

HANOVER CONSERVANCY

Protecting land & water in our community

FY2025 Annual Report





Connecticut River at dusk.

Cover photo: A team from the Hanover Conservancy visits the quartz glacial erratic at the new Hewes Ravine Natural Area.

(Unless noted, all photos by HC staff)

Letter from the PRESIDENT



“One of the reasons we conserve land is to pass on this love for the natural world to the next generation.”

Dear Friends,

The Hanover Conservancy continues to expand our expertise and our footprint, protecting land in our community ranging from a neighborhood park to wild and untracked woods. This report describes our protection of the lovely Nathan’s Garden and the brand-new Hewes Ravine, which features an enormous moss-covered quartz glacial erratic (cover) and an impressive ravine, a strong step toward the goal of protecting 30% of the town’s land area by 2030.

This year will also bring a transition to the Hanover Conservancy, as we say goodbye to our beloved Executive Director Adair Mulligan, who is retiring after fifteen years of leadership. In the following pages you can read about our enormous growth and her outsized impact on our organization. To know Adair is to know her deeply rooted love of nature and her endless curiosity into the interactions between us humans and our natural spaces. Adair is always ready to bring people into our conservation efforts with a warm welcome, gentle enthusiasm, and a scientific, yet often poetic, explanation for whatever it is we’re seeing on the trail. I regularly send Adair photos of unusual finds I come across in the woods, and her responses reflect her unique blend of the expressive and the informative: an evocative wild and woolly wolf pine (pictured above), an enormous red trillium with dinner-plate sized leaves, a gorgeous horse chestnut, and—memorably—a thrilling bear latrine. This ability to understand, celebrate, and explain nature is quintessential Adair.

One of the many reasons we conserve land is to pass on this love for the natural world to the next generation. We provide programming for students of all ages and enthusiastically welcome volunteers to help steward the land (*inside*). Of course, none of this would be possible without your support. Thank you.

Heidi Trimarco, *President*



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

Proudly celebrating its **64th year**, the Conservancy is an independent 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.

Join us today at
hanoverconservancy.org

LAND PROTECTION



Photo: Jim Block

From a beloved naturalized garden just minutes from the Dartmouth Green to a dynamic coldwater stream hidden away on Moose Mountain’s western slope, the Hanover Conservancy lived up to its name this year, protecting land across our town’s expansive geography.

Our latest conservation projects reflect a commitment to protect land and water for the many human and nonhuman communities connected to this place. Their diversity in size, scope, and location match the multiple needs of a town that stretches from the Connecticut River to the headwater streams that feed it from the heights of Moose Mountain. (See centerfold map)

In late 2024, we worked with the Hall family to permanently protect Nathan’s Garden. A hidden gem near Hanover’s downtown, the garden was created in 1991 by the Hall family and friends in memory of their son and brother Nathan. Protected with our conservation easement, the garden will eventually transition to town ownership.

Up in the headwaters, the Conservancy continued our work on Moose Mountain—Hanover’s most interconnected landscape and a key source of climate resilience, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat—adding two more properties to a block of more than 3,200 acres of protected land.

Abutting the previously protected Mayor-Niles and Britton Forests, the new Hewes Ravine tract adds 37 acres to a nearly

350-acre block of forestland owned by the Conservancy. A large headwater tributary of Hewes Brook cuts through a dramatic ravine that reveals water’s impressive impact on the landscape. Nearby on Three Mile Road, the newly-conserved Kendall Field protects valuable agricultural soils, a dense forested wetland, and a dramatic view of the Moose Mountain ridgeline.

“We feel so fortunate to live surrounded by conserved forests and fields on Moose Mountain,” say Trevor and Nellie Partridge. “We’re excited to honor the legacy of the Kendall field by pursuing small-scale sustainable agriculture and offering our children the opportunity to grow up rooted in nature and surrounded by wild places.”

And nearby in Etna’s lush rural setting, a multi-year project to protect prime agricultural soils and retain an historic agricultural landscape with a stunning view of Mt. Ascutney is finally coming to fruition.

