Preface

The Mass Audubon Ecological Extension Service has contracted with the City of Haverhill to conduct wildlife habitat assessments for various conservation properties within Haverhill. Haverhill has enrolled with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program for its more than 1,000 acres of forested lands primarily used for passive recreation and open space and watershed protection. This initiative is led by the City's Forest Management Committee ("FMC") and is dedicated to the preservation, protection, and perpetuation of Haverhill's forested areas, with particular focus on water quality, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and a renewable resource of timber through the use of proper forest stewardship.

By enrolling in the Forest Stewardship Program and following a Stewardship Plan, the FMC understands that it will be joining with many other landowners across the state in a program that promotes ecologically responsible resource management through the following actions and values:

> 1. Managing for long-term forest health, productivity, diversity, and quality.
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> 2. Conserving or enhancing water quality, wetlands, soil productivity, biodiversity, cultural, historical and aesthetic resources.
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> 3. Following a strategy guided by well-founded silvicultural principles to improve timber quality and quantity when wood products are a goal.
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> 4. Setting high standards for foresters, loggers and other operators as practices are implemented; and minimizing negative impacts.
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> 5. Learning how woodlands benefit and affect surrounding communities, and cooperation with neighboring owners to accomplish mutual goals when practical.

When harvesting timber resources on a property, a Chapter 132 Cutting Plan will be filed with the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program (NHESP) will make recommendations to protect any special vegetation or wildlife and their habitats should they exist on the property.