



Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) by Ryan Schain

Appendix

H

Open Space the Last Twenty Years

The following summarizes events and accomplishments affecting water, wildlife, recreation, and open space from 1992 through 2014. It draws heavily from the Annual Reports of the Town Offices of Concord.

1992

- A) Unisys property acquired especially to maintain quality of groundwater and White Pond and task force created to develop management plans.
- B) Landfill issues remain high profile, and now residential trash must be picked up curbside, with some curbside recycling.
- C) “Concord Greenpeople” established as volunteers conducting maintenance activities at Town conservation sites.
- D) Concord’s 1992 *Open Space Plan*, using landscape ecology to outline an Open Space Framework with large natural and agricultural areas, major water and wildlife corridors, and smaller special sites, distributed for review.
- E) During 1985-91 >430 acres protected by various entities, 515 acres developed, and remaining undeveloped land is more fragmented.
- F) Walden Woods project acquires 50 acres around Bear Garden Hill and Boiling Spring, off Sudbury and Fairhaven Hill roads.
- G) Congress authorized National Park to acquire 40 acres of Perry and Fletcher farms off Lexington Rd.
- H) CLCT acquired the Thompson Land, 11 acres on Fairhaven Hill.
- I) CLCT acquired the Ham Land, 1.7 acres on Musterfield Road.

1993

- A) West Concord Study Committee created a master plan for the area.
- B) CLCT acquired the Soutter land, 76 acres by Route 2 and Sudbury Rd.
- C) Improvements at Town’s Keyes Rd. site begun to consolidate Public Works, Light Plant, Natural Resource, etc. activities.
- D) With the specter of increased intensity of Hanscom Field operations, Hanscom Field Advisory Committee appointed.
- E) Middlesex School proposed to expand campus easterly across wetland, which catalyzed a renewed focus on protecting the Estabrook Woods.
- F) Town’s Natural Resources Commission encouraged wildlife surveys of, e.g., spring and winter birds, vernal pools and amphibian breeding sites, and state-listed elderberry-borer beetle.
- G) CLCT acquired the Brengle Land, 4.6 acres on Musterfield Road.

1994

- A) As part of subdivision plans, 24 acres by ORNAC plus acreage off Monument St. protected as open space.
- B) Re-instituted storm-drain cleaning program and cleaned 1200 (65%) of Town’s catch basins.
- C) Landfill no longer accepting solid waste.
- D) Concord Land Conservation Trust (CLCT), The Trustees of Reservation, and Towns of Concord and Carlisle launch campaign to establish permanent protection for as much as possible of

the Estabrook Woods.

- E) Middlesex School files notice of intent to cross significant wetlands.
- F) Natural Resource Commission points out the “extent of impact by the massive size and associated landscaping of the new residences being constructed.”
- G) CLCT accepts a 13-acre Agricultural Restriction on Monument St.
- H) Baseball diamond upgraded and playground equipment installed at Rideout Field.
- I) CLCT acquired the Knight Land, 2.7 acres on Fairhaven Hill.

1995

- A) Town Meeting approved moving Light Plant operations to a Route 2A site, and accommodating all Public Works functions at an improved Keyes Rd. site.
- B) Lot #3 on Heywood St. is proposed for a new visitor information center; a citizens group formed to oppose construction on the site.
- C) Selectmen hold land-use symposium which identifies approximately 575 “developable” parcels left in Town, and compares the effect of proceeding with, versus without, a proactive approach to guiding growth.
- D) Land protected includes 20 acres of river frontage off ORNAC.
- E) Parcels on Virginia Rd. approved for affordable housing.
- F) No action recommended on a proposal to expand the Minuteman Path from Bedford past the wastewater treatment plant into Concord Center.
- G) State presented preliminary plans for Route 2 changes around Crosbys Corner.
- H) Town plays increasingly active role as a commuter service is proposed for Hanscom Field, and the Governor proposes to privatize management and/or development of the Field.
- I) Changes in Title V of State Sanitary Code sparked a significant increase in citizens being serviced by Town’s sewer system.
- J) All 2000 catch basins in public roads and parking lots cleaned, with 825 tons of sand, dirt and debris removed.
- K) A 25-acre wetland next to Sanborn School protected.
- L) Town designated a route, mainly on roads, from Acton through Concord Center to Lincoln as a section of the 200 mi. Bay Circuit Trail

around Boston.

