



Onondaga Lake Beach Feasibility Study and Design

Second Public Meeting
June 26, 2019



Department
of State



J. Ryan McMahon II
County Executive



DANTER /
Economic Development
Strategies

Meeting Plan

1. Overview of the Project

Travis Glazier

2. Economic and Market Analysis

Ken Danter

3. Site Selection and Design Concepts

Keith Ewald

4. Next Steps

Travis Glazier

1. Overview of the Beach Feasibility Study and Design Project



Project Objectives

- 1. Assess current interest and utility of a beach on Onondaga Lake**
- 2. Identify the best location for a beach on Onondaga Lake**
- 3. Develop a shovel-ready design, including amenities, that would make the beach a success for the community**

Sponsor and Team

FUNDING

This project is funded through a Title 11 Environmental Protection Fund matching grant from the New York State Department of State's Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to Onondaga County

PROJECT MANAGERS

Travis Glazier, Director, Onondaga County Office of Environment

Shannon Fabiani, Environmental Policy Analyst, Onondaga County Office of Environment

CONSULTING TEAM

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



Involved Agencies

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

- Water classifications and use attainment – does water quality support contact recreation?
- Lead agency regarding change in use, with other federal, state and local partners (due to lake's history)

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Background on lake cleanup program
- Regulatory authority on future uses of the lake

NYS and County Departments of Health (DOH)

- Regulations and standards to establish a new beach
- Monitor existing beaches for compliance with standards

Opportunities for Community Input

January 2019: Survey and Public Meeting #1

March-April 2019: Site alternatives analysis

June 2019: Public Meeting #2 – Site selection and design concepts

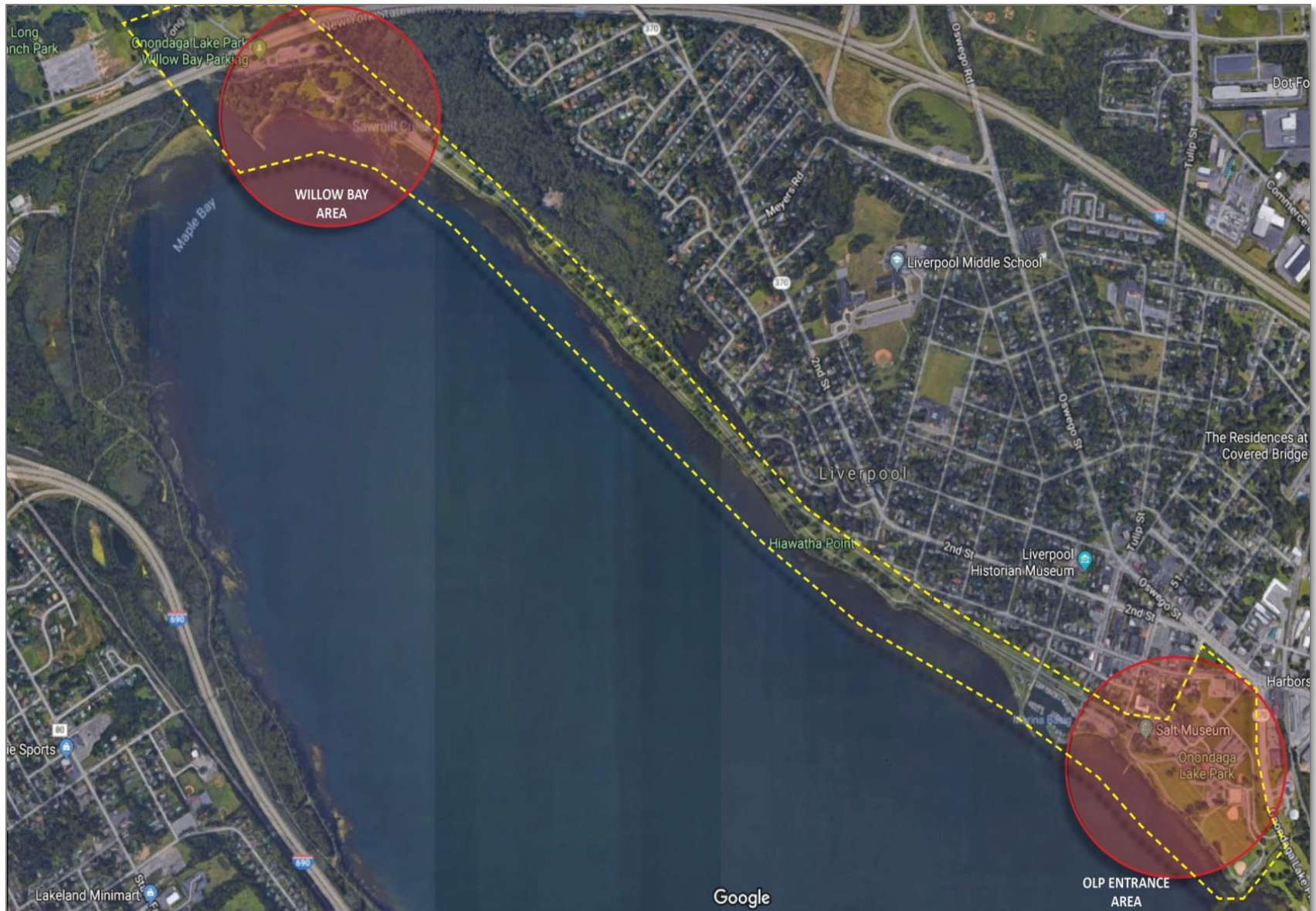
July-October 2019: Site design development

November 2019: Public Meeting #3 – Final design

Past Public Input on Reconnecting with a Restored Onondaga Lake

- Public interest in a beach has been expressed in 54 surveys and reports spanning 84 years (FOCUS on Onondaga Lake, 2012)
- Overarching themes
 - Use and enjoy Onondaga Lake
 - Keep the shoreline in public domain
- Swimming was important to a majority of respondents
- Community conversation on this topic is important