We continue to pursue opportunities to expand the Appalachian Trail corridor, conserve productive farmland, build climate resilience, secure public access, and much more, by having conversations with interested landowners about how we can work together to protect the places they love.

If you are interested in learning more about protecting your land for future generations, please contact us at (603) 643-3433.

Conservation footprint — 2,938 acres · 32 properties protected · 20 miles of trails managed



**Our latest
conservation projects
reflect a commitment to
protect land and water for the
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to this place.**

LAND STEWARDSHIP



On the western slope of Hanover's Moose Mountain, the sounds of a busy trail crew—clouds of flying dirt thumping back to the ground, the dull thud of a digging tool hitting a buried root, and the sharp ring of one striking rock—suddenly fall quiet in contemplation of one of life's great questions.

"If you could only eat one kind of potato dish for the rest of your life, what would it be?"

Once again, Hanover Conservancy hosted the Upper Valley Trails Alliance's High School Trail Corps for several weeks of building trails, friendships, and memories. Each summer, UVTA rallies local students for trail projects in the Upper Valley. The students learn the basics of trail construction and maintenance, and practiced their skills on trail networks in Hanover, Canaan, Taftsville, Lyme, Orford, and Vershire this year.

"It's an amazing program that we've been excited to continue growing over the years," says Russell Hirschler, executive director of the Trails Alliance. "We're providing these kids with a chance to get outside, learn new skills, connect with the environment, and hopefully, have a lot of fun. And at the same time, we're accomplishing some much-needed work on trails across the Upper Valley. We book up earlier and earlier every year."

"I didn't really know what I was getting into at the start of the summer," says 14-year old Robin Servoz. A rising 9th grader at Hanover High School, Robin likes trail running but had never

worked on trail construction before. "It was interesting to see how much work goes into making trails. I learned a lot and got to move a lot of rocks on the Hanover trails."

This summer, the Trail Corps worked on the Kendall Connector, a new trail linking the Harris Trail on our Headwaters Forest to the Two Brooks Trail on our neighboring Mayor-Niles property. The trail will open up new loop options from several trailheads and offer a way around a perennially wet section of the historic Harris Trail.

"This was a project we've been thinking about since we acquired the Headwaters property two years ago," says Barry Matthews, Program Manager at the Conservancy. "We're always looking at our trails to see what tweaks we can make to improve connectivity and create a network that is sustainable while minimizing the disturbances to wildlife. The Kendall Connector checks a lot of those boxes."

Over the course of the summer, five cohorts of Trail Corps students put their time, sweat, and tears (of laughter) into the new trail, now fully open to the public.

"Trail Corps was a lot of fun," added Robin. "I like trail running and now I got to find a lot of new trails to run. That was hard work, but I can't wait to come back on some of these trails we've worked on this summer!"

Visit hanoverconservancy.org to learn how you can get involved in caring for these special places.





“I learned a lot and got to move a lot of rocks!”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Deep in mud season—when the trails turn into peanut butter, the sky stays grey for days, and the first spring blooms are weeks away—it is easy to daydream of being anywhere but New England. But in those lengthening but still too-short days, a low roar starts to build in the forests, as wood frogs and spring peepers herald the time of vernal pools and the return of our amphibian friends.

For third graders at the Bernice A. Ray School, spring means learning all about these ephemeral habitats and their unique inhabitants: spotted salamanders, fairy shrimp, and many more. Classroom lessons culminate with a day in the field, with students visiting the vernal pool that forms on campus each spring.

“Our students enjoyed another hands-on immersive vernal pool field day,” says Marji Bish, a third grade teacher at the Ray School. “Partnering with the Conservation Commission and Conservancy gives students the chance to learn directly from local experts while experiencing science in action. It is always a memorable day out in nature for these enthusiastic third-graders.”

Formed by snow melt and spring rains, the Ray School’s vernal pool fills a small depression near the school building. By mid-April, the pool hosts a variety of amphibian and insect life, and is visited by deer, ducks, and other large animals. By fall, however, the pool has dried up, ensuring no fish could linger to threaten its amphibian residents.

