



Audrey McCollum Trail at the Trescott Wetlands in Hayes Farm Park

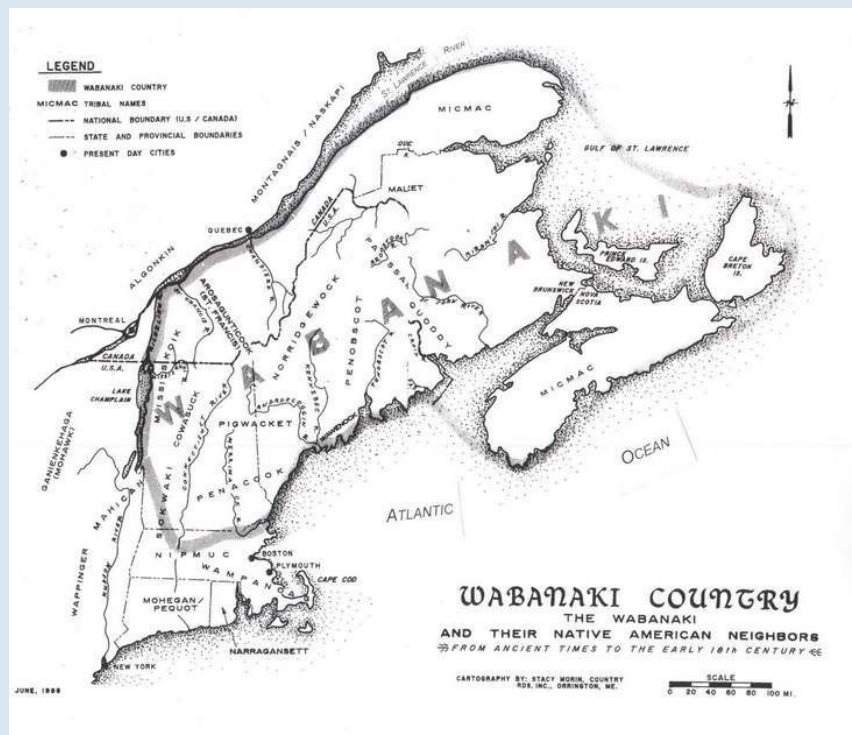
Celebrating our Character

5

We value the contributions of, and interplay between, our built and natural environments. We will enable these environments to continue to evolve, while maintaining their health and distinctive attractions and benefits.

GOALS:

- 5-1. Natural resources supporting healthy ecosystems and scenic beauty will continue to define Hanover's sense of place.
- 5-2. Ecological integrity and biodiversity will be honored and protected to ensure the air, water, soil, flora and fauna continue to provide life-sustaining, carbon-sequestering, public health and wellness benefits, and diverse natural communities and wildlife habitat.
- 5-3. Publicly-accessible outdoor recreational opportunities for people of all ages will be available within a five-to-ten-minute walk from every residence.
- 5-4. Hanover's historic character will be widely recognized through a variety of architectural styles and scenic landscapes.
- 5-5. The town's cultural offerings will be expanded to ensure they continue to evolve to reflect the community's diversity.



We gratefully acknowledge the N'dakina on whose ancestral homelands we live, work and play, as well as the members of diverse and vibrant Native communities who make their home here today.

Introduction

Natural, historic, and cultural resources play integral roles in defining a community's character, shaping its values, and creating a sense of place. The built and natural environments reflect a community's past and form the space within which a culture of living is created and takes place.

Change is inevitable but can be managed in a way that honors a community's character. In Hanover, regulations guide changes to the natural environment; historic resources are subject to the desires of their owners in the absence of historic district controls. What of Hanover's character persists through time is up to current residents to value. If left unchecked, private decisions risk altering a community's identity. Thus, community values are important to creating a balance between property rights and natural and historic resource protection. Without protection, these resources will not be available for enjoyment by future generations.

This chapter presents an overview of Hanover's natural, historic, and cultural resources and identifies strategies to promote their enhancement.



Moss and fungi at Mink Brook Community Forest.

Natural Character and Open Space System

Natural Character

Goal 5-1. Natural resources supporting healthy ecosystems and scenic beauty will continue to define Hanover’s sense of place.

Goal 5-2. Ecological integrity and biodiversity will be honored and protected to ensure the air, water, soil, flora and fauna continue to provide life-sustaining, carbon-sequestering, public health and wellness benefits, and diverse natural communities and wildlife habitat.

Natural resources are life sustaining and the essential foundation to Hanover’s quality of life. The town aims to protect areas with high resource value to support nature-based services (e.g., clean water, flood mitigation, etc.) and biodiversity leaving a functional landscape for future generations to appreciate.

The town’s Conservation Commission is tasked with conserving the town’s natural resources and with educating the public about natural resources and open space protection. It also works with partners, such as the Hanover Conservancy and Upper Valley Land Trust, on these educational and conservation efforts.

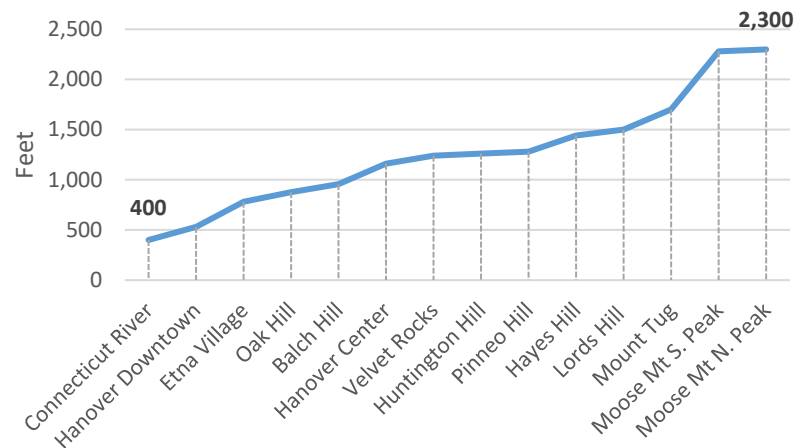


Fringed Polygala at Mink Brook.

Topography and Scenery

Hanover is situated in the upper portion of the Connecticut River Valley, just north of the confluence of the Mascoma, White, and Connecticut Rivers. Its topography is generally defined by four regions. Moving west to east, these include flat terrace adjacent to the Connecticut River, hilly uplands, the Moose Mountain Ridge, and poorly drained lowlands to the east of Moose Mountain. See [Figure 5-1](#) for a representation of Hanover’s varied elevations.

