

A group of people, including children and adults, are gathered in a forest near a stream. They are wearing various outdoor clothing like jackets and hats. The scene is reflected in the calm water of the stream. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting a cooler season. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

HANOVER CONSERVANCY

Protecting land & water in our community

FISCAL 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

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HANOVER CONSERVANCY

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Hanover, NH 03755

(603) 643-3433

hanoverconservancy.org

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Youth in Action



▲ *Bracken fern at Shumway Forest*
Cover: Greensboro Ridge vernal pool
field trip. Jim Block photo

Unless noted, all photos by HC staff

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

As we approach the final year of our *Vision 2020* Strategic Plan, I'm proud to say we've accomplished many of the objectives we set for ourselves in 2014. With the core themes of conservation, land stewardship and community engagement, *Vision 2020* laid out a balanced path for our organization. We increased the acres of Hanover land we have conserved by 60%; we've established annual monitoring and management practices for all our properties and added trails; and our membership is at an all-time high. We know the investments we make today in field trips, after-school programs and environmental education create the conservation leaders of tomorrow.

We hope some of these inspired young people will influence our *Vision 2025*!

Hanover's protected open spaces, within a short walk or bike ride, offer something for everyone. We can enjoy views of the Connecticut River and Moose Mountain, hidden waterfalls or wildflower meadows, and hiking trails for all ages and abilities. Conservation is about thoughtful land use — our properties are meant to be explored, enjoyed and celebrated! Learn more by going to our website for maps and events.

Conservation is also a perpetual responsibility — our lands require regular monitoring and maintenance. We're incredibly grateful to all our donors over the past year, in particular the Byrne Foundation for their donation match challenge, and for the generous bequest of our former president, Jim Hornig. We welcome White Mountains Insurance Group as the generous sponsor of this publication. We ask for YOUR support to help conserve, steward and share our open spaces for decades to come. Thank you!



Kristine McDevitt, *President*



The Hanover Conservancy, the oldest local land trust in New Hampshire, strives to protect the land and waters of our community through land conservation and stewardship, education, and advocacy for conservation-oriented public policy.

Celebrating its **57th year**, the Conservancy is an independent 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 2018: July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018

Land Stewardship

This was an exciting year for new trails and an opportunity to work with our like-minded partners. In September, we celebrated the opening of the **Chapman Trail** at the **Balch Hill Natural Area**. The trail, built with the help of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance and generous support from Rob and Jan Chapman and Balch Hill neighbors, creates a new loop and offers a fresh view of Moose Mountain from a new bench. Dartmouth kindly gave permission for construction of this trail across college land.

Later that month, we opened the **Audrey McCollum Trail** at Hayes Farm Park with Audrey's family and the Hanover Conservation Commission's Trails Committee. Linking the Etna Library and **King Bird Sanctuary** with Woodcock Lane, the new trail features a cleverly-laid boardwalk through the beautiful **Trescott Wetlands**. Gifts to the Conservancy in Audrey's memory supported construction of this trail.

Wildlife management is an essential component of land stewardship. Joining the Town in responding to an unhealthy deer overpopulation, we again managed a carefully limited archery hunt at Balch Hill, where a new Trillium monitoring station tracks damage to forest health, and assisted in the pursuit of special deer nuisance permits. We continued to work to educate the Hanover community about being good neighbors to native wildlife, including bears that have long occupied a home range near downtown and **Mink Brook**. Also at Balch Hill, we prepared a pollinator patch with the VT Center for Ecostudies and hosted several Dartmouth research projects.

A photograph of Rob Chapman, an older man with a white beard, wearing a green baseball cap, glasses, a blue and white plaid shirt, and light blue jeans. He is standing in a wooded area next to a tree trunk. A yellow wooden sign with the words "CHAPMAN TRAIL" in blue letters is mounted on the tree above him. A black dog is partially visible behind him.

Rob Chapman, longtime member of the Balch Hill Stewardship Committee and former HC board member, helped make a dream come true with a new trail at the Hill.



