



HANOVER CONSERVANCY

FY 2016 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.

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Hypertherm Hope Foundation

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**HANOVER
CONSERVANCY**

*Protecting land & water
in our community*

FOUNDATIONS

The Jack and Dorothy Byrne
Foundation

Elizabeth Parkhill Charitable Trust

Emily Landecker Foundation

Crowell Family Foundation

The Barrette Family Fund, Fraxinus
Fund, and Upper Valley Region
Community Fund of the
NH Charitable Foundation

OTHER BUSINESS FRIENDS

Annette Lorraine, PLC

Big Green Ts

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EBA's

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Hanover Yoga

Inner Lift Yoga

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Nugget Theater

Picaboo

Ravenmark, Inc.

Red Kite Candy

Skinny Pancake

Stonehouse Mountain Mapping

TipTop Pottery

Umpleby's

Zimmermann's North Face

COMMUNITY FRIENDS & PARTNERS

Connecticut River Watershed
Council

The Conservation Fund

Dartmouth Ecological
Methods class

Dartmouth Outing Club
Woodsmen's Team

Etna Library

Hanover Conservation
Commission

Hanover Historical Society

Hanover Improvement Society

Hanover Parks and Recreation

Howe Library

Land Trust Alliance

NH Audubon, Mascoma Chapter

Quabbin to Cardigan
Partnership

Sierra Club of the Upper Valley

Trescott Company

Trust for Public Land

Upper Valley Land Trust

Upper Valley Mountain Bike
Association

Upper Valley Trails Alliance

Vital Communities of the
Upper Valley

Winter Center for Indigenous
Traditions

Youth in Action

Cover photo: Mink Brook tumbles off Moose Mountain through the newly conserved Mill Pond Forest. Photo: Joe Danna, Jr.

Left: The Mink Brook bear mother with her three cubs. Photo: Bryan Marquard

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

The Hanover Conservancy has been busy and productive. We have expanded our staff, relocated our office, opened new lands to public recreation and conserved others while running our outdoor adventures to interesting corners of town.

I am always pleased to report on our recent conservation projects. We assisted with the opening of the Trescott Water Supply Lands to public recreation, a 1,165-acre natural paradise. Our new Mill Pond Forest easement meets our goal of expanded protected habitat at elevation.

Beyond our regular trips program, we have new ways to get people outdoors to enjoy Hanover's wild side. For kids, the annual Trails Challenge guides families on a hunt for special markers on trails and summits. For adults and families, we offer a Hike of the Month with directions, history and natural resource news.

We are proud of our accomplishments but in order to achieve our Vision 2020 goals, we need to expand our financial base. To do so, we are diligently expanding our reach to all residents, sharing our mission, conservation goals, and educational programs, and asking for your support.

If you are a past donor, we are grateful to you and ask that you consider increasing your gift. We will continue to use your gifts wisely towards land conservation, stewardship and outdoor education. If you are new to town, please join one of our free public trips, visit one of our conserved areas, or volunteer on a stewardship committee in your neighborhood.

We welcome and encourage your participation and your support.