Figure 5-1: Elevation at Points in Hanover



This terrain provides beauty and character to the town. Hanover’s Scenic Locales Committee identified several areas that are appreciated for their scenic attributes, including Oak, Balch, Lord’s, Huntington, Pinneo, and Hayes Hills; Moose Mountain; Mount Tug; Twin Peaks at the Gile Tract, Rix Ledges; and Velvet Rocks. The hillsides offer a scenic forested backdrop to the development along the roads. The relatively pollutant free air guarantees good views most days with air quality consistently posing little to no health risk.



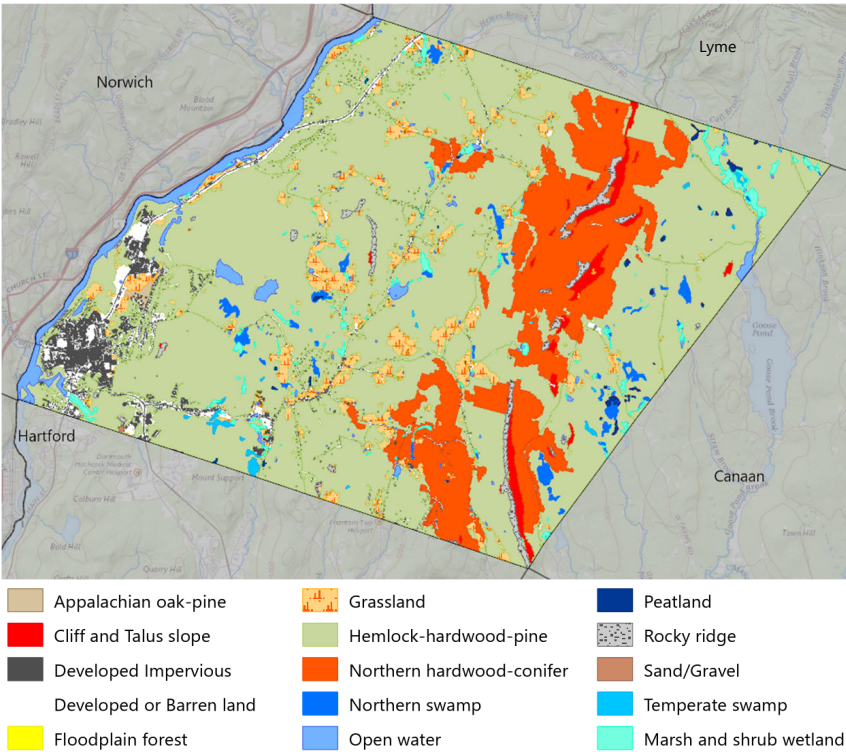
View from Moose Mountain.

New Hampshire law allows the designation of scenic roads by vote of Town Meeting. Trees and stone walls located along designated roadways are given a modest level of protection. Hanover’s “Scenic Road Policy Statement” (1978) suggests that necessary repairs and maintenance of designated roads should “maintain and preserve the aesthetic qualities of the scenic roads and unique flora and natural and historical landmarks” abutting them to the maximum extent practicable.

There are 16 such designated scenic roads in the town. Locally designated scenic roads include those surrounding Occom Pond, overlooking the Connecticut River, leading to and from Etna, and several roadways along and around Moose Mountain. The Planning Board reviews proposals for tree cutting and limbing along these roads.

A number of roads in Hanover are also designated as part of the 274-mile bi-state Connecticut River Scenic and Cultural Byway, highlighting historic, cultural, scenic, and recreational resources.

Figure 5-2: Wildlife Habitat Land Cover, 2020

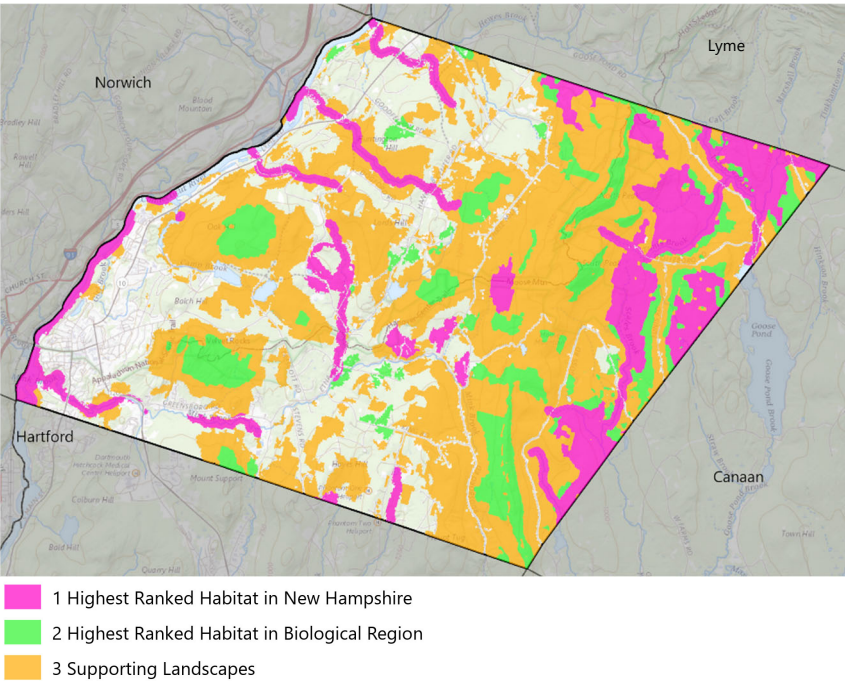


Credit: New Hampshire GRANIT GIS Clearinghouse

Natural Habitats and Species

As reported by the *New Hampshire Wildlife Action Plan*, Hemlock-Hardwood-Pine is the most dominant habitat land cover in Hanover, comprising 64.3 percent of the town’s total acreage (see [Figure 5-2](#)). The next most common cover type is Northern Hardwood-Conifer (13.9 percent), predominantly located around Moose Mountain.

Figure 5-3: Wildlife Habitat Ranking, 2020



Credit: New Hampshire GRANIT GIS Clearinghouse

All other wildlife habitats represent less than 1 percent each of the total acreage.

In terms of the relative value of wildlife habitat in Hanover (see [Figure 5-3](#)), as reported in the *Wildlife Action Plan*:

- ▶ 15.1 percent falls under Tier 1 – or the highest ranked habitat in New Hampshire (i.e., top 15 percent in the state),
- ▶ 10.6 percent fall under Tier 2 – or the highest ranked habitat in the town’s biological region (i.e., top 15 to 30 percent), and

- ▶ 41.4 percent fall under Tier 3 – or supporting landscapes (i.e., the remainder of the top 50 percent of each habitat area).

