



**TOWN OF CONCORD**  
**COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**  
 141 KEYES ROAD, CONCORD, MA 01742  
 TEL. (978) 318-3290 FAX (978) 318-3291

**Application for CPA Funding**  
**Due no later than 4:00pm on Friday, September 17, 2022**

Applicant: Town of Concord - Natural Resources Division

Co-Applicant (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Project Name: Open Space and Recreation Plan Update

Project Location/Address: Town-wide

Purpose: (Select all that apply)

- Open Space       Community Housing       Historic Preservation       Recreation

Project Budget:

Amount of CPA Funds Requested: \$ 100,000

Amount from Other Funding Sources: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Project Budget: \$ 100,000

(If multi-year project, note current phase only)

Please check which of the following is included with this Application:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One Paragraph Project Summary *         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timeline *   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Map (if applicable)                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural plans, site plans, photographs (if appropriate)                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Narrative *                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Audit or most recent Financial Information (Non Profit Organizations Only)* |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Selection Criteria and Needs Assessment | <input type="checkbox"/> Letters of Support (if any)   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Detailed Project Budget *               |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feasibility Assessment                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Statement of Sustainability (if applicable)        |  |

\* Required Documentation

The Contact Person for this Project is: Delia Kaye, Natural Resources Director

All Correspondence should be mailed to: 141 Keyes Road, Concord MA 01742

The Contact Person can be reached by phone at: 978-318-3285 or by email at: dkaye@concordma.gov

Signature of Applicant: Delia Kaye

Signature of Property Owner (if different): #fapleno

**For Historic Preservation Projects Only** – please check the box below left and acknowledge:

- I/We have read the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and understand that planning for and execution of this project must meet these standards.

**Brief Project Summary:**

The Natural Resources Division respectfully requests \$100,000 for consultant services to assist in the preparation of the update of the Concord Open Space and Recreation Plan. This request, made equally from Open Space and Recreation CPA accounts, is for a consultant to assist the Division in developing an updated plan for state approval, allowing the Town to continue to be eligible for certain state and federal grants, and to continue important efforts to strategize open space and recreation planning needs and assessment. A state-approved Open Space and Recreation Plan, which is valid for seven years, helps to provide a roadmap for identifying community needs for open space and recreation, and makes the Town eligible for several state and federal grants.

**Narrative:**

Concord has a long history of conservation planning that has led to permanent protection of a significant portion of its forests, farmland, and wetlands. Residents cherish these open spaces with the peaceful landscapes, miles of walking trails, and hidden solaces that they provide. Concord citizens show great interest in town planning, and a desire for continued stewardship of open space resources to preserve the town's unique character and to meet the challenges of the future, including climate change, food and water security, and habitat conservation.