This year representatives from the Conservancy and the Hanover Conservation Commission joined Ray School faculty and staff in leading students in hands-on activities at the pool. Students moved from station to station, looking closely and thinking broadly about how habitats like these support a diverse web of plant and animal life.

As our intrepid third graders examined amphibian egg masses, took measurements, made maps of the pool and its surroundings, and used magnifying lenses to get up close and personal with the pool’s resident insects, each new discovery deepened their connection to this special place where they live, study, and play.

The Conservancy continues to build on a long legacy of programming for Hanover’s school-aged children. Through partnerships with local public schools and libraries, self-guided activities like the Summer Trails Challenge, and public events and programming designed just for them, we aim to include more young people in the vital work of conservation.

“Today’s children won’t just live with the actions we’re taking today, they’ll also inherit the responsibility to continue to care for the land we’ve already protected,” says Silvia Holman, chair of the Conservancy’s Community Engagement Committee and a teacher at Richmond Middle School. “Supporting programs where they can learn about and explore Hanover’s natural world isn’t just fun, it is essential to sustaining change over time. And of course, it is very fun too!”

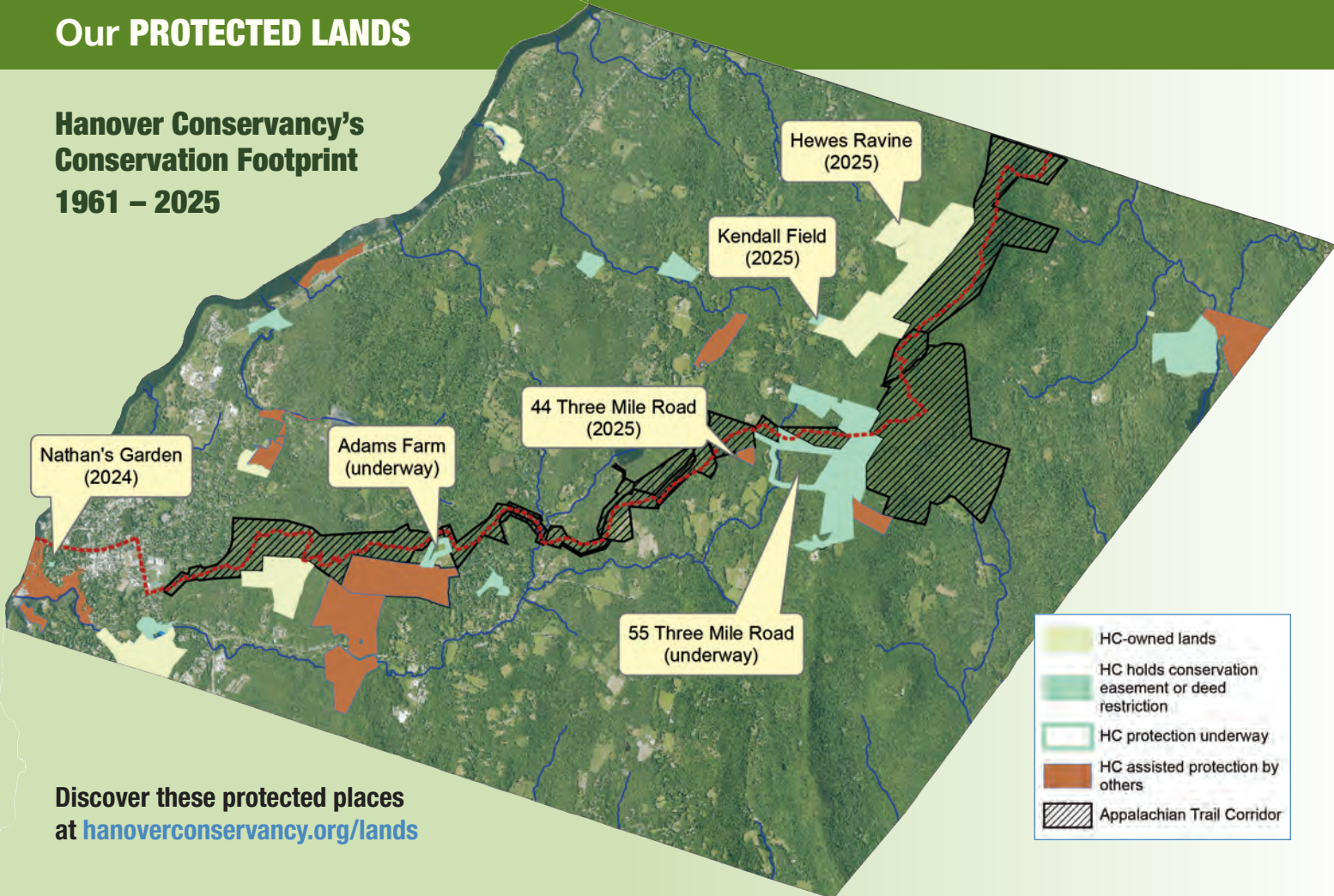
Hosted **25** free public events • **1,000+** event attendees • **\$2,000** in scholarships awarded