The town's Tier 1 habitats are located around its surface water resources and on the east slopes of Moose Mountain.

The New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau maintains a list of rare plants, rare animals, and exemplary natural communities.¹ In Hanover, 57 such species have been identified. Among them, none were determined to be of highest importance (i.e., an excellent example of a globally rare species, natural community, or system); however, rich mesic forest and American ginseng (*Panax quinquefolius*) were identified as having extremely high importance (i.e., a good example of a global rarity or an excellent example of a state rarity). The only federal government-listed species known to have had presence in Hanover include the threatened Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the endangered Dwarf Wedge Mussel (*Alasmidonta heterodon*).

These and other native species are threatened by habitat fragmentation, changes in land use, climate change, and altering patterns of drainage. Invasive species not endemic to this part of the country can crowd out native species and alter habitat for others. The town's Biodiversity Committee provides education to residents on invasive species identification, removal, and monitoring. The more problematic invasive plant species in Hanover include Glossy Buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula* or *Frangula alnus*), Shrub Honeysuckles (*Lonicera tatarica* or *Lonicera morrowii*), Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*), Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*), Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), and Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum* or

Fallopia japonica). Overpopulation of deer has resulted in a loss of biodiversity, predation of landscape plants, and difficulty with native plant regeneration. For that reason, the town has sought special deer management permits to put pressure on the deer herd and reduce the deer density.

Water Resources

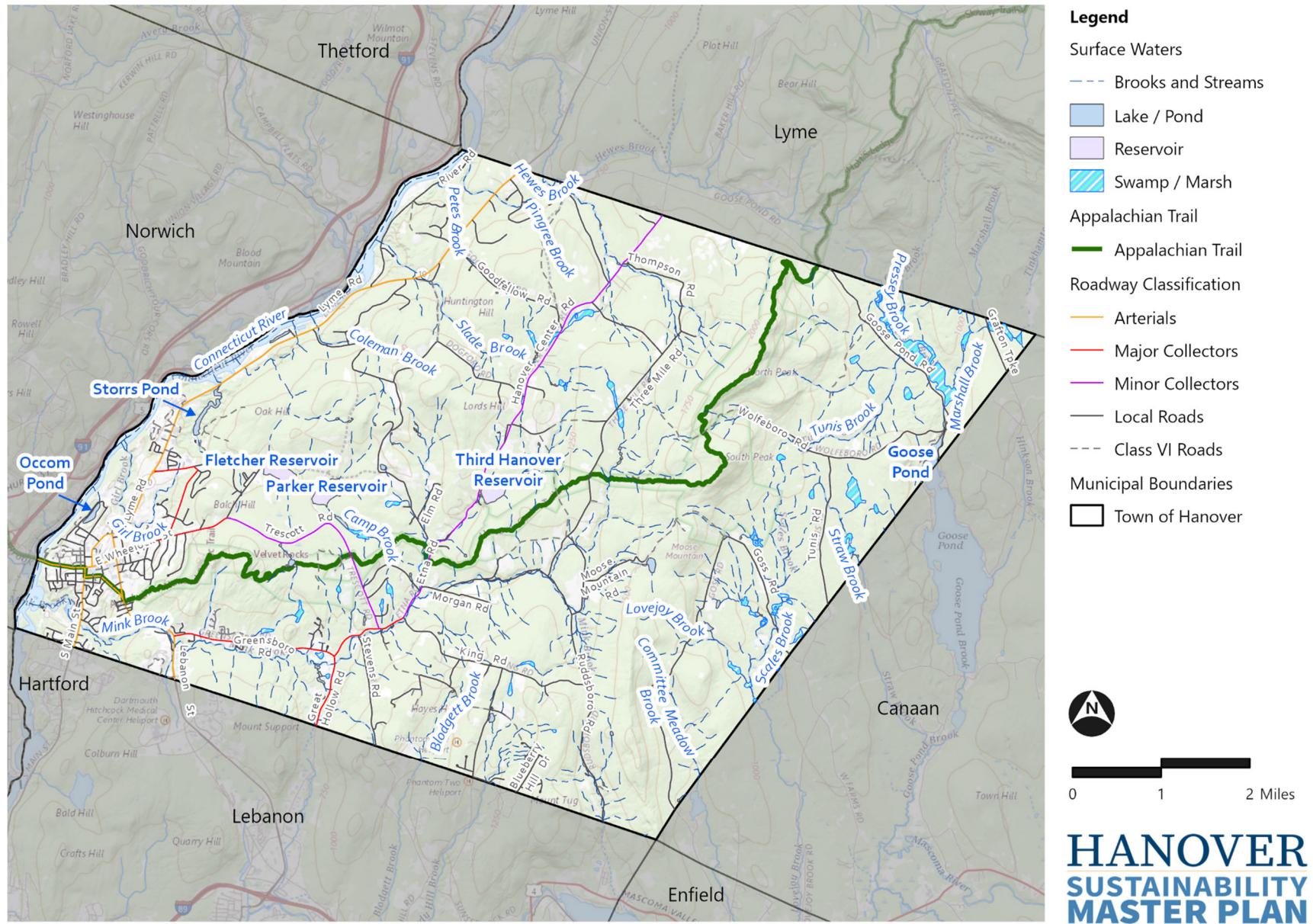
Hanover's streams and brooks drain to the Connecticut and Mascoma Rivers and Goose Pond. Water bodies in Hanover amount to over 700 acres, providing potable water supply to the town's residents, aesthetic value, wildlife habitat, and places for recreation activities. The town's surface waters are shown in [Figure 5-4](#).

The Trescott Company's water supply land protects the water quality in the Hanover Center, Fletcher, and Parker Reservoirs. However, there are no long-term protection mechanisms for these potable water sources. Water quality is a concern in other surface waters: levels of *E. coli* are high in some places in Mink Brook; and sediment, high nutrient levels and other pollutants are found in the Connecticut River.

Groundwater provides potable water to homes in all but the water service area. Most of these private wells are fed by water in fractures in bedrock. High yielding, water bearing soils are located along the Pressey and Mink Brook valleys, in the esker that runs parallel to the Connecticut River from Kendal Riverfront Park to Occom Ridge, and in the downtown area as far east as Rip Road except for College Hill and Oak Hill. Homeowners must monitor the quality of the water from their wells and manage elevated levels of radon, iron, and manganese.

