



CITY OF CONCORD

New Hampshire's Main Street™

REPORT TO THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Beth Fenstermacher, Assistant City Planner

DATE: December 31, 2019

SUBJECT: Trails Master Plan

Recommendation

Accept this report.

Background

As the number of trails and the popularity of the trails for outdoor recreation grow, staff identified the need for a planning document to guide growth and management of the trails, and to identify additional resources needed. The Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission (CNHRPC) has access to funding through the NH Department of Transportation to assist with the creation of a Trails Master Plan.

Discussion

Objectives of the Trails Master Plan will include: defining the role, purpose, and value of trails in the Concord community; clarifying if, where, and how new trails should be built; establishing a plan for long term maintenance and stewardship, including defining roles and responsibilities; and, identifying any additional resources required for the long term sustainability of the trail program.

City staff will work closely with CNHRPC during the development of the plan. In addition, a working group with members from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and Trails Subcommittee will be essential to the development of the plan. Public outreach will include an online survey facilitated by CNHRPC, communication with key stakeholders, and at least two public meetings to solicit feedback.

The first public meeting is scheduled for January 28th at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers. Public outreach and plan development will continue from January through April, with a second public meeting in late April or May to present the draft plan, followed by a comment period. Staff anticipates that the plan will be presented to the Planning Board for adoption in Summer 2020.