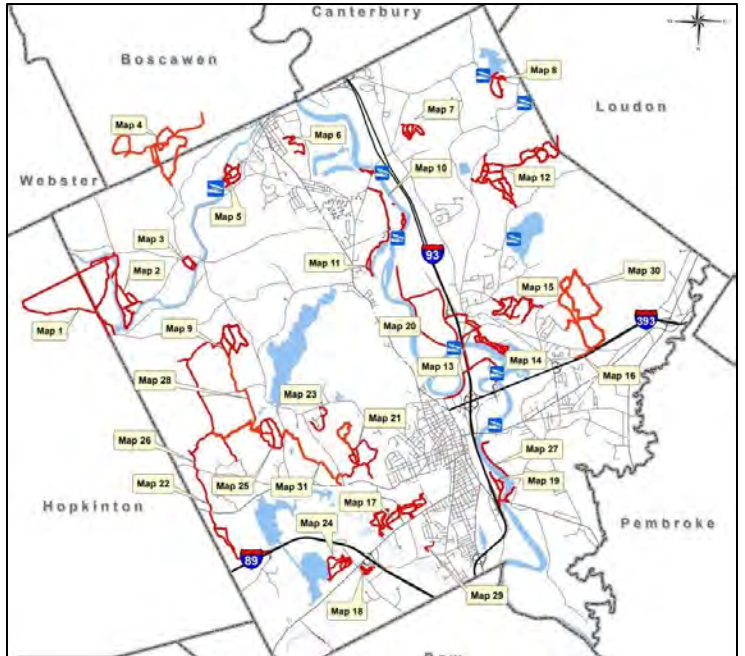




CONCORD TRAILS PLAN

Concord, New Hampshire



CONCORD TRAILS PLAN

City of Concord, New Hampshire

Adoption by the Planning Board: October 20, 2021

Adoption by the Conservation Commission: September 8, 2021

This Plan was adopted by the Planning Board under recommendation from the Conservation Commission. It was developed by the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission with guidance and support from City Planning Staff, and a Work Group with representatives from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Trails Subcommittee.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Concord has an amazing network of over 80 miles of trails open to the public for non-motorized use, with new trails and various changes occurring continuously. This plan helps develop a vision for what this trail network should look like to best meet the needs of the City, and makes recommendations in order to sustainably maintain this resource. The plan encompasses all trails within the City of Concord, but has an emphasis on trails that are on City property and are stewarded or managed by the Conservation Commission.

Primary findings of the plan include:

- Trails are a valuable asset and cherished part of the community that bring a range of benefits to the City.
- A diversity of trail types and a network approach are needed to serve a range of activities and abilities.
- As the trail system grows in size and prominence, additional City resources are needed to supplement current staff and volunteer efforts.

The plan incorporates extensive public input, based on a public forum and public survey that together reached over 600 individuals, plus interviews and meetings with various stakeholders and City staff. This outreach formed the basis of a three-part vision for trails in Concord:

1. Trails are an Integral Part of the Community (IDENTITY): Concord's trails provide a range of benefits to the City and its people. This valuable asset is unique in New Hampshire and is celebrated.
2. Trails are Built and Maintained Sustainably (SUSTAINABILITY): The privilege of miles of trails is earned through thoughtful trail building and stewardship.
3. Trails are for Everyone (DIVERSITY): Concord's trails encompass a variety of trail types that serve a range of trail users and activities. The trails are enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, and walks of life.

The plan outlines gaps and needs in the City's trail network, and includes a series of potential future trail additions and new connections for further review. This is done using a comprehensive network approach, with an eye toward fulfilling community objectives and implementing the City's vision for trails.

This is a planning document, adopted by the Planning Board under recommendation from the Conservation Commission. It was developed by the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission with guidance and support from City Planning Staff, and a steering committee with representatives from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Trails Subcommittee.



INTRODUCTION PURPOSE OF PLAN

The City of Concord has over 80 miles of public trails spanning all corners of the City. The quantity and quality of trails in Concord is unique, special, and valuable to the City and its residents and visitors. This sentiment was widely shared by the Concord community during public outreach and visioning conducted as part of this plan.

Current and future management of this valuable and extensive trail system presents opportunity, as well as challenges and questions. Trails are many things to many people, from places of quiet contemplation and connecting to nature, to a means for exciting outdoor adventure. Trails are enjoyed by avid outdoor enthusiasts, and also children, seniors, and people with special mobility needs. How can the City help to best meet all of the various wishes of trail users? And how can this be done while respecting abutters, agricultural operations, forestry, hunting, and wildlife? For trails on conservation properties, how can this be done in a manner that is consistent with the purposes for which the lands were acquired and preserved? What resources are needed to maintain and operate such a vast

trail system? How can trails be better connected into the community? How do trails benefit the community?

In addition to the many miles of natural hiking and mountain bike trails, the City has an opportunity to advance other trail typologies, such as accessible trails, urban trails, rail trails, and bike paths. Trails like these can be used by a wider range of abilities and offer some unique and distinct opportunities for the City. How might trails like these fit into our community?

The trails located on Concord's conservation and open space lands have grown significantly over the past 50 years, and have become so well used, and are so beloved that it is now effectively a sizeable parks system in and of itself. How must the City adapt to maintain, manage, and realize the benefits of this great asset?

This plan seeks to answer these questions and many more. It does not attempt to make trail-by-trail specific recommendations, but instead encompasses broader topics and issues that can inform decision making regarding trails.



CHAPTER 1

EXISTING CONDITIONS

TRAILS

The many miles of trails in Concord are held on a range of public and private properties. From a trail user perspective, differences in ownership and management are immaterial. In this brief section of the plan, all trails in Concord are described equally, regardless of ownership and management.

The trail system in Concord is comprised of a number of different types of trail, many of which are interconnected and some that cross into neighboring towns. There are trail systems that offer a variety of short to medium length loops, such as the Audubon Center Trails or Oak Hill Trails. Some trails traverse long distances and connect trail systems, including the West End Farm Trail and the Winant/Swope/Carter Hill Connectors. Other trails are more local, primarily catering to a neighborhood. The City has recently established a partnership with the local chapter of the New England Mountain Biking Association (NEMBA) to design multi-use trails with characteristics desirable by mountain bikers. Most of Concord's 80+ miles of trail have

a natural trail surface and are narrow "single track" or wider "double track" trails.

In addition to the 80 or so miles of official trails in Concord, there are many miles of unofficial trails. Many of these trails cross private land, some have existed for many years, and others have more recently been cut with or without property owner permission. The City does not have jurisdiction over trails that are not on City property, but there are some steps the City and trails advocates can take to address problems or opportunities associated with such trails.

Concord's trails traverse the variety of landscapes Concord has to offer. Some provide water access. The Lehtinen Park Trails and Jim Hill River Walk follow the Contoocook River. The Sewall's Falls Trails and Society of the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (SPNHF) Conservation Center trails overlook the Merrimack River. Some trails, including the Marjory Swope and Oak Hill Trails, offer distant hilltop views, while others including Carter Hill Orchard Trails and Dimond Hill Farm Trails traverse agricultural lands. Most trails travel through forest lands.

There are also four paved shared-use paths, commonly called bike paths, connecting streets that were separated by the construction of Interstates 93, 393, or 89. These trails total only about 2 miles, with the longest just over one mile. Despite their short lengths, they are locally important trail connections for hikers, pedestrians, and bicyclist. Other accessible trails in the City are primarily limited to City parks, such as Terrill Park, Rollins Park, and White Park.

An index map of Concord's trails can be found in the Concord Trail Guidebook, and also in the appendix of this plan. The guidebook is also available for download on the City's website.

TRAIL MANAGEMENT AND LANDS

Most public trails in Concord are either on City property or are on private properties with trail agreements or easements held by the City.

These trails are managed by the Conservation Commission, and built and maintained by the Commission's Trails Subcommittee. The Commission and Subcommittee are supported by City staff from the Planning Division and consulting City Forester.

Other trails are owned and operated by other entities and are not under the purview of the City. Private trails, such as the trails at the Audubon Center and SPNHF Conservation Center, are managed and maintained by those organizations under their own procedures. The Sewall's Falls Recreation area trails are owned and managed by NH Fish and Game. The Mast Yard State Forest Trails, Upton-Morgan Forest Trails, and White Farm Ski Trails are owned and managed by the NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. The Trails Subcommittee and volunteers monitor these trails, and City

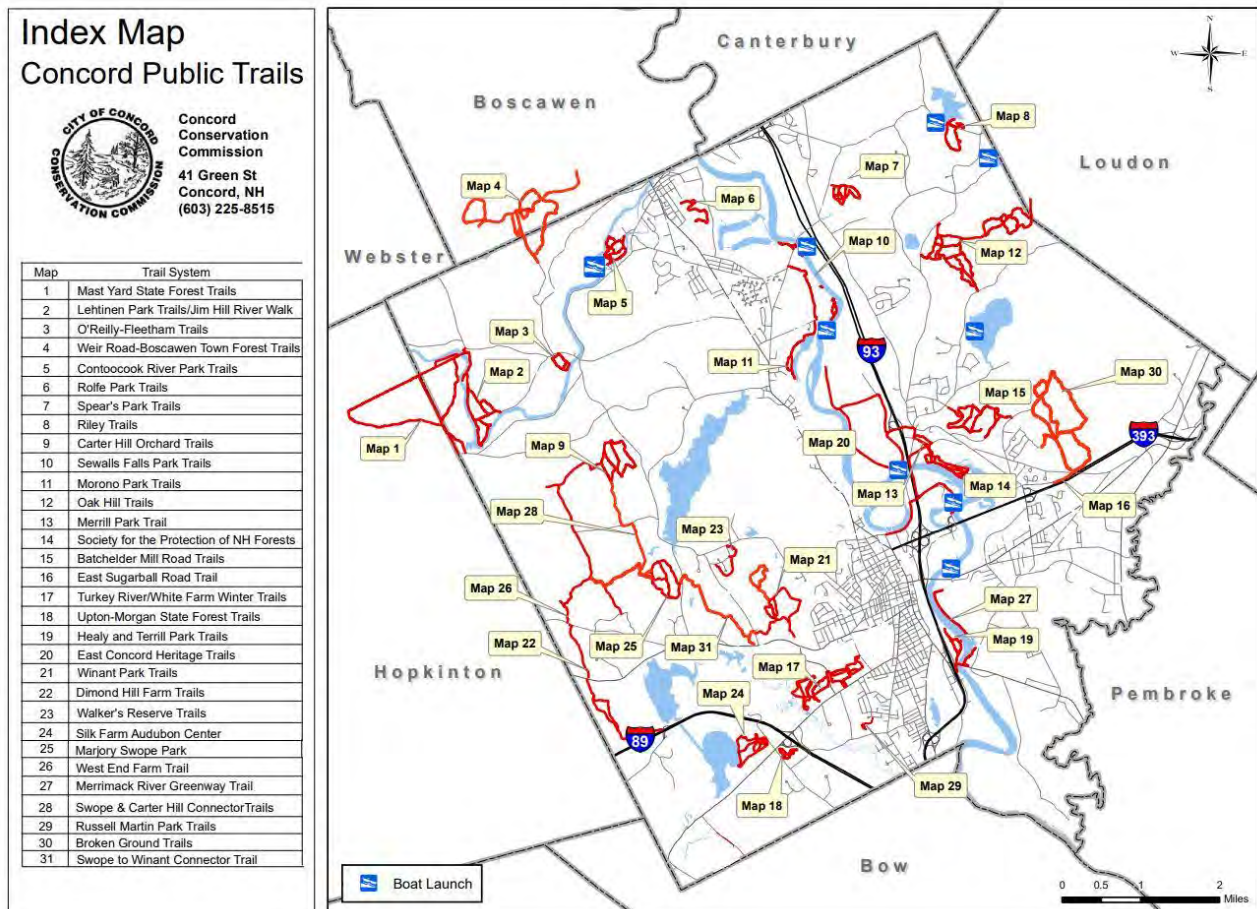


Table : Trail Tasks and Expenses

Task	Who Does It? (X is primary, s is supporting)						Who Pays For It? (X is primary, s is supporting)		
	City Forester	City Planning	General Services	Trails Sub-Committee and Other Volunteers	Conservation Commission	Contracted Out	Forestry Fund	Conservation Funds	Planning Staff Time
Bridges and Structures Construction/Maintenance	X			s			X		s
Down Tree Removal (chainsaws)	X			s			X		s
Light Trail Cleanup (minor litter and brush removal)	X			X			X		s
Dumping Removal	X		X			X	X	X	s
Bi-Annual Trail Reporting				X					s
New Trail Construction	X			X	s		X		
Whether to Build a new Trail (checklist procedure etc.)		X		X	X				X
New Trail Layout	X			X	X		X		
Trail Erosion/Drainage Maintenance/Re-routing	X			X			X		
Maintenance Requiring Heavy Equipment	s					X	X	X	s
Parking Lot Maintenance	X		X			X	X	X	s
Parking Lot Snow Removal						X		X	
Trail Maps and Trail Guides		X		s				X	X
Kiosk content	X	X		s	s		s	X	X
Trail Signage	X	X		X	s		X	X	X
Addressing Abutter Issues	X	X			s		X		X
Volunteer Database and Coordination - General		X		X					X
Community Service/School Volunteer Coordination	X	X		s			X		X
Manages Summer Trails Intern	X	X					X		X
Point of Contact for Addressing Calls/ Concerns	s	X							X
Education and Outreach	s	X							

Staff coordinates with these entities regarding trails as needed. The City has included these trails on the City’s maps and guidebooks of City trails with permission from the landowner. The City’s Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the trails on City Park land that are also identified above. There are several popular trails on the St. Paul’s School campus; however, they are not monitored or maintained

by the City volunteers and are not included in the City trail guidebook.

STAFF AND VOLUNTEER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

While City Council has ultimate jurisdiction over all City property, the Conservation Commission is the body tasked with overseeing conservation land, along with associated trails on such land. Planning staff, in conjunction with the Trails

Subcommittee, trail stewards, and the consulting City Forester play the most direct role in daily maintenance and operation of these trails. However, multiple City departments have worked together as needed to address specific concerns, though without clear or formally defined responsibilities.

The Planning Division provides a staff liaison to the Conservation Commission and Trails Subcommittee and is involved in the overall planning and strategizing for the City's trails. Planning staff has become the de facto main contact for community concerns regarding trails. The Engineering Services Division assists with review of parking and traffic concerns. Parks & Recreation provides assistance with mowing some areas. The agreements for this work are not formalized and are addressed on a case by case basis.

The City's consulting Forester plays a major role in the maintenance and construction of the trail system, most of which are located on forested lands. The Forester assists with the layout of new trails or bypasses, assists in the construction of trailheads and parking lots, determines the need for and constructs bridges and plank-walks, and plans and maintains vistas. The Forester also coordinates with school community service projects for Concord High School, St. Paul's School, Second Start, as well as Boy Scout Eagle projects. The consulting Forester provides Concord with many services to trails that go well above and beyond the typical responsibilities of a forester, including heavy trail maintenance and supervising the summer Trails Intern.

Funds for the consulting City Forester, building materials and the summer intern come from the

Forestry Fund, which is funded by annual timber sales on City conservation and open space lands.

Other than the Police Department, there is no specific enforcement entity for Concord's trails and public lands. The Police Department does not patrol trails, but responds to reports by trail users or reports from the consulting City Forester and City staff. NH Fish & Game assists with illegal ATV activity enforcement and reports of hunting concerns.

The General Services Department (GSD) oversees a wide range of City properties, from municipal buildings to roads and sidewalks. They do not have any designated responsibilities for maintaining trails or trail amenities; however, they will provide assistance if requested and they are available. For example, GSD has assisted in cleanup of illicit dumping, parking lot maintenance requiring heavy equipment, and the installation of gates. The materials for these projects are charged back to the Conservation Commission's Property Management budget account, which is funded through the Conservation Trust Fund. The City currently has a contract with a private contractor to plow four



Volunteers conducting light trail maintenance

trailhead parking lots in winter, paid for through funds from the Conservation Commission's General Fund operating budget.

The Trails Subcommittee assigns a volunteer trail steward to each of the trails under the City's purview. The trail steward is responsible for regularly monitoring their trails and providing two formal Trail Check Reports, once in the spring and once in the fall. A checklist is available to assist each steward with the report. The Chair

of the Trails Subcommittee oversees the stewardship program, maintains a database of volunteers, and collects the Trail Check Reports. The trail steward typically takes care of smaller maintenance issues on their own. Larger projects are either referred to the consulting City Forester, or a work group of volunteers is organized to address the issue. Specific roles and maintenance tasks are further elaborated in Chapter 5.



CHAPTER 2

PUBLIC INPUT

Public input is critical to this Trails Plan. The vision for trails described in this plan comes directly from public input, and any findings and recommendations in the plan are sourced from listening to the Concord community. This approach helps empower the community and helps ensure the plan directs trail efforts to meet local needs and desires. Public outreach for this plan consisted of a project work group, an online survey, public meetings, and various meetings with staff and other stakeholders.

WORK GROUP

This document is a strategic plan that fits in with the City's Comprehensive Master Plan and other various plans. As such, this planning document is a product of the Planning Board, which is tasked with planning for the long term future of the City. Representatives from the Trails Subcommittee and Conservation Commission also have a stake in the plan, and thus played an important role in the plan's creation.

The work group was made from representatives of the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, Trails Subcommittee, and Planning

Division staff, and was important in framing the issues and questions that this plan must address. In addition, this group's experience and local knowledge were critical in understanding various concerns, challenges, and the needs of the community.

SURVEY

An in-depth 23 question survey was distributed online and was taken by over 500 individuals. Questions covered a wide range of topics and left wide opportunity for individuals to comment openly. This is a relatively large sample that provides abundant useful information on people's views of trails in the City. Survey results can be found in the appendix.

MEETINGS

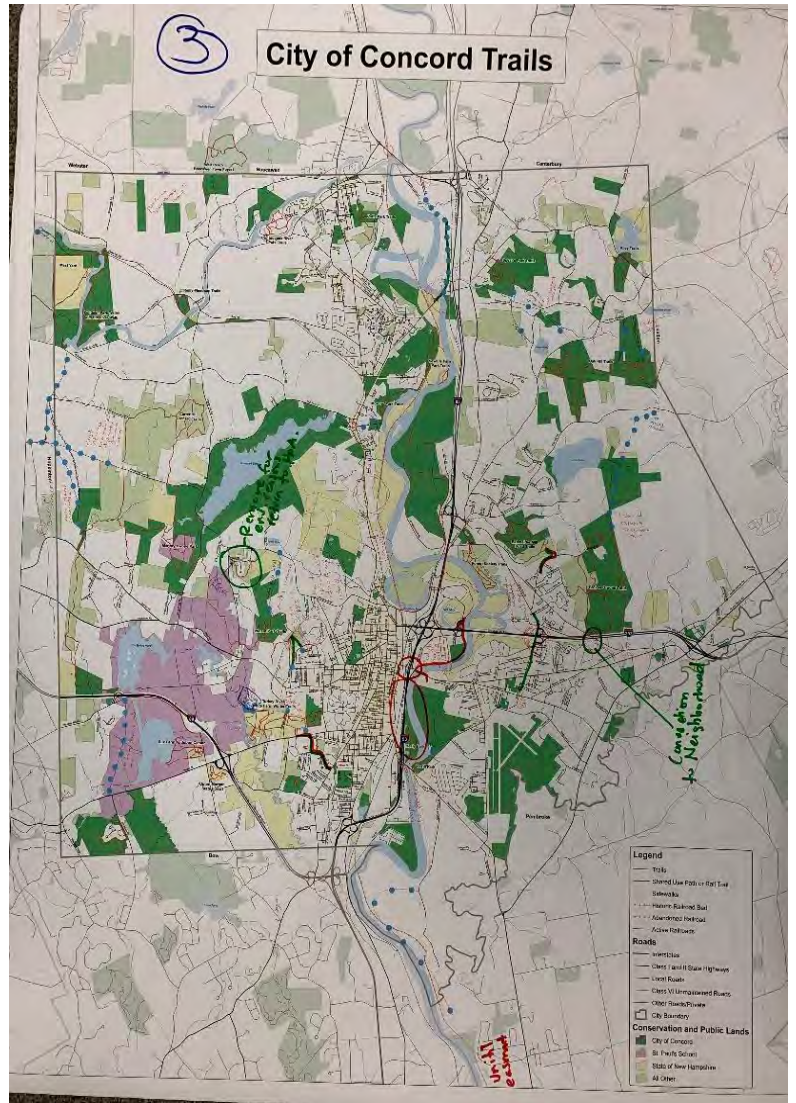
A public forum was held in order to engage the public. Public meetings offer more nuanced perspectives and information than can be gleaned from a survey alone. The primary meeting was a public forum that was attended by approximately 75 people. It was organized to facilitate small group conversations around five topics, including Vision, Favorite Trails/Places,

Trail Connections and New Trails, Environmental or Wildlife Habitat, and Concerns (Maintenance, safety, etc.). Each topic had a table with a moderator, map for marking up, and notepads. After the meeting, notepad notes were transcribed and conversations and key takeaways were documented in detailed notes, found in the appendix.

Multiple informal meetings, trailside interviews, and various conversations took place throughout the development of the plan in order to seek a broader range of perspectives. This approach helped reach specific stakeholders and interests, and reach individuals who may not have been inclined to attend a public meeting or fill out a survey.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION AND PLANNING BOARD APPROVAL

The Conservation Commission received and reviewed a near final draft of the plan document for comments and edits, which was on the agenda and discussed at the September 2021 meeting. A final draft of the Trails plan was presented at the following meeting, where the Commission recommended the Trails Plan be set for public hearing and adoption by the Planning Board as an addition to the City's comprehensive master plan.



A marked up map from the public forum



CHAPTER 3 VISION

“Trails are a vital element of the Concord community, serving a wide range of trail users, providing a multitude of benefits to the community, and built and maintained with respect for the environment, abutters, and agricultural operations.”

While there are many diverging viewpoints on issues large and small regarding trails, an evaluation of countless conversations and over 500 detailed survey returns reveal broad agreement on key themes. This broad agreement can be summarized in three vision statements for trails in Concord.

1. TRAILS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CONCORD COMMUNITY (IDENTITY):

Concord’s trails provide a range of benefits to the City and its people, from public health to economic development and quality of life. The trail network is a valuable asset that is unique in New Hampshire and is celebrated. Trail activities can be easily incorporated into the daily lives of residents and visitors who choose to use them.

2. TRAILS ARE BUILT AND MAINTAINED SUSTAINABLY

(SUSTAINABILITY): The privilege of miles of trails is earned through thoughtful trail building and stewardship. Trails are built and maintained with respect for the natural environment, abutters, landowners, agricultural operations, wildlife, and management resources. Trails are a worthwhile investment, and adequate resources should be provided through volunteer efforts when possible, and City or other government contributions when necessary.

3. TRAILS ARE FOR EVERYONE (DIVERSITY):

(DIVERSITY): Concord’s trails encompass a variety of trail types that serve a range of trail users and abilities. The trails are enjoyed by people of all ages, abilities, and walks of life.

1. TRAILS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CONCORD COMMUNITY (IDENTITY)

Throughout the public input process there was a strong agreement that Concord's trail system was unique and special, and that it brought a wide range of benefits to Concord and its residents. Research and best practices from across the country largely back up this assessment.

RECREATION: The most obvious and widely cited benefit of trails is the recreational component. The ability to hike, mountain bike, or go for a simple walk in nature is highly valued by Concord residents and visitors. Having trails so close to home or work lets people recreate more often and with fewer barriers.

QUALITY OF LIFE: Many people cited a general quality of life benefit that trails bring. While it was recognized there are many wonderful trails across New Hampshire, having trails close to home and work helps them become a part of daily life. Nearly 50% of survey respondents report using Concord's trails once per week or more. Survey responses also indicate broad trail use on both weekdays and weekends, over four seasons.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Having a robust trail system is part of what makes Concord an attractive place to live and work, and is part of Concord's identity. Many people noted that trails and outdoor activities generally were among the primary reasons for locating in Concord. Tourism potential is seen as a secondary benefit, particularly with any trails and shared-use pathways that connect into the downtown. Concord is able to showcase both an attractive downtown with civic and cultural attractions, as well as an extensive trail system and outdoor access. These contrasting assets are major selling points for Concord. Further backing up this sentiment is Concord's Economic

Trail Benefits

-  Recreation
-  Quality of Life
-  Economic Development
-  Access to Nature
-  Physical and Mental Health

Development initiative, which identifies the 7,000 acres of preserved conservation land and 80+ miles of hiking, biking and running trails as amenities that contribute to the City's "quality of place."

ACCESS TO NATURE: Among the primary reasons for people to use trails was to get into nature. This is especially valuable for those who live in more densely settled neighborhoods. This access to trails and nature is seen as an important contrasting and complimentary element to a community that also has dense neighborhoods and a vibrant downtown. Nearly 80% of survey respondents say that the access to nature Concord's trails provide is "extremely important."

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH: Trails offer an opportunity for physical activity and exercise,

which is considered to be an important element to a healthy community. A significant number of people cite trails as an important part of their mental health and wellbeing. Health and exercise benefits of trails was continually cited as extremely important in the survey and public meetings.

2. TRAILS ARE BUILT AND MAINTAINED SUSTAINABLY – (SUSTAINABILITY)

Concord residents recognized that the privilege of a robust trail system comes with responsibility, and any new trails must undergo a thoughtful process before trail building begins. This may mean mitigating negative impacts the trails might have to people, businesses, or wildlife. The Conservation Commission and Trails Subcommittee follow procedures and practices intended to take these considerations into account, and this plan can be used as a resource to help evaluate and improve the process.

Maintenance and stewardship entails not only obvious trail maintenance issues like removing downed trees, but includes addressing a range of issues that have and will continue to arise on occasion. Examples include trail user conflicts, parking issues, disruptions to property owners or business operations, safety issues, vandalism concerns, illegal dumping, homeless encampments, and a range of other issues. Chapter 5 goes into more detail about these concerns and how the City currently deals with them, Chapter 7 introduces recommendations for improving maintenance and stewardship.

MAINTENANCE: A vast majority of respondents to the survey and meeting attendees agreed that overall trails in Concord are well maintained (97% of survey respondents said trails were well maintained or mostly well maintained). A majority of the light trail work is conducted by volunteers, and the community envisioned



Hoit Marsh Overlook

volunteerism being the primary method for maintaining trails. While there appears to be a perception that trails are nearly entirely volunteer driven, the City does and will continue to provide a great deal of oversight and resources. The public preference was for volunteerism to continue to play a role in trail maintenance.

PROPERTY OWNER AND ABUTTER CONCERNS: Trails can and occasionally do impact abutters. The primary impacts that were heard through public outreach include parking issues, privacy concerns, and rogue trail building. Most people saw these issues as resolvable or avoidable with proper stewardship.

Outreach indicated a strong sentiment that the public should have access to trails where property is publicly owned or public access rights are conserved in an easement. It was agreed that concerns from abutters and landowners should be taken seriously, and legitimate effort should be made to address concerns. Most people also agreed that a landowner or abutter grievance shouldn't be able to unilaterally block trail use on property that is publicly owned or

where public access rights are required or allowed in an easement.

In other cases, people were strongly appreciative of landowners who generously provide public access to their lands. This appreciation is accompanied by a sense of responsibility to be good stewards.

USER CONFLICTS: With trails being so well used, minor conflicts between trail users can be expected. The City can work with the community to help mitigate some of these conflicts through education and other community efforts.

Pet waste and unleashed dogs combine to be by far the most commonly cited user conflict. At the same time, dog walking was a very popular activity for trail users. Needless to say, banning dogs from most trails would not be seen as an appropriate step to mitigate the problem. Trail advocates and the Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee should help mitigate these issues through education, encouragement, and enforcement. This issue is primarily a user-experience issue, but also can be considered a safety or environmental concern.

Balancing trail needs with non-trail recreational uses of the land, particularly hunting, were identified as a perennial issue.

Other concerns included mountain bikers traveling too fast, and wintertime snow etiquette. Again, there is little appetite to restrict current trail use, but combinations of education, communication, and understanding of other trail users needs can help reduce trail user conflicts such as these.

AGRICULTURE: Some of Concord's trails traverse active agricultural lands. Trail users that participated in the public meetings indicated their support for local agriculture, and felt that trail use should certainly consider the needs of active farms. The health and safety of trail users



Carter Hill Orchard is a host to trails.

must also be considered. There was also a sentiment that the public should have recreational access to farmlands when it can reasonably be done, especially in cases where the property is publicly owned or conservation easements with public access or use requirements are secured. People viewed public access to farmlands as a way to build a bond between people, the land, and the agricultural activities taking place on it.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT: Awareness has been increasing across the State that trails can and do impact wildlife. Concord is no exception. Trail users in general value nature and wildlife, and do not want to have an undue negative impact. There is broad agreement that wildlife considerations should come into play when locating new trails. There is also some interest in evaluating existing impacts and exploring ways to mitigate them.

New Hampshire Fish and Game has produced a document “Trails for People and Wildlife” with associated tools and resources. There is support from the Conservation Commission, Trails Subcommittee, and much of the public to utilize these resources to inform trail building and stewardship. Trails for people and wildlife are discussed in detail in Chapter 6.

Access to nature is also a primary reason why people use trails. Trails help people value and build a relationship with nature, which can in turn build support for conservation measures.

3. TRAILS ARE FOR EVERYONE

DIVERSITY OF TRAIL TYPES: Trails in Concord serve a broad range of activities, abilities, and distances. While there is broad support for trails in general, trail users have varying preferences, and use trails in different ways. Concord’s trail system will best serve the City if it can meet these diverse needs with a range of trail types. During public outreach, several categories of trail types emerged as having a distinct following and serving a distinct purpose. A diversity of trail types will together create a comprehensive trail network that best serves the needs of the City.

Short Loop Natural Trails: Short loop trails are popular for families with children and others who want a short distance trip. These are also often used when people have only a short amount of time, such as lunch breaks from work. Trail loops keep things interesting, avoiding out-and-back trips. Popular areas with shorter walk trail loops include trails at Batchelder Mill Road and the Audubon Center. Some of the most popular trails in Concord are slightly longer, including the Marjory Swope and Winant Trail areas.

Longer Distance Natural Trails: Longer distance trails appear to be the most popular among trail enthusiasts. Longer trails enable an outdoor experience where trail users can cover considerable distances and time and immerse



Nesting Herons at Broken Ground.



A Family Walk at Winant

themselves in the activity in a natural environment. Many people value these trails because they provide a quality local alternative to places like the White Mountains. The survey indicated higher support for more trails of this type than any other.

Mountain Bike Trails: Mountain bikers enjoy trails that are designed and built with mountain biking in mind. Characteristics such as good flow and fun terrain features are sought out by mountain bikers. Trails that are built specifically with mountain biking in mind are usually still suitable and enjoyable for other uses, although the many twists and turns on some mountain bike trails may not be preferable to some. Local mountain bike organizations, such as the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA), contribute to trail building and maintenance. NEMBA lead an effort to build a mountain bike trail in the Broken Ground Trail network, and recently completed new trails at Knowlton Woods near Oak Hill.

Winter Use Trails: There is an appreciation in Concord for trails that are maintained for winter use for cross country skiing, including trails at White Farm, Beaver Meadow Golf Course, Memorial Field, and Carter Hill Orchard. Ungroomed longer distance trails are very popular with snowshoers and, to a less extent, skiers. More recently, winter “fat bike” mountain biking has become popular, and some communities have begun grooming some mountain bike trails specifically for this purpose. In Concord, the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) began grooming some trails at Broken Ground. While all of Concord’s trails are open for winter use, there continues to be a desire for some trails to be groomed for winter activities.

Accessible Trails: There is a clear need for trails that are accessible to wheelchairs, visually or physically impaired individuals, seniors, and others who require or prefer an obstacle free path. While there is strong support for most trails to remain in a natural state, there is also a recognition that not everyone has the ability or desire to traverse trails with natural obstacles like rocks, roots, and steep slopes. An accessible trail was recently built in Keach Park behind the



Concord offers several miles of groomed cross country ski trails at White Farm (shown) and Beaver Meadow Golf Course. Grooming is done through volunteering and fundraising, and trail use is free to all.



Mountain Biking on Rough Terrain.

Community Center. During public input, it was noted that Concord lacked accessible trails that

provide access to nature for people of all ages and abilities.

Rail Trails and Bike Paths – Rail trails and bike paths, often referred to as shared-use paths, are a distinct type of trail from those that are the primary focus of this plan. They typically consist of 8 to 12 foot wide paved or smooth hard-packed surface trails, with generally gentle grades. These trails are usually accessible trails, are often used as non-motorized transportation routes, and may also serve as transportation routes that lead to natural trails. They are popular with bicyclists as well as walkers and joggers. During public visioning, it was noted there were relatively few trails of this type in Concord and that more were desired. Existing examples of trails of this type include a section of the Concord to Lake Sunapee Rail Trail along Bog Road, a short piece of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail in Terrill Park, and short bike paths along I-89 by St. Paul’s School to Hopkinton and I-93 by Delta Drive.

Trails in Neighborhood Parks: Trails within parks fall under the jurisdiction of Concord Parks and Recreation Department. Concord’s Parks contain some of the only accessible trails in the City, and serve a unique purpose from the more remote natural trails. Park space accessible to residential neighborhoods is valued. Examples of trails in Concord parks include White Park, Terrill Park, Keach Park, and Rollins Park. A new riverfront park in Penacook could fill this role, while the Heights neighborhood is relatively underserved.

Regional Trails: There is a strong case to be made for Concord to host portions of trails that expand well beyond the City’s boundaries. Rail Trails and Shared Use Paths such as the Merrimack River Greenway Trail and the Concord to Lake Sunapee Rail Trail are great local amenities, but their values are greatly enhanced when they continue for many miles. Long



The Merrimack River greenway Trail in Terrill Park is an example of a shared use path, where people of all abilities can ride free from cars.

distance trails such as these (when completed) have a distinct following, and have been known to attract visitors and over-night guests. The Sunapee-Ragged-Kearsarge Greenway, a 75 mile loop of trails to the west of Concord, is an example of a long distance natural trail that hosts through hikers and recreation tourists. In many cases, trails of such distance are created by linking together nearby trail networks, as is the case with much of the SRK Greenway. Concord’s neighboring communities have their own isolated but expanding trail systems that can be leveraged to become greater than the sum of their parts. Municipal boundaries are irrelevant to most trail users, but Concord is well positioned to benefit from long distance trails because of its abundance of amenities for visitors and overnight guests.

Other Trail Types: Other trail types were envisioned by Concord residents during public visioning. Two of the more prominent ideas included water trails, where kayakers and canoers link up waterways, and downhill backcountry ski/snowboard trails and glades. There were several calls for trails that accommodate equestrians. There are three snowmobile corridors in in Concord that are maintained by local snowmobile clubs for snowmobile use. A vast majority of people surveyed agreed that Concord’s trails should remain non-motorized during the summer months.



CHAPTER 4

TRAIL NETWORK

An ideal comprehensive trail network in Concord would include a mix of the trail types explored in the previous chapter. This will enable a range of non-motorized trail uses, a range of abilities, and have options for both short and long distances. Importantly, these trails must connect to each other and to the places where people can access them. The envisioned trail system would function as a coherent network.

The difficult questions regarding where, how, and how many trails to build require thoughtful consideration. This plan proposes to formalize procedures and involve a public process for making decisions regarding significant new trails. The plan also proposes trail additions and new connections based on the public meetings conducted and staff analysis. It could also help inform decisions on possible trail closures or re-routes. The plan also maps out a series of planned shared use paths and bikeways to connect people to places and serve as a backbone for non-motorized transportation routes.

NEW TRAIL BUILDING PROCEDURES

In late 2018, the Conservation Commission adopted procedures for the consideration of new trails, which was drafted by the Trails Subcommittee. This procedure, along with a companion “Trail Criteria Checklist”, has only recently begun to be used for determining whether and how a new trail gets built.

The process is intended to include site walks with stakeholders and staff, negotiating and securing landowner agreements, consideration for parking, bridges, or other infrastructure needed, preparation of a budget, obtaining permits that may be required, and obtaining approval from the Conservation Commission.

The process is also intended to include a better outreach and public hearings to help address issues before a trail is approved for construction. Copies of the New Trail Procedure and Trail Criteria Checklist can be found in the appendix.

While the procedure is now being used, a better outreach and neighborhood participation has in the past been inconsistent, and a more technical

review of how a proposed trail meets the checklist criteria would be beneficial. Involving the Planning Board to assist with outreach, community decision making, and infrastructure review, and involving technical staff in the criteria review are two recommendations of this plan. The Planning Board could be consulted for issues pertaining to new parking, increases in motor vehicle traffic, or other matters deemed to be relevant to the community. Communication between municipal bodies can bring an important multidisciplinary perspective and long-range view to trail projects.

Consistency with the trail network recommendations of the plan should be used as part of the project selection. In general, the process could be improved by encouraging a more holistic approach, including how any new trail would contribute to the larger whole of the trail network envisioned.

NEW TRAIL CONNECTIONS AND ACCESS TO TRAILS

Part of the public outreach for this plan included discussions for where new trails are desired. A number of new trail concepts were discussed at meetings and mentioned in the survey. Some trail concepts have been in other City plans for years but have not yet been implemented. Having this list will help trail advocates and volunteers choose where to focus their trail building efforts, and will help planners determine whether a new trail proposal fits into broader goals for the trail network. It will also help enable trails to be integrated into larger projects, such as road construction and private development.

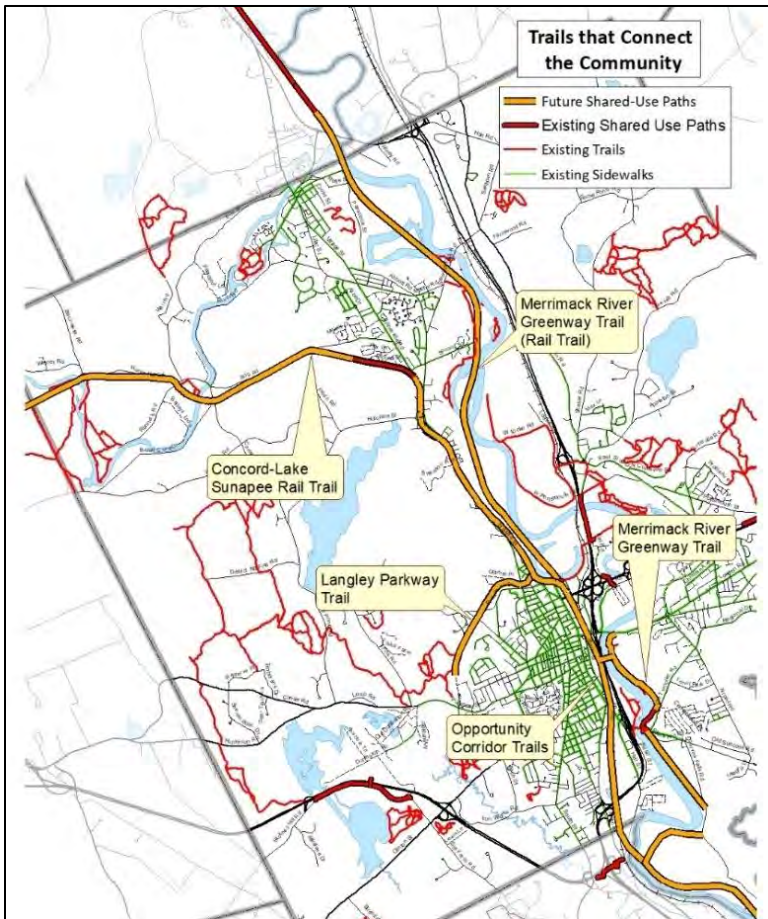
Further review of any of the following trail network ideas is warranted before any trail building is to move forward. Environmental, neighborhood, and other issues described elsewhere in this plan should be thoroughly evaluated to confirm the location is appropriate.

TRAILS THAT CONNECT THE COMMUNITY

There are a number of planned trails in Concord that are envisioned to be designed in a way such that they can be excellent non-motorized transportation corridors. These trails, which may be referred to as greenways, rail trails or shared use paths, can connect neighborhoods to each other, can provide important connections from urban areas to open spaces, and even act as commuter routes. They would become an important part of the non-motorized transportation network in the city, integrating with streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks. In the context of the larger trails network, they can provide safe and inviting bicycle and pedestrian access to natural trail areas and enhance options for active lifestyles. In addition to these transportation benefits, they offer opportunity for users with mobility needs, users with strollers, traditional on-road cyclists, and users who are just more comfortable on an improved path.

MERRIMACK RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL: The proposed Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT) was cited multiple times during public outreach as helping to fill a need for a specific trail type. The first .3 miles of the MRGT has been built in Terrill Park, but the rest remains a vision. The trail is planned as a 10 foot wide shared use path traversing the north-south length of Concord, roughly following the Merrimack River. If completed, it would provide a trail spine connecting Downtown Concord, Penacook, multiple hiking and biking trails, and natural areas.

The Trail would be an accessible trail, serving bicyclists, wheelchairs, walkers, and joggers of all abilities. It would also fill a long-standing desire for Concord to better connect to the Merrimack River, and provide a non-motorized transportation route connecting Penacook, Downtown, and other areas of Concord.



The MRGT would be part of the proposed Granite State Rail Trail (GSRT), extending from Salem on the Massachusetts border to Lebanon on the Vermont border. There are connecting regional trails in the Lakes Region and Manchester area, making the GSRT a trail of statewide significance. A trail of this scale can promote tourism and attract visitors to Concord and its downtown.

Proponents of the MRGT describe the trail in two parts; the rail trail portion and the river trail portion. The rail trail would utilize an abandoned railroad corridor extending from Downtown Concord to Penacook. The route passes farms, forests, wetlands, multiple oxbow lakes, and has multiple views of the Merrimack River. It also provides connections to existing trails and trail networks, including the popular Sewall's Falls trails and Morono Park trails.

The Trail would continue north into Boscawen at the Hannah Duston Park and monument, and

connect to the Northern Rail Trail. The Northern Rail Trail has a 10 foot wide smooth stone dust surface for 53 miles to Lebanon, using the historic Northern Railroad bed. Extending the Northern Rail Trail into downtown Concord would be beneficial for both the Trail and for the City. As of this writing, the City has entered a Purchase and Sale agreement to purchase the abandoned railroad property for the rail trail.

The river trail portion of the MRGT would extend from Downtown south to Pembroke (and possibly Bow). There are no abandoned railroad beds for most of this route, requiring new trail to be blazed. This includes trail between Loudon Road and Manchester Street on the east side of the Merrimack River, with a boardwalk spanning wetlands north of Terrill Park and trail along the Merrimack River and agricultural fields. South of Manchester Street the trail could be built in association with future development on land zoned for mixed use. Approaching the Concord/Pembroke line, an historic railroad grade exists on land currently owned by Eversource in the Garvin's Falls area. This railroad grade could one day host the MRGT.

CONCORD-LAKE SUNAPEE RAIL TRAIL:

Another trail of regional significance is the proposed Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail. This trail is also proposed to be an accessible trail, with a 10 foot wide smooth hard packed surface. The route intends to follow the abandoned Concord to Claremont railroad bed where possible, from where it meets the MRGT near downtown at the Pierce Manse, northwest to the Hopkinton line at Mast Yard State Forest and beyond. In between, it passes the Jim Hill Riverwalk & Lehtinen Park Trails, the O'Reilly-Fleetham Trails, and would provide views and access to the Contocook River at multiple points. The first stretch of trail has been built



Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail



The City of Keene has stitched urban trails into new infill redevelopment. Concord can do the same as it redevelops the "Opportunity Corridor" along I-93 near Downtown.

along Bog Road, starting at a trailhead off Fisherville Road

The trail is planned to continue into Hopkinton, Contoocook Village, Warner, Bradford, and end at Lake Sunapee in Newbury. Several miles of

trail are completed along its proposed 34 mile length. This trail, in combination with the Granite State Rail Trail, would be a unique facility that would serve locals and attract tourists.

The lead organization building the trail is a non-profit group the Friends of the Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail. The City has entered into license agreements with the Friends group to allow them to build and maintain the trail on City property or easements. Council has entered into a purchase and sale agreement for land that may be used for the trail. Otherwise, the City plays an oversight supporting role in the development of the CLSRT with support from City Council.

DOWNTOWN AND STORRS STREET OPPORTUNITY CORRIDOR TRAILS:

If Downtown is the center of activity in Concord, it would only make sense for the trail network to tie into it. Many of the mark-up maps at the public visioning sessions were filled with markings and notes describing ideas for trail connections in and around the Downtown area. This includes the "opportunity corridor," described in various planning documents as an area of under-developed land from Horseshoe Pond, down through the Storrs Street area, and south to the South End rail yard off Langdon Ave. The vision is to encourage and enable enjoyable active transportation and recreation throughout this built-up portion of Concord, and also connect it to nearby open spaces. The Merrimack River Greenway Trail would be a probable backbone for this trail system. A pedestrian bridge spanning I-93 and the Merrimack River in the immediate Downtown area appeared to be the most popular concept, as were improved connections through the Opportunity Corridor, to the Heights, the South End, Horseshoe Pond, the Route 3 north corridor (Fisherville Road area), East Concord, and the Concord Hospital campus. Such trails would provide non-motorized transportation options and enhance the livability of the Downtown area

and adjacent neighborhoods.

Opportunities for implementing such trails may arise through a range of private and public development. The I-93 Bow-Concord Improvement Project can and should incorporate bicycle and pedestrian traffic along and across the corridor, likely in the form of trails. Private development in the opportunity corridor can (through the Planning Board process) accommodate trails within their sites and extending into future redevelopment zones. Incorporating trails into development in this way has been known to have economic development benefits for the community, and enhance the quality and value of new development.