Yours very truly,



Nancy C. Collier, *President*



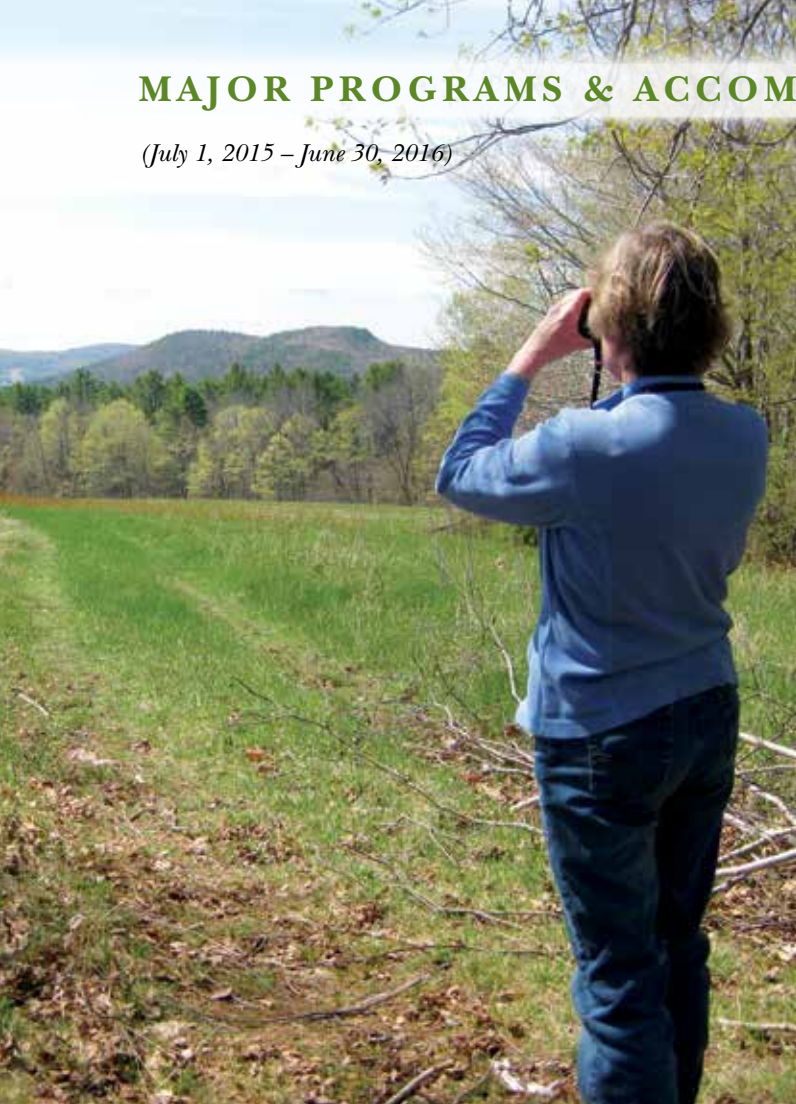
The **Hanover Conservancy**, the oldest local land trust in New Hampshire, strives to protect the land and waters of our community through land conservation and stewardship, education, and advocacy for conservation-oriented public policy.

Celebrating its 55th 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.

*Above: Trout lilies on Moose Mountain.
Photo: HC staff*

MAJOR PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS / FY 2016

(July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016)



Land Conservation

Our protected acreage grew again this year with the **Mill Pond Forest** and **Huggins Trail Access** on Moose Mountain, thanks to the generosity and public spirit of the landowners and their neighbors. Here, new conservation easements protect not only public access to a well-loved network of trails but also the primary headwaters of Mink Brook, Hanover's largest stream. Its historic mountainside mill sites tell a dramatic tale of Hanover's earliest years. Protecting cool forest high on the ridge near other protected lands expands the space wildlife can count on to escape warming temperatures in the valleys below.

Closer to town, we are working with partners, including the Town of Hanover and the Trust for Public Land, to complete a four year project to protect the 174-acre **Hudson Farm** and its rolling meadows. Paths from Berrill Farms and Etna neighborhoods cross the property to link to the Appalachian Trail. Both hikers and grassland birds will benefit from permanent protection of this scenic piece of Etna's farm history.

Using computerized mapping and analysis, we have identified strategic priorities for each part of town — the densely settled Connecticut River corridor, the rolling central



Searching for Bobolinks at the Hudson Farm. Photo: HC staff



rural landscape, and the wild eastern ridge of Moose Mountain. We aim to ensure that the natural side of Hanover remains healthy and prepared to provide clean water, protection from heavy stormwater runoff, and a cool retreat for wildlife in the face of climate change. Access and trails for healthy outdoor recreation close to home are right up there on our wish list.

We are also active behind the scenes to protect other high-priority parcels in partnership with private landowners and with the Town. We welcome inquiries from those interested in conserving their land.

Community Engagement

Participation in our trips and programs more than doubled this year, reaching 746. We offered trips ranging from winter wildlife tracking in Hanover Center to a spring wildflower walk, geo-caching demonstration, and a delightful yoga session on Balch Hill. A prime destination is the **Trescott Water Supply Lands**, where we've introduced snowshoers, birders, geo-cachers, and history buffs to the newly opened property (see next page). Armchair programs included presentations by the Lincoln Institute's renowned Jim Levitt, wildlife tracker and photographer Sue Morse, and a standing-room-only screening of the documentary "The Messenger."