- M) Town Meeting voted to support designation of the SuAsCo rivers in Concord under the federal Wild and Scenic River Program.
- N) Natural Resources Commission created a Mill Brook Task Force to restore important historic, natural resource and other values of the brook.
- O) Land protected includes 53 acres in the Virginia Rd. area, and ca. 20 other acres in the Spencer Brook Valley.
- P) CLCT’s C. Richard Taylor lecture series in natural sciences established to link Harvard University, the Concord community, and three high schools in Town.
- Q) *Historic Resources Masterplan* completed which identifies numerous historic sites of open-space interest; a shorter user-friendly version, *Highlights of Concord’s Historic Resources*, is sold at Town Clerk’s office.
- R) CLCT acquired the Hallenbeck Land, 115.9 acres on Lowell Road.

1996

- A) In exchange for 24-acre Route 2A site, the state was given an option to acquire Goose Pond land for its Walden Reservation.
- B) Concord joined three neighboring towns in taking a stronger approach to Hanscom and Massport issues.
- C) State passed a River Protection Act increasing jurisdiction under the Wetland Protection Act for alterations within 200 ft. of a permanently flowing body of water.
- D) Conservation restrictions were placed on 49 acres in the upper Spencer Brook Valley.
- E) *Concord’s Mill Brook: Flowing Through Time* printed as a linkage of natural resources and cultural history, a walking guide, and a stimulus to restoration activity.
- F) A federal Forest Legacy Grant protected 73 forested acres south of Mink Pond in the south part of Estabrook Woods.
- G) About 100 acres protected in the Spencer Brook Valley area, helping to create a water-protection and wildlife corridor.
- H) Recreation Commission completed installation of Emerson Field playground.
- I) CLCT acquired the Hallenbeck Land, 4.6 acres on Lowell Road.
- J) CLCT acquired the Freeman/Martin land, 14 acres on Westford Road.

1997

- A) Harvard University President recorded a commitment to preservation of 672 acres, matching commitments of other public and private landowners to preserving adjoining 425 acres, making a total of about 1100 acres of Estabrook Woods protected in Concord and Carlisle.
- B) The 19-acre Thoreau Birthplace on Virginia Rd. was protected.
- C) A new soccer field at Peabody School was completed.
- D) William B. Edgerton was appointed Director of Concord Public Works and expressed a strong commitment to the environment.
- E) A voluntary Odd-Even outdoor watering program began and helped Concord weather an extremely dry summer without a watering ban.
- F) Town's Natural Resources Commission and Middlesex School signed an agreement permitting limited wetland alterations, but citizens' representation appealed the decision; CLCT continued to search for an alternative, including offering the School a 2.5-acre lot westward across Lowell Rd.
- G) Planning Board reviewed Starmet's (Nuclear Metals') proposal to remove contaminated materials (including radiological) from a holding basin near Main St. and the Assabet River; Starmet issues became high profile, involving many residents, organizations and agencies.
- H) To address water-quality problems in White Pond, many of the most seriously damaged roads in the neighborhood were repaired with the assistance of the Town.
- I) At a Special Town Meeting and a subsequent election, voters chose to purchase the 43-acre Mattison Field as permanently protected farmland.
- J) CLCT acquired the Ham Land, 0.4 acres on Squaw Sachem Trail.
- K) CLCT acquired the Ferguson land, 4.8 acres on Garfield Road.

1998

- A) After >30 years of Service to Concord and its natural resources, Natural Resources Director Daniel Monahan retired; he had an irreplaceable wealth of knowledge of Concord's natural resources and cultural history, plus a deep commitment to people and the environment.
- B) Following the departure of Al Lima, Marcia Rasmussen was promoted to Director of Land

Planning.