Study Area: Northeastern Shoreline



2. Economic and Market Analysis



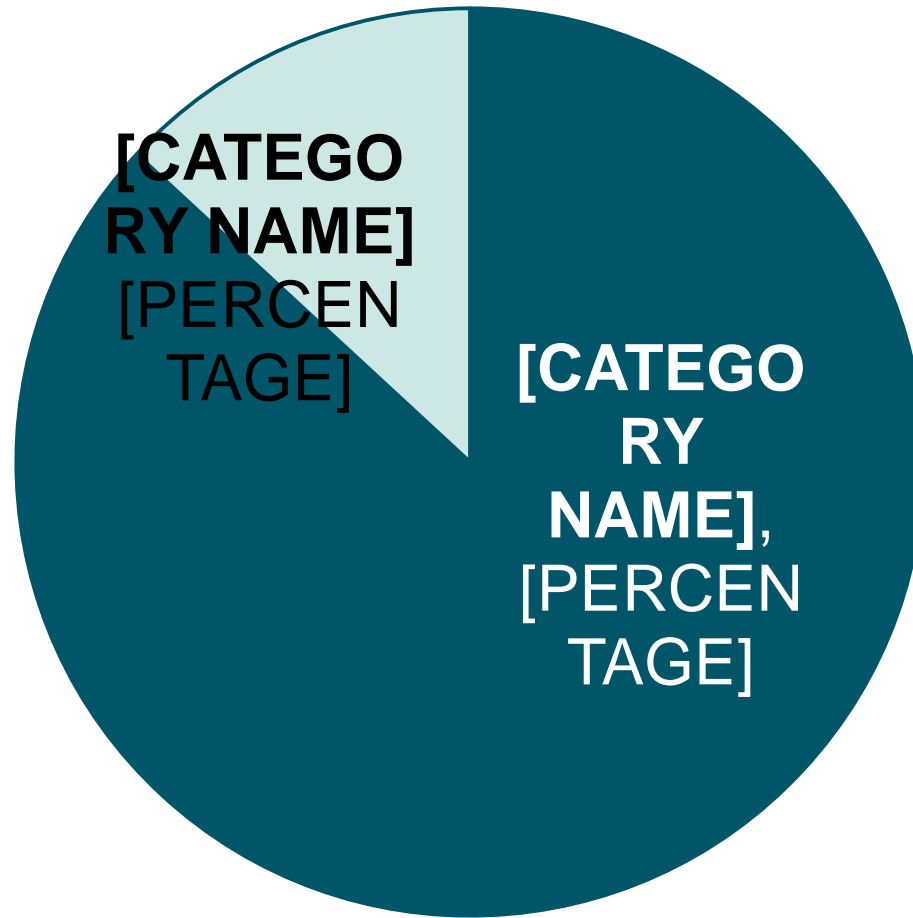
Market Research Components

- Internet survey
- Beach attendance model and projections
- Economic impact of new beach development

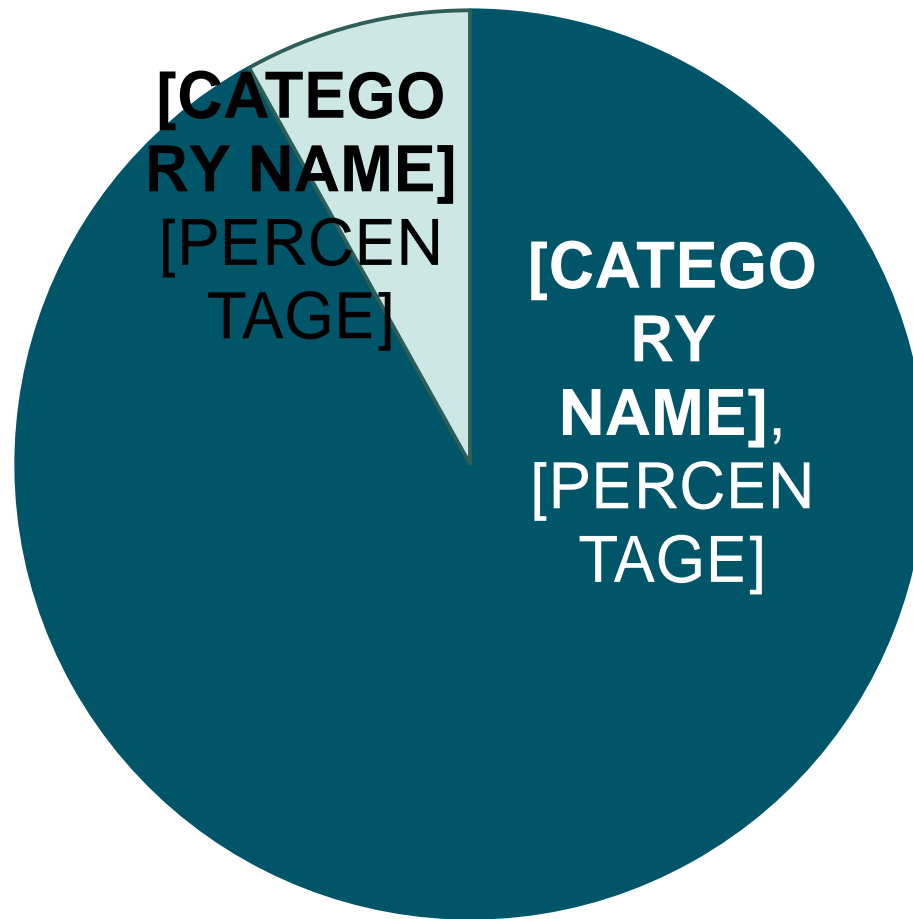
Internet Survey Summary

- Total Responses 2,119
- Average Completion Rate 91%
- Average Time to Complete 4m:2s
- Dates of Survey 1/14/19 – 1/31/19

