

CONCORD RECONNAISSANCE REPORT

FREEDOM'S WAY LANDSCAPE INVENTORY

MASSACHUSETTS HERITAGE LANDSCAPE
INVENTORY PROGRAM

Draft

Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation

Freedom's Way Heritage Association

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INTRODUCTION

The Freedom's Way Heritage Association includes 37 Massachusetts communities that are linked by historic events that helped to shape America's democratic form of governance and the intellectual traditions that underpin American freedom, democracy, conservation and social justice. Freedom's Way communities extend from Arlington on the east to Winchendon on the west. They represent a wide range of cities and towns, each shaped by the relationship between nature and culture.

Heritage landscapes are special places created by human interaction with the natural environment that help define the character of a community and reflect its past. They are dynamic and evolving; they reflect the history of a community and provide a sense of place; they show the natural ecology that influenced land use patterns; and they often have scenic qualities. The wealth of landscapes is central to each community's character, yet heritage landscapes are vulnerable and ever changing. For this reason it is important to take the first steps towards their preservation by identifying those landscapes that are particularly valued by the community – a favorite local farm, a distinctive neighborhood or mill village, a unique natural feature or an important river corridor. To this end, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Freedom's Way Heritage Association (FWHA) have collaborated to bring the Heritage Landscape Inventory program (HLI) to communities in the Freedom's Way area. The primary goal of the program is to help communities identify a wide range of landscape resources, particularly those that are significant and unprotected. The focus is on landscapes that have not been identified in previous survey efforts in a given community. Another important goal of the program is to provide communities with strategies for preserving heritage landscapes.

The methodology for the Heritage Landscape Inventory program was developed in a pilot project conducted in southeast Massachusetts and refined in Essex County. It is outlined in the DCR publication *Reading the Land* which has provided guidance for the program since its inception. In summary, each participating community appoints a Local Project Coordinator (LPC) to assist the DCR-FWHA consulting team. The LPC organizes a heritage landscape identification meeting at which interested residents and town officials offer community input by identifying heritage landscapes. This meeting is followed by a fieldwork session including the consulting team and the LPC, often accompanied by other community members. This group visits the priority landscapes identified in the meeting and gathers information about the community. The final product is this Reconnaissance Report, prepared for each participating community. It outlines the history of the community; describes the priority heritage landscapes; discusses planning issues identified by the community; identifies planning tools available in the community; and concludes with preservation recommendations. A list of all of the heritage landscapes identified by the community is included in the Appendix.

CONCORD HISTORY

Located 18 miles west-northwest of Boston, the town of Concord was incorporated in 1635 as the first inland settlement in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Situated at a major confluence point where the Sudbury and Assabet Rivers join to become the Concord, there were initially nine miles of river within its borders providing a major attraction for trappers, fur traders and farmers. By the beginning of the 18th century the original English settlement between a sheltering ridge and a secondary brook, the Mill Brook, had grown into the bustling core of an important shire town, where the Middlesex County courts convened on a regular basis and a variety of colonial trades were carried on.

In 1775 the town was a well-established, prosperous farming community and a thriving regional center with ready access to Boston along the Bay Road, when on April 19 the first full battle of the Revolutionary War was fought just outside the town center at the North Bridge on the Concord River.

After the war ended, the center village further evolved into a busy commercial, civic and institutional town center. Near the meetinghouse and two burial grounds, schools, taverns and stores commingled with the courthouse, jail and other county buildings around the town common just northeast of the Mill Brook. Many small industrial and craftsmen's shops, which were particularly active during the War of 1812 and its associated embargoes, were concentrated south of the common and on the road that crossed the broad dam on the mill pond. A radical change occurred at the town center in 1828, when the Milldam Company, a group of local businessmen, filled in the millpond and began replacing the buildings on and west of the dam with brick and wood-frame business blocks. This was the beginning of a true "downtown" of substantial commercial structures, many of which still survive.

Through the 19th century, outlying farms prospered, with dairying and market-gardening, including the growing of strawberries and asparagus, becoming important specialties toward the end of the century. Two turnpikes built before 1810, the Cambridge/Concord and the Union Turnpike, and in 1844 the Fitchburg Railroad, speeded travel, shipping, and communication with Boston and the wider region. The transportation improvements also spurred pockets of industrial development, especially in the west end of town where an 1808 cotton spinning mill on the Assabet River expanded through the Civil War as the Damon Manufacturing Company, and a long-lived powder mill straddled the town border with Acton and Sudbury.

Also in the west part of town, a small hamlet begun around an 1850s pail factory grew into the major secondary village of Concord Junction after the Framingham & Lowell Railroad was extended north to the Fitchburg line in 1871-72. Over the next two decades West Concord rapidly developed as the most populous section of town. The main catalyst for the expansion of housing, commerce and industry there was the establishment of the State Prison in 1878 between the railroad junction and the former Union Turnpike. Two more railroad lines, the

Middlesex Central and the Acton, Nashua & Boston, reached the prison by 1879, and in 1884 the prison became the Massachusetts Reformatory for Men—a major local employer for the next several decades.

Paralleling the industrial and institutional expansion at West Concord, the community as a whole was developing a reputation as a progressive agricultural center. The Middlesex Agricultural Society began holding its annual cattle shows in Concord in 1820, with indoor agricultural exhibits and competitions in the county courthouse. Concord farmers were among the regular prizewinners, including Ephraim Bull, breeder of the Concord Grape, and several “seedsmen”—horticulturalists who developed and marketed new and improved varieties of plants. Simon Brown, editor of the influential *New England Farmer*, operated a model farm overlooking the Concord River from 1848 to 1873. He was joined in 1867 by his brother-in-law Judge Henry French, an agricultural authority and first President of the Massachusetts Agricultural College (the predecessor of the University of Massachusetts.)

While the progressive group of agricultural thinkers and innovators attracted others with similar interests to the town, Concord is even better known as a magnet for authors and intellectuals who gathered around a core group of 19th-century literary luminaries during what has been called the intellectual “flowering of New England.” At the center of the group from the 1820s to the 1880s was Ralph Waldo Emerson. Others whose influence is still felt today (and whose homes are among the primary attractions of the town) include Henry David Thoreau, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Louisa May Alcott and her father Bronson Alcott, and poet William Ellery Channing. Most were Transcendentalists, and they found in Concord’s natural and domestic landscape the embodiment of the transcendental philosophy. Thanks to the multi-faceted mind of Thoreau, that landscape was also the first laboratory in the science of ecology.

