

# CAPITAL RESERVE FUND FOR NATURAL, SCENIC, AND RECREATIONAL RESOURCE PROTECTION

## Program Guidelines

Resolution Number 217 of 2005 (adopted by the Tompkins County Legislature on November 1, 2005) established the Capital Reserve Fund for Natural, Scenic, and Recreational Resource Protection. According to the Resolution,

“... the purpose of this fund is to support participation by Tompkins County in partnerships with other levels of government and private organizations to:

- protect and preserve the natural, scenic, and recreational resources found in the Agricultural Resource Focus Areas and Natural Features Focus Areas identified in the Comprehensive Plan;
- preserve and develop recreational trail corridors that cross municipal borders; and
- develop outdoor recreation facilities, within the focus areas, that are intended to serve all county residents,”

The Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan identified fourteen Natural Features Focus Areas (NFFAs) and six Agricultural Resource Focus Areas (ARFAs). As called for in the Comprehensive Plan, the Tompkins County Planning Department developed a Conservation Plan for these NFFAs

“to protect and preserve natural resources and recreational amenities in the focus areas identified in the Comprehensive Plan using tools appropriate to the functions of those resources,”

as well as for the ARFAs

“to identify the unique opportunities and critical issues facing each ARFA and to develop agricultural resource protection strategies for these areas.”

The Conservation Plan establishes the priorities for expending the Capital Reserve Fund.

### Project Eligibility

*The proposed project must meet all of the following minimum requirements:*

- The property owner is a willing participant in the project.
- The County cost will be no more than half of the total project cost.
- Another party will be responsible for property management and stewardship, except for the addition of land adjacent to a county forest.
- The project is located in a NFFA or ARFA as identified in the Tompkins County Comprehensive Plan.

### Project Priority Criteria

*The proposed project must substantially further at least one of the following objectives:*

- Substantially protects land within the 330-foot buffer of a perennial stream.
- Provides public access to Cayuga Lake.
- Protects land that is adjacent to permanently protected open space, including both natural and agricultural lands.
- Protects land on an existing or potential intermunicipal trail corridor.
- Protects a high concentration of Prime Soils or Soils of Statewide Significance.
- Protects a Distinctive or Noteworthy view as identified in the Tompkins County Scenic Resources Inventory.

### Process

Project proposals will be accepted by the Tompkins County Planning Department on an on-going basis. Projects that meet the Project Eligibility Criteria and at least one of the Project Priority Criteria will be brought to the Planning Advisory Board (PAB) for evaluation. The project will also be presented to the town, village or city in which the project is located (unless the project is sponsored by the municipality). The PAB evaluation of the project will include consideration of how the project would contribute to implementing the Conservation Plan, as well as any input provided by the local municipality. Projects that are recommended by the PAB will be brought to the relevant committee of the Tompkins County Legislature and, ultimately, to the full Legislature for approval.

7/28/2010 -- Endorsed by Planning Advisory Board

9/1/2010 – Adopted by County Legislature’s PDEQ Committee