LANGLEY PARKWAY: The proposed extension of the Langley Parkway from the Concord Hospital campus northeast to North State Street would have an impact on existing trails. While opinions varied on the roadway project, it was agreed that the existing trails there are valued, and that those trail connections should be maintained. New trail connections and a new trailhead location were also suggested, as were trail connections into nearby residential areas as deemed appropriate. If constructed, a shared use path type trail paralleling the new roadway could enhance walking and bicycling choices for both recreation and transportation. Tying this trail to other shared use paths, like the MRGT, CLSRT, or Downtown Opportunity Corridor trails would enhance its connectivity from the Hospital Campus to Downtown and other parts of Concord. It would also help maintain trail access from the West End to the Winant trails.

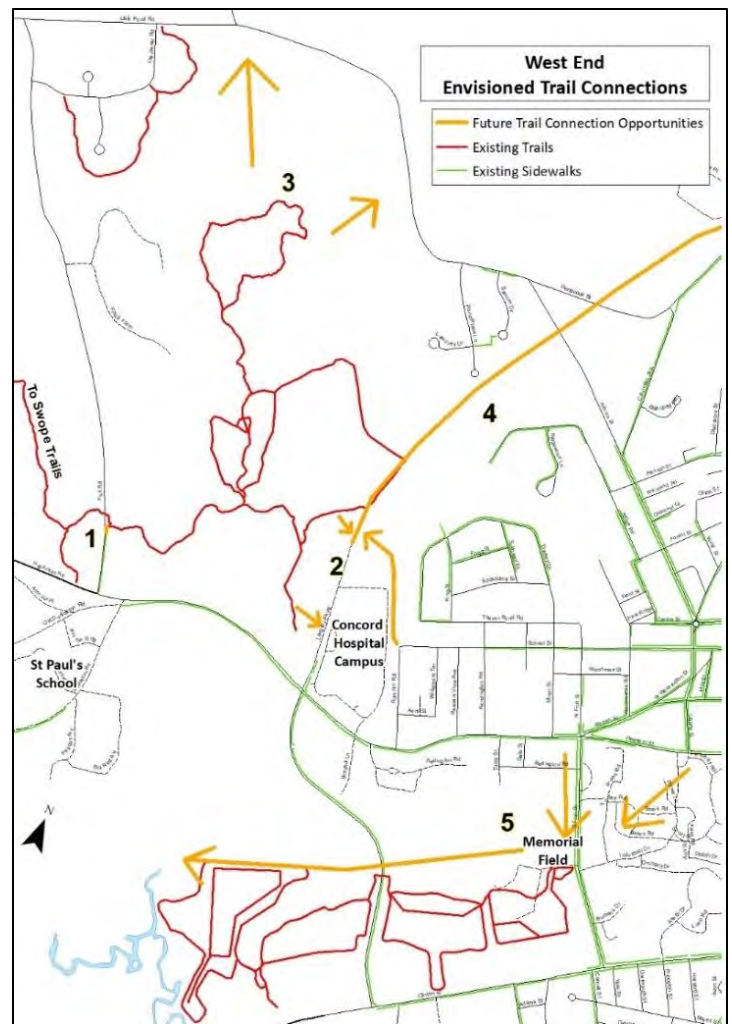
CONNECTIONS TO NEIGHBORHOODS

WEST END: The Winant trails are among the most popular in the City. They are located west of Concord's West End and the Hospital campus and are much closer to Downtown and populated areas than most other trails in Concord. The Winant trails also connect to the

popular Swope trails, via the Swope-Winant Connector. From there, one can traverse many miles of trail using the Carter Hill Connector and West End Farm Trails. Several options exist for improving connectivity between the West End area and the Winant trails.

1. Fisk Road Sidewalk: The primary trailhead to the Winant Trails is off Fisk Road. There is a sidewalk on Fisk Hill road that ends only about 100 feet shy of the Winant trailhead. Extending this sidewalk or enhancing a walkable gravel shoulder could improve access to the popular trailhead. The Fisk Road sidewalk connects to sidewalk on Pleasant Street and extends to the entire city sidewalk system and St. Paul's School.

2. Trails to Concord Hospital Campus: A pair of unsanctioned trails currently connect the Winant Trails to the Concord Hospital area near the Granite Ledges of Concord (at the present northern end of Langley Parkway) and also the



Concord Unitarian Universalist Church of Concord on Pleasant Street. Although these trails are well used, they have never been formally sanctioned through use agreements with the property owners. Doing so would let the trails appear on trail maps, and official trailheads with kiosk maps could be placed on or near the Hospital campus. This would increase access to the Winant trails for employees at Concord Hospital, enabling lunch break walks that do not require a trip in a car to the trailhead. Additionally, informal trails connect the end of School Street to trails north and east of the Hospital campus. Formalizing these already well-used trails would increase awareness of trail access for West End residents.

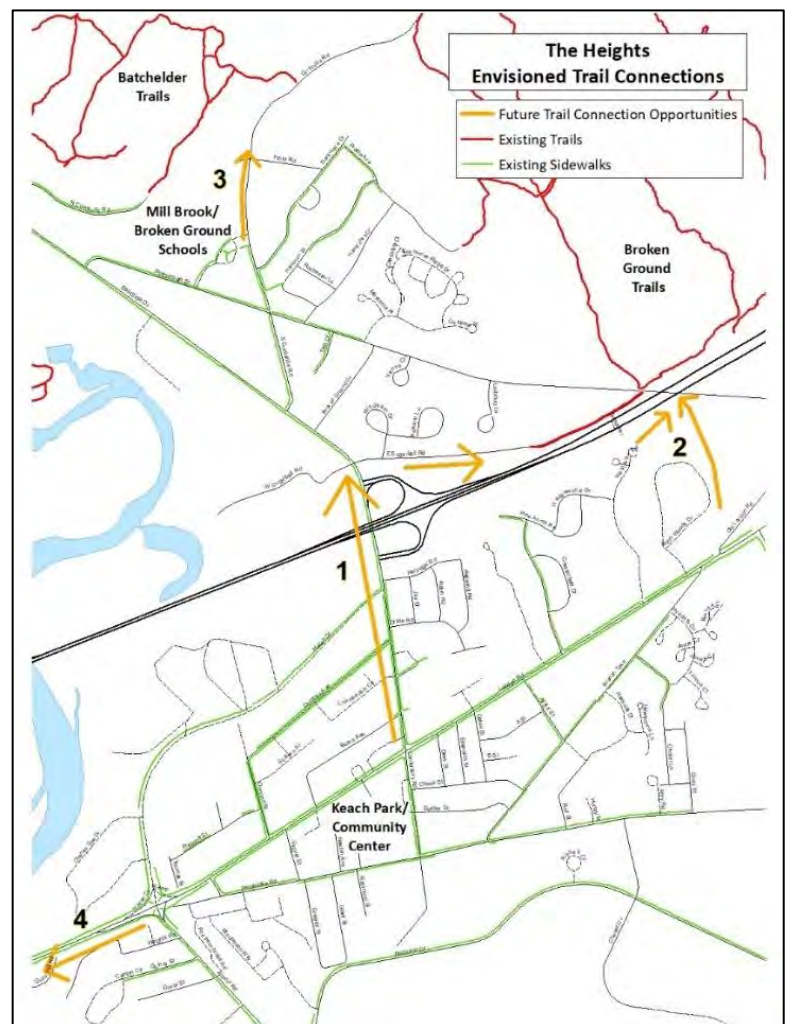
3. Trail to Little Pond Road and Areas North: A maze of unsanctioned trails currently exist to the north of the Winant trails, some of which connect to Little Pond Road. Efforts have been made to create and formalize a trail that would create a connection from Winant to Little Pond Road and nearby neighborhoods. The first result of this effort is a blazed loop trail from Winant to the border of Walker State Forest, which enabled the closure and discontinuance of some unauthorized trails in the area. Options should continue to be explored to formalize new trail that connects to Little Pond Road.

4. Langley Parkway: Formalizing a trail along the Langley Parkway Extension route will ensure trail access is maintained along the corridor. As noted previously, trail needs should be considered and provided for when or if the Langley Parkway extension is built. Appropriate trail connections to adjacent residential areas should be considered. When the first phase of the Langley Parkway was built between Clinton Street and Pleasant Street, the design included an underpass to maintain a safe crossing for the existing trail system, including the cross-country ski trails. This precedent should continue.

5. Memorial Field: The West End is also relatively accessible to Memorial Field. Options for connecting trails into Memorial Field, and perhaps further westward, are evaluated in the South End discussion.

THE HEIGHTS: The Heights neighborhood is relatively close to the Broken Ground trails, but access is inhibited by I-393. Access to trails is particularly important to the Heights in part because of economic disparities and lower rates of car ownership compared to other areas of the City.

1. East Side Drive: Access to trails could be improved by improving the sidewalk connection from East Side Drive to East Sugarball Road, which leads to the Broken Ground Trailhead. The sidewalk over the I-393 bridge is particularly unpleasant. The route lacks bicycle lanes, and an extended left turn lane onto I-393 from East Side Drive is especially unfriendly to bicycling.



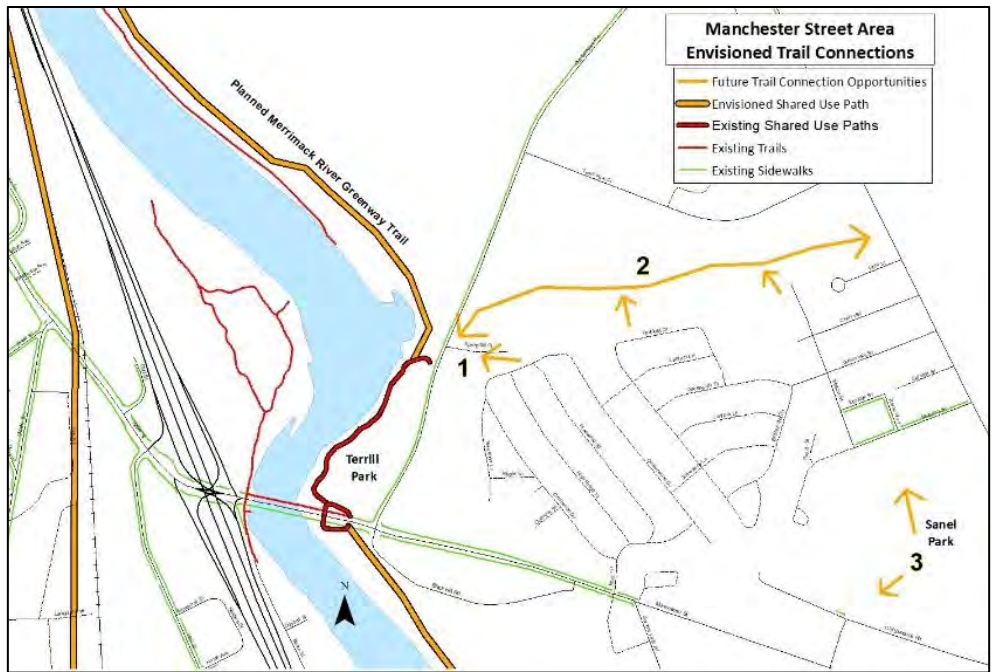
Improved walking and bicycling conditions throughout the neighborhood would have a range of benefits, including access to trails.

2. Connection to Portsmouth Street:

A new connection to the Broken Ground trails may be possible with a new trail from near Alton Woods and/or NE Village Road to the Portsmouth Street underpass under I-393. The Broken Ground trailhead is only a few hundred feet from this bridge, with wide shoulders along the road. This connection could enable a walking loop to and from the trailhead, and be a much more direct route for many residents. A new trail here would likely require property owner agreements.

3. Curtisville Road: The Batchelder Mill Road Trails in East Concord are nearly as close to the Heights as the Broken Ground trails. The East Side Drive sidewalks are the logical route to these trails (in addition to the Broken Ground trails). Sidewalk or improved gravel shoulder on Curtisville Road to just past Mill Brook Elementary School would also improve access to the Batchelder Mill Road Trails from the Heights.

4. Loudon Road “Gully Hill”: The MRGT is planned to be built just down the hill from the Heights neighborhood. While it is close in proximity, the roadways to get there have heavy motor vehicle traffic. An enhanced sidewalk or bike route down the “Gully Hill” section of Loudon Road would improve access to the MRGT, Terrill Park, and other future Downtown connector trails. It would also enhance biking and walking options between the Heights and Downtown.



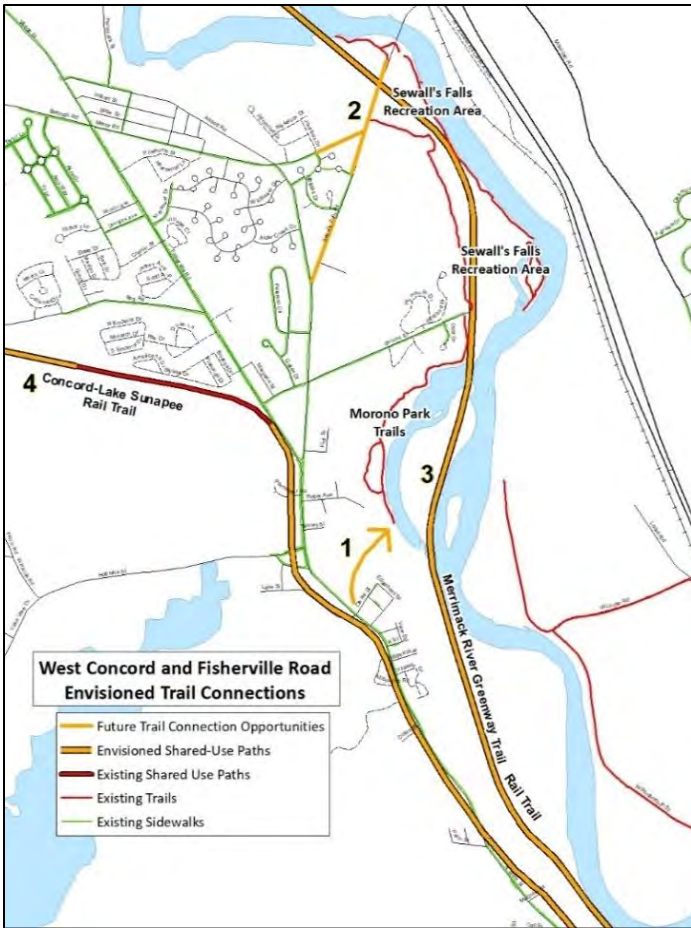
MANCHETER STREET: Manchester Street may be known primarily as a commercial corridor, but a multitude of housing exists behind the businesses on the north side of the street. Similar to the Heights, these neighborhoods may also be vulnerable to trail access inequalities. Trail access may be improved through improved routes connecting to the planned MRGT and Terrill Park.

1, 2. Connection to Terrill Park: A connection to Spring Hill Drive across Old Turnpike Road may help improve access for some residents and create an alternative route to Manchester Street sidewalks. A trail running east west along the bottom of a bluff would also serve local residents and could connect across Old Turnpike Road to Terrill Park.

3. Sanel Park: The area of Sanel Park may be an area that could host local walking or biking trails that connect directly into the neighborhood.

WEST CONCORD AND FISHERVILLE ROAD CORRIDOR:

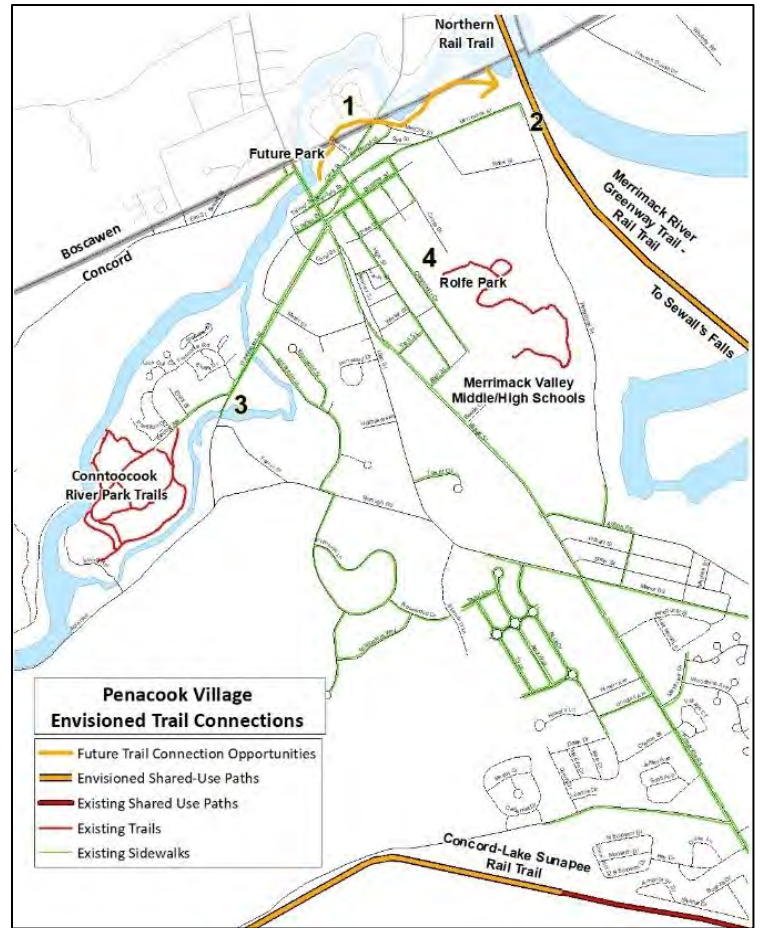
The Fisherville Road corridor between Downtown and Penacook is host to a wide range of housing types and businesses. Residents along this corridor are not far from trails along the Merrimack River, however enhanced connections at a few locations would improve access.



1. Clarke Street to Morono Park: One such connection recently completed is a trail from Clarke Street to Morono Park. A City utility easement exists here, with an informal trail that has been improved and formalized to connect this neighborhood to Morono Park and Sewall's Falls Park trails. It could also connect to a future MRGT rail trail.

2. Sewall's Falls Road Sidewalk: A second improvement would be to construct sidewalk to fill a gap along Sewall's Falls Road and Manor Road. This would connect a relatively large and dense neighborhood to the popular trails at Sewall's Falls and a future MRGT rail trail. The sidewalk would have the additional benefit of connecting over Sewall's Falls Bridge to the Concord Monitor property and Whitney Road, which is zoned for future development.

3. Merrimack River Greenway Trail: The future rail trail portion of the MRGT would parallel the Fisherville Road corridor to the east, enhancing



options for connecting trails and completing loops.

4. Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail: To the west of this corridor, the extension of the Concord-Lake Sunapee rail trail would connect to trail systems further west into rural parts of Concord. The CLSRT could be extended farther south, paralleling Fisherville Road from near Bog Road to the Pierce Manse, where it would meet the MRGT. This stretch of the CLSRT would be a desirable alternative to walking and biking along the high-traffic Fisherville Road and North State Street.

PENACOOK:

1. Riverfront Park Trail: Penacook Village has aspirations for a trail along a new riverfront park at the former Tannery site on Canal Street, as described in the Penacook Vision Plan and other sources. The vision has been to link this to trail eastward to the Merrimack River and the MRGT rail trail. A trail in this alignment could have

access points or views of the Contoocook River in places.

2. MRGT Connection: Another connection to the MRGT could be near the corner of Merrimack and Penacook Streets, perhaps at the entrance to the water treatment plant. The MRGT will help connect Penacook Village to Sewalls Falls and the Merrimack River, as well as into Boscawen and on to Downtown.

3, 4. Existing Neighborhood Trail Access: The Contoocook River Park trails on Electric Avenue connect to the existing sidewalk system and quiet local streets. A sidewalk also leads to the trail at Rolfe Park. These are a notable cases of good neighborhood trail connections. Wayfinding or community events may improve on it further.

SOUTH END:

1. Memorial Field to White Farm: Memorial Field to White Farm, and potentially further westward: Memorial Field and White Farm are reasonably well connected to the South End neighborhood using the existing sidewalk network and local streets. Better trail connectivity here could enhance local trail options. The trails at White Farm are largely used in winter for cross country skiing, but not

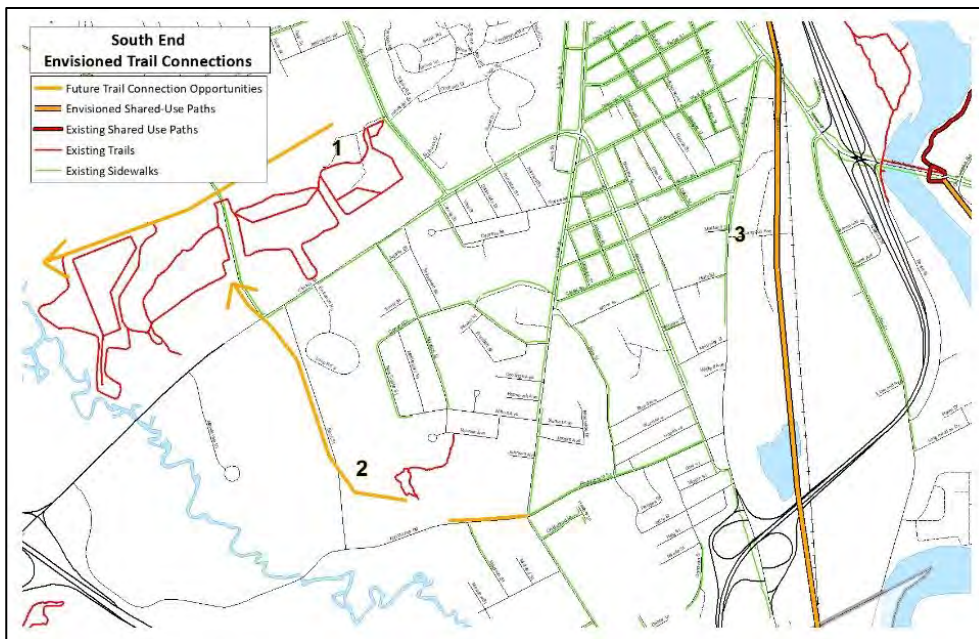
available for summer use as many of these trails are on active agricultural land. There may be an opportunity to link a corridor of trails from Memorial Field westward and continuing to the Audubon Society. This connection would need further investigation and the requisite coordination and permission from property owners. A bridge across the Turkey River would be needed.

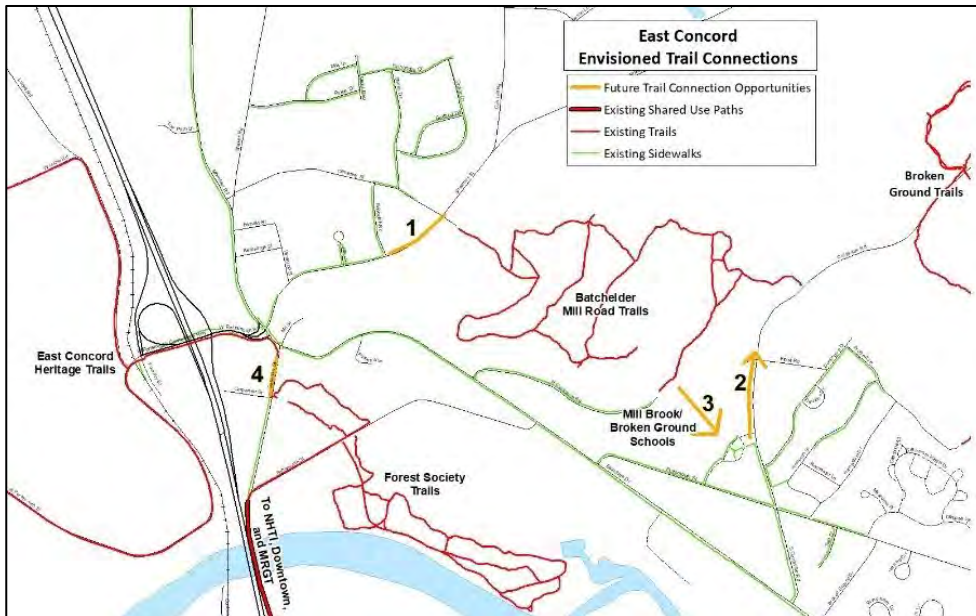
2. Russell Martin Park and Trails: These short trails could be extended beyond the park boundaries to near the community gardens on Birch Street and continue to the trails of White Farm. Trail connections here would help create loop options for walkers and joggers in the South End neighborhood, and offer another connection onto the trail network. A sidewalk or improved gravel shoulder along Iron Works Road would improve access.

3. South Opportunity Corridor: The Opportunity Corridor extends into the South End Rail Yard. Trails in this area could connect the South End to Downtown and beyond. Shared use paths or bike paths would be a suitable trail typology for this area.

EAST CONCORD: East Concord arguably has the best existing connections to trails of any

neighborhood in Concord. The East Concord Heritage Trails, Merrill Park Trails, Forest Society Trails, Batchelder Mill Road Trails, and even Broken Ground Trails are all in close proximity and can be connected with relatively short walks on streets or sidewalks. Even Downtown and NHTI trails are accessible using the I-93 Bike Path from Portsmouth Street/Eastman Street to Delta Drive.





Concord. It is a possible attraction for recreation tourists, an amenity for existing and new residents who want access to active lifestyles that don't rely on vehicles, and is likely to generate increased business for downtown owners. Trail access to and from Downtown would likely be best served by the shared use pathways of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail (MRGT), Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail (CLSRT)

and a connection to trail along the future extension of Langley Parkway (or it's alignment if the roadway is not built), and the I-93 Bike Path that connects Delta Drive to East Concord. Refer to the "Trails that Connect the Community" map.

1. Shawmut Street: Sidewalk on Shawmut Street ends about 820 feet shy of the entrance to the Batchelder Mill Road Trails. Extending the sidewalk or widening a smooth gravel shoulder would improve access.

2. Curtisville Road: Extending sidewalk or creating a wide gravel shoulder on Curtisville Road to just past Mill Brook Elementary School would improve access to the Batchelder Mill Road Trails from the south, including the Heights. The route also leads to the northern end of the Broken Ground trails, which would enhance options for walking or jogging a loop.

3. N Curtisville Road to Schools: Formalizing a short trail from North Curtisville Road to the Mill Brook/Broken Ground elementary schools would provide both a walking route to the schools as well as better school access to the Batchelder trails.

4. Eastman Street Sidewalk: A gap in the sidewalk network exists at the north end of Eastman Street. This street connects multiple trail systems as well as many other non-trail trips.

DOWNTOWN: Combining elements of a lively cultural scene with access to outdoor recreation is an incredibly valuable opportunity for



Trail in the fall

CONNECTIONS BETWEEN TRAIL NETWORKS – LONG DISTANCE TRAILS

BROKEN GROUND TO OAK HILL TRAILS: A trail connecting the Broken Ground trails to the Oak Hill trails would create a new long distance trail in East Concord similar to the West End Farm Trail. It would allow trail users to traverse a large portion of the eastern half of Concord, passing through one of the most remote areas of Concord. A snowmobile trail currently maintained by the Canterbury Snow Shakers exists in the area. The snowmobile trail could be

repurposed for year round use (with permission from landowners and coordination with the snowmobile club), or a new trail could be cut. Special consideration should be made for potential impacts to wildlife in this area, as described in Chapter 6.

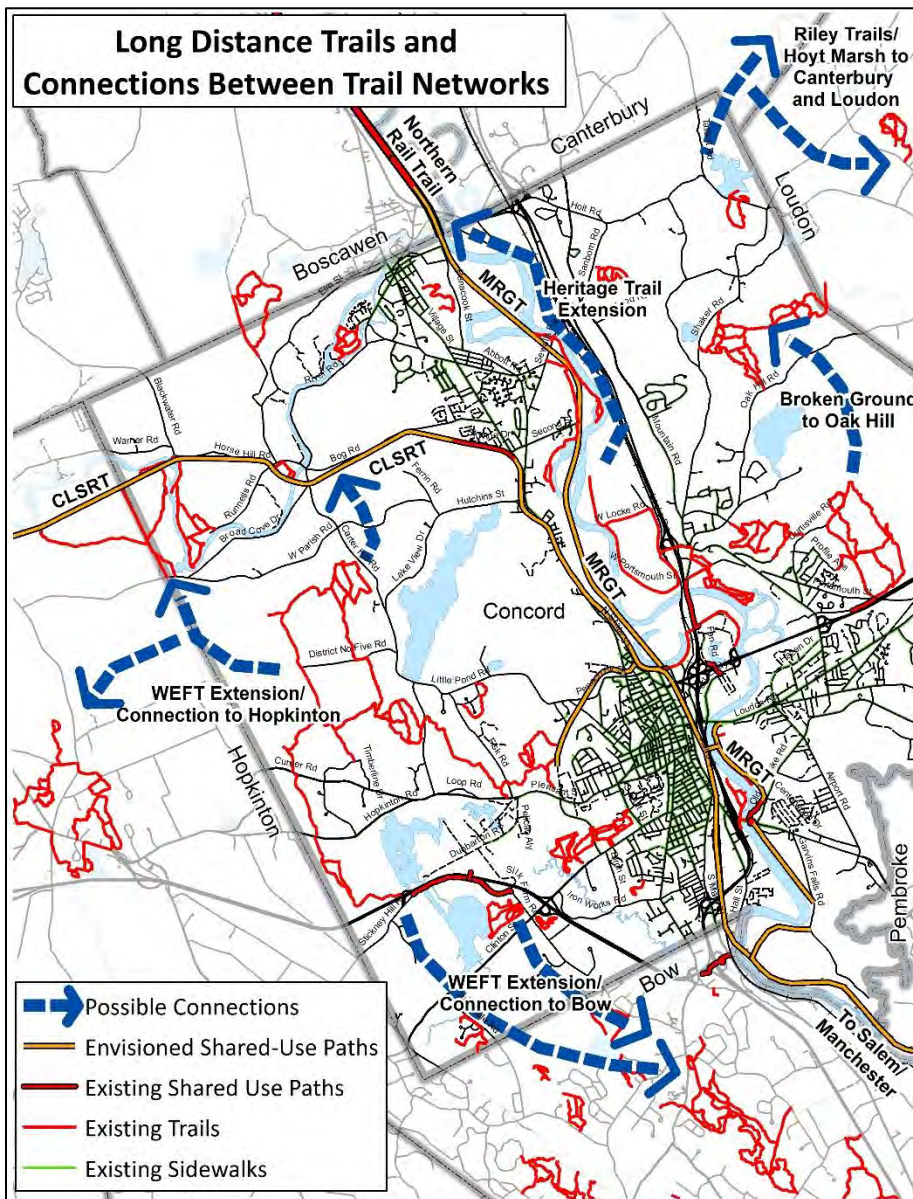
CONTINUATION OF HERITAGE TRAIL – EAST BANK OF MERRIMACK RIVER:

The east side of the Merrimack River is largely undeveloped from East Concord to Penacook. The potential exists for a long distance trail in this corridor in the vein of the West End Farm trail. A Trail currently exists at West Portsmouth Street in East Concord. A trail running north would reach Sewall’s Falls Road near the bridge and Sewall’s Falls Recreation Area on the west side of the river. The area north of Sewall’s Falls Road in the vicinity of Concord Monitor is zoned for commercial development, but trail could be built here in the interim, or located near the river bluffs where development is unlikely. If Whitney Road is extended north to the development at Exit 17, a trail connection should be considered.

A trail running north would reach Sewall’s Falls Road near the bridge and Sewall’s Falls Recreation Area on the west side of the river. The area north of Sewall’s Falls Road in the vicinity of Concord Monitor is zoned for commercial development, but trail could be built here in the interim, or located near the river bluffs where development is unlikely. If Whitney Road is extended north to the development at Exit 17, a trail connection should be considered.

WEST END FARM TRAIL EXTENSIONS AND CONNECTIONS:

The West End Farm Trail (WEFT) is among the most beloved trails in the City. Some of the trails’ advocates propose extending the trail both to the north and south. To the north, the trail could connect to the Concord-Lake Sunapee rail trail. To the south, the City could explore opportunities to extend this trail into Bow, and perhaps eventually connect through the Bow High School land to the popular Knox School Forest trails. These additions would extend the West End Farm Trail an additional 3-5



miles at either end and connect to neighboring town's trails.

If landowner permission or future easements allow, a connection to Mast Yard State Forest and Hopkinton could be created. Formalizing a trail along the discontinued section of District 5 Road west into Hopkinton, across the Hopkinton town line onto Class VI Buzwell Corner Road, would lead north directly to Mast Yard State Forest. This road in Hopkinton is heavily used by cyclists and runners, as well as snowmobiles in winter (snowmobile Route 11). There is also potential for a trail leading from the discontinued portion of District 5 Road southwest to connect to the West End Farm Trail farther south via the snowmobile trail. Coordination with Hopkinton would be required for any trails that cross the municipal boundary.

CONNECTIONS TO HOPKINTON: The above concept to connect the WEFT into Hopkinton brings the Concord trail network close to the popular Hopkinton Village Greenway. Trail advocates in Hopkinton could very well use these trails to tie the two communities' trails together. The planned Concord to Lake Sunapee Rail Trail would also connect the communities' trail systems.

CONNECTIONS TO BOW: Landowner permissions for trails and new trail building may allow for formalized trail connections from the area of the Audubon trails into Bow. Some trails do exist in this area, however not all are formalized for public use and some may have been built without landowner permission. An organized effort by trail advocates could help stitch together trail connections with landowner permission and eliminate or reduce the use of unsanctioned trails. Possibilities may exist in Bow to link Concord's network to trails at Knox/School Forest, Hammond Forest, and beyond.

CONNECTIONS TO CANTERBURY AND LOUDON:

In the northeast corner of Concord, there are possibilities for connecting trail in and around Hoyt Marsh to a series of class VI roads in Canterbury, as well as to the historic Maxfield Monument in Loudon. Trails here may also be connected to the Lovejoy trails in Loudon, which have become popular after opening in 2019. Possibilities may also exist for extending the Oak Hill trails into Loudon. The summit of Oak Hill is actually located just over the City line in Loudon. Cross-border trails would require coordination with the towns of Canterbury and Loudon, particularly with the established Loudon Trails Committee. Any trail project would of course need to be done with permission or landowners.



An accessible trail near Concord Orthopedics.

POSSIBLE TRAIL SYSTEM EXPANSIONS AND NEW TRAIL AREAS

SPEARS PARK TRAILS AND RICHARDS

COMMUNITY FOREST: The Spears Park Trails could be expanded to include the informal trail system in Richards Community Forest, which would be improved to meet City guidelines and provide safe wetland crossings. The area is known to be popular with equestrians, so special care should be taken to make the trails friendly to horses. It may also be possible to find a route to connect these trails to the popular Oak Hill trails.

GARVIN'S FALLS: The Garvin's Falls area is a peninsula at the southernmost portion of Concord bordered by the Merrimack River to the west and Soucook River to the east. This large area of land covering 700 acres or more is almost completely undeveloped, save for some utility lines, a hydroelectric dam, and some homes along the dead-end Garvin's Falls Road. A few informal trails currently exist, notably an abandoned railroad bed that runs from the Pembroke line at the Soucook River east to the Merrimack River where it used to cross into Bow at the Blue Seal plant. The piers and abutments of a massive railroad bridge can still be seen today. A scattering of other trails exist across the vast property.

The property feels vast and remote even though it is very close to bustling areas, and hosts scenic views of the Merrimack and Soucook Rivers. The area is zoned commercial, with a master plan for future development. Trails that take into account the location's unique natural surroundings would be a valuable amenity for any use and should be incorporated into future planning or site development.

ACCESSIBLE TRAILS: As noted in Chapter 3, there are relatively few trails in Concord that are accessible to people with different mobility needs, including people who use wheelchairs or seniors. Completing trails as described in the "Trails That Connect the Community" section above would help meet the needs of accessible trail users. Other areas for improving accessibility may be at the Batchelder or Riley trails that once hosted accessible trails.

TRAIL AMENITIES

MAPS AND WAYFINDING: Trail maps, trailhead kiosks, and wayfinding are all valued by Concord's trail users and appeared to be the highest priority in terms of trail amenities. Directional signs at intersection are also helpful to first-time trail users. Continually updating and

posting maps at trailheads and maintaining trail blazes and colors can help people enjoy their trip and reduce the risk of becoming lost or disoriented.

OTHER AMENITIES: Trail users had a strong preference for minimal or no trail amenities on natural trails. It was felt that amenities can detract from the natural experience and require additional maintenance. Seating at overlooks or scenic locations were seen as appropriate. Urban trails, transportation routes, and trails in parklike settings were seen as locations more appropriate for trail amenities. Providing adequate parking and bicycle parking were other comments that received some attention.



CHAPTER 5

MAINTENANCE AND STEWARDSHIP RESOURCES

Public input on the plan indicated a large majority of trail users feel that the trails in Concord are reasonably well maintained. The result is achieved through continuous efforts of both volunteers and City resources. Minor trail cleanup such as trimming brush or removing litter are taken on by volunteers, with larger trail related projects involving heavy equipment or materials often requiring city resources. Maintenance and stewardship goes beyond simply maintaining the trails themselves. Accessory facilities like parking lots, gates, and kiosks must be provided and maintained, and a host of human issues like abutter relationships and user conflicts must be addressed when they arise.

As the trail system grows in complexity and use, the type and level of resources needed to manage them have also grown and evolved. This growth has occurred over the course of many years, including a recent growth of 625 acres (19 properties) of conservation land over the last 5 years, and a comparable increase in trails of 14 miles in the past 5 years, with another 3.5 miles under construction. This chapter will evaluate

current practice and identify opportunities for improvement, and identify challenges the future might bring.

Of note is an apparent preference for volunteers to continue to play a significant role in trail maintenance and stewardship. This can be done through the City's Trails Subcommittee and other active volunteer groups, such as NEMBA and others. Volunteerism strengthens community ties and ownership of the trails, and can help reduce the burden on taxpayers. There is also a recognition that volunteer efforts require support and oversight, and there are some activities and issues that must be managed by City or other government efforts. City resources are needed to support even the most robust volunteer efforts. Volunteers cannot respond to the wide range of issues that arise; they are also not always available to address concerns in a timely manner.

This chapter primarily refers to maintenance and stewardship on trails that are managed by the City of Concord.



Minor trail cleanup with a hand saw.



The bridge at Batchelder Mills, newly built.

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

A guide for trail maintenance practices was developed in collaboration with the consulting City Forester. This guide has not yet been finalized or formally adopted, but doing so is recommended.

In addition to reports from the trail stewards, maintenance concerns from the public and volunteers are reported to City Planning staff and the consulting City Forester. Trail users can report any issues or concerns via the City's public reporting portal "See Click Fix". On occasion, staff will receive reports about trails and properties not under the city's purview, and the concern is forwarded to the appropriate contact.

Reported issues and concerns on City trails are discussed and addressed by City staff in coordination with the trail volunteers and the consulting City forester, depending on what the concern is. A list of ongoing projects is discussed at the Trails Subcommittee meetings.

Trails are re-blazed by volunteers or the summer Trails Intern periodically as needed. Volunteers, Planning staff, and the consulting City Forester also repair and replace signage on the City's trails.

The consulting City Forester monitors the trails for any changes in drainage patterns or erosion/compaction issues, and will make recommendations for either re-routing the trail or constructing a plank-walk or bridge.

BRUSH REMOVAL: Much of the minor trail maintenance can and does get done by volunteers or the summer Trails Intern. Small tools such as clippers and hand saws can maintain vegetation and small blowdowns across the trail, and blue bags can be used for small litter.

DOWNED TREES: Chainsaw use is typically performed by the consulting City Forester. However, a limited number of volunteers who



An example of wayfinding signs at the Batchelder Mills trails.

have formal training such as classes offered to the public by New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association (NHTOA), and using proper personal protective equipment (PPE) can perform small maintenance projects requiring chainsaw use after signing an Indemnification Agreement and under the guidance of the consulting City Forester.

STRUCTURES

BRIDGES: Bridges and crossings of water or wet areas are among the most labor intensive and costly elements of trail maintenance. They require a degree of organization and planning, permitting, funds, and a specific skill-set. They also need to be monitored and maintained. The consulting City Forester at present does a majority of the work building and maintaining

bridges, with some assistance from volunteers and/or the summer Trails Intern.

KIOSKS: Most of the kiosks are purchased prefabricated and installed. Some have been provided through local Eagle Scout projects. Planning staff and the consulting City Forester have keys to the kiosks. The Trails subcommittee is working on a standard list of content for the kiosks. To date, Planning staff has primarily managed this task.

PARKING LOTS: Most parking lots began as logging yards for forestry operations. The consulting City Forester does most of the pothole filling and minor lot maintenance work. General Services occasionally provides heavy equipment if more serious work is required; however, the Conservation Commission property management budget must reimburse them for fill material used.

LITTER CLEANUP AND DUMPING

Much of the small litter can be taken care of with volunteer efforts. At present, this appears to be a minimal problem as most trail users are respectful and carry out their trash. Trail users are also known to carry out pieces of litter they may encounter along the trail.

Larger issues of dumping can be a problem that is too large or hazardous to be handled by volunteers. This requires assistance from the General Services Department who occasionally are called to address dumping at trailhead parking lots. Trash and tents from homeless camps have become a larger issue over the past several years. Due to health concerns associated with human waste and needles, it is the City's practice to hire an outside contractor that has the proper equipment and protection for clean-up for encampments. The larger cleanup work is either paid for by the Conservation Commission's operating budget or cost shared with other city departments.

POLICING AND ENFORCEMENT

The survey results indicated that most people feel safe on trails in Concord. There are however isolated incidents where people feel unsafe or witness unlawful activity. While the Police Department does have jurisdiction in policing, the remoteness of the trails means police patrols or a regular presence cannot realistically be provided.

Most acts of vandalism or illicit behavior on the trails have occurred at trailhead parking areas. Dumping trash and vandalizing or breaking kiosk glass regularly occurs. There have been occasional acts of vandalism or illicit behavior on the trails including graffiti on several bridges and an overlook, and occasional campfires. Attempts to catch vandals using trail cameras have been unsuccessful.

MOTORIZED USES: Illegal use of ATVs on City property is often an issue that arises on or near Concord's trails. This falls under the jurisdiction

of New Hampshire Fish and Game (NHFG), which will send officers to investigate upon receipt of complaints. NHFG patrollers cover wide sections of the State and do not, and cannot reasonably be expected, to have a regular presence on the many miles of trails in Concord. Public outreach indicated strong support for trails continuing to be non-motorized in the summer months. Winter snowmobile use does occur on some Concord trails (with permission from the Conservation Commission when on City Conservation land). This did not draw any negative attention during public input. This may be due in part to responsible stewardship by the local snowmobile clubs and responsible riders.

HOMELESS POPULATION: The City of Concord does not have a year-round shelter; therefore, many homeless either build encampments on City property, or live in cars. Trail users have reported homeless persons either camped in the vicinity of the trails, or in their cars in the trailhead parking lots. Homelessness is primarily a community issue, not a policing or enforcement issue, as the police are limited to enforcing violations of laws. If the person is not committing a crime, the police cannot remove them from city property because they are homeless. Any responses to homelessness on City trails should be approached at a holistic, community-wide level.

OFF LEASH DOGS: Under the current City Ordinance for Conservation Lands, dogs are not required to be leashed on trails located on City conservation land, but off leash dogs must be under the control of their owner. There are trails that cross private property where dogs are required to be on-leash. Off leash dog conflict has become a larger issue as more people use the trails. While it is currently not an enforcement issue, future ordinance changes or increased user conflict may require policing or other forms of enforcement to ensure safety for all users.



A group hike

LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES AND USER CONFLICTS

As the use of Concord’s trails continues to grow, the pressures on the landscape that visitors can bring have also risen. While most people use trails respectfully, there are occasional issues with dogs, litter, vandalism, and general trail user conflicts. A “Leave No Trace” philosophy

LEAVE NO TRACE AREAS OF CONCERN

Five primary areas of concern were identified in Concord. Leave No Trace education and implementation should focus on these issues.

1. Reduce dog waste
2. Reduce the number of dogs off leash
3. Reduce the amount of trash – both litter and homeless encampments
4. Dumping at trailheads
5. Rogue trail building- both mountain bike and runners

THE AUTHORITY OF THE RESOURCE TECHNIQUE (ART)

Leave No Trace is more likely to occur if people understand how their actions affect the areas they are traveling in. Citing rules and laws represent human authorities, like park rangers, police, or know-it-all trail users. In contrast, ART places the resource as the authority by stating how their environment is being effected by their actions. This approach is likely to be more effective, and should be used in the range of educational materials and approaches the City provides. It can also be used by trail users communicating with their neighbors.

applied to trail use can help reduce these problems, and the City and trails advocates have a role to play in educating and encouraging best practices.

The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics shares information and resources for anyone to use or adapt for their own trails. The City and Trails Subcommittee have already begun implementing Leave No Trace awareness, including posting trail signage and creating educational videos. These efforts should continue, and will need to adapt as circumstances change.

DOG WASTE: Dog walking was one of the most popular and beloved uses for trails, as shown in the survey and outreach, but it was also one of the most commonly cited areas of conflict. The failure of dog owners to pick up dog waste was the most frequent and often passionate concern.

Dog waste is unhealthy for the environment for a number of reasons, primarily because of the harmful bacteria and excess nutrients it introduces into the environment. According to the organization Leave No Trace, the sheer

Dog food is extremely nutrient dense, and dog waste introduces these excess nutrients into the ecosystem.

This can cause algae blooms.



Rather than simply citing rules to pick up dog waste, this clip from a Leave No Trace flier uses the Authority of the Resource Technique, or ART to inform and educate.

quantity of waste from thousands of annual visitors to popular parks and trails have been found to have a significant impact on water quality and can contribute to algae blooms.