Farming in Concord continued well into the 20th century, much of it having been transformed by 1900 under a new population of immigrant farmers from Ireland, Scandinavia and Canada. Many old farms near the town center and in West Concord, however, were subdivided into house lots, with houses put up in the prevailing styles of the day. Stylish late-Victorian enclaves are located at Concord center, and together with large early 20th-century houses built near the railroads, many of them architect-designed, they indicate the rise of a prosperous group of residents who commuted to the city. The coming of two streetcar lines in 1900-1901, one east to Bedford and one west toward Hudson, also spawned residential development along the Bedford Street corridor at the east, and flanking Main Street at the west end of town. Beginning in the 1890s, several large country estates were established overlooking the rivers.

The streetcar era ended in the 1920s, and in the mid-1930s a major auto route, the Concord Turnpike, later part of Route 2, was built to bypass the center of town. More transportation improvements followed, and Concord developed into a major suburb of Boston; the population more than doubled between 1940 and 1980. Today it stands at 17,000. After World War II, local developers put up subdivisions and clusters of affordable houses in the prevailing Cape-Cod and

Ranch styles, and the large wooded area of Conantum south of the Sudbury River was filled with modern modular houses influenced by the International Style. Large estates continued to be built, as well. But throughout the town Concord's historic character is still evident, much of it protected in local historic districts, by the presence of Minuteman National Historic Park in the vicinity of the North Bridge and east along the 1775 "Battle Road," and by an active program of land conservation.

PRIORITY HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

Concord's Heritage Landscape Identification meeting, attended by approximately 19 residents, some representing town boards and local non-profit organizations, was held on February 28, 2006. During the meeting residents compiled a lengthy list of the town's heritage landscapes, which is included in the Appendix. Once the comprehensive list was created, attendees were asked to articulate the value of each landscape and the issues relating to its preservation. Based on the information gathered, community members identified a group of priority landscapes to be visited by the consulting team during the fieldwork. Each of the priority landscapes is highly valued, contributes to community character and is not permanently protected or preserved. These landscapes, which are listed alphabetically, represent a range of scales and types of resources. The descriptions and recommendations included here are an initial step in identifying resources valued by the community and suggesting action strategies.

Barrett Farm

The Barrett Farm, located at 448 Barrett's Mill Road a short distance west of the Old North Bridge, includes historic buildings, natural areas and agricultural land. It is a strategically important property that has garnered wide institutional and governmental support. The farm is historically significant as the original destination of the British soldiers who marched to Concord on April 19, 1775, believing that Colonial munitions were stored there. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is also a Local Historic District. The land has remained in continuous agricultural use since Colonial times and is also part of an important open space corridor along the Assabet River. The Barrett farmhouse, built in 1705, retains much of its Colonial character, as does its setting which includes fields on the north side of the road as well as agricultural land and later residential buildings on the south side of the road associated with the most recent owners, the McGraths. The 3.5-acre parcel on the north side of Barrett Farm Road where the Barrett farmhouse is located is owned by Save Our Heritage, a non-profit organization that plans to preserve the building in the hope of future acquisition by the National Park Service. The house is currently vacant. There is undeveloped town-owned land to the north and east of the farmhouse, which is important to the rural and agricultural character of the area. The part of the former Barrett Farm on the south side of Barrett's Mill Road along the Assabet River is now largely town conservation land. Barrett's Mill Road is part of a larger agricultural area that has been identified by the town as significant.

Recommendations

The National Park Service is interested in acquiring the farmhouse parcel, which would be an important asset in interpreting the park story. Adjacent land that is significant for its agricultural or open space value might be best protected through other means and will require cooperation between the town and other groups such as the Land Conservation Trust.

- Work with National Park Service and other groups to assure permanent protection of the Barrett farmhouse parcel as part of Minuteman National Park.
- Designate town-owned land that abuts the farmhouse parcel on the north and east as conservation land to assure permanent protection of this important historic area.
- Explore feasibility of an Agricultural Overlay District along section of Barrett's Mill Road extending east from Barrett Farm as recommended in the Long Range Plan.

Estabrook Woods

Estabrook Woods, Concord's largest intact natural area is located in the northern part of town and also extends into Carlisle. Harvard University's 678-acre Estabrook Woods property is the core of the area, which also includes land along Lowell Road owned by Middlesex School as well as Bateman's Pond, Punkatasset Conservation Land, several parcels of Land Conservation Trust property, and smaller parcels. This area, which is largely wooded, was identified as one of seven priority open spaces in the town's open space and long range plans. Abutting the wooded areas are agricultural parcels to the west and east that extend roughly from Lowell Road to Monument Street, creating the largest undeveloped area in Concord. Over 900 acres in Estabrook Woods is considered permanently protected, including the Harvard land, which has a deed restriction designating it as permanent open space. Primary concerns are the undeveloped land adjacent to Estabrook Woods as well as the future uses desired by those parcels owned by the educational institutions.

Recommendations

Goals for the Estabrook Woods area are three-fold, to permanently protect additional parcels of natural land; to minimize the impacts of adjacent development on natural areas; and to assure appropriate stewardship and use of preserved land, which is in multiple ownership. All of these goals will require cooperation between the town, Land Conservation Trust and institutional owners. See also discussion of land stewardship on page **xx**.

- Continue to pursue opportunities for permanent protection of parcels in the Estabrook Woods area.

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- Work with private and institutional owners of parcels on the periphery of Estabrook Woods to minimize impacts of development of natural and recreational resources.
 - Coordinate on land stewardship issues of mutual concern, including land management practices, public use and access.

Flood Meadows

Native Americans called the Concord area Musketaquid or Marsh Grass River. The open grassy areas along the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord Rivers were critical to Concord's earliest residents, important to Concord's early European settlers, and are still a distinctive landscape type that is highly valued by Concord residents today. While there are many flood meadows along Concord's rivers and streams, the area that is best known and most visible is at the junction of the Sudbury and Assabet Rivers where they meet to form the Concord River. Egg Rock, a distinctive glacial erratic is located here as well. Other important areas include land along the Concord River that is part of Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and land along the Sudbury River in the southern part of town. The flood meadows are most visible from Lowell Road (where there is a boat launch), from Nashawtuc Road and from Sudbury Road, with views also from Monument Street and Elm Street. The flood meadows are valued for their scenic open landscape character, an increasing rarity in eastern Massachusetts, as well as their role in flood prevention, water quality, wildlife habitat and their historical associations. Concord residents also expressed general concern about the importance of riverbanks, tributaries and wetlands as an essential part of Concord's open space and ecology.

Recommendations

The Flood Meadows are by definition wet areas that are vulnerable to seasonal flooding. Much of the land is owned by public agencies or the Land Conservation Trust and is protected to some extent from development by the Wetlands Protection Act. An important concern of Concord residents is preserving the open grassy character of the landscape, which might otherwise evolve into woodland. Key groups involved in stewardship of Concord's meadowlands include the Natural Resource Commission, the Concord Conservation Land Trust, the National Park Service and the US Department of Fish and Wildlife Service. See also discussion of land stewardship on page xx.

