

Onondaga Lake Beach Feasibility Study and Design

PROJECT FACT SHEET

JUNE 2019

BACKGROUND

Onondaga Lake has experienced a remarkable recovery. An independent study confirmed that water quality in the northern portion of Onondaga Lake has met New York State swimming standards since 2010.

This tremendous milestone gives the Central New York community a chance to consider the prospect of an Onondaga Lake beach—an idea that had seemed out of reach since public swimming ceased in 1940. Many public surveys over decades have indicated the community would embrace a beach and consider it emblematic of the lake's recovery.

Onondaga County has helped to spur lake revitalization, creating opportunities for the public to enjoy the lake through a vibrant park, an extensive trail system, and most recently the St. Joseph's Healthcare Lakeview Amphitheater. Now Onondaga County is exploring the feasibility of creating a public beach at Onondaga Lake Park.

GOALS & PURPOSE

This project will determine the most practical site for a potential beach on Onondaga Lake, drawing on public input regarding the location and features that would make the beach a success. Once a suitable site is selected, the project team will develop a beach design with amenities to make it an enjoyable, appealing community asset.

When the study is complete, the Onondaga County Legislature and County Executive will decide whether or not to move forward with plans for constructing a beach, taking public input into account. This study is consistent with the historic goal of returning a clean lake to the community and revitalizing Onondaga Lake as a vital natural resource.



Willow Bay, at the northern end of Onondaga Lake, is among the sites being considered for a possible beach.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

(ESTIMATED)

- Nov. 2018 – Initial contract
- Jan. 2019 – Public meeting #1
- Mar.-Apr. 2019 – Site alternatives analysis
- Jun. 2019 – Proposed site selection; Public meeting #2
- Jul.-Oct. 2019 – Site design development
- Nov. 2019 – Public meeting #3; Final design

LEAD AGENCY

Onondaga County Office of Environment

CONSULTING TEAM

Barton & Loguidice, Anchor QEA, EcoLogic, Economic Development Strategies

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- POTENTIAL BEACH SITES
- PROJECT STUDY LIMITS

Three potential beach sites were identified within Onondaga Lake Park. These locations were determined by factors such as land use restrictions, physical constraints, and water depth.