

SPECIAL EDITION: VISION 2020

HANOVER CONSERVANCY

FY 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Protecting land and water in our community

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THANK YOU

Our many supporters and friends make the Hanover Conservancy's programs possible.

CORPORATE CONSERVATORS

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FOUNDATIONS

The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation
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Emily Landecker Foundation
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The Barrette Family Fund of the
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Connecticut River Watershed Council
The Conservation Fund
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Dartmouth Ecological Methods class
Dartmouth Organic Farm
Etna Library
Everything But Anchovies
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Hanover Historical Society
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Vital Communities of the Upper Valley
Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions
Youth in Action
Zimmermanns The North Face

Cover photo: Summer evening on the Connecticut River.

Hanover Conservancy friends and neighbors,

Thank you for your continued support. We have dedicated this year to strategic planning for the future, to be sure we meet our mission and maximize the outcome. The draft results are captured in our **VISION 2020**, displayed in the pages ahead. Our goals and plans for land conservation, stewardship, community engagement, and advocacy will keep us focused and efficient. We invite your comments and suggestions to sharpen the document.

Our vision has not changed:

We strive to be a trusted community partner, taking leadership in protecting strategically important lands to benefit the public and protect the natural systems that support a healthy community.

As Hanover's local land trust, we can focus our conservation work right here at home. This allows us to tune our strategy appropriately for each part of town based on population density and natural resource character.

Conservancy volunteers play a critical role by helping us to steward our properties and by leading trips of scientific and historic interest. These generous folks expand our impact and help us to weave a network of informed and engaged citizens dedicated to assuring the fitness of our Hanover landscape into the future.

With thanks to all of our members and volunteers, we invite you to get outside and enjoy Hanover Conservancy lands. Better yet, bring along a friend. Share the joy and please encourage their support.

Nancy C. Collier
Nancy Collier, President



President Nancy Collier (L) with Michael and Lili Mayor, donors (with John Niles) of the Mayor-Niles Forest.

The Hanover Conservancy, the oldest local land trust in New Hampshire, is dedicated to the conservation of land and water and to deepening the appreciation of natural resources for the benefit of the Hanover community and beyond.

Celebrating its 53rd year, the Conservancy is a private, not-for-profit, membership organization. While not affiliated with the Town of Hanover, the Conservancy partners frequently with the Town and other local and regional organizations.



MAJOR PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS – FY 2014

(July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014)

Land Conservation

Protecting land and water for the benefit of the community and beyond has been the Hanover Conservancy's chief focus since its founding in 1961. Our holdings grew this year with the addition of the Mayor-Niles Forest on Moose Mountain, the gift of Michael and Elizabeth Mayor and John Niles. We are also active behind the scenes to protect several high-priority parcels in partnership with private landowners and also with the Town. We work to ensure that the natural side of Hanover remains intact to provide clean water, flood security, wildlife habitat, and opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation close to home. We welcome inquiries from those interested in conserving their land.

Outreach & Education

Bringing people into the outdoors is a half-century old tradition with us. This year our trips program drew well over 300 people from 27 towns and seven states on trips ranging from off-trail winter wildlife tracking on Moose Mountain to a spring wildflower walk, a bird-banding demonstration, tour of Pine Park, and Balch Hill Kite Day. Following our new focus on Hanover history, we led a large group into the restricted Trescott Company lands to explore cellar holes and historic sites. Historian Jere Daniell illuminated Connecticut River log drives and

Top: Moose Mountain winter hike; **Bottom:** Balch Hill Kite Day.



we focused on the future of wildlife in a warming world with a panel of NH biologists. We launched our first Hanover Trail Challenge with the town's Parks and Recreation Department, and made our first Environmental Science Scholarship Award to a deserving Hanover High School senior. Subscriptions to our monthly e-newsletter are up again, by 16%, and we launched occasional newsletters for Mink Brook and Balch Hill neighbors. Find trail maps and much more on our website. Find us on Facebook, too.

Stewardship

The Conservancy devoted much effort to our protected lands this year. At Balch Hill, we discovered that the Grafton County Champion Red Oak has been quietly guarding the place for at least two centuries. The summit meadow also earned recognition, designated a Monarch Butterfly Waystation. We continued work to restore the views and overhauled our management plan with the help of our Balch Hill Stewardship Committee.

At Greensboro Ridge, we published a new map and guide to showcase this 113-acre Natural Area's intriguing natural features and hiking trails. At the Mink Brook Nature Preserve, we repaired our beautiful log bridge, replaced a smaller one, installed a bio-engineering project to protect the streambank, pulled invasive garlic mustard, and monitored 2000 native trees and shrub plantings. Natural resource studies are underway at the Mayor-Niles Forest, where we also built a new footbridge.

