

WHY Count Trillium?



A mature, healthy Trillium colony could have as many as 50 stalks and 20 flowers.

The plant:

- has an extensive root system
- can survive for many years
- recovers quickly if not browsed
- if browsed, in the following years
 - it will have shorter stalks
 - it will have fewer stalks
 - it will not flower

To determine if the deer herd is declining, Hanover now has 10 Trillium monitoring stations. Each station has three square meter plots where we count and measure the height of all stalks, count blossoms and learn how long the plants survive before deer eat them. One plot has a cage that protects the plant; two control plots are available for browsing by deer. Over time we should see a change in a colony's health, indicated by these measures.

Hanover Biodiversity Committee and Hanover Conservation Commission
with assistance from HGC volunteers and others