

Izaak Walton Central New York Chapter Comments on
Proposed Lakeview Amphitheater Facility at Onondaga Lake
April 30, 2014

To: David Coburn, Director
Onondaga County Office of the Environment

From: Les Monostory, V.P.
Izaak Walton League Central New York Chapter

RE: Proposed Lakeview Amphitheater Facility and Draft EIS

Our Izaak Walton CNY Chapter members asked me to submit comments on the proposed Lakeview Amphitheater Facility and the Draft EIS based on our recent Chapter meeting held on April 22, 2014. I previously attended a meeting of the Citizens Participation Working Group, and raised some potential concerns regarding the Amphitheater project. Ken Lynch suggested that I forward those concerns to your office. I have also talked with board members of the Nine Mile Creek Conservation Council, who are concerned over the potential commercialization of the western lakeshore adjacent to the Onondaga Lakeshore Trail.

I basically have two principal concerns regarding the Amphitheater project:
First – there appears to have been no examination of alternative sites or options for this proposed \$100 million project, and
Second – has anyone prepared a fiscal analysis of siting the Amphitheater by the west shore of Onondaga Lake on a former Allied industrial waste bed, as opposed to the cost of potential alternative sites within Onondaga County?

Izaak Walton Chapter members also expressed concerns over the lack of greater public input in the Amphitheater site selection process, especially for a project of this substantial cost and scope. Yes, we have an opportunity to send comments to your office on the Environmental Assessment, but the Chapter members recommend that additional public hearings be held on the Amphitheater project, similar to the public hearings associated with the Interstate 81 project in downtown Syracuse.

Chapter members also expressed concerns over potential adverse environmental impacts to wildlife along the shores and neighboring upland areas along the west shore of Onondaga Lake. One of the main attractions and benefits of the western shore is its largely natural condition that is unique in New York State and perhaps the nation for an urban lakeshore. The undeveloped western Onondaga lakeshore is one of the special features of this urban lake for many Onondaga County residents.

The proposed Lakeview Amphitheater Facility is intended to bring in concerts that will attract a largely young audience. Chapter members are concerned over a potential domino effect of the Amphitheater creating a demand for additional commercial facilities on the lake side of the New York State Fairgrounds, which currently has no such existing facilities, including bars, restaurants, etc. On the other hand, such ancillary facilities already do exist along Milton Avenue and in the Village of Solvay.

We have noticed in the draft Environmental Assessment Forms for the Amphitheater Facility that many items are marked 'TBD'. Perhaps these items are worthy of further public comments.