- Develop a wetlands protection bylaw to protect unique natural features such as flood meadows.
- Work collaboratively with Land Conservation Trust to acquire additional meadow and riverbank land.
- Work collaboratively with other meadow stewards to on issues of mutual concern such as land management, public access, and invasive vegetation.

Massachusetts Department of Correction Land

A state prison was established in Concord in 1878. In 1884 it was renamed the Massachusetts Reformatory for Men. The complex, which includes two major correctional institutions, has grown over the years and is now one of the largest properties in Concord, totaling about 300 acres, prominently located along Route 2 and 2A in the western part of town. MCI-Concord, located on the southwest side of Route 2 at the Concord Rotary, is a maximum security state prison. Older facilities associated with this complex include a late 19th century brick administration building, staff housing, a cemetery and remnants of a formal garden. The complex also includes a large late 20th century walled prison on the south side of Route 2 with state police facilities opposite on the north side of Route 2. West of the rotary are extensive agricultural fields on both sides of Route 2 that extend into Acton.

Along Route 2A west of the rotary is the Northeast Correctional Center, a minimum-security state prison that includes mid to late 20th century institutional buildings, barns and silos as well as extensive pastureland and pine forest. Until very recently this land was occupied by a large dairy herd so there is now speculation that it may be declared surplus.

The Mass Correction land was identified as a priority landscape for many reasons. The 19th century administration building, residences and garden are historic resources that contribute to the character of the community. Stewardship of these historic buildings is a community concern, especially since a row of historic houses built for prison staff along Commonwealth Avenue was demolished in the 1990s. The farmland associated with the property represents a significant portion of the agricultural land in Concord and is also an important scenic resource and a prominent gateway to the community from the west. MCI Concord land also includes extensive frontage along the Assabet River.

The Concord Rotary, which is at the center of the correction land, is a major traffic bottleneck that is considered a regional problem. Mass Highway is currently exploring options for alternative designs that would make traffic flow more smoothly. Any proposed changes would dramatically alter the character of the area and it is likely that additional land use changes would occur when the rotary area is rebuilt. Concord residents are concerned that the decision-making process be as comprehensive as possible and take into account impacts on the rural character of the area including preservation of natural, cultural and scenic resources of this important gateway area.

Recommendations

The Mass Correction land is an important area that is in transition. Changes could have a substantial impact on West Concord and the Route 2/2A corridor. Surplus land could accommodate important town needs. Much of the decision-making will fall under the jurisdiction of two state agencies, Mass Department of Correction and Mass Highway. The town has already articulated the values of this area and will need to work closely with state agencies and with the town of

Acton to carefully review any proposed changes and be poised to acquire any surplus land.

- Work with state agencies to preserve agricultural and riverfront land and historic resources.
- Work proactively with state agencies to assure that state plans take into account town needs and priorities in land disposition and transportation planning.

Nine Acre Corner

Nine Acre Corner is a rural area that extends along both sides of Sudbury Road roughly from Old Road to Nine Acre Corner south to the Concord/Sudbury line. It is a crossroads in the southern part of town that is valued as a remnant agricultural and natural landscape. Much of the land in this area is still farmed. Between Powder Mill Road and Route 117, most of the land on the west side of Sudbury Road is actively farmed by Verrill Farm, a popular farm with an active year-round farm stand whose land is largely protected by agricultural preservation restrictions. East of Sudbury Road at the northern end of Nine Acre Corner is a large municipal parcel that extends along Sudbury Road and also includes a portion of the wetland area known as Willow Guzzle which lies between Sudbury Road and Garfield Road. South of the municipal parcel there are several small residential properties and a large parcel known as the Taranto land which includes a handsome 19th century house and barn complex and has been used for various agricultural uses. A portion is currently leased for nursery use. There is a cluster of small-scale late 20th century commercial and residential buildings at the intersection of Sudbury Road and Route 117. On the south side of Route 117 is more agricultural land, with evidence of drainage ditches, and a tributary of the Assabet River with associated wetlands.

Nine Acre Corner is one of six large agricultural areas identified in Concord's long range plan. It also includes extensive wetlands and is valued for scenic views and wildlife habitat. At the Heritage Landscape meeting, residents expressed particular concern about the part of this area east of Sudbury Road, including the town-owned parcel, Taranto land and wetlands along the Sudbury River.

Recommendations

Nine Acre Corner is an important area that is vulnerable to transition as land becomes more valuable for residential development. The Land Management Department, working with the Conservation Land Trust, is the logical agency to take the lead in preserving this area. See general agricultural recommendations on page xx.

- Work with owners of large agricultural parcels to develop strategies to preserve farm fields and woodland through conservation and preservation

restrictions using M.G.L. Chapter 184, Sections 31-33 or agricultural preservation restriction if farming activities are sufficient to qualify.

Virginia Road

Virginia Road, located in the eastern part of Concord, is one of the oldest roads in town but it has not received the same attention as other historic roads. The easternmost section of Virginia Road is located within Hanscom Air Force Base and is not accessible to the public. The public part of the road extends from Hanscom Air Force Base on the east to Old Bedford Road on the west, a distance of just over a mile. The road itself is a narrow two-lane roadway that has a fairly rural character. On the eastern end is the Wheeler Farm mixed-use development that includes a cluster of late 20th century office buildings, an adaptively used barn and a farmhouse. West of that are the extensive wetlands associated with Elm Brook.

At 341 Virginia Road is the Thoreau Birth House (also known as Wheeler-Minot House and Thoreau Farm), now a town-owned historic site that has recently been listed in the National Register. The Thoreau Farm Trust is raising funds to restore the house and Gaining Ground, a non-profit agricultural group, is establishing an organic farm on the property. West of the Thoreau Birth House there is a mix of late 20th century residential development on both sides of the road; undeveloped Hanscom land on the north side of the road that includes extensive wetlands; and town conservation land on the south side of the road, some of which is leased for agricultural use.

Residents were particularly concerned about the Thoreau Birth House, an important historic site that had been largely ignored until recently. They were also concerned about the extensive wetlands in the area (some of which are under a term conservation restriction that will soon expire) and the possible impacts of future Hanscom expansion.

Recommendations

The Historical Commission and the Natural Resources Commission are logical town departments to work together on preserving the historic and rural character of Virginia Road, working in conjunction with Hanscom officials and other organizations such as the Thoreau Farm Trust and Gaining Ground.

- Document priority sites along the road that contribute to historic character on an MHC area form. Use this understanding of the road's history to build a case for preserving this unique historic resource.
- Enact a scenic roads bylaw and designate Virginia Road as a scenic road. See general recommendations regarding scenic roads on page xx.