UNCONTROLLED OFF LEASH DOGS: While many trail users welcome encounters with friendly dogs, some individuals and small children prefer not to interact with them. Not all dogs are friendly or predictable towards other people or other’s pets. Dogs also have the potential to disrupt, stress, harm, and even kill local wildlife. Keeping dogs on leash is courteous to other trail users and potentially safer for wildlife. The City has posted educational materials encouraging good trail manners, one of which frames it well: “Always be courteous. Don't give other trail users any reason to complain. Set an example for others by being a conscientious owner with a well-behaved dog out enjoying the trails.”

RESPECT FOR OTHER USERS: Most encounters on the trail are positive and friendly, however it is always good to remind people to be aware of how their actions might affect other trail users. Public input indicated some walkers and hikers have been startled by faster trail users like runners or particularly mountain bikers. Education and outreach particularly from organizations like NEMBA can encourage bikers to be courteous to other trail users. Trail privileges come with responsibilities, and being courteous can go a long way.

Snow etiquette has also arisen as an issue. Some have raised the issue of people hiking on snow after rain or warm weather, which makes deep footprints or “post holes” that put the trail in poor condition when it later freezes solid. While it is likely not appropriate to close trails, this may be another matter for improved education and encouragement. Skiers, fat bikers, snowshoers, and walkers share many of the same trails in the



Uncontrolled off-leash dogs was among the most common complaint of trail users



Snowshoeing and skiing are much more enjoyable in good snow conditions, and trail users can help by avoiding trail travel on snow during rain events.

winter, and being courteous and knowledgeable goes a long way to keeping everybody happy.

PROPERTY OWNER AND ABUTTER

CONCERNS: Many if not most abutter issues involving trails are concerned with parking and trail access. Trail users have been known to park at trailheads that do not have public parking, or park in unsuitable locations when the existing lot is full.

Other issues involve privacy, particularly when a trail passes close to a residence or other private property. Privacy perceptions hold true for planned trail routing as well.



A sign near the Back Forest Loop behind the Winant trails



The New England Mountain Bike Association can be a good partner to reduce or eliminate rogue trail building. This sign is posted on the Broken Ground trails.

Property boundary disputes do arise on occasion.

ROGUE TRAIL CONSTRUCTION: Rogue trail construction is another concern among property owners. Trail building is to be done only with written permission from the property owner, whether it be a private or public entity. Rogue trail building remains a problem in Concord and elsewhere, although in recent years progress has been made increasing awareness of the issue.

Among a host of issues, rogue trail building erodes trust between trail users and property owners, and in some cases can lead to safety concerns for trail users and abutters. Trail building done without careful planning can lead to chaotic trail networks that are hard to follow and navigate, and increase the difficulty of rescue operations in the event of an incident. Rogue trails that do not go through a thoughtful planning process are unlikely to meet the needs of the community as a whole. In addition, authorized trails are often located to avoid environmentally sensitive areas, including vernal pools and areas of known wildlife use. Rogue trails may have unintended adverse impacts on these areas. Further, once a trail is established, it is very difficult to stop people from using it, even when it may be illegally on private property or environmentally damaging.

Two areas of specific concern for rogue trail building in Concord are the vicinity of the State Prison, and the City's water supply in the watershed of Penacook Lake. Recreational activities do not mix well with the state prison, and the Department of Corrections has strongly objected to trails on their properties or near their facilities. Increased recreation activities in the Penacook Lake watershed increases the risk to the safety and quality of the City's water supply. The watershed is relatively small considering the number of people it serves and may be particularly susceptible to disturbance.



Dimond Hill Farm

It is extremely difficult to hinder rogue trail building through enforcement. Fostering a culture of responsible trail building and land stewardship through education and partnerships is the most likely avenue for success. Interviews with trail users and advocates in the Concord area have indicated a shift in attitudes among many people that trails must be built through the proper channels, or trail privileges will be put at risk. People want to have places to hike, run, and mountain bike. They recognize that new and enhanced trail systems cannot happen without positive relationships with both private and public landowners and institutions. Through discussions with trail users, some who may have once quietly welcomed rogue trail building have come to understand the threat they pose to trail privileges. Awareness and advocacy must continue in order to further sway public opinion.

With clearly spelled out avenues and outlets for sanctioned trail building, there may be less temptation or less tolerance for going rogue. Having an active Trails Subcommittee that is known to the public and accessible to the community is one outlet. Other organizations, like the New England Mountain Bike Association (NEMBA) strongly advocate for responsible trail building and should continue to do so. NEMBA works hard to maintain positive relationships with land managers who host trails, and contributes to education and fostering a culture

of stewardship that does not tolerate rogue trail building.

LANDS MANAGED FOR MULTIPLE USE

The Conservation Commission's Conservation and Open Space Plan Update (June 2017), which includes open space stewardship goals, should serve as a guide for often complex decisions on managing land for multiple users. The Conservation Commission should develop consistent guiding principles on use of City open spaces, and individual trail decisions should be made based on those guiding principles. This is true for a range of issues, including trails, agriculture, forestry, wildlife, and hunting.

AGRICULTURAL OPERATIONS: Several trails in Concord pass through or near active agricultural operations, including Dimond Hill Farm, Rossivew Farm, Carter Hill Orchards, and others. Agricultural operations are valued by residents and visitors of Concord, and trail users often enjoy the scenery and experience of passing through farms, fields, and orchards. Care needs to be taken to evaluate any possible negative impacts trails may have to active agricultural operations when siting new trails, and mitigate impacts of existing trails. The health and safety of trail users must also be a consideration. An open line of communication between agricultural operations and the Trails Subcommittee and City Staff have been critical to addressing problems that may arise. To date, there have been few specific issues related to trails or trail users negatively impacting operations.

CITY FOREST HARVESTS: Funds for the consulting City Forester, building materials for trails, and the summer intern come from the Forestry Fund, which is funded by annual timber sales on City Forests. Timber harvests have helped support the trail system but have also impacted it in a number of ways. Log yards have

become trailheads and skid trails have been converted to hiking trails. This requires access for future harvests to be rerouted, adding to the expense of logging and reducing revenues. The practice of leaving buffer zones along the trail has also reduced the potential timber sale volumes and associated income. Many trail activities have been included with timber sales such as building separate trailhead parking lots, opening up vistas and removing potential hazard trees. The trail network has had a significant impact on the timber harvesting on City Forests, and these impacts should be weighed.

HUNTING: The conservation and open space lands managed by the Conservation Commission may be used for hunting unless hunting is otherwise prohibited by law or the terms by which the property was acquired. On some properties, conservation easements require the land to remain open to hunting, whereas hunting is prohibited on other properties by the terms of the grant or donation of the property to the City. With the continued popularity of trails, and the

expansion of the trail network into previously trail-less areas, consideration must be given to how any future trails can impact hunting. The Conservation Commission has in the past resisted trail closures during hunting season, in part because of the difficulty in enforcing trail closures, a fear of a false sense of security for hunters, and an overall sentiment that City lands are open to all users of the open space. The Commission and the community at large do see a place for hunting on Concord's open lands, and in order to maintain hunting as a viable activity, the needs and wishes of hunters should be considered in trail decisions.

One such option is to identify currently trail free areas that are of particular importance to hunters for special consideration before any new trail development. It would be valuable to establish a line of communication between an interest group representing hunters and the Trails Subcommittee.



CHAPTER 6

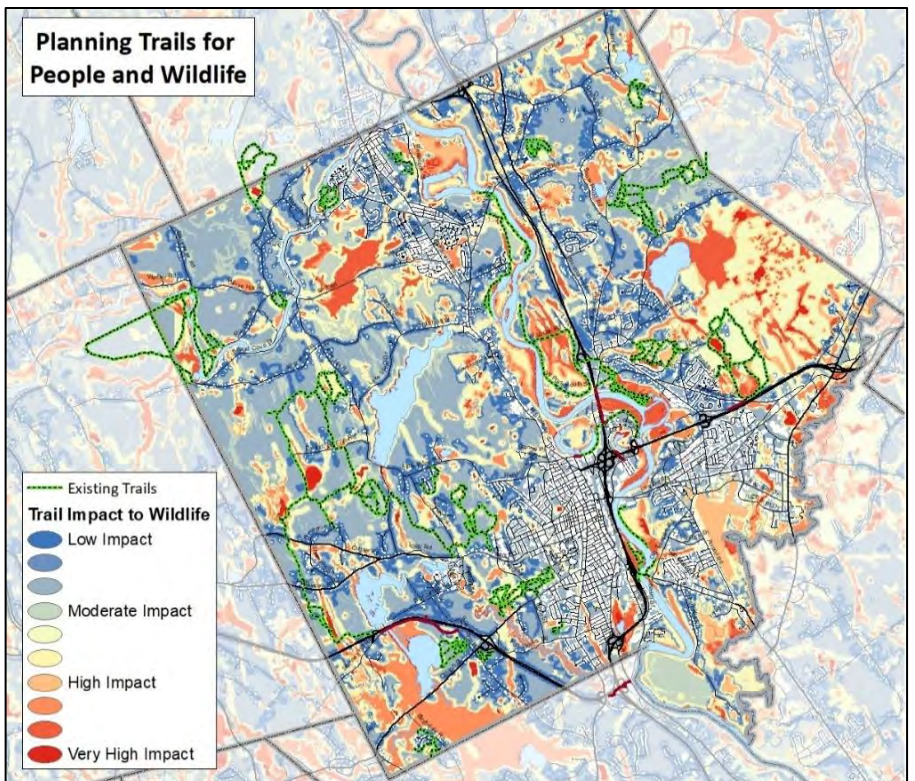
WILDLIFE HABITAT – TRAILS FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

Public input has indicated that Concord’s trail users greatly value the environment and wildlife habitat. It was a near unanimous opinion that trail building should consider impacts to the environment. The interpretation of what that means, and how to duly consider environmental and wildlife impacts is a more difficult question to answer. Fortunately, guidance is available for all NH Communities to help plan trails for both people and wildlife. Information on the guidance can be found at <https://wildlife.state.nh.us/trails>.

TRAILS FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

In 2019 the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department released the Trails for People and Wildlife document, which is “a guide to planning trails that allow people to enjoy nature and wildlife to thrive.”

This document was developed through a collaborative effort with NH Fish and Game and a number of wildlife, conservation, and trail agencies.



Activities that seem low-impact like hiking, mountain biking, and bird watching can have a negative impact on wildlife by reducing their abundance, reproductive success, and even survival.

The purpose of the guide is to help communities develop thoughtfully located trail networks that minimize disturbance to wildlife. The guide can help with decisions on where to route new trails, where it may be better to re-route trails, and identify which properties are better suited for trail development versus places left with minimal human impact.

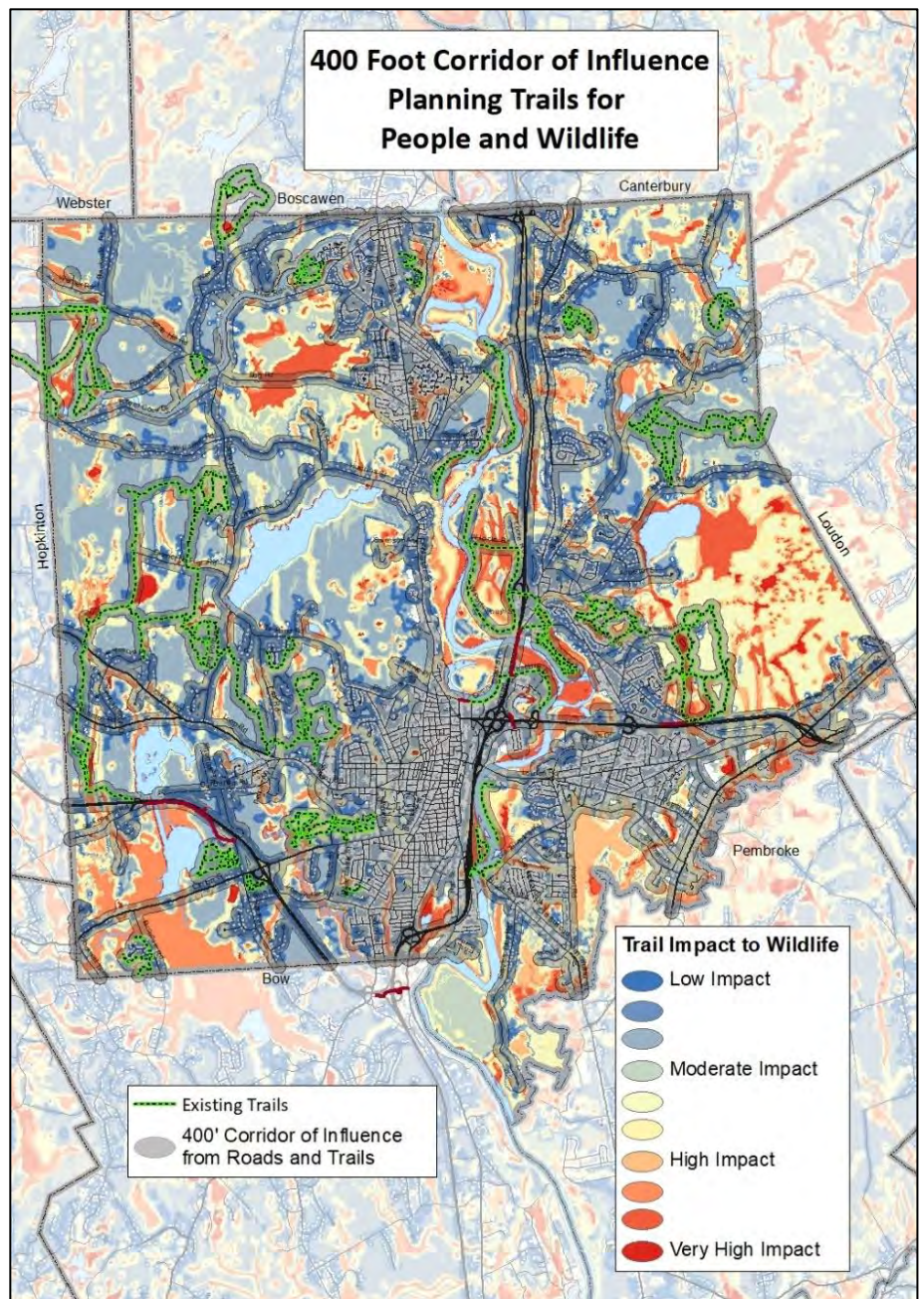
TRAIL PLANNING FOR WILDLIFE IN CONCORD

One of the primary tools associated with the Trails for People and Wildlife resource is the Impact to Wildlife map layer. On this map, cooler shades of blue represent areas where a trail may have lower impact to wildlife, and are more appropriate for trails. Warmer colors of orange and red have higher potential impacts to wildlife and should be avoided when possible. These maps are provided in this document, are available to Geographic Information Systems professionals at the City and elsewhere, and can be viewed by anyone through NH GRANIT View.

This map should be referenced before any new trail building, looking at existing trails as well as any potential new trails. Close inspection of a trail area may highlight opportunities to reroute, close, or alter the trail system in ways that maintains their public utility but better minimizes impacts to wildlife. A review of the map overlaid with Concord Trails show that most trails

do in fact avoid areas of higher impact. This pattern should continue and be enhanced when possible.

A key premise of the guidance is a trail’s “Corridor of Influence,” the distance at which a human presence on a trail can affect wildlife. Amphibians and reptiles are impacted up to 60 feet away, birds 150 feet, and mammals from 400 feet away. When applying a 400 foot buffer from all roads and trails in a community, there can be surprisingly little area outside of the



corridor of influence. In Concord, approximately 45% of all conservation land is within 400 feet of a road or trail. This does not take into account any unofficial or unsanctioned trails, meaning this number is likely an underestimate.

When building new trail or evaluating a trail system, this buffer can be applied in order to look for ways to maximize large blocks of land that are outside of the 400' corridor of influence.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

- ➔ Avoid special habitat types - some are rare or are sensitive to disturbance,
- ➔ Route trails away from wet areas - wetlands provide many ecological services and are important habitat for many species,
- ➔ Route trails along habitat edges - avoid fragmenting large blocks of habitat,
- ➔ Avoid steep slopes - some species raise young here,
- ➔ Avoid known locations of rare species found in the NH Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) database - wildlife are aware of us even if we think we are going undetected.

The Planning Trails for People and Wildlife map was produced by overlaying the Key Principles outlined above.

Elements of the Plan for People and Wildlife should be incorporated into the new trail building checklist that the Trails Subcommittee has recently adopted. Particular attention should be paid for properties that feature warmer colors on the map, indicating a higher potential impact to wildlife. The recommended step by step procedure is detailed in the Planning for People and Wildlife document, and is summarized in the text box at right.

One way to help plan trails for people and wildlife is to approach it on a property by

property basis. Some properties that are already popular for trails and busy with people could be identified as “ambassador properties” whose primary purpose is hosting visitors. Other properties would be set aside as trail free or trail light. The Conservation Commission should undertake a review of its conservation properties and existing trails and discuss how or if this approach might work for the City.

A review of Concord’s Trails for People and Wildlife map shows the area of Broken Ground in East Concord stands out as the largest area free of trails, and also shows relatively high potential impact to wildlife. This area north and east of the City’s existing conservation area might be set aside for few or no trails, perhaps limiting trail development to a desired trail link from the Broken Ground trails to the Oak Hill trails on or roughly following an existing snowmobile route. Fewer trails with heavy traffic generally has a lower impact on wildlife than more trails with lighter traffic, so one highly traveled trail may have less impact than spreading traffic out on multiple trails.

STEPS FOR PLANNING TRAILS FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE:

1. Map existing features including: Access (roads, trails, parking) Ecology (wetlands, vernal pools, rare plants) Destinations (viewpoints, historic features)
2. Apply the trail location tool (follow the blue) navigate to “access” avoid “ecology”
 - a. Plan best route for new trails
 - b. Maintain, reroute, or decommission existing trails
3. Overlay Corridor of Influence to Consider Additional Changes - Apply 400’ buffer from roads and trails - Maximize large blocks of unfragmented lands
4. Field Verify



CHAPTER 7

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The vast trail system and open spaces we enjoy in Concord today have come together piece by piece over many years. This is true not just for the trails themselves, but for all the systems, job descriptions, committees, and human infrastructure that is needed to support such a vast undertaking. The trails and open spaces in Concord have grown to essentially become a sizeable parks system in and of itself, and it needs to be managed as such. The City of Concord, including its volunteers and staff already do tremendous work developing, managing, and being good stewards of the community's trails. Most of the recommendations in this chapter are to continue, formalize, or improve on existing practices and procedures. The most significant recommendation in this plan is to create a position within the City of Concord whose sole responsibility is to manage the City's trails and open spaces, funded partly through forestry and conservation funds. At present, these tasks are shared between the Planning Division, consulting City Forester, the Trails Subcommittee, and other volunteers.

Centralizing some of these responsibilities to a single paid position, a Trails and Open Space Ranger, will better provide the services the community has come to expect, and improve results by offering a presence on the trails, spreading awareness on issues as they arise, and clarifying roles and responsibilities currently juggled by multiple groups.



Hoyt Marsh Trail

Table: Current and Recommended Trail Tasks

Category	Who Does It? (X is primary, s is supporting)										Ranger Position Recommended Jobs
	City Forester		City Planning		Trails Sub- Committee And other Volunteers		Conservation Commission		Contracted Out		
	Current	Recomm.	Current	Recomm.	Current	Recomm.	Current	Recomm.	Current	Recomm.	
Bridges and Structures Construction/Maintenance	X	s			s	s					X
Down Tree Removal (chainsaws)	X	s			s	s					X
Light Trail Cleanup (minor litter and brush removal)	X	s			X	X					X
Dumping Removal	X								X	X	
Bi-Annual Trail Reporting					X	X					
New Trail Construction	X	s			X	X	s	s			X
Whether to Build a new Trail (checklist procedure etc)			X	X	X	X	X	X			
New Trail Layout	X	s			X	X	X	X			X
Trail Erosion/Drainage Maintenance/Re-routing	X	s			X	X					X
Maintenance Requiring Heavy Equipment	s	s							X	X	
Parking Lot Maintenance	X								X	X	
Parking Lot Snow Removal									X	X	
Trail Maps and Trail Guides			X	X	s	s					
Kiosk content	X		X	s	s	s	s	s			X
Trail Signage	X		X	s	X	s	s	s			X
Addressing Abutter Issues	X		X	s			s	s			X
Volunteer Database and Coordination - General			X		X						X
Community Service/School Volunteer Coordination	X	s	X		s						X
Manages Summer Trails Intern	X		X								Replaces
Point of Contact for Addressing Calls/ Concerns	s		X	s							X

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND HUMAN RESOURCE NEEDS

Because Concord's trails are primarily on City Conservation Land, the Conservation Commission has most of the oversight. The Conservation Commission (and its Trails Subcommittee) are staffed by the Planning Division. As a result, the Planning Division has over the years become tasked with administering this large system of trails. Planning staff is often the recipient of a range of requests, concerns, and issues, and must direct and seek out existing resources to address them. While it is recommended that the Planning Division remain closely involved, the time and resources involved to address the expanding administrative and oversight tasks have extended beyond what they were even a few short years ago. The City would be better served having a designated person rather than continue to use highly skilled technical planning staff for administrative tasks.

On the ground, most of the trails work is done or overseen by the consulting City Forester, which is a contracted position. This is paid for through the Forestry Fund, which comes from revenue of timber sales on City land. The role of the Forester has grown to include tasks well above and beyond the typical role of a forester.

Concord is fortunate to have a dedicated consulting Forester who enjoys and is highly qualified to do this work; however, this setup is not sustainable in the long term. When the Forester retires, the City is unlikely to have the multitude of needs met by another consultant. Planning for a smooth transition when this occurs is a significant concern of Planning staff.

The third piece of the picture are the volunteers, many of which serve on the Trails Subcommittee of the Conservation Commission. These volunteers do great work, and as is typical, paid staff administrate and support their work. While



A beloved outlook from the Marjory Swope Trails

smaller trail and open space systems may be entirely volunteer based, the workload, the size and stature of Concord's trail and open space system require paid staff and oversight.

The above table summarizes some of the tasks required to maintain the open space trails system and the roles who are responsible for fulfilling them. It shows that much of the responsibility falls on the Planning Division and the consulting City Forester. As the nature and volume of trail work grows, the need for a position that focuses on trails and open spaces also grows. Such a position will also be better able to maximize volunteer contributions.

RECOMMENDATION: The City created a part time Trails and Open Space Ranger position to fulfill a range of roles and responsibilities for the City's trails and open spaces. If proved successful, it should become a permanent full time position, and a decision must be made on whether to pay for it thorough the General fund, Forestry fund, Conservation Fund, or a combination.

RECOMMENDATION: The city should hire an on-call contractor to address parking lot maintenance issues, and fund it through the forestry or conservation fund. This would be similar to snow removal contracts that are currently in place for some trailhead parking lots.

DETERMINING WHERE AND WHETHER TO BUILD NEW TRAIL

The Planning Division, Conservation Commission, and the Trails Subcommittee have recently developed a checklist to use while determining whether to build a new trail. The checklist is described in Chapter 4 and can be found in the appendix.

RECOMMENDATION: Formalize the use of the checklist for every new trail proposal, and update the list as needed.

RECOMMENDATION: The Planning Division should report its findings to the Trails Subcommittee and Conservation Commission on whether or how the new trail proposal fits into the overall network strategy and goals described in the trails plan. Add to the checklist to discuss how the proposal fulfills the overall trail network strategy and goals, and use staff input in decision making.

RECOMMENDATION: At the discretion of planning staff, involve the Planning Board to assist with outreach, community decision making, and infrastructure review, and involve technical staff in the criteria review. Issues relevant to the Planning Board may include new parking, increases in motor vehicle traffic, or other matters deemed to be relevant to the community. Communication between municipal bodies can bring an important multidisciplinary perspective and long-range view to trail projects.



RECOMMENDATION: The location of proposed trails should be identified on the Trails for People and Wildlife heat map. It should be added to the checklist for an initial review of the trail's potential impact to wildlife. A more detailed review may be undertaken at a later stage of new trail development

BUILDING THE DESIRED TRAIL NETWORK

Chapters 3 describes the vision for Concord's trail system. Chapter 4 describes what that network might look like. These chapters show how Concord can serve a wide range of abilities and uses and best serves the diverse needs of the community. The formula includes providing a wide range of trail types, and connecting trails to each other, connecting to places people want to go, and to connecting where people live and work.

RECOMMENDATION: The Conservation Commission, its Trails Subcommittee, and Planning Division should be tasked with reviewing the potential new trail and trail connections identified in Chapter 4, and strategically prioritize which to work on at any given time.

RECOMMENDATION: The Conservation Commission, its Trails Subcommittee, and Planning Division should evaluate ways to better connect trails to neighborhoods, especially in under-served neighborhoods like the Heights. This should be started by reviewing the neighborhood connections identified in Chapter 4.

RECOMMENDATION: The Conservation Commission, its Trails Subcommittee, and Planning Division should evaluate the perceived lack of accessible trails in Concord, and work with organizations who may assist in identifying locations and trail types to improve access to

nature for seniors and people with special mobility needs.

URBAN TRAILS, SHARED-USE PATHS, AND RAIL TRAILS

There are a number of trail types described in Chapters 3 and 4 that would not fall under the typical Trails Subcommittee activities, including shared use paths, rail trails, and urban trails. The Community Development Department would take the lead on these trail efforts.

RECOMMENDATION: Community Development should work to incorporate shared use paths, rail trails, and urban trails into transportation planning projects and efforts city wide, particularly in the Opportunity Corridor, Langley Parkway, Downtown, and the abandoned railroad corridor from Downtown to Penacook.

RECOMMENDATION: If the construction of Langley Parkway is funded, it should incorporate the needs of trail and trail users by installing a shared use path along its route, providing trail crossings or underpasses where needed, providing trailhead amenities or parking where suitable, and planning how the project can accommodate the exiting trails in the area.

RECOMMENDATION: The City should purchase or otherwise secure trail access to the abandoned railroad property from Penacook to Downtown and convert it to a paved rail trail.

RECOMMENDATION: The City should work with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to include urban trails and trail connections as an integral element of the I-93 Bow-Concord Improvement Project, and ensure a complete streets approach is used to accommodate non-motorized transportation.

RECOMMENDATION: The City should ensure urban trails are incorporated into redevelopment of land in and along the



Opportunity Corridor by working with developers, and the Planning Board should consider codifying trails into zoning or other regulations by referring to the proposed network presented in this document.

RECOMMENDATION: Connectivity between any new urban trails and existing trails located on conservation lands should be coordinated between Community Development and the Conservation Commission.

TRAIL STEWARDSHIP

Chapter 5 discusses Leave No Trace principles and identifies the most pressing areas of Concern in Concord. The discussion in the chapter can lead to a number of implementation efforts in the future to address these issues and other site-specific problems that may arise. A Trail Ranger would assist with implementation of these goals.

RECOMMENDATION: The City should continue its Leave No Trace Community Partner membership and take advantage of the assistance, resources, and training the organization offers.

RECOMMENDATION: The City should adopt the Authority of the Resource Technique (ART) in its education and awareness efforts.

RECOMMENDATION: The Trails Subcommittee should continue its Leave No Trace education efforts and focus on the 5 problem areas that were identified: reducing dog waste and the number of dogs off-leash, reduce the amount of trash, trailhead vandalism, and rogue trail building.

RECOMMENDATION: The Conservation Commission should develop consistent guiding principles on use of City open spaces, perhaps specific to individual properties. Individual trail decisions should be made based on those guiding principles. The Conservation Commission's Conservation and Open Space Plan Update should be referred to for such guidance, and the plan should be updated as needed. Established, documented principles may be helpful when potentially thorny trail related issues arise, including dog leash policies, trail closures, permitted trail uses, forestry operations, and hunting.

RECOMMENDATION: Partner with outside organizations like New England Mountain Bike Association on a range of activities, including awareness and education on issues like rogue trail building.

RECOMMENDATION: Maintain and improve community relationships by being available and responsive to issues that arise. Host property owners, abutters, and other's concerns should be addressed in a transparent, fair, and timely manner. Additional resources may be needed in order to continue to meet the high standard of service the City sets for itself.

BI-ANNUAL TRAIL REPORTING AND ROUTINE MAINTENANCE

Twice per year, once in spring and once in the fall, volunteer trail ambassadors hike their

designated sections of trail and report on their condition and any work that may be needed. This is an excellent practice that should continue.

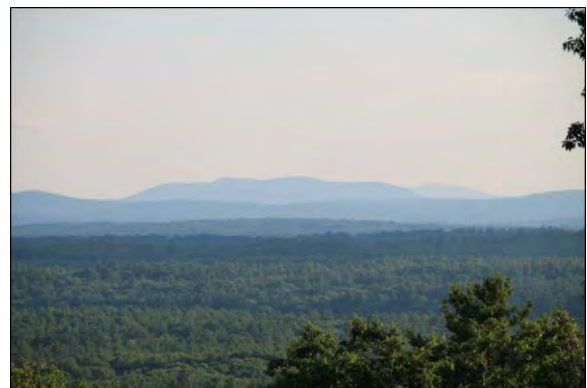
RECOMMENDATION: Further develop and refine the checklist for volunteers to conduct their bi-annual review to ensure volunteers know what to look for and ensure that all issues are reported as needed.

RECOMMENDATION: Finalize, formally adopt, and put into use the guide for trail maintenance practices that was developed in collaboration with the consulting City Forester.

TRAILS FOR PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE

Chapter 6 discusses the various ways that trails can impact wildlife, and provides guidance on how to minimize impacts to wildlife. It is important to weigh outdoor recreation and the multitude of benefits it provides with the impacts that people have on the environment. These tools can help the City find a good balance and mitigate impacts.

RECOMMENDATION: After the initial review as part of the checklist, new trail proposals should be further evaluated on how trail routing might reduce potential impacts to wildlife. An analysis described in Chapter 6 should be performed at the discretion of the Conservation Commission and Planning staff, based on potential impacts and staff resources.



The Vista from the top of the Winant Trails

RECOMMENDATION: The Conservation Commission should evaluate its suite of properties to identify “ambassador” properties to host trails and people, and others where disturbances should be minimal.

RECOMMENDATION: The Conservation Commission should take careful consideration of impacts to wildlife for any trail development in the Broken Ground area north and east of the existing City conservation property and trails. There is a relatively large trail free area as well as relatively high potential for impacts to wildlife in this area.

KEEPING THE FORESTRY FUND SUSTAINABLE, AND OTHER FUNDING SOURCES

Much of the funding for trails comes from the Forestry Fund, but over the long term, trails may impact the revenues that come in from harvests on City properties. This situation is described in Chapters 1 and 5.

RECOMMENDATION: The long term impacts of trails to the Forestry Fund and the relationship between trails and forestry should be evaluated. Plans and strategies may need to be adjusted to ensure that both are sustainable long term.

RECOMMENDATION: Outside funding sources such as grants and donations should be better leveraged to support trail activities and reduce the burden on the Forestry Fund and Conservation Fund.

RECOMMENDATION: Sponsors and donors should be sought to fund specific trail developments and improvements in order to reduce the reliance on the Forestry Fund and/or to provide a higher level of service that would be otherwise possible.



****NOTE: Trails may be re-routed at any time. Always stick to marked trails only, and pay attention to signage.**

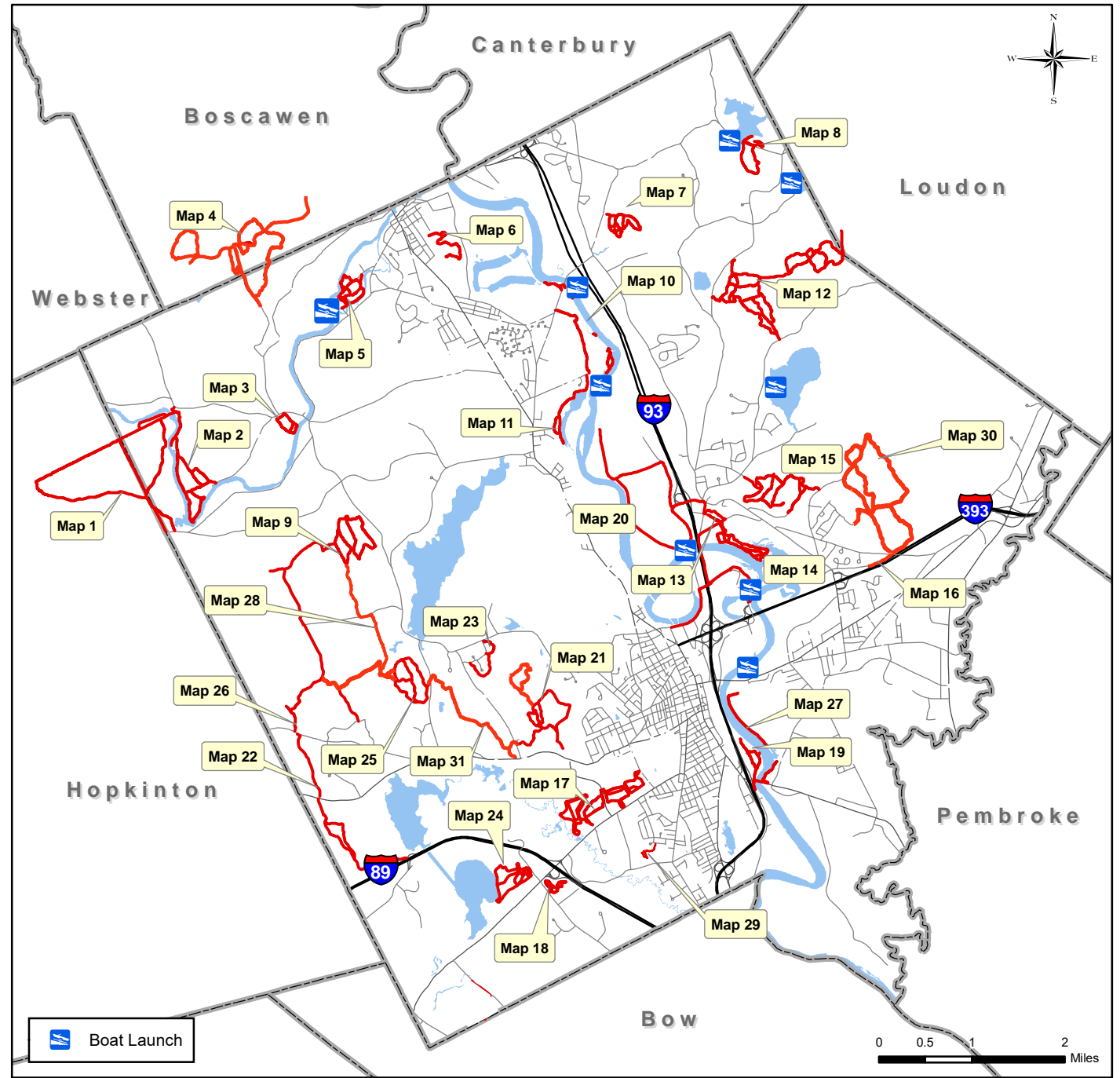
Index Map

Concord Public Trails



Concord Conservation Commission
 41 Green St
 Concord, NH
 (603) 225-8515

Map	Trail System
1	Mast Yard State Forest Trails
2	Lehtinen Park Trails/Jim Hill River Walk
3	O'Reilly-Fleetham Trails
4	Weir Road-Boscawen Town Forest Trails
5	Contoocook River Park Trails
6	Rolfe Park Trails
7	Spear's Park Trails
8	Riley Trails
9	Carter Hill Orchard Trails
10	Sewalls Falls Park Trails
11	Morono Park Trails
12	Oak Hill Trails
13	Merrill Park Trail
14	Society for the Protection of NH Forests
15	Batchelder Mill Road Trails
16	East Sugarball Road Trail
17	Turkey River/White Farm Winter Trails
18	Upton-Morgan State Forest Trails
19	Healy and Terrill Park Trails
20	East Concord Heritage Trails
21	Winant Park Trails
22	Dimond Hill Farm Trails
23	Walker's Reserve Trails
24	Silk Farm Audubon Center
25	Marjory Swope Park
26	West End Farm Trail
27	Merrimack River Greenway Trail
28	Swope & Carter Hill Connector Trails
29	Russell Martin Park Trails
30	Broken Ground Trails
31	Swope to Winant Connector Trail



Boat Launch

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Trail Area	Land Owner	Entity Overseeing Trails on the Property
Batchelder Mill Road Trails	City Conservation and Private with Easement	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Broken Ground Trails	City Conservation and Private with Easement	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Carter Hill Orchard Trails	Conservation Easement on Private Land	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Concord to Lake Sunapee Rail Trail	City Conservation and Private with Easement	Friends of Concord to Lake Sunapee Rail Trail
Contoocook River Park Trails	City Conservation	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Dimond Hill Farm Trails	Conservation Easement on Private Land	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Lehtinen Park Trails/Jim Hill River Walk	City Conservation	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Marjory Swope Park	City Conservatin and St Paul's School Land	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Mast Yard State Forest Trails	State of NH	State of NH - DNCR Division of Forests and Lands
Merrill Park Trail	City Park	Trails Subcommittee
Merrimack River Greenway Trail (farm road)	City Conservation	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Merrimack River Greenway Trail (Terrill Park)	City Park	Parks and Recreation
Morono Park Trails	City Conservation	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Oak Hill Trails	City Conservation	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
O'Reilly-Fleetham Trails	City Conservation	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Riley Trails	City Conservation	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Rolfe Park Trails	City Park and Merrimack Valley School District	Trails Committee and Merrimack Valley School District
Russell Martin Park Trails	City Park	Trails Subcommittee
Sewalls Falls Park Trails	State of NH Fish and Game	State of NH Fish and Game
Silk Farm Audubon Center	NH Audubon	NH Audubon
Society for the Protection of NH Forests	Society for the Protection of NH Forests	Society for the Protection of NH Forests
Spear's Park Trails	City Conservation	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Swope & Carter Hill Connector Trails	City Conservation and Private	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Swope to Winant Connector Trail	Private and St Paul's School	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Turkey River/White Farm Winter Trails	State of NH	State of NH - DNCR Division of Forests and Lands
Upton-Morgan State Forest Trails	State of NH	State of NH - DNCR Division of Forests and Lands
Various Shared Use Paths (I93 at Delta Dr, I89 at Silk Farm Rd, I393 at NHTI, I393 at E Sugarball Rd)	State of NH	NH Department of Transportation
W Portsmouth St and W Locke Rd Trails	City Conservation	Conservation Commission/Trails Subcommittee
Walker's Reserve Trails	Private Easement	Neighborhood Group
Weir Road-Boscawen Town Forest Trails	City Conservation	Conservation Commission
West End Farm Trail	City Conservation, Private, and Private with Easement	Conservation Commission
Winant Park Trails	City Conservation, St Paul's School, and Private	Conservation Commission

Procedure for Approving a New Trail or Trail Network

Note: The circumstances for each trail project are different; these steps are a guide and may be completed in a different order, or omitted as appropriate.

1. A new trail or trail network is suggested by a member of the Trails Committee, a member of the public attending a Trails Committee meeting, or the Conservation Commission. If the Trails Committee agrees to move forward, a Project Manager is designated.
2. The Project Manager arranges to walk the proposed trail or property with the person who suggested the trail, property owner (if private land), the City Forester, Planning staff, and any Trails Committee and Conservation Commission members who are available and interested.
3. The Project Manager prepares a preliminary Trail Criteria checklist for presentation and discussion at a subsequent Trails Committee meeting. After discussion, including review of the Trail Criteria, if the Trails Committee feels the proposed trail is worth exploring and the Planning staff and City Forester agree, the Trails Committee votes on whether or not to proceed with the trail project.
4. Preliminary approval from the Conservation Commission is obtained to move forward. If the Commission's reaction is negative, either more information is provided or the project is dropped and the person who made the proposal is notified.
5. The Project Manager and Planning staff work with property owners to obtain any trail easements or permissions needed before further work is done.
6. The City Forester and Project Manager layout the proposed trail based on the Trails Criteria checklist.
7. Planning staff and Forester consider parking (if applicable) or access issues and necessary permits, and prepare a budget for any needed infrastructure.
8. The Project Manager prepares a revised Trail Criteria checklist and presents the checklist and other relevant information at a Trails Committee meeting for discussion. Planning staff and City Forester provide input. Trails Committee votes whether or not to recommend the proposed trail to the Conservation Commission.
9. The Project Manager arranges an opportunity for the Conservation Commission to walk the trail.
10. Conservation Commission determines whether a public hearing on the trail is required. Otherwise the Commission reviews at a regular meeting. Project Manager attends to provide information. Commission votes whether or not to approve the trail.

Concord Trails Subcommittee

Trail Criteria

These criteria will be used to assist the Trails Subcommittee and Conservation Commission in determining whether we should take on a trail project.

The following are criteria which weigh in favor of taking on the project:

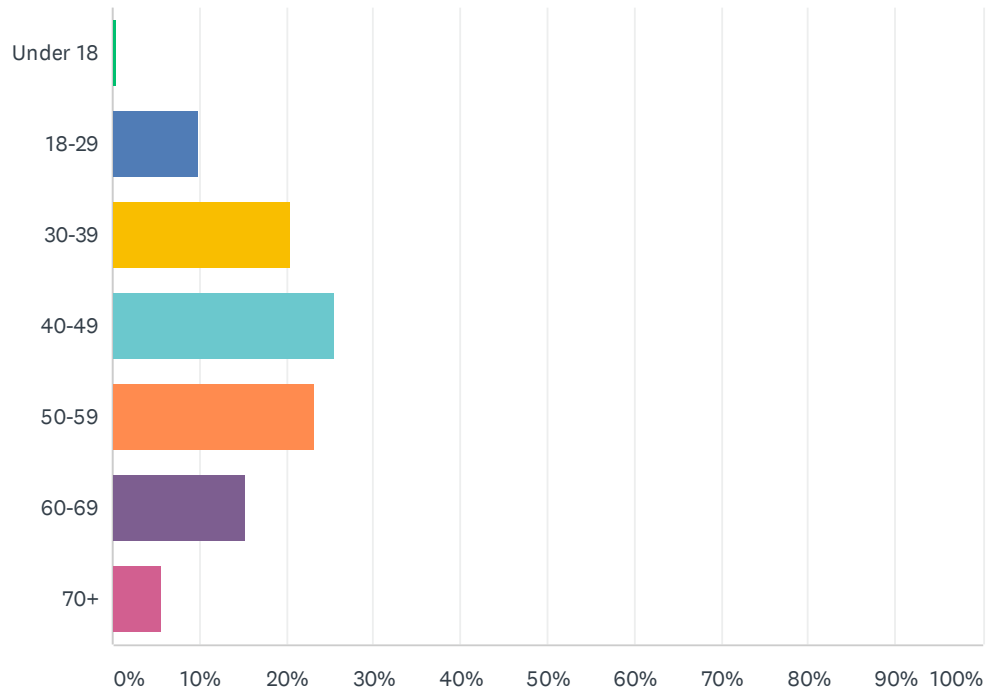
- Links conserved areas or trail networks
- Provides access to natural areas for neighborhoods without such access.
- Provides access to special places: views, waterfront, natural features, historic features
- Provides public access to City conservation land acquired with the intent for public use
- Reduces traffic on heavily used trails
- Likely to be well used
- Has community support
- Improves the diversity of City trails

The following are criteria which weigh against, or pose a challenge, for taking on the project:

- Difficult to maintain: wet areas, open fields, brushy areas, erosion potential
- Requires expensive development – e.g. expensive bridges, DES permitting
- Community opposition
- Trailhead parking, safety, and traffic issues
- Negatively impacts areas of special concern for habitat, plant life or wildlife such as: vernal pools, endangered species, nesting sites or deer yards, ponds, seasonal streams, watershed
- Trail leads to an attractive nuisance, e.g. quarries, abandoned structures
- Unusually difficult for police and fire responders to service the area
- Close proximity to residential dwellings
- Unusual fire risk, such as: steep slope alignments, past fire history, and impact on surrounding areas (e.g. watersheds or neighborhoods)

Q1 What is your age?

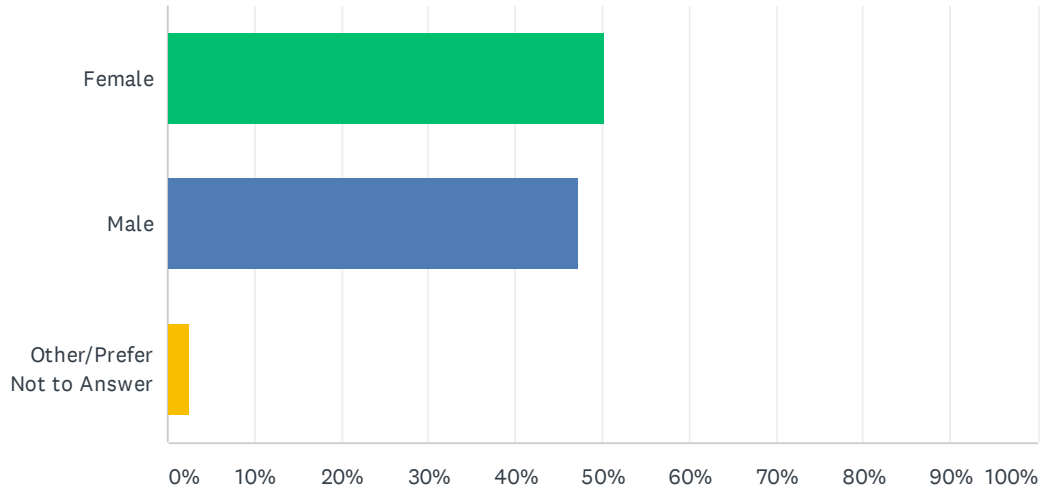
Answered: 523 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Under 18	0.38%	2
18-29	9.75%	51
30-39	20.46%	107
40-49	25.43%	133
50-59	23.14%	121
60-69	15.30%	80
70+	5.54%	29
TOTAL		523

Q2 What is your gender?

