

Concord Trails Subcommittee Criteria for a New Trail

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 might weigh in favor of taking on the project:

1. Links conserved areas or trail networks
2. Provides access to natural areas for neighborhoods without such access
3. Provides access to special places: views, waterfront, natural features, historic features
4. Provides public access to City conservation land acquired with the intent for public use
5. Reduces traffic on heavily used trails
6. Likely to be well used
7. Has community support
8. Improves the diversity of City trails
9. Provides access for all trail users

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

1. Difficult to maintain: wet areas, open fields, brushy areas, erosion potential
2. Requires expensive development – e.g. expensive bridges, DES permitting
3. Close proximity to existing trails
4. Community opposition
5. Trailhead parking, safety, and traffic issues

6. 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
7. Trail leads to an attractive nuisance, e.g. quarries, abandoned structures
8. Unusually difficult for police and fire responders to service the area
9. Close proximity to residential dwellings
10. Unusual fire risk, such as: steep slope alignments, past fire history, and impact on surrounding areas (e.g. watersheds or neighborhoods)