

## Selecting the Candidate Views

### Inventorying all the County's Views

An inventory was conducted to identify significant views that may include: a combination of land uses, varying topography, interesting composition, or elements of the cultural landscape. Views throughout the County were identified by:

Survey from Roads: A consultant, peter j smith and co., inventoried views from major roads in the City of Ithaca and all public year-round roads outside of the City;

Survey from Cayuga Lake: The consultant inventoried views from Cayuga Lake;

Survey from High-use Trails: Staff of Tompkins County Planning Department inventoried views from high-use public trails; and

Public Nominations: The public nominated favorite views that had not already been inventoried.

**A total of 593 views were evaluated and inventoried.**

### Selecting the 110 Candidate Views for Public Voting

The views presented to the public for final voting were chosen using the following methods:

1. Numerical Scoring: A formula was used to provide a numerical score to each of the 593 views. This formula was based on two factors.
  - a) During the fieldwork by peter j smith and the Tompkins County Planning Department, each view was given an overall Scenic Quality Score on a scale of 1 to 5. Views given a score of 4 or 5 in the field were weighted more heavily in recognition of the importance of the impact of the entire view when visited in the field.
  - b) On June 8, a public meeting was held where the public rated 35 different types of views. These ratings were analyzed to identify the scenic elements and the scenic compositions that were the most highly prized by the public.

The most highly valued Scenic Elements were

- water (including lakes, rivers and waterfalls),
- features (including barns and silos, houses, and other buildings), and
- landforms (including ridgelines, hills, and gorges).

The most highly valued Scenic Compositions were

- a sense of tactile texture,
- a sense of mystery, and
- the presence of a strong foreground, middle ground, and background.

To obtain a diversity of views, the highest scoring views within each of the 5 types of Scenic Character (agriculture, nature, groomed, hamlet, and urban) and within each of the 5 types of Scenic Category (panorama, overlook, distant view, enclosed, and tunnel effect) were selected.

2. Other Highly Rated Views: No formula alone can adequately measure the value of a scenic resource. Additions were made to the list of candidate views as follows. Any view that received an overall Scenic Quality Score of 4 or 5 (on a five point scale) **and** that met one or more of the following additional criteria were added:

Views nominated by a member of the public; or

Views with 360° of Scenic Exposure; or

Views known to be exceptionally valued by the community; or

Views that provided a geographic diversity.

**A total of 110 views were selected as candidates.** This represents 19% of all inventoried views.