¹ New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau. (2020). [Rare Plants, Rare Animals, and Exemplary Natural Communities in New Hampshire Towns](https://www.nh.gov/nhdfl/documents/town-lists.pdf). Retrieved from, <https://www.nh.gov/nhdfl/documents/town-lists.pdf>

Figure 5-4: Surface Waters



Source: Town of Hanover, CAI Technologies - AxisGIS; National Hydrography Dataset

There is a community-wide concern regarding older and unmaintained septic systems in areas of the town not served by public sewer, as failing septic systems can discharge harmful substances directly into the groundwater. Regular septic tank maintenance is essential to protecting groundwater quality. Managing stormwater also helps protect the water quality by filtering sediments and attenuating nutrients and other pollutants. The town promotes healthy surface water resources by regulating riparian buffers within 75 feet of streams, brooks, wetlands, and ponds.

Goal 5-1: Supporting Strategies

- ▶ **Strategy 5-1.1.** Complete the Open Space Priorities Plan, including the expansion of protection of the Moose Mountain ridgeline, to guide the Town in achieving a locally and regionally inter-connected climate resilient system of conserved lands comprising at least 30 percent of the land area in Town.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-1.2.** Promote the completion of a greenbelt around the greater downtown area that allows for permanent public access and protection from development.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-1.3.** Continue to provide publicly-accessible places where people can enjoy Hanover's best views as identified by the Scenic Locales Study and more recently in the scenic evaluation in the Open Space Priorities Plan.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-1.4.** Among landowners along Scenic Roads, promote awareness about land management that supports the trees and stone walls meant to be protected by Scenic Road designation.

- ▶ **Strategy 5-1.5.** In addition to 50 percent of the Land Use Change Tax, advocate for regular appropriations to the Conservation Fund to continue the Town's support for protecting open space that contains important natural resources.

Goal 5-1: Performance Metrics

- ▶ Adoption of Open Space Priorities Plan
- ▶ Amount of permanently conserved land
- ▶ Miles of publicly accessible greenbelt trail
- ▶ Outreach to landowners on scenic roads
- ▶ Total of appropriations made for open space protection

Goal 5-2: Supporting Strategies²



- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.1.** Support the shift away from fossil fuels to contribute in a positive way to the Town's and region's air quality.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.2.** Continue to review and restrict development proposed to be located within 75 feet of a water resource and to require a 125-foot setback between septic leach fields and water resources.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.3.** Increase awareness around proper septic system use and maintenance.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.4.** Permanently protect land in the watersheds of the Fletcher, Parker, and Hanover Center Reservoirs.

² Strategies accompanied by an icon are those that enable greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.5.** Address protection of groundwater quality and quantity by eliminating threats from contamination and preventing unsustainable withdrawal and inadequate groundwater recharge.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.6.** For municipal infrastructure and on-site utilities serving multi-family residential and commercial properties, design systems to accommodate the increased volume and intensity of stormwater runoff.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.7.** Educate homeowners so they know that small improvements in their yards can collectively amount to reduction in stormwater flows and sediment movement.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.8.** Manage all green infrastructure to retain its effectiveness in attenuating pollutants and controlling flows.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.9.** Given the importance of riparian areas for wildlife and water quality, continue to provide vegetative buffers adjacent to surface water resources.



- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.10.** Evaluate Town-owned lands and determine which properties are appropriate for old growth forest management in order to maximize carbon sequestration.



- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.11.** Provide educational opportunities and materials to landowners so they might consider old growth forest management.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.12.** Continue to investigate, inventory, and protect vernal pools.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.13.** Locate amphibian crossings and assist wildlife during migration events.

- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.14.** On certain Town-owned lands, limit recreational trail building in order to foster ecosystem integrity, truly protect unfragmented forest lands and direct volunteer trail maintenance efforts to other less fragile or ecologically significant land.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.15.** Conserve lands with high productivity ratings for agriculture and forestry for conservation.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.16.** Ensure the ecological integrity of the Town's diverse natural communities and wildlife habitats by ensuring that they are connected.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.17.** Allocate resources to monitor and enforce conservation restrictions and easements and to steward and restore Town open space lands.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.18.** Involve all Town residents, businesses, institutions, and organizations in invasive species identification, removal, and monitoring.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.19.** Continue to monitor damage caused by deer and to apply for Special Deer Management permits to reduce the density of deer in over-browsed areas.



- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.20.** Promote backyard composting and the use of compost to restore soil fertility, microbial activity, and moisture-holding capacity- avoiding the need for non-organic fertilizers.



- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.21.** Evaluate the Town's curbside recycling program and develop recycling options to include commercial and institutional organizations.



- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.22.** Create a municipal compost collection program, managed through one or more private entities.

Goal 5-2: Performance Metrics

- ▶ Outreach regarding septic system use and maintenance
- ▶ Acreage of land permanently protected around the water supply reservoirs
- ▶ Outreach regarding stormwater management on residential properties
- ▶ Linear feet of shoreland conserved and vegetated
- ▶ Old growth forest management plan
- ▶ Acres of land managed for old growth conditions
- ▶ Number of vernal pools inventoried
- ▶ Number of amphibian crossings identified
- ▶ Acreage of Town-owned open space land managed for non-recreational use
- ▶ Acreage of land conserved with high productivity ratings for agriculture and forestry
- ▶ Number of conservation easements monitored
- ▶ Number of streambank and biodiversity restoration projects on Town-owned lands
- ▶ Number of locations with sustained invasive plant removal efforts
- ▶ Number of deer taken using special deer management permits
- ▶ Implementation of a municipal compost collection program
- ▶ Amount of material collected via a municipal compost collection program

