

## The Fischer Conservation Award

Since 2003, the CB has celebrated public contributions that improve Ithaca's natural environment with an annual tree-planting ceremony, part of the Richard B. Fischer Environmental



Conservation Award. The nineteen individuals and organizations who have won this award include Cayuga Nature Center Summer Camp Program, Black Diamond Trail Enthusiasts Network, Anthony Ingraham & Elizabeth Bauman, NYS Hemlock Initiative, the Cayuga Bird Club, Primitive Pursuits, and Finger Lakes ReUse. A plaque in the Town Hall lobby is engraved with their names. Oaks, birch, beech, poplar, junberry, maple, hemlock, hazelnut, and apple trees have been planted in Town parks, trails and preserves honoring the award winners. See more facts about the award, including guidelines for nominating future candidates, at: [www.town.ithaca.ny.us/richard-fischer-award](http://www.town.ithaca.ny.us/richard-fischer-award)



[www.facebook.com/IthacaConservationBoard](http://www.facebook.com/IthacaConservationBoard)

## Members of the Town of Ithaca Conservation Board 2022

Lori Brewer, Chair	Lindsay Dombroskie*
Elise Edwards*	James Hamilton
Eva Hoffmann	Joann Kowalski
Michael Roberts	

\*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.

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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:

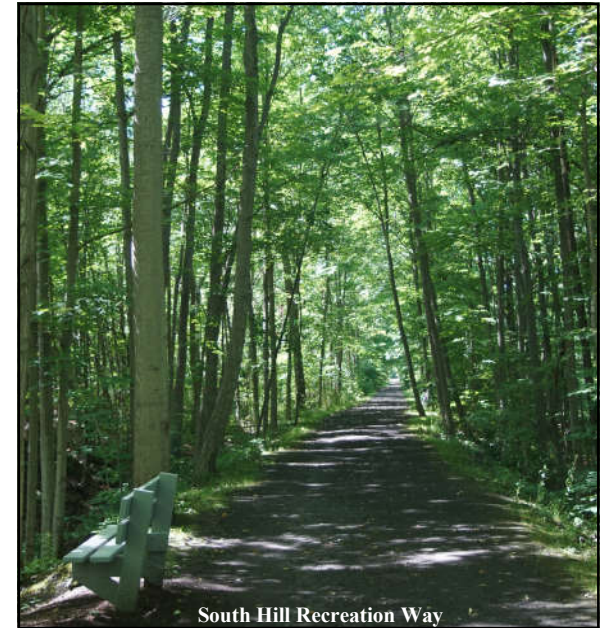


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## *The Town of Ithaca Conservation Board*



“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.

**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
- Promoting Waste Awareness
- 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.



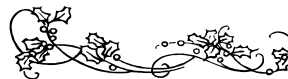
The first sign was installed at East Shore Park eight years ago; the second is near Longview on South Hill's Danby Road; currently, a sign for the view from East Hill at Snyder and Pine Tree Roads' intersection is under development. A scenic tour route through ten of the best Town views is mapped on these signs as well as available in brochure form at Town Hall, and online at: [www.town.ithaca.ny.us/scenic](http://www.town.ithaca.ny.us/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. 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."



### Promoting Waste Awareness

A "Waste Awareness Committee" was established in 2020 when the CB noticed the rising use of compostable single use containers as dining establishments shifted towards "to go" options during the COVID emergency. In Tompkins County, most compostable containers have to go to a landfill, as the industrial compost facilities needed for processing them are not available. After extensive study and research, and corresponding with other local groups, the CB decided to support public education about our waste stream, especially ways to minimize single-use packaging going to landfills or hindering the food scrap recycling program. We're very glad that Finger Lakes ReUse is doing a fine job reducing wasted resources, and gave them our 2021 Fischer Award for that work!

### Public Outreach

The CB's Communication Committee posts CB news and links conservation documents on the Town's website and CB Facebook page. 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. Our monthly meetings are open to the public and all Town residents are encouraged to attend. Comments are welcome at the start of each meeting.

