



## Hanover Conservation Council *Role in Local Land Conservation 1963-present*

*In our nearly half century of conservation activity, the private, nonprofit Council has worked with a wide array of public and private organizations, landowners, and agencies on the federal, state, and local levels. Our most significant and reliable partner over the years has been the Town of Hanover's Conservation Commission.*

**1964** – The Council coordinated efforts to save the **43 acre Wilder Wildlife Refuge** on the Connecticut River in Lyme. The property with 3500 feet of shoreline was purchased by the NH Fish and Game Department.

**1965** – The Council started a Land Acquisition account with \$1,000.

**1966** -- The Council paid for a land survey for a **34.7 acre preserve along the Connecticut River** in Plainfield that was then purchased by the New England Wildflower Society.

**1967** -- The Council purchased 15.8 acres along Mink Brook, now known as the **Angelo Tanzi Natural Area**, and, working with the Conservation Commission, sold the area to the Town of Hanover for one half the purchase price.

**1970** – Generous gifts made it possible for the Council to purchase a **10.3 acre parcel on the south summit of Balch Hill** for \$18,000.

**1971** -- Working in partnership with the Hanover Conservation Commission, the Council contributed \$10,000 towards the purchase price of the **South Esker** on the Connecticut River.

**1973** – Again partnering with the Hanover Conservation Commission, the Council contributed \$13,500 towards the purchase price of the **15.7 acre Edgerton property on Mink Brook** and the Connecticut River.

**1973** – The Council purchased a **17.62 acre tract** from Mr. and Mrs. Jack **Rinker** of densely forested land with a five acre pond, just north of the Storrs Pond area, holding this parcel until it was purchased by the Hanover Conservation Commission.

**1977** - The Council acquired and resold to the Hanover Conservation Commission the **Marshall Brook Wetlands Natural Area (96 acres)**. The land was purchased for just under \$20,000 (25% HCC, 25% town, 50% Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation). HCC played a vital role in negotiations with the seller.

**1980** – The Council purchased a **25.5 acre parcel on the summit of Balch Hill**, adjacent to the Council's 10 acres, and transferred it to the Hanover Conservation Commission to become a vital link in Hanover's green belt as a precious resource for future generations.

**1985** – The Council accepted **conservation enforcement restriction rights on 934 acres around Grafton Pond**. Land was deeded to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. No local organization was then available to accept responsibility for conservation enforcement, so the Council filled this role, intending to transfer the rights to a new group when it could be established. In 1992, they were conveyed to the Grafton Pond Land Trust.

**1987** – The Council worked to preserve a 125 acre tract of land connecting to the Marshall Brook Wetlands Area. The owner's application to divide the property into 12 lots was denied by the Planning Board following Council and Conservation Commission recommendations.

**1991** – The Council led a successful community-wide fundraising campaign to help the Hanover Conservation Commission purchase conservation easements on Wilson and Haslett **Fullington Fields**, to preserve the fields and the view of the Connecticut River from Route 10 and to provide access to the riverside trail on the nearly 26 acres.

**1993** – The Council assisted the Hanover Conservation Commission with the purchase of the **McKinley Tract on Wolfeboro and Goose Pond**. The 125 acre parcel is now owned by the Town and open for recreational use.

**1994** – The Council received an anonymous gift for the purchase of a **small parcel of land off Goose Pond Road**, another link to Town-owned Marshall Brook and McKinley Tract areas with the Town Forest.

**1996** – The Council worked with the NH Fish and Game Department to protect **42 acres abutting Huntington Hill in the upper Slade Brook watershed**. In the same year, the Council collaborated with the Upper Valley Land Trust to purchase the 112 acre Barrett-Ransmeier property at Mink Brook bordering the Angelo Tanzi Natural Area (the Council's first land acquisition project – 1967).

**1997** – The Council completed work on the protection of the **Slade Brook/Huntington Hill** project in northern Hanover.

**1999** - The Council achieved its largest and most significant single land acquisition, the purchase of the **Mink Brook Nature Preserve**. More than 500 donors contributed to the Council's fund drive for this purchase. The Upper Valley Land Trust holds a conservation easement on this property.

**2000** – The Council acquired **11 more acres at Balch Hill** through the generosity of the landowner. The Upper Valley Land Trust holds a conservation easement on this property.

**2002** – The Council assisted the Hanover Conservation Commission with the conservation of **34 acres on Moose Mountain Road (Fuller Lot)**, by paying half the appraisal cost.

**2005** – The Council protected nearly 40 acres now known as **the Jim and Evalyn Hornig Natural Area at Lower Slade Brook**. The original plan was for 17 houses spread over 55 acres; with support from the Hanover Conservation Commission, the Council worked with the developer for a better smart growth option to preserve the brook, with 10 houses clustered on 20 acres and the remaining 35 acres given to the Council for conservation. The Upper Valley Land Trust holds a conservation easement on this property, and the Council holds similar easements on portions of residential lots abutting Slade Brook to protect the stream.

**2008** – The Council acquired 112 acres on **Greensboro Ridge**, connecting to Velvet Rocks and protecting a small piece of the Appalachian Trail. The Council worked with the developer for a smart growth option to preserve the upland forest, with development clustered on land close to Greensboro Road and the remaining acreage given to the Council for conservation. The Hanover Conservation Commission holds a conservation easement on this land.

**2010** – The Council contributed \$25,000 toward the Hanover Conservation Commission's project to purchase the six-acre **Steele Tract** abutting the Rinker Tract (acquired by the Town with the Council's help in 1973). Protection of the Steele Tract, a major project nine years in the making, gathered wide community support and eliminated the possibility of a driveway built across the Ferguson Field. The Council accepted a conservation easement on the combined **24-acre Rinker-Steele Natural Area**.

*The Council thanks Robert Norman, board member emeritus, and Gail McPeck, chair of the Council's Stewardship Committee, for their assistance in assembling this brief history.*

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