Walden Woods/Route 126 Corridor

Walden Woods is a large area in Concord and Lincoln that lies east of the Sudbury River. It is characterized by sandy, acidic soils and includes two large ponds, Walden Pond and Sandy Pond, as well as several smaller ponds. Walden Pond is nationally significant for its association with Henry David Thoreau, who built a small cottage near the shore in the 19th century. In Concord Walden Woods includes Fairhaven Hill, Walden Pond State Reservation, the former Concord Landfill and the Town Forest as well as surrounding land.

At the Heritage Landscape meeting, residents expressed particular concern about the Route 126 corridor (also known as Walden Street) through Walden Woods, which provides the primary public access to Walden Pond, especially the section south of Route 2. Only the Concord section of Route 126 is addressed here, although it forms the eastern boundary of Walden Pond Reservation in Lincoln as well. Most of Walden Pond Reservation, including Walden Pond itself, is located on the west side of Route 126. However, parking for the popular reservation is located on the east side of the road, which also functions as an important regional roadway. A trailer park located on the east side of Route 126 is being phased out and the former landfill has been regraded and is now becoming vegetated. Residents were concerned that the road might be relocated away from Walden Pond and that other land use changes might also occur which could be detrimental to the relatively rural character of the area and could potentially eliminate the views of the pond for passersby.

Recommendations

The Route 126 corridor south of Route 2 is an important part of Walden Woods that is in transition. Much of the decision-making will fall under the jurisdiction of two state agencies, Mass Department of Conservation and Recreation and Mass Highway. The towns of Lincoln and Concord are also important stakeholders in decisions affecting the road.

- Work with state agencies and town of Lincoln to preserve rural character of roadway and views of pond from the road.

West Concord Village

Concord has three village centers: Concord Center, Depot/Thoreau Street and West Concord. The town values each of these areas and is working to preserve their unique character. While all three were identified by the community as heritage landscapes, West Concord was selected as a priority landscape because it is considered most vulnerable to change. West Concord is a mixed use village area between Route 2 and the Assabet River in the western part of Concord. It primarily reflects its late 19th and early 20th century development and has generally been considered secondary to other parts of Concord, but has recently been recognized as a vital and active part of the community with a distinct character of its own.

West Concord developed as an industrial village in the 19th century, with mills along the Assabet River that made it the industrial center of the community.

Today it reflects its industrial heritage as well as the presence of MCI-Concord, the railroad and a diverse commercial center with many startup businesses and specialty stores. Our Lady's Church, industrial buildings and the West Concord Depot were institutions specifically mentioned by community residents. Key issues are preserving the physical character of the area, as well as the unique mix of businesses, institutions and natural areas, including the Assabet River. Proposed reconfiguration of the Route 2 rotary and potential changes at MCI-Concord would heavily impact West Concord.

Recommendations

The Planning Board, working in conjunction with the Historical Commission, is in the best position to take a leadership role in promoting the preservation of West Concord, which has recently been documented on MHC survey forms. The Our Lady campus was recently designated a local historic district. To preserve the integrity of this architecturally and historically significant neighborhood:

- Prepare a National Register nomination for eligible portions of West Concord.
- Develop a study report to consider a neighborhood architectural conservation district. This designation would require a new bylaw and specific designations of this area in order to reap the benefits of the design review for changes that are visible from public ways. These districts are a way in which to preserve the neighborhood character and important architectural features. See more comprehensive description in General Recommendations.
- Establish a village overlay district as recommended in the Long Range Plan and develop rehabilitation standards to assist property owners in preserving character defining features of these architecturally significant properties.

CRITICAL CONCERNS

In addition to the priority landscapes listed in the previous section, residents also identified critical issues related to heritage landscapes and community character. Critical concerns are town-wide issues that are linked to a group or category of heritage landscapes, not to a particular place. These issues are listed in alphabetical order. Community members also expressed interest in learning about preservation tools and strategies that have been effective in other Massachusetts communities and in identifying sources for preservation funding.

Agricultural Land

The rural character of Concord is closely linked to its farms at the gateways to the community and along the many scenic roads. Preservation of farms, including farming activities, is critical to the rural character of the town. Concord's Long Range Plan indicates that in 2005 Concord had roughly 1,500 acres of land that was actively farmed, including land owned by the National

Park Service and Mass Correction Department, as well as town-owned land that is leased to local farmers. The town has been losing farmland at a rate of about 36 acres per year for the past 20 years. Although half of Concord's agricultural land is protected, there are about 662 acres that are unprotected and vulnerable to development. See General Preservation Planning Recommendations on page xx for recommendations regarding agriculture.

Churches as Community Focal Points

Churches are landmarks within the community that serve as physical place makers, particularly those that are prominently sited and have visible steeples. Many are also neighborhood centers that are the focal point of numerous social and community activities. There are a large number of churches in Concord. Some may be vulnerable to closing and others may have difficulty maintaining their historic buildings. Loss of active churches and church buildings is an issue not just for the congregation but also for the whole community. Most of Concord's historic churches have been documented on MHC inventory forms and many are in local historic districts.

Land Stewardship and Regional Landscapes

Concord is fortunate to have large areas of public and institutionally owned landscapes. Primary owners include the town, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Hanscom Field/Air Force Base, Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation, Mass. Department of Correction, the Concord Land Conservation Trust, Harvard University and Walden Woods, as well as private owners. These areas include riverfront land, wetlands, agricultural land and woodlands, as well as parcels that serve specific commercial or institutional uses.

In many cases parcels are intertwined and boundaries are visually undistinguishable. Particularly in wet or agricultural areas, stewardship of one parcel often impacts another. For example, preserving Concord's flood meadows is an important goal shared by the Natural Resources Commission and the Land Conservation Trust, who frequently work together on joint projects. The National Park Service has taken a bolder approach to maintaining its flood meadows, while the Fish and Wildlife Service is primarily concerned with preserving habitat. Similarly the various museum groups and historic houses have many shared concerns and different approaches. In each case, communication among land stewards with common interests is an important goal.

Similarly, regional landscapes are shared by several communities. Concord has important land use relationships with each of the abutting communities. These include rivers, bike trails, Mass Correction lands, Minuteman National Park, Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and Walden Pond State Reservation. In general there has been good communication and cooperation on most issues to date. Concord will need to remain alert to opportunities that involve cooperation of several communities.

Scenic Roads

Concord residents emphatically stated that all Concord roads are considered scenic. Surprisingly, however, the town does not have scenic roads bylaw although it has implemented a “minimalist” approach to maintaining the character of Concord’s roads. Elements of roads that are valued are narrow width, irregular alignment, bridges, stone walls, trees and views. Views from roads and bridges are central to Concord’s community character, especially at Nine Acre Corner and Great Meadows.