- C) The 10-acre Knoll was dedicated as the newest portion of Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.
- D) A committee recommended no action on a Community Preservation Act to create a fund financed by a real-estate tax to acquire open space, preserve historic places, and develop affordable housing.
- E) The state indicated that funding would be available for jersey barriers along portions of Route 2, and released a draft EIS for Crosby Corner alterations.
- F) Significant renovation of the Town's Keyes Rd. site, including a 150-ft. greenbelt along the river was accomplished.
- G) Shortly after a voter-approved state ban on trapping beavers, populations in town swelled, creating dams and flooding several streets and culverts.
- H) A "Biodiversity Day" in July with residents and many outside specialists reported >1900 species in Concord and Lincoln, including two ant species new to science.
- I) Removal, monitoring, and analysis of radiological and other toxic materials at Starmet increased.
- J) A rash of violations of the Wetland Protection Act required enforcement action, including one case requiring a financial-contribution settlement.

1999

- A) Track and playing field irrigation projects at Emerson Field were completed.
- B) Town acquired a geographic information system (GIS) to aid in planning, public works, and other activities.
- C) Shade-tree planting on Town streets and public land increased (96 planted), but 120 damaged or diseased trees were removed.
- D) The voluntary Greenpeople group for land management activities was reorganized.
- E) A 55-acre conservation restriction was granted by Middlesex School to The Trustees of Reservations.
- F) The "White Row" and "Green Row" of derelict houses surrounding MCI were demolished.
- G) The Robinson Well and pumping station off Sudbury Rd. south of Route 2 went on line and increased Concord's water supply by 20%.
- H) Two recycling, reuse, and oversize material drop-off days for materials not collected

curbside were highly successful; the municipal collection program recycled >94% of materials collected curbside, one of the highest recycling rates in the state.

- I) No new subdivisions, residential clusters or residential compounds were approved, though building permits (722) increased 6% and wetlands permit applications increased.
- J) The Planning Board recommended approval of a 12-unit all-affordable-housing Planned Residential Development off Virginia Rd.
- K) Mill Brook Task Force dispersed a new printing of *Concord's Mill Brook: Flowing Through Time*, and worked with a state grant on improving water quality.
- L) MassPort conducted a second controlled burn to help open up Hanscom Field runway approaches, with the expectation of enhanced habitat for rare grassland species.
- M) Town worked on a management plan with the New England Wildflower Society to protect the largest population in New England of the rare Britton's violet (*Viola brittoniana*).
- N) Development on the former Unisys land on the Sudbury side causes concern about possible impacts on the Concord side including White Pond.
- O) Commuter airline usage of Hanscom was approved by Massport after relatively little public review, so Hanscom Area Towns Committee initiated a lawsuit against Massport.
- P) A demolition delay bylaw is passed to help protect the Town's most important historic structures.
- Q) CLCT acquired the Rustino land, 4 acres on Lindsay Pond Road.
- R) CLCT acquired the Chamberlin land, 29 acres on Lowell Road.
- S) CLCT acquired the Anderson land, 11 acres on Garfield Road.
- T) CLCT acquired Piney Woods, 4.5 acres on Westford Road.

2000

- A) Town recommended Starmet as its first (EPA) Superfund Site, quite close to Acton's Grace Superfund Site across the Assabet River.
- B) For the first time in years more new trees were planted (123) than were taken down (110) by the Town.
- C) A significant wetland violation case occurred along the Concord River west of the Great

Meadows NWR.

- D) A 65-acre woods on the Assabet River below Nashawtuc Hill was protected, and conservation restrictions were placed on an additional 66-acre parcel.
- E) Over 500 public-health water-quality tests were run to assess 145 potential carcinogens in the water supplies (which may also provide insight into surface waters near Town wells); the generally good results were provided to all customers.
- F) Mattison Field was managed for farming (hay), grassland birds (no hay cutting before July 15), walkers (around the perimeter), and historic preservation (fund-raising to protect a rare wooden-stave water tower).
- G) Six miles of sewer pipe (25% of entire system) were inspected via remote-controlled TV camera to identify needed repairs and replacement.
- H) An exotic plant, water chestnut, which earlier had invaded the National Wildlife Refuge, was pulled up in large amounts by a fleet of boats in Fairhaven Bay.
- I) An Outdoor Lighting Committee recommended the use of minimum-intensity illumination, shielded lights to reduce glare, illumination limited to areas of need, and "white" light sources.
- J) Renovations of recreational facilities at Rideout Field were completed.
- K) CLCT acquired the Garth land, 26 acres on Simon Willard Road.