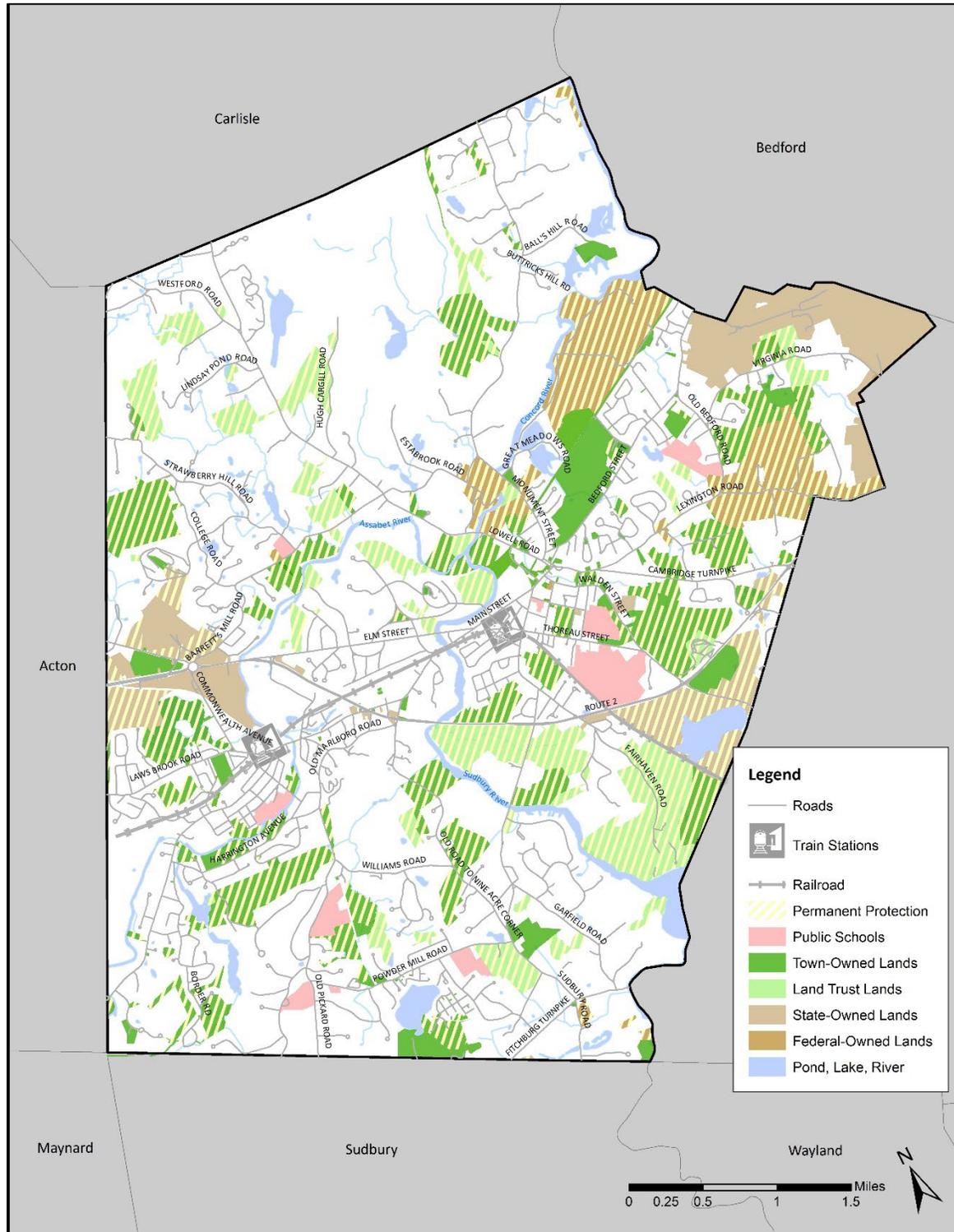
Rivers, railroads, and road systems link Concord to surrounding towns and beyond, and have stimulated agricultural, residential, and recreational development over time. Extensive wetlands and floodplains associated with Concord's three rivers and numerous streams and waterbodies, along with strong efforts to preserve the historic and rural character of the town, have limited development in certain areas, thereby protecting many of today's open space and recreation resources. Continued awareness and planning to protect the highly sought and much-valued open space and recreation resources in Town is critical to guiding sound development and protecting important community resources for open space and recreational purposes. The 2015 OSRP, which expired in February 2022, builds upon previous plans in determining actions to address Concord's identified goals.

Since 1992, Open Space and Recreation Plans delineated an Open Space Framework, which identifies three areas of significant conservation interest: large natural areas, large agricultural areas, and wildlife and water protection corridors (see Section 2 for full discussion). The current plan utilizes this scope of interests in identifying critical parcels of farmland, important habitat, and water resources to be conserved within the areas identified by the Open Space Framework.