We value the spirit and commitment of each of our stewardship committees and trail monitors, and welcome new volunteers.

Top: Collecting invasive garlic mustard; **Center** Connecticut River clean-up;
Bottom: Preparing a log to become a footbridge.



OUR PROTECTED LANDS

OWNED BY THE HANOVER CONSERVANCY

Balch Hill Natural Area – 21 acres

Off Grasse & Hemlock Roads

Greensboro Ridge Natural Area – 113 acres

Off Greensboro Road & Velvet Rocks Drive

Mayor-Niles Forest – 92 acres

Off Three Mile Road

Mink Brook Nature Preserve – 112 acres

Off Route 10 & Brook Road

Jim & Evalyn Hornig Natural Area at

Lower Slade Brook – 35 acres

Off River Road

Tunis Brook Mill Lot – 1.5 acres

Off Goose Pond Road



PROTECTED BY A HANOVER CONSERVANCY CONSERVATION EASEMENT OR DEED RESTRICTION

Angelo Tanzi Natural Area – 15.8 acres

Adjacent to Mink Brook Nature Preserve / Owner: Town of Hanover

Huntington Hill/Upper Slade Brook – 31.8 acres

Off Hanover Center Road / Owner: private landowner

McKinley Tract – 125.7 acres

Off Wolfeboro & Goose Pond Roads / Owner: Town of Hanover

Rinker-Steele Natural Area – 23.6 acres

Off Route 10 / Owner: Town of Hanover

Slade Brook Natural Area – 3 acres

Off Purling Brooks Drive / Owners: private landowners

South Esker – 14 acres

Adjacent to Pine Knoll Cemetery / Owner: Town of Hanover

Advocacy & Public Policy

We have been a clear voice for environmentally responsible public policies ever since support for natural resource protection zoning in Hanover led to our founding in

1961. This year we advocated for a conservation solution at the Dana Pasture Lot on Moose Mountain. Our conservation maps help decision-makers

focus attention on key features, such as challenging soils and topography at the Chieftain property. We also participated in neighborhood meetings called by the Planning Board and on Hanover's Biodiversity Committee.



King Bird Sanctuary

Many visitors are enjoying the Nan and Allen King Bird Sanctuary at the town's Hayes Farm Park in Etna, a naturalized planting of native trees and shrubs with wildlife value. In 2014 we added a maple tree in the library's new reading garden and a special lilac collection from Highland Park in Rochester, New York, where the Kings met.



HANOVER CONSERVANCY

A view toward the future



HANOVER CONSERVANCY

A view toward the future

We are Hanover's independent private conservation organization. Here we share our hopes and vision for how the Hanover Conservancy can best contribute to the future of our community. We know that conserving our land, water, and wildlife protects both our own health and the place we love.



VISION 2020 ► COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A wise and enlightened public carries a conservation ethic born from exposure to the woods and wilds.

- ***Trips & Programs*** – Promote a conservation ethic and stimulate interest in Hanover's natural environment by offering accessible indoor and outdoor experiences for a variety of audiences. Create maps and other take-home materials to amplify programs' value.
- ***Community Heritage*** – Strengthen the community's sense of place and grasp of the relationship between its cultural heritage and its natural environment.
- ***Young Conservationists*** – Award an environmental studies scholarship to deserving high school students; provide ways for young families, Scouts, and Youth in Action to participate with the Conservancy.
- ***Science Translation*** – Make scientific research findings on Hanover lands, especially HC properties, accessible to the public.
- ***Technology*** – Use new tools to reach fresh audiences.



Exploring Mink Brook



VISION 2020 ► LAND CONSERVATION

Protecting land and waters from the slopes of Moose Mountain to the shores of the Connecticut River will ensure that we still have places to hike, bike, boat, fish, hunt, and see wildlife in Hanover, or just enjoy the quiet and peace of nature.

- **Conservation Goals** – Protect Hanover’s quality of life and natural defenses for clean water, flood security, and climate change resilience. Focus on clean streams and rivers, room for wildlife to roam, our town’s distinctive heritage, scenic rural views, and healthy outdoor recreation. Preserve places where children can safely play and experience nature.
- **Conservation Priorities** – Protect land and waters in Hanover by acquiring conservation easements or through ownership, guided by conservation priorities selected for each region of town. Pair GIS technology with close knowledge of the community to support careful decisions.
- **Partner** – Serve as facilitator, public educator, and consensus-builder, supporting projects by partner organizations both within our town and its neighbors that will protect conservation values in Hanover Conservancy priority areas.

