



HANOVER CONSERVANCY

Protecting land & water in our community

FY2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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Photos are shown in order of listing

Adair Mulligan
Executive Director

Myrilla Hartkopf
Program Coordinator
July 1, 2022 - April 28, 2023

Cover photo & next page: Deciduous
tamaracks blaze in the Kendall wetland at the
foot of Moose Mountain. Photo by Jim Block

Shown left: Royal fern thrives on
Moose Mountain

(Unless noted, photos by HC staff)



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hanoverconservancy.org

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

We are thrilled to bring you this Annual Report, with news of major conservation achievements in our community. Here you can read about the Conservancy's significant progress towards our goal of conserving 30% of Hanover land by 2030.

I am particularly excited about our work to protect a beautiful and ecologically critical parcel of land on Moose Mountain. The land boasts rich forests, expansive views, lovely fields, and the headwaters of Mink Brook. The historic Harris Trail runs right

through the property, and this conservation project will bring us one important step further towards ensuring the trail remains open to the public forever. If you haven't yet explored Moose Mountain, I urge you to get out there on a hike, or, consider trying my favorite way to access the Harris Trail: on backcountry skis.

Traveling downstream from the Mink Brook headwaters, I am equally thrilled to celebrate the Conservancy's replacement of the beloved Mink Brook crossing. Read about how, with the help of many volunteers and partners and the fortuitous discovery of one colossal pine, we were able to give the Oak Hill tree a second life in Hanover as a rustic footbridge in the Mink Brook Nature Preserve.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the generous support of our members and corporate sponsors. We can report with great pride and gratitude that our ***Promise to Protect Campaign*** has made tremendous progress towards our \$2 million goal, and I invite you to join me in supporting the campaign and being part of our effort to permanently protect Hanover's natural resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Heidi Trimarco".

Heidi Trimarco, *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.

Proudly celebrating its **62nd 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 2023: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Land Conservation

This year has been all about bringing drawing-board projects to reality. We can now announce three parcels, as different from one another as they could be, but all reflecting strong priorities for a healthy Hanover. Together, they will add over 168 acres to Hanover's protected lands, moving the needle on the national goal of protecting 30% of our lands by the year 2030. Adding these parcels would put Hanover's protected lands at 23.3%, suggesting that 2,142 more acres are needed.



This spring, the Town conveyed a permanent conservation easement on the **King Bird Sanctuary and Trescott Ridge Wetlands**, a beautiful 17.4 acre natural area linking the Etna Library and the “bird roads.” The classic rural landscape features dramatic stone walls and a demonstration wildlife planting. The wetlands provide flood protection, and trails link the Etna library with the surrounding neighborhood.

To be protected soon: At the historic **Adams Farm** on Trescott Road, the Conservancy has strived for many years to protect the farm's prime agricultural soils, open fields, and stunning views of Mount Ascutney. Working with the Natural

Resources Conservation Service and the new landowners, the Conservancy is preparing to purchase a permanent conservation easement on the majority of this parcel, which connects to the protected Hudson Farm and the Appalachian Trail corridor.

To be protected soon:

On **Moose Mountain**, the Conservancy has been working with the Kendall family to purchase and protect one of the largest remaining parcels on the west slope, the source of Mink Brook (*above*). The land supports a rich mature forest and abuts both the Appalachian Trail corridor and our own Mayor-Niles and Britton Forests. The Harris Trail, former route of the AT and a beloved backcountry ski route, runs for $\frac{3}{4}$ mile across the upper slopes, and wild brook trout flourish in these healthy waters. Work behind the scenes in FY23 led to a recent complex transaction, assisted by our friends at The Conservation Fund, to put us on the path to protecting the vast majority of this ecologically valuable and scenic land.



Your help is needed at all three places! Your tax-deductible gift can help complete protection of the Adams Farm and the Moose Mountain lands. The King Sanctuary needs volunteers to help manage the wildlife plantings.