EXISTING RESOURCE DOCUMENTATION AND PLANNING TOOLS

Concord already has important planning tools in place to document current conditions within the town; identify issues of concern to town residents; and develop strategies for action. This section of the Reconnaissance Report identifies existing planning documents and tools that provide information relevant to the Heritage Landscape Inventory program.

Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets

The Massachusetts Historical Commission’s (MHC) Inventory of Historic and Archaeological Assets is a statewide list that identifies significant historic resources throughout the Commonwealth. In order to be included in the inventory, a property must be documented on an MHC inventory form, which is then entered into the MHC database. This searchable database, known as MACRIS, is now available online at <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc>.

Concord has an extensive inventory of historic buildings, structures, sites, areas and objects (including some mid-20th century buildings and neighborhoods) that was begun in early 1970s and been ongoing ever since. The survey includes not only traditional architectural resources but also areas and corridors of historical importance, several of which were identified as priority landscapes in the Heritage Landscape Inventory.

Concord has 134 ancient Native American sites dating back to the Middle Archaic Period (8,000 - 6,000 B.P.) and 34 historic archaeological sites. In spite of the fact that Concord has more documented archaeological sites than any other community in the region, it is likely that more archaeological sites identified will be in the future due to the known rich Native American use of the land.

State and National Registers of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official federal list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that have been determined significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture.

Concord has 18 buildings that are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (five of which are also National Historic Landmarks), as well as

Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and Walden Pond. Concord also has three National Register Districts: Minuteman National Park, Hubbard-French Historic District and Monument Square/Lexington Road Historic District. Concord has five local historic districts, all in the vicinity of Concord Center: Barrett Farm HD, American Mile HD, North Bridge-Monument Square HD, Main Street HD and Hubbardville HD. Four of the districts were established in 1960 prior to M.G.L Chapter 40C; therefore they are Special Acts districts. Subsequent expansion and added districts also have been designated under the Special Act. Concord also has two preservation restrictions on individual properties, the Old Manse and Orchard House.

Other Preservation Planning Tools and Documents

In 1995 the Concord Historical Commission published *Narrative Histories of Concord and West Concord* and in 2001 it published *Historic Resources Masterplan of Concord, Massachusetts*. Both documents make information from the survey readily available to the public. The Masterplan summarizes the findings of the survey work; provides a list of about 900 historic resources; prioritizes these resources; and includes recommendations for action. Concord also has a six-month demolition delay bylaw that applies to 58 houses and structures not included within the local historic districts.

Concord completed its *Comprehensive Long Range Plan, A Vision for 2020* in 2005. Primary themes of the plan are protecting Concord's assets and character; enhancing the quality of life; and balancing the town's needs with its ability to pay. Concord's *Open Space and Recreation Plan* was completed in 2004. It established an open space framework that looked at regional patterns, town-wide patterns (broken down into large intact areas, major corridors and special sites); and neighborhood patterns. The open space plan also looked at Concord in terms of land use which includes developed land (38%), protected open space (35%) and uncommitted land (27%).

In 2004 Concord adopted the Community Preservation Act at a 1.5% surcharge on real estate taxes; the proceeds must be used for historic preservation, open space and affordable housing. Many of the recommendations included in this Reconnaissance Report could be funded with CPA money.

GENERAL PRESERVATION PLANNING RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations pertaining to priority heritage landscapes can be found beginning on page 4. This section of the Reconnaissance Report offers more general recommendations relevant to preserving the overall character of the community that would be applicable to a wide range of community resources.

Concord's varied natural features played a critical role in the settlement and historical development of the community and remain among the town's most important assets. Concord is also fortunate to have an unusually rich and well-documented collection of historic resources. The town has taken important steps

to preserve its most significant buildings and natural areas by establishing land use regulations that support community goals articulated in the town's planning documents. Concord is now looking beyond these resources to the other natural and cultural assets that define the overall fabric of the community. Like most municipalities, Concord is under intense pressure for development. Special places that were once taken for granted are now more vulnerable than ever to change.

Preservation planning is a three-step process: **identification, evaluation and protection**. Four useful documents to consult before beginning to implement preservation strategies are:

- Department of Conservation and Recreation, *Reading the Land*
- Freedom's Way Heritage Association, *Feasibility Study*
- Massachusetts Historical Commission, *Survey Manual*
- Massachusetts Historical Commission, *Preservation through Bylaws and Ordinances*

Recommendations that apply to a broad range of resources are discussed below. The recommendations are listed in the order in which they are most logically addressed when applying the three-step preservation planning process as described above. Thus the goal will be to (1) **identify**, (2) **evaluate**, (3) **protect**.

Inventory of Heritage Landscapes

The vital first step in developing preservation strategies for heritage landscapes is to record information about the resources on MHC inventory forms. One cannot advocate for something unless one knows precisely what it is – the physical characteristics and the historical development. The Historic Resources Masterplan indicates that relatively little information is included about farm outbuildings, road beds, stone wall networks, cellar holes, railroad structures, garages, pipelines, small bridges and early archaeological sites, including Native American sites as well as 17th and 18th century sites. Thus, using the Massachusetts Historical Commission survey methodology, the Concord Historical Commission should:

- Compile a list of resources that are under-represented or not sufficiently documented, beginning with the priority heritage landscapes identified in this report.
- Document unprotected resources first, beginning with the most threatened resources.
- Document secondary features on rural, agricultural and residential properties, such as barns, stone walls and landscape elements.

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- Record a wide range of historic and pre-historic resources including archaeological sites, landscape features and industrial resources.
 - Document Native American and other archaeological resources by conducting an archaeological reconnaissance survey to identify a context and known resources, and to develop a predictive model by which the town can consider sensitive areas in town-wide land planning. It is imperative that this work be completed by a professional archaeologist. It also is important to know that information about location of actual sites is not public information. Refer to the MHC article “Community-Wide Archaeological Surveys” which appeared in the Preservation Advocate, Fall 2005, which can be found at the following MHC link: <http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcpdf/pafall05.pdf>

National Register Program

Most of Concord’s National Register nominations were prepared some time ago as part of historic districts and may not be up to current standards. Many other properties are undoubtedly eligible and some early nominations would most likely benefit from updating. The Concord Historical Commission should:

- Review Concord’s existing National Register nominations and develop a National Register listing plan taking into consideration a property’s integrity and vulnerability. Properties that are in need of recognition and preservation should be given highest priority for listing.