“Supporting programs where children can learn about and explore Hanover’s natural world isn’t just fun, it is essential to sustaining change over time.”

Our PROTECTED LANDS

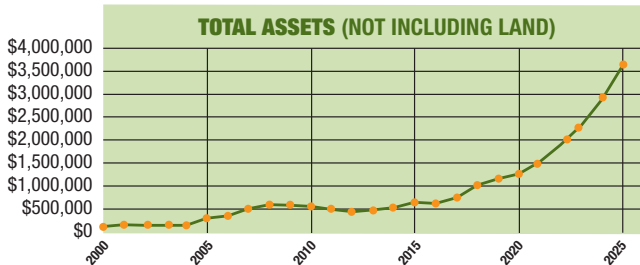
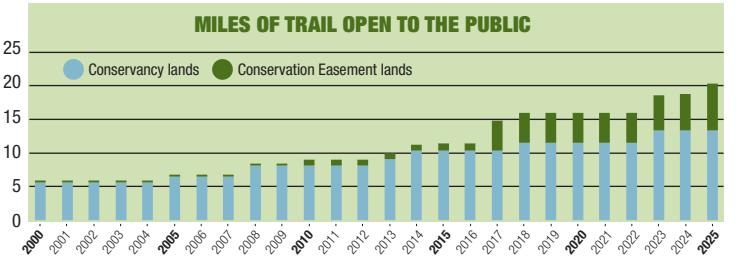
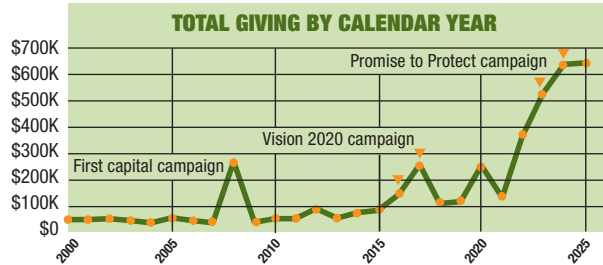
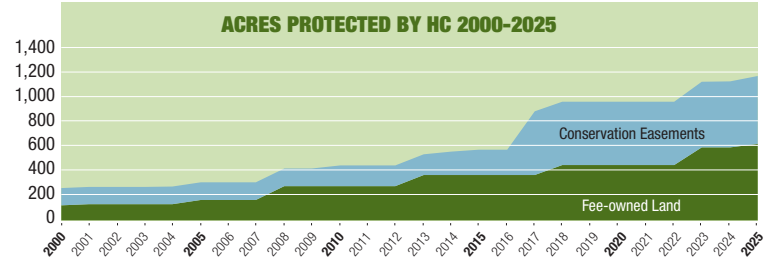
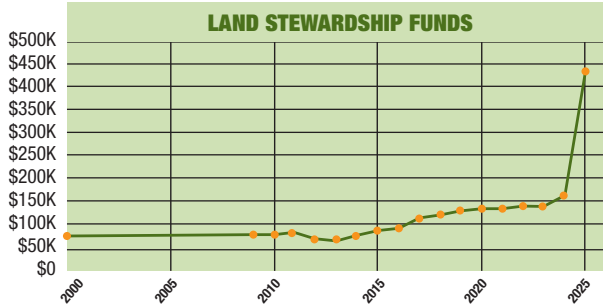
Hanover Conservancy's Conservation Footprint 1961 – 2025



Discover these protected places
at hanoverconservancy.org/lands

We've GROWN!