Answered: 522 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Female	50.19% 262
Male	47.32% 247
Other/Prefer Not to Answer	2.49% 13
TOTAL	522

Q3 What city or town do you live in? (Penacook residents may specify Penacook)

Answered: 517 Skipped: 7

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	North Concord	4/26/2020 10:50 AM
2	Concord	4/25/2020 10:28 AM
3	Concord	4/21/2020 11:26 AM
4	Concord	4/19/2020 11:29 AM
5	Wilmot	4/13/2020 8:23 AM
6	03301	4/11/2020 12:24 PM
7	Concord	4/4/2020 8:08 AM
8	Hopkinton	4/4/2020 7:10 AM
9	Canterbury	3/31/2020 6:04 PM
10	Concord	3/31/2020 9:48 AM
11	Boscawen	3/27/2020 9:46 PM
12	CONCORD	3/21/2020 1:59 PM
13	Penacook	3/19/2020 4:42 AM
14	Concord	3/13/2020 5:18 PM
15	Concord	3/13/2020 4:07 PM
16	Penacook	3/10/2020 4:41 PM
17	Concord	3/9/2020 8:36 AM
18	Concord	3/8/2020 1:24 PM
19	Concord	3/8/2020 11:13 AM
20	Concord	3/7/2020 9:30 AM
21	concord	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
22	Concord	3/6/2020 10:16 AM
23	Boscawen	3/6/2020 8:01 AM
24	03456	3/5/2020 8:53 PM
25	Concord	3/5/2020 5:14 PM
26	Hopkinton	3/5/2020 4:58 PM
27	Webster	3/5/2020 4:48 PM
28	Chichester	3/4/2020 9:43 AM
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31	Concord	2/29/2020 7:59 PM
32	Concord	2/29/2020 7:54 PM
33	Concord	2/29/2020 7:54 AM
34	Penacook	2/29/2020 7:41 AM
35	Bow	2/29/2020 6:36 AM
36	Concord	2/29/2020 12:52 AM
37	Concord	2/28/2020 8:15 PM

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40	Concord	2/28/2020 1:54 PM
41	Sanbornton	2/28/2020 11:20 AM
42	Penacook	2/26/2020 8:35 PM
43	concord	2/26/2020 9:16 AM
44	Concord	2/24/2020 10:07 PM
45	Canterbury but lived in Concord for 8 yrs	2/22/2020 10:16 PM
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47	Concord	2/20/2020 7:09 PM
48	Concord	2/20/2020 3:08 PM
49	Loudon	2/20/2020 2:20 PM
50	Concord	2/20/2020 10:41 AM
51	Concord	2/18/2020 4:00 PM
52	Penacook	2/18/2020 2:52 PM
53	Concord	2/18/2020 1:39 PM
54	Hooksett	2/18/2020 10:30 AM
55	Concord	2/17/2020 3:57 PM
56	Concord	2/17/2020 9:25 AM
57	Concord	2/16/2020 1:08 PM
58	Concord	2/15/2020 4:39 PM
59	Concord	2/15/2020 4:06 PM
60	Hopkinton	2/15/2020 1:19 PM
61	Concord	2/15/2020 10:48 AM
62	Concord	2/15/2020 10:30 AM
63	Hillsborough	2/14/2020 8:25 PM
64	Concord	2/14/2020 6:42 PM
65	Bow	2/14/2020 1:53 PM
66	Concord	2/14/2020 12:32 PM
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75	Concord	2/11/2020 6:06 PM

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111	Concordant	2/6/2020 4:53 PM
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220	Concord	2/1/2020 7:41 AM
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Concord Trails Master Plan Survey

SurveyMonkey

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249	Hopkinton	1/31/2020 11:59 AM
250	Concord	1/31/2020 11:46 AM
251	Hooksett	1/31/2020 11:36 AM
252	Concord	1/31/2020 11:09 AM
253	Concord	1/31/2020 11:08 AM
254	Concord	1/31/2020 9:42 AM
255	Concord	1/31/2020 9:24 AM
256	Concord	1/31/2020 8:43 AM
257	Allentown	1/31/2020 8:28 AM
258	Concord	1/31/2020 8:28 AM
259	Concord	1/31/2020 8:20 AM
260	Concord	1/31/2020 8:03 AM
261	Penacook	1/31/2020 7:38 AM
262	Concord	1/31/2020 7:09 AM
263	Concord	1/31/2020 7:07 AM
264	Concord	1/31/2020 6:50 AM
265	Concord	1/31/2020 6:39 AM

Concord Trails Master Plan Survey

SurveyMonkey

266	East Concord	1/31/2020 6:18 AM
267	Chichester	1/31/2020 5:21 AM
268	Boscawen	1/30/2020 11:15 PM
269	Concord	1/30/2020 10:21 PM
270	Concord	1/30/2020 10:00 PM
271	Concord	1/30/2020 9:51 PM
272	Concord	1/30/2020 9:27 PM
273	Concord	1/30/2020 9:21 PM
274	Bow	1/30/2020 9:03 PM
275	Concord NH	1/30/2020 8:36 PM
276	Concord	1/30/2020 8:36 PM
277	Concord	1/30/2020 8:33 PM
278	Concord	1/30/2020 8:22 PM
279	Concord	1/30/2020 8:15 PM
280	Henniker	1/30/2020 8:13 PM
281	Concord	1/30/2020 8:07 PM
282	Concord	1/30/2020 7:57 PM
283	03224	1/30/2020 7:56 PM
284	Concord	1/30/2020 7:52 PM
285	Concord	1/30/2020 7:42 PM
286	Auburn	1/30/2020 7:35 PM
287	Penacook	1/30/2020 7:31 PM
288	Concord	1/30/2020 7:17 PM
289	Concord	1/30/2020 7:09 PM
290	Concord	1/30/2020 6:58 PM
291	Pittsfield	1/30/2020 6:40 PM
292	Concord	1/30/2020 6:39 PM
293	Hooksett	1/30/2020 6:39 PM
294	Concord	1/30/2020 6:32 PM
295	Concord	1/30/2020 6:10 PM
296	Concord	1/30/2020 6:04 PM
297	Concord	1/30/2020 5:41 PM
298	Windham	1/30/2020 5:30 PM
299	Penacook	1/30/2020 5:30 PM
300	03301	1/30/2020 5:20 PM
301	Concord	1/30/2020 5:00 PM
302	Concord	1/30/2020 4:49 PM
303	Concord	1/30/2020 4:24 PM

Concord Trails Master Plan Survey

SurveyMonkey

304	Concord	1/30/2020 4:08 PM
305	Concord	1/30/2020 3:52 PM
306	Concord	1/30/2020 3:39 PM
307	Concord	1/30/2020 3:38 PM
308	Raymond	1/30/2020 3:06 PM
309	Concord	1/30/2020 3:03 PM
310	Concord	1/30/2020 1:18 PM
311	Concord	1/30/2020 1:04 PM
312	Auburn	1/30/2020 12:43 PM
313	Concord	1/30/2020 12:35 PM
314	Concord	1/30/2020 12:26 PM
315	Bow	1/30/2020 12:02 PM
316	Portland, Maine	1/30/2020 10:35 AM
317	Concord	1/30/2020 10:04 AM
318	Canterbury	1/30/2020 9:54 AM
319	Concord	1/30/2020 9:32 AM
320	Concord	1/30/2020 9:27 AM
321	Hooksett	1/30/2020 9:07 AM
322	bow	1/30/2020 9:04 AM
323	Concord	1/30/2020 8:51 AM
324	Concord	1/30/2020 8:40 AM
325	Dunbarton	1/30/2020 8:13 AM
326	Concord	1/30/2020 8:07 AM
327	Concord	1/30/2020 8:03 AM
328	Bow	1/30/2020 7:38 AM
329	Concord	1/30/2020 7:35 AM
330	Lyndeborough	1/30/2020 7:26 AM
331	Concord	1/30/2020 7:21 AM
332	Boscawen	1/30/2020 7:13 AM
333	Concord	1/30/2020 6:59 AM
334	Concord	1/30/2020 6:52 AM
335	Boscawen	1/30/2020 6:34 AM
336	Concord	1/30/2020 6:32 AM
337	Concord	1/30/2020 6:22 AM
338	Concord	1/30/2020 6:17 AM
339	Concord	1/30/2020 6:02 AM
340	Concord	1/30/2020 5:53 AM
341	Concord	1/30/2020 5:30 AM

Concord Trails Master Plan Survey

SurveyMonkey

342	webster	1/30/2020 5:08 AM
343	concord	1/30/2020 5:08 AM
344	Concord	1/30/2020 5:00 AM
345	Concord	1/30/2020 3:17 AM
346	Dunbarton	1/29/2020 11:48 PM
347	Concord	1/29/2020 11:31 PM
348	Concord	1/29/2020 11:31 PM
349	Concord	1/29/2020 11:15 PM
350	Concord	1/29/2020 10:49 PM
351	Concord	1/29/2020 10:37 PM
352	Concord	1/29/2020 10:03 PM
353	Concord	1/29/2020 9:54 PM
354	Goffstown	1/29/2020 9:50 PM
355	Penacook	1/29/2020 9:48 PM
356	Concord	1/29/2020 9:47 PM
357	Bristol	1/29/2020 9:39 PM
358	Concord	1/29/2020 9:37 PM
359	CConcord	1/29/2020 9:36 PM
360	Concord	1/29/2020 9:31 PM
361	Concord	1/29/2020 9:30 PM
362	Concord	1/29/2020 9:13 PM
363	Concord	1/29/2020 9:12 PM
364	Concord	1/29/2020 9:10 PM
365	Concord	1/29/2020 9:08 PM
366	Concord	1/29/2020 9:06 PM
367	Canterbury	1/29/2020 8:56 PM
368	canter	1/29/2020 8:53 PM
369	Concord	1/29/2020 8:43 PM
370	Concord	1/29/2020 8:42 PM
371	Concord	1/29/2020 8:39 PM
372	heights	1/29/2020 8:31 PM
373	Concord	1/29/2020 8:25 PM
374	Concord	1/29/2020 8:25 PM
375	Concord	1/29/2020 8:14 PM
376	Concord	1/29/2020 8:02 PM
377	Concord	1/29/2020 7:58 PM
378	Bow	1/29/2020 7:55 PM
379	Contoocook	1/29/2020 7:33 PM

Concord Trails Master Plan Survey

SurveyMonkey

380	Concord	1/29/2020 7:29 PM
381	Concord	1/29/2020 7:23 PM
382	Concord	1/29/2020 7:22 PM
383	Hooksett	1/29/2020 7:15 PM
384	Tilton	1/29/2020 7:06 PM
385	Concord	1/29/2020 7:03 PM
386	Hudson	1/29/2020 7:02 PM
387	Boscawen	1/29/2020 6:42 PM
388	Concord	1/29/2020 6:28 PM
389	Concord	1/29/2020 6:21 PM
390	Concord	1/29/2020 5:58 PM
391	Penacook	1/29/2020 5:52 PM
392	Concord	1/29/2020 5:35 PM
393	Laconia	1/29/2020 5:29 PM
394	Concord	1/29/2020 5:27 PM
395	Salem	1/29/2020 5:03 PM
396	Loudon	1/29/2020 3:49 PM
397	Concord	1/29/2020 3:47 PM
398	Concord	1/29/2020 3:42 PM
399	Concord	1/29/2020 3:38 PM
400	Concord	1/29/2020 3:37 PM
401	Concord	1/29/2020 3:34 PM
402	Boscawen	1/29/2020 3:32 PM
403	Boscawen	1/29/2020 3:24 PM
404	Boscawen	1/29/2020 3:22 PM
405	Boscawen	1/29/2020 3:15 PM
406	Bow	1/29/2020 3:13 PM
407	Concord	1/29/2020 3:13 PM
408	Boscawen	1/29/2020 2:50 PM
409	Concord	1/29/2020 2:36 PM
410	Hillsborough	1/29/2020 2:29 PM
411	Concord	1/29/2020 2:10 PM
412	Concord	1/29/2020 2:09 PM
413	Concord	1/29/2020 2:00 PM
414	Penacook	1/29/2020 1:54 PM
415	Concord	1/29/2020 1:53 PM
416	Concord	1/29/2020 1:37 PM
417	Concord	1/29/2020 1:15 PM

Concord Trails Master Plan Survey

SurveyMonkey

418	Penacook	1/29/2020 1:11 PM
419	Concord	1/29/2020 1:10 PM
420	concord	1/29/2020 1:09 PM
421	Concord	1/29/2020 1:02 PM
422	Concord	1/29/2020 12:55 PM
423	Concord	1/29/2020 12:50 PM
424	Concord	1/29/2020 12:49 PM
425	Concord	1/29/2020 12:39 PM
426	Merrimack	1/29/2020 12:35 PM
427	Concord	1/29/2020 12:31 PM
428	Concord	1/29/2020 12:25 PM
429	Hopkinton	1/29/2020 12:25 PM
430	Chichester	1/29/2020 12:22 PM
431	Concord	1/29/2020 12:20 PM
432	Concord	1/29/2020 12:15 PM
433	Concord	1/29/2020 12:13 PM
434	Concord	1/29/2020 12:10 PM
435	Concord	1/29/2020 12:01 PM
436	Concord	1/29/2020 11:59 AM
437	Concord	1/29/2020 11:58 AM
438	Contoocook	1/29/2020 11:48 AM
439	Concord	1/29/2020 11:48 AM
440	Concord	1/29/2020 11:42 AM
441	Chichester	1/29/2020 11:21 AM
442	BOW	1/29/2020 11:14 AM
443	Concord	1/29/2020 11:07 AM
444	Hopkinton	1/29/2020 10:57 AM
445	Concord	1/29/2020 10:51 AM
446	Hopkinton	1/29/2020 10:37 AM
447	Concord	1/29/2020 10:34 AM
448	Concord	1/29/2020 10:29 AM
449	Concord	1/29/2020 10:26 AM
450	Concord	1/29/2020 10:17 AM
451	Concord	1/29/2020 10:12 AM
452	Bristol	1/29/2020 10:08 AM
453	Concord	1/29/2020 10:01 AM
454	Concord	1/29/2020 10:00 AM
455	Concord	1/29/2020 9:58 AM

Concord Trails Master Plan Survey

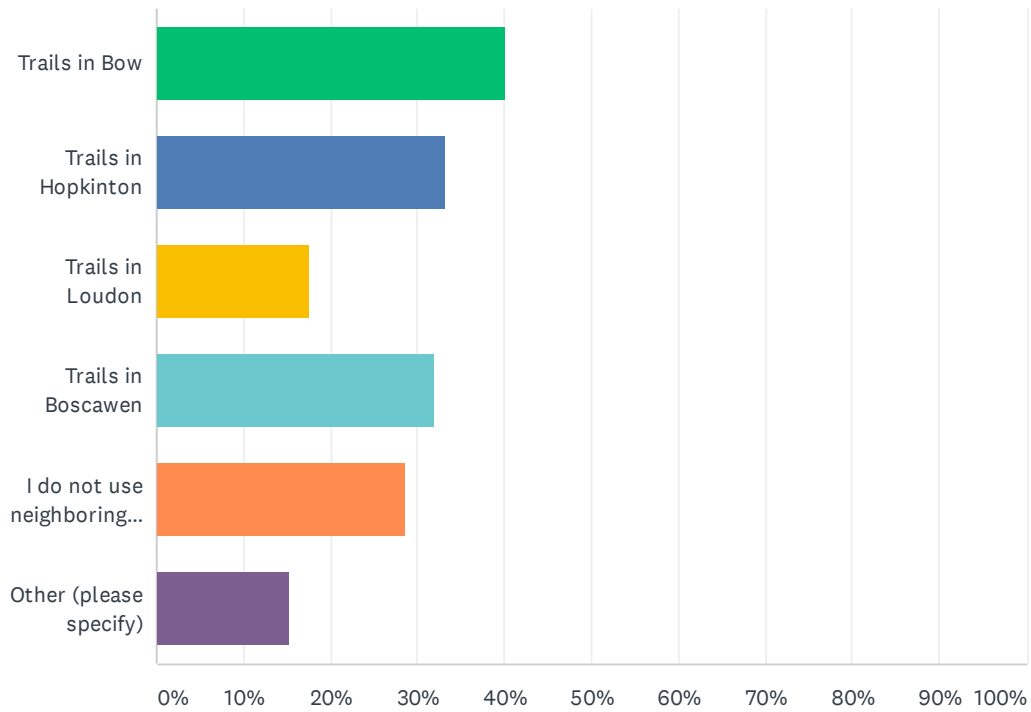
SurveyMonkey

456	Concord	1/29/2020 9:49 AM
457	Rumney	1/29/2020 9:42 AM
458	Concord	1/29/2020 9:38 AM
459	Concord	1/29/2020 9:31 AM
460	Concord	1/29/2020 9:28 AM
461	Pembroke	1/29/2020 9:22 AM
462	Hopkinton	1/29/2020 9:14 AM
463	Canterbury	1/29/2020 9:08 AM
464	Concord	1/29/2020 9:06 AM
465	Penacook	1/29/2020 8:54 AM
466	Concord	1/29/2020 8:51 AM
467	Windham	1/29/2020 8:36 AM
468	Concord	1/29/2020 8:09 AM
469	Concord	1/29/2020 8:04 AM
470	Concord	1/29/2020 7:40 AM
471	Penacook	1/29/2020 7:31 AM
472	Concord	1/29/2020 7:22 AM
473	Dunbarton	1/29/2020 7:17 AM
474	Canterbury	1/29/2020 7:09 AM
475	Concord	1/29/2020 6:44 AM
476	Concord	1/29/2020 6:30 AM
477	Comcord	1/29/2020 6:17 AM
478	Bow	1/29/2020 5:53 AM
479	Weare	1/29/2020 5:53 AM
480	Canterbury	1/29/2020 5:52 AM
481	Concord	1/29/2020 5:41 AM
482	Concord	1/29/2020 5:38 AM
483	Andover NH	1/29/2020 5:03 AM
484	Concord	1/29/2020 5:03 AM
485	Concord	1/29/2020 4:17 AM
486	Concord	1/29/2020 4:03 AM
487	Bow	1/28/2020 11:24 PM
488	Concord	1/28/2020 11:16 PM
489	Concord	1/28/2020 10:52 PM
490	Hooksett	1/28/2020 10:28 PM
491	Concord	1/28/2020 10:17 PM
492	Concord	1/28/2020 10:17 PM
493	Concord	1/28/2020 10:16 PM

494	Bedford	1/28/2020 10:05 PM
495	Laconia	1/28/2020 10:03 PM
496	Penacook	1/28/2020 10:01 PM
497	Concord	1/28/2020 9:59 PM
498	Northfield	1/28/2020 9:58 PM
499	Manchester	1/28/2020 9:55 PM
500	auburn	1/28/2020 9:52 PM
501	Concord	1/28/2020 9:47 PM
502	Bow	1/28/2020 9:42 PM
503	Concord	1/28/2020 9:37 PM
504	Concord	1/28/2020 9:37 PM
505	Concord	1/28/2020 9:33 PM
506	Concord	1/28/2020 9:25 PM
507	Concord	1/28/2020 9:20 PM
508	Concord	1/28/2020 9:15 PM
509	Concord	1/28/2020 9:11 PM
510	Concord	1/28/2020 8:55 PM
511	Concord	1/28/2020 8:50 PM
512	Concord	1/28/2020 8:47 PM
513	Concord	1/28/2020 8:37 PM
514	concord	1/28/2020 8:33 PM
515	Penacook	1/28/2020 8:14 PM
516	Concord	1/28/2020 6:43 PM
517	Concord	1/28/2020 6:37 PM

Q4 Which neighboring town trail systems do you use? Check all that apply.

Answered: 515 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Trails in Bow	40.19%	207
Trails in Hopkinton	33.20%	171
Trails in Loudon	17.48%	90
Trails in Boscawen	32.04%	165
I do not use neighboring town trails	28.74%	148
Other (please specify)	15.34%	79
Total Respondents: 515		

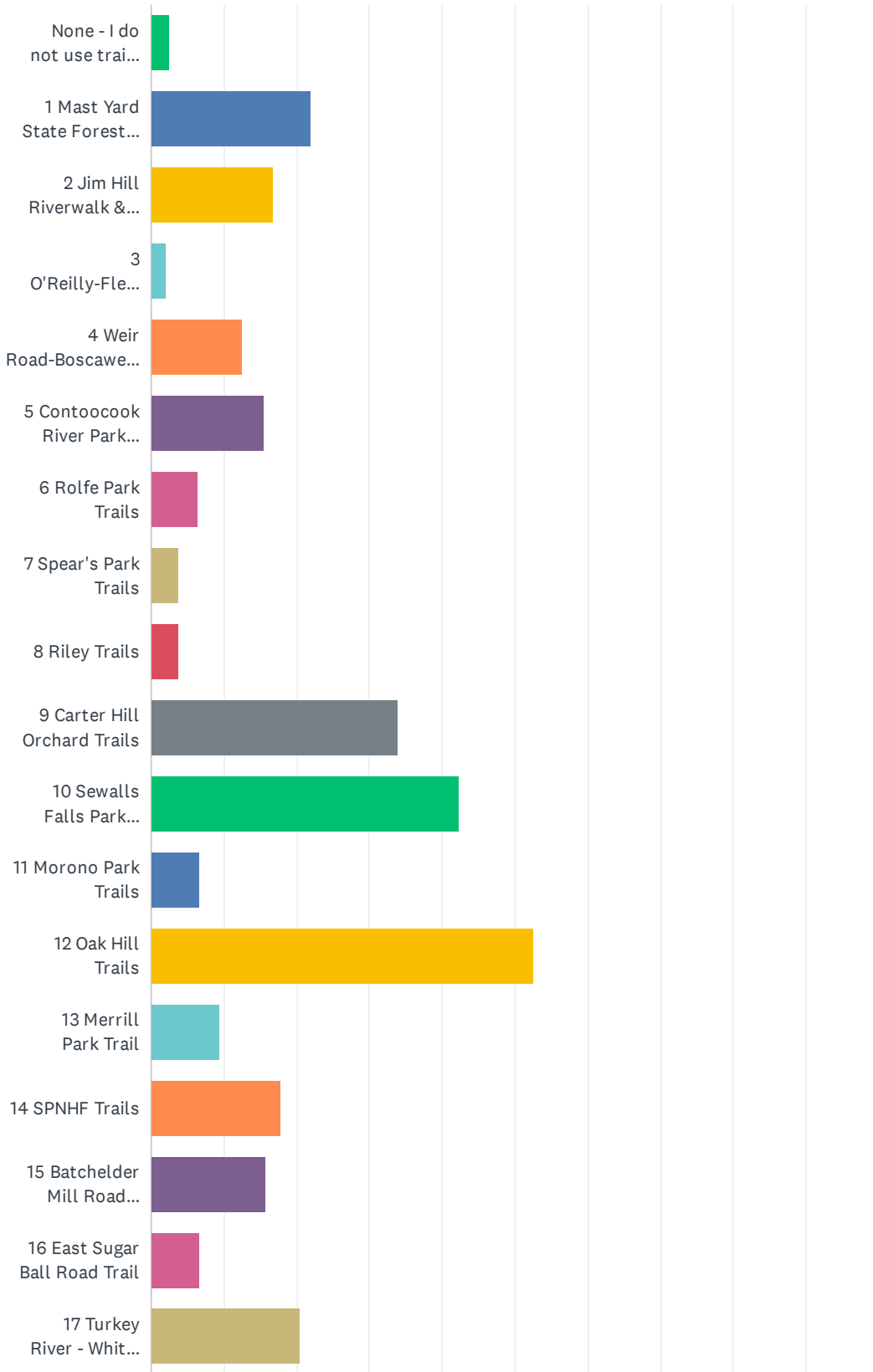
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Canterbury	3/31/2020 6:04 PM
2	This is the first I heard of the trails. I will be sure to use them next winter.	3/5/2020 8:53 PM
3	West End Farm	3/5/2020 4:58 PM
4	I haven't used any neighboring trails, but would like to	2/29/2020 7:54 AM
5	I'd be interested but haven't used other neighboring town trails yet.	2/29/2020 7:41 AM
6	Just moved here -- have not used others yet, but we are likely to do so	2/29/2020 12:52 AM
7	Warner	2/15/2020 1:19 PM
8	Concord	2/15/2020 10:30 AM
9	Sunapee, New London	2/13/2020 9:15 PM
10	Epsom - Pembroke	2/12/2020 6:39 AM
11	Goffstown Rail Trail	2/11/2020 4:33 AM
12	Pembroke	2/10/2020 1:51 AM
13	Concord	2/9/2020 7:03 PM
14	Contoocook	2/6/2020 1:40 AM
15	Northern Rail Trail	2/5/2020 7:36 PM
16	Heads Pond in Hooksett, Northwood	2/5/2020 6:50 PM
17	Trails in Canterbury	2/5/2020 12:39 PM
18	Allentown nh	2/5/2020 12:25 PM
19	Na	2/4/2020 11:23 AM
20	I would use them if I knew about them.	2/4/2020 8:03 AM
21	Trails in Canterbury	2/4/2020 7:29 AM
22	Chichester, Northwood	2/4/2020 6:54 AM
23	Canterbury	2/3/2020 5:38 PM
24	Hooksett	2/3/2020 1:40 PM
25	Cantebury, Gilmanton, Hooksett, Henniker , Hillborough and other town trails	2/3/2020 1:23 PM
26	Warner, Bradford, Newbury, Andover, Franklin	2/3/2020 12:37 PM
27	I also walk on Class 6 roads and on trails in Canterbury. Muchyedo Banks and Whitney Hill Rd in Canterbury are favorites. Wm Maxfield Trails in Loudon are nice too.	2/2/2020 8:36 PM
28	Wilton (Forest Society Trail, Langenau Forest)	2/2/2020 8:09 PM
29	Concord	2/2/2020 4:49 PM
30	New London	2/1/2020 10:14 AM
31	Franklin falls until I learn what we have in Concord :)	1/31/2020 4:48 PM
32	Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests	1/31/2020 12:29 PM
33	Hooksett	1/31/2020 11:36 AM
34	Bear Brook	1/31/2020 8:28 AM
35	Hooksett	1/31/2020 8:28 AM
36	Concord	1/31/2020 5:21 AM
37	bradford	1/30/2020 8:36 PM

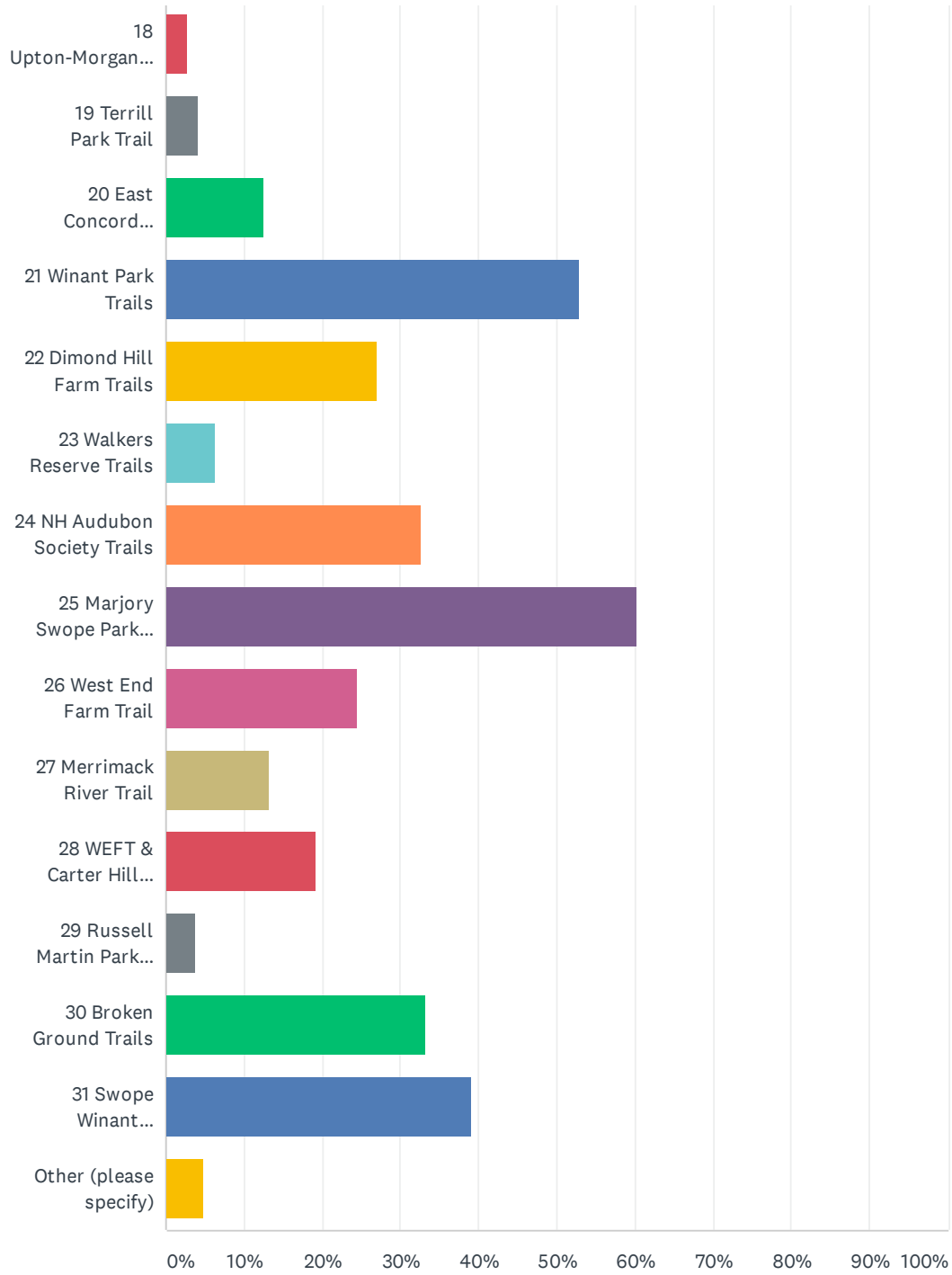
38	Franklin Falls	1/30/2020 7:56 PM
39	Canterbury	1/30/2020 6:58 PM
40	Allenstown-Bear Brook State Park	1/30/2020 6:40 PM
41	Concord	1/30/2020 6:39 PM
42	Durham, Northwood	1/30/2020 4:49 PM
43	Trails in Concord	1/30/2020 3:38 PM
44	Merrimack, Exeter	1/30/2020 3:06 PM
45	Canterbury, Franklin, Pembroke, Allenstown etc	1/30/2020 9:54 AM
46	Spears park trails	1/30/2020 9:32 AM
47	Bear Brook	1/30/2020 9:07 AM
48	trails in Dunbarton, trails In Goffstown	1/30/2020 8:13 AM
49	Warner	1/30/2020 6:32 AM
50	Trails in Concord	1/29/2020 10:49 PM
51	Rail trails throughout the state	1/29/2020 9:47 PM
52	trails all over nh	1/29/2020 8:53 PM
53	Oak Hill Broken Ground	1/29/2020 7:22 PM
54	Trails in Concord	1/29/2020 7:06 PM
55	Webster	1/29/2020 7:03 PM
56	Franklin, Ahern, Highlands, Green Woodlands	1/29/2020 5:29 PM
57	Allenstown	1/29/2020 5:27 PM
58	FOMBA	1/29/2020 5:03 PM
59	Hillsborough	1/29/2020 3:34 PM
60	Concord	1/29/2020 3:32 PM
61	Any trails I can get to	1/29/2020 3:22 PM
62	FranklinFalls	1/29/2020 3:15 PM
63	Bedford	1/29/2020 3:13 PM
64	Fox Forest, Bear Brook State Park	1/29/2020 2:29 PM
65	Franklin, Northfield, Pembroke, and many others.	1/29/2020 1:37 PM
66	Canterbury trails	1/29/2020 1:11 PM
67	Nashua, Merrimack, Franklin	1/29/2020 12:35 PM
68	Henniker, Dunbarton, Goffstown, Warner, Pembroke, Allenstown	1/29/2020 12:20 PM
69	Trails in Derry, Londonderry, Nashua, Mass and Maine	1/29/2020 10:34 AM
70	I'm new to the area. But there is no motorized vehicle trails I am aware of.	1/29/2020 10:17 AM
71	Canterbury	1/29/2020 10:08 AM
72	North Conway, VT, MA	1/29/2020 7:40 AM
73	Snowmobile corridors	1/29/2020 7:09 AM
74	Bear Brook SP & Franklin Falls Dam recreation area	1/29/2020 6:30 AM
75	Franklin	1/29/2020 5:03 AM

76	Concord	1/28/2020 10:05 PM
77	Franklin Falls,	1/28/2020 9:58 PM
78	Manchester, Hooksett, Auburn, Exeter, Newfields, Franklin, North Conway, Londonderry, Nashua, Merrimack, Amherst	1/28/2020 9:55 PM
79	Franklin Falls and Bear Brook	1/28/2020 8:50 PM

Q5 Which trails do you use most often? Select all that apply. (Choices correlate to the Trails Map)

Answered: 517 Skipped: 7





ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None - I do not use trails in Concord.* *If you check this box, Please Skip Ahead to Question #13!	2.51%	13
1 Mast Yard State Forest Trails	22.05%	114
2 Jim Hill Riverwalk & Lehtinen Park Trails	16.63%	86
3 O'Reilly-Fleetham Trails	2.13%	11
4 Weir Road-Boscawen Town Forest Trails	12.57%	65
5 Contoocook River Park Trails	15.47%	80
6 Rolfe Park Trails	6.58%	34
7 Spear's Park Trails	3.68%	19
8 Riley Trails	3.68%	19
9 Carter Hill Orchard Trails	33.85%	175
10 Sewalls Falls Park Trails	42.17%	218
11 Morono Park Trails	6.77%	35
12 Oak Hill Trails	52.42%	271
13 Merrill Park Trail	9.48%	49
14 SPNHF Trails	17.79%	92
15 Batchelder Mill Road Trails	15.67%	81
16 East Sugar Ball Road Trail	6.77%	35
17 Turkey River - White Farm Trails	20.50%	106
18 Upton-Morgan State Forest Interpretive Trail	2.71%	14
19 Terrill Park Trail	4.26%	22
20 East Concord Heritage Trail	12.57%	65
21 Winant Park Trails	53.00%	274
22 Dimond Hill Farm Trails	26.89%	139
23 Walkers Reserve Trails	6.19%	32
24 NH Audubon Society Trails	32.69%	169
25 Marjory Swope Park Trails	60.35%	312
26 West End Farm Trail	24.56%	127
27 Merrimack River Trail	13.15%	68
28 WEFT & Carter Hill Connector and Rossvie Trails	19.15%	99
29 Russell Martin Park Trails	3.87%	20
30 Broken Ground Trails	33.27%	172
31 Swope Winant Connector Trail	39.07%	202

Other (please specify)

4.84%

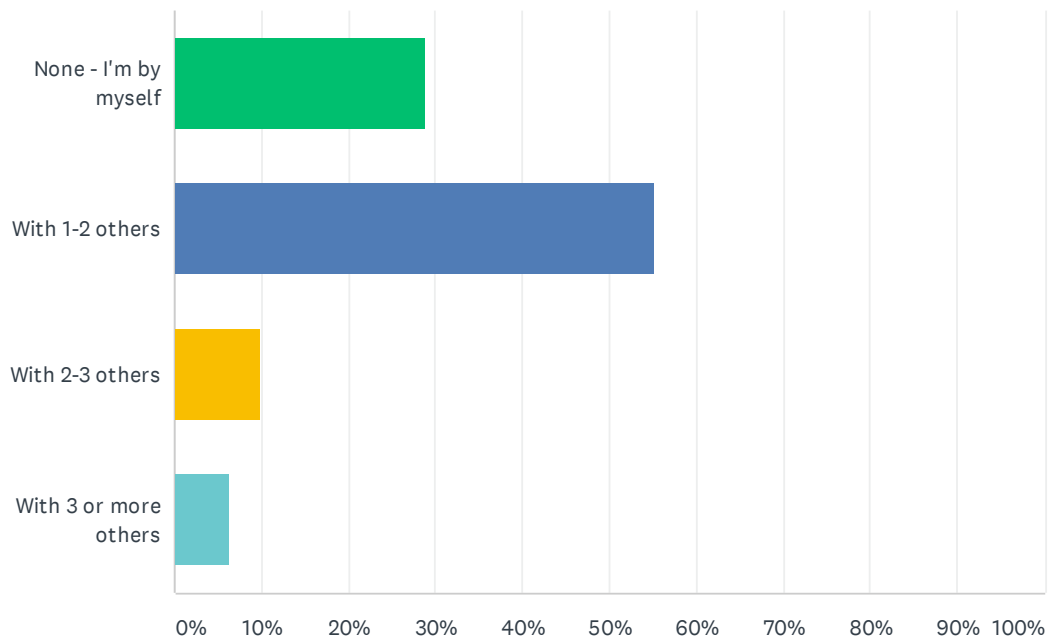
25

Total Respondents: 517

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	St. Paul's School trails	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
2	WE hike all the trails	2/15/2020 4:06 PM
3	Memorial field to white farm	2/11/2020 9:54 PM
4	None.	2/7/2020 7:59 AM
5	St Paul's School trails	2/5/2020 12:25 PM
6	St. Paul's trails	2/4/2020 11:08 AM
7	Beaver Meadow in winter	2/3/2020 5:38 PM
8	northern rail trail	2/3/2020 1:41 PM
9	still exploring the Concord area trails, use many other town trails as well	2/3/2020 1:23 PM
10	I-89 bike path, I-93 bike path	2/1/2020 11:29 AM
11	Beaver Meadow Cross Country Trails	1/31/2020 5:44 PM
12	Rail trails	1/31/2020 11:36 AM
13	Many of the above but never knew the trail names. Someone else leading.	1/30/2020 3:06 PM
14	The trails behind the hospital	1/30/2020 12:26 PM
15	"Hospital" trails and the quarries	1/30/2020 9:54 AM
16	All trails adjacent to Concord hospital and the quarry area trails.	1/29/2020 9:50 PM
17	I-89 bike path/ silk farm rd.	1/29/2020 9:36 PM
18	Hirst Wildlife Management area, Stirrup Iron Brook& Blackwater River Trails.	1/29/2020 7:03 PM
19	None yet!!	1/29/2020 5:29 PM
20	Rattlesnake Hill Mountain Bike Trails (prison trails)	1/29/2020 12:20 PM
21	Bike trails near SPS and NHTI	1/29/2020 10:34 AM
22	Beaver Meadow Golf Course ski trails	1/29/2020 10:12 AM
23	Concord Hospital Trails	1/28/2020 10:05 PM
24	Hospital/langley extension area trails	1/28/2020 8:50 PM
25	Quarries, Snowmobile trails connecting existing trail systems	1/28/2020 8:37 PM

Q6 How many people typically accompany you when you use the trail system in Concord?

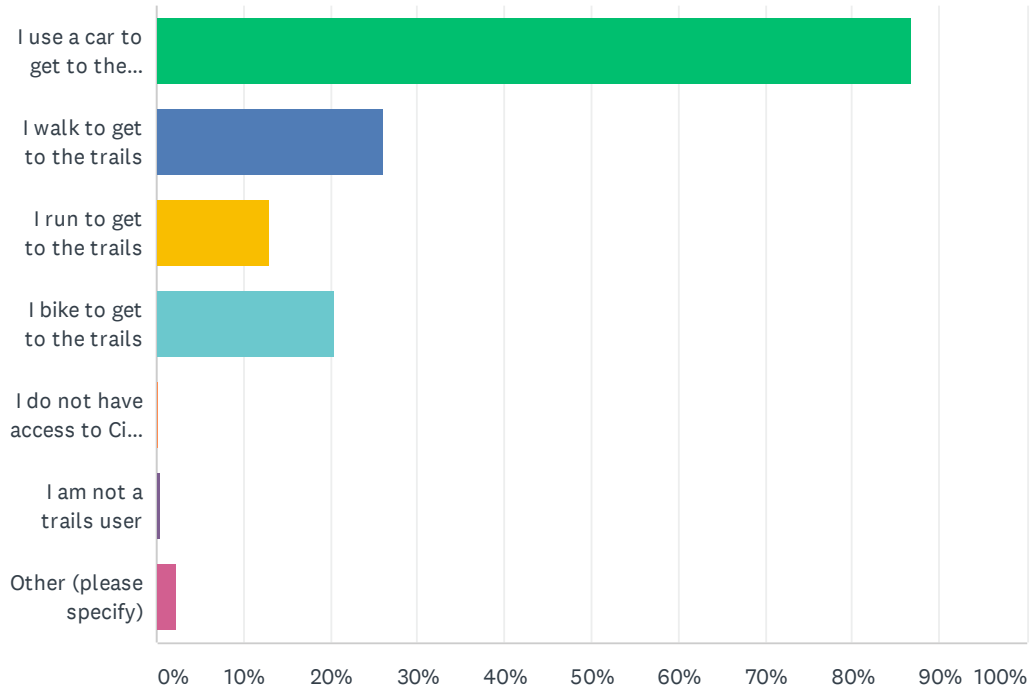
Answered: 511 Skipped: 13



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None - I'm by myself	28.77% 147
With 1-2 others	55.19% 282
With 2-3 others	9.78% 50
With 3 or more others	6.26% 32
TOTAL	511

Q7 How do you get to the trails?

Answered: 512 Skipped: 12

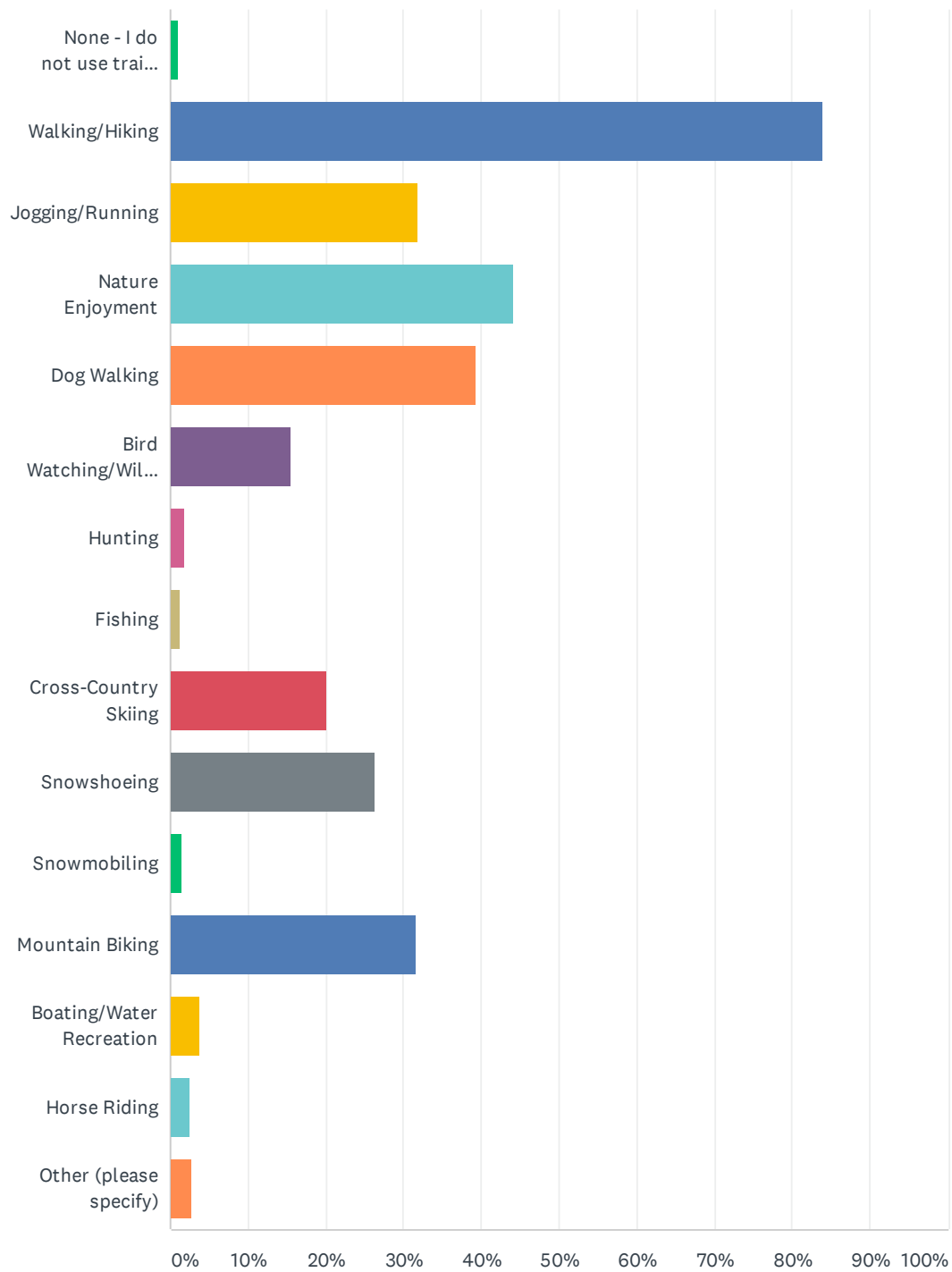


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I use a car to get to the trailhead	86.72%	444
I walk to get to the trails	26.17%	134
I run to get to the trails	12.89%	66
I bike to get to the trails	20.51%	105
I do not have access to City trails	0.20%	1
I am not a trails user	0.39%	2
Other (please specify)	2.34%	12
Total Respondents: 512		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I would like to bike but the City does not have safe bike lanes	2/18/2020 2:52 PM
2	Thanks	2/8/2020 1:59 PM
3	Snowmobile	2/5/2020 3:10 PM
4	snowmobile	2/4/2020 12:23 PM
5	On occasion I can walk to trails by Concord Hospital and then connect to the Winant trails.	2/4/2020 11:08 AM
6	A glitch keeps returning me to this survey question, preventing me from completing it	1/31/2020 10:38 PM
7	Ride my horse to the trails. Walk in from the farm.	1/31/2020 6:39 AM
8	Horseback	1/31/2020 6:18 AM
9	I can't drive. A friend drives me and walks with me.	1/30/2020 6:39 PM
10	I ride my hoble to the trails	1/29/2020 2:36 PM
11	On horseback	1/29/2020 2:29 PM
12	I park at my friend's house off Main St.	1/28/2020 9:55 PM

Q8 In the past 12 months, how have you used the trails and the lands the trails are on?

