



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

Strategic Plan 2026-2030



photo by Victoria Tully



Our Mission:
To support New Hampshire's
conservation commissions in their work
to protect the natural environment.

Our Vision:

NH will have wild places and open spaces that provide a healthy natural environment.

Guiding Principles

We honor our history: building our organization's strengths to create a future with valued and biodiverse natural environments.

We respect regional differences: addressing the variety of environmental challenges faced by NH's diverse communities.

We're science-based: applying the best available data and methodologies to guide our conservation programs and advocacy.

We collaborate: actively seeking partnerships with our commission members and organizations that bring diverse perspectives, resources, and expertise.

We're stewards: promoting the wise use of natural resources and encouraging responsible, sustainable practices to help minimize impact on the environment.



Community Drivers for Action

The feedback from our members provides a foundation for the work and initiatives driving our 2026-2030 Strategic Plan. Some critical issues of concern for conservation commissions were identified as drinking water protection, conservation funding, and the management of conservation lands. Commissions also seek help engaging and educating the public about the importance and value of their town's natural resources. Some of the trends impacting NH's natural resources and challenging commissions that have been used to inform choices made in this Strategic Plan include:

- NH natural environments are at risk from a variety of challenges.
- NH communities need help to address challenges associated with a changing climate.
- Both the public and policy-makers need more information to enhance awareness about the importance of our environment.
- Public policy based on scientific data is critical to decision-making and legislation.
- Environmental impacts have no boundaries.
- The unique characteristics, values, and practices of communities, and local input and leadership, need to be part of conservation solutions.
- Inadequate funding limits action on environmental projects.
- The increase in citizen science and technology provides opportunities for outreach, education and advocacy.
- Critical issues of concern...drinking water protection, conservation funding, and management of conservation lands.