Agricultural Preservation

Preservation of agricultural landscapes means preservation of the farming activities, particularly in Concord where the character of farms is integral to the community’s past. It is important to know what the features of these agricultural landscapes are and which features the community treasures in order to make a case for preservation of these farms. Some preservation tools are available that can assist communities in preserving the actual farming activities even if only a few farms remain. Others are tools to preserve the landscape when the farm is sold. The town may want to consider strategies that support farming activities. It may also wish to consult with other communities in the area that have implemented similar programs.

- Document additional farms that may not presently be included in Concord’s inventory of historic resource, or update forms that focus solely on the farmhouse. Use MHC area forms to convey the historical development of the entire farm.
- Establish an agricultural commission.
- Adopt a right-to-farm bylaw that allows farmers to carry on farming activities that may be considered a nuisance to neighbors.

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- Develop partnerships to raise funds to purchase development rights on Farms or to assist a farmer in the restoration of historic farm buildings for which the farmer would be required to donate a preservation restriction (PR).
 - Develop public-private partnerships to raise funds to purchase development rights on farms or to assist a farmer in the restoration of historic farm buildings (for which the farmer would be required to donate a preservation restriction (PR).
 - Continue public-private partnerships to preserve farmland through purchase of conservation restrictions (CRs) or agricultural preservation restrictions (APRs). CPA funding may be used.
 - Establish agricultural overlay districts in areas as identified in Long Range Plan.

Downtown and Neighborhood Character

Nearly all preservation strategies address neighborhood character in some manner. As described above, thorough documentation on MHC inventory forms is an important first step in the preservation planning process, followed by National Register listing where appropriate. Concord has already implemented two important preservation tools, a demolition delay bylaw and local historic districts. Another preservation tool that may be particularly applicable to some Concord's newer historic neighborhoods is neighborhood architectural conservation district designation. **Neighborhood architectural conservation districts** are local initiatives that recognize special areas within a community where the distinctive characteristics of buildings and places are preserved and protected. They are less restrictive than local historic districts but still embrace neighborhood character. Neighborhood architectural conservation district designation is appropriate for neighborhoods that may have less integrity, where more flexibility is needed or in neighborhoods of the recent past. The Concord Historical Commission should:

- Work with MHC staff to develop a neighborhood architectural conservation district bylaw that would best suit Concord's needs and work with other town groups to publicize the advantages of such a bylaw to the community.
- Work with MHC staff to determine how a neighborhood architectural conservation district would help to preserve Concord's downtown commercial districts, particularly West Concord and the Thoreau Street/Depot area.
- Explore options for revising the demolition delay bylaw. Consider expanding it to one year to allow more time to negotiate and revising to include all properties that are more than 75 years old.

Scenic Roads

Scenic roads are an integral part of the historic fabric of the community. They are highly valued by Concord residents and visitors alike and were listed as a critical concern. Roads must also accommodate modern transportation needs and decisions regarding roadways are often made with travel requirements as the only consideration. Yet, in addition to roadway issues, much of what we value about scenic roads -- the stone walls, views across open fields -- is not within the public right-of-way. The preservation and protection of scenic roads therefore requires more than one approach.

- Complete an inventory with descriptions and photo documentation of each of the roads in Concord including the character defining features.
- Pass a Scenic Roads Bylaw that includes design criteria to be considered when approving removal of trees and stone walls. Consider other design criteria such as a provision allowing only one driveway cut per property on scenic roads. Coordinate procedures between Public Works Department and Planning Board.
- Consider a scenic overlay district which may provide a no-disturb buffer on private property bordering on scenic roads or adopt flexible zoning standards to protect certain views. Such bylaws could be written to apply to the numbered routes also, which are not protected under the Scenic Roads Bylaw.
- Develop policies and implementation standards for road maintenance and reconstruction, including bridge reconstructions that address the scenic and historic characteristics while also addressing safety. This is an important public process in which the community may have to accept responsibility for certain costs to implement standards that are not acceptable to projects funded by Mass Highway Department. Such standards should have a section addressing the way in which the local Public Works Department maintains roads, for example requiring a public hearing if any additional pavement is to be added to a town road during reconstruction or repair. Policies can be adopted by local boards having jurisdiction over roads, or can be adopted at Town Meeting through a bylaw. In developing policies consider factors such as road width, clearing of shoulders, walking paths, posted speeds. A delicate balance is required.

Funding of Preservation Projects

Funding for preservation projects is an important aspect of implementing preservation strategies. Both the MHC and DCR have funding programs to assist communities in preservation related issues. The town should investigate which of the following programs are currently funded:

- **Survey and Planning Grants**, administered by the MHC, support survey, National Register and preservation planning work.

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- The **Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF)** administered by the MHC, funds restoration and rehabilitation projects.
 - The **Historic Landscape Preservation Grant Program (HLPGP)** administered by DCR funds planning, rehabilitation, education and stewardship projects focused on historic landscapes, including cemeteries.

Funding for state programs varies from year to year. When planning Lexington's heritage landscape inventory program, contact relevant agencies to determine whether funding is available.

Concord has recently adopted the **Community Preservation Act (CPA)** and will find it to be an excellent funding source for many heritage landscape projects; Concord certainly is aware of the number and types of projects that are benefiting from this funding source across the Commonwealth. Concord projects eligible for CPA funding could include MHC inventory, National Register nominations, cemetery preservation, open space acquisition and preservation/restoration of public buildings.

Towns like Concord that have a local historic district bylaw, may apply for Certified Local Government (CLG) status which is granted by the National Park Service (NPS) through the MHC. After the town completes an application and is accepted as a CLG, it files a report yearly on the status of applications, meetings, and decisions. In return the town is eligible for federal funding that is distributed by the MHC. The matching funds are competitive; however at least 10% of the federal funding must be distributed to CLGs of which there are less than 20 in Massachusetts to date.

CONCLUSION

The Concord Reconnaissance Report is a critical tool in starting to identify the rich and diverse heritage landscapes in Lexington and in beginning to think about preservation strategies. Concord will have to determine the best way to implement the recommendations discussed above. One approach that might help Concord begin the process is to form a Heritage Landscape Committee, as described in *Reading the Land*.

Landscapes identified in this report, especially the priority landscapes, will typically need further documentation on MHC inventory forms. The documentation in turn can be used in publicity efforts to build consensus and gather public support for their preservation. Implementation of recommendations will require a concerted effort of and partnerships with municipal boards and agencies, local non-profits, and state agencies and commissions.

Distribution of this Reconnaissance Report to the municipal land use boards and commissions will assist in making this one of the planning documents that guides Concord in preserving important features of the community's character. The tasks that are recommended will require cooperation and coordination among

boards and commissions, particularly Concord's Historical Commission, Planning Board, Conservation Commission and Concord Conservation Trust. It also is advisable to present this information to the Selectmen, the applicants to the Heritage Landscape Inventory program on behalf of the town. Finally distribution of the report to the Historical Society, neighborhood associations, and other preservation minded organizations will broaden the audience and assist in gathering interest and support for Concord's heritage landscapes.