Answered: 514 Skipped: 10

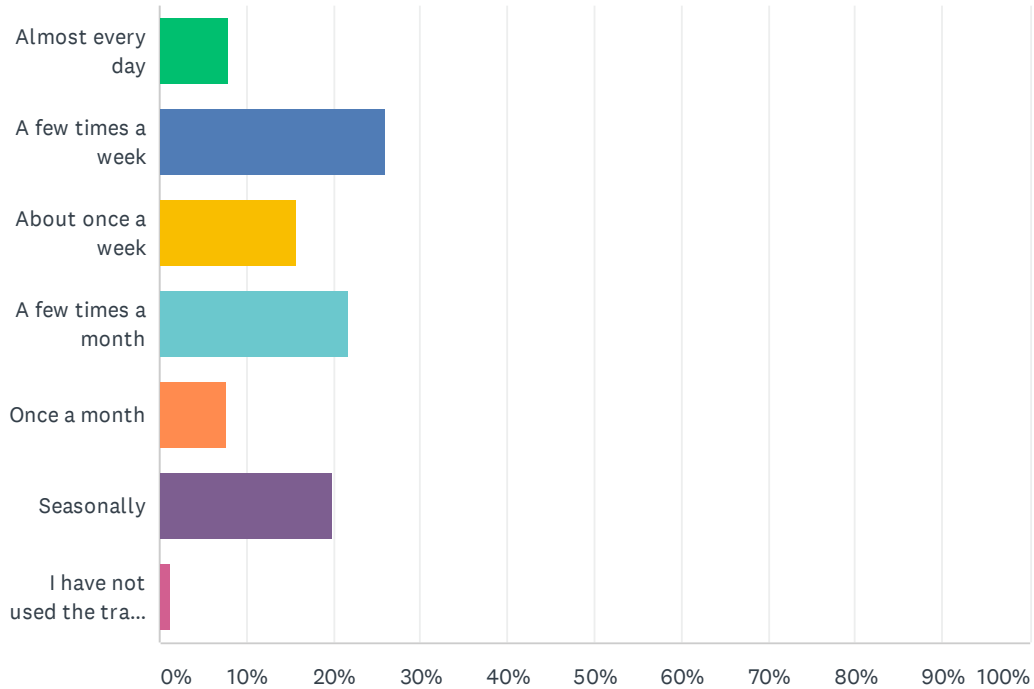


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
None - I do not use trails or the trail land in Concord.* *If you check this box, Please Skip Ahead to Question #13!	0.97% 5
Walking/Hiking	83.85% 431
Jogging/Running	31.71% 163
Nature Enjoyment	44.16% 227
Dog Walking	39.30% 202
Bird Watching/Wildlife Viewing	15.56% 80
Hunting	1.95% 10
Fishing	1.17% 6
Cross-Country Skiing	20.04% 103
Snowshoeing	26.46% 136
Snowmobiling	1.36% 7
Mountain Biking	31.52% 162
Boating/Water Recreation	3.70% 19
Horse Riding	2.53% 13
Other (please specify)	2.72% 14
Total Respondents: 514	

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Backcountry skiing	2/13/2020 7:34 PM
2	History/Industrial research	2/10/2020 1:51 AM
3	None.	2/7/2020 7:59 AM
4	Mindfulness Hiking/Meditation	2/5/2020 4:57 PM
5	A	2/4/2020 11:23 AM
6	Biking	2/3/2020 5:36 PM
7	Photography	2/3/2020 3:15 PM
8	nature journaling	2/3/2020 1:23 PM
9	bike	2/1/2020 11:29 AM
10	I would snowshoe or x-c ski if there was snow	1/30/2020 8:36 PM
11	4 wheeler to be able to ice fish	1/30/2020 3:52 PM
12	Biking and nature photography	1/29/2020 10:34 AM
13	Mushroom foraging	1/28/2020 10:17 PM
14	Hike, dog walk, mountain bike, nature	1/28/2020 6:43 PM

Q9 How frequently do you use the trails in Concord?

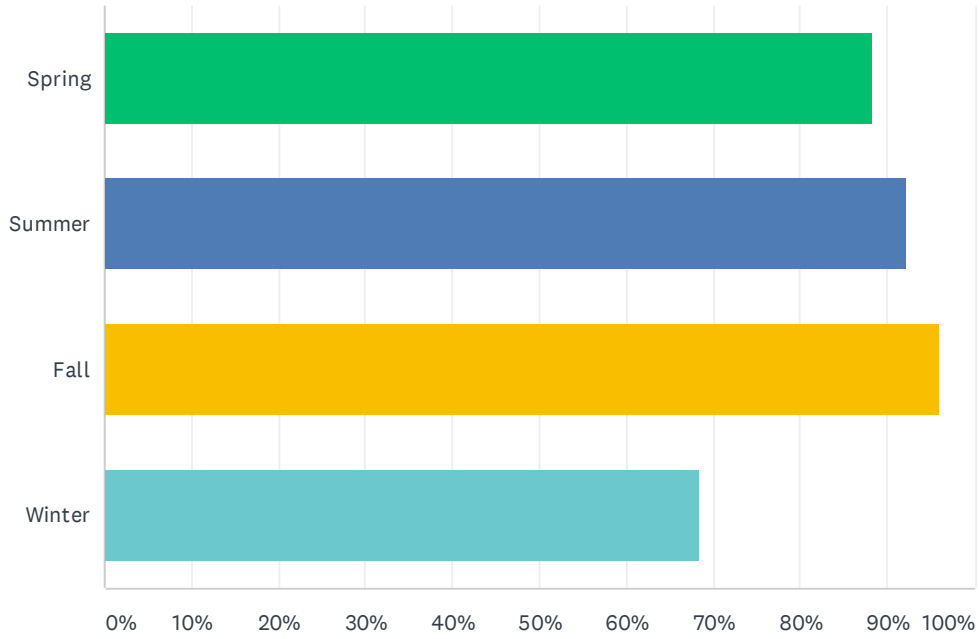
Answered: 510 Skipped: 14



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Almost every day	8.04%	41
A few times a week	25.88%	132
About once a week	15.69%	80
A few times a month	21.76%	111
Once a month	7.65%	39
Seasonally	19.80%	101
I have not used the trails in over a year	1.18%	6
TOTAL		510

Q10 Which seasons do you use the trails in Concord?

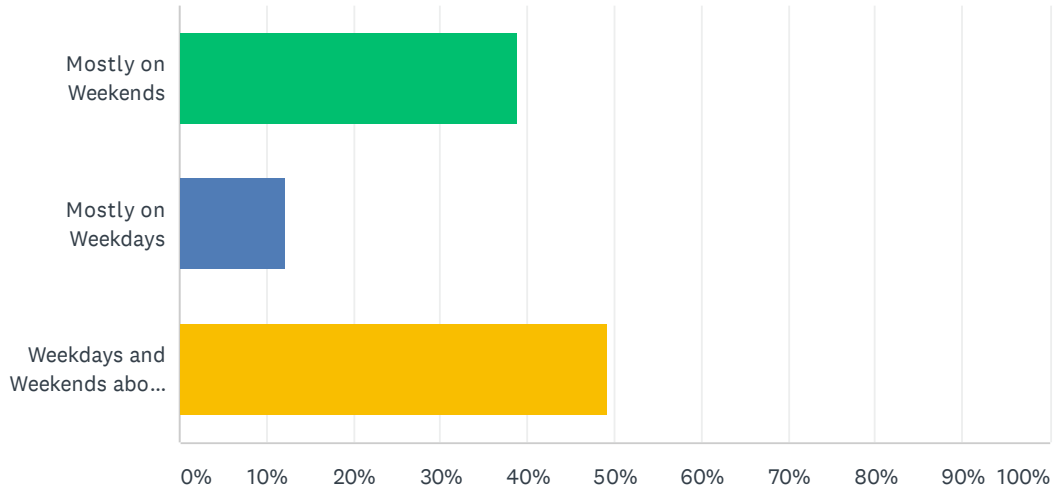
Answered: 507 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Spring	88.36%	448
Summer	92.31%	468
Fall	96.06%	487
Winter	68.44%	347
Total Respondents: 507		

Q11 When do you use the trails?

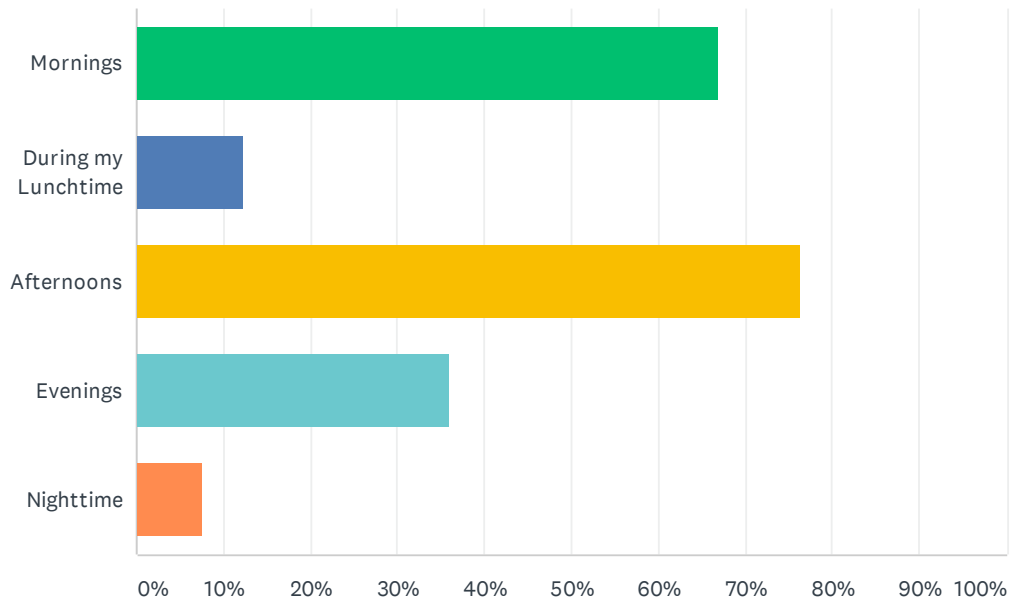
Answered: 507 Skipped: 17



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Mostly on Weekends	38.86%	197
Mostly on Weekdays	12.03%	61
Weekdays and Weekends about Equally	49.11%	249
TOTAL		507

Q12 What times of day do you use the trail/conservation land? Check all that apply

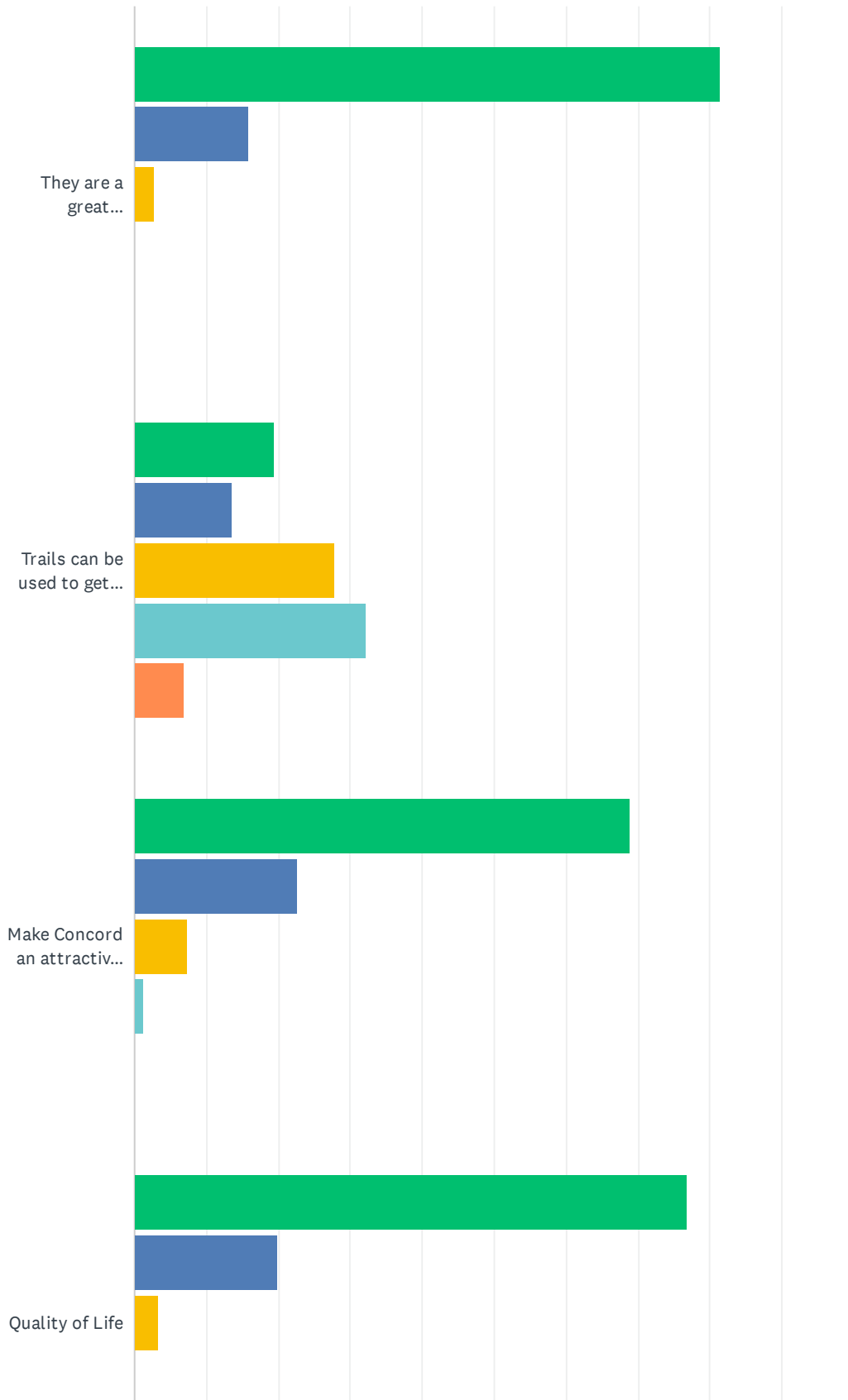
Answered: 510 Skipped: 14

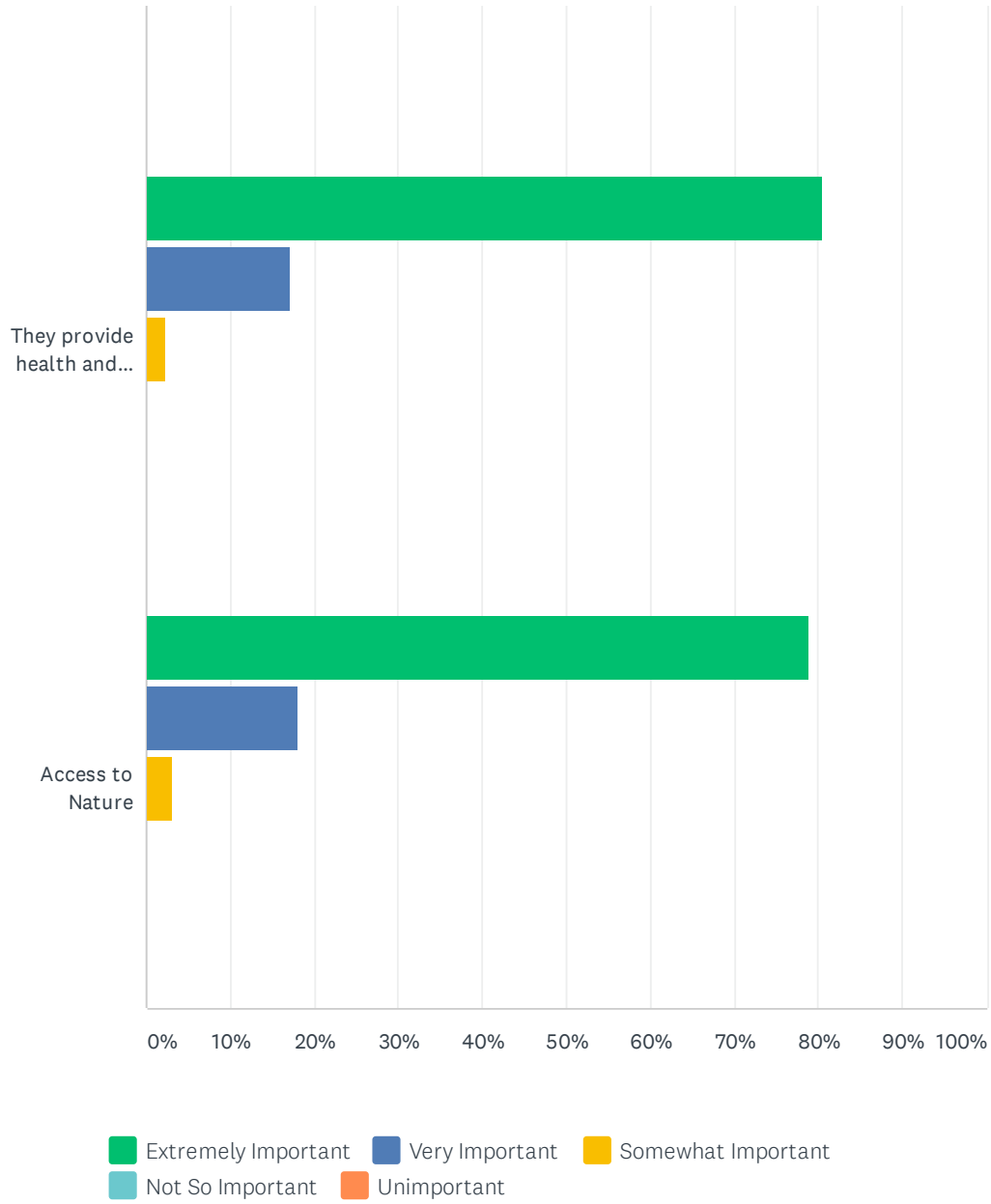


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Mornings	66.86%	341
During my Lunchtime	12.35%	63
Afternoons	76.27%	389
Evenings	35.88%	183
Nighttime	7.45%	38
Total Respondents: 510		

Q13 Why are trails important to you and Concord as a whole?

Answered: 522 Skipped: 2

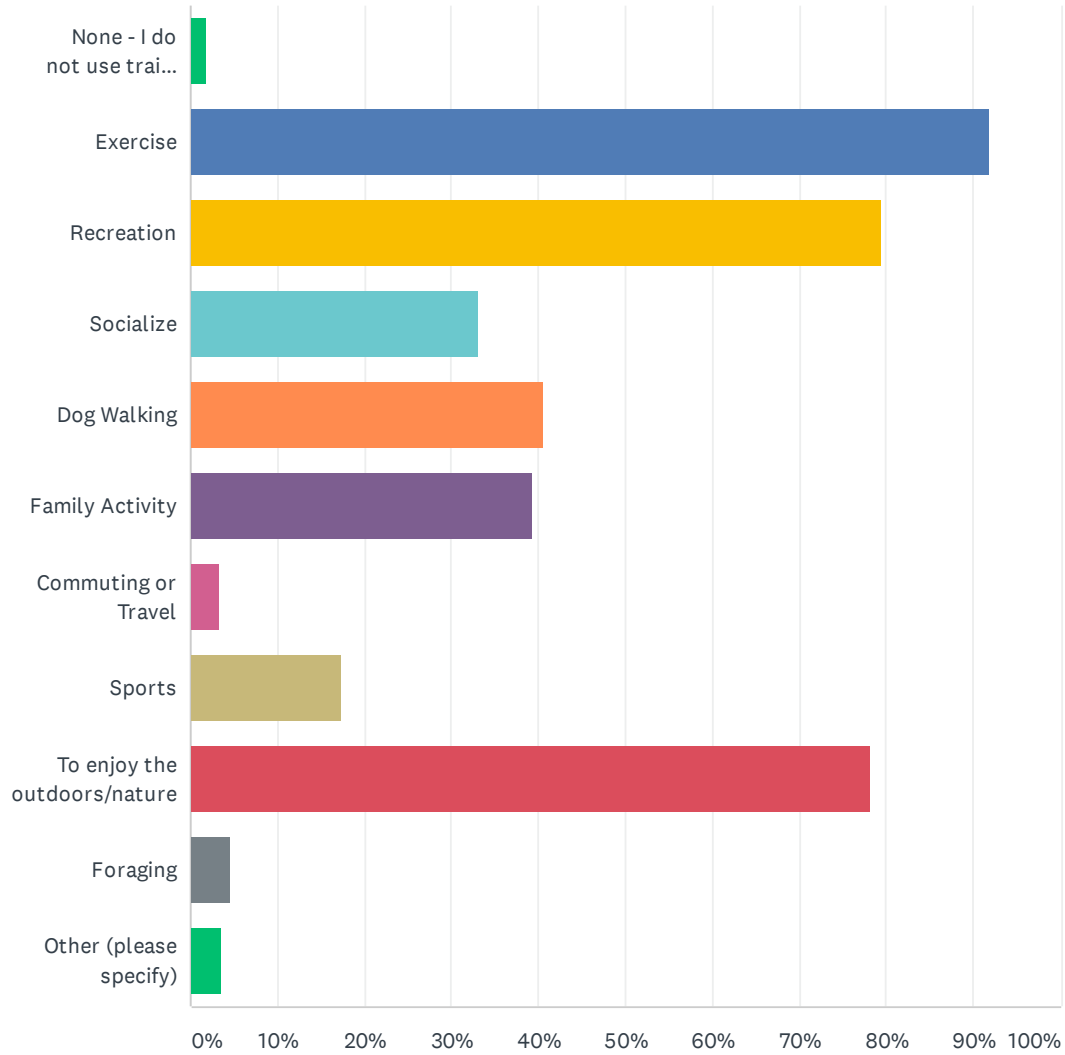




	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT	VERY IMPORTANT	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT	NOT SO IMPORTANT	UNIMPORTANT	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
They are a great recreational asset	81.35% 423	15.96% 83	2.69% 14	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	520	4.79
Trails can be used to get from place to place	19.44% 98	13.69% 69	27.78% 140	32.14% 162	6.94% 35	504	3.07
Make Concord an attractive place to live/ work/ play	68.74% 354	22.52% 116	7.38% 38	1.36% 7	0.00% 0	515	4.59
Quality of Life	76.79% 397	19.92% 103	3.29% 17	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	517	4.74
They provide health and exercise options	80.50% 417	17.18% 89	2.32% 12	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	518	4.78
Access to Nature	78.96% 409	17.95% 93	3.09% 16	0.00% 0	0.00% 0	518	4.76

Q14 Why do you use the trails? Check all that apply

Answered: 521 Skipped: 3

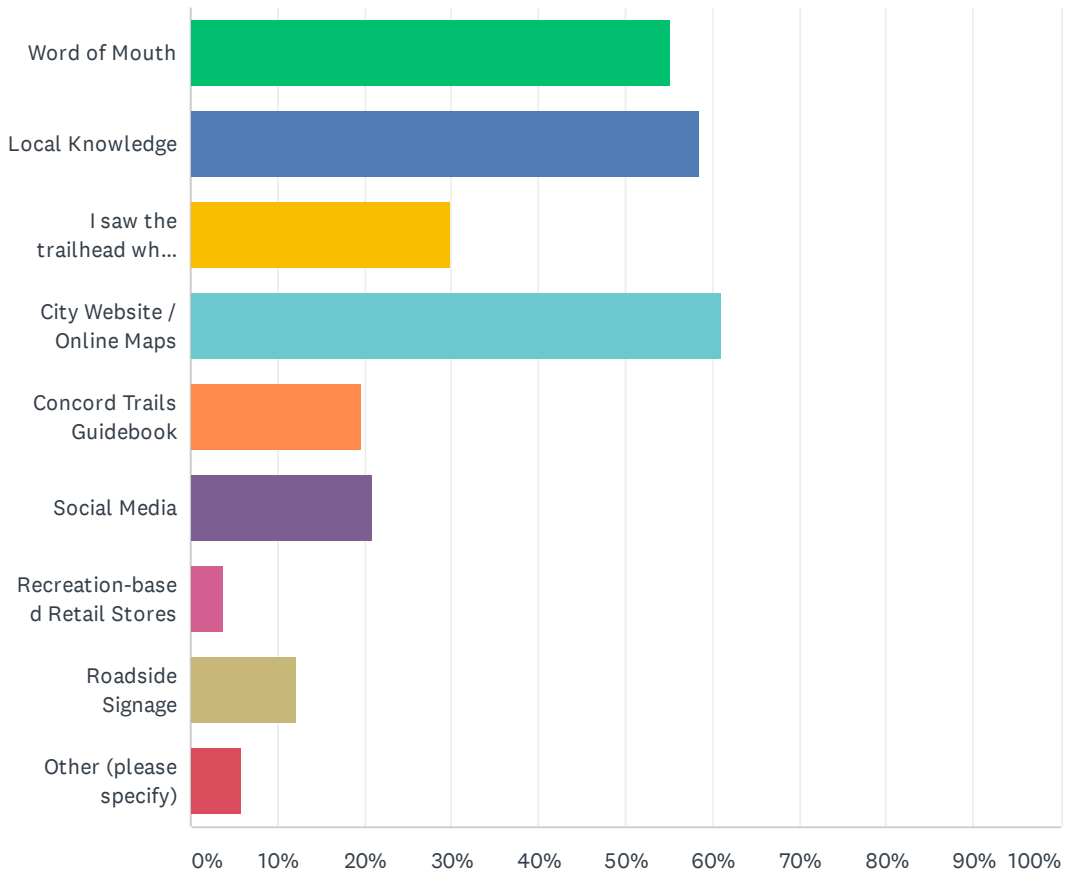


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None - I do not use trails in Concord.	1.92%	10
Exercise	91.94%	479
Recreation	79.46%	414
Socialize	33.01%	172
Dog Walking	40.50%	211
Family Activity	39.35%	205
Commuting or Travel	3.26%	17
Sports	17.27%	90
To enjoy the outdoors/nature	78.31%	408
Foraging	4.61%	24
Other (please specify)	3.65%	19
Total Respondents: 521		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	snowmobiling	3/10/2020 4:41 PM
2	Quiet break in the middle of a work day.	2/28/2020 11:20 AM
3	XC Skiing- ungroomed, going the distance	2/15/2020 10:48 AM
4	Geocaching	2/11/2020 4:33 AM
5	Meditation/Mindful Hiking	2/5/2020 4:57 PM
6	I would love to be able to forage/wildcraft but I thought that wasn't allowed	2/3/2020 1:23 PM
7	Hunting	2/2/2020 8:36 PM
8	relaxation and rejuvenation	2/1/2020 12:39 PM
9	meditation	1/31/2020 5:44 PM
10	To enjoy time riding my horse outside a ring environment and decompress	1/31/2020 6:18 AM
11	Horseback riding	1/30/2020 8:22 PM
12	Hunting	1/30/2020 3:52 PM
13	Photography	1/30/2020 1:18 PM
14	Mountain bike	1/30/2020 9:07 AM
15	Walking meditation	1/29/2020 10:49 PM
16	Geocaching	1/29/2020 10:03 PM
17	Trail Maintenance	1/29/2020 5:52 PM
18	Being out in nature makes for happy, healthy horses.	1/29/2020 2:29 PM
19	Mental well being	1/28/2020 10:03 PM

Q15 How have you found out about the trails? Check all that apply.

Answered: 518 Skipped: 6

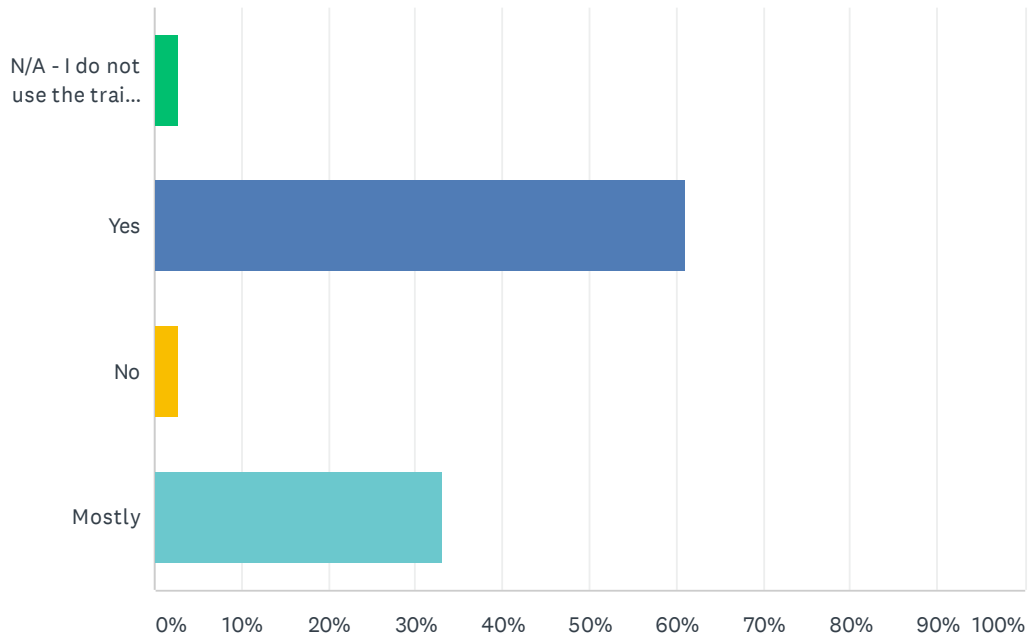


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Word of Mouth	55.21%	286
Local Knowledge	58.49%	303
I saw the trailhead when traveling past	29.92%	155
City Website / Online Maps	61.00%	316
Concord Trails Guidebook	19.69%	102
Social Media	20.85%	108
Recreation-based Retail Stores	3.86%	20
Roadside Signage	12.16%	63
Other (please specify)	5.79%	30
Total Respondents: 518		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Exploring the city	3/31/2020 6:04 PM
2	I'm on the Trails Subcommittee	2/28/2020 4:24 PM
3	local News	2/26/2020 8:35 PM
4	Hike it baby	2/20/2020 7:09 PM
5	various people and organizations	2/17/2020 9:25 AM
6	AMC Guidebooks	2/11/2020 4:33 AM
7	I don't use trails.	2/7/2020 7:59 AM
8	Dumb luck	2/4/2020 5:23 PM
9	Organized walks	2/4/2020 7:29 AM
10	Concord Monitor	2/3/2020 5:36 PM
11	internet search	2/3/2020 1:23 PM
12	Looked them up on Google	2/2/2020 10:55 PM
13	Trails.com	2/2/2020 6:04 AM
14	I have lived here all my life	2/1/2020 8:32 AM
15	Trail running group	1/30/2020 12:35 PM
16	Daughter	1/30/2020 7:13 AM
17	Five Rivers Conservation Trust	1/29/2020 10:49 PM
18	Geocaching data	1/29/2020 10:03 PM
19	Geology hikes & trail running groups	1/29/2020 7:33 PM
20	NEMBA	1/29/2020 5:29 PM
21	Concord Monitor	1/29/2020 3:42 PM
22	Friends sharing	1/29/2020 3:37 PM
23	Equestrian network	1/29/2020 2:29 PM
24	Grew up here and have always used trails, even before they became part of the official city trail system	1/29/2020 2:09 PM
25	The	1/29/2020 12:22 PM
26	Lived near them. Always knew about them	1/29/2020 12:10 PM
27	live next to Mastyards	1/29/2020 11:48 AM
28	Searching online	1/29/2020 10:01 AM
29	Running clubs	1/28/2020 9:58 PM
30	Experience. I have been a Concord trail user for almost 30 years	1/28/2020 8:37 PM

Q16 Do you feel the trails are well maintained?

Answered: 520 Skipped: 4



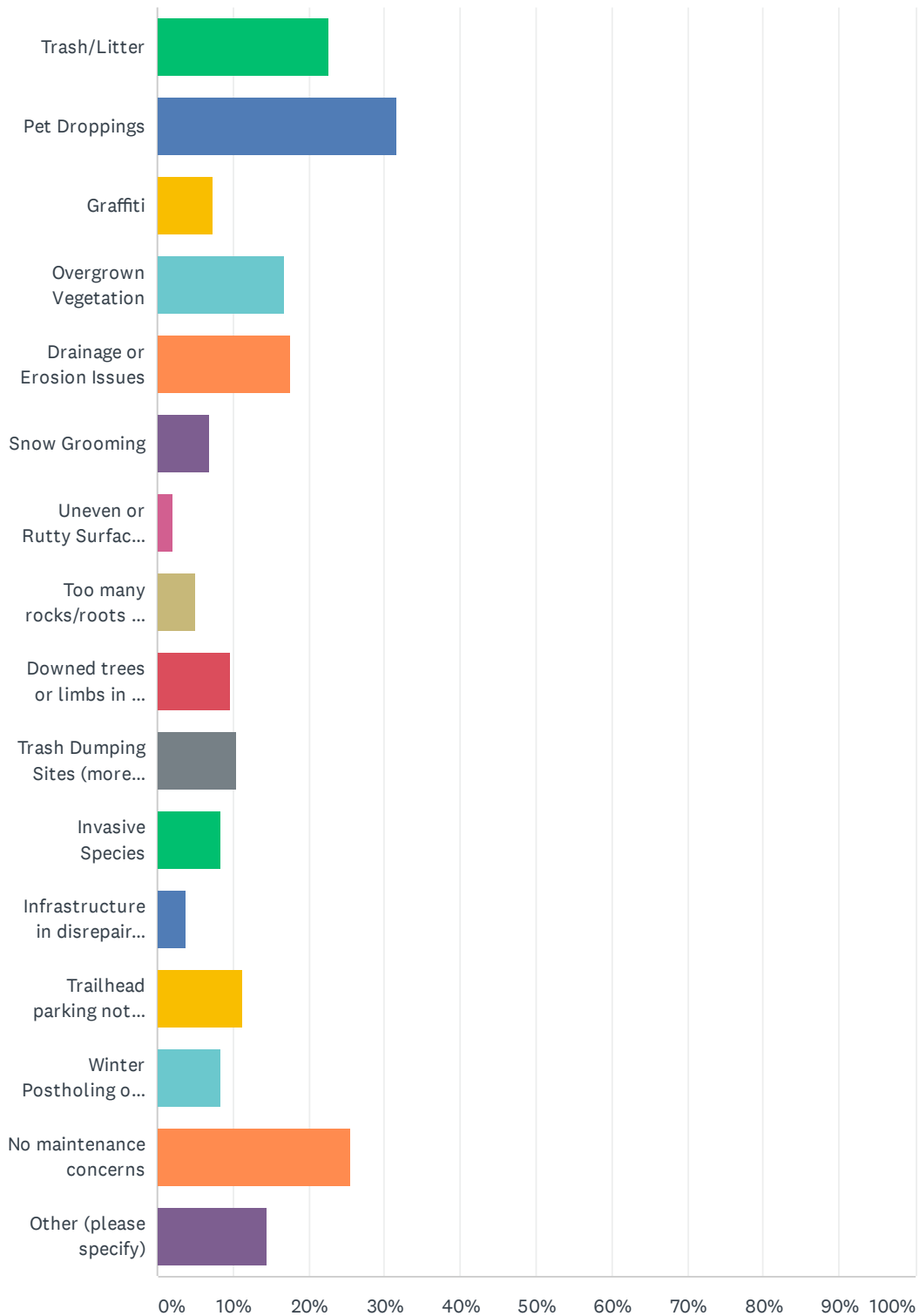
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
N/A - I do not use the trails in Concord	2.69%	14
Yes	61.15%	318
No	2.69%	14
Mostly	33.08%	172
TOTAL		520

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	The Boscawen Town Forest has so much potential but the uneven grassy areas make walking and especially running very tricky especially when the grass is not maintained. Not to mention ticks galore. An actual trail through the grassy farmstead site area would be amazing and we would be happy to volunteer to help build it.	3/27/2020 9:46 PM
2	Sewalls has too many people who don't pick up after their dogs	3/21/2020 1:59 PM
3	If you install water bars, they need to be cleared of leaves at least twice yearly	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
4	I've run into some areas that were very wet and almost unwalkable which could be dangerous..	2/29/2020 7:41 AM
5	I feel carry in carry out including dog waste is an issue at Sewalls Falls Trail and trail heads.	2/26/2020 8:35 PM
6	The trail markers have improved in the last two years and is much appreciated!	2/22/2020 10:16 PM
7	Hard to give a blanket answer bc some of the trails are better shape than others. Not all No, & not all Mostly, so some No, some Mostly.	2/14/2020 12:32 PM
8	There are some that I would use more if they were not so overgrown and one had some homeless camps on them which was scary as a single hiker/jogger	2/13/2020 7:34 PM
9	Some have much better signage than others, and I am much less likely to use the ones with less signage when I'm by myself	2/11/2020 6:06 PM
10	Trash in parking areas	2/10/2020 10:38 AM
11	The park in Penacook tends to have lots of trash by river.	2/7/2020 11:13 AM
12	Boscawen town forest trails were very confusing and incomplete. Every other park in Concord was well marked and maintained.	2/7/2020 11:12 AM
13	Spear Park Trails overgrown and no place to park	2/7/2020 7:53 AM
14	Poorly advertised I don't go on many bc I'm not sure they are safe	2/6/2020 6:30 AM
15	Nearly perfect always; we've used blue bags to clean up trailheads in spring. Volunteers are wonderful!	2/6/2020 1:40 AM
16	There has been wonderful improvement connecting the blazes with the colored maps. I have a Wednesday walking group we have as many as 20+ walking. It would be WONDERFUL if the maps could have some GPS or address to enable people to more easily find the parking areas.	2/5/2020 6:50 PM
17	Some are better maintained and marked than others.	2/5/2020 5:10 PM
18	The autobon trails are always lovely and well kept. However, Sewalls Falls is completely trashed in areas w/ graffiti over signs and monuments, beer cans, last time I walked by myself I saw graffiti w/ and language and hate speech. Last visit was in the late fall of 2019.	2/5/2020 3:56 PM
19	Would be great to to have more trails with smooth good footing for running.	2/4/2020 11:41 AM
20	Some of the trails over nearer to hopkinton have become overgrown and can be very tick hazardous.	2/4/2020 11:04 AM
21	the trails I use, the snowmobile clubs do a great job taking care of the trails when I'm using them	2/3/2020 1:41 PM
22	The effort that gets put into maintaining the trails is quite visible. Thank you.	2/2/2020 8:36 PM
23	You guys do an amazing job on the trails	1/31/2020 8:41 PM
24	Other than the weird tree-hacking incident recently	1/31/2020 3:45 PM
25	There has been a blowdown on the Reserve Place trail for months.	1/31/2020 12:50 PM
26	Very well maintained, Trail damage repaired quickly.	1/31/2020 8:28 AM
27	I maintain trails to help provide a safe environment for users and myself, because of limited resources by the city.	1/30/2020 9:32 AM
28	The one near Oak Hills has constant percussive gunshots nearby Especially in civil rights day weekend. It frightened me away after twenty Five minutes of loud constant gun shots	1/30/2020 6:17 AM

29	People using the trails are respectful. I do not understand why some people leave plastic bags of dog poop on the trail.	1/29/2020 10:49 PM
30	The Oak Hill Trails could use spring time maintenance (raking for example)	1/29/2020 8:02 PM
31	Some areas more than others. It depends which trails.	1/29/2020 3:15 PM
32	Sometimes trees are down for a really long time, but overall the trails are usable and passable.	1/29/2020 2:36 PM
33	Sewalls Falls parking lot needs to be plowed during winter	1/29/2020 12:55 PM
34	Could use more signs and new trails	1/29/2020 8:36 AM
35	Some definitely better maintained than others	1/28/2020 9:37 PM
36	Depends on trail. Lower trafficked trails = less maintained	1/28/2020 9:20 PM
37	Well maintained by the City? No. Well maintained by random hard-working trail users who volunteer their personal time energy and resources? Their efforts are more visible than those of the City.	1/28/2020 8:37 PM

Q17 What maintenance concerns, if any, do you have? Check all that apply and note specific trails in the comments.

Answered: 467 Skipped: 57



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Trash/Litter	22.70%	106
Pet Droppings	31.69%	148
Graffiti	7.28%	34
Overgrown Vegetation	16.70%	78
Drainage or Erosion Issues	17.56%	82
Snow Grooming	6.85%	32
Uneven or Ruddy Surface on Paved Trails	2.14%	10
Too many rocks/roots in unpaved trail	4.93%	23
Downed trees or limbs in the way	9.64%	45
Trash Dumping Sites (more than occasional litter)	10.49%	49
Invasive Species	8.35%	39
Infrastructure in disrepair (kiosk, bridges, boardwalks, signage, benches, etc)	3.85%	18
Trailhead parking not clear	11.35%	53
Winter Postholing or Bare-booting (no Snowshoes)	8.35%	39
No maintenance concerns	25.48%	119
Other (please specify)	14.35%	67
Total Respondents: 467		

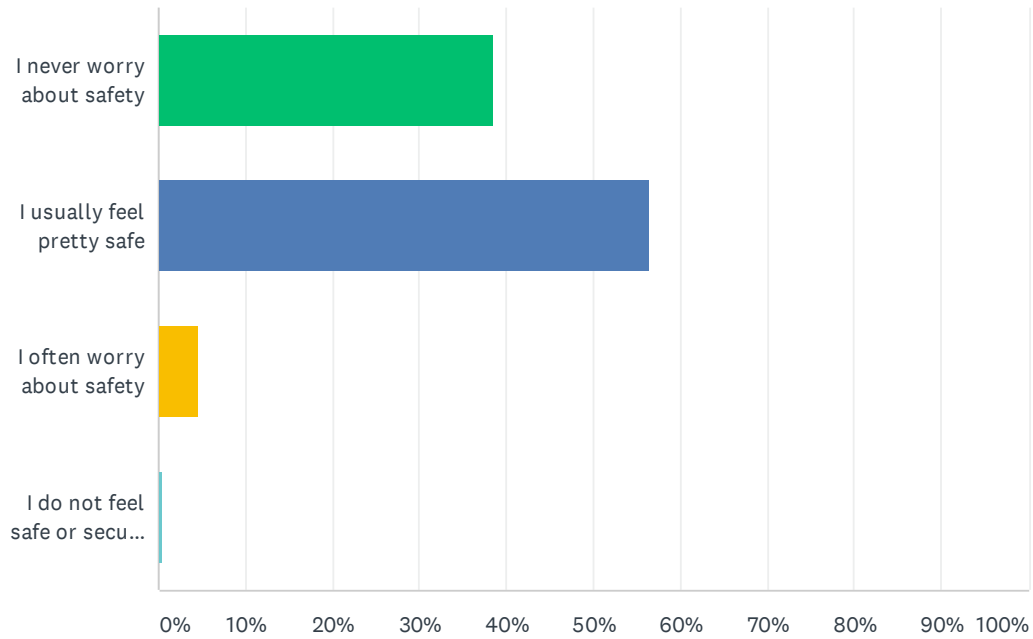
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	Parking at the trailhead can be challenging. And I would like to see trashcans at the trailhead.	4/21/2020 11:26 AM
2	Regular hikers are not consulted when changes are being made. Easy enough using notices and QR codes posted at trailheads.	4/19/2020 11:29 AM
3	The Contoocook River Trails always have a lot of dog poop. The grassy area in the farmstead section of the Boscawen Town forest sucks (ankle breakers!) and some of the trails there are covered in bittersweet but I am aware of the work being done on invasive species there. The Oak Hill Trails are maintained beautifully and it is appreciated!	3/27/2020 9:46 PM
4	would be nice to have abench or 2 along orange trail waterfront at Contookook River	3/21/2020 1:59 PM
5	Water bars need clearing on way to top in Winant Park. Upton Morgan could use some signage love and trash removal from parking lot along with the Fisk Road parking lot.	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
6	safety. More outdoor officers on the trails. Cops Medical Patrols on wheels, ski's etc.	3/5/2020 8:53 PM
7	occasionally trail location and blazes hard to follow	2/29/2020 12:52 AM
8	Winter parking lots not plowed	2/28/2020 6:52 PM
9	I feel carry in carry out including dog waste is an issue at Sewalls Falls Trail and trail heads. Rocks and roots can be an issue on M. Swope trail.	2/26/2020 8:35 PM
10	Thank you for improving the trail markers!	2/22/2020 10:16 PM
11	Unfortunately homeless folks. Probably an unfair fear but that's been a concern	2/13/2020 7:34 PM
12	Signage or arrows to help with solo hikers	2/11/2020 6:06 PM
13	extreme mosquito presence in summer on trails that border the Merrimack River- bordering the highway. Not as much a problem at Sewalls Falls trail. Also the trail up Sanborn Rd. (sorry- don't know the name) was impossibly overgrown and buggy. We abandoned it almost immediately!	2/9/2020 3:18 PM
14	Trails are generally well maintained and not abused by those who use them.	2/7/2020 7:10 PM
15	I don't use trails so can't answer this honestly.	2/7/2020 7:59 AM
16	horse droppings in the middle of the trail, but I know this is being talked about	2/6/2020 6:19 PM
17	Parking lots plowed- specifically Sewell falls	2/6/2020 1:15 PM
18	Homeless people	2/6/2020 6:30 AM
19	Better trail markers	2/5/2020 5:10 PM
20	Really at least on Oak Hill I feel the trails are very well maintained. Yes sometimes after the weekends there may be a little trash & some pet droppings not picked up by regulars. I never hesitate to pick up trash or occasionally remove poop from the trail and bring it down to be properly disposed of.	2/5/2020 4:57 PM
21	See above. Sewalls Falls Has an area that is/was in horrible condition	2/5/2020 3:56 PM
22	Trail marking / labeling. Do not want to get lost.	2/5/2020 12:25 PM
23	Snowmobiles using Trails	2/4/2020 8:43 PM
24	Crime sewall falls in particular and some east Concord trails I no longer use	2/4/2020 5:23 PM
25	none	2/4/2020 3:49 PM
26	Some trails seem to be steadily widening, maybe as bikers look to avoid roots/rocks.	2/4/2020 1:30 PM
27	I only noticed some trailheads not cleared of snow, which is understandable, but disappointing.	2/4/2020 8:03 AM
28	Dog droppings on Sewalls Falls trail	2/3/2020 2:08 PM
29	Poor signage	2/2/2020 4:22 PM
30	Theft from cars at trail heads	2/1/2020 5:29 PM

31	Dog poop is not bad but I do get irritated if others do not clean it off the trails	2/1/2020 8:32 AM
32	homeless camps	1/31/2020 5:44 PM
33	By trash/pet dropping I mean when dog owners bag the dog poop then just leave the bag on the side of the trail	1/31/2020 3:45 PM
34	Dog waste is an increasing problem especially at Winant and Russell Martin	1/31/2020 1:59 PM
35	Horse postholing	1/31/2020 12:50 PM
36	Sewels Falls trail	1/31/2020 12:21 PM
37	Some rocks near Carter Hill WEFT	1/31/2020 11:59 AM
38	Parking areas full on weekends	1/31/2020 8:28 AM
39	The bathrooms at sewalls falls are disgusting	1/30/2020 9:51 PM
40	Rare trash, but I pick it up when I see it. Not too much dog poop, but there should be none	1/30/2020 8:36 PM
41	Memorial Fields trails are not cleared	1/30/2020 6:10 PM
42	All the homeless people killed the trail off of basin st	1/30/2020 3:52 PM
43	slight "postholing" concerns but really I realize it's their right to be out there too, just happens to be inconvenient for me sometimes	1/30/2020 9:54 AM
44	Sometimes the trail paths aren't clear and there is minimal markings for following the trail.	1/30/2020 9:27 AM
45	Dirt road to get to trail is often in rough shape during winter and spring	1/30/2020 8:03 AM
46	Signage	1/30/2020 6:22 AM
47	Men with guns	1/30/2020 6:17 AM
48	Parking areas not plowed in the winter	1/30/2020 5:30 AM
49	Some trails aren't blazed or marked as well.	1/30/2020 5:00 AM
50	Drifters camping	1/30/2020 12:34 AM
51	Unclean toilet facilities at sewall falls	1/29/2020 9:36 PM
52	Inadequate parking	1/29/2020 9:06 PM
53	These apply to the Oak Hill Trails	1/29/2020 8:02 PM
54	Respect of the environment& eco systems.	1/29/2020 7:03 PM
55	Bikes creating ruts and mud, especially at bridges	1/29/2020 3:34 PM
56	Lack of parking sometimes at popular trail heads	1/29/2020 12:22 PM
57	would like to see access to Luti and Lower Trail plowed	1/29/2020 11:48 AM
58	Leash law being followed	1/29/2020 11:48 AM
59	There's often litter left along the route to Daisy Beach from the end of Runnells Road.	1/29/2020 11:42 AM
60	Too many tents	1/29/2020 10:34 AM
61	Trails are very well maintained. Occasional trash on trail 14. Trash dumping, graffiti, and possible drug use at Broken Ground trailhead.	1/29/2020 10:08 AM
62	Dispensers for carry out poop bags should be at trailheads & walking on Beaver Meadow and White farm ski trails	1/29/2020 6:30 AM
63	Arson, camps, illegal activities,	1/29/2020 6:17 AM
64	Broken ground parking lot	1/28/2020 10:17 PM
65	My car was broken into at Marjory swope	1/28/2020 10:16 PM
66	Some trail networks lack signage/blazes and have too many added trails that make the network	1/28/2020 8:50 PM

	confusing	
67	Ticks	1/28/2020 6:37 PM

Q18 How safe and secure do you feel on the Concord trails?

