

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
to be done within next 10 years

OBJ	STD NO	TYPE	SILVICULTURAL PRESCRIPTION	AC	TO BE REMOVED		TIMING
					BA/AC	TOT VOL	

Biological Diversity

STEW 1-24 All Invasive Species Control 453+/- NA NA 2011-2020

The Forest Stewardship Committee is interested in promoting biological diversity on the property. Eliminating invasive and non-native trees, plants and shrubs will be done where these species exist and when economically feasible and practical. Buckthorn, Autumn olive, firebush (winged euonymus), bittersweet, honeysuckle, Norway maple, Japanese barberry and knotweed are currently known to be growing on the property. Natural communities are being affected by their presence in several areas within the forest. The heaviest concentrations of invasive species growth can be found in the abandoned gravel pits. Cutting the stems with saws will help reduce and control the spread of the invasive species. Controlling the invasive species through well timed timber management activities is another management tool. Encouraging vigorous growth of native tree species in the forest understory will be accomplished by scarifying the soil prior to seed dissemination. Another biodiversity issue is the distribution of forest growth stages. Trying to maintain multiple forest age and size classes on the property will also be pursued by the landowner on this property through periodic timber harvests and wildlife habitat management. Please see the Biological Diversity issues on page #6 for more details.

The Forest Stewardship Committee is currently seeking council from the UMass Amherst Extension Center for Agriculture and the United States Forest Service with regard to controlling invasive species as part of a forest stewardship program to ensure active management activities do not result in proliferation of these species in any of the City's forest lands.

Old Growth Timber Management

STEW 14 HH Old Growth Management 2+/- NA NA 2011-2015

Stand #14 contains a significant number of trees that are in the large sawtimber class that have old growth characteristics. The recommendation for this stand is to promote the health and vigor of these large diameter white pine stems. The University of Massachusetts Mass Woods Forest Conservation Program (masswoods.net) has published a brochure that can be used to assist landowners with the management of these old forest types. One requirement of restoring old growth characteristics involves having large trees with diameters of 25-30" in diameter (DBH). This stand has several trees that have reached that size with many more approaching this desired size. Thinning around these "Legacy Trees" would improve their growth and health into the future. Selecting the legacy trees would be done prior to removing the undesirable trees.

OBJECTIVE CODE: CH61 = Forest Products (for Ch. 61/61A) STEW= Stewardship Program practices
 STD= stand Type= Forest type AC= acre MBF= thousand board feet BA= basal area VOL= volume

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Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

STEW	2,6,8,17, 21		Artificial Nest Boxes Wood Duck	87+/-	NA	NA	2011-2020
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These wetland resource areas provide habitat for *wood ducks*. The open water and emergent vegetation within these areas are important for the development of young wood ducks. The boxes should be set up approximately four feet above open water on cedar, or metal poles to protect the young and eggs from predators. The boxes should also be set up over water that is 1-4 feet deep. The boxes should be cleaned every year and new bedding placed on the bottom of the box. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife can provide further information about the box dimensions, installation, and maintenance. The recommendation is to install no more than one (1) box in each area on an experimental basis.

STEW	10	GP	Early Successional Habitat Undesirable Vegetation Control Blanding's Turtle Habitat Enhancement	10+/-	NA	NA	2011-2020
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Management in this area will focus on reclaiming and maintaining early successional forest habitat. Approximately 10+/- acres within this abandoned gravel pit are maturing into the small pole sized class (4-7" DBH). These areas will be cleared of all trees by using whole-tree chipping equipment. The harvesting will probably be timed with commercial timber harvesting in Stand #14. The Blanding's turtle will benefit greatly from this practice. The turtle prefers open sandy soils for nesting in early June. Thickets that will result from the clearing will provide a shrub layer of protection for the turtle. The mechanical cutting and removal of invasive species will be pursued at the same time. Wetland areas will be avoided with appropriate buffers being observed around any vernal pools. Funding for this size and type of project may be available through the Federal Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

Timber harvesting practices alone will enhance wildlife habitat. Creating an unevenaged forest structure while maintaining a variety of forest types and vegetation will greatly increase the diversity of wildlife species using this property for food, protection, mating and nesting. For more information on wildlife management please refer to "*Enhancing Wildlife Habitats: A Practical Guide For Forest Landowners*". Please also see the Timber Management recommendations on pages 21-24.

In looking to implement the three-strategy approach of managing for diversity, protecting existing habitat, and enhancing existing habitat, the Forest Management Committee is currently seeking council from such regulatory and advocacy agencies as the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife and Mass Audubon. The Committee is also reviewing services that might be provided by a wildlife habitat consultant to assist in ensuring the long-term protection of the City's wildlife.

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Boundary Maintenance

STEW All All Blaze & Paint 453+/- NA NA 2011-2020

No boundary blazing or painting has been done on the property. Abutting property surveys will be used to identify the property lines. Blazing and painting the property lines should be done prior to any timber harvesting activities. Most of the property corners were identified during the field inventory. Iron pipes, stone bounds and wire fences that were found have been indicated on the Boundary Map on pages 32-24.

Illegal Motorized Vehicle Control

STEW All All Discourage ATV Use 453+/- NA NA 2011-2020

ATV and illegal motorized vehicle use is a concern at the East Meadow Brook Watershed. These vehicles can often be found within the abandoned gravel pits and along the trails and woods roads throughout the property. Soil disturbance, erosion and wetland crossings will have an impact on water quality within the watershed. Signs will be posted indicating the allowed and prohibited uses of the property.

Forest Stewardship Education

STEW All All Forest Stewardship Education 453+/- NA NA 2011-2020

The Forest Stewardship Committee will educate the public about the forest management practices addressed in this Plan prior to implementation. This will involve public meetings at City hall, local media correspondence and field trips to the East Meadow Brook watershed area.

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