

## **Concord's Long Range Plan: Envision Concord-Bridge to 2030**

### **What is needed to keep Concord a Healthy Community in the future?**

What does Healthy Community mean to you? What does that look like in 2030?

These are questions The Comprehensive Long Range Planning Committee is asking as part of the Long Range Plan: Envision Concord-Bridge to 2030. Based on the American Planning Association's Healthy Community Principle and the World Health Organization's definition of health, the Committee did a Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat( SWOT) analysis for Healthy Community. The analysis focused on ensuring that public health needs are recognized and addressed through provisions for healthy foods, physical activity, access to recreation, healthcare, environmental justice, and safe neighborhoods. The Committee's analysis resulted in the following summary:

- Concord residents have access to a diversity of recreational and physical activity spaces including conservation land, state and national parkland, public biking and hiking trails, and public exercise facilities. It lacks pocket neighborhood parks, ride out playgrounds, and a town common.
- The Town needs to improve bike parking, connecting pedestrian and bike systems including Route 2 crossings, street completions, and removal of sidewalk obstacles.
- The Town has many strengths in providing its citizens access to health, safety, cultural, and educational facilities in a community hospital with outpatient facilities, good public services, access to schools, museums, libraries, and multiple art organizations which receive generous support from Concord citizens. Improvements are needed in providing transportation linkage to these facilities and increasing funding to the arts.
- Concord citizens are proactive and environmentally aware regarding the health hazards of toxins and pollutants. Public water is tested and several brownfield sites have or are being remediated. However, the Sudbury River remains polluted, Route 2 traffic impacts air quality, pesticides are in use, and leaf blowers create noise pollution. There is a need for a strategic approach to by-laws and regulations regarding these problems, and Concord should continue to monitor the remediation and development plans for all remaining brownfield sites.
- Concord has a low crime rate, but nighttime lighting for public safety needs continual assessment, and existing "crime prevention through environmental design" principles should be utilized.
- Local surveys document that Concord residents value the health benefits afforded by access to fresh locally grown and healthy foods. Concord has eighteen local farms, ten local farm stands, and there are community programs engaging citizens in local agriculture. Affordability, lack of refrigeration at the food pantry, the need for CSA access and produce delivery systems, and difficulties in West Concord access to existing resources remain problematic.