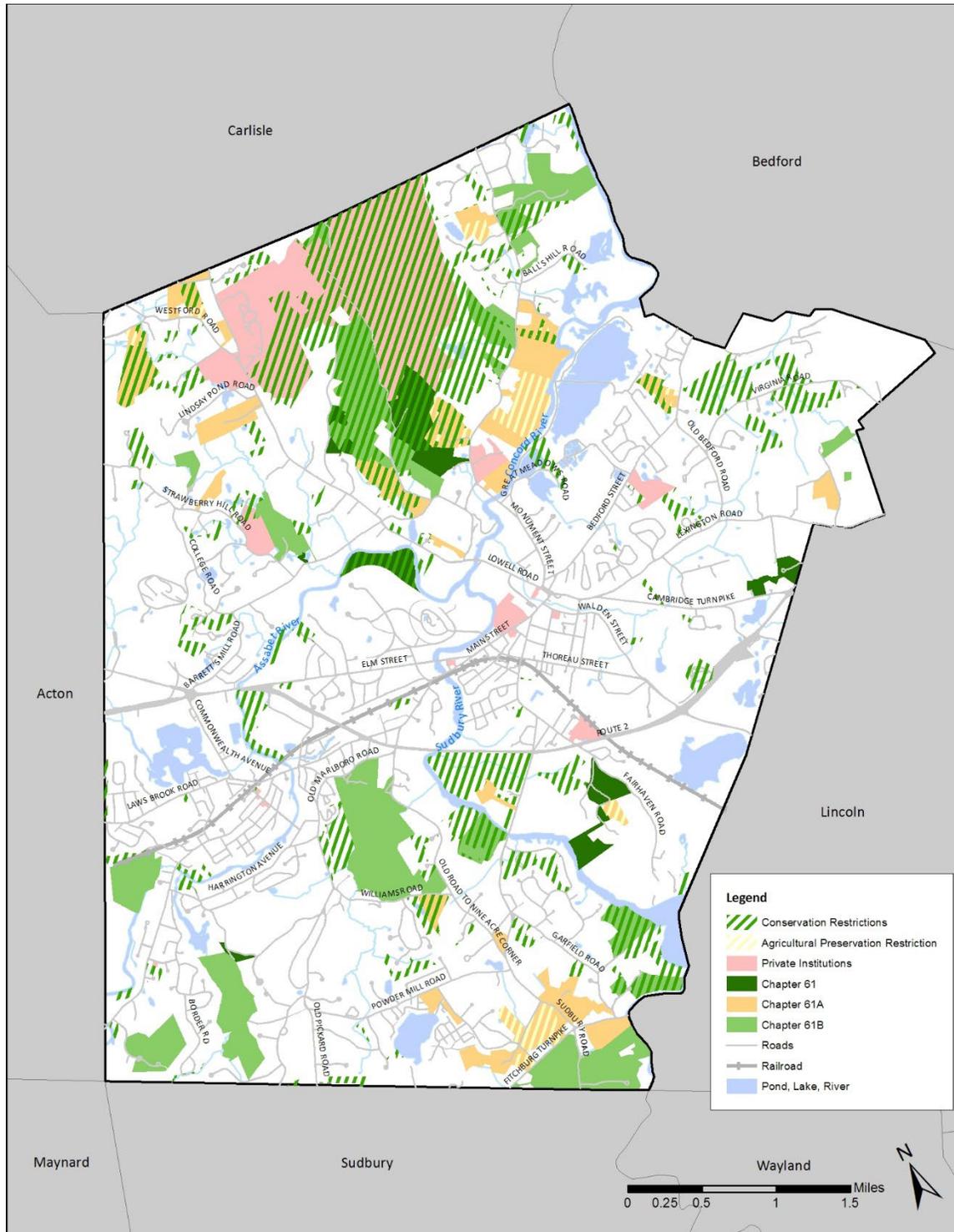
Concord has long benefitted from thoughtful and integrated planning for open space acquisitions and ongoing stewardship, resulting in a landscape of protected conservation lands and recreation facilities that provide innumerable values to the community. The updated OSRP will be produced by a consultant working with Town staff, an Open Space and Recreation Task Force, and the public to provide a roadmap to guide conservation land preservation and stewardship and development of recreational facilities through a strategic and prioritized action plan.

