



Who are we?

The Environmental Conservation Council (ECC) is a town-appointed council that advises the Town of Lloyd on the preservation, development and use of Lloyd's natural and historical resources.

ECC's mission is to ensure that as our town's residential and commercial facilities expand, its residents and visitors continue to enjoy clean air and water, biodiversity of plants and wildlife, and the scenic beauty with which our town is blessed. We believe these things redouble in importance with the town's growing reputation as a center for outdoor recreation.



Neil Curri, Paul Malarcher, Calvin Hansen (Top L to R), Kelly Oggenfuss, JoyAnn Savino (Bottom L to R) and Jonathan Kaplan, Erik Hazelton, Wesley Salis (not pictured) invite you to join ECC sponsored activities or to join the ECC.

Discover more about our town's natural heritage and scenic beauty.

Help clean up our roads, waterways, and parks.

Encourage town development that maintains the health of our land, air, water, plants and animals.



Great Blue Heron on Black Creek. Photo by K. Oggenfuss

this issue

Black Creek study **P.1**

Next-Gen Conservationists **P.2**

Composting at Springfest **P.2**

Study of Black Creek watershed could shape future conservation efforts

The Town of Lloyd has received a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Estuary Program to study the health of the Black Creek Watershed, including Chodikee Lake. The project will be carried out in partnership with the Town's Environmental Conservation Council (ECC), GEI Consultants, and the Hudson River Watershed Alliance (HRWA).

A watershed is an area of land where rain and streams drain into the same body of water. In this case, water from across the Black Creek watershed eventually flows into Black Creek and then into the Hudson River. As part of the project, the team will conduct a watershed characterization — a study that gathers and reviews existing information about water quality, wildlife habitat, land use, and environmental conditions. This helps create a clearer picture of the watershed's current health and provides a foundation for future planning and protection efforts.

Black Creek is an important natural resource for the mid-Hudson Valley. It supports local wildlife, provides recreational opportunities, and contributes to the region's environmental and economic health.

The new study builds on more than a decade of work by the ECC to remove invasive water chestnut plants from Black Creek and Chodikee Lake. It also expands on recent research conducted by PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management), and GEI Consultants' invasive species monitoring, water quality testing, and surveys of the Northern Cricket Frog.

Findings from a 2023 study showed that Chodikee Lake's aquatic plant community had low diversity, meaning fewer types of native plants were present than expected. Researchers also observed poor water clarity and harmful algae blooms, both signs of declining water quality.

The new project aims to improve understanding of the threats facing the watershed by collecting:

- Detailed information about the watershed's landscape, streams, and surrounding land uses, and how they may affect water quality
- Water chemistry data from the upper, middle, and lower sections of Black Creek, including testing for nutrients and other contaminants

The effort will coincide with the start of water quality monitoring on Chodikee Lake through the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), a volunteer lake monitoring program run by the DEC. ECC and other volunteers will conduct the monitoring in coordination with Riverkeeper and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations.

The project will help fill a major gap in information about water quality in the upper and middle sections of Black Creek, where little baseline data currently exists. The information gathered will support future conservation, recreation, and planning efforts aimed at protecting the long-term health and value of the Black Creek watershed.



Pickerel Weed flower at Chodikee Lake. Photo by K. Oggenfuss



Composting at Springfest

We truly love this event which brings the whole town together. Neighbors gather to shop local businesses, watch live demos, enjoy family-friendly activities, and connect with the volunteer organizations that help make our community special. One of the highlights every year is the incredible variety of food trucks serving delicious meals and treats. This year, we're excited to take another step toward making the event more sustainable by encouraging everyone to compost any leftover food. The bins are clearly marked for food scraps near the trash and recycling cans. These commercial bins can accept more than a typical backyard compost pile – including meat, dairy and other food scraps. Just be sure to separate leftover food waste from the plastic or paper containers before tossing it into the bin.

Many Kudos to our hardworking Lloyd Events Committee for bringing this opportunity to our community. Thanks also to JoyAnn Savino of the ECC, Greenway Environmental Services (a Clintondale composting business taking the food waste), and Casella Waste Management (providing the bins and transportation).

Next-Gen Conservationists: Youth in Highland are shaping a sustainable future

ECC member and HHS junior, Calvin Hansen, wants to see a composting program started at the high school and is excited to lead the effort. Passionate about reducing school waste, Calvin sees food scraps as an affordable and practical way to start. He has begun discussions with district officials who are open to exploring the initiative. Calvin is working with Jonathan Kaplan of Casella Waste Management to promote composting bins in the school cafeteria and have it picked up and delivered to a composting hub in Clintondale called Greenway Environmental Services. Because the Greenway facility is close by, the program is not expected to significantly increase the district's hauling cost and Casella, the only food waste hauler in the area, already goes to other local educational facilities for pickup. Greenway should be able to provide guidance to the district to avoid putting undue burden on the staff. While these plans are more concept than reality, Calvin plans to spend his senior year getting things going as a civic capstone project.

Peter Stankavage, a HHS sophomore and member of Scout Troop 70, is purchasing and installing a recycling station at Berean Park as part of his Eagle project. He raised \$5200 for the 3-bin unit and received matching donations in the form of gravel and dirt from the Lloyd Highway Department and concrete



from Custom Concrete. Not only has Peter spent the past year selling popcorn and other items to reach his financial goal, but he led his fellow scouts in leveling and prepping the site in the rain! The 3-bin recycling station will hold paper, plastic, and metal separately and will be near the bathrooms at Berean. It will be in place by the end of May and ready for the busy summer season.

These 2 are not the only civic minded youth in Highland. Gen Z kids all over town are actively working to improve their community and environment. Many other eagle projects have been completed or are in progress (benches and bike-fixing stations along the rail trail, food pantry shelving at the library). Additionally, a class at the high school, called Citizens in Action is gaining in popularity. Students spend the year working on a final capstone project that benefits the school or community. Students in the class can be eligible to earn the New York State Seal of Civic Readiness.

Meetings for the Environmental Conservation Council are open to the public and held at the Town Hall on the third Monday of the month at 5:30pm. We welcome young people to join us for guidance on an environmental project they want to start or for opportunities for community service.

Come Join the Lloyd Environmental Conservation Council!

Public Meetings held the third Monday of every month

5:30 pm at the Lloyd Town Hall

Come visit with any environmental questions, concerns or thoughts

OR stay and become a member!

Contact Chairperson Neil Curri for info – (845) 664-2100 ecc@townoflloyd.com

<https://www.townoflloyd.com/environmental-conservation-council>

And like our Facebook page for ECC updates and activities:

<https://www.facebook.com/TownOfLloydEnvironmentalConservationCouncil>