Valuable wetlands on the Kendall property



MAJOR PROGRAMS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

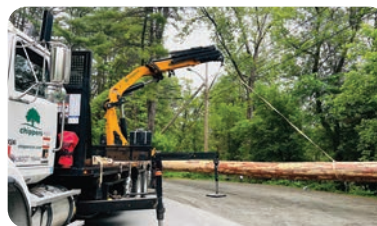
Land Stewardship

Many acres, many trails, many host landowners, many miles of boundaries, and many enthusiastic visitors to our lands all add up to one thing: the job of caring for our protected lands is a big and *permanent* responsibility.

Sometimes it's a routine job...keeping map dispensers filled or clearing a fallen tree. Other times, it's helping a landowner solve a problem or fighting the good fight against invasive plants.

Once in a generation comes a big job, and this time it was 77' long and weighed five tons!

Anyone who walks the wild side of Hanover recalls our **beautiful log crossing at the Mink Brook Nature Preserve**, which had reached the end of its useful life. No suitable replacement trees grew nearby. Fortunately, we learned of a massive pine slated to come down at Oak Hill. With help from many partners, the huge log paraded down Main Street in the early hours of a fresh June morning, waved on by Hanover Police. Not since the days of King George had such a large tree moved through downtown Hanover.



Getting people safely across Mink Brook became an imperative once the bridge was closed. While a trail counter confirmed that public use did not diminish, environmental and safety problems mushroomed.

Crowd-sourced stepping stones appeared and were dangerous in winter – at least one person fell in the water in January – and foot traffic eroded the streambank and destroyed protective vegetation.

In conversation with neighbors, members of the Abenaki community, and conservation partners, we designed a replacement bridge that would allow for safe and secure crossings of Mink Brook, while keeping with the rustic aesthetic of the original bridge. Thanks to board member emeritus Hugh Mellert for leading this ambitious project.

Thanks to Chippers, Dartmouth College, Liberty Utilities, Hypertherm, Lawson Crane & Rigging, Royal Trail Works, Friends of Oak Hill, Hanover DPW and Police, forester Jeff Smith, videographer Ezra McGinley-Smith, and the many volunteers who put their shoulders to this project.



MAJOR PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Community Engagement

Our seasonal series of free public trips and programs has been a sixty-year tradition. Thanks to our generous business sponsors for underwriting these events.



re-imagined Pine Park, and cheering the comeback of the Bald Eagle with our annual meeting presentation by our raptor biologist Chris Martin.



Photo: Jim Block

Fall found us watching for hawks on Balch Hill, celebrating the centennial of the tiny Tunis Schoolhouse, exploring the newly



New this year was a bi-lingual visit to Mink Brook for young families.

In **winter**, we wandered among the stone walls on Moose Mountain, explored Etna's King Bird Sanctuary and Trescott Wetlands, and led a snowshoe

trip for Ray School families. An old favorite is the moonlight snowshoe hike along Slade Brook.

We were honored to host a special screening of the documentary film, *Whitman Brook*, with its protagonists and award-winning videographer.

Spring saw us searching for salamanders in vernal pools and wildflowers in the woods at our Greensboro Ridge Natural Area, celebrating World Migratory Bird Day at the Hudson Farm in Etna, and as always, flying kites at Balch Hill. The sweet subject of maple sugaring drew a crowd to hear local sugarmakers at the Howe Library. We again presented our **Hanover Conservancy Award** to a deserving High School senior pursuing environmental studies.

Self-guided outdoor offerings continued, with our **Spring Wildflower Scavenger Hunt** and a new **Hanover Hike of the Month**. 160 participants took part in our **Hanover Trails Challenge**, discovering local trails through a treasure hunt for hidden destinations.

Keep up to date with us on Facebook, Instagram, and our website, and subscribe to our monthly e-news.