Open Space Character

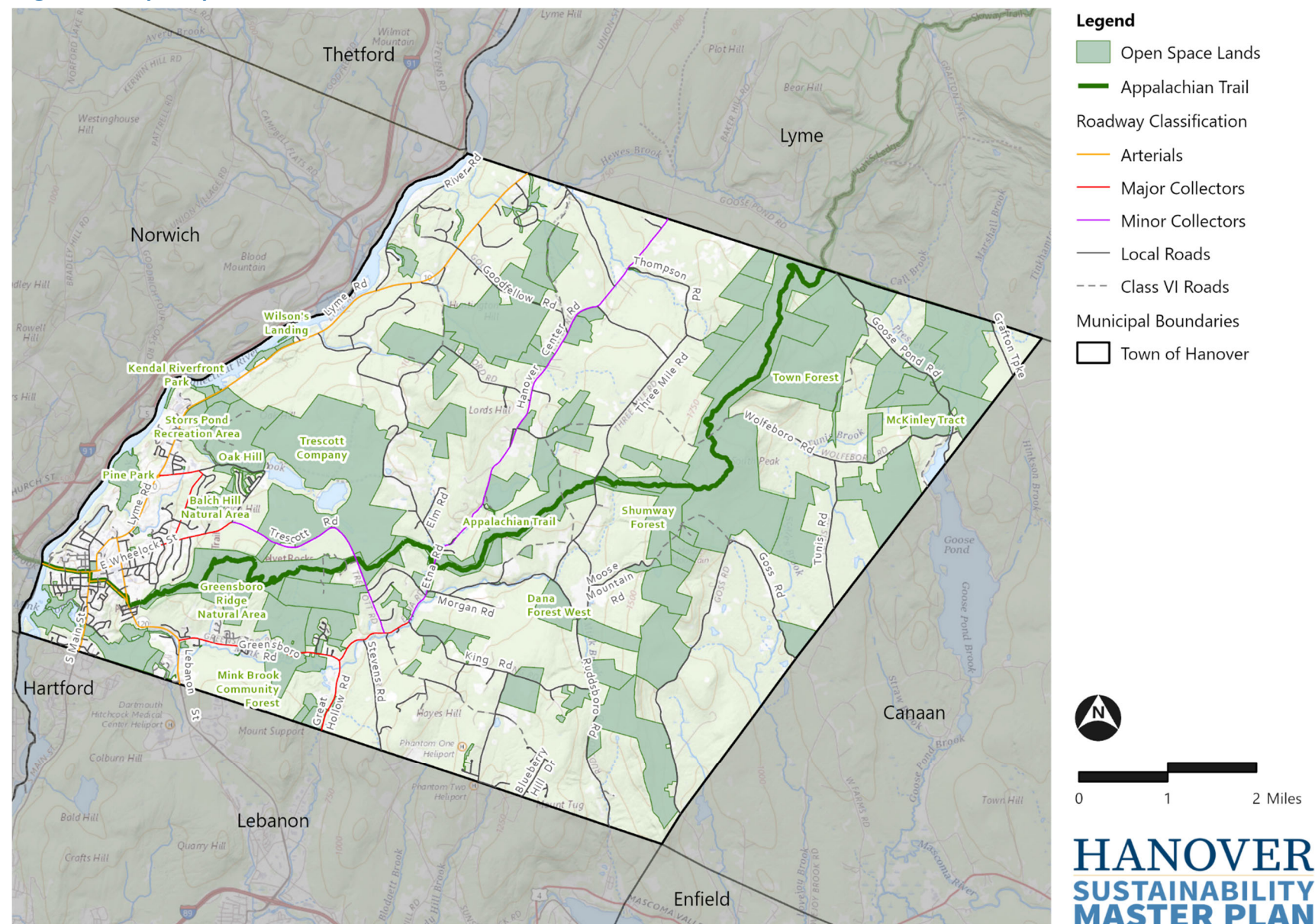
Goal 5-3: Publicly-accessible outdoor recreational opportunities for people of all ages will be available within a five-to-ten-minute walk from every residence.

Supporting Hanover's people, plants and animals are its open space lands, which amount to approximately 10,900 acres. (See [Figures 5-5](#) and [5-6](#)). Not all of these lands are permanently conserved through ownership or easements/restrictions. The largest tracts among these are conserved by ownership: the Appalachian Trail Corridor (2,025 acres) and Town Forest (612 acres). The organizations with the largest conservation holdings in Hanover include the U.S. National Park Service, Trescott Company, Town of Hanover, Upper Valley Land Trust, Forest Society, and the Hanover Conservancy.

Seven thousand five hundred and ninety-one (7,591) acres are permanently conserved, or about 25 percent of the town's total acreage.

Unprotected open space lands that provide huge benefit to the environment, recreational users and Hanover's biodiversity include Oak Hill, Storrs Pond, the Trescott Company lands and most of the town-owned open spaces.

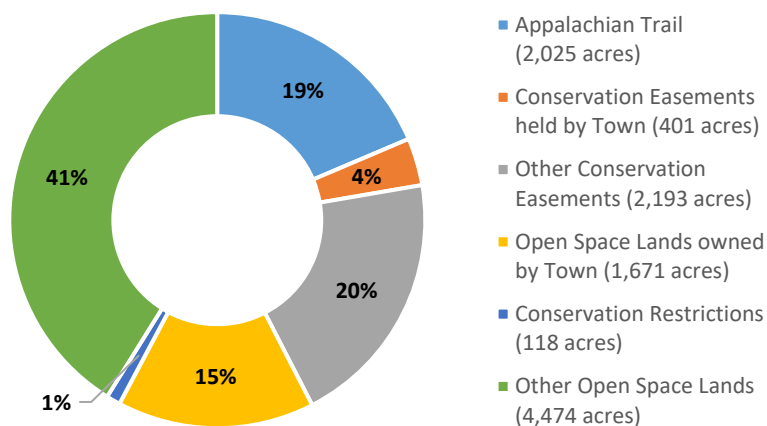
Figure 5-6: Open Space Lands



Source: Town of Hanover, CAI Technologies - AxisGIS

Permanent conservation of at least 30 percent of the land area in town as suggested by the America the Beautiful policy³ comports with a worldwide initiative to protect carbon stock, clean water, and habitat for most species. However, the 30 percent by 2030 goal is for 30 percent of the land area to be kept in its *natural* state. Many of Hanover’s protected open space lands are mowed, farmed, and harvested for timber. To reach the 30 percent by 2030 goal, permanent land protection must be put in place on many of the open space lands in town and management of them would need to be modified.

Figure 5-5: Types of Open Space Lands



³ U.S. Department of the Interior. (2022) "America the Beautiful." Retrieved from, <https://www.doi.gov/priorities/america-the-beautiful>

Goal 5-3: Supporting Strategies

- **Strategy 5-3.1.** Prepare a geographic analysis of areas of Town whose residents do not have an outdoor recreation area within a five-to-ten-minute walk.
- **Strategy 5-3.2.** Expand land-based recreational opportunities in areas where people are underserved.
- **Strategy 5-3.3.** Publicize and care for Town-owned open space lands.
- **Strategy 5-3.4.** Complete a footpath encircling the greater downtown area, along Mink Brook from Mink Brook Community Forest to the Connecticut River, north to Wilson’s Landing, and through the greenbelt back to Mink Brook.

