

Town of Ithaca Conservation Board Activities & Accomplishments for 2023

- Awarded its 20th annual Richard B. Fischer Environmental Conservation Award to the Friendship Donation Network and held a tree planting ceremony in West Hill Park where 3 American Basswood trees were planted;
- Environmental Review Committee continued to provide comments on 13 site plan and subdivision projects;
- Provided support to the Town's Deer Management Program;
- Continued to update and monitor the Conservation Board Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/IthacaConservationBoard>) and created a new Instagram account (<https://www.instagram.com/townofithacaconservationboard/>);
- Hosted a public invasive species education event (swallow-wort removal) at Westhaven Preserve in June as part of NYS's Invasive Species Awareness Week;
- Discussed several topics related to Indigenous Environmental Justice throughout 2023, including planning work being done to create an ethnobotanic trail at Tutelo Park;
- Participated in and held several public events regarding pollinators and converting lawns to gardens, including maintaining an information table at the Tompkins County Library during Pollinator Week, setting up a table at a pollinator event at Marshy Gardens, and hosting a Town garden tour (four locations) in August;
- Participated in a public tree planting event at the East Ithaca Nature Preserve in October where 75 native trees were planted and provided a table with educational materials on invasive and native plants;
- Participated in the 2023 NYS Conference on the Environment held in Ithaca in September, including providing a presentation on the lessons learned conducting environmental reviews;
- Recruited one new full member 2023.