OUR PROTECTED LANDS

Owned by the Hanover Conservancy (453.5 acres)

Jim & Evalyn Hornig Natural Area at Lower Slade Brook – 35 acres
Off River Road

Balch Hill Natural Area – 21 acres / Off Grasse & Hemlock Roads

Britton Forest – 79 acres / Off Three Mile Road

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

Tunis Brook Mill Lot – 1.5 acres / Off Goose Pond Road

Protected by a Hanover Conservancy conservation easement or deed restriction (569.3 acres)

Huntington Hill/Upper Slade Brook – 31.8 acres

Off Hanover Center Road / Owner: private landowner

King Bird Sanctuary & Trescott Ridge Wetlands – 17.4 acres

Between Hanover Center Road & Woodcock Lane / Owner: Town of Hanover

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 – 21.0 acres / Off Dogford Road / Owner: private landowner

Rinker-Steele Natural Area – 23.6 acres / Off Route 10 / Owner: Town of Hanover

Shumway Forest – 313 acres / Off Three Mile Road / Owner: private landowner

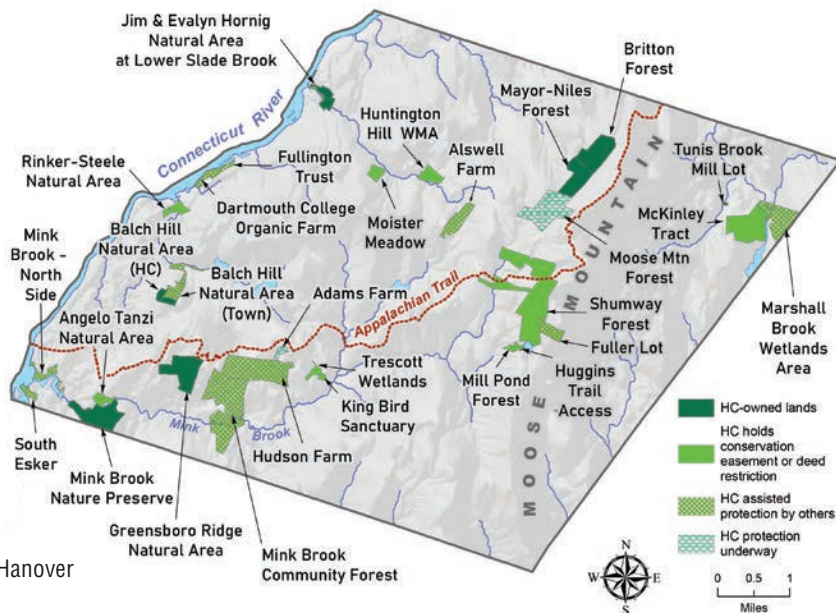
Slade Brook Natural Area – 3 acres / Off Purling Brooks Drive / Owners: private landowners


Tanzi Natural Area – 15.8 acres / Adjacent to Mink Brook Nature Preserve / Owner: Town of Hanover

Conservation in Progress (149.9 acres)

Adams Farm – 12.9 acres / Off Trescott Road

Moose Mountain lands – 137 acres / Off Three Mile & Wolfeboro Roads





Mount Ascutney adorns this view over soon-to-be-protected prime farmland at the Adams Farm. The property has been listed on the Town's Scenic Loci Report for years.



HANOVER CONSERVANCY

Founded 1961

For over sixty years,
the Hanover
Conservancy has
protected our
community's
woods and waters
for generations
to come.

Promise to Protect Campaign

Promise to Protect

The Hanover Conservancy is launching the **Promise to Protect** campaign, with a total goal of \$2 million, so that we can keep our promise to you to:



- 🌿 Seek new opportunities to conserve strategic lands
- 🌿 Care for lands we have protected
- 🌿 Protect native plants and wildlife
- 🌿 Honor our natural and cultural heritage
- 🌿 Educate the public about the benefits and responsibilities of conservation
- 🌿 Help our community adapt to a changing climate
- 🌿 Advocate for policies that protect our environment
- 🌿 Introduce new residents and visitors to the outdoors

Over our 60-year history, we have been proud to partner with others who care about Hanover's lands and waters, including the Town, Dartmouth College, local businesses, and other conservation groups. Through the years our most important partners have been you and your neighbors.

