

COMMUNITY PROFILE

A. GEOGRAPHY

The town of Moultonborough is located on the southwestern edge of Carroll County. It is bordered by Sandwich and Tamworth to the north, Holderness and Center Harbor to the east, Meredith, Gilford, and Alton to the south, and Tuftonboro and Ossipee to the east. The total area of Moultonborough is 75 square miles, 60 square miles of land and 15 square miles of water. Rugged, wooded slopes dominate the northern portion of Moultonborough – from Red Hill to the Ossipee Range.

Nearly 24 percent, or 8,798 acres, of the town's land area is characterized by slopes of 15 percent or higher. The Ossipee Mountains in the east rise to an elevation of 2,975 feet, at 2,020 feet, Red Hill is another area with steep slopes in the northwest section of town. The remainder of land in town is characterized by hilly to rolling terrain, divided by wetlands, ponds, and lakes. The numerous ponds and wetlands extend from Squam Lake in the northwest, through Wakondah Pond and Kanasatka Lake, Berry, Garland, and Lees Ponds in the north, to Lake Winnepesaukee in the central and southern parts of town.

Moultonborough contains the most shoreline of any town in New Hampshire at 89 linear miles. Aquifers are found in the central section of town beneath Berry, Garland and Lees Ponds. Rivers running through Moultonborough include the Squam River, Shannon Brook, Weed Brook, Halfway Brook, and Red Hill River. The majority of town lies in the Winnepesaukee watershed.

B. WEATHER CONDITIONS

Moultonborough's temperatures and precipitation vary a great deal. January temperatures range from an average high of 30 degrees Fahrenheit to an average low of 8 degrees Fahrenheit. July temperatures range from an average high of 81 degrees Fahrenheit to an average low of 58 degrees Fahrenheit.

Annual precipitation totals average between 42 and 48 inches, where the distribution is slightly lower in the winter months when compared to summer months. Moultonborough averages about 66 inches of snow per year.

C. PUBLIC UTILITIES

A five-member Board of Selectmen governs the town of Moultonborough. The Fire Department has three full-time members and 41 call members and includes 22 Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT). The full-time Fire Chief also serves as the Emergency Management Director. The Police Department consists of a full-time Police Chief, 12 full-time officers, two part-time officers, and five support staff providing 24/7 coverage. The Public Works Director has fourteen full-time and four seasonal who maintain 52 miles of town roads, run the Transfer Station, and maintain the town's facilities. The Lakes Region General Hospital is located in Laconia, 12 miles southwest of Moultonborough, Spere Memorial Hospital is 18 miles to the northwest, and Huggins Hospital is 16 miles to the southeast. Additional hospitals are also located in Dover, Concord, and Lebanon.

NH Route 25 runs generally east-west and NH Route 109 runs generally north-south and they intersect in the Village area. NH Route 171 breaks off to the east from NH Route 109 and Moultonborough Neck Road is the sole access road to that portion of town. Most of the town's critical facilities are located along these roads.

Businesses and residences near the Center Harbor town line have access to the Bay Sewer District system. Approximately 750 residences are served by several community water systems; the rest of the town has

individual wells. The town is served by NH Electric Cooperative. The Moultonborough Fire Department maintains approximately 90 dry hydrants around town.

D. LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT TRENDS

According to the US Census, Moultonborough was among the fastest growing communities in the Lakes Region from 1980 to 1990 (Table 1). This trend continued through the 1990s as the town had the highest rate of population growth in the region. The 2010 report showed a modest drop in the year-round population.

Table 1: Moultonborough, NH Year-Round Population, 1980-2010

Year	1980	1990	2000	2010	
Population	2,206	2,956	4,484	4,044	
% Changed	---	34%	52%	- 10%	

The 2000 Census reported that 55.7% of Moultonborough’s homes were seasonal; in 2010 that rate was up to 60.5%. Because of this very seasonal nature of housing in Moultonborough, it is important to acknowledge that the actual number of people residing in town can fluctuate quite a bit. To get a clearer picture of what this number might be, the master plans of Moultonborough and several surrounding communities were reviewed. A more accurate representation of the population that the town serves is determined by breaking down the type of housing, for while a year-round household might accommodate 2-4 persons (statistical average of 2.33), a second home may have 5 – 10 people staying there for a few weeks at a time. Using housing data from the Assessor, estimates used in neighboring communities, and the staff estimates regarding local population patterns, the figures in Table 2 were reached and appear sound.

Table 2: Moultonborough, NH Population

	Number of Units	Persons per Household	Persons
Year -round residential	1,800	2.4	4,320
Second homes residential	3,699	5.0	18,495
Seasonal (camps, campgrounds, motels)			2,000
TOTAL	5,499		24,815

While the number of building permits issued by the town from 2008 – 2010 (78) dropped to less than half what it had been in the previous three years (212), it is important to point out that most of these permits were for refurbishing or building an addition, only about ten percent of these (8) were for new construction. It should be noted that newer seasonal homes and those that are being upgraded are better able to allow the inhabitants to shelter in place. With a strengthening economy, new commercial construction is beginning to occur near the Village area and along NH Route 25 near the Center Harbor town line. Some residential development might occur on the up-gradient sides of NH Routes 109 and 171. None of these are in particularly vulnerable locations. While there is some variability, the Traffic Volume Reports from the NH Department of Transportation indicate no dramatic changes in traffic volumes since 2007 along Moultonborough’s major roadways. NH Route 25 has an Average Annual

Daily Traffic counts in the range of 11, 300 – 13,800 vehicles per day; Moultonborough Neck Road carries about half this number and NH Route 109 (south of the village) carries about 4,600 vehicles per day. As this is a projected average over the entire year, there are certainly many summer days when the volume of traffic on any one of these roads far exceeds these figures. To help improve traffic patterns and reduce the likelihood of some transportation incidents along state routes, the Development Services Office is utilizing Access Management techniques.

In the past five years the town passed a Steep Slopes ordinance and the Floodplain ordinance will be updated once the new DFIRM maps for Carroll County are finalized.