Open space preservation projects such as the Assabet River Bluffs and October Farm Riverfront acquisitions have only been possible with a valid OSRP. The Town has been approved at the state level for a \$500,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant towards the Assabet River Bluffs acquisition and received a \$400,000 Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND) grant for the October Farm Riverfront project.

Public open space lands are situated throughout Concord. The map below indicates public and private lands that are open for conservation and passive recreational use.



The following map provides an overview of those lands permanently protected through Conservation Restrictions and Agricultural Preservation Restrictions, as well as those under temporary protection in accordance with the Chapter 61 tax program for agriculture, forestry, and recreational purposes. Institutional lands are also shown.



### **CPC's Selection Criteria and Needs Assessment**

This application meets the following Selection Criteria as found in the 2020 Community Preservation Plan:

- a.) **Eligibility** – Under the CPA legislation, CPA funds can be used for “*the acquisition, creation, and preservation of open space*” and for “*recreational use*”. This proposal seeks to evaluate Town-owned open space, identifying and prioritizing important parcels of land for open space and recreation purposes.
- b.) **Consistency with Town-wide Planning** - The Town has long supported and endorsed the collaborative effort of developing and updating its Open Space and Recreation Plan. The last OSRP was endorsed by the Natural Resources Commission, Recreation Commission, and Select Board in 2014.
- c.) **Support by Boards, Committees, Community & Town Meeting Actions** –Please see above.
- d.) **Enhancement of existing Town-owned open space, recreation, historic, and/or housing assets** –This proposal seeks to identify and prioritize those parcels of land determined by the community to be valuable for open space and recreational purposes.
- e.) **Service of Multiple or Underserved Populations** –Town lands are public and open to all members of the community.
- f.) **CPA Purposes** – This proposal meets two of the four CPA purposes: open space preservation and recreation use.
- g.) **Administrative and Financial Management** - The Division of Natural Resources has overseen several CPA-funded projects and has completed all requirements for previously funded projects.
- h.) **Successful Implementation of Similar Projects** – The Division has prepared multiple iterations of the Open Space and Recreation Plan, which have been endorsed at the local level and approved by the state.
- i.) **Site Control** – N/A.
- j.) **Financial Need** – The Division of Natural Resources has a small operating budget to manage nearly 1,500 acres of conservation land but doesn’t have available resources to secure a consultant to assist with the next OSRP update.
- k.) **Sources of Funding** – In-kind contributions of staff time will be provided for project administration.

- l.) **Project Plan Feasibility** – The feasibility of completing an OSRP is highly likely, given the Division’s long-standing work on developing these plans.
- m.) **Urgency of Project** – State-approved OSRP’s are valid for seven years. The 2015 OSRP expired in February 2022, and preparing an updated plan positions the Town to receive certain state and federal grants. Under the 2015 OSRP, \$900,000 in state and federal grants were secured for open space acquisitions identified as priority parcels in town.
- n.) **Maintenance Provisions** – N/A.
- o.) **Permanent Restriction** – No permanent restriction is needed as part of this project
- p.) **Reimbursement** – This proposal does not seek reimbursement of previously appropriated funds.
- q.) **Incorporation of Sustainable Design Features** – N/A.
- r.) **Four Sustainability Principles** – N/A.
- s.) **Local Qualified Vendors** – The Town will adhere to state bidding rules, and will award projects to local bidders where it is legal and feasible to do so.
- t.) **Normal CPC Schedule** - This proposal does not request the CPC to act outside their normal schedule.
- u.) **Land Acquisition Projects** – N/A.

**Budget:** The Natural Resources Division respectfully requests \$100,000 in CPA funding (equally from the Open Space and Recreation categories) to contract with a qualified firm or individual to work with an Open Space and Recreation Task Force, the Natural Resources Commission, the Recreation Commission, and the public to update the 2015 OSRP. Pending recommendation for approval by the Community Preservation Committee, and 2023 Town Meeting approval, the Division will issue a Request for Proposals in the fall of 2023, and work with the selected consultant through 2024 to update the OSRP.