



Jim and Evalyn Hornig Natural Area at Lower Slade Brook Trails Challenge Hike

*38 acres owned by the Hanover Conservancy; conservation easement
Held by the Upper Valley Land Trust*

This Natural Area is located 5 miles north of downtown Hanover. Take Route 10 to River Road. Look for the trailhead parking and kiosk on the east side of River Road, just north of Purling Brooks Dr. Follow the trail as it meanders through the forest along the north side of Slade Brook. Stop at the waterfall and enjoy the view from the bench made by our trail stewards. Continue your hike and bear left up the hill as the trail turns east away from the book. Continue on the trail until you reach the property boundary marker.

Destination: Search near the Hanover Conservancy boundary sign for the wooden marker. Return back the way you came. You also have the option to continue on the trail east to Rt. 10 and then retrace your path back to the parking area.

Features and History: When a developer presented a plan for 17 houses spread across this land, the Hanover Conservancy advocated for an alternative that resulted in 10 homes clustered on 20 acres (a former gravel pit) with the remaining forested acreage left intact. This solution protected the brook and its undisturbed valley and provided a recreation trail for the Purling Brooks neighborhood and the wider community. Jim Hornig, a former Hanover Conservancy President, was the creative force behind this solution and the Natural Area was named to honor Jim and his wife, Evalyn, in 2005. The Slade Brook watershed provides critical habitat and flood protection. The entire watershed is 1,630 acres.