Goal 5-3: Performance Metrics

- Map of areas of town without outdoor recreation within a five-to-ten-minute walk from residences
- Number of new recreational areas created where people are underserved

Land-Use Considerations

In Hanover, land use decisions have been guided by the capability of the land to accommodate development. Influenced by Ian McHarg’s work, *Design With Nature*,⁴ Hanover’s land use regulations acknowledge that not all properties have the same physical features and, thus, are not equally appropriate for all types of development. The Zoning Ordinance assures that new lots have at least 25 percent of their area

⁴ McHarg, I. (1969). *Design with Nature*. Garden City, NY: Doubleday/Natural History Press.

on non-steep slopes. The town regulates a protective buffer around water resources to ensure water quality and promote healthy riparian habitat. In accordance with Federal Emergency Management Agency standards, development is prohibited in the [100-year floodplain](#). The Subdivision Regulations require an existing resources and site analysis plan in order to identify where the best areas are for development and to design around the lands of high and moderate resource value. This information assists the Planning Board in its review of impacts associated with subdivisions.

Thinking about provision of services on the east side of Moose Mountain, which requires traveling through Lyme, or Lebanon and Enfield, it makes sense that in the Zoning Ordinance's Forestry and Recreation District, new development is restricted to seasonal dwellings. This zoning district spills over the top of Moose Mountain where steep slopes make for difficult driveways and access for emergency services. The large minimum lot size keeps lots with areas large enough for significant carbon sequestration, economical forest management and intact habitat. Timber management is also supported by the ability to create conservation lots with no frontage but with adequate access for silviculture, agriculture, and non-commercial outdoor recreation.

Fragile and unique land may be added to the Natural Preserve District with the permission of the landowner.

Under the Site Plan Regulations, the Planning Board considers stormwater management to guard against erosion and sedimentation of surface waters as well as managing flow volumes. Lighting restrictions for multi-family and commercial uses keep Hanover's night sky star-studded rather than contaminated with night glow where the sky is never completely dark.

Future Land Use

In May 2022, the town held a Development Solutions Workshop to gauge where the community would like new residential and commercial development to be encouraged. As part of this process, the community also identified where they would prefer not to see new development, and this generally included the area east of Moose Mountain, where development is already limited. Future land use considers the land capability, location, and the desires of the community. A plan for future land use has been included as [Figure 2-1](#).

Historic Character

Goal 5-4. Hanover's historic character will be widely recognized through a variety of architectural styles and scenic landscapes.

Inventory of Historic Resources

According to the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, 28 individual and area resources across the Town of Hanover have been recorded in the State's cultural resources inventory system. The majority of inventoried resources are located in the downtown area. Two properties, the Captain Aaron Storrs House (6 West Wheelock Street) and the Charles P. Barwood House, have been demolished since being inventoried. Fortunately, few built structures are located in flood risk areas. However, many N'dakina remains were likely disturbed in the flooding of the Connecticut River Valley to accommodate the Wilder Dam.

"...all too often only the monumental are preserved while the loss of smaller structures goes unheeded. It is a balance of preserving structures of all sizes and periods, which must be reached to truly appreciate and accurately represent the Town's past."

- 2003 Hanover Master Plan

National Register-Listed Resources

Hanover's four National Register-listed resources span an array of types, periods, and styles, and include:

- ▶ The Colonial Revival-style **Hanover Town Library** (also known as the Etna Library) was constructed in 1905. In the last decade, the town has completed a rear addition to the building.
- ▶ The **Great Hollow Road Stone Arch Bridge** (also known as the Etna Stone Bridge) was built in 1914.
- ▶ The Egyptian Revival-style **Sphinx Tomb** built in 1903, located on Dartmouth College's campus.
- ▶ **"The Epic of American Civilization,"** a set of four murals in Dartmouth College's Baker Library, painted by Mexican artist José Clemente Orozco in 1934. The murals are designated a National Historic Landmark.



First Baptist Church in Etna. Credit: Dartmouth College Photographic File

Historic Landscapes and Areas

The Town of Hanover has in the past identified several areas across the community with a high concentration of historic resources and streetscapes worthy of further study. In contrast with individual resources, grouped resources, often consisting of both structural and landscape elements, provide information about which characteristics define a particular community or neighborhood. Factors such as lot density, tree coverage, setbacks, extant agricultural fields, and general height and massing of the buildings intersect with the ongoing challenge of preserving community character.

Very few of these historic areas have been documented since the town's last master planning process, which means they offer an excellent opportunity for the town to inventory them for future planning purposes.



Preservation Works! Ledyard Bank occupies one of the only wood-framed buildings remaining in Hanover's downtown area. Credit: Artaxerxes, Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0)

These areas include:

- ▶ The **Etna** or **Mill Village neighborhood**, which served as the Town Center until the early 20th century.
- ▶ **Hanover Center**, established in 1761 (8 years before Dartmouth College), was the earliest center of activity in the town.
- ▶ The 20th century residences on both **Occom Ridge** and **Rope Ferry Road** north of Dartmouth's campus.
- ▶ **Webster Avenue**, originally laid out in 1896 and today part of Dartmouth College's campus, contains a number of notable examples of 19th and early 20th-century residential buildings.
- ▶ **Dartmouth College's campus**, itself a "showplace of American architecture" dating to 1769. Of the town's 28 historic resources listed by the State, 15 are owned by Dartmouth College. Since the heart of the college campus is adjacent to Hanover's downtown, the evolution of the campus and nearby Dartmouth-owned buildings influence the overall character of the downtown.⁵ In recent years, Dartmouth College has undertaken renovations to its campus – including some of its inventoried resources. Some buildings have been moved to nearby locations to avoid demolition. Campus projects have also resulted in the demolition of some historic resources including the aforementioned ca. 1774 Captain Aaron Storrs House and the 1961 Bradley-Gerry mathematics and psychology buildings. Also on Dartmouth's campus are early village structures that are important to Hanover's history, including Webster Cottage, Choate House, and Woodward-Lord House.

⁵ For more information about the evolution of the Dartmouth College campus, see <https://www.dartmouth.edu/masterplan/history/evolution.html>.



