



Chapter 5 Preserving our Character

Hanover values 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 and Strategies for Preserving our Character

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

- ▶ **Strategy 5-1.1.** Complete the *Open Space Priorities Plan* to guide the Town in achieving a locally and regionally inter-

connected climate resilient system of conserved lands comprising at least 30% of the land area in Town.

- ▶ **Strategy 5-1.2.** Promote the completion of a greenbelt around the urban 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 Loci 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% of the Land Use Change Tax, consider 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 Indicators. (1) *Adoption of Open Space Priorities Plan*; (2) Amount of permanently conserved land; (3) Miles of publicly accessible greenbelt trail; (4) Outreach to landowners on scenic roads; (5) Total of appropriations made for open space protection

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.

- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.1.** Support the shift away from fossil fuels as embodied in the Town's Clean Energy Pledge to contribute in a positive way to the Town 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.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.5.** Address protection of groundwater quality and quantity by eliminating threats from contamination and preventing unsustainable withdrawal and inadequate ground water recharge.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.6.** For municipal infrastructure and on-site utilities serving multi-family and commercial properties, design systems to accommodate the increased volume and intensity of stormwater runoff.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-2.7.** Engage 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.
- ▶ **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 continue reducing the density of deer in the area served by water and sewer.
- ▶ **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:** Explore the creation of a municipal compost collection program, managed through one or more private entities.

Goal 5-2 Performance Indicators. (1) Outreach regarding septic system use and maintenance; (2) Acreage of land permanently protected around the water supply reservoirs; (3) Outreach regarding stormwater management on residential properties; (4) Linear feet of shoreland conserved and vegetated; (5) Old growth forest management plan; (6) Acres of land managed for old growth conditions; (7) Number of vernal pools inventories; (8) Number of amphibian crossings identified; (9) Acreage of town-owned land managed for non-recreational use; (10) Acreage of land conserved with high productivity ratings for agricultural and forestry; (11) Number of conservation easements monitored; (12) Number of restoration projects on Town owned lands; (13) Number of locations with sustained invasive removal efforts; (14) Number of deer taken using special deer management permits; (15) Tons of materials recycled from commercial and institutional organizations; (16) Amount of material collected via a municipal compost collection program

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

- ▶ **Strategy 5-3.1.** Prepare a geographic analysis of areas of Town whose residents do not have an outdoor recreation area within a five 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 urban 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.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-3.5.** Maximize use of underutilized school facilities.

Goal 5-3 Performance Indicators. (1) Map of areas of town without outdoor recreation within a five minute walk from residences; (2) Number of new recreational areas created where people are underserved; (3) Creation of a new town trail and open space map; (4) Mileage of public accessible trail encircling the urban area; (5) Hours when school facilities are available for public use

Goal 5-4. The Town’s cultural offerings will be expanded to ensure they continue to evolve to reflect the community’s diversity.

- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.1.** Identify new and underutilized spaces within Town for art installations. Work with local artists, including Hanover’s student population, in their creation.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.2.** Connect with regional cultural institutions to bring aspects of their creativity into the Town’s local businesses and facilities.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.3.** Dedicate resources to documenting and acknowledging pre-Colonial residents of the area now incorporated as Hanover.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.4.** 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 5-4.5.** 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 5-4.6.** Explore opportunities to augment the arts in Hanover in collaboration with the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and other entities.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-4.7:** Facilitate community gathering by identifying, modifying (if needed) and maintaining public spaces for uses such as outdoor dining, regular events, and pop-up activities.

Goal 5-4 Performance Indicators. (1) Number of art installations; (2) Hard copy and digital acknowledgement of pre- Colonial residents; (3) Schedule of community-wide events; (4) Art collaborations resulting in new public art

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

- ▶ **Strategy 5-5.1.** 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 5-5.2:** 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 5-5.3.** Educate property owners about the five-year revitalization tax relief incentive.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-5.4.** Encourage property owners on Scenic Roads to maintain large trees and stone walls along their property frontage.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-5.5** Identify and document historic sites properties within flood hazard areas.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-5.6.** Continue to include cutting requirements in conservation easements on open fields to preserve those areas as fields and maintain the view associated with them.
- ▶ **Strategy 5-5.7.** Discourage development on Class VI roads and continue to use them as recreational corridors.

Goal 5-5 Performance Indicators. (1) Historic resource survey for the Town; (2) Historic Preservation Plan; (3) On-line and hard copy information about the revitalization tax relief incentive; (4) Assessment of historic resources in flood hazard areas; (5) Acres with cutting requirements to preserve views; (6) Miles of Class VI road converted to public trails

Define:

open space area of a lot not occupied by buildings or other man-made improvements other than those specifically for support of the use of the open space, such as a path, fence, or seating, whether maintained in its natural state or used for agriculture, forestry, or outdoor recreation.

old growth encompasses the later stages of stand development that typically differ from earlier stages in a variety of characteristics which may include tree size, accumulations of large dead woody material, number of canopy layers, species composition, and ecosystem function."