Answered: 516 Skipped: 8



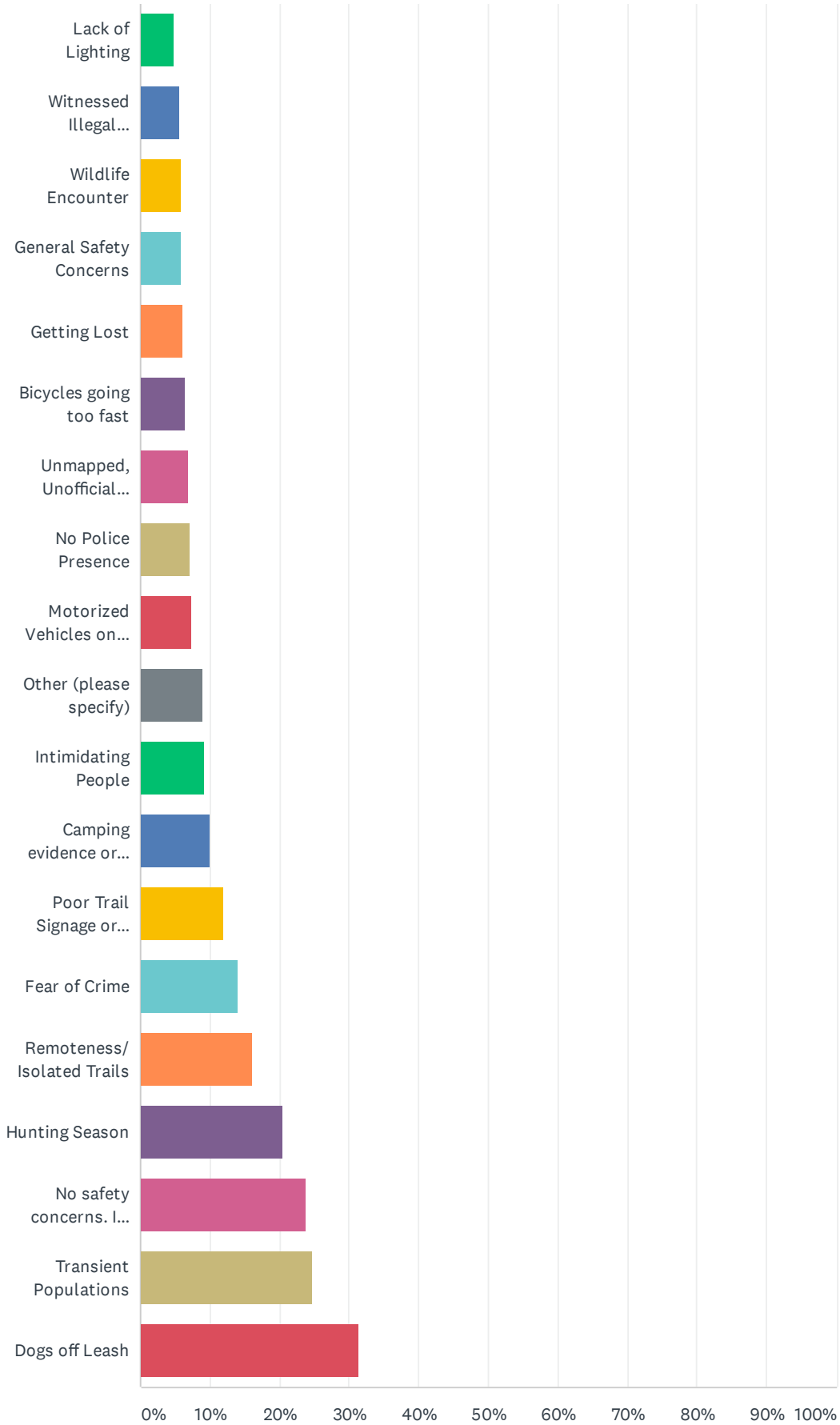
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
I never worry about safety	38.57%	199
I usually feel pretty safe	56.40%	291
I often worry about safety	4.65%	24
I do not feel safe or secure on the trails	0.39%	2
TOTAL		516

#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Unleashed dogs that have no training or social skills.	4/4/2020 8:08 AM
2	Even when meeting homeless people living in the woods.	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
3	More signage as relates to local hunting information would be reassuring	3/6/2020 10:16 AM
4	Depends on trail	2/20/2020 7:09 PM
5	My only concerns come from the many homeless camps though I have seen recent clean up of this in some areas.	2/20/2020 2:20 PM
6	except down near Rossvie trails	2/12/2020 7:12 AM
7	Dogs are loose and bark and threaten	2/8/2020 10:31 AM
8	I have a walking disability. I don't use the trails.	2/7/2020 7:59 AM
9	I feel safer in some areas than others. I have come across graffiti/tagging at Sewalls Falls and had a bear encounter near Carter Hill	2/7/2020 7:53 AM
10	Except on the Rossvie trails when we have been verbally harassed by a neighbor and my young daughter was almost hit by this neighbor when they were speeding down district 5 to tell us where we could not park	2/6/2020 10:34 AM
11	I often alert the Concord police of where we are parking	2/5/2020 6:50 PM
12	However, I am never hiking alone. I am a woman and would not feel safe alone.	2/4/2020 5:32 PM
13	I no longer use some	2/4/2020 5:23 PM
14	I did have my SUV broken into while parking to ride the northern rail trail	2/3/2020 1:41 PM
15	I do carry pepper spray with me, it depends on which trail or area I am in as to how safe I feel	2/3/2020 1:23 PM
16	My car was broken into at Swope. Window smashed.	2/3/2020 6:36 AM
17	I'm with two large protective dogs; pretty sure I'd feel all right otherwise, too, though.	2/2/2020 8:09 PM
18	I usually feel VERY safe, but I can't say I never worry	2/1/2020 12:39 PM
19	Except for when off leash dogs run up to me with no owners in sight...	1/31/2020 3:45 PM
20	Hunting season makes me nervous, even with orange on	1/31/2020 3:16 PM
21	I never walk alone on the trails.	1/31/2020 11:36 AM
22	Have been and witnessed others being harassed from using the WEFT trails. Have also been chased by D5 and nearly hit by the farm owners who chase down other hikers to shout at them and tell them they're on private property.	1/31/2020 11:08 AM
23	I often worry about safety but that's more because I'm a youngish woman alone in the woods without many people around. I rarely see people I'm scared of. I've also had several scary encounters with dogs off lead. I carry pepperspray for both.	1/31/2020 8:20 AM
24	But I'm a male	1/30/2020 8:36 PM
25	I'm usually in a group.	1/30/2020 5:20 PM
26	Sewell Falls Dam attracts some folks that cause me concern for my safety.	1/30/2020 4:49 PM
27	To many homeless people upswing them for camps	1/30/2020 3:52 PM
28	Despite the Rossvie Trail issue, I have never felt unsafe while using the trail system.	1/29/2020 9:54 PM
29	Depends on which trails. I don't feel unsafe on say Marge Swope but def feel unsafe on Sewalls Falls w homeless people	1/29/2020 9:47 PM
30	Dogs off leash are a concern	1/29/2020 9:37 PM
31	Occasionally there are homeless people set up on the Oak Hill trails which can be intimidating.	1/29/2020 9:31 PM
32	On 3 occasions there was a occupied car parked at the Curtisville trailhead..something seemed	1/29/2020 8:56 PM

	sketchy.	
33	Except in late afternoon when I'm by myself.	1/29/2020 5:58 PM
34	I've had a bear rush me on the trails down by horse hill road when I was with my children and it scared the crap out of me	1/29/2020 3:22 PM
35	Personally I never worry however there have been times when my wife and children were uneasy about using trails alone due to homeless people camping.	1/29/2020 1:37 PM
36	On warm summer nights and weekend days, the route to Daisy Beach, from Runnels Road, can feel a little rowdy and less safe. We've arrived at the beach and then immediately left after encountering groups of young people drinking, skinny dipping, and generally acting like they're on private rather than public land. Signs and picnic tables have been vandalized at the beach. We also once came upon what looked to be a quick drug exchange between a male dealer and two women--this was about a mile upriver from the beach, near the metal snowmobile bridge that crosses the Contoocook; they had walked onto the trails from the Horse Hill Road parking area. A related issue: on warm summer nights and weekends, the beach-goers drive recklessly fast on Runnels Road; this has long been a sore point for Runnels Rd residents.	1/29/2020 11:42 AM
37	Homeless encampments detract from trails.	1/29/2020 10:34 AM
38	I feel awful saying this, but just being a female I feel less safe. Additionally, some of our homeless population has encroached on some of these areas and they have become more aggressive when asking for money, food, etc..	1/29/2020 9:22 AM
39	Homeless encampments ie in Langley PKWY tunnel	1/29/2020 6:30 AM
40	Have felt safe on all trails except Rossvie trails which are now closed	1/28/2020 10:52 PM
41	The unfortunate homeless problem has resulted in encampments popping up in random locations, often on or in close proximity to the trails. Often these folks are intoxicated, sometimes carrying a handgun, almost always carrying a knife. No incidents as of yet. Hopefully it will stay that way.	1/28/2020 8:37 PM

Q19 What may make you feel unsafe when you use the trails? Check all that apply and note specific trails in the comments:

Answered: 484 Skipped: 40



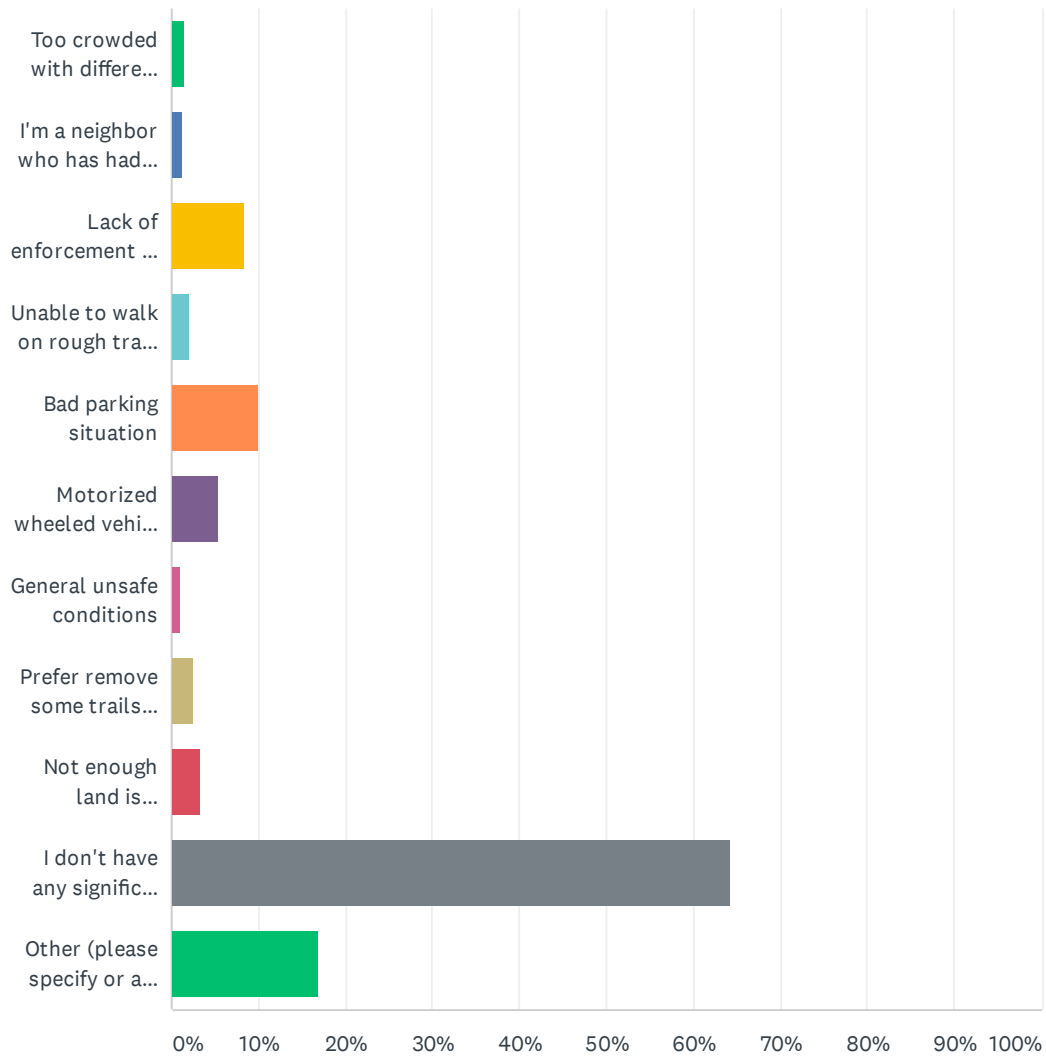
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Lack of Lighting	4.75%	23
Witnessed Illegal Activity	5.58%	27
Wildlife Encounter	5.79%	28
General Safety Concerns	5.79%	28
Getting Lost	5.99%	29
Bicycles going too fast	6.40%	31
Unmapped, Unofficial Trail Pathways	6.82%	33
No Police Presence	7.02%	34
Motorized Vehicles on Trails	7.23%	35
Other (please specify)	9.09%	44
Intimidating People	9.30%	45
Camping evidence or people off-trail	10.12%	49
Poor Trail Signage or Blazing	11.98%	58
Fear of Crime	14.05%	68
Remoteness/ Isolated Trails	16.12%	78
Hunting Season	20.45%	99
No safety concerns. I feel safe.	23.76%	115
Transient Populations	24.59%	119
Dogs off Leash	31.40%	152
Total Respondents: 484		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)	DATE
1	I did have a run in with a not so friendly bow hunting in Walker State Forest	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
2	Fear of hunters and my own insecurities	2/28/2020 6:52 PM
3	overall the trails feel as safe as walking on streets	2/17/2020 9:25 AM
4	Harassment on West End Farm Trails by Owners	2/13/2020 9:15 PM
5	Pet owners at Winant Trails and Conservation Center frequently don't clean up after their dogs and allow dogs off leash	2/13/2020 6:07 AM
6	have encountered, a few times, a hostile landowner on District 5	2/12/2020 7:12 AM
7	However, we have not had extensive experience with trails. We have tended to stick with ones we know and like. The "bug" issues in the summer have kept us from exploring more.	2/9/2020 3:18 PM
8	lack of cellphone coverage in emergency	2/7/2020 11:35 AM
9	A wheelchair.	2/7/2020 7:59 AM
10	Concord Police	2/6/2020 5:21 PM
11	We wear orange often	2/5/2020 6:50 PM
12	Snowmobiles	2/4/2020 8:43 PM
13	Morono Trail (camps), Russel-Martin Trail (evidence of illegal activity)	2/4/2020 4:21 PM
14	Sewells Falls trail has a lot of off leash dogs.	2/4/2020 11:04 AM
15	some dogs, not all dogs/owners are discourteous but there are some and what is really irritating is when they don't clean up after their dog or if they do they just leave the plastic bag laying around	2/3/2020 1:23 PM
16	re off-leash dogs, it's when they're not under control, or worse "Oh it's OK they're friendleeeeeee!" Except mine aren't, so keep yours away. (Mine are leashed. Always.)	2/2/2020 8:09 PM
17	We have a husky with a white tail, I do put blaze on her but worry about hunters	2/2/2020 5:41 PM
18	aggressive and hostile neighbors on District 5 road	2/1/2020 12:39 PM
19	People parking at trailheads and hanging out	1/31/2020 9:30 PM
20	Sewalls Falls	1/31/2020 8:17 PM
21	By checking intimidating people I mean the people whose dogs are off leash and yell at me like it's my fault the dog is running/growling at me...	1/31/2020 3:45 PM
22	Dogs are a constant problem. Running unleashed after hikers and bikers	1/31/2020 1:59 PM
23	Rarely are dogs leashed, some kids are afraid of dogs.	1/31/2020 12:50 PM
24	There are some creepy people on an ATV near Ross View.	1/31/2020 11:59 AM
25	People who knowingly hav an aggressive dog off leash on sepals fall trail. I prefer dogs off leash but if the owner knows the dog is aggressive, they shouldn't walk dog there - especially off leash	1/30/2020 11:15 PM
26	Trails should be posted to have dogs always on a leash!	1/30/2020 8:36 PM
27	Most is just trail etiquette by dog owners, horse back riders and bikers. We need to share. I do all of the above and just walk sometimes. It seems like one type of user is always complaining about another user. We all need to share and not blame an entire group for one person who doesn't follow the etiquette. Eg unleashed dig that doesn't behave. I've seen plenty who are also super behaved and have no problem with them.	1/30/2020 8:22 PM
28	Have witnessed bow hunters hiding in the woods with loaded arrows in park premises on several occasions. I have confronted these individuals.	1/30/2020 9:32 AM
29	Homeless people living out there	1/30/2020 8:03 AM
30	Gunshots	1/30/2020 6:17 AM

31	Being a woman and hiking solo, I have general safety concerns, but I've never had any issues and I hike frequently. One time I did encounter a dog, on leash, but it was very aggressive and owners could barely contain him.	1/30/2020 5:53 AM
32	As a female hiking alone, I think in general most women have security concerns that they are aware of.	1/29/2020 9:10 PM
33	Oak hill	1/29/2020 9:06 PM
34	Mostly dogs off leash	1/29/2020 7:06 PM
35	Generally feel pretty safe	1/29/2020 3:37 PM
36	I honestly get more aggravated with people who do not like dogs - This trail has tons of dogs and my dog is VERY friendly but there are always "haters" walking on the trails..	1/29/2020 3:32 PM
37	Security of vehicles parked in lots without any nearby homes or people to note illicit activity around cars. Remote lots seem to be where car breakins have occurred.	1/29/2020 3:13 PM
38	Rossvie Fram owner swearing and yelling me while biking on the road in front of his house.	1/29/2020 3:13 PM
39	Trail etiquette - we occasionally encounter runners who don't pause or say anything upon approach and it can frighten the horses. A simple pause in motion and a friendly "hello," is all they need to identify the oncoming object as human. Cyclists will also just pass on the way to the trails without saying anything and they startle us which can be dangerous on the road with cars.	1/29/2020 2:29 PM
40	Just being alone sometimes	1/29/2020 1:10 PM
41	People not wearing orange during hunting season	1/29/2020 12:20 PM
42	I have been bitten by dog off leash	1/29/2020 11:48 AM
43	I'm a woman	1/29/2020 10:26 AM
44	Concerned about trailhead of Broken Ground - sometimes people sitting in cars for extended periods for no obvious reason. Trails seem fine there, but the parking area is secluded. Homeless camping and possible illegal activity (drug sales?) at Terrill Park - do not feel safe near the bridge over the river and a little sketchy in the parking area on Old Turnpike Rd.	1/29/2020 10:08 AM

Q20 What are the main concerns you have about trails in Concord? Check all that apply and please note any specific trails in the comments.

Answered: 485 Skipped: 39



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Too crowded with different trail user types	1.44%	7
I'm a neighbor who has had problems with trail users	1.24%	6
Lack of enforcement of laws and trails etiquette	8.45%	41
Unable to walk on rough trail surfaces	2.06%	10
Bad parking situation	10.10%	49
Motorized wheeled vehicle use	5.36%	26
General unsafe conditions	1.03%	5
Prefer remove some trails from Concord's trail system for wildlife habitat or environmental reasons	2.47%	12
Not enough land is available for non-trail recreational purposes	3.30%	16
I don't have any significant concerns	64.33%	312
Other (please specify or add a comment)	16.91%	82
Total Respondents: 485		

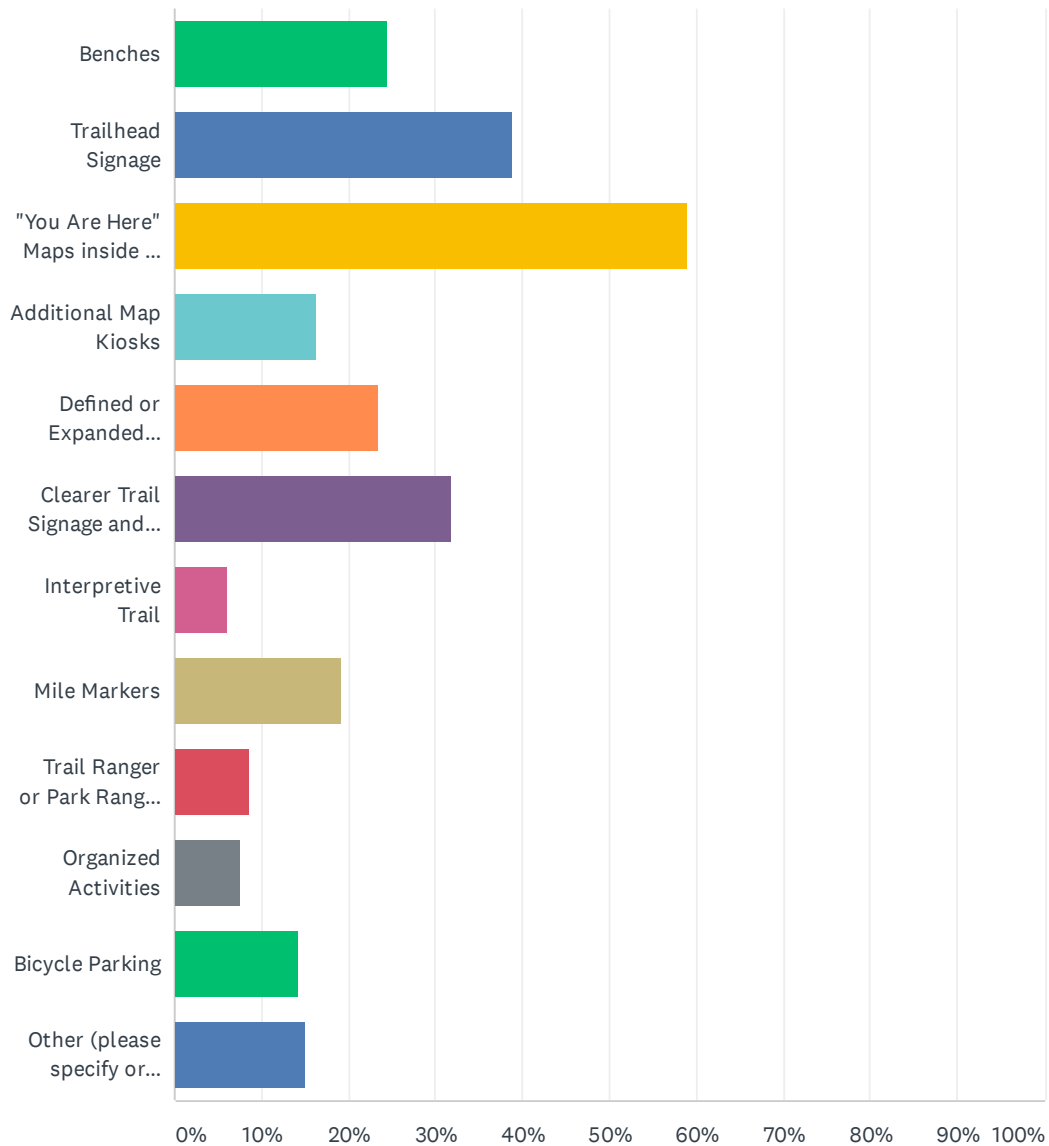
#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY OR ADD A COMMENT)	DATE
1	crowding beginning to be a problem. Changes to Murray' bluff trail made it more popular than the 2 car lot can handle. Not a smart change.	4/19/2020 11:29 AM
2	At currier road	3/31/2020 9:48 AM
3	A lot of unleashed dogs and folks unwilling to leash their dogs when we advise our dog (who is ALWAYS on a leash and normally friendly) isn't always fan of strange dogs getting in her face.	3/27/2020 9:46 PM
4	however, removing trails means others are more crowded.	3/13/2020 5:18 PM
5	lack of motorized summer time usage	3/10/2020 4:41 PM
6	Dogs off leash	3/9/2020 8:36 AM
7	Rogue trail building	3/8/2020 1:24 PM
8	We need more trails and a system that links up the current trails. I love whats been done with the West End Farm trail, along with linking Winant to Swope	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
9	Sewalls falls parking lot not plowed in winter	2/28/2020 6:52 PM
10	Mistreatment of facilities is sad at Sewells Falls trail and Kiwanis Park. I	2/26/2020 8:35 PM
11	There are some popular trail heads where there is not enough parking on weekends	2/24/2020 10:07 PM
12	Camping and homeless population	2/20/2020 7:09 PM
13	We need a handicap accessible, paved trail, like the proposed Merrimack River Greenway Trail	2/20/2020 3:08 PM
14	Map 7 and 8 are badly maintained.	2/18/2020 4:00 PM
15	The closure/break of the West Farm Trail. This is the best long distance XC-ski/walking trail in town. How does 1 person get to ruin it for an entire city? His "property rights" don't balance with the harm done to the rest of the population.	2/15/2020 10:48 AM
16	Don't let anyone take out traiks away or limit our use for multiple purposes	2/13/2020 7:34 PM
17	A few of the best loops are cut off by landowners who have decided no trails near their homes : ((Carter Hill access from Marjory, Walker Woods)	2/12/2020 9:37 PM
18	Being able to access/use with walking/mobility impairments	2/10/2020 1:51 AM
19	no access to toilets. limits amount of time one can spend on a trail. also most are unaccessible unless you have a car to get there.	2/9/2020 3:18 PM
20	Close to highways	2/9/2020 10:37 AM
21	Unruly dogs	2/9/2020 8:29 AM
22	Homeless camps	2/9/2020 6:39 AM
23	Continued access to trail network. I was sad to see the trail closure near district 5 road	2/8/2020 10:00 AM
24	Dogs that jump on me which is an almost everyday occurrence at sewalls falls	2/8/2020 4:34 AM
25	People who don't have control of their dogs	2/7/2020 1:39 PM
26	Where's the railroad trails? We need rails.	2/7/2020 7:59 AM
27	Vandalism/theft at parking areas.	2/7/2020 7:53 AM
28	Oak Hill parking can be problematic	2/7/2020 6:39 AM
29	Seems to be a lot of trash at the trelailhead by Shamut and cemetery st. Parking at Sewells falls in winter is hard sometimes	2/6/2020 1:15 PM
30	Trails are too short	2/6/2020 9:54 AM
31	Born enough connector trails to cover one side to the other in concord it neighboring towns, no clear maps to locate trails	2/6/2020 6:30 AM
32	I'm an avid trail user and appreciate everything about the trails and trail users I encounter.	2/6/2020 1:40 AM

33	Decent parking lots are important to avoid accurately acting the neighborhoods that host the trails.	2/5/2020 5:10 PM
34	Really don't have any significant concerns. Dogs off lead we meet are generally friendly, well behaved. I've gotten to meet and know a number of new people/friends due to their pups	2/5/2020 4:57 PM
35	Huge increase in criminal activity minimal policy coverage and I've never seen cops pride of parking area. Fish and game seldom	2/4/2020 5:23 PM
36	Not a big concern but I think parking opportunities on some trails could be improved.	2/4/2020 11:08 AM
37	Lack of snowmobile access during the winter	2/3/2020 8:02 PM
38	Drug paraphernalia	2/3/2020 8:27 AM
39	There aren't enough trails and the trails we do have don't connect well with one another.	2/2/2020 8:36 PM
40	dog poop and unleashed dogs on Sewalls falls	2/2/2020 5:41 PM
41	Dog poop - need poop bag receptacles & signage	2/2/2020 4:22 PM
42	I think most trail users are respectful. I'd like to see more public parking available. Many trail lots max out of parking and some trails have very little roadside parking.	2/1/2020 12:39 PM
43	Dogs off leash and hunting	1/31/2020 6:13 PM
44	Concord trails and all trails, freaking dog owners need an etiquette class	1/31/2020 3:45 PM
45	Break ins in cars	1/31/2020 3:16 PM
46	Rossvie Farm concerns, see below	1/31/2020 12:50 PM
47	Too bad there is that missing section on the WEFT.	1/31/2020 11:59 AM
48	Blocked west end farm trail	1/31/2020 11:09 AM
49	Lack of paved bike trails & lack of access from trails to water bodies	1/31/2020 9:42 AM
50	New trail Abutters worry about unwanted walkers	1/31/2020 8:43 AM
51	Dog poop at Society for NH Forests and Jim Hill River Walk	1/31/2020 8:28 AM
52	Really the behavior of dogs and their owners is my biggest concern.	1/31/2020 8:20 AM
53	Dogs not on a leash. This should be posted on trail heads, as in the trail guide.	1/30/2020 8:36 PM
54	See content above. We don't need to limit certain users. We need to educate and enforce trail etiquette	1/30/2020 8:22 PM
55	Have certain trails where dogs can be off leash	1/30/2020 5:00 PM
56	Homeless people and all the trash	1/30/2020 3:52 PM
57	People dont leash their dogs	1/30/2020 3:38 PM
58	There's not enough! More trails please!	1/30/2020 12:26 PM
59	I would love to see both more trails and more non-trail options available	1/30/2020 10:04 AM
60	too much publicizing can bring too much traffic which can ruin the trails, either physically or just overcrowding makes them less appealing	1/30/2020 9:54 AM
61	Men shooting off their guns	1/30/2020 6:17 AM
62	Tearing up and widening of the Merono trail is awful! It used to be one of my favorite trails and is now ruined.	1/30/2020 5:30 AM
63	Illegal camping	1/30/2020 12:34 AM
64	I am so appreciative of our trail system. Loop walks are the best. Wish we could get the WEFT open again at District 5 Road. The landowner threatened me before the closed signs were up so I had no idea. I had walked upon the old road from Hopkinton.	1/29/2020 10:49 PM
65	Weekends I avoid the more popular trail networks so as to ride bikes and not disturb families	1/29/2020 9:54 PM

	with young kids or the higher volume of hikers/walkers.	
66	Increase in crime in concord in past decade makes trails feel les safe	1/29/2020 9:47 PM
67	Unfortunately there are some people who think that it's enough to put their dog's poop in a plastic bag, then leave it on the trail. This is worse than just leaving the poo be. Also erosion issues at SPNHF property.	1/29/2020 5:58 PM
68	Concerned with bikes on the trails	1/29/2020 3:38 PM
69	That the city first acts to close down access before considering impact to recreation. A good example is the hundred years of use by residents at the end of Lake Street. Many towns host trails around their resevoirs. We pump water from the Contoocook into it and roads border it, so why work to close of access	1/29/2020 3:13 PM
70	Simple trail etiquette (see above) - more educational than enforcement. We want to share these resources in a way that works for all.	1/29/2020 2:29 PM
71	Dogs running lose	1/29/2020 2:10 PM
72	I don't think trails are YET too crowded, but I worry at some point we will need single use trails	1/29/2020 12:49 PM
73	Trail users should observe laws around littering, drinking, vandalism, starting fires, nudity ... and driving laws as they drive to trail parking areas.	1/29/2020 11:42 AM
74	Most concerned that access will be revoked for various reasons and the network/connections to larger routes and loops will be challenging.	1/29/2020 11:14 AM
75	Concord needs more paved, accessible trails.	1/29/2020 10:34 AM
76	Oak Hill Road parking can only fit two cars.	1/29/2020 10:29 AM
77	Winant and Marjorie Swope have very limited parking	1/29/2020 10:01 AM
78	Need more trails.	1/28/2020 11:24 PM
79	Landowners who are unwilling to work with recreational trail users to make trail systems connect and work for all of us	1/28/2020 10:52 PM
80	The Langley parkway will be expanded.	1/28/2020 10:17 PM
81	I would really love to see more mountain bike specific trails. All trails are great for hiking, running, walking etc but not all are conducive for MTB.	1/28/2020 9:15 PM
82	It is unfortunate that the trail system as it is does not often interconnect with other Concord trail systems, or those of the surrounding towns.	1/28/2020 8:37 PM

Q21 What amenities would you like to see added to some trail areas? Check all that apply and please note any specific trails in the comments.

Answered: 424 Skipped: 100



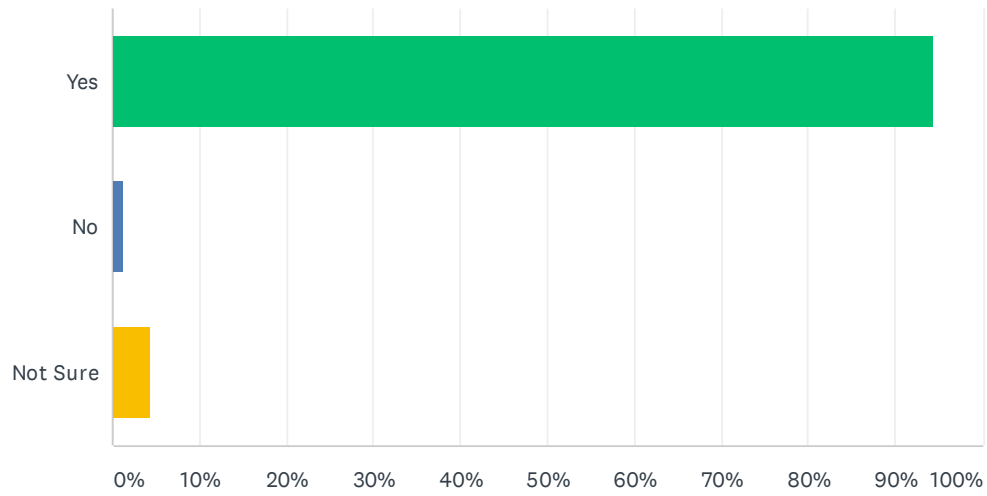
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Benches	24.53%	104
Trailhead Signage	38.92%	165
"You Are Here" Maps inside the Trail Systems	58.96%	250
Additional Map Kiosks	16.27%	69
Defined or Expanded Parking	23.35%	99
Clearer Trail Signage and Blazes	31.84%	135
Interpretive Trail	6.13%	26
Mile Markers	19.34%	82
Trail Ranger or Park Ranger Presence	8.49%	36
Organized Activities	7.55%	32
Bicycle Parking	14.15%	60
Other (please specify or leave a comment)	15.09%	64
Total Respondents: 424		

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY OR LEAVE A COMMENT)	DATE
1	I kind of wish there were some longer trails! Oak Hills is great but a lot of other areas the trails are very short!	3/27/2020 9:46 PM
2	MORE TRAILS	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
3	More rentals for various activities throughout the year - better access to maps i.e. an digital app or adding trails to other apps that have hiking trails.	2/29/2020 7:41 AM
4	restrooms or outhouses	2/29/2020 12:52 AM
5	We need a handicap accessible, paved trail, like the proposed Merrimack River Greenway Trail	2/20/2020 3:08 PM
6	Restroom facilities! I'm not sure how this would be controlled to be sure of proper use but maybe a park pass with a bar code to scan and open the door ☐♀ I'd pay!!	2/20/2020 2:20 PM
7	all above might be nice to have but I don't miss them	2/17/2020 9:25 AM
8	Seasonal ports potties for well used trails	2/14/2020 1:53 PM
9	Better signage at Whites Farm trails behind the track	2/11/2020 6:06 PM
10	More XC skiing and trail running terrain	2/9/2020 7:03 PM
11	shuttle service between trails or to some central location- like downtown - or East side- Heights - Memmorial Park?	2/9/2020 3:18 PM
12	Glades for skiing	2/8/2020 1:59 PM
13	More parking at Marjorie swipe!	2/7/2020 11:12 AM
14	Dry white wine at the trailhead.	2/7/2020 7:59 AM
15	Trash bins at parking sites -- either overflowing, or not present	2/6/2020 8:48 AM
16	I aspire to leave the trails better than I found them. I don't need more amenities; the more natural the trails, the better experience I have.	2/6/2020 1:40 AM
17	Really I think Concord has done a good job. Sometimes maybe too good a job. Sometimes I like to leave what mother nature has dropped across a trail to make it a little more challenging.	2/5/2020 4:57 PM
18	Nature information on trailhead kiosks. Not just beware of ticks.	2/5/2020 12:39 PM
19	Oak Hill Rd trailhead parking.	2/4/2020 5:32 PM
20	Law enforcement. Your trails are no longer safe as they were a decade ago	2/4/2020 5:23 PM
21	Plowing the larger parking areas in winter	2/3/2020 2:08 PM
22	more consideration for handicapped walkers. They like to walk and enjoy nature too, but can't walk as fast or need to sit sometimes, so more benches or wider spots to stand to the side to let others by. Impatient people try to push by slower walkers where there isn't much room. Sometimes people want to just meander rather than walk quickly so they can enjoy the scenery around the trail.	2/3/2020 1:23 PM
23	I generally prefer the trails to be distinct, yet rather rustic with few amenities.	2/2/2020 8:36 PM
24	Not sure if it would make things better or worse to have more trash receptacles. I carry-in/carry-out but see quite a few dog waste bags.	2/2/2020 8:09 PM
25	less rocks on Winant, only went once as it was too rocky	2/2/2020 5:41 PM
26	Cohesive downloadable map; what I have found are single maps	2/1/2020 6:08 PM
27	I like them the way they are	2/1/2020 1:24 AM
28	Trash cans at the parking lots	1/31/2020 9:41 PM
29	Trash barrels at the parking or start of trail	1/31/2020 3:49 PM
30	Trail grooming for winter biking.	1/31/2020 12:50 PM
31	Portapotties	1/31/2020 8:20 AM

32	Trash cans in a few spots	1/30/2020 11:15 PM
33	Waste drop stations and water stations at various points on trails	1/30/2020 9:51 PM
34	More view /mountain maps to identify mountains seen from trails	1/30/2020 8:36 PM
35	Good signage, good trail markings! Nice job!!	1/30/2020 8:36 PM
36	I prefer nature, unadulterated. Would love clearer posted prohibitions against piling up rocks and geocaching/letterboxing!	1/30/2020 6:58 PM
37	I'm in a Thursday hiking group and hike all over. Concord trails are great.	1/30/2020 5:20 PM
38	I like the signa with explanations at Winant Park.	1/30/2020 5:53 AM
39	Better policing of trailheads. I have had my car broken into, and items stolen.	1/30/2020 5:00 AM
40	None	1/29/2020 11:31 PM
41	Porta potty.	1/29/2020 9:50 PM
42	Trash barrels for dog refuse	1/29/2020 9:47 PM
43	Nothing! Love them	1/29/2020 9:31 PM
44	Oak hill, white farm	1/29/2020 9:06 PM
45	Oak Hill is my favorite and I have red lined it BUT frequently wish I had a you are here point on occasion.	1/29/2020 7:33 PM
46	Signs describing history	1/29/2020 3:42 PM
47	Gte unlimited access to teh Ross trails since we paid an ungodly amount and it would take away one of his forums for arguing in life.	1/29/2020 3:13 PM
48	Use signs that show the different activities going on so those using the trails know they might encounter horses. Signs at the entrance with brochures that explain trail etiquette for horses (Horse Hill Nature Preserve in Merrimack has a nice kiosk and brochure information for those on the trails).	1/29/2020 2:29 PM
49	Trash cans for dog waste	1/29/2020 2:10 PM
50	Trash receptacles	1/29/2020 12:55 PM
51	more formal mountain bike trails	1/29/2020 12:49 PM
52	Bicycle repair stations	1/29/2020 12:20 PM
53	Historic or cultural information	1/29/2020 12:01 PM
54	I would love to help create "River Trails" on Contoocook and Merrimack	1/29/2020 11:48 AM
55	Motor vehicle trails	1/29/2020 10:17 AM
56	Suggest adding trailheads/access points to Google Maps so they are easier to find.	1/29/2020 10:08 AM
57	Dispensers for carry out dog poop bags	1/29/2020 6:30 AM
58	Trails available through easy apps and gis presence	1/29/2020 6:17 AM
59	No specifics	1/29/2020 5:53 AM
60	None	1/29/2020 5:03 AM
61	Dog waste bags	1/28/2020 10:16 PM
62	Would like more mountain biking specific trails like Rys way at broken ground	1/28/2020 8:50 PM
63	Garbage cans at designated parking areas -Winant, Swope	1/28/2020 8:47 PM
64	Handouts, posted reminders, or educational events to improve trail etiquette	1/28/2020 8:37 PM

Q22 Do you support the City of Concord developing and promoting more trails and trail systems when the opportunities arise?