At summer's end, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the **Jim and Evalyn Hornig Natural Area at Lower Slade Brook** with a guided walk and a stream investigation for young would-be biologists. Here, a former gravel pit off River Road was transformed into the Purling Brooks Drive subdivision as far-sighted planners protected the adjacent brook corridor and its graceful waterfalls for all to enjoy.

Discovering a geo-cache at the Trescott lands. Photo: Joe Danna, Jr.



This year we launched our **Hanover Hike of the Month**, offering detailed directions and insights on a selected trail suited to shine at each time of year. Our annual **Hanover Trails Challenge**, conducted with the town's Parks and Recreation Department, draws more families each year to explore together. Our **Hanover Conservancy Award** again provided a scholarship to a deserving Hanover High School environmental studies student.



Owl tracks in snow. Photo: Linde McNamara

While it's always more fun to meet people on the trail, we need to meet them on their phones and computers, too. Subscriptions to our monthly e-newsletter rose another 12% in FY16. Our e-publications also include 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.



Trails challenge kids. Photo: Arrica van Citters

OUR PROTECTED LANDS

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

Lower Slade Brook Natural Area – 3 acres

Off Purling Brooks Drive / Owner: private landowners

McKinley Tract – 125.7 acres

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

Mill Pond Forest & Huggins Trail Access – 18 acres

End of Moose Mountain Lodge Road / Owner: private landowners

Moister Meadow – 21 acres

Off Dogford Road / Owner: private landowner

Rinker-Steele Natural Area – 23.6 acres

Off Route 10 / Owner: Town of Hanover

South Esker – 14 acres

Adjacent to Pine Knoll Cemetery / Owner: Town of Hanover

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

Lower Slade Brook Natural Area – 35 acres

Off River Road

Tunis Brook Mill Lot – 1.5 acres

Off Goose Pond Road

The many trails
on Moose Mountain
are a hiker's
delight throughout
the year.

Photo: HC staff





Welcome to the Trescott Water Supply Lands

Opening the vast watershed of Hanover's drinking water supply to the public has long been a dearly held goal of the Conservancy. This year, that dream came true when the Trescott Company signaled readiness and asked for our help in preparing for responsible public recreation. We rolled up our sleeves, enlisting key partners and the cooperation of a wide range of potential users. Our new trailhead kiosks, signage, and trail map, developed with support from the Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership, explain how to enjoy these valuable lands without compromising the safety of the public's drinking water. At the same time, we're interpreting the fascinating human and natural history of these lands — once the site of the Town Poor Farm, a one-room school, and a vibrant farming neighborhood.

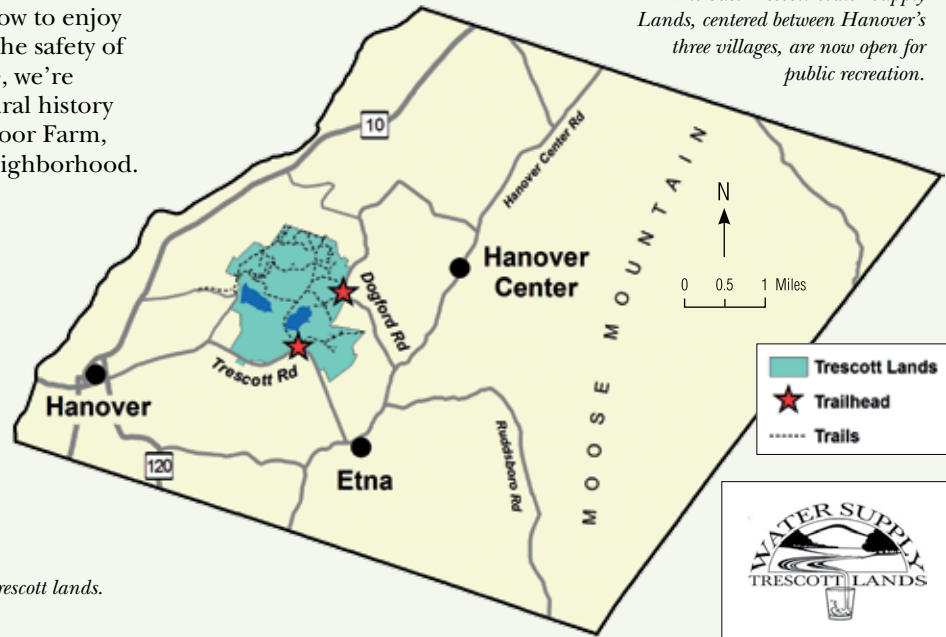


Above: Checking the map at Mason's Four Corners on the Trescott lands.
Opposite: View from Prospect Hill. Photo: Jim Block