2001

- A) Authorization was given for the Town to acquire property at end of Ball's Hill Rd., which includes a 17-acre potential Town well site valuable natural habitat, and two rare historical buildings.
- B) The state provided updates on proposed Route 2 changes at Crosby Corner, Concord Rotary, and median barriers by the landfill and Emerson Hospital.
- C) Reconstruction of Main St. in West Concord was completed with a significant addressing of neighborhood concerns.
- D) Landfill was capped and planted with warm-season grasses and native trees; the solution implemented was considered not to preclude future land uses.
- E) The Hugh Cargill wellfield on Walden St. was put back in service, with special state dispensation because of nearby houses, and increased the Town drinking water supply by 10%.
- F) A Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan

- being developed moved into full gear.
- G) Land protection included 40 acres acquired near the Thoreau Birthplace on Virginia Rd., 52 acres along Sudbury and Powdermill roads, and a 41-acre conservation restriction on Garfield Rd. land.
 - H) A Comprehensive Long Range Plan Committee was appointed.
 - I) A sheep-grazing program to control exotic invasive plants was initiated and used on Town, land trust and NPS lands.
 - J) Hanscom Field was changed to a “Commercial Airport” by Massport; significant increase (beginning in 2000) in jet and commercial operations and in associated access-road trips, continued causing increased concern about noise.
 - K) State provided a “build-out” map and analysis for Concord.
 - L) A proposed large capital construction program to rebuild/upgrade Concord schools was rejected by voters, but funding was approved for a new Alcott School.
 - M) The GIS program continued to grow and, after being named one of the best GIS’s in New England in 1999, was ranked third best worldwide in a software-vendor contest.
 - N) CLCT acquired the Poutasse/Miller land, 52 acres on Sudbury/Powdermill Roads.
 - O) CLCT acquired the Spaulding land, 39.7 acres on Virginia Road.
 - P) CLCT acquired the Navaro land, 0.5 acres on Aurora Lane.

2002

- A) A new visitor center and public restroom on the Milldam was constructed, and lot 3 on Heywood St. was transferred to the care of the Natural Resources Commission.
- B) A children’s center at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center was completed, and renovation of the HWCC began.
- C) Improvement to the Ripley fields began.
- D) A revaluation of real estate properties in Town resulted in huge tax increases for conservation-restricted and some other properties, which led to numerous complaints and concerns.
- E) A spraying program began in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery to control the spread of the woolly adelgid blight that has started to infect local hemlocks.
- F) The Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan recommended provision of sewers or clus-

ter (neighborhood) treatment systems to proximately 979 additional parcels to be accomplished over a decade.

- G) Projects on invasive-species control undertaken on many public and private lands across Town, including water chestnut control in the Sudbury River and intensive sheep grazing in meadow areas.
- H) Mill Brook Task Force attached brightly colored “No Dumping – Drains to Mill Brook” tags at 60 catch basins.
- I) A “Mansionization Committee” report included recommendations for increased yard setbacks.
- J) A Landfill Study Committee recommended formal closure of the landfill, continued discussion with the Walden Woods Project about possible natural land protection, and a possible land swap with the state.
- K) A “2229 Main St. Committee” was created to advise on activities occurring at the Starmer EPA Superfund site, including the approximately 3800 drums of radiological materials (some containing depleted uranium waste and others imported from South Carolina with uranium tetrafluoride), plus fences, holding basins, contaminants moving in groundwater, and aerial contaminants.
- L) CLCT acquired the Keyes Land, 12.65 acres on Strawberry Hill Road.