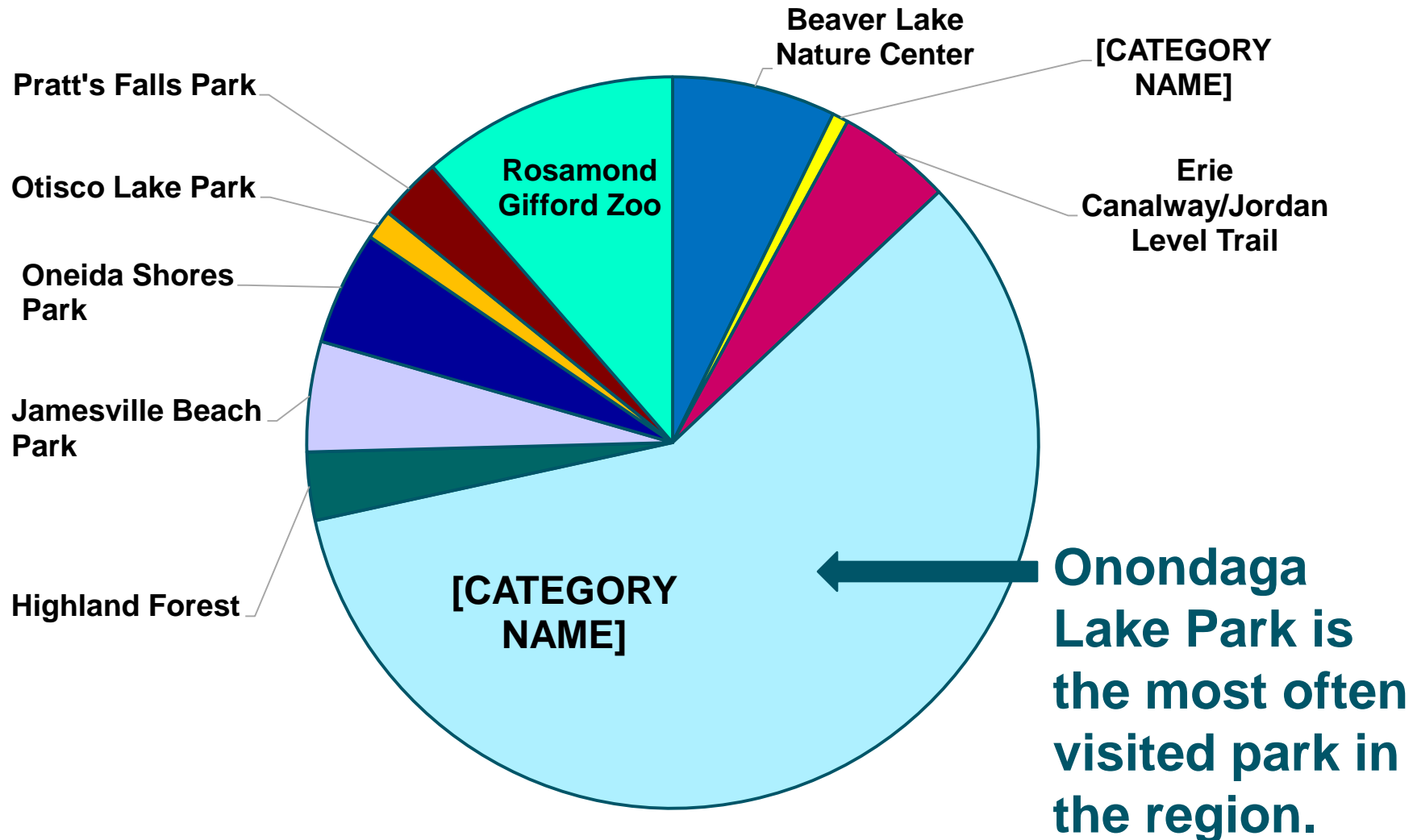
Q1: Do you live in Onondaga County?



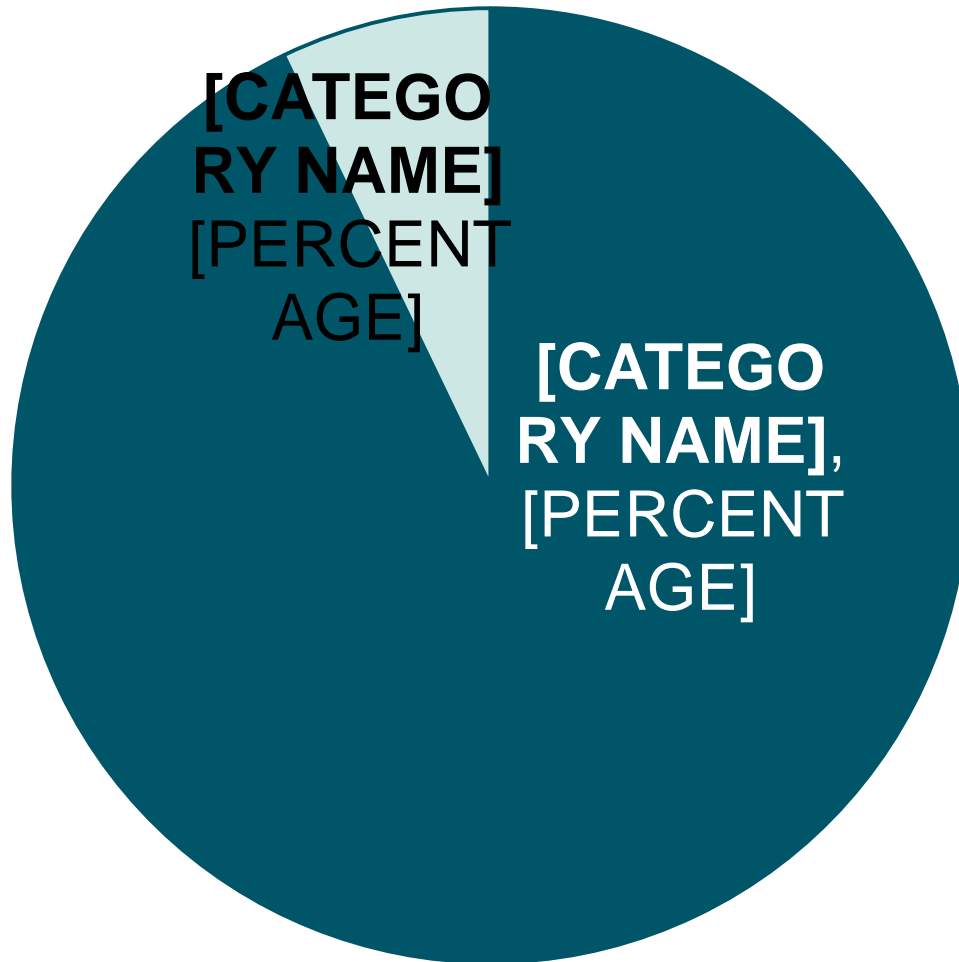
Q4: Have you visited an Onondaga County park in the past 12 months?



