

The Fischer Conservation Award

Since 2003, the CB has celebrated public contribution toward improving Ithaca's natural environment with an annual tree-planting ceremony, part of the Richard B. Fischer Environmental Conservation Award. Individuals and organizations who have won this award include



A. Carl Leopold, EcoVillage at Ithaca, Tom Reimers, Jane Moon Clark, Cayuga Compost, Cornell Plantations' Natural Areas Program, and the Finger Lakes Native Plant Society. A plaque in the Town Hall lobby is engraved with their names. Oaks, birch, beech, poplar, juneberry, maple, and apple trees have been planted in Town Parks honoring the award winners. See more about the award at:

www.town.ithaca.ny.us/richard-fischer-award



"How do we treat our patch of the Earth?

Do we preserve it as well as we are able?

Will spring rains trickle through,

Clear and pure as the air above?

Do we inhabit the land well?"

(Brian Caldwell)



Find the Conservation Board on Facebook at :
www.facebook.com/IthacaConservationBoard

Members of the Town of Ithaca Conservation Board 2014

James Hamilton
Jonathan Meigs*
Michael Roberts
Kristine Shaw*

Eva Hoffmann
Vladimir Micic
Carrie Simon
Ellie Stewart, Chair

*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 re-designated 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.

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

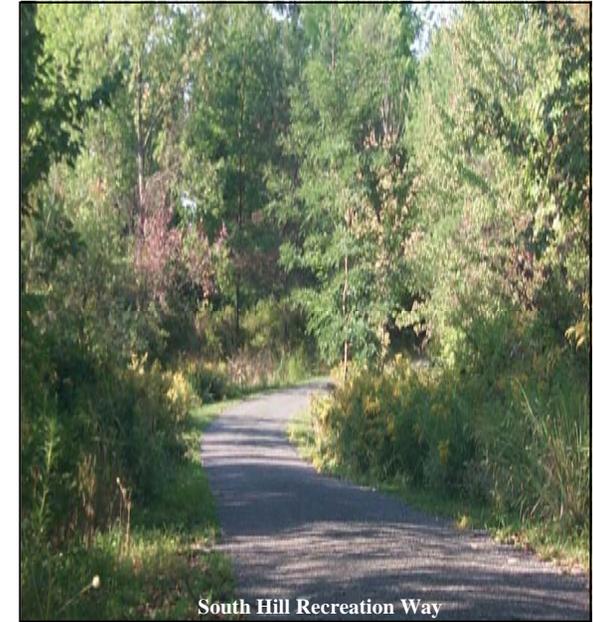
For more information, or to learn how you can become a member of the Conservation Board, contact:



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

Phone: 607-273-1747
www.town.ithaca.ny.us

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

Meetings are open to the public.

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

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.

This year's work priorities include the following:

- Conservation Zoning
- Protection of Scenic Views
- Invasive Pest and Deer Management
- Promoting Water Conservation
- Environmental Review of Development Proposals

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.



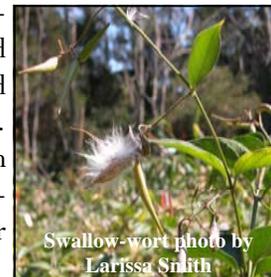
Protection of Scenic Views

The CB's Scenic Resources Committee has had great help from the Town for its efforts to save Ithaca's best views. A careful inventory and scientific analysis of this scenic beauty, using Geographic Information Systems, should protect views from inappropriate development. A project to install interpretative signs at some of our prettiest viewpoints will advertise the importance of these vistas. The first view sign at East Shore Park, installed in June 2013, should be followed by others on views from Danby Road and Pine Tree Road. A scenic tour route through ten of the best views worth saving shows where the best sights can be seen from public roads.



Invasive Pest and Deer Management

Invasive pest species are ubiquitous in our forests, meadows, and landscaped yards. The invasion of non-native plants often leads to a loss of wildlife habitat and changes in ecosystem function. The Conservation Board is investigating pest management strategies on town-owned properties that can be applied to residents' property as well. The Board hopes to work with other agencies to develop outreach materials specific for Town of Ithaca residents.



Promoting Water Conservation

When the Town's Sustainability Planner reported a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory of our Town government operations, we were surprised to learn that the largest part of our carbon footprint, more than 45%, comes from the water delivery facilities at Bolton Point. The CB supports the Town's Energy Action Plan with a correspondingly major emphasis on water conservation: not because we lack water, but because the power to pump it up to us from Cayuga Lake takes so much energy. We hope to encourage thrifty water use with an awareness campaign to inform users of the need for a more sustainable approach to water pumping power. The less water pumped uphill, the lower the GHG emissions. The CB also supports water quality monitoring in Six Mile Creek, and protecting the Cayuga watershed from the potential hazards of shale gas extraction.

Conservation Zoning

Conservation zoning is a method of land use regulation designed to reduce development density and encourage sensitive siting of developments in environmentally important areas, or in areas with steep slopes or other topographic features that require protection. For example, the Six Mile Creek Valley Conservation Zone was established in 1996 following recommendations by the CB.

Since 1999, the Town has enacted additional conservation zones proposed by the CB including: (1) a portion of the South Hill area near Ithaca College, which contains many rare plant species, wetlands, and mature woodlands; (2) lands adjacent to Buttermilk Falls State Park, which will help protect water quality, and significant wildlife habitat in and adjacent to the Park; (3) the "lake slopes area" west of Taughannock Boulevard; and (4) the new Southwest Glens and Creeks area on West Hill around Coy Glen and Culver Creeks.