Left: A pumped-up Hypertherm crew displays “treasures” uncovered by Mink Brook. **Right:** Students from the Upper Valley Trails Alliance’s Trail Corps after a muddy day installing stone steps on Balch Hill’s Hemlock Trail.

Human occupation sure can leave a mark, and this year we cleaned up several old household dumps on conservation land. After high water uncovered an old farm dump at the Mink Brook Nature Preserve, we removed two pickup trucks’ full of debris from the 1910s-50s with the help of a hearty crew from Hypertherm. Some of those found objects were researched and displayed at the Howe Library; take a virtual tour on our website.

Stewardship includes monitoring the growing number of conservation easements we hold, fulfilling the promises we have made to our landowners to keep their vision alive — forever. Such visits give us a welcome chance to connect with new landowners.

Volunteers make our world go ‘round – caring for trails, keeping things clean, collecting data, and helping us manage our lands so you and your family can enjoy them. Get in touch if you’d like to join our team!



Community Engagement

Conserved land is a community resource, and Hanover's beautiful landscapes, fresh air, and clean water are likely part of the reason you chose to live here. You can't love what you don't know, so our events, trips, and new school programs are aimed at introducing young and old alike to the wilder side of Hanover, either on a trip with us or on their own.

This year we launched **Wednesday Wanders**, a new experiential environmental education program for children enrolled in KAST (Kids After School Time). In September we were counting monarch larvae on the summit of Balch Hill; winter saw us comparing animal tracks to wildlife caught on a game camera the kids set up. We pruned Ray School apple trees and discovered a new treat — climbing trees! In spring we visited vernal pools to find wood frog egg masses and beat the heat in tiny Camp Brook, wading with nets. In May, **sixth grade Richmond Middle School science students** spent a day with us at Kendal Riverfront Park, conducting water quality tests and looking at the ways recreational use and power generation shape the shorelines we see today.

A record number of people joined us this year for a trip or indoor program — nearly 900! We enjoy sharing Hanover's natural places with anyone who wants to come along, and our trips program took some new directions. Our trips ranged from a "pop-up" ski tour of the Shumway Forest after a bountiful snowfall to a family hands-on exploration of vernal pools at Greensboro Ridge. The vast Trescott Water Supply Lands



Exploring a vernal pool at Greensboro Ridge through a child's eyes.

◀ *Our new after-school Wednesday Wanders offer discoveries throughout the seasons.*

remain a prime destination, this year with a winter forestry tour and a walk back into time in May, studying a cellar hole on the historic Wolfeboro Road. Armchair programs included a presentation by Dr. Jackie Richter-Menge (CRREL) at our annual meeting and documentary screenings of “Dynamite, Whiskey, and Wood” and “New England’s Great River.” Thanks to member and business support, our trips and events remain free of charge.

Our **Hanover Hikes of the Month** were such a hit with those wanting to get outside on their own time that we continued the series, offering detailed directions and insights on a dozen new routes. Find them posted on our website, grab a friend, and go! The annual **Hanover Trails Challenge**, a Conservancy project with the town’s Parks and Recreation Department, draws more families each summer on trail treasure hunts.

Our **Hanover Conservancy Environmental Studies Award** again provided a scholarship to a deserving Hanover High School student. We now make this award annually in memory of Dr. Jim Hornig, distinguished former president and emeritus board member who started the Environmental Studies Department at Dartmouth.

Subscribe to our monthly **e-newsletter** and occasional newsletters for Mink Brook and Balch Hill neighbors. Find us on Facebook for updates, events, and photos of our trips and other adventures. You can now follow us on Instagram @hanoverconservancy, or tag our properties when you’re out enjoying them! Find trail maps and much more on our website.



A frog in the hand is worth two in the heart. Photos: Jim Block. ▲



*HC board member
Hugh Mellert leads a
snowshoe trek over a
new bridge he helped
build over Slade Brook.*



Land Conservation

Our land protection work continues to keep us busy — for the moment behind the scenes — as we follow our strategic conservation plan for each region of Hanover. From the shore of the Connecticut River to the summit of Moose Mountain, our goal is to keep Hanover healthy, green, and resilient in the face of climate change.