Here's what we've done with your help during the first quarter of the 21st century.



Our land trust achieved much as an all-volunteer organization during its first 40 years. Then Molly Donovan served as our first part-time Executive Director from 2000 to 2010. Adair Mulligan became the first full-time Executive Director and sole staff in 2010, joined in 2013 by a part-time Program Coordinator. Since 2017, with a few interludes, two full-time staff have served our land trust, with help from a capable board of directors.



**HANOVER
CONSERVANCY**

FINANCIAL REPORT (as of June 30, 2025)

CURRENT ASSETS

| | 2025 | 2024 |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Cash & cash equivalents | \$ 490,693 | \$ 368,990 |
| Pledges and grants receivable | \$ 60,000 | \$ 192,500 |
| Investments | \$ 3,053,642 | \$ 2,289,296 |
| Property & land improvements, net | \$ 61,529 | \$ 8,843 |
| Assets held at NH Charitable Foundation | \$ 49,851 | \$ 46,217 |
| Land held for conservation | \$ 1,338,296 | \$ 1,603,296 |
| Total Assets | \$ 5,054,011 | \$ 4,509,142 |

NET ASSETS

| | | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Without donor restriction | \$ 3,421,953 | \$ 2,679,615 |
| With donor restriction | \$ 1,560,437 | \$ 1,814,654 |
| Total Net Assets | \$ 4,982,390 | \$ 4,494,269 |
| Total Liabilities & Net Assets | \$ 5,054,011 | \$ 4,509,142 |

INCOME & SUPPORT

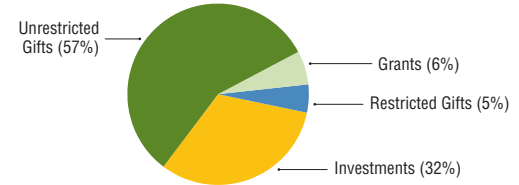
| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Membership & other contributions | \$ 646,187 | \$ 680,706 |
| Grants | \$ 59,168 | \$ 597,679 |
| Investment gains and losses | \$ 325,581 | \$ 341,160 |
| Total Income & Support | \$ 1,030,936 | \$ 1,619,545 |

EXPENSES

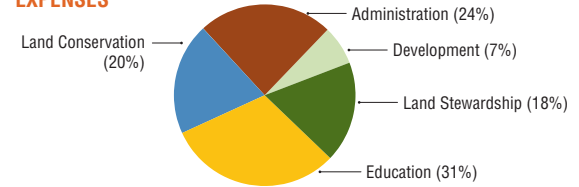
| | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Program services | \$ 191,670 | \$ 282,234 |
| Management & General | \$ 66,729 | \$ 41,030 |
| Fundraising | \$ 20,417 | \$ 21,092 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 278,816 | \$ 344,356 |

| | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Net Assets, beginning of the year | \$ 4,494,269 | \$ 3,219,080 |
| Net Assets, end of the year | \$ 4,982,390 | \$ 4,494,269 |
| Increase in Net Assets | \$ 488,121 | \$ 1,275,189 |

INCOME SOURCES



EXPENSES



These figures show the wonderful success of our Promise to Protect capital campaign in FY23-24 that concluded in early FY25.

They also display the strong results of grant-writing focused on our purchase of the Headwaters

Forest in FY24, with some grant funds pledged that year arriving in FY25.

Major land investments occurred in FY24 and are expected in FY26.

