

Guidelines for Use

- ◆ Trails are open for **foot travel** at all seasons.
- ◆ Please leave wildflowers, mushrooms, and other growth undisturbed.
- ◆ No fires or camping.
- ◆ Trapping and hunting are not permitted.
- ◆ Please pick up after your pet. Dogs must be under the direct control of their owners.
- ◆ Please leave no trace of your visit.

The Waterfall Trail (0.5 mi.) follows the brook on an old woods road before climbing through the brook's little valley, offering beautiful views of the cascading waters. Beyond the last and most spectacular of the three waterfalls, the trail heads away from the brook and up to a plateau. After a right turn just beyond the boundary, the ¼-mile Lyme Road Connector Trail brings you to Route 10.

History: Captain Samuel Slade (1747-1826) was a Revolutionary War soldier who served at Fort Ticonderoga. At least four generations of Slades lived in Hanover Center near the brook's source.

Geological features: Find evidence of glacial Lake Hitchcock in the steep valley walls, especially on the north side. After the lake drained 14,000 years ago, Slade Brook sliced down through old lake-bottom sediments to its present elevation.

The Brook: A modest little stream at most times of year, Slade Brook can pack a powerful punch in a heavy storm. Large trees undermined by high water fall over its channel, creating pools and riffles—prime fish habitat. Protected from development, the stream can move naturally within its floodplain.

Habitat: NH considers Lower Slade Brook's habitat to be among the highest quality in the state. Thirty-four species of birds and 232 species of plants have been recorded here. The Natural Area provides valuable spring stopover habitat for birds migrating up the Connecticut River. Listen for the melodious song of the Louisiana Waterthrush. Small mammals, red fox, and black bear frequent the area.

About the Jim & Evalyn Hornig Natural Area at Lower Slade Brook

The 38-acre Natural Area, owned by the Hanover Conservancy, offers a quiet retreat with easy walking terrain along Slade Brook. When a developer presented a plan for 17 houses in this area, the Conservancy (then known as the Hanover Conservation Council) proposed an alternative. The result was 10 homes clustered on 20 acres on the site of a gravel pit south of the brook, leaving the rest of the property intact. This solution permanently protected the brook and its forested valley while providing recreational trails for neighbors and the wider community to enjoy.

Jim Hornig, former Council president, was the inspiring force behind the creation of this preserve in 2005, and the Council gratefully named the Natural Area in honor of Jim and his wife, Evalyn.

The Upper Valley Land Trust holds a conservation easement on the Natural Area and the Conservancy holds an easement on the abutting parts of nearby properties. We welcome volunteers to help monitor and care for trails.

The Hanover Conservancy is an independent private, non-profit membership organization dedicated to protecting land and water in our community. Your support keeps our natural areas open for all to enjoy and allows us to offer guided trips here and elsewhere in Hanover. Please consider becoming a member and making a gift to the Land Stewardship Fund.

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