

Conservation Commission Environmental Stewardship Award

The Manchester Conservation Commission is pleased to announce two recipients of this year's Environmental Stewardship Award. The Award recognizes individuals or groups that have exhibited an extraordinary commitment to the protection or enhancement of the natural environment in the Town of Manchester. The Commission recognized **James E. Powell** with a lifetime achievement award for over two decades of dedication to the Hockanum River Linear Park. Jim has taken on the task of propagating native trees and shrubs to reestablish habitat along the river. He has also built, installed and maintained a network of duck boxes along the linear trail which have served as nesting locations for ducks and other birds.

Lauren Pliska, the Manchester Garden Club Youth Program Chair, was recognized for her contribution to the development of the next generation of Environmental Stewards. Lauren created and implemented a youth educational activity program called "Little Acorns to Mighty Oaks." The activity provided children ages 5 to 10 an opportunity to learn fun facts about oak trees related to growth, habitat benefits, and how to propagate acorns. The program was so successful that the Lutz Museum repeated the program at the Lutz Nature Center.

These two individuals are outstanding examples what a significant impact volunteers can have in the conservation and development of assets in a community, improving health, aesthetic and well-being for all members. There are so many ways to make a difference, how can you?



Photo on Left: (from left to right) Commission-member Frank Belknap and Awardee James E. Powell.
Photo on Right: (from left to right) Commission-member Molly Toomey and Awardee Lauren Pliska.
Photos courtesy of Jeff Feldman.