Because you cared, because you volunteered, because you contributed, and **because you decided to act**, our community has precious natural spaces like the summit of Balch Hill, the Mink Brook Nature Preserve, and the wild lands of Moose Mountain.

Maintaining them — and adding to them — requires commitment.

2,293

Hanover acres to be conserved to meet the national goal of 30% by 2030

2-3 tons
per acre

CO₂ stored by forests
each year

37%

of emission reductions
needed by 2030
can be provided by
natural solutions

\$240,000

Annual cost to run the
Hanover Conservancy
and its programs,
not including land
acquisitions

Promise to Protect

The **Promise to Protect** campaign enables the Hanover Conservancy to pursue the aspirations of our five-year strategic plan. A generous challenge grant of \$600,000 from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation supports our ambitious campaign goal.

We want to leave future generations a world with:

- ◆ Clean drinking water
- ◆ Ample, safe outdoor green spaces
- ◆ Trails for healthy outdoor recreation
- ◆ Healthy wildlife habitat and a natural carbon bank
- ◆ A community prepared for a changing climate



The work of safeguarding our natural heritage is never done. Our success and our example in pursuing these actions are our legacy.

We will lead the effort, and we ask you to join us in fulfilling our **Promise to Protect**.

Thank you to our campaign committee:

Steve Lubrano, *chair*;
Martha Beattie; Mary Brown;
Stan Colla; Karen Geiling;
Xavier Gonin; Robin Kaiser;
Ann Malenka; Janine McGuire;
Gail McPeck; Dudley Smith;
Heidi Trimarco

1,000+

People participate
in our programs
each year

Progress as of October 23, 2023

Thank you to all who have made generous gifts to the campaign so far.



THANK YOU. Our many supporters and friends make the Hanover Conservancy's programs possible.

CORPORATE CONSERVATORS

Conservation Hero (\$5,000+)

Linde Mac Real Estate
White Mountains Capital

Conservation Leader (\$1,000+)

Chippers, a Davey Company
Coop Food Stores
Dartmouth College
Jim Block Photography
Lyme Timber Company

Corporate Steward (\$500-\$999)

Berkshire Hathaway Verani Group
Liberty Utilities
Neal Wallace Dental

Conservation Partner (\$250-\$499)

BE Fit Physical Therapy
Lou's Restaurant & Bakery
New England Freejacks Rugby Team
Red Kite Candy
ReVision Energy

FOUNDATIONS

Barrette Family Fund
The Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation
The Crowell Family Foundation
Emily Landecker Foundation
Lubrano Family Charitable Foundation
New Hampshire Charitable Foundation
Elizabeth Parkhill Charitable Trust



The early morning welcoming committee for the future Mink Brook log crossing included crews from Chippers, Liberty Utilities, and Hanover Conservancy staff and board members. Photo: Nicki Felicetti



Winter hiking
across the
Kendall lands
on the Harris Trail

OTHER BUSINESS FRIENDS

Base Camp Café
Blue Sky Restaurant Group
Dartmouth Deltas
Full Circle Forestry
Hubert's Family Outfitters
King Arthur Baking Company
Law Office of Margaret Jacobs
Main Street Kitchens
Mascoma Savings Bank
My Brigadiere
Oak Hill Music Festival
Pathways Consulting
Ramunto's
RavenMark, LLC
Royal Trail Works
Stateline Sports
Still North Books
Stonehouse Mountain Mapping
The Nugget Theater
Umpleby's Bakery and Café
Upper Valley Forestry