Northwest Hanover:

- River access & shoreland protection
- Links from river to upland habitats
- Trail connections
- Stream corridors and wetlands for flood security and erosion control

In-town Hanover:

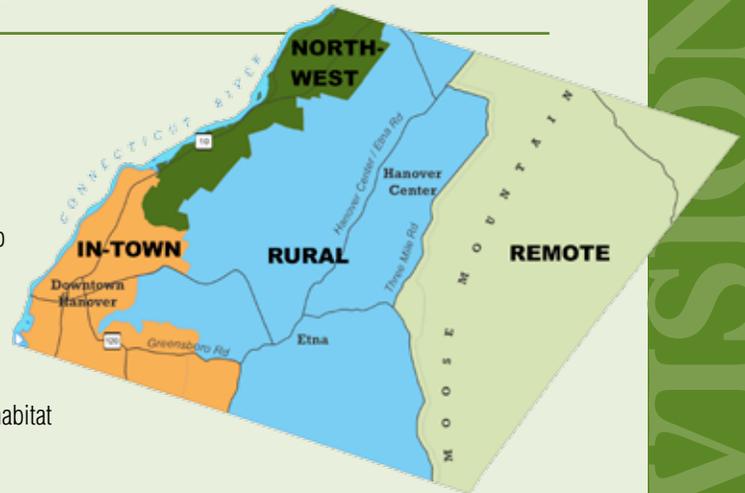
- Neighborhood recreation
- Links from river to upland habitats
- River access
- Green spaces
- Native American sites

Rural Hanover:

- Historic rural landscapes & views
- Stream corridors & wetlands
- Open fields & grassland habitat
- Links from river to remote habitats
- Trail connections & scenic backdrop

Remote Hanover:

- High elevation habitat for climate change resilience
- Large blocks of connected forest
- Headwater streams & wetlands for habitat
- Trail connections
- Scenic backdrop



VISION 2020 ► LAND STEWARDSHIP

Our protected lands offer hundreds of acres to explore and enjoy the simple pleasure of being outdoors.

► **A Healthy Community** – Invite the public to enjoy our lands and trails and to help care for them. Inspire and support stewardship committees for our lands and communicate with neighbors. Engage and train volunteers to teach land management skills and build a conservation ethic while caring for our lands.



► **Land Management** – Maintain up-to-date land management plans, grounded in ecological principles, for properties we own. Monitor our easements annually. Use our lands to demonstrate responsible management techniques to inspire such care on private, non-conserved lands. Ensure adequate stewardship funds allow us to care for each Conservancy property.

► **Research Sites** – Engage Dartmouth, Hanover High School, and others to use our properties as research sites, where appropriate, and share findings with the public.

VISION 2020 ► ADVOCACY

As a conservation organization focused on a single community, we know it well.

► **Conservation Planning & Funding** – Serve as an independent advocate for conservation-oriented public policy, including support for local conservation planning and funding. Advocate for opening the Trescott Company lands to public recreation.

► **Information** – Serve as a clearinghouse for issues relevant to our mission; help citizens understand questions of land use, conservation, and development. Participate on a local, regional, state, and federal level as appropriate, given staff and board capacity.

► **Community Partners** – Support the Hanover Conservation Commission and maintain communication with Town staff and boards, landowners, and other partners.

VISION 2020 ► FOR OUR ORGANIZATION

We must ensure that we have the capacity to fulfill our mission and support our community.

► **Sustainability** – Achieve long-term stability by strengthening current income streams and developing new sources of support for operations, land acquisition, land stewardship, and endowment.

► **Board** – Invest in an active, working board of engaged community volunteers by focusing on board education and leadership succession.

► **Staff** – Maintain a full time executive director and add part-time staff to assist with stewardship and outreach.

► **Governance** – Ensure compliance with the Land Trust Alliance’s Standards and Practices as appropriate to the scale of our organization.

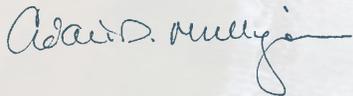


EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This has been an exciting year of growth — in protected acres, staff, members, and improvements to our preserves. Joining us on the trail are over 100 hard-working volunteers, including our talented board of directors. We are grateful to our energetic summer staff, Laura Mattison, for her help with stewardship and outreach.

The confidence and support of a major national foundation gave us a substantial boost, and here at home, we were gratified to receive memorial and other gifts recognizing our members' affection for Hanover's natural places. We protected a parcel of forestland on Moose Mountain, further protecting the Appalachian Trail corridor, high elevation habitat, and views of Hanover's most scenic backdrop.

Please share your thoughts on our new strategic plan. We believe it reflects a worthy response to today's challenges while bringing back some fine ideas of those who laid our foundation over a half century ago, carrying forward their vision of a healthy, natural Hanover.