As always, we focus our resources on programming with only modest expenditures on fund-raising and administration.



Report from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“...there’s something to be said for acting locally. It feels good, and I can visit the results every day.”

From the river to the mountain, the Conservancy was everywhere this year.

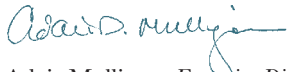
Our new Hewes Ravine tract adds to 650 acres we have already protected on Moose Mountain, expanding protected habitat in the Appalachian Trail corridor. In rural Etna, we’re completing a multi-year effort to protect prime agricultural soils and inspiring views at the Adams Farm. And tucked between the Connecticut River and downtown Hanover is Nathan’s Garden, where we had the profound pleasure of protecting this beloved neighborhood legacy. Meanwhile, awash in maps depicting this natural resource and that, we worked with partners both local and national on where to keep adding to Hanover’s bank of protected lands, acre by valuable acre.

Our mushrooming portfolio of protected lands means more ground to care for. Our Program Manager, Barry Matthews, led teams of volunteers on projects ranging from a new pollinator garden at the Mink Brook Nature Preserve to the new Kendall Connector Trail at the Headwaters Forest. All our lands received monitoring visits, management plans were updated, kiosks received facelifts, and trail guides were refreshed. Summer intern Lili Samwick lent her energy to refreshing blazes and much more.

Between our free outdoor guided trips, evening programs, school outreach, and self-guided Trails Challenge, our community engagement program reached over 1,000 participants from all over the Upper Valley. Behind all of this is a lot of administrative work, and we’re delighted to welcome Briana Maxham to our staff as Operations Coordinator.

I am reluctantly signing off this year as Executive Director of this fine little land trust, which has always punched above its weight. In my 15 years at this post, I have cherished the chance to learn from a wealth of experts, including the landowners who stepped forward to protect their property with us, and the many volunteers who demonstrate their commitment to a healthy Hanover. I have family members who work in conservation on a national and even global scale — and while I’m proud of and grateful for what they do to benefit us all, there’s something to be said for acting locally too. It feels good, and I can visit the results every day. Thanks to you for being part of it.

Here’s to the Hanover Conservancy! It’s been a great run!



Adair Mulligan, *Executive Director*

*Visiting the quartz glacial erratic at the new
Hewes Ravine Natural Area*



**Thank You
ADAIR!**



...her impact on both the organization and the town of Hanover has been nothing less than transformational.

This fall, we are filled with both a bittersweet sadness and a deep sense of appreciation for our executive director Adair Mulligan, who is retiring from her role at the Conservancy after more than 15 years of dedicated service.

“Adair is a passionate advocate for land and water conservation and a lover of the outdoors. The Conservancy has greatly benefited from her many years of leadership,” writes emerita board member Gail McPeck.

Adair joined the Conservancy as our first full-time executive director and first environmental biologist in 2010, having worked previously for New Hampshire Audubon and the Connecticut River Joint Commissions. In the years since, her impact on both the organization and the town of Hanover has been nothing less than transformational. Under her leadership, the Hanover Conservancy has grown by leaps and bounds. In our first 49 years, the Conservancy had worked to protect nearly 500 acres of land. Since taking the helm, Adair has overseen the protection of an additional 850 acres under the Conservancy’s direct stewardship, and supported partner projects totaling an additional 581 acres. In recent years, she has inspired a quickening pace of land protection projects, as more landowners have sought to join the work we’ve undertaken.

“Our sixty years of living on Moose Mountain were heavenly! We were delighted to conserve our land forever with Adair’s help. She was an amazing leader and her suggestions helped keep Moose Mountain a wonderful place for all to enjoy,” says Kay

Shumway, former owner of the Moose Mountain Lodge and a conservation easement donor. “I love to think of the people hiking there enjoying the views Adair helped us protect, forever!”



She has led the expansion of our staff and has been an exemplary shepherd of our membership and finances, supporting two successful capital campaigns and starting our corporate conservator program. Our recent Promise to Protect campaign surpassed all expectations, raising nearly \$3 million in support of our land protection, stewardship, and community engagement programs.