Q7: Which Onondaga County park do you visit most often?



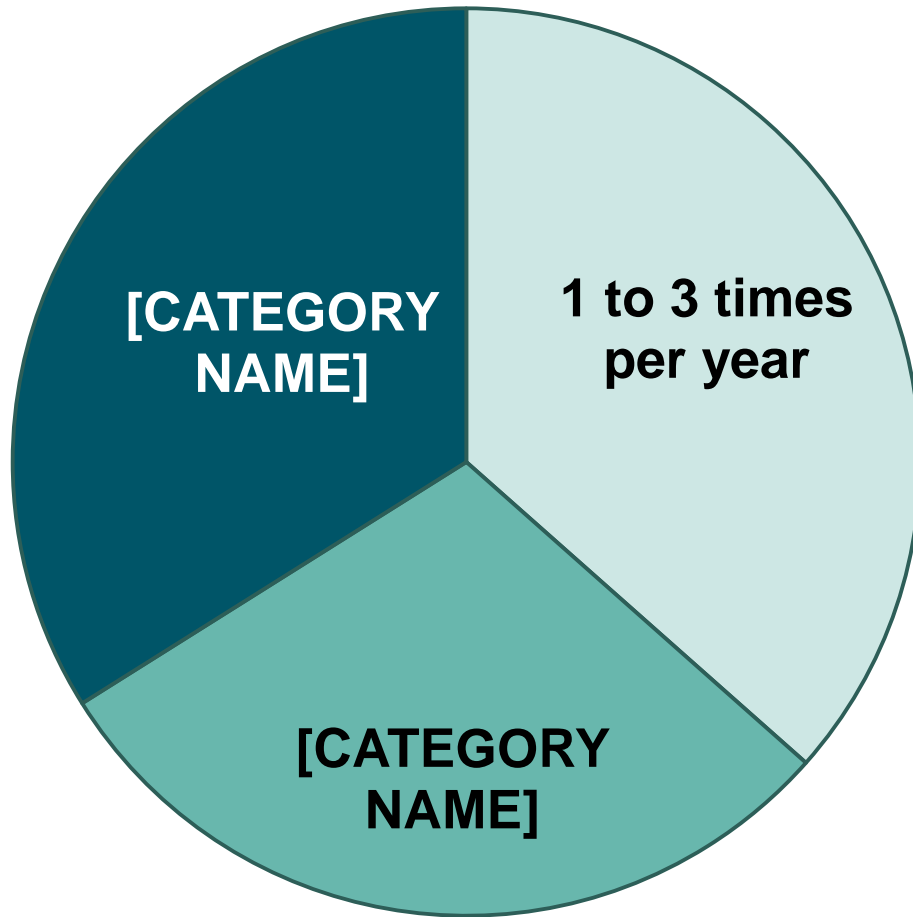
Q10: Have you visited Onondaga Lake Park in the past 12 months?



Little difference by

- gender
- household size
- age
- income

Q11: How often do you visit Onondaga Lake Park?



Median: 6.2 times / year

Visiting more often:

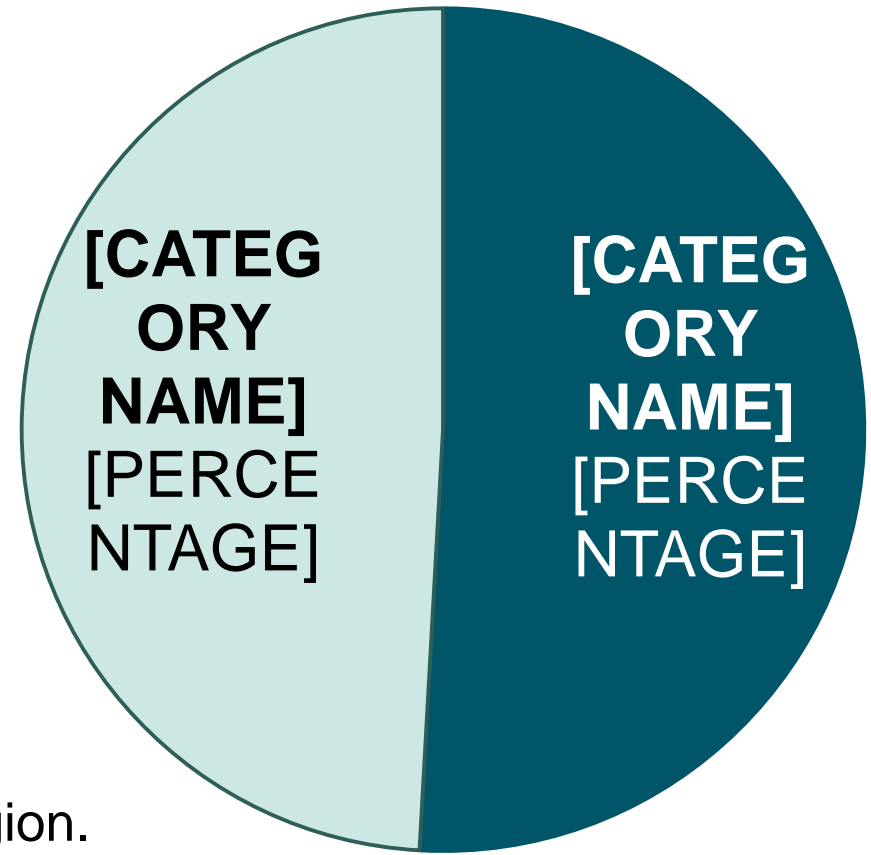
- **ages 25-74**
- **1-3 person households**
- **income under \$35,000**

Q15: Do you think there are enough beaches available for residents in Onondaga County?

Who thinks there are *not* enough beaches?