Image from Mausolf, Lisa, Mid-20th Century Residential Architecture in NH: 1945-1975. Prepared for NH Dept. of Transportation, 2019.

Ted and Peg Hunter gained national attention for the Modern architectural designs and were featured in publications, including Architectural Digest.

Some of their residential designs in Hanover included:

- ▶ *Henry G. Williams House at 95 East Wheelock Street (1946)*
- ▶ *Ralph Hunter House at 17 Hemlock Road (1948)*
- ▶ *Their family residence at 15 Hemlock Road (1949)*
- ▶ *Staples House at 14 Hemlock Road (1950)*
- ▶ *Maude French Residence 7 Lewin Road (1951)*
- ▶ *Richard Wagner House at 76 East Wheelock Street (1957)*
- ▶ *Rod Nash House (1965) at 31 Rip Road*

- ▶ The **South Main Street** and **Gilman Island** sections of the town, both of which are known to have historically been residential areas for African Americans during the 19th century.
- ▶ The **Etna Highlands**, home to many East Hanover settlers and today contains early 19th century dwellings and agricultural buildings as well as scenic vistas.
- ▶ **Huntington Hill**, containing cleared farmland also affording scenic vistas along Goodfellow Road, a designated scenic road.
- ▶ **North Park Street** on the east side of Dartmouth's campus, containing good examples of late 19th and early 20th century residential buildings.

Housing Styles

The ages of individual structures in Hanover span a few hundred years, leading to a wide-ranging and eclectic mix of residential housing styles. Many of the oldest extant houses date to the decades around the turn of the nineteenth century, comprising vernacular farmhouses sometimes with Federal style influences. Among the many architectural styles throughout the town are several examples ca. 1900 Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles; most of these individual and concentrations of older houses are not represented in the State's inventory.

The town also has a prominent collection of mid- and late-twentieth century homes. Again, the range of examples from this time period is particularly broad. At the vernacular end of the spectrum are simple cape and ranch dwellings, sometimes grouped into small subdivisions. However, Hanover also boasts a number of high-style and notable examples of Modernist houses. Many of these works have reached 50 years of age, the threshold commonly used to establish historic

significance. Therefore, a discussion focused on this category of resources is included here.

Mid-Century Housing in Hanover

Recent studies such as Lisa Mausolf's *Mid-20th Century Residential Architecture in New Hampshire: 1945–1975* have documented a notable number of mid-century residential buildings in Hanover, as well as architects and builders of mid-century styles who were active in the town and region. These resources include architect-commissioned residences as well as post-war prefabricated houses popular following World War II. Modernist designs are often less-studied than their early 20th century counterparts, putting them at greater risk of demolition or unsympathetic renovations due to a lack of awareness of their artistic and architectural significance.



Preservation Works! The 1774 Tenney House, once threatened with demolition, was restored and upgraded for modern use in 2021. Credit: Frank J. Barrett

Keeping the History of Hanover Alive

Promoting the history of Hanover and its people takes cooperation among the town's citizens, institutions, organizations, and committees. While several of these stakeholders count heritage and history among many areas of interest, the Hanover Historical Society stands out as the most prominent advocate of the town's heritage resources.

The Hanover Historical Society collaborates with many local entities to host programs on various topics and advocacy efforts, including the Howe Library, Hanover Garden Club, the Hanover Conservancy, Dartmouth College, and the Hood Museum. The Society is housed in the historic Webster Cottage.

Goal 5-4: Supporting Strategies

- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.1.** Complete up-to-date, comprehensive, historical resource surveys with a focus on heritage landscapes, streetscapes, or resource types, rather than specific buildings, as a basis for implementation tools that could work to preserve community character.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.2.** Work with the Hanover Historical Society to advise the Town on matters related to historic preservation and to prepare a preservation plan, which can detail opportunities with respect to, but not limited to:
 - The establishment of Local Historic Districts or Neighborhood Heritage Districts.
 - Prioritizing properties – buildings and their landscapes – for preservation easements.

- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.3.** Educate property owners about the five-year revitalization tax relief incentive.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.4.** Encourage property owners on Scenic Roads to maintain large trees and stone walls along their property frontage.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.5** Identify and document historic sites within flood hazard areas.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.6.** Continue to include cutting requirements in conservation easements on open fields to preserve those areas as fields and maintain the views associated with them.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.7.** Discourage development on [Class VI roads](#) and continue to use them as recreational corridors.

Goal 5-4: Performance Metrics

- ▶ Historic resource survey for the Town
- ▶ Historic Preservation Plan
- ▶ On-line and hard copy information about the revitalization tax relief incentive
- ▶ Assessment of historic resources in flood hazard areas
- ▶ Acres with cutting requirements to preserve views
- ▶ Miles of [Class VI road](#) converted to public trails

Cultural Character

Goal 5-5: The Town's cultural offerings will be expanded to ensure they continue to evolve to reflect the community's diversity.

The interaction of humans with each other and their environment creates culture. Hanover is known for its small-town New England charm, with an inviting downtown and prestigious academic institutions. Local arts, college programming, and other organizations continue to enrich Hanover's culture and foster a supportive community built around a shared history.

Earliest Residents

The Dawn Land, the territory of the Wabanaki Confederacy, encompassed all of New Hampshire. The people of the Dawn Land have their own history, culture, language, and identity. It is interesting to point out that never did the greater Wabanaki Nation relinquish by treaty, or otherwise, any portion of New Hampshire. For this reason, current residents have an obligation to honor the descendants of the true first settlers and recognize this lost part of the past. Today, some descendants remain in Hanover and the Upper Valley; a large settlement exists at Odanak, Abenaki First Nation Reserve, in Quebec.

Dartmouth College was founded in 1769 by Eleazar Wheelock with the goal of educating Native Americans. Annually since 1971, the Dartmouth Powwow has been held to celebrate the College's connection with Native Americans.

In New Hampshire, the 2020 Census reports over 25,000 Native American and Alaska Natives. While only 1.8 percent of the State’s population, they are a presence nonetheless. Other New Hampshire communities now observe Indigenous Peoples Day on the second Monday in October with educational activities.⁶

Town and Gown

The more recent culture of Hanover has been shaped over centuries by the presence of Dartmouth College with the town chartered in 1761, just eight years prior to the founding of the College. Dartmouth brings the vibrancy of a learning environment, provides jobs and a market for goods and services, offers world-class arts and recreational facilities, and attracts talented employees and students who bring experiences from around the world thus supporting the town’s diversity. In turn, the town supports the College community with residential and commercial opportunities, an attractive landscape, an extensive network of open space lands, convenient access to all modes of transportation, a top-notch school system, a safe environment, as well as essential public infrastructure and services.