Each part of town offers different kinds of conservation opportunities. In heavily settled areas near the river, we look to protect pocket parks, river access, and connections for both wildlife and walkers. In the central, more rural part of town, protecting public drinking water supplies is tops on our list, along with valuable soils, streams and wetlands, habitat links, and scenic hilltops and meadows. Higher elevation habitat in the remote part of Hanover is a key focus as we work to add on to blocks of already-protected forestland, to provide a cool mountain refuge for wildlife facing a warming world. Here, protecting headwater streams benefits the entire town by moderating streamflow in the valleys below, providing a measure of flood security to the village of Etna and other neighborhoods downstream. Protecting trail connections provides for great outdoor fun — a Hanover tradition!

At the **South Esker Natural Area** in Hanover's far southwest corner, we worked with biologists and students in Dartmouth's Ecological Methods class to assemble an inventory of plants and wildlife, creating the basis for a future management plan and permanent conservation easement for this forested riverside jewel.

We are also actively seeking to protect other high-priority parcels, large and small, in partnership with private landowners. We welcome inquiries from those interested in conserving their land.

Sunset casts cattails into relief on the Connecticut River.



Volunteers

We value the spirit and commitment of our many volunteers, who continue a long tradition of caring for our lands, leading our trips, and helping in so many other ways.

Natural Area Stewardship Committees: (*Balch Hill*) Wayne Barstad, Len Cadwallader, Ed Chamberlain, Rob Chapman, Carol Edwards, Anne Evans, Rebecca Kohn, Ryan Johnson, Barbara McIlroy, Lois Roland, Laura Rosenthal; (*Greensboro Ridge*) Wendy Conquest, Alan DiStasio, Doug McIlroy, Jill Kearney Niles, Jim Wooster; (*Mink Brook*) Bryant and Marilyn Denk, Dave Dostal, Cal Felicetti, Brenda Knight, Jill Marquard, Johnathan Rabkin, Cam Rankin, Roger Soderberg, Dev Sodhi; (*Slade Brook*) Gail McPeek, Hugh Mellert, Cathy Beaver

Trip Leaders & Program Speakers: Ereik Alper, George Clark, Nancy Collier, Courtney Dragiff, Tom Jack, Mackenzie Jones, Craig Layne, Linde McNamara, Gail McPeek, Hugh Mellert, David Merker, Adair Mulligan, John O'Brien, Len Reitsma, Jackie Richter-Menge, Alice Schori, Alcott Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Lee Steppacher

Other Volunteers: Jeremy Beliveau, Bob Boon, Mary Brown, Laura Conkey, Matt Cronkite, Joe Danna, Alice and Phidias Dantos, Kelly Dragiff, Betsy Eaton, Nicki Felicetti, Steve Fowler, Rory Gawler, Mike Hall, Susan Hanifin, Mary Joy, Girish Kamath, Jim Kennedy, Bryan Marquard, Betsy McClain, Bill Mlacak, Chris Passage, Irina and Laurent Perreard, Carl Renshaw, Vincent Rowland, Sarah Saint, Shane Selmer, Ross Smith, Bernie and Mary Waugh, Joanna Whitcomb

◀ *The Barred Owl is among many raptors that benefit from forest conservation. Photo: Hannah Caldwell.*

A photograph of two hikers walking away from the camera on a forest path. The path is covered in fallen autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown. The hiker on the left is wearing a light green long-sleeved shirt and light blue pants, carrying a red and black backpack. The hiker on the right is wearing a dark jacket and blue pants, carrying a red and grey backpack. The forest is filled with tall trees, some with vibrant yellow and orange foliage, and others with green leaves. The lighting is soft, suggesting late afternoon. In the upper right quadrant, there is a line of text in a serif font.

Friends head up Balch Hill on a late afternoon hike.