- 57% of people *under age 35*
- 52% of *females*
- 53% of people in *4-5 person households*
- 61% of visitors to Onondaga Lake Park
- Little difference by income

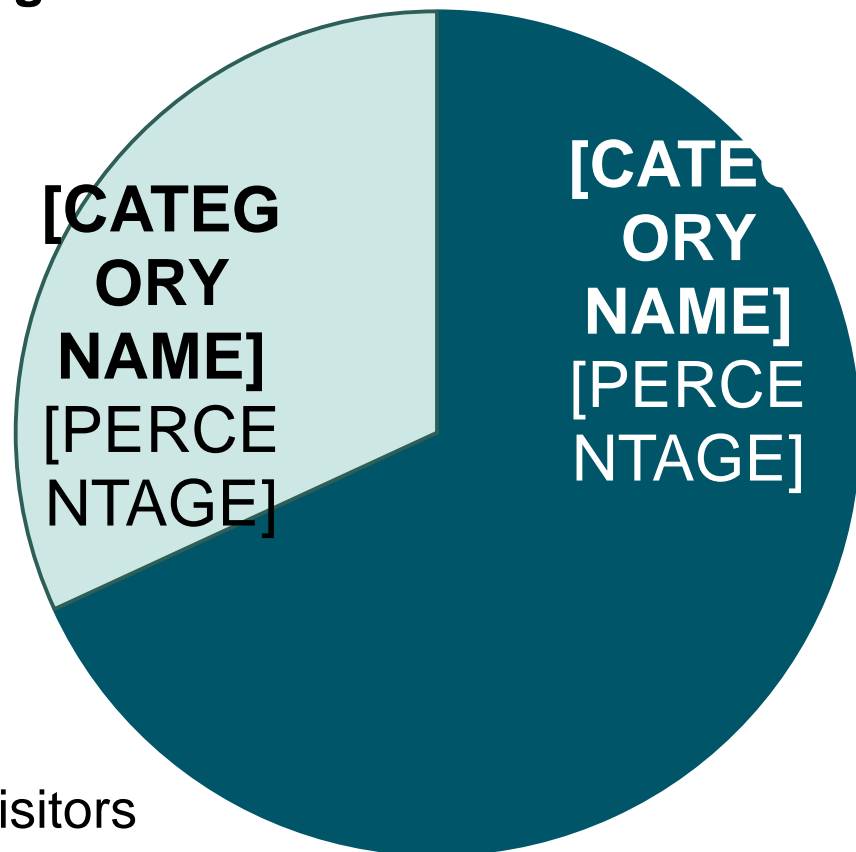
Note: 6 of 10 visit beaches in the region.



Q16: Do you visit any public beaches in the region?

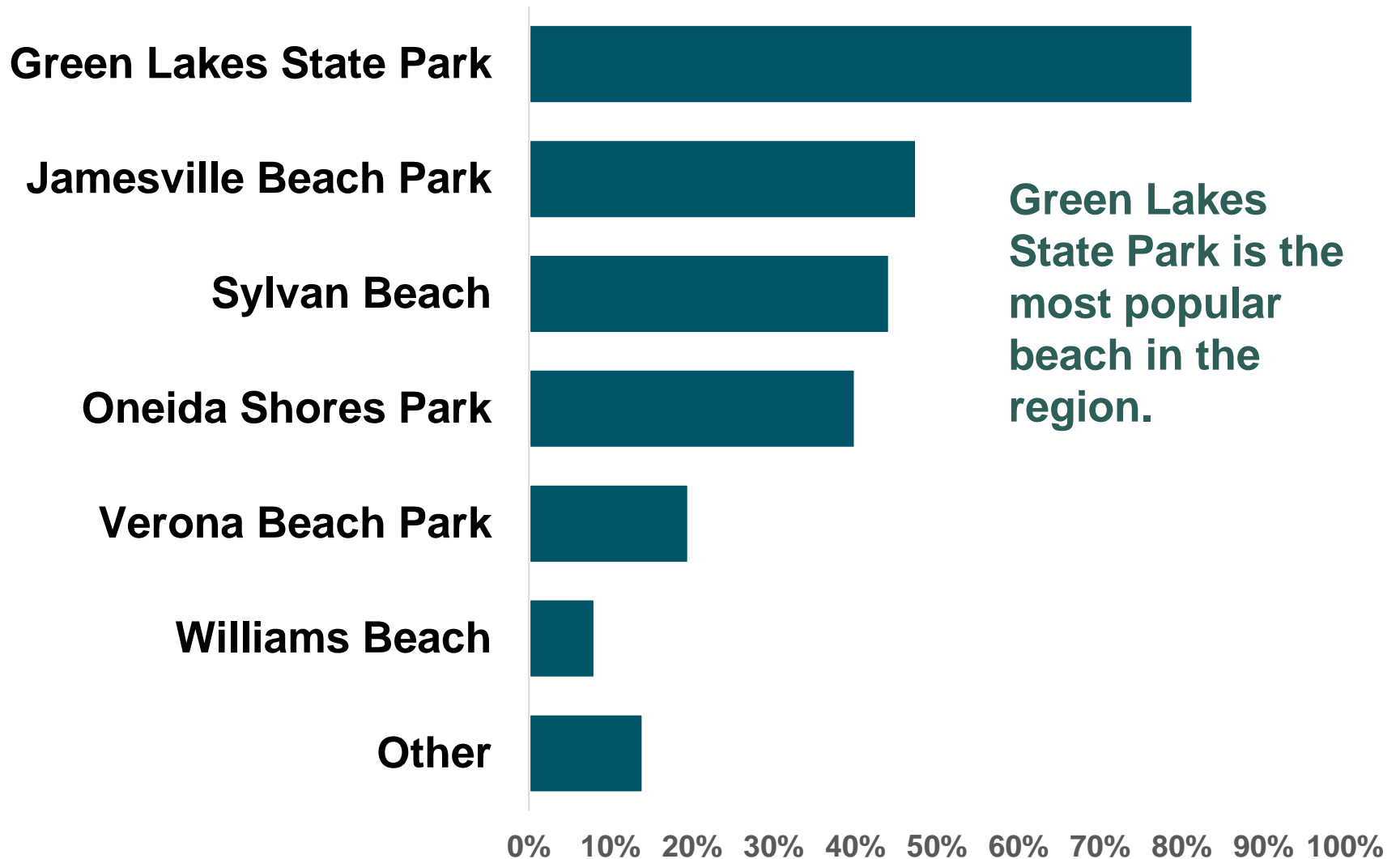
Who visits public beaches in the region?

