

Eden Conservation Advisory Board
Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space Index
2001 Special Projects Award

The Eden Conservation Advisory Board is made up of nine volunteer residents of the Town of Eden and a member of the Eden Town Board. The ECAB took on the task of completing a Natural Resource Inventory and Open Space Index in February 1995 and completed the project with the assistance of professionals in October 1999.

The Natural Resource Inventory consists of relevant information on the Town's natural resources. Included is data on physical geography, geology, soils, surface and groundwater, land use, climate, vegetation and wildlife. The NRI consists of narrative data, tables and maps which describe the natural resources being inventoried. The project goal was to identify the natural resources that should be protected.

The Open Space Index consists of an Open Space Map and an Open Space Inventory. The Open Space Map identifies open areas of five acres or larger by current land use. The Open Space Inventory lists and describes these areas by location, size, land use and zoning. The project goal was to map and inventory the open land in the Town of Eden, NY as required of conservation boards by New York State Municipal Law, Article 12-F.

Both documents have been recently incorporated in the Town's new Master Plan that requires the Planning Board to consider both documents when reviewing new development. In addition, these documents form the basis for selecting property under a Conservation Easement Program.

The projects were initiated in February 1995. ECAB volunteers completed 90% of the written material. All maps were completed by professional consultants who worked either for fee or were on the payroll of other government agencies. All maps were digitalized and incorporated in the Town's Geographic Information System. The ECAB was able to complete the project for less than \$4000; the Town of Eden provided all funds.

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