Answered: 519 Skipped: 5



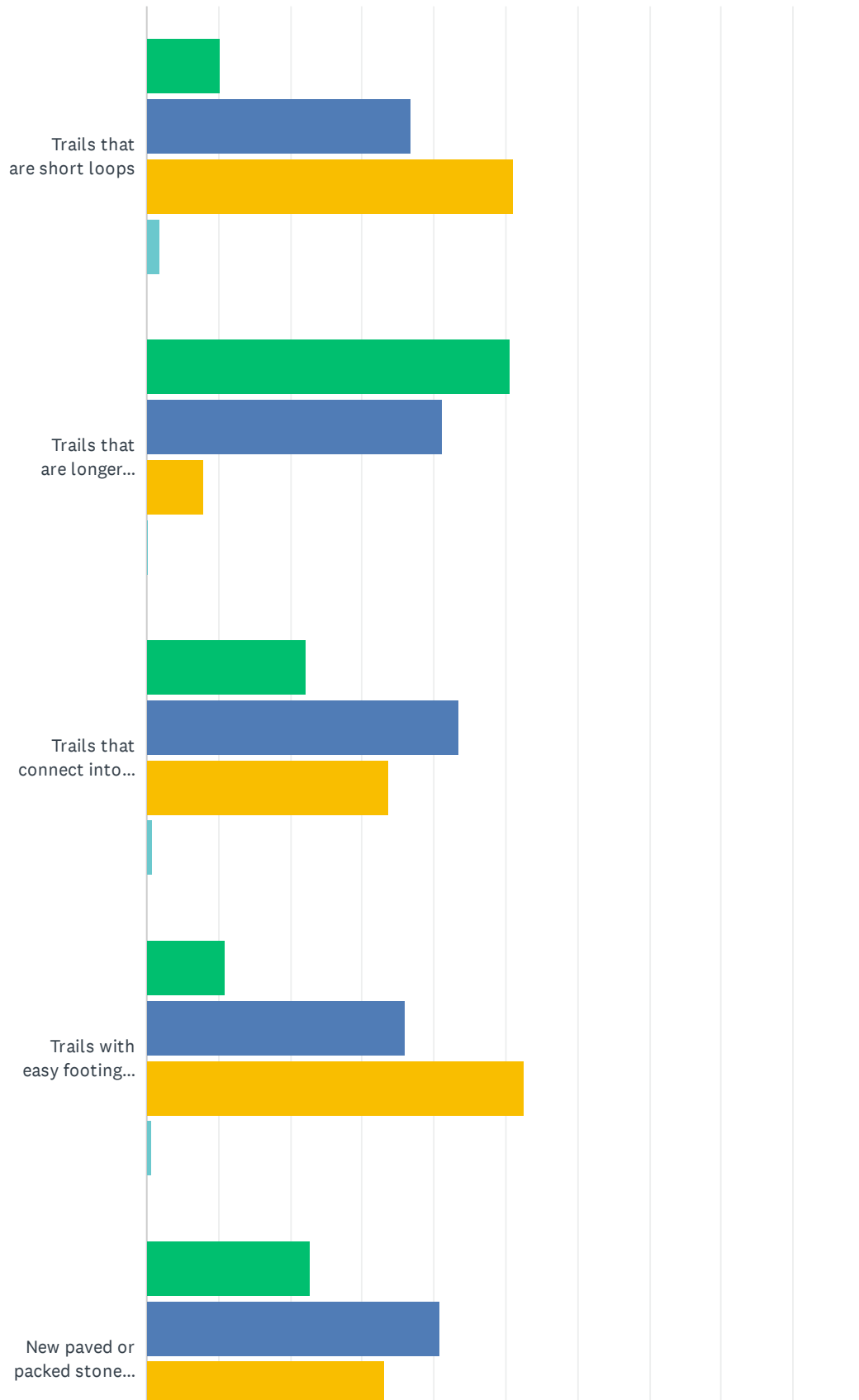
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	94.41%	490
No	1.16%	6
Not Sure	4.43%	23
TOTAL		519

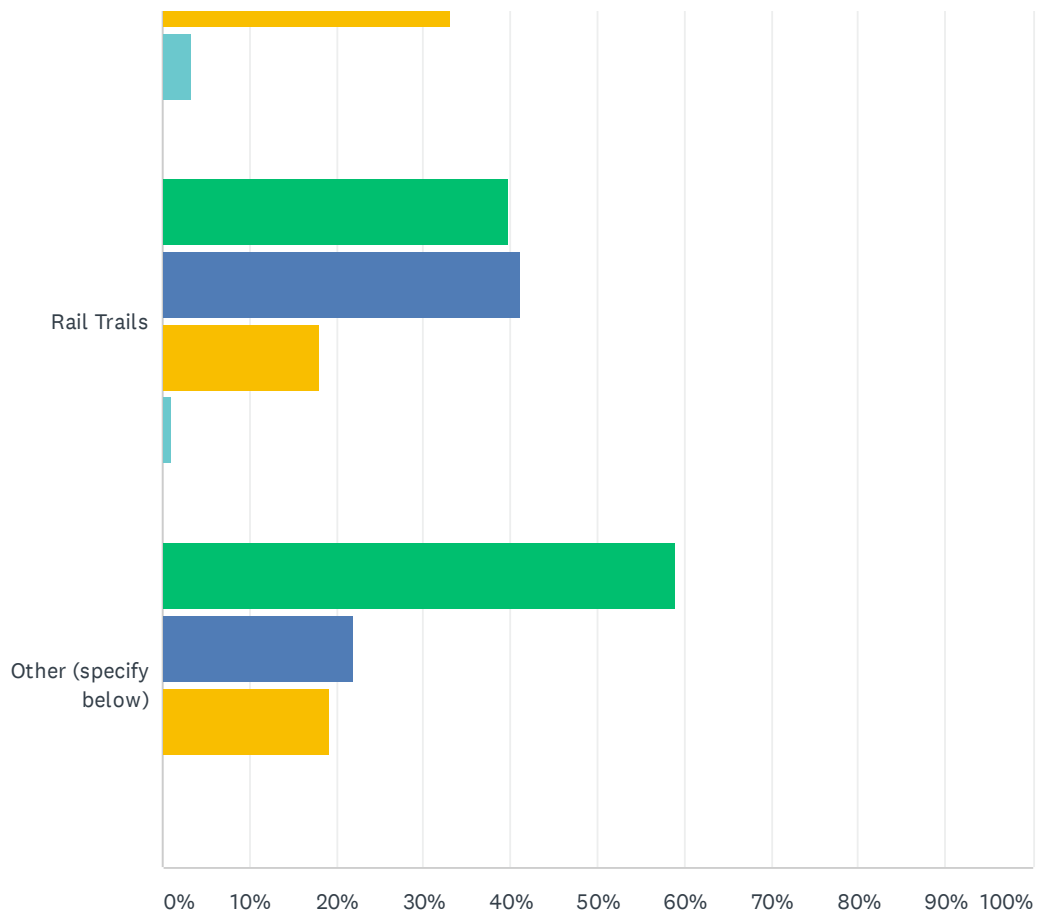
#	COMMENTS	DATE
1	Approve of more conservation land. Do not need more trails on existing land.	4/25/2020 10:28 AM
2	Connect to the Northern Rail Trail in Boscawen	4/13/2020 8:23 AM
3	My property abuts the spears park trails. I wish we could expand/maintain the lesser used/undeveloped section of forest	4/4/2020 8:08 AM
4	Definitely!!!	3/27/2020 9:46 PM
5	Sometimes preserved land needs to remain unused by people	3/13/2020 5:18 PM
6	We need more trails. This is a great city with easy access to recreation. Let's keep it going!	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
7	I love Concord's trail system, but I believe some conserved lands should be left without trails for ecological values.	2/29/2020 7:59 PM
8	only if wild life corridors are not compromised	2/28/2020 4:24 PM
9	Concord has a number of trails now. I am unsure more are needed. I do favor connection of trails along the Merrimack River between Manchester Street, Loudon.Road,	2/26/2020 8:35 PM
10	We need a handicap accessible, paved trail, like the proposed Merrimack River Greenway Trail	2/20/2020 3:08 PM
11	we travel alot and local trails across the country are a great asset	2/17/2020 9:25 AM
12	absolutely!	2/14/2020 6:42 PM
13	Concern about more than enough trails now, that are difficult to maintain due in part to users frequent violations of basic trail etiquette, eg, litter, off leash dogs, and veering off trails creating deadends and/or unofficial trails that pose risks to environment, wildlife habitat, wetlands etc. It makes more sense to use some land for agricultural purposes when opportunities to rise especially now with focus on eating local, homelessness and hunger in the Greater Concord area.	2/14/2020 12:32 PM
14	Yes!!! Huge attraction	2/13/2020 7:34 PM
15	Make them multi-use. Keep open for hunting.	2/11/2020 9:54 PM
16	Not in place or instead of reactivation of commuter rail	2/11/2020 4:33 AM
17	Better Use of Dormand Railroad with rail/track retention	2/10/2020 1:51 AM
18	We are fortunate to have these resources	2/7/2020 7:10 PM
19	Please more trails! Connect the Norther Rail Trail to Concord	2/6/2020 10:55 PM
20	Trails are awesome! Please add more:)	2/6/2020 9:51 PM
21	Please do!!! I'll help!!! So great for the kids and family to Be out in nature, schools should utilize them more in field trips!	2/6/2020 6:30 AM
22	The more, the better. I'm SO sorry the the Carter Hill Connector/Rossvie trail is closed off!	2/6/2020 1:40 AM
23	Though I wish Oak Hill was a little less promoted it gets pretty busy out there on weekends.	2/5/2020 4:57 PM
24	User monitary donations to support trail maintenance.	2/5/2020 12:25 PM
25	YOU can't even provide police coverage for what you have	2/4/2020 5:23 PM
26	but not at the expense of trail maintenance	2/4/2020 4:21 PM
27	Absolutely!	2/3/2020 2:08 PM
28	Pumptrack for kids and adults to encourage biking	2/2/2020 9:28 PM
29	I'm a strong supporter of a diverse and extensive trail network in Concord	2/2/2020 8:36 PM
30	I like the interconnected trails	2/1/2020 6:08 PM
31	The robust trail system is one of the things that makes Concord a great place to live!	2/1/2020 12:39 PM
32	It depends on the impact on wildlife and keeping over-development at bay.	1/31/2020 6:13 PM

33	But don't promote to irresponsible dog owners!!	1/31/2020 3:45 PM
34	Yes, this is why I moved to Concord	1/31/2020 1:59 PM
35	Start linking them together, turn snowmobile corridors into City trails.	1/31/2020 12:50 PM
36	I think Concord's trail system is model for other communities.	1/31/2020 8:28 AM
37	If properly planned and maintained	1/30/2020 9:21 PM
38	I do, but I don't want to see them become so popular that they become crowded! I like remoteness.	1/30/2020 7:57 PM
39	Yes and yes! Having an expansive trail system attracts people. Concord is a city but feels very rural with the help of these wonderful trails. More connected trails would be wonderful!	1/30/2020 7:17 PM
40	If it can be used for 4 wheelers and snowmobiles in the winter only and for hunting	1/30/2020 3:52 PM
41	Always. More connected trail systems would be great.	1/29/2020 9:10 PM
42	Absolutely!!	1/29/2020 9:08 PM
43	So long as the expansion is responsible and respectful of wildlife	1/29/2020 8:25 PM
44	Would love additional rec opportunities, but some land should stay undeveloped!	1/29/2020 5:58 PM
45	Concord has a lot of trails. Are more needed, or should more trails be developed in neighboring towns?	1/29/2020 3:49 PM
46	I love our multiple trails! Well done!	1/29/2020 3:38 PM
47	It seems that Concord has many miles of trails and would like to see efforts put into maintaining and improving the current trails.	1/29/2020 2:36 PM
48	we have 83 miles of trails, lets make them better not just more of them. Not everyone wants a 20 mile trek through the woods.	1/29/2020 2:09 PM
49	The city should develop and maintain designated glades for skiing and snowboarding	1/29/2020 12:20 PM
50	More rail trails and bike paths please.	1/29/2020 12:01 PM
51	Enthusiastically!	1/29/2020 11:42 AM
52	Absolutely! Live eight along Morono Park Trail and would love to see that connect to another trail heading towards downtown Concord reacher than end at the prison property. Whatever Concord can do to connect extend the Northern Rail Trail south of the Hannah Dustin Park n Ride would be fantastic!	1/28/2020 9:37 PM
53	Yes, but maintain well what we already have before prioritizing adding more	1/28/2020 8:50 PM

Q23 What types of trails would you like to see in Concord?

Answered: 511 Skipped: 13





■ Very high priority for these trails!
 ■ Want more trails like these
■ We have just enough of these trails
 ■ Remove some existing trails

	VERY HIGH PRIORITY FOR THESE TRAILS!	WANT MORE TRAILS LIKE THESE	WE HAVE JUST ENOUGH OF THESE TRAILS	REMOVE SOME EXISTING TRAILS	TOTAL	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Trails that are short loops	10.25% 45	36.90% 162	51.03% 224	1.82% 8	439	0.56
Trails that are longer distance and connect to other trail networks and parks	50.62% 246	41.15% 200	8.02% 39	0.21% 1	486	1.42
Trails that connect into my neighborhood	22.11% 88	43.47% 173	33.67% 134	0.75% 3	398	0.87
Trails with easy footing or gentle slope	10.87% 46	35.93% 152	52.48% 222	0.71% 3	423	0.57
New paved or packed stone dust trails that are accessible to strollers, wheelchairs, bicycles, and walking	22.80% 96	40.86% 172	33.02% 139	3.33% 14	421	0.83
Rail Trails	39.68% 175	41.27% 182	17.91% 79	1.13% 5	441	1.20
Other (specify below)	58.90% 43	21.92% 16	19.18% 14	0.00% 0	73	1.40

#	OTHER	DATE
1	Snowmobile, ATV, Trail Bike	3/31/2020 6:04 PM
2	More long loops!! Loops are so fun so you don't have to double back! I would love to volunteer if you need anyone!	3/27/2020 9:46 PM
3	snowmobile and summer motorized vehicles	3/10/2020 4:41 PM
4	More mountain bike trails. Would love to see a connection between the West End Farm trail/Audubon trails to the Bow town trails.	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
5	Road bike lanes on major routes that form city circuits for transit/recreational riding	3/6/2020 10:16 AM
6	Historical trail signage	2/28/2020 6:52 PM
7	Recreation parks downtown	2/20/2020 7:09 PM
8	We need a handicap accessible, paved trail, like the proposed Merrimack River Greenway Trail	2/20/2020 3:08 PM
9	Overall, I think Concord has more trails that it can maintain, and should consider removing some existing trails to allow for better maintenance of popular existing trails and improving/extending those with an eye to variety as suggested above, eg, rail trails, paved/packed stone dust	2/14/2020 12:32 PM
10	Glades for backcountry skiing	2/13/2020 7:34 PM
11	ski trails	2/11/2020 1:42 PM
12	Nemba built trails	2/9/2020 6:53 PM
13	Longer trails with more significant mileage	2/8/2020 9:17 PM
14	Difficult trails for running and hiking	2/8/2020 1:59 PM
15	Rail trails	2/6/2020 10:55 PM
16	longer loops	2/6/2020 8:48 AM
17	I think a few challenging hikes in concord is enough most trails should be accessible to the masses kids and families easy hikes and wide paths some paved paths would be awesome too	2/6/2020 6:30 AM
18	Might be nice to have some trails that are steeper and a bit more challenging.	2/5/2020 4:57 PM
19	Trail or routes to interconnect existing trails. Continuous loop around town.	2/5/2020 12:25 PM
20	Police presence is long overdue	2/4/2020 5:23 PM
21	snowmobile trails	2/4/2020 12:23 PM
22	Pumptrack bike park	2/2/2020 9:28 PM
23	Continuing enthusiastic support for Merrimack River Greenway Trail!	2/2/2020 8:09 PM
24	Avoid single use type trails, all trails should be multipurpose and bridge crossings wide enough for safe travel for multiple uses.	2/1/2020 6:04 PM
25	Mountain Biking	2/1/2020 5:29 PM
26	Impatiently waiting for a rail trail from Sewalls Falls to downtown Concord	1/31/2020 9:41 PM
27	accessible for wheelchair	1/31/2020 8:41 PM
28	Mountain bike trails so I don't have to drive to Franklin	1/31/2020 4:48 PM
29	Finish and publicize a rail trail from Boscawen to the former train station	1/31/2020 12:50 PM
30	Wheel chair stone dust trails	1/31/2020 8:28 AM
31	More Mountain Bike Trails	1/30/2020 7:56 PM
32	Snowmobiles and four wheelers for ice fishing. Bring more people in to spend money	1/30/2020 3:52 PM
33	More "singletrack" trails for walking, dog walking, hiking and mountain biking	1/30/2020 12:26 PM

34	Bike paths	1/30/2020 6:22 AM
35	Longer, hilly trails.	1/30/2020 5:00 AM
36	River trail	1/29/2020 11:31 PM
37	Connections to the northern rail trail and sunapee rail trail	1/29/2020 9:39 PM
38	I'm in favor of additional trails, provided that consideration is given to wildlife, trails are designed to be low-impact, and installed in/adjacent to previously developed areas.	1/29/2020 5:58 PM
39	Specific "dog walking" trails with a possible "dog play area".	1/29/2020 3:32 PM
40	Mountain Bike Specific trails	1/29/2020 1:37 PM
41	Trails with views like marjory swoop	1/29/2020 12:55 PM
42	Mountain bike specific trails (that are sanctioned and signed)	1/29/2020 12:49 PM
43	designated mtn bike trails and skiing trails	1/29/2020 12:20 PM
44	downhill ski trail or glade	1/29/2020 12:01 PM
45	as stated above, "River" trails	1/29/2020 11:48 AM
46	Motorized vehicle trails	1/29/2020 10:17 AM
47	The more the systems can be connected the better for mountain bikers and ultrarunners like myself.	1/29/2020 9:14 AM
48	Trails built for mountain biking	1/29/2020 9:08 AM
49	Mountain bike trails single track	1/29/2020 7:22 AM
50	Trails with berms and jumps.	1/29/2020 6:44 AM
51	Connections to schools parks neighborhoods and shops	1/29/2020 6:17 AM
52	Mountain bike trails	1/29/2020 5:53 AM
53	Mountain bike trails	1/29/2020 5:52 AM
54	Mountain biking trials	1/29/2020 5:38 AM
55	Concerned about land at Rossvie. Trying to understand why there is a conservation easement but the trails are closed.	1/28/2020 10:17 PM
56	More trails for mountain bikes	1/28/2020 10:05 PM
57	Mountain bike specific trails	1/28/2020 10:01 PM
58	The trail at NH Audubon are fantastic for young kids- many of the Hike air Baby groups use these trails, but lack many other options with shorter loops for taking young kids into the woods.	1/28/2020 9:58 PM
59	Singletrack cycling trails	1/28/2020 9:55 PM
60	Trails with access to bodies of water for hiking/fishing	1/28/2020 9:20 PM
61	MTB!!	1/28/2020 9:15 PM
62	Mountain bike specific trails	1/28/2020 8:55 PM
63	Mountain biking specific trails	1/28/2020 8:50 PM
64	Snow grooming for fat biking along with XC ski grooming, or allow fat biking at currently groomed Concord locations	1/28/2020 8:47 PM
65	Directional flow trails for mountain bikes	1/28/2020 8:37 PM
66	Mountain bike specific trails separate from the most heavily used waking trails	1/28/2020 6:43 PM

Q24 If you would like to remain informed about the Concord Trails Master Plan, please leave your contact information here.

Answered: 228 Skipped: 296

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	99.12%	226
Email Address	100.00%	228

Q25 Please leave any other comments about the City's trails. It helps if you can be specific about which trails you're commenting on.

Answered: 139 Skipped: 385

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	East Concord trails. Primarily batchelder, broken ground and heritage. Great resources. My concerns with trash are due to what I've seen on batchelder including one old trash dump area along the river.	4/25/2020 10:28 AM
2	Thank yall for all you do.	4/21/2020 11:26 AM
3	Really disappointed with community engagement efforts. This survey is a step in the right direction. But even this, as with many of the methods employed in the past, is passive method of engagement. Meaning I had to stumble upon this survey and now if a public meeting happens, I have to go to your meeting. Better to meet hikers (or bikers) where they are. QR codes posted at trailheads leading to surveys can be a good, cheap method. Interns talking to people on trails is another option. Biking groups like granite state wheelman are even easier to connect with. Please don't over connect with bikers over-valuing their input as there are more hikers than bikers on our trails.	4/19/2020 11:29 AM
4	I would personally love to see the City of Concord connected to the Northern Rail Trail's southern terminus in Boscawen. Connected trail systems offer the most to all users, whatever their modus of getting from one place to the other and for whatever reason, recreation, alternative transportation etc.	4/13/2020 8:23 AM
5	People complain about everything. Landowners should help out and open up their property, instead of posting it. They move up from Mass., then they complain and try to change NH into Mass. Let's prevent this from continuing to happen.	3/31/2020 6:04 PM
6	The maps are fantastic. When we first moved here from CT three years ago we really missed the trails we visited daily but the maps helped us find some decent spots.	3/27/2020 9:46 PM
7	It would be great to have someplace to walk near downtown that was not tar/concrete.	3/21/2020 1:59 PM
8	Would like Morono park to be longer or a loop. Merrill Park trail needs signs directing the walker through the park.	3/13/2020 5:18 PM
9	would be interested in helping on developing and maintaining trail systems	3/10/2020 4:41 PM
10	The trails are wonderful, my favorite part of living here, thank you very much.	3/9/2020 8:36 AM
11	I love the new Ry's Way trail at Broken Ground. Central NH NEMBA builds great trails. Let them build and people will come. We need mountain biking trail networks of at least 20 miles to attract visitors from out of town. I invited people on a ride this summer that made a loop from Winant to Swope to West End Farm trail (with a snack stop at Dimond Hill Farm) to St. Paul trails. We plan on making it an annual outing! Sad to see the closing of the trail in Walker State Forest. I have ridden this trail since I moved here in 1998. Keep up the good work.	3/6/2020 12:25 PM
12	I'm not a resident of Concord, but of Chichester. I do use Concord's trails quite a bit; they are a great resource. Thank you for all the work you do.	3/4/2020 9:43 AM
13	I love the trails so much. I moved here from Washington, DC three years ago and I love hiking and walking the trails all spring and summer. They are one of the reasons why I love Concord.	2/29/2020 7:41 AM
14	Love the city trail system and volunteers who make this possible! Thank you!	2/28/2020 6:52 PM
15	Overall I am pleased with the City's trails.	2/26/2020 8:35 PM
16	Concord's trails are a tremendous asset for the City!	2/24/2020 10:07 PM
17	I strongly support the proposed Merrimack River Greenway Trail and the conversion of the abandoned PamAm Railway to a Rail Trail!	2/20/2020 3:08 PM
18	Please invest more the maintenance and upkeep of map 7 and 8. Connecting different neighborhoods to downtown is in my opinion the best way facilitate the popularity of the trail system and enhance its usage.	2/18/2020 4:00 PM
19	We need to have safe places for biking from Penacook to Concord, it is not safe with the current situation.	2/18/2020 2:52 PM
20	The trail system is amazing. The maintenance completed on them is top notch. It's such a great thing to have such a large trails system in this city. Great work.	2/18/2020 1:39 PM
21	The trails are one of the best things about living in Concord	2/17/2020 9:25 AM

22	Our trails are a wonderful asset in Concord!	2/15/2020 4:06 PM
23	I greatly appreciate the Concord trail network!	2/15/2020 1:19 PM
24	Keep the up the great work! I love the trail system in town. I would love more interconnectedness in the overall system. The Carter-Dimond/Swope-Winant network is amazing, for example. I'm ok changing laws that prioritize "right to roam" and allowing the public to access land wether private/public in order to see a robust trail network that allows me to travel town and stay off roads.	2/15/2020 10:48 AM
25	Love what you do!!! Thank you!!! I'll	2/15/2020 10:30 AM
26	More group hikes would be great, and paved areas for bikes & strollers. do NOT like snowmobiles on trails, or hunters.	2/14/2020 6:42 PM
27	Thank you.	2/14/2020 12:32 PM
28	Mountain biking should be encouraged and we need some cut glades and terrain for backcountry skiers	2/13/2020 7:34 PM
29	Would love for the landowners disrupting the larger loops to be spoken with to best understand their issues with the trails and perhaps compromise or redirect trails to still make loops!	2/12/2020 9:37 PM
30	Would like the District 5 trail to open again asap. We used that trail the most and do not feel safe taking my kids down to the end of the road to park and use the trail that leads to Carter Hill because we are followed and watched by a landowner. It just feels hostile and intimidating. It's too bad that Concord spent so much money on the land and now the trails cannot be used. I know that the city is working on it but I hope there is a resolution this spring	2/12/2020 7:12 AM
31	The city has done an excellent job of expanding trails. We could do a little better job on fixing all the bridges and crossings and erosion. Keep up the good work	2/11/2020 9:54 PM
32	Love the trails! Staff and volunteers do a wonderful job maintaining these tremendous assets for our city.	2/11/2020 6:06 PM
33	It's a wonderful trail network and a huge asset for Concord	2/11/2020 1:42 PM
34	The city's trail system is one of the best parts of living in Concord. Thank you for all you do!	2/10/2020 10:38 AM
35	Northern Rail Corridor	2/10/2020 1:51 AM
36	It seems - based on the number of trails in the guidebook- that we probably have enough trails to choose from . if the care and improvement of the existing trails could be tackled first- before we add even more- that might be a better choice. I really believe that having toilet facilities, water stations, a shuttle system, and better mosquito control measures would benefit all age groups, families, tourists, etc. It makes no sense to have so many trails that if you don't live in that neighborhood, or can't drive to the trail, that you never get to experience them. We never have tried to use a trail at night or at dusk, but I wonder how safe they would be as I have never seen lights anywhere. Also- and this may not be your area of concern- but it is a city matter nonetheless- we are blessed with beautiful parks in this town. Why is it that rest rooms are not open at Memorial Park on weekends- except when there is a game or function of some kind? There are port-a johns- or just one these days- but they are generally a disgrace. And the parks - at least some of them- are mostly empty- most of the time. Why is that ? I personally love it- it's like having my own personal country club! But as a tax payer and resident I have to wonder why our parks are not more well attended and better appointed with amenities. We are fortunate to have so much open space and beauty . I think we need to do a better job though in enhancing the variety of choices for activities - for more age groups. I appreciate the opportunity to share these thoughts and wish you success in your attempts to keep our towns a desirable place to live.	2/9/2020 3:18 PM
37	I love the trail systems here in Concord. It is one of my favorite features of living here.	2/8/2020 1:59 PM
38	I appreciate the new signage at Batchelder Mills trails. I have been walking these trails for a long time and they are very confusing with all the little loops crossing and colors. I'm finally learning my way. Keep up the good work. These trails make this a lovely city to live and walk in.	2/8/2020 4:34 AM
39	It's wonderful to have the variety of trails that we do.	2/7/2020 7:10 PM
40	We love the trail system in a concord! There is a wonderful variety of trails already, but we	2/7/2020 11:12 AM

	wouldn't mind even more!	
41	There are some unmarked trails west of the railroad tracks at the northern part of the Sewalls Falls Trails. They might be old snowmobile trails. They go under the power lines. Those would be great to develop and map because they basically connect to Sewalls Falls and the neighborhoods/streets in Penacook (Abbott Rd).	2/7/2020 7:53 AM
42	Thank you so much for all of the hard work that goes into creating and maintaining our trail system!! Please know your work does not go unappreciated. I grew up in Concord and have been using the trails (especially the ones near Broken Ground School) since I was a little kid. I even spoke at a City Council meeting during high school against the development of the land that (thankfully) went on to become the recent Broken Ground Woods trail system. It's also been a lot of fun, with the help of the maps on the City of Concord website, to find new trails near and far. They will always hold a place near and dear to my heart, and I don't know what I would do without them. I welcome the addition to any further improvements or additions to an already spectacular trail system!	2/6/2020 6:19 PM
43	We do not need police presence on the trails aside crime-involved instances. Our local police can be intimidating and rude, and are not a way to make the trails friendly or relaxing	2/6/2020 5:21 PM
44	We are new to Concord and blown away by the expanse and breadth of the trail system!!	2/6/2020 5:18 PM
45	Please open up district 5 again !!!	2/6/2020 10:34 AM
46	Much of my safety concerns are because I have a young child (4 years), but as an individual adult male, I feel mostly safe.	2/6/2020 8:48 AM
47	I don't know how to get to many trails and I'm unsure about parking or difficulty for kids, I'm nervous to do them alone bc I'm unsure about safety....	2/6/2020 6:30 AM
48	Thank you for the Trails. Love my daily Hikes with my Dog on Oak Hill.	2/5/2020 4:57 PM
49	Glad our city is putting an effort to make these trails. Live on a street with no sidewalks, nice to have a safe place to go.	2/5/2020 4:28 PM
50	Thanks for offering such great trails!	2/5/2020 12:39 PM
51	A trail system is a great benefit to the homeowners of Concord by making the city a more desirable place to live. Reminds me of the time I spent in Andover Massachusetts a. A town considered of high property value in the surrounding communities.	2/5/2020 12:25 PM
52	I really enjoy the trail systems that we have. We often will park out at the farms and walk back in to town... The only thing I wish is that at the mast yard, the grass gets really long and there are a lot of ticks.... I think if the middle section got mowed more, this would help. Oak hill is fantastic - love the new trail you put in a few years ago. Additionally, when you are clearing forests making changes - I really appreciated being able to read the article on why you were doing this... I was devastated when some of the trees were cut down, but learning that it was because of an invasive specie was immensely helpful.	2/5/2020 9:23 AM
53	Love the Concord trails and use them almost every day for the last 25 years. So blessed!	2/4/2020 7:42 PM
54	Love, love, love the trails!!!	2/4/2020 5:32 PM
55	It's no longer safe because of transients, drug activity and resulting mugging, car break in. Hell. The sex in public I can deal with, at least that isn't a physical therapy to me	2/4/2020 5:23 PM
56	I think Concord has developed a great trail system which many people and many different type of users take advantage of. I formalizing a trail and added to the master plan is a great idea. And it should be something that evolves and is adapted over time based on experience, additional land access and public input.	2/4/2020 11:08 AM
57	So grateful to all that work to establish and maintain these trails for us to enjoy! Thank you!	2/4/2020 8:03 AM
58	I used to live in Concord and used the trails weekly, almost daily during the summer. Now I access the trails less often, but share my knowledge of the trails and the online maps with friends and family.	2/4/2020 6:54 AM
59	Appreciated XC skiing at White Farm and Beaver Meadow (hot chocolate is a plus!).	2/3/2020 5:38 PM
60	would love to see the northern rail trail go beyond Boscawen and into Concord. Online maps and news of expansion would be great	2/3/2020 1:41 PM

61	The trails add so much to our city! Makes me very happy to live here!	2/2/2020 9:28 PM
62	Extending the Northern Rail Trail (Merrimack River Greenway Trail) south from Boscawen into Concord and points south should be a priority. Then, develop trail connections from other parts of the city to this main artery.	2/2/2020 8:36 PM
63	I always pick up after my dog and have even seen some near the boat ramp.	2/2/2020 5:41 PM
64	Need signs & poop bags at all trail heads. Some trails are used as dog bathrooms, which is unfortunate. Residents/friends groups would be willing to donate.	2/2/2020 4:22 PM
65	All in all, I love the trails, thank you for all you do to keep them accessible for the public!	2/1/2020 5:29 PM
66	Overall Concord has an amazing trail system that's well maintained. I'd love to see a longer trail on the Merrimack that would allow biking and pedestrians to make connections across the city off street. The hostile neighbors on District 5 road are a serious problem and their hostility has curbed my use of those trails which isn't right! I'd love to see a parking lot somewhere on District 5 road to service the WEFT and Carter Hill/Swope connector trails. Those are great trails but a long walk from starting points other than District 5 road.	2/1/2020 12:39 PM
67	I am very happy with the maintenance of the trails and truly appreciate the availability and access to the trails. It is an excellent family activity to walk the trails and is available to all socioeconomic levels.	2/1/2020 8:32 AM
68	I use the trails a lot and appreciate all the effort to maintain them. They are a great asset to the city!	2/1/2020 6:05 AM
69	Thank you for supporting and maintaining the trails we have. They are gems and a benefit to living in Concord!	1/31/2020 9:30 PM
70	I live very close to the east concord trails and the broken ground trials. I am thankful every day	1/31/2020 8:41 PM
71	Keep up the good work!	1/31/2020 8:06 PM
72	This survey was quite long, consider making future surveys shorter to increase the number of responses.	1/31/2020 6:40 PM
73	We should have a "right to roam" in Concord as there is in England.	1/31/2020 6:13 PM
74	Thank you!	1/31/2020 5:44 PM
75	Thank you for focusing on trails. The trails in Concord are one of the reasons I live here!	1/31/2020 3:49 PM
76	Omg dogs	1/31/2020 3:45 PM
77	Concord is extremely lucky to have access to so much open space. The trails subcommittee should work with the Conservation Commission to expand and obtain new conservation lands for more trails and open space enjoyment. The increased trail traffic over the last few years shows how great our city is and that Concord has the potential to be the next Boulder, Colorado type city that can and will attract more young, outdoorsy, healthy residents thus helping the economy, boosting downtown and having other benefits. I have personally mapped out and bike ridden about 85 miles of single track trails just in Concord alone in one day. I don't know any other cities that can advertise such a vast network. The proximity and connectivity to the Hopkinton, Boscawen and Bow trails make this an even more incredible network. Thank you I look forward to hearing upcoming plans!	1/31/2020 1:59 PM
78	I would like to see the Rossvie Farm situation worked out. Is there a legitimate reason that trail has been closed for so long? I would prefer to bike that trail rather than out Reserve on to Currier. Can you reach out to the snowmobile trail people, and / or make their trails useable for hiking and biking when not suitable for snowmobiles? Can we get parking at the Hospital figured out? Can there be a trail through the quarry area, linking up Maps 20 and 21?	1/31/2020 12:50 PM
79	Concord trails are an amazing resource! Definitely contributes to the high quality of life I experience living here. I LOVE the groomed xc skiing trails-- not a lot of communities offer this. Keep up the great work!	1/31/2020 12:25 PM
80	Y are doing a great job.	1/31/2020 11:59 AM
81	You do a great job with them	1/31/2020 11:09 AM

82	Thank you for volunteering!	1/31/2020 8:43 AM
83	I lead a hiking group for seniors connected to OLLI at Granite State College. Concord is indeed fortunate to have such a wonderful trail system. I am sure they are the result of the vision and hard work of many people for quite a long time. The newly updated maps (I bought the ring bound book) are fantastic. Great job.	1/31/2020 8:28 AM
84	I'm so appreciative of the amazing trails here in Concord and it's one of the main reasons I like living here. I also appreciate how it keeps areas free from development and more wild. Thank you for your work!	1/31/2020 8:20 AM
85	I would love to see a Concord Trails patch. I think it would encourage people to discover trails in the system that they may otherwise not use.	1/31/2020 7:38 AM
86	I've always had good experiences on the Broken Ground and SPNHF Trails. Litter can be an issue on the SPNHF trails along the river during the summer when more people are there for swimming, though most pick up after themselves.	1/31/2020 7:09 AM
87	I love the trails!! My family and I use them in all weather. I've met some spectacular people out there. I do encounter many dogs off leash though which can be a problem when I'm on horseback.	1/31/2020 6:39 AM
88	Thank YOU!	1/30/2020 8:13 PM
89	I'm so excited that you are planning more trails in concord! I love using the ones near my home! It'd be helpful to have better maps and information (trailhead, parking, etc) online. Thank you for asking for input!	1/30/2020 8:07 PM
90	Thank you for all your work. Trails help people access nature and this is so important especially for our children.	1/30/2020 7:17 PM
91	I trek the trails to commune with nature. am very concerned about inappropriate uses. It is very frustrating to see painted rocks, rock piles and stick figures on the trails. Some of the projects are substantial and clearly took hours to construct. It is also aggravating to see people wandering way off trail hunting geocaches and letterboxes!! As far as trail infrastructure, I believe Rail Trail development should be our highest Immediate priority as a local and regional resource. I would to be able to say we managed to remove the bottleneck!	1/30/2020 6:58 PM
92	Thank you for all you do for us walkers!!	1/30/2020 4:49 PM
93	The trails are awesome! I greatly appreciate the mixed-use signs at trail heads. I hunt in many of the areas where trails are located as they provide excellent access. While I am very mindful of the fact other people may be in the area, I appreciate that the signs are at the trail head to inform users not to be shocked by the presence of a hunter. Thanks for the great trails!	1/30/2020 4:08 PM
94	I thought I would comment on the question about the " Trails that connects into my neighborhood" question. It would be nice to have more established connections between trail systems in Concord and the surrounding towns. Many examples come to mind, but just as examples...connecting mast yards over to Hopkington Greenway on official trails and connecting into bow trails better. Trail off of Birchdale is half in Bow and half in Concord and is not truly maintained by either town.	1/30/2020 12:02 PM
95	Thanks for all you do. This stuff ain't easy. Godspeed.	1/30/2020 10:35 AM
96	Thanks to the trail stewards!	1/30/2020 8:07 AM
97	More trails for X-C skiing would be awesome! I think the committee/city has done a great job of creating some wonderful trails in Concord!	1/30/2020 5:53 AM
98	While not part of a trail system, specifically, it would be nice to see some work on the pond at Merrill Park. Work on the pond may help with spring drainage issues that affect trails in the area.	1/29/2020 10:03 PM
99	As an avid mt biker, Concord and Bow are really the only other places is consider living other than Goffstown. This is because of the immense Mt biking networks you have. Both challenging and easy. Please don't dumb down your hard trails. I'm cool with reroutes or B lines but closures are a super bummer.	1/29/2020 9:50 PM
100	Concord	1/29/2020 9:47 PM
101	Thank you for the wonderful trails. I love them.	1/29/2020 9:31 PM

102	Would love to see a priority put on developing a trail system connecting Manchester St bridge up through Ft Eddy Rd and NHTI. To have the ability to get from Manchester St along the river to NHTI via a a trail system would be amazing!	1/29/2020 9:12 PM
103	The Concord trail system is a wonderful thing!	1/29/2020 8:53 PM
104	Absolutely love the trails! Moved to Concord recently and they are great for getting outside and getting healthy.	1/29/2020 8:25 PM
105	I would love to see expansion of the Oak Hill Trail system. The mountain biking community really enjoys that trail system, however, the mileage is limited. If land is available, expansion would be a huge improvement.	1/29/2020 8:02 PM
106	There's so many of the trails that I enjoy it's hard to comment on just one or a few. Sewell Falls & Jim Hill are a Summer favorite for a cool dip after a run. Oak Hill Winant and Marjorie Swope are wonderful to get some varied terrain and elevation gain. Beautiful in the fall and my favorite places for birdwatching. Snowshoeing out and back on Winant Swope connector is a favorite. I have been an avid hiker and outdoors person most my life and have traveled far to pursue activity. I have fallen in love with these local trails and encourage others to explore outdoor spaces wherever they live! That is the best thing about these trails they are accessible beautiful well traveled and loved and right where I am.	1/29/2020 7:33 PM
107	Thank you for all the wonderful trails in Concord	1/29/2020 7:23 PM
108	Overall I enjoy the trails but sometimes I worry about people abusing them. Longer trails would be nice too.	1/29/2020 5:58 PM
109	There's a trail on the Concord / Boscawen line (can't remember the name) that's been wrecked by logging and is poorly signed. Would love to see improvements there!	1/29/2020 3:38 PM
110	Love the trails, would love more horse friendly trails and horse trailer friendly parking.	1/29/2020 3:22 PM
111	Watch out for the rot within. It is already at work.	1/29/2020 3:13 PM
112	Thank you for all the trails you have available!!	1/29/2020 2:50 PM
113	We are so fortunate to have this level of outdoor access in Concord. Please know how grateful the local equestrian community is to enjoy these trails and that we respect it in the form of clearing any droppings during our ride on the trail, riding on one side, avoiding the trails during mud season, wearing hunter orange during hunting season and slowing down or stopping when we encounter families, runners, those exercising their dogs, etc. Sharing with us in a safe, collaborative manner is equally appreciated.	1/29/2020 2:29 PM
114	I truly appreciate having access to all the wonderful trails nearby. I moved to Concord from DC about 5 years ago, and this easy access to nature has made my life extra enjoyable. I certainly enjoy long hikes in the Whites, but the easy access right in town is wonderful.	1/29/2020 1:53 PM
115	I think the city of Concord has an incredible opportunity to not only get more people active in the outdoors (especially children) but also economic benefit of drawing in users from outside of the area. There is a very large mountain biking community in the city and surrounding area who regularly travel outside of the city to ride purpose built mountain bike trails. Concord is unique in that it is centrally located and has an extremely high volume of cyclists passing through (literally) on their way to other mountain biking destinations. Having progressive mountain bike trails in the city would not only improve the quality of life of residence but it would also act as an economic stimulus for area business. Concord is also fortunate enough to have large open space areas that would lend themselves very well to a medium to large scale mountain bike specific trail system especially when multiple areas are connected. The area where I see the most potential is with Oak Hill, Bachelor Mill Road, and Broken Ground trails, especially if the city partnered with our neighbors in Loudon. These three existing trail systems are in close proximity to each other and easily able to be connected (they mostly are already) and they offer a wide variety of terrain that would lend itself very well to progressive mountain bike trails for multiple riding disciplines and experience levels. While I understand that "parks" probably fall under a different department than "trails" I feel that in this case combining a large linked trail system with a mountain bike skills park, pump track, and terrain/feature park would make a lot of sense. While not as prevalent on the east coast, there has been a large number of communities in other areas of the country who have realized the benefits of trail system/parks such as this and have built them into their communities. These parks provide people with a start to finish progression pathway for multiple cycling disciplines. It promotes our children to put	1/29/2020 1:37 PM

down their electronics and get outdoors and it keeps more people active and introduces them to activities that they might not otherwise been exposed to or considered (not just cycling). I am very interested in the direction that the city of Concord takes with its wonderful trail system and I would be more than happy to share my thoughts with anyone in more detail if you would find it helpful as well as be involved in some capacity. Thank you for what you do and taking the time to read this. Ed Lombardi

116	Please plow Sewalls Falls parking lot after each storm. It is a well used trail and should have year round access	1/29/2020 12:55 PM
117	Please create a safe bike path/rail trail that runs through or adjacent to Concord and connects to the Northern Rail Trail. There is no safe way to commute by bike in Concord and it's unfortunate that you have to drive to Penacook to get on the rail trail. Burlington, VT and other cities have benefited from having a bike path connect to downtown, and Concord would too! I think it would be an amazing resource for commuting/recreation and would also support tourism.	1/29/2020 12:39 PM
118	I use the Jim Hill and Mast Yard trails almost daily. The vast majority of people I meet are courteous and respectful of the trails. My only complaint is the treatment of Daisy Beach. It was such a pretty little beach when we first saw it, now it's clearly a place for people to hang out and drink-- either hiking or paddling. I'd like to see a trash bucket there that gets emptied and some maintenance of the outhouse. I also think the large groups of teens make it less attractive for families of young children.	1/29/2020 12:31 PM
119	Love the trail system. I wish there were places to connect from my town to be walk or bike or walk safely to downtown.	1/29/2020 12:22 PM
120	I used to ski at the Marjory Swope hill but it has overgrown to much to ski now. The city should look into what other back-country skiing groups such as GBA and RASTA have developed and implement similar practices for cutting and maintaining glades. There may be a few different slopes where soils and forest lends themselves to nice back-country skiing but soon after they are logged they become to overgrown to ski. I'd also like to to see the city continue to work with NEMBA to develop designated Mtn Bike trails for all abilities.	1/29/2020 12:20 PM
121	I would like to see rail trails built. The Greenway Trail and Concord Lake Sunapee Trail are a great idea. Bring them into Downtown Dog poop is awful and loose dogs scare my kids.	1/29/2020 12:01 PM
122	Trails are a huge benefit to Concord metro area	1/29/2020 11:48 AM
123	I'd just reiterate that a regular police or ranger presence near and on the Jim Hill trails and on Daisy Beach, particularly during warm weather, would help to make everyone feel welcome on the trails, reduce vandalism and litter, and help to avoid future accidents.	1/29/2020 11:42 AM
124	Myself and many others would appreciate/benefit from off-road vehicle trails.	1/29/2020 10:17 AM
125	Keep up the great work!	1/29/2020 10:12 AM
126	Commuter to Bow for work. Love having great trail options to get exercise on my lunch break	1/29/2020 9:42 AM
127	Love the trails! Think overall very well-marked& maintained. Haven't done them all yet so can't be more specific..thank YOU!	1/29/2020 9:28 AM
128	Been a long time user and volunteer. Such an incredible resource!	1/29/2020 9:14 AM
129	I think the city could greatly benefit from a Pump Track somewhere in town. Not a skatepark, but a mixed surface bicycle skills park that will give residents the opportunity to develop their skills before venturing onto the trails.	1/29/2020 7:40 AM
130	Developing a rail trail with a downtown trail head will have a great economic value for merchants and provide a safe route for bicycle commuters	1/29/2020 6:30 AM
131	I feel very lucky to live in an area that has created and supports the trails in Concord. I can do an out and back 22 mile training run by connecting winant-swope-carter-diamond hill-to the bike path off 89 and past, onto the snowmobile trails. Very grateful to exercise, be out in nature and appreciate the woods so close to home! Thank you!	1/29/2020 5:53 AM
132	Make tons of mountain bike trails	1/29/2020 5:53 AM
133	Please do not develop the Langley parkway. So many people use the area behind the hospital.	1/28/2020 10:17 PM

134	WEFT is such a fantastic long trail run and the Connector trail between Winant and Marjory Swope was such a terrific way to link networks. The more we can link networks, the better the whole system gets. The trail system in Concord and the fact that there's so much going into expanding it is such a draw for the city. Thank you!!!	1/28/2020 9:58 PM
135	Love the Bow and Hospital trails. I always stop by when I'm in town.	1/28/2020 9:52 PM
136	Please extend Morono Park Trail beyond the prison property towards downtown.	1/28/2020 9:37 PM
137	Overall we love the City trails and use them a lot, thanks!	1/28/2020 8:50 PM
138	Rail trails are very important for economic development and improving transportation options. More trails with water access for views and physical access.	1/28/2020 8:33 PM
139	Thank you for all the green space we have in town, it is part of what's kept here for 30+ years now. Would love to see a grand circle connector trail linking our green space.	1/28/2020 6:43 PM

STATION 1 – VISION OF TRAILS

VISION

Station Facilitated by: Craig Tufts, CNHRPC

Questions for consideration included:

Vision

- Why are trails important? What should trails do for us?
- What should the ideal trail system in Concord look like?
- Issues:
 - Recreation
 - Accessibility and Equity
 - Sustainability and Maintenance
 - Economic Development and Quality of Life
 - Collaboration and Volunteerism
 - Trail Character
- What is your overall vision for trails?

