

The Fischer Conservation Award

Since 2003, the CB has celebrated public contributions that improve Ithaca's natural environment; we hold an annual tree-planting ceremony, part of the Richard B. Fischer Environmental Conservation Award. The twenty individuals and organizations who have won this award include EcoVillage, Black Diamond Trail Enthusiasts Network, Anthony Ingraham & Elizabeth Bauman, the NYS Hemlock Initiative, Cayuga Bird Club, Primitive Pursuits, Finger Lakes Re-Use, and Friendship Donations Network. A plaque in the Town Hall lobby is engraved with their names. Oaks, birch, beech, poplar, juneberry, maple, hemlock, hazelnut, basswood and apple trees have been planted in Town parks, trails and preserves honoring the award winners. See more about the award, including guidelines and a form for nominating future candidates, at: www.townithacany.gov/richard-fischer-award



Members of the Town of Ithaca Conservation Board 2024

Lori Brewer, Chair	Frank Cantone
Lindsay Dombroskie*	James Hamilton
Eva Hoffmann	Michael Roberts
Ingrid Zabel	

*Associate (non-voting)

The Town of Ithaca Conservation Board was initially established as a Conservation Advisory Council by the Town Board in February 1990. Following completion of a natural resource inventory for the Town, the Council was redesignated a Conservation Board (in accordance with Section 239-y of the New York State General Municipal Law) in April 1993. The Board is allowed a maximum of nine voting members, who serve for two-year terms. We invite Town residents to consider joining us; please come to a monthly meeting to see if you'd enjoy our work.

The Town of Ithaca Conservation Board is a member of the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions.

For more information, or to learn how you can become a member of the Conservation Board, contact:

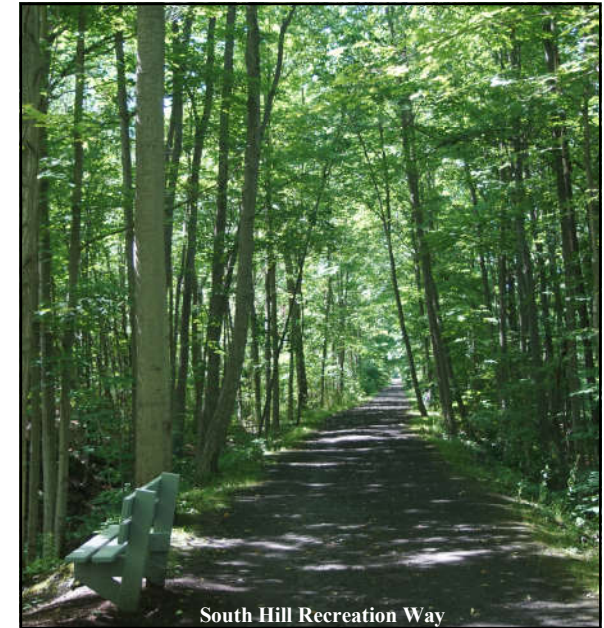


Town of Ithaca
215 N. Tioga Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

Phone: 607-273-1747

Email: conservationboard@townithacany.gov
Website: www.townithacany.gov/boards/boards/

The Town of Ithaca Conservation Board



“Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children.” (Kenyan proverb)

The Conservation Board meets the first Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at the Ithaca Town Hall, 215 N. Tioga Street.
(Enter from the rear parking lot)

Members of the public are welcome to attend in-person at Town Hall or virtually through Zoom. Zoom links can be found on the Conservation Board's Facebook page and on the Town's website under the calendar.

There are opportunities for public input at the beginning of each meeting.



www.facebook.com/IthacaConservationBoard

or

[www.instagram.com/
townofithacaconservationboard/](http://www.instagram.com/townofithacaconservationboard/)

The Conservation Board (CB) is a group of Town residents who volunteer their time and energy to preserve and protect the Town's natural and scenic resources. The Board acts in an advisory capacity to other boards of the Town on conservation and environmental matters.

The current work priorities include the following:

- Protection of Scenic Views
- Environmental Review of Development Proposals
- Invasive Pest and Deer Management
- Public Outreach

Protection of Scenic Views

The CB's Scenic Resources Committee has great help from the Town in its efforts to protect Ithaca's best views, recognized as an important natural resource in Comprehensive Planning. An inventory and analyses of these views, using Geographic Information Systems, assures that real estate development recognizes the need to maintain our beautiful scenery. A project to install interpretive signs at three of our most scenic viewpoints promotes the value of these vistas. The first sign was installed at East Shore Park; the second is near Longview on South Hill's Danby Road; currently, a sign for the view from East Hill at Snyder and Pine Tree Roads' intersection is under development. A scenic tour route through ten of the best Town views seen from public places is mapped on these signs as well as available in brochure form at Town Hall, and online at: www.townithacany.gov/scenic.



Environmental Review of Development Proposals

Reviewing development proposals is an important continuing activity of the CB, which must regularly study proposed developments to make sure they don't create adverse environmental impacts, especially when sited in or adjacent to sensitive locations such as Unique Natural Areas, stream corridors, or other open space areas in the Town. In these reviews, the CB considers an array of environmental concerns, looking for potential problems with water quality, drainage, erosion and sediment control, effects on important habitats such as wetlands and areas with rare species, impacts on scenic views, and compatibility with surrounding land uses.

Invasive Pest and Deer Management

Invasive pests are ubiquitous in our forests, parks, meadows and landscaped yards. As some invasive plants harm wildlife habitat and skew ecosystem functions, so do overpopulated herds of white-tail deer kill native plants by overbrowsing, leaving woody and herbaceous invasive species they don't recognize as food. The CB supports a Town project to manage deer under a NY State Department of Environmental Conservation Deer Damage Permit. The CB also advises the Town on action needed to remove invasives from its public lands and along recreational ways and to plant native flora replacements. Working with state agencies to promote public participation in surveying and landscaping to control invasives, the CB participates in an annual "Invasive Species Awareness Week."



Public Outreach

The CB's Communications Committee posts CB news and links conservation documents on the Town's website, the Town's online newsletter, CB's Facebook and Instagram pages. The CB regularly hosts or attends local events to share educational information on invasive species, scenic views, parks and trails, and other local environmental topics. We are especially interested in promoting less mowing of both Town Parks' and Preserves' lawns, and in ways of replacing these



as well as residential lawns with more ecologically healthy native plants and biodiverse pollinator gardens. This year, we want to establish an ethnobotanical plant tour along a path in Tutelo Park, with interpretive signs explaining the importance of native plants to indigenous Gayogohó:ño? (Cayuga) people of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) confederacy. To help us protect our environment, we encourage Town residents to attend our monthly meetings, which are open to the public. Visitors are invited to be heard, and may voice any concerns or questions at the start of each meeting.