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of June 30, 2023

CURRENT ASSETS

	2023	2022
Cash & Cash Equivalents, unrestricted	\$300,318	\$143,227
Investments	\$1,917,241	\$1,719,475
Property & land improvements, net of depreciation	\$3,245	\$3,535
Beneficial interest in assets held at NH Charitable Foundation	\$43,335	\$32,040
Land held for conservation purposes	\$883,296	\$883,296
Total assets	\$3,147,435	\$2,781,573

NET ASSETS

Without donor restrictions	\$2,120,439	\$1,763,534
With donor restrictions	\$1,026,996	\$1,018,039
Total net assets	\$3,147,435	\$2,781,573

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$3,147,435	\$2,781,573
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INCOME & SUPPORT

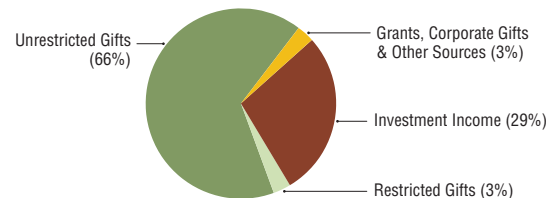
Membership & other contributions	\$407,089	\$769,803
Grants	\$3,438	\$10,000
Investment income net of fees	\$47,921	\$29,945
Realized gain on investments	(\$42,608)	\$83,433
Unrealized gain on investments	\$158,166	(\$320,924)
Total income and support	\$574,006	\$572,257

EXPENSES

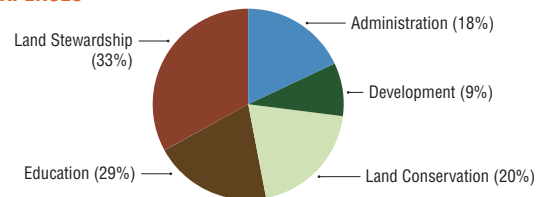
Program services	\$152,345	\$156,773
Management and general	\$37,801	\$38,134
Fund-raising	\$17,998	\$19,175
Total expenses	\$208,144	\$214,082

NET ASSETS, beginning of year	\$2,781,573	\$2,423,398
NET ASSETS, end of year	\$3,147,435	\$2,781,573
INCREASE IN NET ASSETS	\$365,862	\$358,175

INCOME SOURCES



EXPENSES



FY2023 is the second year of our capital campaign, Promise to Protect. We thank the many generous donors who have responded to our campaign so far with gifts and pledges, and look forward to reaching our campaign goal. As of June 30, 2023 we achieved 68% of our overall goal; all subsequent gifts will appear in our FY2024 report.

A copy of the FY2023 financial statement, prepared by our accountants at Rust & Company CPAs, is available for review at our office.



White-throated Sparrow.
Illustration by Linda Mirabile

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This has been a thrilling year to work in conservation! We advanced permanent protection for places we've watched for a generation and for places we've just discovered. It is a dream come true to walk these lands and to meet the owners and hear their stories, knowing what protecting these properties will mean to our community.

At the Adams Farm, the new Etna-rooted owners opened a shed to reveal a trove of ox yokes, recalling Bob Adams training his young oxen. LiDAR imagery of the land's surface shows traces of their training ground and the route of Old Highway 38 past the historic tavern. There, at one of Hanover's few remaining farms, it's both what's underfoot – nationally significant soils – and what's above – an astounding view of Mount Ascutney – that inspire us. Thanks to the friendly staff at the Natural Resources Conservation Service for help in advancing this dream.

Last fall, we learned that a family's sixty-year story at the foot of Moose Mountain was ending. A large, key parcel in the uppermost headwaters of Mink Brook, abutting both the Appalachian Trail corridor and our own conserved lands, would soon go on the market. The Kendall property is strategic not only for moose, bear, fisher, bobolink, and woodcock, but also for human neighbors who love the old Wolfeboro Road and Harris Trail. It was moving to walk the land with family members who recalled growing up there, sledding on hillside meadows, fishing the brooks, and playing in the woods while their father tended his woodlot and animals. Fortunately, the family was willing to work with us as we explored how to protect their mountainside. The Conservation Fund provided essential support for charting a path forward.

