

## Section 1 - Plan Summary

The Town of Hanover, located in the greater Boston area, offers residents the benefits of living in a small suburban town while being within convenient distance to the city. However, the semi-rural suburban character that proves attractive to so many, could result in uncontrolled growth in the community. A recent survey of Hanover residents revealed that the three most serious issues facing Hanover today are schools (overcrowding, quality and budget); commercial and residential development; and traffic. All three issues are the end-product of growth. Additionally, survey respondents indicated that Hanover's small-town atmosphere, schools, and recreational facilities and/or community sports are the primary characteristics or services that should be developed and maintained. Following is Hanover's vision to guide the future growth and development of the Town in the next twenty years:

*A Town that retains and improves the pleasing character  
of its civic, historic, economic, and residential areas  
in a manner that is sensitive to its natural and built environments*

The 1993 Community Action Statement adopted by the Board of Selectmen also focuses on numerous needs in the area of conservation, including acquisition and preservation of open land, access to and protection of water resources, and linking green space to the regional network.

An Open Space survey was distributed to a random sample of Hanover residents and received an impressive 21% return. This Open Space and Recreation Plan responds to the survey results and other planning documents, and is based on the community's desire to provide open space and recreation opportunities in combination with land conservation, to preserve the semi-rural character of the town and protect its many natural attributes. Planning for community services and facilities is crucial to meet the community's goal of managed growth. The plan which follows details:

- ◆ an analysis of Hanover's historic, cultural and natural resources that contribute to the character of the town;
- ◆ means to identify, protect and enhance the quality of Hanover's surface and ground water for municipal drinking water supply and wildlife and recreation uses; open space, conservation, and recreational goals and objectives for the Town;
- ◆ identification of open space, conservation and recreation needs based upon national standards and community surveys; recommendations for linking Hanover's open space areas to a regional system of trails and conservation and recreation lands;
- ◆ goals and objectives related to resource protection, conservation, open space, recreation and accessibility for all to enjoy conservation/recreation lands regardless of age, income, race or handicap;
- ◆ a 504 accessibility assessment;
- ◆ a five-year action plan with site specific recommendations.