Draft

APPENDIX: HERITAGE LANDSCAPES IDENTIFIED BY COMMUNITY

This list was prepared as a summary of the Heritage Landscape Identification meeting held in Concord on February 28 and follow-up fieldwork on April 11, 2006. **There are undoubtedly other heritage landscapes that were not identified at the HLI meeting noted above.** The chart has two columns, the name and location of the resource are in the first; notes about the resource are in the second. Landscapes are grouped by land use category. Abbreviations used are listed below.

APR = Agricultural Preservation Restriction CR = Conservation Restriction
 LHD = Local Historic District NR = National Register
 PR = Preservation Restriction * = Priority Landscape
 TTOR = The Trustees of Reservations + = Part of a Priority Landscape
 LRP OSRP

Agriculture	
<i>Barrett Farm</i> * 448 Barrett's Mill Road	NRIND, LHD. More recently known as the McGrath Farm. Farmhouse is a Colonial building with historical significance and a high level of integrity. Property also includes agricultural outbuildings and fields that were actively farmed until recently. Critical parcel with conservation land across the street and other town-owned land to the north and east.
<i>Barrett's Mill Road Area</i>	Includes Prison Farm and McGrath Farm. One of six major agricultural areas identified in LRP and OSRP.
<i>Farmland around Alcott School</i> Walden Street	Also has quaking bog.
<i>Harrington Avenue Area</i>	Marshall Farms. One of six major agricultural areas identified in LRP and OSRP. Includes town-owned Harrington House, with 15 acres on the Assabet.
<i>Lexington Road Area</i>	Palumbo Farm and National Park. One of six major agricultural areas identified in LRP and OSRP.
<i>Monument Street Area</i>	Hutchins Farm (protected by APR). One of six major agricultural areas identified in LRP and OSRP.
<i>Nine Acre Corner</i> * Sudbury Road	Verrill, Taranto and Poutasse Farms. Willow Guzzle is an area of particular concern. One of six major agricultural areas identified in LRP and OSRP. Part of Verrill land is preserved by APR. Also mentioned were ridges and views.
<i>Old Bedford Road/ Bedford Road Area</i>	Scimone, Burke and Kenney Farms. One of six major agricultural areas identified in LRP and OSRP.
<i>Prison Farm</i> + Route 2	Part in Concord and part in Acton. This is a very visible part of the larger Mass Correction land that is also listed in the institutional category and is a priority landscape.
<i>Triangle Farm</i> Westford Road	Not in planning documents. No longer has any agricultural land. Two barns are under demolition delay. Northwest corner of town, goes into Acton and Carlisle.

<i>Williams/Sudbury Roads/Route 2</i>	Mattison, Souter and Arena Farms. One of six major agricultural areas identified in LRP and OSRP.
Archaeological	
<i>Archaeological Corridor</i>	Corridor through Concord River, Sleepy Hollow, Ripley Corner, Colonial Road.
<i>Old Powder Mill Ruins</i> Main Street	In West Concord, 40+ acres with adjoining sections in Acton and Maynard. Now a private recreational business/facility owned by the Thoreau Club.
Burial Grounds	
<i>Chandler Family Plot</i> Barrett's Mill Road	Smallpox cemetery with only one headstone.
<i>Hosmer Family Plot</i> 600 Main Street	Graves on Hosmer property near railroad.
<i>MCI Prison Cemetery +</i> Elm Street	212 marked graves. Part of Mass Correction Land priority landscape.
<i>Old Hill Burying Ground</i> Lexington Road	NR, LHD. 481 marked graves from the year 1635. Town-owned. ISN'T THIS MONUMENT SQUARE??
<i>Saint Bernard's Catholic Cemetery</i> Bedford Street	19 th century Catholic cemetery.
<i>Sleepy Hollow Cemetery</i> Bedford Street	NRIND. Originally established 1823 as New Burying Ground. Embodies rural cemetery style. town-owned. Knoll area (newly developed – Native American Indian site) specifically mentioned.
<i>South Burying Place</i> Main Street	LHD. Also known as Main Street Burying Ground, 231 marked graves from the year 1697. Town-owned. Note: Headstones were realigned by the WPA during the 1930s.
<i>Smallpox Cemetery</i> Fairhaven Road	Active from 1700s on. Also known as Potter Family Plot.
Civic/Villages	
<i>Concord Center</i> Main Street	LHD. Monument Square and portion of Main Street. Focal point is town green with monuments encircled by public buildings and spaces including Town House, Hill Burying Ground, Holy Family, Christian Science and First Parish Churches, Wright Tavern, Colonial Inn and former Middlesex County buildings.

<i>Depot/Thoreau Avenue Area</i>	Commercial area along Thoreau Avenue with railroad tracks and depot. Depot building is also listed separately under transportation.
<i>West Concord * Main Street</i>	Village center and industrial area. Includes entire village including mills, churches, commercial area and residential neighborhoods.
Industrial	
<i>Damon Mill & Dam Main Street</i>	In West Concord at Westvale on the Assabet River.
<i>Warners Pond Dam Commonwealth Avenue</i>	In West Concord on Pond Brook. Dam was initially constructed to provide power for Pail Factory; created Warners Pond. Area includes dam and mill pond adjacent to West Concord center industrial area; by late 19 th century had become a local recreational area.
Institutional	
<i>Concord Free Public Library Main Street</i>	Library is prominently sited. Library lawn is a major green space at the town center.
<i>First Parish Church Lexington Road</i>	NR, LHD. Spires and the land around the church are important. Part of Concord Center area.
<i>Mass Department of Correction Land * Route 2</i>	Includes MCI Concord (maximum security facility on southwest side of Route 2, with adjoining cemetery and agricultural fields) as well as Northeast Correctional Center (minimum security) northeast of the rotary on Barrett's Mill Road. Large land holdings also include land along the river.
<i>Our Lady's Church + Church Street</i>	LHD. Church and land around it are important to the community. Included in West Concord priority landscape.
Military	
<i>Battle Road Corridor Lexington Road</i>	NR, NHL, LHD. Historic battle road extends along Lexington Road and Monument Street to the Old North Bridge. Part of the Concord section of the Battle Road is included in Minuteman National Park. Other sections are privately owned and are included in Concord's historic districts. Arlington, Lexington and Lincoln, which also have sections of the Battle Road, have proposed that a scenic byway be established.
Miscellaneous	
<i>Buttrick Garden Liberty Street</i>	Adjacent to Buttrick Mansion. Early 20 th century garden in historical park. Part of Old North Bridge Area.
<i>Minuteman Statue</i>	NR, NHL, LHD. 1875, by Daniel Chester French. At Old North Bridge in Minuteman National Park.