- 76% of respondents *age 25-44*
- 73% of *females*
- 72% of respondents in *3+ person households*
- 76% of respondents with *income of \$25,000-\$34,000*



Note: 7 of 10 Onondaga Lake Park visitors also visit public beaches in the region.

Q17: Which public beaches do you visit?

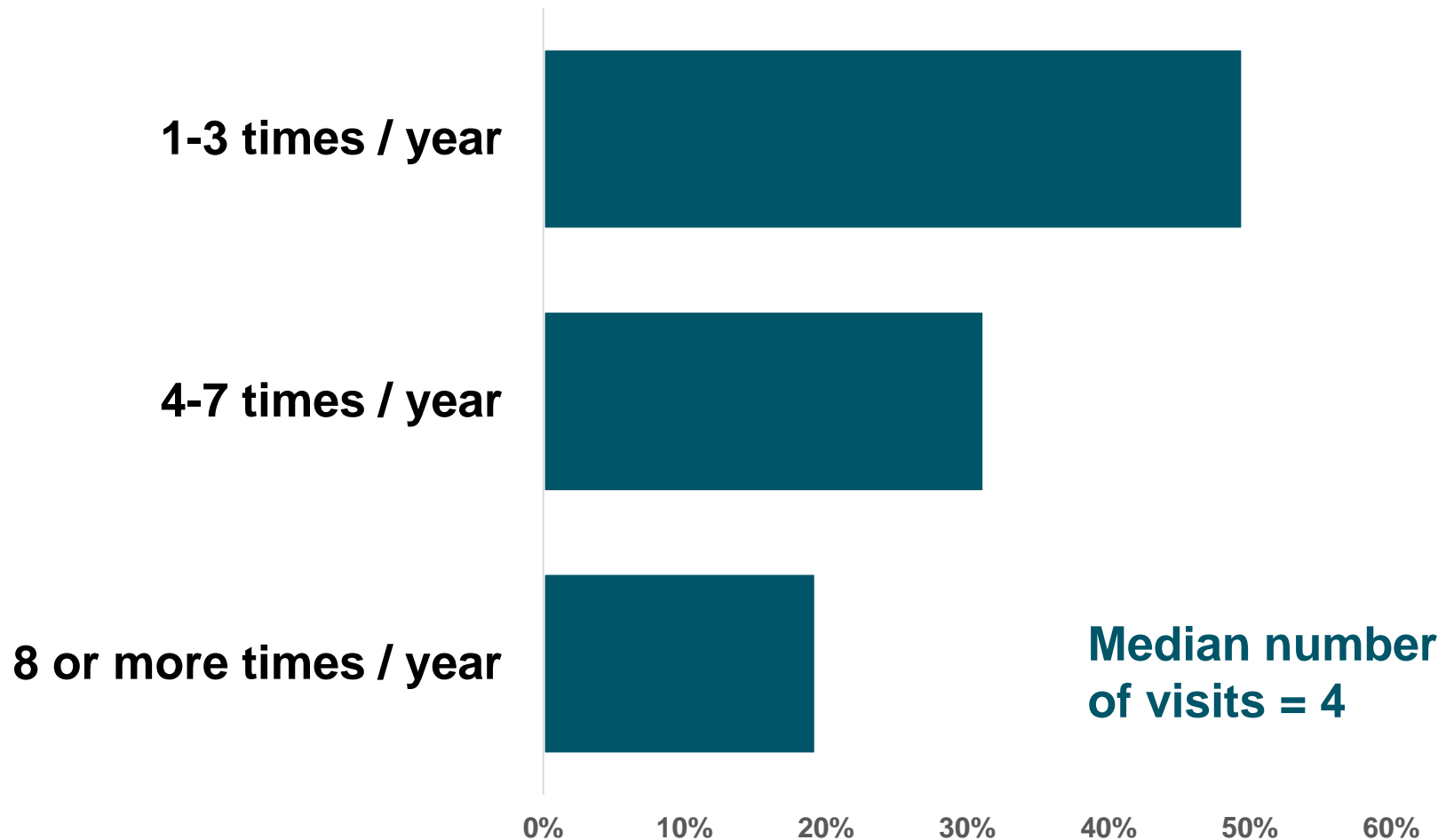


Regional Beach Comparisons

Beach	Frontage	Size (acres)	Parking
Jamesville Beach	610	1.4	400
Oneida Shores Beach	1,050	1.8	479
Sylvan Beach	4,900*	6.1	348+
Verona Beach	457	1.04	817
Williams Beach	286	0.33	70
Green Lakes Beach	996	2.5	1,108

* 125 feet supervised

Q18: How often do you visit a beach in the region?



Q19: When you visit a local beach, what do you use it for?