2003

- A) Capped landfill was seeded with a native grass mixture.
- B) Town Meeting approved a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.
- C) Town added 122 units of affordable housing, much more than in previous years, raising the affordable housing percentage to 4.9%.
- D) A Playing Field Study Committee outlined the need for additional playing fields.
- E) Planning Board recommended approval of a swim facility at high school.
- F) Key invasive plants along roadways were mapped.
- G) Town became one of the top ten recycling communities in the state.
- H) Colonel James Barrett Farm was purchased for open space and historic structure protection.
- I) CLCT acquired the Gifford land, 2.9 acres on Monument Street.
- J) Mill Brook Task Force received the River Stewardship Award.

2004

- A) Opening of skateboard park at the High School.
- B) Groundbreaking for the Beede Swim and Health Center.
- C) Acquisition of the Ammendolia Land near Ripley School for possible playing fields, pumping station, and open space.
- D) Town Meeting affirmative vote for the Community Preservation Act.
- E) Conservation Restriction Stewardship Committee established.
- F) System developed for monitoring compliance of CR lands.
- G) CLCT acquired the Gifford land, 6.9 acres on Monument Street.
- H) NRC acquired the Beecher CR, 1.07 acres on Monument Street.
- I) Thoreau's Path on Brister's Hill created.
- J) Fairyland Pond survey and management plan developed.
- K) Community Preservation Act was adopted at 1.5%.
- L) Warner's Pond Stewardship Committee established.

2005

- A) River access improved at Lowell Road Bridge area.
- B) CLCT acquired the Blancke land, 1.69 acres on Annurnnac Hill.
- C) Acton Water Supply District acquired a 3.8-acre CR on Laws Brook Road.
- D) Town purchased Burke Land, 14.5 acres on Old Bedford Road for municipal purposes.
- E) Comprehensive Long Range Plan completed.
- F) Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee established.
- G) Tennis and basketball courts reconstructed at Emerson Playground.
- H) Wildlife Passages Task Force established.

2006

- A) CLCT acquired the Corey/Bourquin land, 23.6 acres on Barrett's Mill Road.
- B) CLCT acquired the Assabet Wood land, 3.5 acres on Squaw Sachem Trail.
- C) Town acquired a 3.6-acre CR on Squaw Sachem Trail.

- D) Agriculture Committee established.
- E) First Ag Day took place.
- F) Beede Center opens.
- G) Phase 1 of the Emerson Thoreau Amble completed
- H) CPA funded reconstruction of the Warner's Pond Dam.
- I) CPA funded reconstruction of the Emerson Playground tot lot.
- J) CPA allocated funds towards the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail design.

2007

- A) Town Trails Committee established.
- B) The Town conducted a "Big Night" survey to monitor breeding amphibians along the proposed Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.
- C) Phase 2 of the Emerson -Thoreau Amble received DCR grant funding.
- D) CPA funded playing fields at the Concord-Carlisle High School.
- E) CLCT acquired the Tyler CR, 12.09 acres on Westford Road.
- F) The Trustees of Reservations (TTOR) acquired a 39-acre CR on Monument Street.
- G) Walden Woods Project acquired a 9-acre parcel of land along Route 2.

2008

- A) CLCT and the Town jointly acquired Hubbard Brook Farm Field, 17.7 acres on Sudbury Road (CPA funds) with a CR held by the NRC.
- B) NRC acquired a 4.8-acre CR on the Ferguson land on Garfield Road.
- C) CLCT acquired the Thornton land, 4.7 acres on Garfield Road with a CR held by the NRC.
- D) TTOR acquired a 70-acre CR at Middlesex School.
- E) The Lincoln Land Conservation Trust acquired a 7.3-acre CR on Fairhaven Hill Road.
- F) New artificial turf playing fields at CCHS opened.
- G) CPA funds allocated to develop Baseline Documentation Reports for Town Conservation Restrictions.

2009

- A) Wetlands Bylaw passed.
- B) CLCT and Walden Woods Project acquired a 9.71-acre CR on Fairhaven Hill Road.
- C) NRC acquired a 12-acre CR at Finigan Way.
- D) NRC acquired a 2-acre CR at Nashoba Brooks School.

