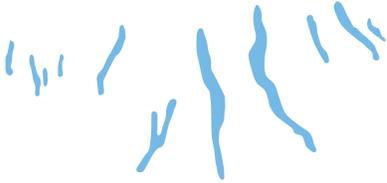


FINGER LAKES INSTITUTE



HOBART AND WILLIAM SMITH COLLEGES

The Finger Lakes Institute, in partnership with Hobart & William Smith Colleges has created a community design center that strives to provide Finger Lakes communities with innovative, creative, and sustainable design solutions that improve the built environment and quality of life, while protecting the natural environment.

About Us

Communities throughout the Finger Lakes region share similar economic, environmental, and social characteristics mainly as a result of the natural assets and history of the region. The current and future state of communities relies on improving quality of life for all citizens, being good stewards of natural resources, and fostering the responsible growth of the built environment. To support these efforts, we offer comprehensive sustainable community development planning and design services to communities throughout the Finger Lakes region.

It is our mission to:

- Raise awareness of the benefits and potential of sustainable community development and design for small towns, villages, cities and other entities;
- Encourage preservation and protection of natural resources and the built environment;
- Facilitate regional planning and collaboration among communities, businesses, non-profits, higher education institutions, and other entities;
- Foster community resilience by providing an active resource center for holistic community planning and design and disseminating our expertise nationally.

Community Benefits

Many small towns and rural areas throughout the Finger Lakes region have access to unique natural resources and historic downtowns, and have a strong desire to capitalize on and protect these amenities. However, many municipalities operate with a small staff and have minimal planning capacity. We have assembled expertise and resources from Hobart and William Smith Colleges and the Finger Lakes Institute to provide design expertise to lead communities through an empowering, illuminating, and instructive process to help develop sustainable design solutions suited to your locality. Participation in the process often leads to more than just plans for improvements to the built and natural environment - the process itself helps build capacity, establish connections, and spur long-term involvement in civic life by participants.

Get Involved & Contact Us

We are interested in working with you! Our projects can range in scale— from looking at specific buildings to considering entire neighborhoods—and always seek to value and promote local natural resources and community capacity. Please contact Cari Varner at varner@hws.edu or 315.781.4559 or Adam Maurer at maurer@hws.edu or 315.781.4380.