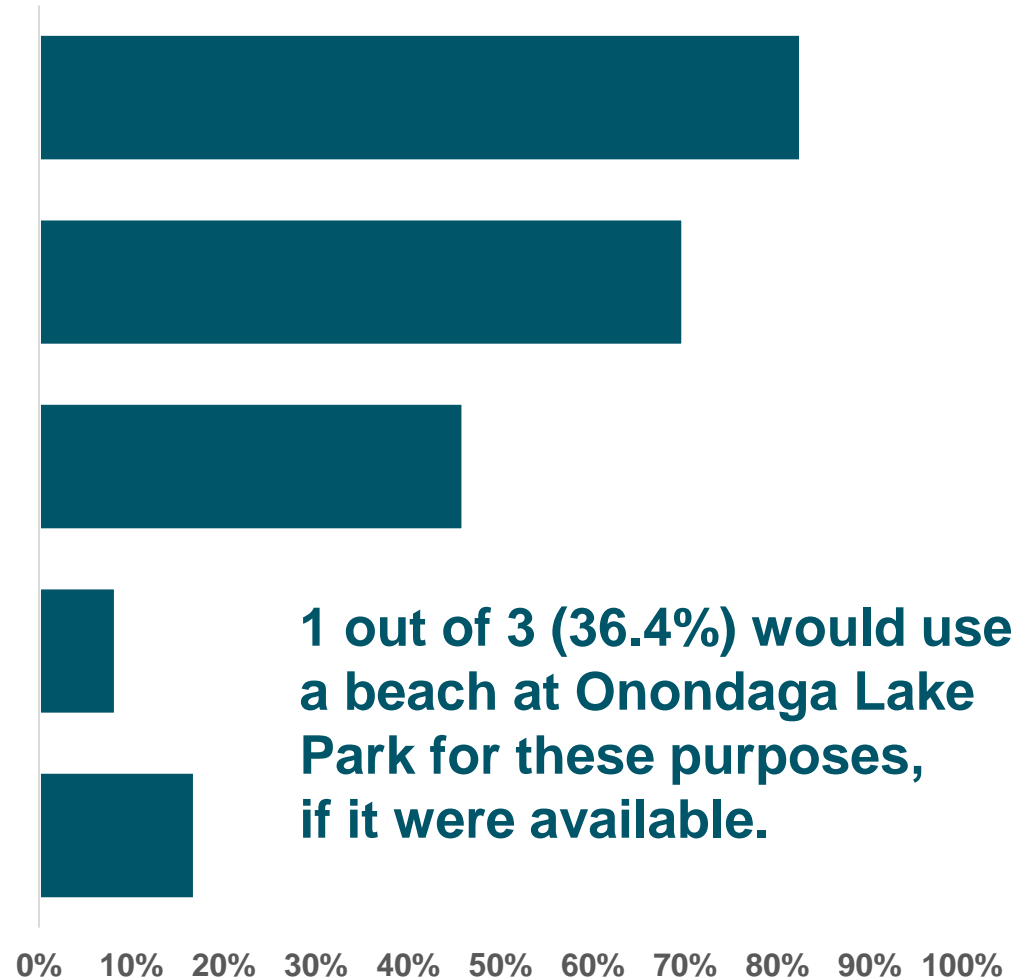
Hanging out on the beach to read, picnic, etc.

Swimming

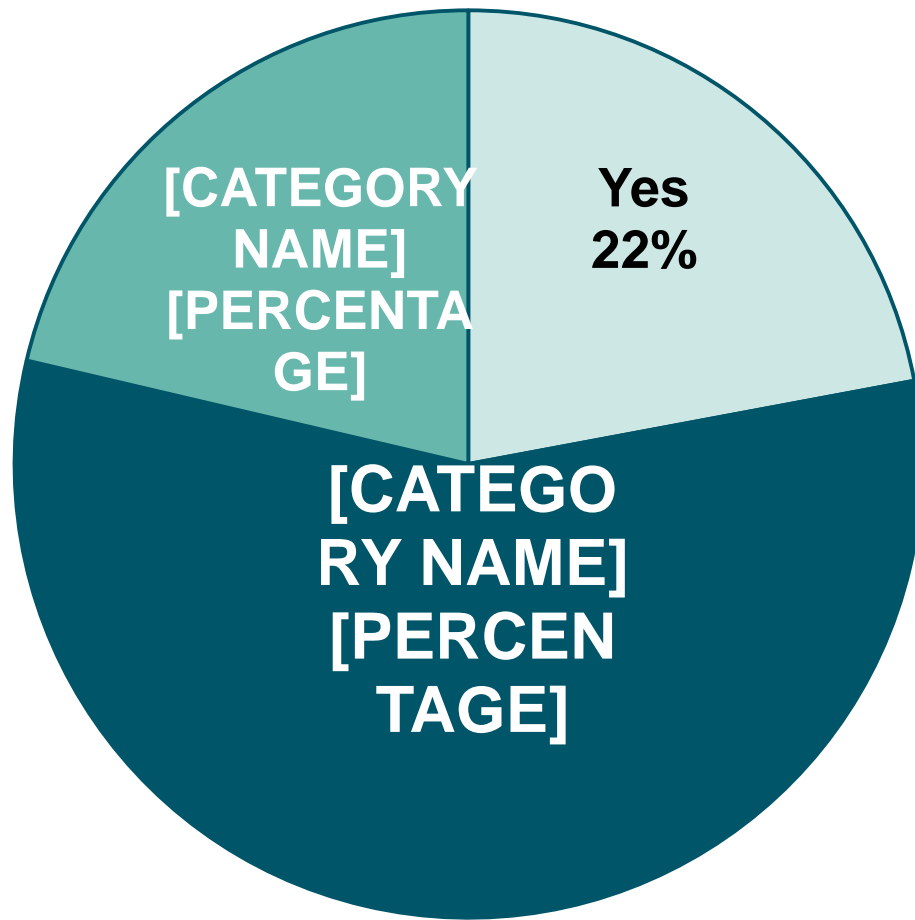
Wading

Paddle boarding

Other



Q21: Do you agree that Onondaga Lake is safe for swimming?



Who said “yes”?

- males, 28%
- age 45+, 25%
- 1 and 2 person households, 24%
- income \$75,000+, 27%

**Onondaga Lake Park visitors
also visiting public beaches in the region
who would use a beach at Onondaga Lake:**

31,800

- These represent “first time visitors.”
- Onondaga Lake Park visitors also visit beaches in the area an average of 4.3 times annually. The remaining 3.3 visits would be contingent upon providing a positive experience on the first visit.

**25% of beach visitors only use a beach
for “hanging out” or wading.**

~

**Among visitors using the beach
for “hanging out” or wading,
35% agree the lake is safe for swimming.**

~

**Among all visitors,
22% agree the lake is safe for swimming.**

3. Site Selection and Design Concepts



Table Topics: Q&A with Experts

Topic Tables:

Site Selection & Design

Parks / Operations

Swimming Safety

Market Survey Analysis



Factors Considered

- **Public health and safety**
- **Maintenance requirements**
- **Land use restrictions**
- **Transportation services and parking**
- **Infrastructure needs / Utility access**
- **Regulatory considerations**

What Would Make a Beach Successful?