- E) NRC acquired a 15-year term CR on 6.05 acres at Nashoba Brooks School.
- F) Construction of little league field at Ripley School commenced.
- G) CPA funds allocated towards reports and studies for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

2010

- A) CLCT acquired 5 acres of pasture land on Muskettaquid Road
- B) Warner's Pond Watershed Management Plan funded (CPA funds)
- C) NRC acquired 3.61 acres at 33X Walden Street (CPA funds) with a CR held by CLCT
- D) Town acquired 1.8 acres on Harrington Avenue for farming purposes
- E) Restoration efforts at Old Calf Pasture commenced to remove invasives and enhance the rare Britton's violet population
- F) Wetland Bylaw Regulations adopted
- G) Outdoor skating rink constructed at Emerson Field

2011

- A) Right to Farm Bylaw passed.
- B) NRC and CLCT acquired the Rogers Land, 4.7 acres on Harrington Avenue (CPA, Town funds, CLCT donations, CLCT holds CR).
- C) NRC acquired a 1.7-acre CR at Riverwalk on Main Street.
- D) White Pond Watershed Management Plan funded through CPC.
- E) CPA funded restoration of the Heywood Meadow stone wall (west meadow) underway.
- F) Handicapped parking lot at the Town Forest (Tuttle Lane) completed.

2012

- A) CPA funded restoration at the Roger's Land underway.
- B) Trail Stewards Program for town trails established to maintain and improve conditions of established trails.
- C) CLCT acquired Gowing's Swamp (Ware land), 7.2 acres on Independence Road.
- D) CLCT acquired the Gifford land, 5 acres on Monument Street.
- E) Town acquired 1 acre on Laws Brook Road, an addition to Rideout Playground (CPA funds).
- F) Town Meeting authorized the acquisition of 79.5

acres at 214Y Main Street (W.R. Grace land). Negotiations remain outstanding.

- G) Construction of the Playscape at Ripley commenced, a fully accessible nature-based recreation area (CPA funds).
- H) CPA funds Recreation Facilities Plan.
- I) Rideout Playground updated to meet ADA standards.
- J) NRC acquired a 6-acre CR on Macone Farm Lane.
- K) Senior Walking Program developed.
- L) Warner's Pond Watershed Management Plan completed.

2013

- A) Phase 2 of the Emerson-Thoreau Amble completed, including two pedestrian bridge crossings.
- B) Handicap accessible trail completed at Brister's Hill.
- C) An assessed trail at the Town Forest, including an accessible path to the Brister's Hill Interpretive Site completed.
- D) NRC acquired a 1.85-acre CR on Macone Farm Lane.
- E) NRC acquired a 1.38-acre CR on Lowell Road.
- F) NRC acquired a 4.33-acre CR on Lowell Road.
- G) NRC acquired a 1.5-acre CR on Mildred Circle.
- H) Town acquired 1.9 acres on Barrett's Mill Road (CPA funds) for farming purposes.
- I) Junction Park constructed.
- J) CPA funds invasives removal and habitat improvements at Old Calf Pasture to support repopulation of the rare Britton's violet.
- K) CPA allotted additional funds to the Playscape at Ripley.
- L) CPA funds Master Plan for Harrington Park.
- M) CPA funds acquisition of public and farm access easements over 121 and 131 Harrington Road.

2014

- A) CPA funded the 75% design for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.
- B) CPA funded the renovations of the Concord-Carlisle athletic fields.
- C) CPA funded Phase II construction for the Playscape at Ripley.
- D) CLCT acquired a CR on 7.21 acres of land at 449 and 52A Barretts Mill Road.
- E) NRC acquired a 7.19-acre CR at 282 Thoreau Street.
- F) NRC acquired a 4.58 CR at 506 and 49Y Old

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- Bedford Road.
- G) Two CRs (17.7 acres) on Monsen Road (Scimone Farm) underway.
 - H) NRC acquired public and farm access easements over two properties to connect Town lands along Harrington Avenue (CPA funds and CLCT donations).
 - I) NRC acquired a 1.9-acre parcel of land at 36A Baker Avenue for conservation and passive recreation purposes.
 - J) NRC acquired a 1.95-acre parcel at 37X Old Bedford Road.
 - K) NRC acquired a 3.6-acre CR at 2250 Main Street.