

Mink Brook Community Forest

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Hanover, New Hampshire's thriving economy and desirable location within the Upper Connecticut River Valley help make it a highly sought-after place to live and work. Economic drivers such as Dartmouth College and the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center help create a high quality of life, but have also fueled development that is placing pressure on the community's limited open space. To help protect the best of Hanover's rural character, The Trust for Public Land and local partners are working to permanently protect the 250-acre Mink Brook Community Forest.

Safeguarding Mink Brook

Just minutes from downtown Hanover, 250-acres of forest, streams, and open fields promise a welcome retreat for local residents looking to escape suburban life and connect with nature. The scenic property, straddling Greensboro Road, is one of the last large parcels close to downtown Hanover and the major employers along Route 120, making it an attractive target for subdivision and development.

The Trust for Public Land is joining the Town of Hanover and the Hanover Conservancy to seize this opportunity to purchase the property before it can be sold on the open market. Our efforts will create a new community forest that will protect the ecologically rich corridor of Mink Brook, maintain the pristine meadow, provide new trails, and secure vital habitat.

About the property

Mink Brook Community Forest includes a mature upland forest that provides a scenic backdrop to the residential Greensboro Road neighborhood. Across the way, a broad meadow reaches south to Mink Brook and the forests beyond. Whether it's wrapped in the rich colors of autumn's changing leaves, or covered in a blanket of fresh snow, Mink Brook Community Forest is a natural oasis.

Beyond its aesthetic appeal, the Mink Brook Community Forest has the potential to be a multi-benefit resource that supports a variety of community needs. It will offer recreational access with new trails for walking, biking, and cross-country skiing, and trail connections onto adjacent conservation lands. Forestry will also continue, subject to a management plan developed with community input and overseen by a licensed forester.

With your support, we'll protect wildlife habitat for resident otter, mink, bear, bobcat, turkey, and grassland birds, and visitors such as moose. Protection of the stream corridor will enhance habitat for wild brook trout. The 250-acre community forest will also provide a major link to existing conservation lands within the town's greenbelt and along the Appalachian Trail. Hanover/Lyme is a conservation focus area identified by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy due to the landscape's high climate resilience, species diversity, and community commitment to protection of the Appalachian Trail.

The path to protection

For many years, the community has hoped that this special place could be protected. At one time, a large-scale nursing home and retirement

development was planned for the site which some in the neighborhood strongly opposed.

After a decade of uncertainty, the property is listed for sale once again. We must act quickly to conserve the property as there will only be one chance.

Once protected, the land will be conveyed to the Town of Hanover as a community forest. The historic farmhouse, which once presided over a 19th century family farm, will be purchased and resold. An additional 3-acres will be set aside, with the community's agreement, for a small cluster of single-family homes to help address a critical housing shortage in the region and to take advantage of access to municipal water and sewer service.

With a lead gift from an anonymous private donor, as well as anticipated municipal, state and federal dollars, the Mink Brook Community Forest project has the momentum needed to create a greenway around Downtown Hanover. But we need your help to secure the property -before time runs out.



PHOTOS: Mim Adkins, Kurt Budliger
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