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## Section 5.

# **Natural Resource Capital**

## **Geography and Layout**

Today, the spatial relationship of the Town is influenced by a scattered settlement plan. Many hills and a lot of pastureland encouraged farmers to settle haphazardly. The Village is quite even and spacious. It is divided by the VT Central Railroad tracks and the Dog River, which run parallel and very close to each other. The east side contains the business district and higher class dwellings.

## **Mountains and Hills**

The **Northfield Range** of the Green Mountains is located along the town's western boundary. There are no roads bisecting these mountains within the town boundaries. **Mount Adams**, at 3236 feet, is Northfield's highest peak.

**Paine Mountain** is located in the northeastern corner of town. This mountain was named after one of Vermont's distinguished early settlers, Elijah Paine.

**Turkey Hill** serves as a reminder of the bird that once provided food for so many early wilderness travelers. By the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the sight of a turkey would be a rarity.

## **Rivers**

**Dog River**, a tributary of the Winooski, passes through the center of Northfield. There are two small streams, the **Cox Brook** and **Bull Run**, which are tributaries of Dog River.

The **Northfield Gulfs** are the result of the damming of the normal drainage by glacial drift and the floods of water resulting from the melting ice.

**Table 5.1– Northfield Town Selected Natural and Geographical Information**

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<b>Land Area (square miles)</b>	38.3
<b>Water Area (square miles)</b>	0.0
<b>Percent Conserved Lands, 1999</b>	3.6%
<b>Change in Forest Land to Developed Land, 1970-90 (acres)</b>	28.7
<b>Change in Forest Land to Non-Forested Land, 1970-90 (acres)</b>	5.3
<b>Change in Non-Forested Land to Developed Land, 1970-90 (acres)</b>	7.1

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Sources: Center for Rural Studies/VCGI. 2001. Vermont Indicators Online. <http://crs.uvm.edu/indicators/>  
Town of Northfield, VT. 2000. Report of the Officers.

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