Natural	
<i>Egg Rock +</i>	Boulder near junction of Sudbury and Assabet Rivers. Part of Flood Meadows priority landscape.
<i>Quaking Bog Old Bedford Road</i>	Near Ripley School; part of the archeological corridor.
<i>Revolutionary Ridge</i>	Stretches along north side of Lexington Road, geologic feature important to events of April 19, 1775.
Open Space /Parks	
<i>Annursnac Hill Strawberry Hill Rd.</i>	Town-owned conservation land north of Strawberry Hill Road including Barrett farmhouse and ridge above it. Priority open space in OSRP and LRP.
<i>Calf Pasture Lowell Road</i>	Town conservation land near the confluence of the Assabet, Sudbury and Concord Rivers and town canoe launch site.
<i>Chamberlin Park and Garden Lowell Road</i>	Designed garden path from Lowell Road to the Mill Brook (opposite the Colonial Inn), now like a green. Footbridge spanning Mill Brook provides link to downtown
<i>Concord Country Club Old Marlboro Road</i>	Golf course that includes brook, woods, beaver area and Jenny Dugan Kames. Extends east across Sudbury River towards the Concord Land Conservation Trust's Soutter Land. Priority open space in OSRP and LRP.
<i>Emerson Playground Thoreau Street</i>	Established 1887; given to the Town as a gift from the Emerson family.
<i>Estabrook Woods * Lowell Road</i>	Includes Harvard University's Estabrook Woods, Middlesex School land, Bateman's Pond, Punkatasset Town Conservation land and areas north to Carlisle. Priority open space in OSRP and LRP. Also the undeveloped land adjacent to Estabrook Woods.
<i>Great Meadows/ Ball's Hill Area</i>	Great Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, continuous vegetation to the north and west of Concord River. Priority open space in OSRP and LRP.
<i>Heywood Meadow</i>	NR. Remnant meadow land along Mill Brook in the heart of Concord Center. Town-owned.
<i>Nashawtuc Country Club Route 117</i>	Along Sudbury River in southeastern part of town. Partially in Sudbury.
<i>Old North Bridge Monument Street</i>	NR, NHL, LHD. This area is valued for its open space value as well as its historic value. Includes bridge, Old Manse, Buttrick Mansion. Largely owned by Town, TTOR and National Park Service but some parts of this area are not permanently protected.
<i>Rideout Playground +</i>	In West Concord priority landscape.
<i>Town Green and</i>	In the heart of Concord Center.

<i>Veterans Memorial</i>	
<i>Virginia Road Woods</i>	Bedford Levels, Elm Brook, Pine Hill, areas north to Bedford. Priority open space in OSRP and LRP.
<i>Walden Woods</i>	Fairyland Pond, Hapgood Wright Town Forest, Brister's Hill, Walden Pond State Reservation, Fairhaven Hill, Lincoln line to Fairhaven Bay. Large area, partially delineated by geography. Priority open space in OSRP and LRP.
Residential	
<i>American Mile</i> Lexington Road	Local historic district along Lexington Road. Includes Meriam's Corner. Much of this area is part of Minuteman National Park.
<i>Emerson House</i> Cambridge Turnpike	NR, NHL, LHD. Home of Ralph Waldo Emerson. Now a house museum. Along the Mill Brook adjacent to Heywood Meadow.
<i>Grapevine Cottage</i> Lexington Road	LHD. Along American Mile. Home of Ephraim Bull who developed the Concord grape.
<i>Old Manse</i> Monument Street	NR, NHL, LHD. Historic house with important associations to Concord's 19 th century literary figures. Located in North Bridge Area. Owned by TTOR.
<i>Orchard House</i> Lexington Road	NR, NHL, LHD. Including surrounding land. Part of the Battle Road experience.
<i>Thoreau Birth House +</i> 341 Virginia Road	NRIND. Also known as Thoreau Farm. Including 20 acres of farmland around it. Part of Virginia Road priority landscape.
Transportation	
<i>Colonial Cartpath</i>	In archaeological corridor. An ancient cart path/statutory private way laid out by the Board of Selectmen in 1685.
<i>Concord Depot</i> Thoreau Street	Active train station. Part of Concord Depot/Thoreau Street area.
<i>Derby's Bridge</i>	One of four stone arched bridges in Concord.
<i>Elm Street Bridge</i>	One of four stone arched bridges in Concord.
<i>Fitchburg Railroad</i>	Active rail corridor. Includes Concord and West Concord stops on commuter rail line.
<i>Flint's Bridge</i> Monument Street	Stone-arch bridge built in late 19 th century. Bridge itself is valued as well as views from and of bridge. One of four stone-arched bridges in Concord.
<i>Middlesex Central Railroad Corridor</i>	Runs from the Bedford town line to Concord Center. Railroad corridor is adjacent to Great Meadows. Town owned, no longer active.
<i>Nashawtuc Bridge</i>	Stone-arch bridge built in late 19 th century. Bridge itself is valued as well as views from

Nashawtuc Road	and of bridge. One of four stone-arched bridge in Concord.
Old Colony Railroad	Unused railroad corridor identified for future Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Has potential as a historic resource.
Route 126 Corridor +	Viewshed along road corridor, especially section south of Route 2. Part of Walden Woods priority landscape.
Strawberry Hill Road	Scenic road in northern part of town near Barrett Farm.
Virginia Road *	One of the oldest roads in Concord. Roadway and adjacent corridor are proposed as scenic by-way.
West Concord Depot +	State owned train station. Part of West Concord priority landscape.
Waterbodies Brooks, Ponds, Rivers	
Assabet River	Joins with Sudbury River to form the Concord River near Egg Rock.
Bateman's Pond	Great Pond (public fishing allowed).
Concord River	Runs east from Egg Rock where the Sudbury and the Assabet join.
Elm Brook	Part of Shawsheen watershed.
Flood Meadows *	Meadow area where Sudbury and Assabet Rivers meet to form Concord River. The original Native American name for Concord was Musketaquid or Marsh Grass River.
Mill Brook	Stream that flows through Concord Center.
Moses Pond	Kettle pond; neighborhood ice skating location.
Nashoba River	Smaller river.
Sawmill Brook	
Spencer River	Smaller river. Defines the valley parallel to Lowell Road.
Sudbury River	Joins with Assabet River to form the Concord River near Egg Rock.
Walden Pond	Kettle pond, has historic significance for association with Thoreau. Also listed in open space category.
White Pond	Kettle pond and great pond.