If you go –

Pick up a map at the Trescott or Dogford Road entrance or on our website. Lands are open dawn to dusk. Dogs are welcome but must remain leashed at all times; please pick up after your pet. No fires, camping, or motorized vehicles. Note that reservoirs and the land around them remain closed to the public — no swimming, boating, or fishing. Yield to forestry operations.

The vast Trescott Water Supply Lands, centered between Hanover's three villages, are now open for public recreation.





Land Stewardship

Volunteers and generous business sponsors helped us devote much effort to our protected lands this year. At the **Mayor-Niles Forest**, we opened two new trails, built a new bridge, and published a new trail guide with the help of a dedicated volunteer. At **Balch Hill**, we built more sustainable paths for the Maple and Grasse Road Trails and continue to restore views. Balch Hill, Mink Brook, and Greensboro Ridge all received professional attention to prevent the spread of invasive, non-native plants, in our effort to demonstrate good land stewardship and provide healthy natural habitat.

We took bold steps this year to confront the problem of deer overpopulation and related damage to wildflowers and forest health. Focusing on Balch Hill, we managed a carefully limited archery hunt from tree stands by special permit, and conducted a survey of neighbors that indicated strong support for this approach.



Youth In Action helps “bench” a trail at the Mink Brook Nature Preserve. Photo: HC staff

...we opened two new trails, built a new bridge, and published a new trail guide...

Left: Building a trail on the Trescott Water Supply Lands on December 23. Photo: Joe Danna, Jr.



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 – Clyde Barbour, Wayne Barstad, Supreet Bauer, Len Cadwallader, Ed Chamberlain, Rob Chapman, Anne Evans, Gail McPeek, Rob Harris, Ryan Johnson, Rebecca Kohn, Barbara McIlroy, David Pollock, Lois Roland, Laura Rosenthal, Sarah Tally; **Greensboro Ridge** – Wendy Conquest, Alan DiStasio, Doug McIlroy, Jill Kearney Niles, Steve Shadford, Jim Wooster; **Mink Brook** – Jim Barrett, Bryant and Marilyn Denk, Dave Dostal, Cal Felicetti, Brenda Knight, Jill Marquard, Roger Soderberg, Dev Sodhi, Douwe Wieberdink; **Slade Brook** – Kathy Harvard, Gail McPeek, Hugh Mellert, Daniel Morrison.

Trip Leaders & Program Speakers:

Erek Alper, George Clark, Joe Danna, Courtney Dragiff, Tom Jack, MacKenzie Jones, Jim Levitt, Gail McPeek, Hugh Mellert, David Merker, Susan Morse, Adair Mulligan, Theresa Mundy, Barbara Prince, Alice Schori, Bill Shepard, Kay Shumway, Alcott Smith, Matt Tarr.

Other Volunteers:

Jessica Bell, Bob Boon, Mary Brown, Meg Colton, Laura Conkey, Matt Cronkite, Joe Danna, Morgan Danna, Betsy Eaton, Steve Fowler, Rory Gawler, Mike Hall, Craig Layne, Betsy McClain, Tim McDermott, Betsy McGean, Linde McNamara, Bill Mlacak, Everett Poisson, Cathie Redpath, Deborah Schaner, Joanna Whitcomb.