Primary Takeaways

- 👉 A variety of trail types is needed, but there was wide agreement that the greatest need for new trails is for accessible trails, such as rail trails or shared use paths
- 👉 There were a range of views regarding whether more hiking trails were desirable.
- 👉 Meeting attendees had a preference for longer distance trails that go places, rather than short loops
- 👉 A few people requested trail areas with trails built specifically with mountain biking in mind
- 👉 Multiple people supported the concept of “water trails” on the Contoocook and/or Merrimack rivers for paddling.
- 👉 The area near downtown and the Merrimack River roughly between I93 exits 13 and 15 was identified as an “area of opportunity” for trails. There is economic development potential here, and a need for accessible trails that can take you where you want to go, and access the river.
- 👉 Wildlife, environmental, and agriculture issues should be a strong consideration for building, maintaining, and operating trails.
- 👉 Concord is unique and special that it has so many wonderful trails. This is a great asset the community should be proud of.

Easel Notes Transcription

Accessibility and Equity

- 👉 Access to trails if you don’t drive
- 👉 Trails are local – don’t have to travel far to get to them – Are meant for and used by locals – this is part of what makes them special
- 👉 More accessible, easy to traverse trails are needed for seniors, wheelchairs, strollers etc – trails such as rail trails

Sustainability and Maintenance

- 👉 Seasonal Closures should be considered – for agricultural purposes or trail condition preservation
- 👉 Respect agricultural operations and agricultural land
- 👉 How to distribute demand? So more trail traffic goes to places that can handle it without overcrowding places that are too popular.

Economic Development and Quality of Life

- 👉 Rail Trail and Urban Trail vision – Commerce and Economic Development, especially for Stickney Ave and Storrs St area, access to river, Opportunity Corridor, getting through I-93 exit 14
- 👉 Collaboration and Volunteerism
- 👉 Trails are spaces for people to gather

Trail Character

- 👉 Some trails should be accessible, not many are – Rail Trails would be accessible
- 👉 There is a need for more trails that are accessible – seniors, wheelchairs, strollers etc (multiple)
- 👉 Trails should take you somewhere (multiple)
- 👉 There are lots of informal trails – they are not maintained – varying views on whether to formalize these trails or leave them the way they are
- 👉 Some trails should not be formalized – it is hard to make a trail disappear, but not marking it, and providing marked alternatives, can reduce traffic (multiple)
- 👉 A variety of trail types is desired (multiple)
 - Short loops
 - Long distance trails that connect trail systems
 - Mountain Bike trails systems
 - Accessible Trails/Rail Trails (widely agreed upon)
 - Rail Trails and “urban” trails that go places/Paved trails
- 👉 Of the above list, the accessible, rail trail, and paved trails appear to be a larger need because Concord has comparatively few of them.
- 👉 Access to downtown is a priority
- 👉 There is opportunity in the area of Downtown and the Merrimack River – Develop a trails vision for this area to connect people to trails, the river, support economic development etc (multiple + widely agreed upon)
- 👉 River Access is a priority
 - In the vicinity of downtown
 - In the area of NHTI
 - Access to water in general
- 👉 Consider “water trails” formalized paddling routes with put ins/take outs (multiple)
 - Merrimack River near NHTI – has a problem with homeless camps etc.
 - Contoocook River near Hopkinton line
 - Contoocook River access from Penacook Village
- 👉 Connect Trailheads
- 👉 Signage and navigation are important and could be improved upon
- 👉 A pump track may be needed – perhaps near Oak Hill

- 👉 Barriers to access trails – interstates and river are identified – how to break down barriers?
- 👉 Connections to Hopkinton Greenway and Beech Hill
- 👉 Map and make official XC ski trails at Beaver Meadow

Vision Statement Ideas

- 👉 Concord is special in that it has 80+ miles of trails – this is a great asset to be proud of!
- 👉 Trails are spaces for people to gather
- 👉 The areas of Downtown, Merrimack River, Terrill Park, and “opportunity corridor” are an opportunity for a special trail vision
- 👉 Trails should respect and protect agriculture and agricultural operations –
- 👉 Trails can/should support a personal connection to local farms and local agriculture
- 👉 Better trails, not more trails
- 👉 Do we want more trails? Perhaps not

Statement Sticker Votes (# represents sticker “priority votes”)

Recreation

- 👉 Trails should be a fun recreational asset for Concord residents and visitors **2**
- 👉 Trails should help connect people to nature **1**
- 👉 Trails should visit and highlight historic and cultural sites and resources
- 👉 Trails should provide a place for healthy, active recreation **1**

Accessibility and Equity

- 👉 Trails should serve each of Concord’s Villages: Downtown, the Heights, Penacook, West Concord, and East Concord.
- 👉 Concord should strive for a public trail system that serves all residents of Concord
- 👉 Trails should serve people of all ages and abilities **1**
- 👉 Trails should be easily accessible to neighborhoods where people live and work. **2**
- 👉 Sidewalks and shared use paths should link up with the trail system whenever feasible **2**

Sustainability and Maintenance

- 👉 Trails should respect the natural environment **1**
- 👉 Trails should be well maintained and effectively managed **1**
- 👉 Trails should avoid wildlife impacts **1**

Economic Development and Quality of Life

- 👉 A quality trail system can be part of an economic development strategy for Concord. **4**
- 👉 Trails should contribute to public health by offering spaces for exercise **1**
- 👉 Trails can help make Concord a great place to Live/Work/Play **3**
- 👉 Trail should contribute to physical, mental, and spiritual well-being **2**

Collaboration and Volunteerism

- 📌 Trails should enhance the sense of community **1**
- 📌 Trails should be operated and maintained with a spirit of volunteerism and collaboration
- 📌 Trails should be built and maintained with input from trail users
- 📌 Trails should be built and maintained with input from abutters
- 📌 Trails should be built and maintained with input from property owners

Trail Character


- 📌 There should be lots of shorter loop trails for short visits
- 📌 There should be plenty of long distance trails where people can hike for hours **4**
- 📌 Trails should be integrated into the community **1**
- 📌 Concord should have a range of trail types
 - Trails through natural areas
 - Trails through Parks
 - Trails that connect parks to parks or trail system to trail system
 - And trails that connect the community (transportation corridors) **1**
- 📌 Trails should connect neighborhoods to recreation areas and public lands.
- 📌 Some trails should be used for active transportation – from getting from place to place by foot or bike **7**
- 📌 Water routes should be included in the trail system. **1**

What is your overall vision for trails? Sample Vision Statements:

- 📌 Concord's trail system serve residents and visitors of all ages and abilities, provide access to nature, and be maintained sustainably. **1**
- 📌 Concord's trails enhance the quality of life and economic development of the City by providing healthy and inviting spaces to recreate. **1**
- 📌 Concord's trails connect its residents and visitors with nature and respect the needs of wildlife and the natural environment.
- 📌 Concord offers a wide range of trail types, serving all residents and accessing all neighborhoods in order to promote health, quality of life, and economic prosperity. Trails are developed and utilized in a way that respects the environment, abutters, and agricultural operations. **1**

Map Comments and Stickers

- 📌 Concept for Contoocook River Water Route
- 📌 Concept for Merrimack River Water Route and camping issues along bank
- 📌 Comment to map and formalize XC ski routes at Beaver Meadow Golf Course
- 📌 Comment for signage between Merrill Park and Forest Society trails
- 📌 Comment and lines for connecting to Hopkinton Greenway
- 📌 Note about a number of informal trails north of Winant Park that have been there many years
- 📌 Markups Downtown and along I-93 corridor and Merrimack River from exists 13 to 15 as “vision and opportunity”. Urban trails, rail trails, cultural trails, economic development, I-93 widening project implications, all were all discussed for this area

 Marks showing how Merrimack River and I93 and I393 can be a barrier. Traced routes from Heights to Broken Ground

General Summary Narrative

Facilitator Summary

STATION 2 – FAVORITE PUBLIC TRAILS

STRENGTHS

Station Facilitated by: Kristine Tardiff, Conservation Commission

Questions for consideration included:

Strengths

- Identify your favorite trails on the Map.
- What makes this trail Special to you?
- What specific sites or features are special to you? (Scenic views, rock formation, big tree etc)
- How do you use the trail (hike, bike, dog walking, run, etc)?
- How does the trail enhance your life?
- How does the trail enhance the City?
- What makes the City trail system an asset to the community?

Primary Takeaways

- 👉 Trails are cherished for a wide variety of reasons
- 👉 Scenic views/highpoints are very appreciated
- 👉 Water access and water views are very appreciated, particularly the Merrimack
- 👉 Lots of people appreciate trails for dog walking

Easel Notes Transcription

- 👉 Water access for my dogs (2 checks)
- 👉 XC skiing (two checks) Beaver Meadow very popular/great XC trails
- 👉 Dog walking (7 checks)
- 👉 Walking hiking (lots of checks)
- 👉 Mt biking (check) built in challenges like rocks/logs
- 👉 Snowshoeing
- 👉 Develop the rail trail (5 checks)
- 👉 Easy nature retreat – Local! (2 checks)
- 👉 Easy access from neighborhood – call for connections to where we live/work
- 👉 Obvious parking w trailheads and maps (check)
- 👉 Trail running
- 👉 Connections to Hopkinton (check) and Loudon at fire tower/oak hill (check)
- 👉 Getting kids outdoors
- 👉 Parking for trail access

Map Comments and Stickers

- 👉 Oak Hill Trails – 17 dots
- 👉 Winant Park Trails – 13 dots
- 👉 Beaver Meadow/Sewalls Falls Trails – 10 dots
- 👉 Margery Swope Trails – 9 dots

Summary Notes of Group Discussions

- 📁 Carter Hill Orchard Trails – 9 dots
- 📁 2 Rail Trails – 8 dots
- 📁 Broken Ground Trails – 7 dots
- 📁 Winant-Swope Connector Trails – 5 dots
- 📁 Silk Farm Audubon trails – 5 dots
- 📁 Forest Society Trails – 3 dots
- 📁 Mast Yard Trails – 3 dots
- 📁 Turkey River White Farm Trails – 3 dots
- 📁 Morono Park – 2 dots
- 📁 Rolfe Park Trails – 2 dots
- 📁 Contoocook River Park Trails – 2 dots
- 📁 Multiple single dots on other trail systems
- 📁 Many dots on views
- 📁 Many dots on water views and water access
- 📁 Multiple comments on xc skiing

General Summary Narrative

Facilitator Summary

STATION 3 – TRAIL CONNECTIONS AND NEW TRAILS

OPPORTUNITIES

Station Facilitated by: Heather Shank, Planning Department

Questions for consideration included:

Opportunities

- Where would new trails and trail connections be best located in Concord? (Dot)
- Would any connections span to a neighboring town’s trail system? (Dot)
- Should the City try to establish connections or new trails in urban areas, suburban areas, or rural areas? Where specifically? (Dot)
- What type of trail uses would be appropriate for new trails or connections?
- Should the new trail or connection be a City public trail, or owned/maintained by another agency?
- What types of partnerships with other agencies do you envision to enhance Concord’s trail network?
- What future ideas for your community, related to trails, could be considered?
- Are there any trail amenities you’d like to see?
- What does an ideal trail system look like?

Primary Takeaways

- 👉 Connections to where people live/work/play are desired
- 👉 Wider access to Trail Guides and Trail Maps

Easel Notes Transcription

- 👉 Bridge the Turkey River – White Farm to St Paul’s Trails
- 👉 Broken Ground/Curtisville to Oak Hill (oak hill rd trail parking)
- 👉 Trail Forks 0 get City’s system on this app
- 👉 Access to water (fountains) where infrastructure exists)
- 👉 Ask for extra width from State on red listed bridges
- 👉 Implement MRGT & Concord/Sunapee Trail (including Pan Am section)
- 👉 Parking problems off Thackery Rd
- 👉 Access Trail to Trail Guides should be at library, community center, dame school etc
- 👉 Trail maps posted around town – Library
- 👉 Get rid of Walker Reserve trails give back to comm
- 👉 Trails that connect to but don’t go through neighborhoods
- 👉 Crate a “designated street system” for ped/bike access to trails from schools, parks, and neighborhoods

Map Comments and Stickers

- 👉 Map was heavily marked up
- 👉 Several new longer-distance connector trail ideas were drawn
 - Stickney Hill Rd to Clinton St
 - Mast yard south to Currier Rd/Diamond Hill Farm
 - District 5 Rd to Hopkinton Greenway

- Sewalls Fall to Whitney Rd along east side of Merrimack
- Broken Ground to Oak Hill trails
- 🚩 Shorter neighborhood trail connections
 - Winant Park to Hospital/west end residential neighborhood
 - Batchelder to Curtisville Rd neighborhood
- 🚩 Ideas for connections and safe neighborhood routes to connect neighborhoods to trails
 - South End and Middle School area to Turkey River/Memorial Field trails
 - Curtisville Rd neighborhood to Batchelder Trails
 - Heights to Batchelder and Broken Ground trails via East Side Drive and over/under 393
 - West Concord/Hutchins St area to Morono Park (and future rail trail)
- 🚩 Area marked for trail along the opportunity corridor downtown and along the east side of the Merrimack, from I93 Exit 13 to 14
- 🚩 Trail along Merrimack behind Ft Eddy Rd from Loudon Rd to NHTI
- 🚩 Multiple other mark ups

General Summary Narrative

Facilitator Summary

STATION 4 – ENVIRONMENTAL OR WILDLIFE HABITAT TRAIL CONSIDERATIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Station Facilitated by: Beth Fenstermacher, Planning Department

Questions for consideration included:

Environmental Considerations

- How does the trail network effect the environment or wildlife habitat? (Dot) Why? (Scribe or Map Write-in)
- What options do you see for these areas?
- How might trails impact agriculture operations?
- What kinds of resources could be necessary to address these considerations?
- Should trails be constructed around sensitive locations, such as water bodies or wetlands?
- Where can trails and the environment co-exist? Are trail uses important for a successful environmental partnership?
- What issues would you like to see explored for the Trails Plan related to conservation management?
- Are there specific trails or areas that significantly impact wildlife or the environment in a negative way? How might impacts be mitigated?

Primary Takeaways

- 👉 There is a clear desire to consider habitat and environmental impacts that trails might have
- 👉 Wildlife sightings and habitat are important to the community.

Easel Notes Transcription

- 👉 Overlay Strava and other unofficial trails to figure out true impact to wildlife
- 👉 Environmental concern – are there any brownfield sites?
- 👉 Maintain open space for the wildlife – don’t have trails everywhere
- 👉 What is impact on wildlife with increase use by dogs? Are there trails where dogs should be prohibited?
 - Especially for ground nesting birds
 - Always during specific seasons?
- 👉 Don’t ruin habitats!
- 👉 Avoid deer yards to limit disturbances and because they concentrate ticks
- 👉 Close some trails when roads are posted to limited areas (mud season)
- 👉 Hunters are crucial part of ecosystem balance – consider closing some trails during hunting season to encourage hunting
- 👉 Overlap wildlife passages to determine if trails are interrupting movement
- 👉 Vernal pool mapping
- 👉 Deer yard mapping
- 👉 Educational Signage about why trail is being rerouted or closed (see above comments)
- 👉 Trash and vagrant use of river banks 0 should trails be added to stop undesirable use?

Map Comments and Stickers

- 👉 Deer yard marked off Hot Hold Pond Rd near the Oak Hill trails
- 👉 Trash along river from vagrant use marked off West Portsmouth St

Summary Notes of Group Discussions

- 📌 Deer activity noted off Hopkinton Rd/route 9/202
- 📌 Consider closing redundant trails south of Hopkinton Rd
- 📌 In vicinity of Winant Park Trails:
 - No longer see moose
 - Fisher, coyote, fox
 - Deer routes
 - Bear sightings
- 📌 Peregrine Falcon along river behind post office
- 📌 Bear sighting near Rollins Park
- 📌 Lots of turkeys at Bow line off South Street
- 📌 Green sticker on trail on east part of Oak Hill Trails

General Summary Narrative

Facilitator Summary

STATION 5 – TRAILS CONCERNS: MAINTENANCE, SAFETY, LOCATIONS

CONCERNS

*Station Facilitated by: Stephanie Alexander, CNHRPC
Ron Klemarczyk, City Forester*

Questions for consideration included:

Concerns

- Do you have any concerns with any of the individual trails? Why?
- Have you had any safety experiences occurring on the public trails? (Dot) Where and what? (Scribe or Map Write-in)
- What specific maintenance issues do you see?
- Do you have concerns about the City’s trail network in general?
- Are the trails being advertised enough?
- What topics or issues would you like explored for the Trails Plan related to best management practices?
- In an ideal world, how would you prefer trails safety and maintenance be addressed?

Primary Takeaways

- 👉 Owners leave dogs off leash and fail to pick up and/or dispose of poop properly.
- 👉 Improper or inconsiderate trails use by mountain bikes.
- 👉 Notification system needed for maintenance issues or when trails are to be closed.
- 👉 Desire for rail trails or paved trails.
- 👉 Accurate signage at trail junctions.
- 👉 Better consideration for neighbors when considering new public trails or inclusion into City trails promotion.
- 👉 Trail users need to be reminded of proper trail etiquette during all seasons.
- 👉 Sanitation problems are found on some trails.
- 👉 Improved public input process or regulation for new trails.
- 👉 Environmental education of trail users.
- 👉 Some trails should be monitored for illegal uses.
- 👉 A trail connection between Carter Hill Orchard and Margery Swope Trail is desired.

Easel Notes Transcription (# represents each additional vote)

- 👉 Maintenance is really stewardship. [Should be reframed] **1**
- 👉 Need dog poop bags ([dogs are] often off-leash). [Poop found] even to water tower above Hospital. **1**
- 👉 [Merrimack River Greenway Trail] MRGT paved trail for easy access/ADA. Need more like this! **2**
- 👉 Others are interested in helping to maintain [trails].
- 👉 Winant- mountain bikes (winter especially) [cause damage]. [Bikes need to be] sensitive area to enviro[ment].
- 👉 No safety concerns – Winant/Swope/Carter Hill [are] maintained ASAP.
- 👉 Would like to see more paved trails.
- 👉 Broken Ground trail signs say “Trail”, not helpful [to determine your location]. Can do circles -> [same as] unmarked [trails].
- 👉 Winant also [has trail sign issues].
- 👉 Poop receptacles needed. (People leave bagged poop on tree!). **1**

- 👉 Walker's Reserve/Winant/Langley Parkway- dogs off leash -> dangerous/disruptive to neighborhood.
- 👉 Mountain bikers w/ full headlamps on trails facing homes.
- 👉 Walker's Reserve [open space] os neighborhood [existed] prior to Conc network system. [Trails Committee/Conservation Commission] TC/CC want to connect [their trails] to public system. Horses too close to homes. [Should be] S/B decommissioned.
- 👉 [Need] more guidelines for trail building, setbacks like in zoning.
- 👉 Broader public input [should be provided], [Committees have] too much unneeded power. Rules -> [should] take into account private property owner boundaries.
- 👉 Muddy times/season notification -> via social media FB/TW [Facebook/Twitter]. **1**
- 👉 Notify NEMBA [so they can publicize]. **1**
- 👉 [Mountain bikers] mbikers use Trail Hub [for notifications].
- 👉 Make clear how to report downed trees. **1**
- 👉 [Trails Committee] TC membership -> should be Conc residents.
- 👉 Access between Swope + [Carter Hill Orchard] CHO blocked.
- 👉 Educate dog owners about leash/control respons[ibility] + laws. **1**
- 👉 Who will be doing enviro education/interpretive [knowledge]? Need to connect people w/ outdoors.
- 👉 Teachers? SPNHF vol[unteer]? Audubon vol[unteer]? National Park Service grant [assistance] asst? Americorps vol[unteer]? NH Fish and Game [F+G].
- 👉 [Need] underserved community [trails] access @ [southeast] SE quadrant.
- 👉 Sharing trails has conflicts. Sometimes lack of etiquette, especially [when] [mountain bikers] mbikers and hikers [meet].
- 👉 Add trail junction marker locations for E911 at mile markers. Junctions [signs] based on trail [name] abbreviation (M1, M2, V1, V2, etc).

Map Comments and Stickers

- 👉 Former railroad line parallel to Fisherville Road across from Beaver Meadow Cemetery sticker- Geologic fault.
- 👉 Sewalls Falls Park Trails- walking on ground, [cross-country] xc ski trails.
- 👉 Sewalls Falls Park Trails sticker - [Dog] poop on trees [bagged].
- 👉 Oak Hill Trails – [add] new lot [to map].
- 👉 Oak Hill Trails – [a new loop trail drawn in].
- 👉 District 5 Road stickers (3) - at end of road to connect the trails.
- 👉 Former railroad line parallel to Merrimack River intervale sticker - Make this into the MRGT.
- 👉 Broken Ground Trails sticker - Trail signs just say "trail".
- 👉 Forest Society Trails on Merrimack River East sticker - Erosion, Drug use.
- 👉 Forest Society Trails on Merrimack River West sticker - Homeless camps, Sanitation concerns.
- 👉 Thackery Open Space Trails stickers (2) – Dogs off leash, dangerous.
- 👉 Margery Swope Park Trails North sticker – Old bench.
- 👉 Margery Swope Park Trails stickers (3) – Mountain biking ruts.
- 👉 Margery Swope Park Trails connecting to Winant Park sticker – Barebooting and postholing.
- 👉 Winant Park stickers (3) – Mountain bikers trailblazing. Trails not well marked.
- 👉 Auburn Street sidewalk sticker – Dog poop.

- 📌 Terrill Park Trails sticker – [Underserved] Community access.
- 📌 Manchester Street area sticker – [Underserved] Community access.
- 📌 Pembroke Road area sticker – [Underserved] Community access.

General Summary Narrative

The [Trails Concerns: Maintenance, Safety, Locations Station](#) garnered many varied, yet echoed issues shared by attendees. As described by participants, on many trails and sidewalks, dogs are regularly off-leash. When this happens, the dog does not always respond to its owner's call to heel, and this presents a danger to other trail users and/or their own dogs. People described dogs jumping up on them, not responding to recall commands, threatening their dogs. Another related dog problem is excrement or "poop" left on the trails. When poop is bagged, it can often be found hanging in trees. People attributed this behavior to the lack of disposal receptacles but acknowledged installing and emptying trash receptacles would be an unrealistic duty. The solution is to maintain a carry-out policy, but with education and perhaps opportunity. One participant offered to donate dog poop bags. Communities across the country have employed a leash borrow system at the trailheads.

Participants expressed a frustration with mountain bikes using the trails during muddy season as this erodes the trails and does not enable hikers to safely enjoy their pedestrian experience. A representative of NEMBA said they attempt to employ an online notification system to their members when they learn of muddy trail conditions, but when this occurs, bikers simply use a different trail for which no notification was given which creates the same rutting, eroding results but on another trail.

Overall, a wider notification system is desired to both report trails problems (trees down, dogs loose, erosion, etc) and to ensure potential trails users are made aware of trail closures and maintenance issues. Social media groups such as Twitter or Facebook might be the fastest way for two-way disclosure. Brief online reporting forms could be used by the City, as posted on a City webpage.

Maintaining the paved trails and enhancing underserved resident access, particularly in the southeastern section of Concord, are participant priorities. A popular component of this idea is to work with the Merrimack River Greenway Trail to ensure as much of the trail is paved as possible, although the MRGT plan has always been packed stone dust.

When large numbers of people share trails, especially when those trail uses are varied, etiquette can often lapse. Although the City has an etiquette guide on its website and the Trail Guidebook Maps each have a listing of the important rules, participants noted a general lack of etiquette between users. This is an important educational job for a trails volunteer, community service volunteer, or a City staff member to perform. Posting a complete, composite list of trails etiquette and the rules for different users in several online locations and at trailhead kiosks should be a priority.

Similarly, environmental education on why trailblazing, walking off the trail, dog poop, camping, picking flowers, littering, and other such activities is a critical support activity for a healthy community trail system. This type of task is better performed in person. Partnering with the environmental educators in the City, volunteer docents could lead trail walks and explain the environmental impacts to trail users and the financial expense of clean up. Catching trail users "in the act" could lead to confrontation if the educator does not have enforcement ability.

Several participants expressed the need for greater consideration of neighbors to potential nearby trails. Along trails near homes, headlamps, horses, and the noise of trail users were said to disturb homeowners. These neighbors are the people who need to live alongside the trails for all hours of the day, each day of the week. Future trails should consider setbacks to structures and buffers, perhaps in the City Zoning Ordinance. Participants

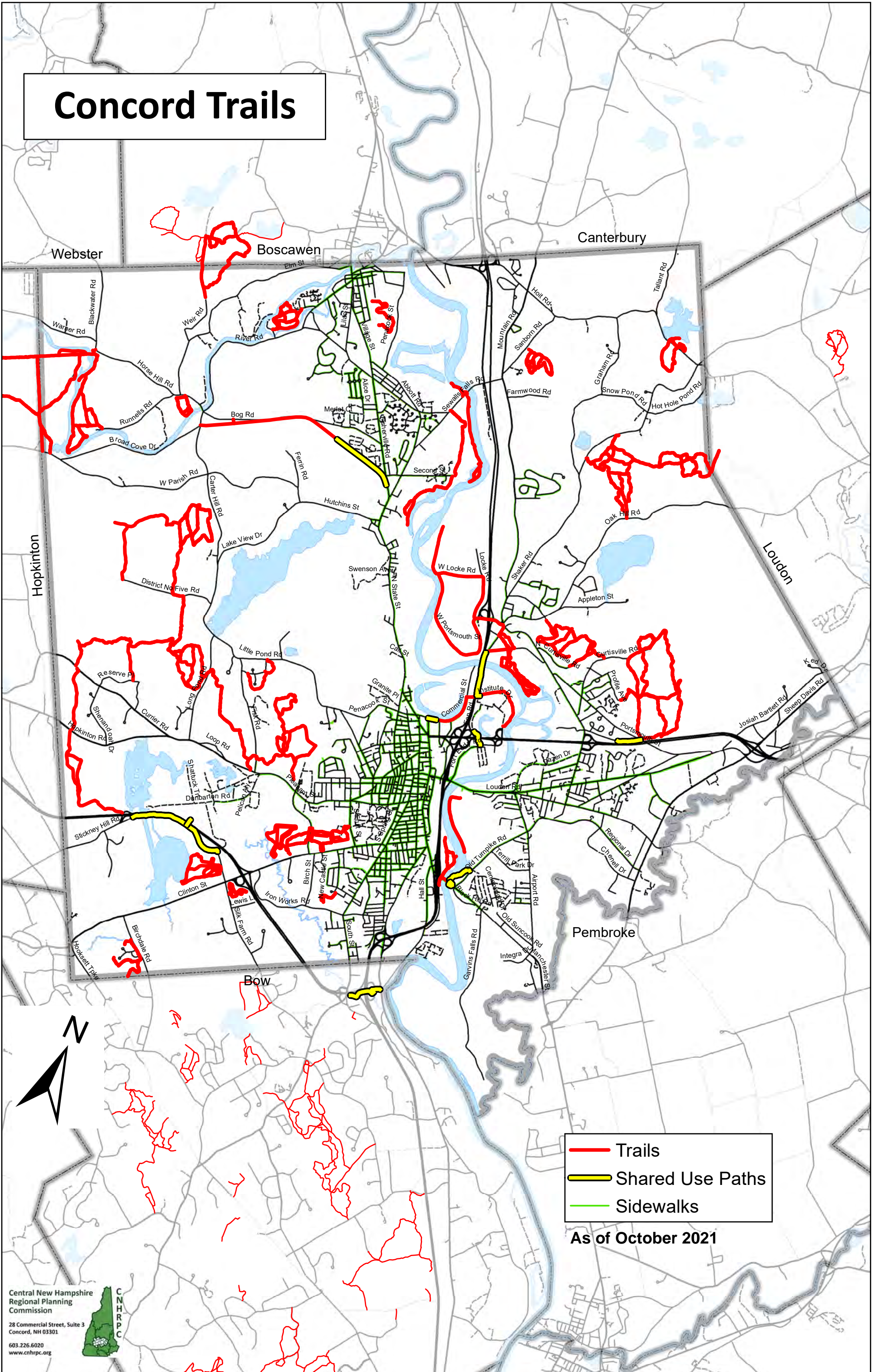
noted some of the trails are private trails on private land but were incorporated by the City to promote as a section of the overall trail system in the City. This practice should be conducted under a set of guidance and with listening sessions in the neighborhood in question. In any case, exemplary trails etiquette by trails users should be practiced in the vicinity of homes and neighborhoods. This too is a component of trails education.

The trail systems in the western section of Concord, north and south of the end of District Five Road, were at one time connected but are now disconnected. Participants expressed dismay and frustration at the lack of a connector between the Carter Hill Orchard Trails and the Margery Swope Trails. People would like the City to try to locate land for trail system connectivity.

Trail signage, particularly along long distance or looping trails, is often not acceptable. When users approach a junction signed generically (“Trail” was mentioned), this signage is unhelpful. Invest in better trail signage, although the entire trail name does not have to be spelled out. Unique but logical alpha-numeric abbreviations at junctions or as mile markers can also help address the emergency safety issue raised by participants. Similar to a map kiosk “You Are Here” map, brief metal signs would be significant improvements to users while provide a location for emergency responders.

Participants want the monitoring and enforcement of illegal trail uses, such as drug use, camping, and trailblazing. Although not located on most trails, when encountered, trail users feel safety concerns. If problems are not addressed, they are likely to grow. An enforcement presence could be the best measure for City property. Notify the non-City property owners on which these activities are observed. Using a brief, online reporting system on the City website or social media could create enough social pressure to alleviate these activities.

Concord Trails

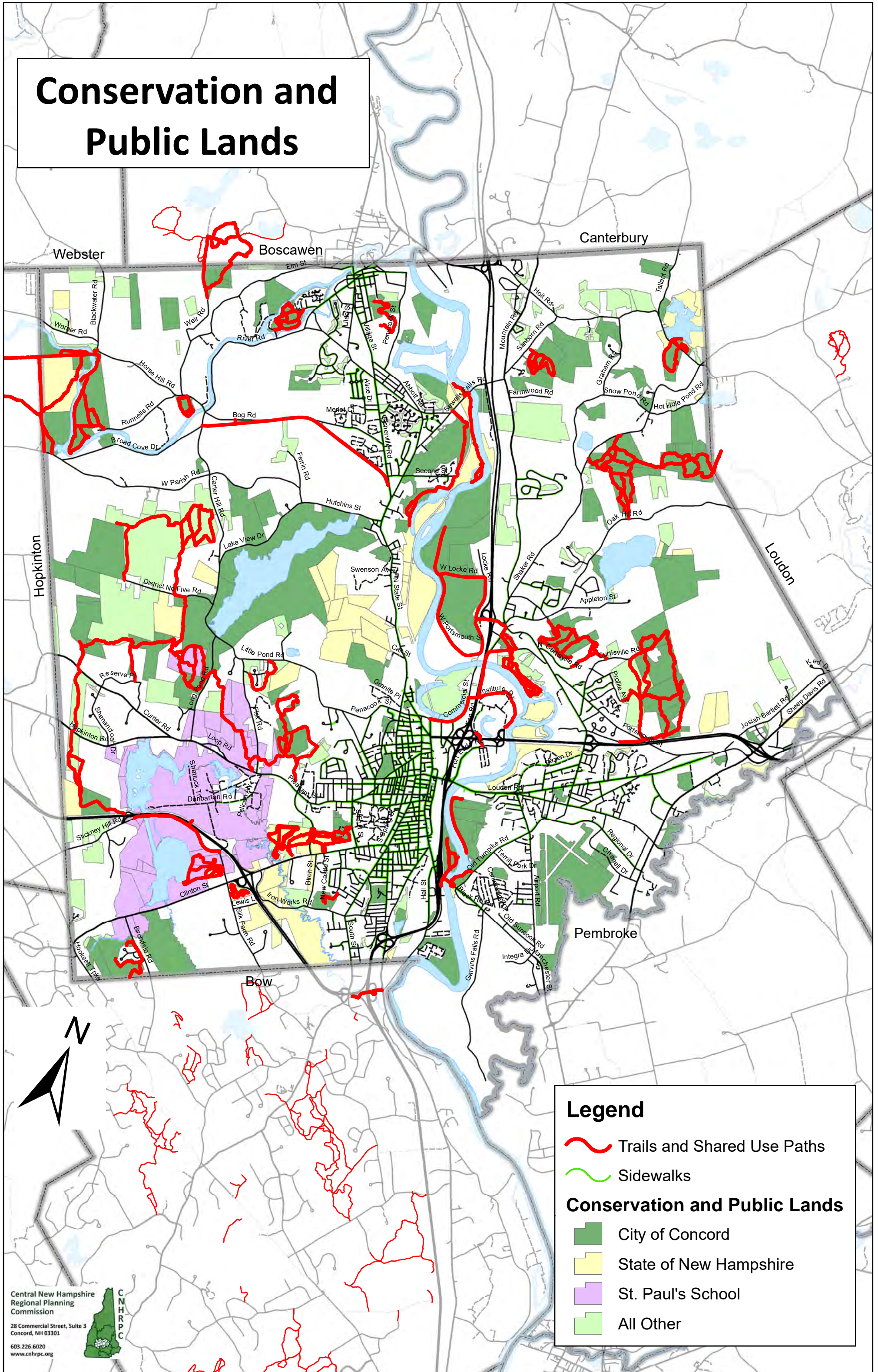


- Trails
- Shared Use Paths
- Sidewalks

As of October 2021



Conservation and Public Lands



Legend

- Trails and Shared Use Paths
- Sidewalks

Conservation and Public Lands

- City of Concord
- State of New Hampshire
- St. Paul's School
- All Other

Central New Hampshire
Regional Planning
Commission
28 Commercial Street, Suite 3
Concord, NH 03301
603.226.6020
www.cnhrpc.org

Trails that Connect the Community

Non-motorized Transportation Corridors

Northern Rail Trail
(58 miles to Lebanon, completed)

Merrimack River Greenway Trail
(Rail Trail)

Concord-Lake Sunapee Rail Trail
(32 miles, partially complete)





Langley Parkway Trail/Sidepath

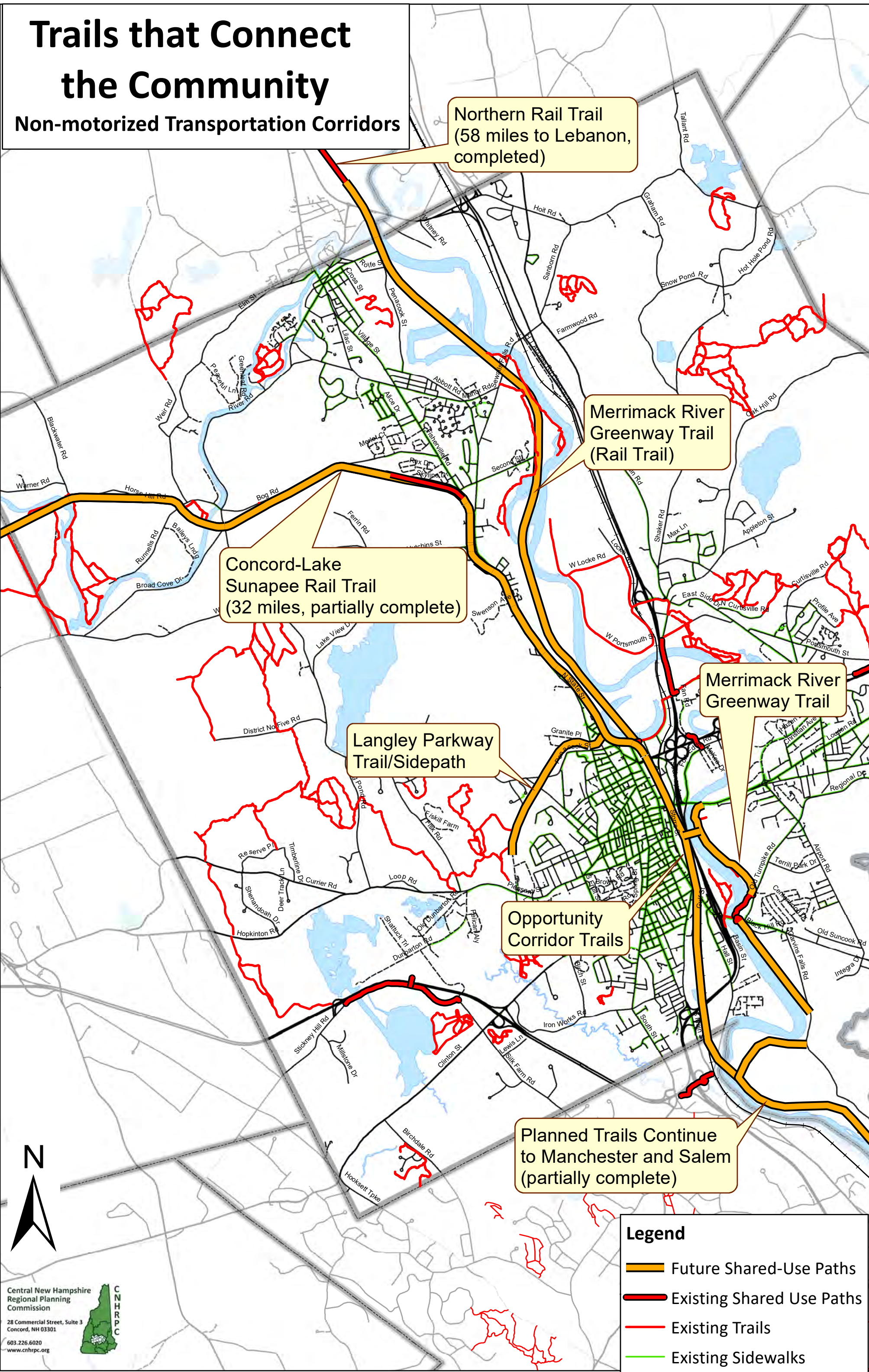
Merrimack River Greenway Trail

Opportunity Corridor Trails

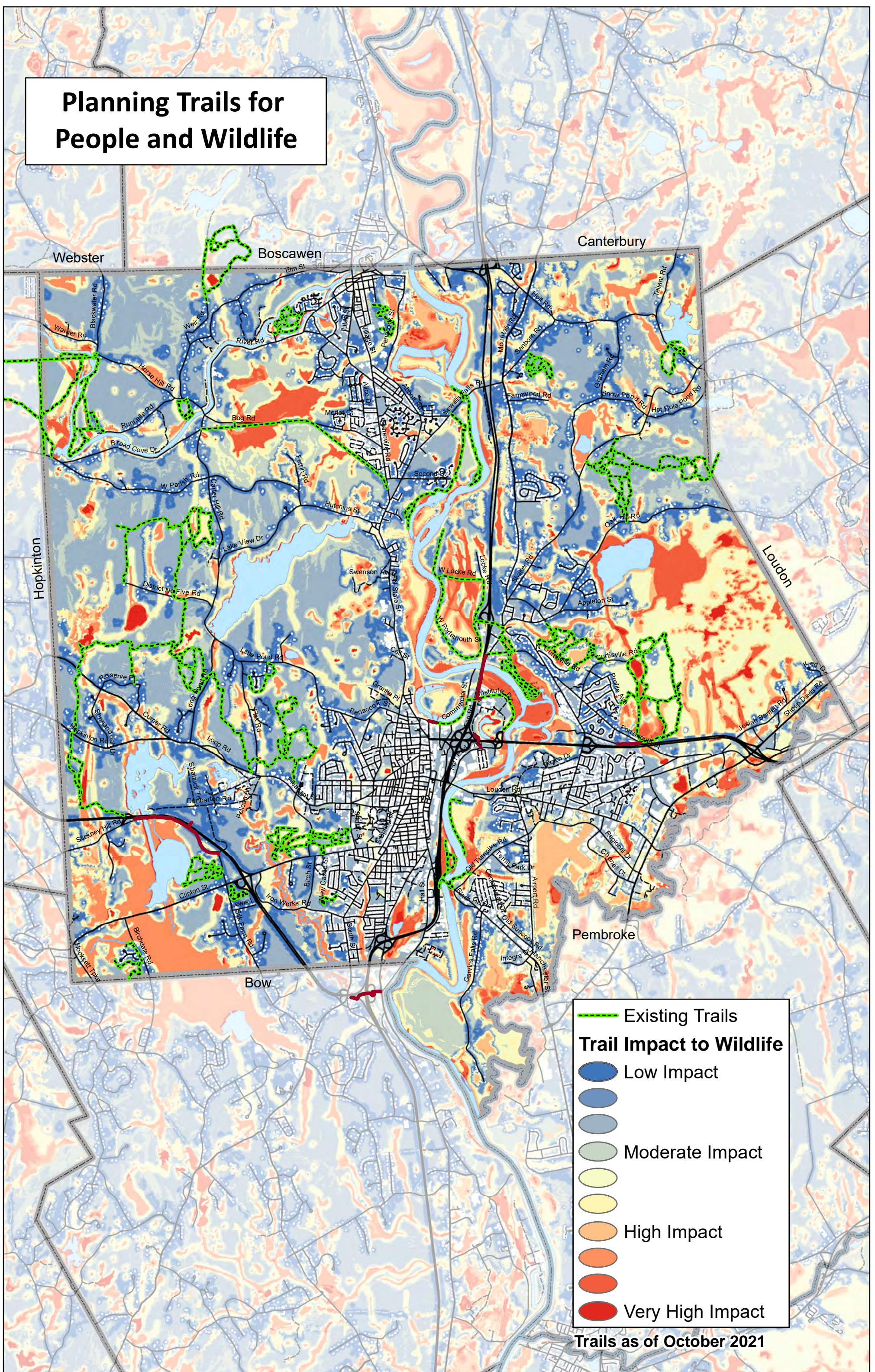
Planned Trails Continue to Manchester and Salem
(partially complete)

Legend

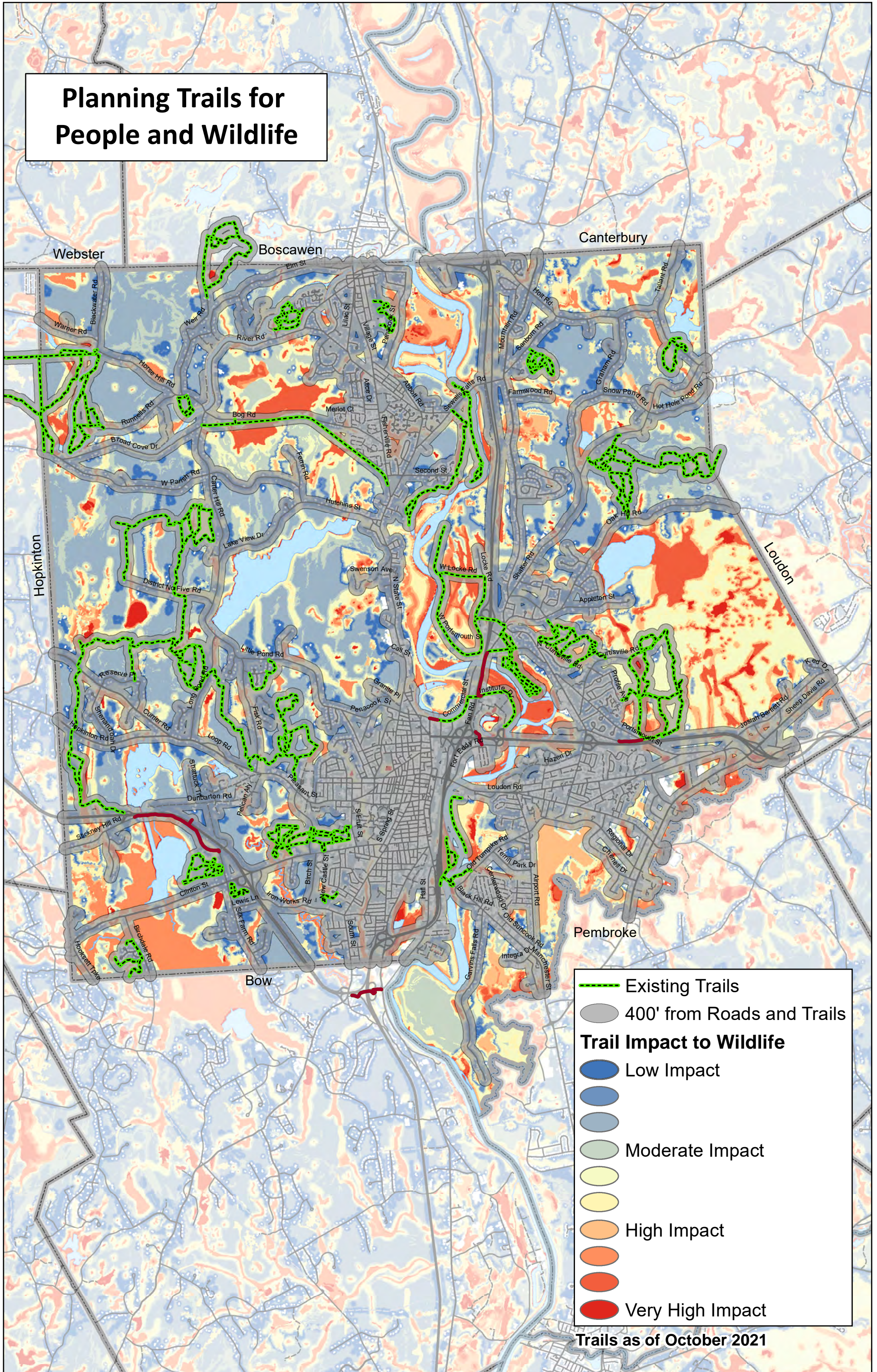
-  Future Shared-Use Paths
-  Existing Shared Use Paths
-  Existing Trails
-  Existing Sidewalks



Planning Trails for People and Wildlife



Planning Trails for People and Wildlife



- - - Existing Trails
- 400' from Roads and Trails

Trail Impact to Wildlife

- Low Impact
- Moderate Impact
- High Impact
- Very High Impact

Trails as of October 2021