OUR PROTECTED LANDS



**HANOVER
CONSERVANCY**

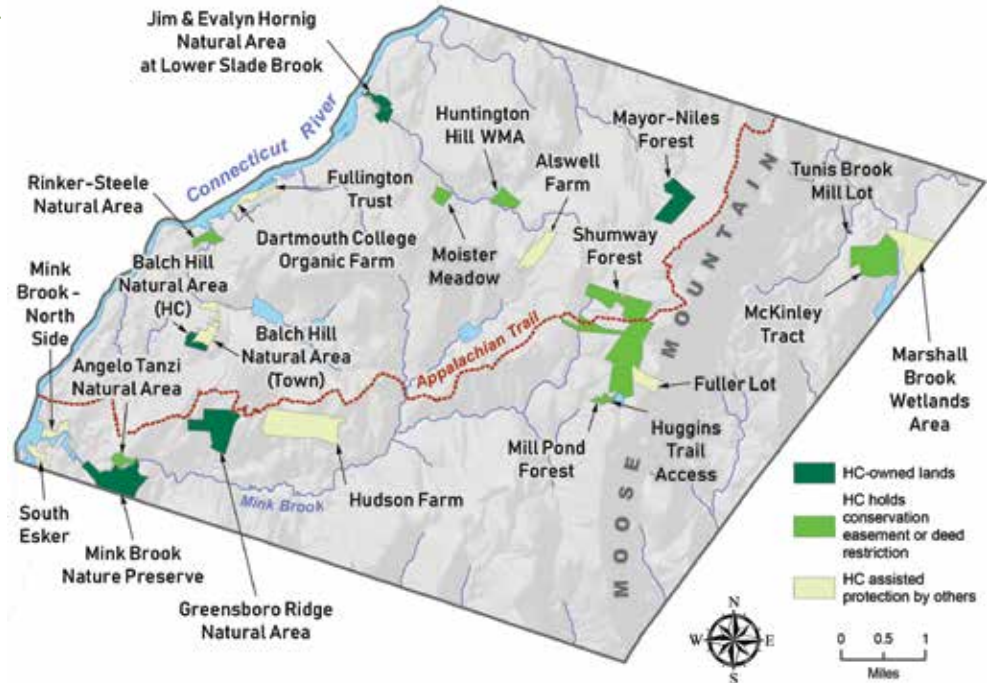
*Protecting land & water
in our community*

Owned by the Hanover Conservancy 374.5 acres

- Balch Hill Natural Area – 21 acres
- Greensboro Ridge Natural Area – 113 acres
- Jim & Evalyn Horning Natural Area at Lower Slade Brook – 35 acres
- Mayor-Niles Forest – 92 acres
- Mink Brook Nature Preserve – 112 acres
- Tunis Brook Mill Lot – 1.5 acres

Protected by a Hanover Conservancy conservation easement or deed restriction – 565.9 acres

- Huntington Hill/Upper Slade Brook – 31.8 acres
- McKinley Tract – 125.7 acres
- Mill Pond Forest & Huggins Trail Access – 18 acres
- Moister Meadow – 21 acres
- Rinker-Steele Natural Area – 23.6 acres
- Shumway Forest – 313 acres
- Slade Brook Natural Area – 3 acres
- Tanzi Natural Area – 15.8 acres