Volunteers prepare our new offices. Photo: HC staff

FINANCIAL REPORT *As of June 30, 2016*

ASSETS	2016	2015
Cash & investments, unrestricted	\$ 111,379	\$ 149,015
Cash & investments, restricted	\$ 473,370	\$ 467,270
HC Fund of NH Charitable Foundation	\$ 26,690	\$ 28,966
Land owned for conservation purposes*	\$ 774,296	\$ 774,296
Other [<i>receivables, prepaid rent, office equipment and land improvements net of depreciation</i>]	\$ 6,747	\$ 7,914
Total Assets	\$ 1,392,482	\$ 1,427,461

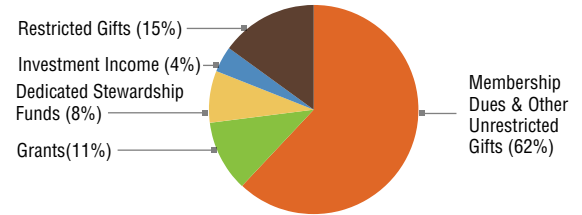
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	\$ 536,782	\$ 569,773
Temporarily restricted net assets	\$ 56,404	\$ 58,392
Permanently restricted net assets	\$ 799,296	\$ 799,296
Total Net Assets	\$ 1,392,482	\$ 1,427,461

SUPPORT & REVENUE		
Contributions**	\$ 65,759	\$ 271,353
Membership income	\$ 33,085	\$ 24,027
Grants	\$ 13,180	\$ 21,736
Investment income	\$ 5,077	\$ 15,557
Total Support & Revenue	\$ 117,101	\$ 332,673

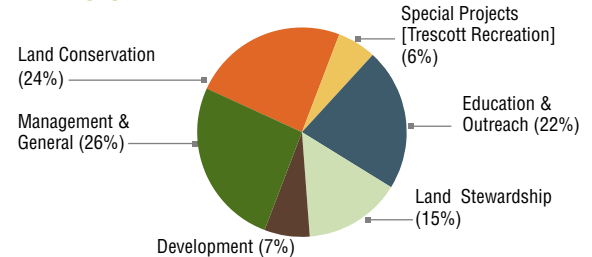
EXPENSES		
Programs	\$ 101,244	\$ 77,454
Management and general***	\$ 40,099	\$ 38,622
Fundraising	\$ 10,737	\$ 8,753
Total Expenses	\$ 152,080	\$ 124,829

INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	(\$34,979)	\$ 207,844
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$ 1,427,461	\$ 1,219,617
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$ 1,392,482	\$ 1,427,461

INCOME SOURCES



EXPENSES



Notes:

* The Town of Hanover presently assesses the value of Hanover Conservancy-owned properties at \$1,190,100.

**The Byrne Foundation made a major gift of \$125,000 in FY2015 to support our strategic plan, VISION 2020, and has pledged a similar amount as a challenge in calendar 2016.

***Includes expenses related to re-location of our offices after the November, 2015 fire at 16 Buck Road.

A copy of the 2016 financial statement is available for review at our office.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Being a bird person, it's hard not to think about that phoenix rising from the ashes as we reflect on the unexpected gifts of the fire that struck our Buck Road offices in November. When the dust and feathers settled, we spread our wings in spacious new quarters on Lyme Road, with wildlife and trails right outside our windows. A team of volunteers took up brush and hammer to transform the space into our new home, designed by Jessica Bell. Talented photographer Jim Block filled our blank walls with a breathtaking exhibition of images, generously donating proceeds.

On top of that, we've had another banner year! Membership has more than doubled since 2010 and we recorded more protected acres, more trip participants, stronger support from local businesses, and more improvements to our preserves than ever before. Progress mounts on our strategic plan, VISION 2020, thanks to the confidence and generous support of the Byrne Foundation and other friends.

Program Coordinator Courtney Dragiff now leads our Education and Stewardship programs, bringing her love of the outdoors and experience as an educator to this essential role. Intern Morgan Danna gave some of her summer to us, conducting research, creating videos, and managing files. Nearly 90 inspiring volunteers shared their time and talents, led by our hard-working board of directors. Over the year we teamed up with many public and private partners, from the town recreation department, libraries, and conservation commission, to the Upper Valley Trails Alliance, Trust for Public Land, and Hanover Improvement Society, among others.

We hope you'll join us as we pursue our vision of a healthy, natural Hanover.



Adair Mulligan, *Executive Director*



*Top: Adair Mulligan on the Connecticut River
Bottom: Courtney Dragiff*

*Background image: Mt. Ascutney viewed from
Balch Hill. Photo: HC staff*