This year it was starkly apparent how much we need each member of our small staff and active board. In April, Program Coordinator Myrilla Hartkopf left for the next step in her promising career. The Conservancy gained greatly from her land stewardship background and the energy she brought to our outreach program. In September, we welcomed Barry Matthews to this key position. Barry brings strong experience in community engagement, including on the land with volunteers, and shares our love of landscape history. In the interim, I'm so grateful to our hard-working board for stepping into the breach.

Support of another kind is just as essential. The tremendous success of our *Promise to Protect* capital campaign tells us you think we're on the right track. We look forward to crossing that \$2 million dollar mark soon with your help.

Hope to see you outdoors!



Adair Mulligan, Executive Director



THANK YOU...

Volunteers/Community Partners

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: Chris Baker, Hal Coughlin, Luke Dann, Carol Edwards, Anne Evans, Patricia Glowa, Rich Greger and family, Rebecca Kohn, Don Kollisch, Lois Roland, John Welborn; **Greensboro Ridge:** Jim Coogan, Meg Doucette; **Mink Brook:** Theresa Ciambra, Cal Felicetti, Jill and Bryan Marquard, Irina and Laurent Perreard, Ashton Todd; **Slade Brook:** Gail McPeck, Hugh Mellert

Special Mink Brook Bridge Crew – Project leader Hugh Mellert, Bruce Atwood, Bob Brentrup, Joe Danna, John Donovan, Elizabeth Esinhart, Scott Farr, Ned Gallagher, Barry Harwick, Irina Perreard, Jason Pettus, BJ Premore, Craig Sanborn, Ashton Todd, John Trummel, Bill Young

Other Volunteers – Alpha Chi Alpha fraternity, Jim Block, Bob Brentrup, Joe Danna, Don Esinhart, Scott Farr, Ned Gallagher, Silvia Holman, Robin Kaiser, Vicki May, Betsy McClain, Kristine McDevitt, Janine McGuire, Barbara McIlroy, Linde McNamara, Mary Sloat, Ross Smith, Ginger Wallis, Joanna Whitcomb

Trip Leaders & Program Speakers – Matt Ayers, Terry Dorman, Steve Faccio, Dan Felicetti, Barbara Fildes, Linda Fowler, Addie Gardner, Barry Harwick, Silvia Holman, Chris Martin, Gail McPeck, Hugh Mellert, David Merker, Keith Quinton, Alice Schori, Ben Silverfarb, Whit Spaulding

Community Friends/Partners

Connecticut River Conservancy
The Conservation Fund
Etna Library
Hanover Conservation Commission
Hanover Garden Club
Hanover Historical Society
Hanover Improvement Society
Hanover Parks and Recreation
Hanover High School Environmental Club
Howe Library
Hypertherm associates
Land Trust Alliance
NH Audubon
Northern Woodlands
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Pine Park Association
Quabbin to Cardigan Partnership
Ray School
Richmond Middle School
Sierra Club of the Upper Valley
Sustainable Hanover
Trescott Company
Trust for Public Land
Thayer School at Dartmouth
Upper Valley Business Alliance
Upper Valley Land Trust
Upper Valley Mountain Bike Association
Upper Valley Trails Alliance
Vermont Center for Ecostudies
Vermont Institute of Natural Science
Vital Communities of the Upper Valley
Winter Center for Indigenous Traditions
Youth in Action



19th century farm lane follows a stone wall among the evergreens at the newly protected Trescott Ridge Wetlands



HANOVER CONSERVANCY

*60 years of successful land & water conservation
for our community*

71 Lyme Road
Hanover, NH 03755
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hanoverconservancy.org

This page: The timeless Adams Farm



White
Mountains

White Mountains Capital is proud to give back to our community by sponsoring this FY2023 Annual Report and supporting the work of the Hanover Conservancy.

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