More difficult to quantify but no less important, her leadership through two strategic plans (while updating our name from the Hanover Conservation Council) has provided a clear vision to follow as we continue to protect and care for Hanover’s land and water, connect more people to nature and the land, and provide a strong local voice for conservation policies.

As Adair moves on to her next adventures, we wish her all the best things: more time spent visiting children and grandchildren, more time on the trails with her friends and canine companion, and many more days enjoying the many benefits her lifelong career in conservation has given to us all.

On behalf of all the human and natural communities whose lives you have changed for the better—thank you, Adair.

Thank You TO OUR PARTNERS



VOLUNTEERS: 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.

Valerie Abbruzzese
Jim Beattie
Tony Bertone
Jim Block
Len Cadwallader
Rob Chapman
Victoria Cohen
Stan Colla
Nancy Collier

Jim Coogan
Joe Danna
John Donovan
Anne Evans
Cal Felicetti
Hayley Furmaniuk
Chris Glazer
Kayla Heiny
Maddy Hinesley

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Holly McGovern
Janine McGuire
Barbara McLroy
Linde McNamara
Gail McPeck
Hugh Mellert

David Merker
Sally Naser
Alejandro Nieto
Nellie Partridge
Trevor Partridge
Irina Perreard
Makely Phillips
Elijah Putnam
Ben Russell

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Jim Wooster

Thank you to the many supporters and friends who make the Hanover Conservancy's programs possible.

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Conservation Hero (\$5000+)

Law Office of Margaret Jacobs
and Kerry Rigas

White Mountains Capital

Conservation Leader (\$1000+)

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Conservation Partner (\$250-\$499)

Forestry Solutions
Lou's Restaurant and Bakery
Red Kite Candy

FOUNDATIONS

Bailey Charitable Foundation
Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation
Fields Pond Foundation
Robert and Hope Goddard Fund
of the Rhode Island Foundation
Greater Upper Valley Chapter of
Trout Unlimited
Groundswell Charitable Foundation
Gulf Coast Community Foundation
Haak Family Trust
Emily Landecker Foundation
Hanover Conservation Commission
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Family Outfitters, Jim Block Photography, King Arthur
Baking Company, Main Street Kitchens, Molly's Restaurant,
The Nugget Theater, Ramuntos, Ravenmark, StateLine Sports,
Stonehouse Mountain Mapping, and Umpley's Bakery
and Café

Community Friends/Partners

Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Connecticut River Conservancy
The Conservation Fund
Dartmouth Center for Social Impact
Etna Library
Greater Upper Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited
Hanover Conservation Commission
Hanover Garden Club
Hanover Historical Society
Hanover Parks and Recreation
Hanover High School Environmental Club
Hanover Sustainability Committee
Howe Library
Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
Matthew P. Ayres Lab
Moose Plate Program of the
NH Conservation Committee
The Nature Conservancy
NH Fish and Game Department
Pine Park Association
Ray and Richmond Schools
Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth
UNH Cooperative Extension
Upper Valley Land Trust
Upper Valley Trails Alliance
Upper Valley Young Professionals
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service



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Barry Matthews, *Program Manager*
Briana Maxham, *Operations Coordinator*



Below, L-R: Program Manager Barry Matthews, Jesse Casana, Silvia Holman, Mary Brown, Steve Lubrano, Martha Beattie, Erich Osterberg, Heidi Trimarco, Executive Director Adair Mulligan, Amy Haak, Marc Hiller, Russ Muirhead, Ryan Johnson, and Bruce Atwood.

Not shown: Richard Howarth, Emeriti Gail McPeck and Hugh Mellert





HANOVER CONSERVANCY

71 Lyme Road
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(603) 643-3433

hanoverconservancy.org

*The Quinn Trail at the Mink Brook
Nature Preserve is a favorite at all
times of year.*



White
Mountains

White Mountains Capital is proud to give back to our community by sponsoring this FY2025 Annual Report and supporting the work of the Hanover Conservancy.

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