Criteria for In-Town Open Space Action Areas and In-Town Actions

In-town open spaces should be evaluated according to one or more of the following criteria:
· be visible from public streets or from within buildings;
· increase the town’s surrounding natural areas;
· provide views of surrounding ridgelines and hilltops, such as Velvet Rocks, Balch Hill or Oak Hill, or of water bodies like Mink Brook, Occum Pond or the Connecticut River;
· provide walking and biking connections between residential, business and natural areas;
· be designated and designed as small pocket parks, tot lots, gardens, or playgrounds for people of all ages and abilities;
· provide open spaces that are close to each neighborhood, preferably within an three- to five-minute walk;
· provide common open space in all new downtown development. (Since these spaces are intended to serve immediate residents, they could be owned by development residents through a homeowner’s or condominium association or similar legal entity.)

IN-TOWN ACTIONS

Potential in-town open space action areas are discussed by action needed as part of the plan in Chapter IV. Hanover’s existing in-town open space areas are listed and shown in Appendix III.