photo by Beth Meyer

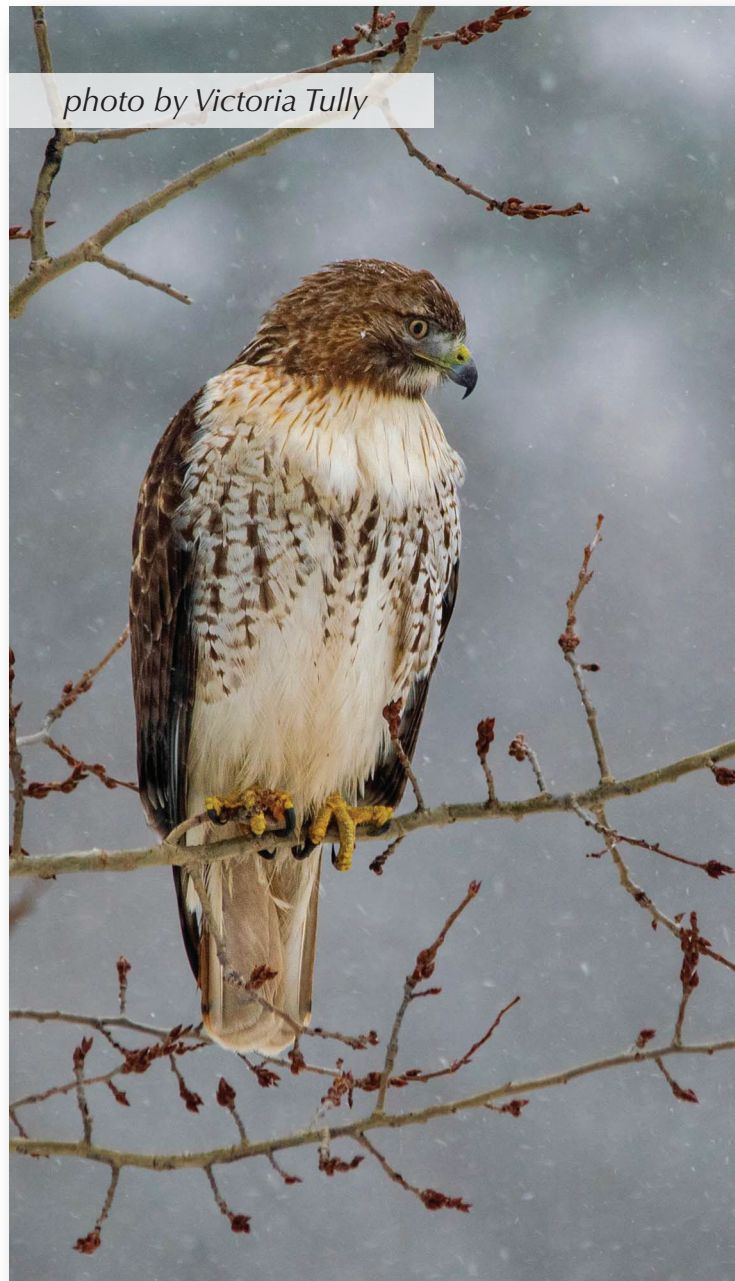


photo by Victoria Tully

photo by Erin_Rojek



What makes NHACC unique

The NH Association of Conservation Commissions is the only organization in NH dedicated to building and strengthening the capacity of the 217 municipal Conservation Commissions. We serve approximately 1,500 volunteer commission members who play a critical role in protecting ecologically significant areas. We are a network that is strong and plays a vital role in the protection and conservation of NH's natural environment. Through our leadership, communications, consultation, and relationship building with Commission members, we have developed education, training, and technical assistance programs to meet the needs of our members. In addition to serving NH conservation commissions, we serve NH wildlife and natural resource organizations, NH town boards, and local authorities.

Our organization is:

- An effective voice that represents conservation commissions in NH
- On the forefront of emerging environmental issues
- An effective advocate with law-makers
- A curator of state-wide resources and information for commissions
- A trusted advisor and partner to state-wide environmental organizations

STRATEGIC GOALS & INITIATIVES



Goal1: Engage and Empower Conservation Commissions

GOAL STATEMENT: Support conservation commissions to enhance their relevance and effectiveness both individually and collectively.

Initiatives

- In 2026, develop and create a set of resources to help commissions work better, more efficiently, and effectively.
- At least annually, identify an emerging topic to research and summarize current data, resources, and examples on the topic to support the work of commissions.
- Over the next 5 years, the board and staff will personally engage in face-to-face visits with 50 conservation commissions to enhance their effectiveness and strengthen our relationships.
- Over the next five years, the NHACC Board and staff will enhance networking programs to share information among conservation commissions by hosting or participating in regional meetings focused on local issues, increasing the number of established regional groups to eight.

Goal 2: Optimize Organizational Effectiveness

GOAL STATEMENT: Achieve high-quality governance and operational standards that create a sustainable and thriving organization.

Initiatives

- In 2026, create a task force to systematically examine our technology operations and look for ways to invest in new technology to increase efficiency.
- Over the next three years, review our organizational structure including policies and procedures that ensure they meet the mission and vision of our organization.
- Incorporate findings from the evaluation process to develop and improve procedures to achieve high-quality governance and operational standards.



photo by Scott Powell



photo by Drew Groves



Goal 3: Enhance Financial Sustainability

GOAL STATEMENT: NHACC will ensure long-term financial sustainability through diverse revenue streams and strong fiscal management supported by up-to-date budgeting, accounting, and auditing systems, demonstrating excellent stewardship of resources.

Initiatives

- Maintain effective accounting and budgeting systems to monitor resources that support our programs.
- In 2027, establish a development committee to ensure financial stability.
- In 2028, create a comprehensive plan to increase contributed income.
- In 2029, develop and implement a comprehensive plan to increase program income.

Goal 4: Advocate for the Environment

GOAL STATEMENT: Engage stakeholders in dialogue to advocate for public policy and individual group action, informed by evidence-based research, to promote appropriate use and protection of our natural resources.

Initiatives

- Every year, NHACC will take a leadership role to advocate for two legislative initiatives with our policy stakeholders.
- By 2028, create a comprehensive public policy strategy to advocate for the environment and address the roles of conservation commissions' in adapting to and mitigating climate change.
- In the next year, provide opportunities to increase the level of engagement of conservation commissions and other stakeholders in conservation-related local or state regulations



Goal 5: Foster External Relationships

GOAL STATEMENT: Develop collaborative relationships with environmental partners and other stakeholders to leverage collective influence and resources to create resilient and sustainable environments.

Initiatives

- By the end of 2028, create and launch a public outreach plan for the organization to improve public awareness of and engagement with the NHACC and local commissions.
- Over the next 3 years, identify groups with common goals and determine ways to increase and develop collaborative relationships with 3 new organizations.



NHACC works to ensure that New Hampshire has the wild places and open spaces that provide NH's citizens with enhanced quality of life, biodiversity, and a healthy environment by supporting Conservation Commissions through education and advocacy.



New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions

SERVING NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COMMUNITIES SINCE 1970

How you can help: Donate to NHACC

The New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions is a 501(c)3 organization whose mission is to foster conservation and appropriate use of NH's natural resources by providing assistance to conservation commissions, facilitating communication and cooperation among commissions, and helping to create a climate in which commissions can be successful. We are funded by member conservation commissions, business members, grants and your contributions. Your contribution is important to support the work of a statewide network of conservation volunteers.

Your tax deductible donation may be made online using your credit card at www.nhacc.org



or you may mail a contribution to:

NHACC
54 Portsmouth Street
Concord, NH 03301

*Please make your check payable
to NHACC.*