

The Town Forest

We facilitated the exchange of our former town forest in Calais(!) with woodland in Plainfield. The current town forest is 28 acres of land accessible via either Gonyeau or Maxfield roads. Both entrances have a parking lot and a kiosk with a map and trail information. A logging job in 2015 left a basic network of trails through the property, and we're working to making them more walker/skier friendly. Join us on one of our town forest walks to experience this wonderful town resource.



Town Forest

Photo credit: Daniel Marcus

Connect with Nature

- ◆ Spruce Mountain hiking trails
- ◆ Winooski River – canoe and kayaking upstream from the landing at the Co-op, swimming from the Recreation Field
- ◆ Great Brook and other waterways
- ◆ Spectacular vistas along back roads
- ◆ Mill Street Park and waterfall overlook
- ◆ Triple Point Natural Area, an unspoiled example of a cedar wetland
- ◆ Walk in the Town Forest



Photo credit: Mary Trerice

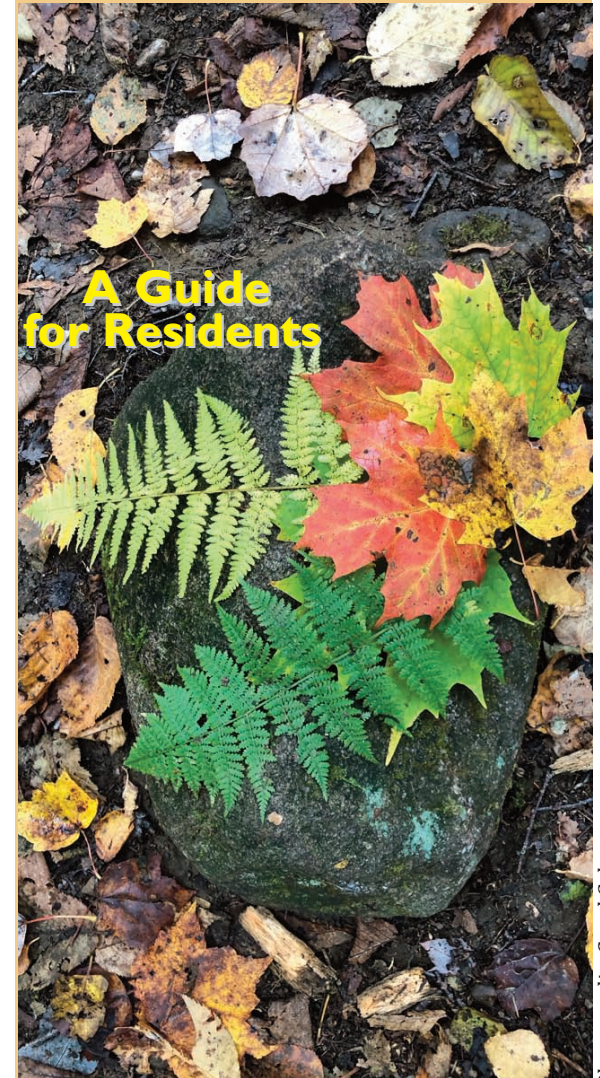
How to Get Involved

The major goal of our Conservation Commission is to foster community involvement and responsibility for our town's natural resources.

- ◆ We provide an opportunity to explore and be involved in our natural community.
- ◆ Let us know if you have an idea for a project that could benefit natural Plainfield.
- ◆ We welcome new members, but you needn't be a member to work with us on projects.
- ◆ We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 PM at the town office.
- ◆ Visit our webpage on the town website:
<https://www.plainfieldvt.us/conservation-commission.html>

March 2020

Celebrating Plainfield's Natural Resources



A Guide for Residents

Plainfield Conservation Commission
Plainfield, Vermont

Photo credit: Carol Selemon

Support Natural Resources – Mitigate Climate Emergency

- ◆ Use **native plants** around your house. Native plants, animals and insects form cooperative communities that rely on one another for survival and to compete against invasive species. Create a pollinator garden and/or enhance wet areas with native plants.
- ◆ **Control invasive species** like wild parsnip, buckthorn, purple loosestrife and shrub honeysuckle that can dominate a habitat, crowding out native species.
- ◆ **Maintain the health and resilience of our forests:** Consider wildlife habitat and the corridors that allow animals to travel throughout town and beyond. Learn about forest management practices that use **carbon storage and sequestration to combat the climate emergency.**
- ◆ Enroll your property in Vermont's **Use Value Appraisal (Current Use) program** to ensure good land management practices and lower your property taxes.
- ◆ **Prevent flooding and erosion** by maintaining vegetated buffers along streams, driveways and roads. More severe and frequent storms require vigilance to ensure our resilience.
- ◆ **Learn about Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)** and why it may *not* be a good idea to remove all the ash trees on your land.



Photo credit: Mary Trerice



Photo credit: Daniel Marcus



Photo credit: Keith Swann

Conservation Commission Projects and Activities

- ◆ **Village Street Trees:** We maintain and monitor older street trees and have planted over 50 new trees in the village.
- ◆ **Ecological Inventory of Plainfield:** A 2016 report describing natural communities of state and local significance.
- ◆ **Town Forest:** We oversee the management plan and trail development.
- ◆ **Conservation Fund:** Initiated in 2001 to help landowners conserve their land.
- ◆ **Green Up Day:** We coordinate volunteers to clean up litter along Plainfield's roads the first Saturday in May.
- ◆ **Tree and Shrub Sale:** We partner with Marshfield to benefit our commissions' projects in an annual spring tradition.
- ◆ **Rain garden** at the Mill St. Park prevents silty road run-off from entering the river.
- ◆ Host **talks and workshops** on topics such as: bears, catamounts, riparian geological history, tree pruning, EAB, composting, and land succession planning.