

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

### **What do you love about Concord's natural resources?**

People in Concord love to walk – and bike, and swim, and boat, and ski, and birdwatch, and engage in all other manners of outdoor activities. Our connection to the natural world is important to all of us, and the Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee (CLRP) wants to make sure that **Envision Concord – Bridge to 2030**, Concord's Long Range Plan, acknowledges this importance. Using American Planning Association principles, the CLRP has summarized the following about the current status of Concord's natural resources.

Some of our strengths:

- 35% of Concord is open space.
- We have a strong green infrastructure.
- There are many systems to protect wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas.
- We comply with EPA standards and have programs in place to reduce pollution.
- We have installed solar fields, offer incentive programs for homeowners to use solar power, and are working towards a conversion to more renewable energy sources.
- Concord has multiple voluntary recycling programs.
- The Town has an active water management program.

Opportunities to improve our natural resource use include:

- Encourage public/private partnerships to further protect open space.
- Consider zoning bylaw changes to protect natural resources while meeting future housing demands.
- Focus on connecting existing green spaces and promote access to those spaces.
- Encourage innovative responses to address climate change.
- Investigate single stream recycling.
- Investigate state and federal programs to encourage water conservation efforts.

The committee has also identified threats to Concord's natural resources.

- Undeveloped and unprotected land is increasingly scarce and rising in cost.
- The pace of development - including affordable and market priced housing - is not abating.
- Climate change has the potential to create significant and new vulnerabilities for property owners.

What do you love about Concord's natural resources? What are your concerns? Do you have ideas for the future? Be a part of the long-range plan **Envision Concord – Bridge to 2030** by letting us know. Citizens may share ideas any time and respond to the suggestions of others at the Envision Concord website – [www.EnvisionConcord.org](http://www.EnvisionConcord.org). All are welcome to attend our public meetings, held the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month. Dates and times are posted on the Town website. A great plan depends on you!