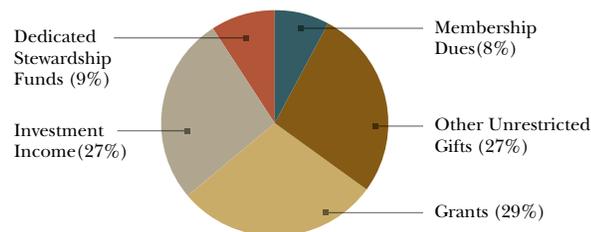
Adair Mulligan, *Executive Director*



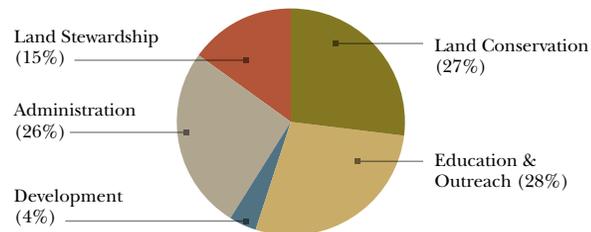
FINANCIAL REPORT *As of June 30, 2014*

	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents, unrestricted	\$ 29,528	\$ 7,759
Cash and cash equivalents, restricted	40,434	41,352
Investments	428,443	400,417
Receivables	210	-
Prepaid rent	433	433
Office equipment, net of depreciation	2,232	731
Land improvements, net of depreciation	6,224	6,669
Land held for conservation purposes	682,296	682,296
Beneficial interest in assets held by others	29,817	26,657
Total assets	\$ 1,219,617	\$ 1,166,314
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$ 457,838	\$ 405,502
Temporarily restricted net assets	54,483	53,516
Permanently restricted net assets	707,296	707,296
Total net assets	\$ 1,219,617	\$ 1,166,314
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions	\$ 72,534	\$ 69,351
Membership income	16,383	23,494
Grants	59,654	6,800
Investment income	54,372	44,668
Total support and revenue	202,943	144,313
EXPENSES		
Programs	104,619	73,293
Management and general	39,098	29,795
Fundraising	5,923	6,974
Total expenses	149,640	110,062
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS		
	53,303	34,251
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	1,166,314	1,132,063
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 1,219,617	\$ 1,166,314

INCOME BY CATEGORY



EXPENSES



A copy of the 2014 financial statement is available for review at our office.

THANK YOU

Our many volunteers continue a long tradition of caring for our lands, leading our trips, and helping in so many other ways.

Balch Hill Stewardship Committee: Jan Assmus, Clyde Barbour, Wayne Barstad, Supreet Bauer, Len Cadwallader, Rob Chapman, Anne Evans, Rob Harris, Barbara McIlroy, David Pollock, Lois Roland, Laura Rosenthal, Sarah Tally.

Greensboro Ridge Stewardship Committee: Wendy Conquest, Alan DiStasio, John Joline, Doug McIlroy, Jill Kearney Niles, Steve Shadford, Jim Wooster.

Mink Brook Stewardship Committee: Jim Barrett, Bill Brown, Dave Dent, Cal Felicetti, Glenn Johnson, Brenda Knight, Sarah Mahlab, Jill Marquard, Rich Menge, Cam Rankin, Roger Soderberg, Douwe Wieberdink.

Slade Brook Stewardship Committee: Kathy Harvard, Gail McPeek, Hugh Mellert, Daniel Morrison.

TRIP LEADERS: Ron Bailey, Len Cadwallader, Ed Chamberlain, George Clark, Nancy Collier, Laura Conkey, Anne Evans, Linda Fowler, Rob Harris, Ben Hudson, Tom Jack, Jim Kennedy, Aggie Kurtz, Gail McPeek, Linde McNamara, Hugh Mellert, David Merker, Arthur Mudge, Adair Mulligan, Barbara Prince, Alice Schori, Bill Shepard, Alcott Smith, Jim Wooster.

OTHER VOLUNTEERS:

Tony Abbate, Sharry Baker, Jay Barrett, Willy Black, Sam Brakeley, Elizabeth Cornell, Jere Daniell, Joe Danna, Dave Dostal, Courtney Dragiff, Jim Duffus, Greg Franklin, Betsy Eaton, Kathy Geraghty, Mike Hall, Mert Hamill, Craig Layne, Dominique Lightbody, Carroll & Jonna Mackin, Betsy McGean, Linde McNamara, Bill Mlacak, Jay and Susan Pierson, Everett Poisson, Cornelia Purcell, William Roach, Becky Spiegel, Devinder Sodhi, Amy Stevens, Hypertherm associates, and the Hanover Boy Scouts.



Above: Mayor-Niles Forest winter trip.



HANOVER CONSERVANCY

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www.hanoverconservancy.org



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