During this Sustainability Master Plan process, members of the community expressed a desire to strengthen the mutually beneficial relationship between the town and Dartmouth College. Communication and cooperation take place between staff at many levels of both the town and College. The synergy of cooperation has improved the quality of life in Hanover. The Tri-Party agreement wherein the new middle school campus was created is an example. The Town and Gown relationship is further explored in [Chapter 10, Being Accountable and Collaborative](#).

⁶ Abenaki Nation of NH. (n.d.). *Tribal Vision of the Abenaki Nation of New Hampshire*. Retrieved from, <https://www.abenakinationofnh.com/about.html>.

Arts

Art galleries, museums, and theatres are available to Hanover residents both on the Dartmouth Campus and across the Upper Valley. Dartmouth College offers art programs and displays at the Hood Museum and performances at the many stages of the Hopkins Center, which is being expanded to be more welcoming and accessible, provide additional gathering/performance spaces, and include live arts laboratories. This project is expected to be complete by fall of 2025.

The AVA Gallery and Art Center in Lebanon, offers exhibitions, artist studios, and educational programming for all ages and abilities. More unusual experiences are hosted by the Main Street Museum in White River Junction with its eclectic collections and inclusive events. In Hanover, the Hanover Improvement Society owns and operates the Nugget Theatres, where first run movies as well as family-friendly classics may be seen on four screens.

Libraries and Learning

Two of the most popular places in town are its public libraries: the Howe Library and the Hanover Town Library (the Etna Library). Both provide meeting space, internet access, and make available all sorts of media. By deeply engaging the community, the Howe actively contributes to the town’s culture. Previously housed at the Wheelock House, its current location on South Street is a frequent stop for children and their families.



Proposed Hopkins Center for the Arts Expansion. Credit: Dartmouth College



Etna Library. Credit: VHB

The Howe offers programs for residents of all ages and is a portal to almost anything that piques one's interest. Seasonally, Appalachian Trail hikers are special guests who leave messages for other hikers while they catch up on their email. After school, students are welcomed and find a place to do their homework and visit with friends.

Etna Library, now on the National Register for Historic Places, evolved from private book collections to the Town Library. It serves all residents but is especially convenient for those who live in Etna and Hanover Center. Programs foster learning and creativity and embrace both local culture and the Library's place adjacent to the Hayes Farm Park.

The libraries at Dartmouth College cater to students but may also be used by the public for a small fee. The Special Collections house and provide access to town history, archived town records, and photographs.

The College hosts a number of lectures that are open to the public. OSHER Lifelong Learning Institute offers a robust schedule of non-credit classes for adults on a semester basis plus a special summer lecture series.

Cultural Diversity

Culture itself is influenced by diversity. As noted in [Chapter 3, Expanding Housing Opportunity](#), diversity in Hanover is on the lower end of the Diversity Index (a measure indicating the likelihood that two individuals, chosen at random from the same area, belong to a different race or ethnic group) – 41.1 out of 100. However, this score is higher than that of Grafton County and New Hampshire overall. Reasons for this include the presence of Dartmouth College and Dartmouth Health, which attract students, faculty, and staff from around the world.

Creating a welcoming environment for diverse populations was a theme of stakeholder feedback received as part of this Sustainability Master Plan. This sentiment is evidenced by the 2019 Town Meeting favorable vote for resettling refugees, directing the Selectboard to communicate town support for accepting refugees after an executive order signed by President Donald Trump indicated that states and municipalities would need to approve refugee resettlement.

Relationship with Nature and the Outdoors

As suggested by the responses from community members, an important part of the culture in Hanover is a relationship with nature and the outdoors. By virtue of its location and as a product of its development, people in Hanover live close to the natural world. The four seasons are a part of life and with that, people have a set of activities quite different in summer than in winter. Bird watching, nature observation, walking for health and social interaction and all manner of sports take place outdoors. Hanover residents live with and appreciate wildlife. Mink, featured on the cover of the 2020 *Town Report*, is noted as “the beloved bear who taught us all strength, humanity, and the ability to live with the wild”.

There are many characteristics of the town that suggest this appreciation of nature: the forested backdrop around the downtown; active Garden Club and beautification projects; being recognized by the Arbor Day Foundation for 43 years as a Tree City USA; the investments in and popularity of the open space and trail systems; and the number of people choosing to live in the rural area rather than having the convenience of goods and services within walking distance. This respect for the natural world has also manifested in Hanover residents being active in composting, recycling, and overall waste reduction. Some examples include the annual town-wide yard sale, curbside recycling, and holiday tree recycling.



Mink the bear. Credit: New Hampshire Public Radio

Goal 5-5: Supporting Strategies

- **Strategy 5-5.1.** Identify underutilized spaces within Town for art installations. Work with local artists, including Hanover’s student population, in their creation.
- **Strategy 5-5.2.** Connect with regional cultural institutions to bring aspects of their creativity into the Town’s local businesses and facilities.
- **Strategy 5-5.3.** Dedicate resources to documenting and acknowledging pre-Colonial residents of the area now incorporated as Hanover.

- ▶ **Strategy 5-5.4.** Collaborate with Dartmouth College on exhibitions or other educational resources that relay the independent and intertwined histories and culture of the College and the Town. Ensure such resources are made available to new students, faculty, and staff at the College and new residents and businesses within the Town.
 - ▶ **Strategy 5-5.5.** Using the Town’s “Celebrate the Season” event as an example, establish new and recurring community-wide events. Ensure that such events account for and incorporate the community’s various generations and cultures.
 - ▶ **Strategy 5-5.6.** Explore opportunities to augment the arts in Hanover with grants made available through the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and other entities.
 - ▶ **Strategy 5-5.7.** Facilitate community gathering by identifying, modifying (if needed), and maintaining public spaces for uses such as outdoor dining, regular events, and pop-up activities.
 - ▶ **Strategy 5-5.8.** Following the lead of other NH communities, Hanover should declare and observe Indigenous People’s Day on the second Monday of October.
- ▶ Art collaborations resulting in new public art
 - ▶ Tons of materials recycled from commercial and institutional organizations

Goal 5-5: Performance Metrics

- ▶ Number of art installations and events
- ▶ Hard copy and digital acknowledgement of pre-colonial residents
- ▶ Schedule of community-wide events

HANOVER

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