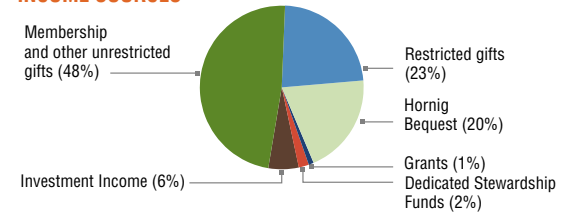


FINANCIAL REPORT *As of June 30, 2018*

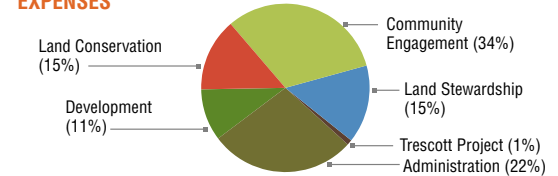
ASSETS	2018	2017
Cash and cash equivalents, unrestricted	\$ 102,293	\$ 260,226
Investments	\$ 945,185	\$ 552,250
Other (office equipment and land improvements net of depreciation)	\$ 4,839	\$ 6,015
HC Fund at the NH Charitable Foundation	\$ 29,886	\$ 28,948
Land held for conservation purposes	\$ 774,296	\$ 774,296
Total Assets	\$ 1,856,499	\$ 1,621,735
LIABILITIES		
Note payable (for Shumway Forest)	\$ 0	\$ 96,050
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 970,171	\$ 542,439
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 87,032	\$ 183,951
Permanently restricted net assets	\$ 799,296	\$ 799,296
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,856,499	\$ 1,525,685
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 1,856,499	\$ 1,621,735
SUPPORT & REVENUE		
Membership and other gifts	\$ 475,689	\$ 239,263
Grants	\$ 5,000	\$ 272,060
Investment Income	\$ 31,866	\$ 49,960
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 512,555	\$ 561,283
EXPENSES		
Programs	\$ 112,221	\$ 380,179
Management and general	\$ 51,380	\$ 34,342
Fundraising	\$ 18,140	\$ 13,559
Total Expenses	\$ 181,741	\$ 428,080
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS		
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$ 1,525,685	\$ 1,392,482
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 1,856,499	\$ 1,525,685

A copy of the 2018 financial statement, prepared by our accountants at Lynn C. Rust, CPA, is available for review at our office.

INCOME SOURCES



EXPENSES



This year we met a challenge and gratefully accepted a major gift from the Byrne Foundation in support of our VISION 2020 strategic plan.

- Membership increased **29%** from 3 years ago.
- **Completed** purchase of 313-acre Shumway Forest conservation easement.
- **Tripled** our school outreach effort.

Remembering Jim Hornig

A wise and far-sighted conservationist, Jim served as our president from 1999-2006 and 2007-8. His effort, working with the Town, led to protection of our natural areas at Greensboro Ridge and Lower Slade Brook (named in his honor). To ensure his vision for a healthy community would reach far into the future, Jim made a deeply generous bequest to the Conservancy. We thank Jim for such a strong legacy.



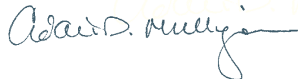
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This was another landmark year for the Hanover Conservancy. Our membership swelled to three times that of a decade ago, equivalent to more than a quarter of Hanover households. Our members hail not only from Hanover and the greater Upper Valley but from 56 towns and 12 states plus the District of Columbia and Canada. In thinking back to our five founders' vision over a half century ago, I wonder if they could have imagined such encouraging support and affirmation of their efforts. I am certain they would celebrate our progress in building on their early work to protect Balch Hill and other iconic landscapes we love so well today.

We have lost a number of conservation leaders in the last year — Jim Hornig, Ed Chamberlain, Allie Quinn, Carolyn Tenney, Shawn Donovan, Willy Black, Brian Walsh, and Peter Shumway, among others — but their vision still guides our work and like them, our view is always to the future! First and foremost are the 13 talented and far-sighted members of our board of directors.

With this in mind, we are proud to announce that for the first time in our history we now have two full-time staff, as our capable and congenial Program Coordinator Courtney Dragiff moves to an expanded position. As a result, our community engagement program is now bringing home-grown environmental education to more people in more ways and we look forward to stewarding the largest portfolio of protected Hanover lands in our history. Our land stewardship program, multiplied by the energy of our many volunteers, must expand to meet this growing need, so we can keep the promise we make to each landowner who entrusts the future of cherished land to us.

We thank you for your support and trust that you know we use it wisely and well. If you're not already a Conservancy member, we hope you'll join us as we pursue our vision of a healthy, natural Hanover.



Adair Mulligan, *Executive Director*



*Hiking the AT in Hanover Center.
Photo: Dan Breen*



New Audrey McCollum Trail through the Trescott Wetlands

Our members hail not only from Hanover and the greater Upper Valley but from **56 towns and 12 states** plus the **District of Columbia and Canada.**



White
Mountains

White Mountains Insurance Group is proud to give back to our community by supporting the work of the Hanover Conservancy.

*Above: Hikers enjoy the view from Moose Mountain's Ridge Trail. Photo Pablo Marvel
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