- Access and parking
- Bike racks
- Mooring for boats
- Changing areas
- Showers
- Concession stand
- Shade (large trees)
- Clean sand
- Other ideas...?

Site Features: Existing and Proposed

1A BEACH AREA

Existing: Waterfront area closest to pier.
Proposed: Multi-use beach space and ADA accessible walkway along waterfront designed to accommodate activities including: picnicking, wading, swimming, etc.
Approx. Size: .66 acres

1B BEACH AREA

Existing: Waterfront area closest to bay view tent.
Proposed: Multi-use beach space and ADA accessible walkway along waterfront designed to accommodate activities including: picnicking, wading, swimming, etc.
Approx. Size: .56 acres

P PARKING LOTS

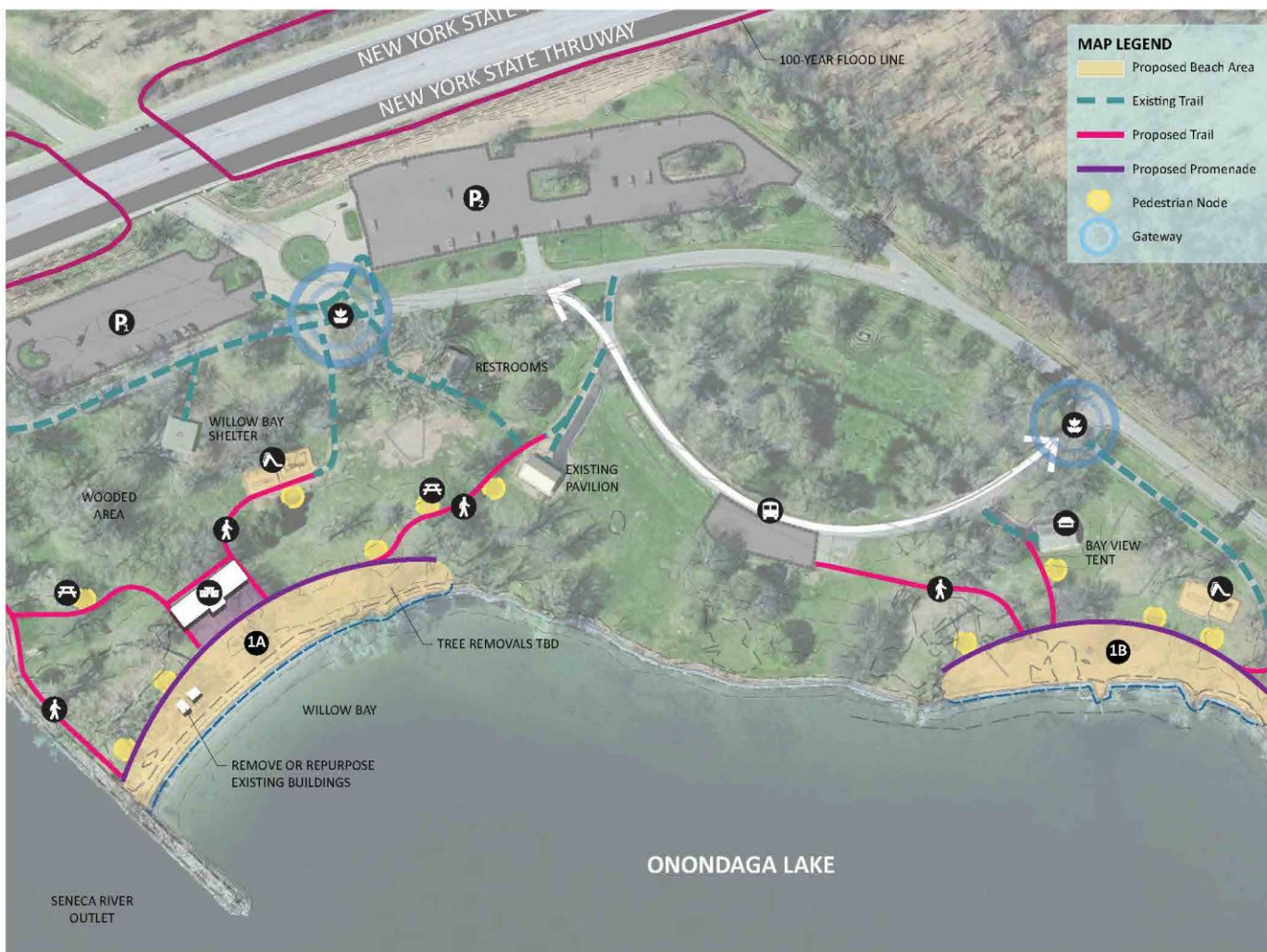
Existing: 2 large parking lots, P1 with 86 total parking stalls including 6 ADA stalls, P2 with 147 total parking stalls including 5 ADA stalls.
Proposed: Maintain, resurface, and restripe existing asphalt lots, provide planted areas / shade trees at either side.

GATEWAY

Existing: Drop-off loop with multiple trails.
Proposed: Define and enhance main entrance, install signage, and provide planting and seating area.

MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM

Existing: East Shore Recreation Trail within Onondaga Park.
Proposed: Provide new paths throughout park to link existing and new program elements.



PEDESTRIAN NODES

Existing: Picnic areas.
Proposed: Provide gathering areas adjacent to program elements and provide new site furnishings and interpretive signage elements.

ACCESS LOOP

Existing: Access loop driveway near Beach Location 1B.
Proposed: Restore / repair existing access road as needed. Resurface and stripe existing asphalt parking lot to accommodate handicap accessible spaces for Beach Location 1B.

NEW BATHHOUSE + PROMENADE

Proposed: Provide bathhouse to accommodate new program elements and park visitors, including M/W restrooms, concessions, and storage space at Beach 1A Location. Create adjacent promenade from Bathhouse along beach with ADA accessible pathway and gathering nodes.

BAY VIEW PAVILION + PROMENADE

Existing: Picnic pavilion
Proposed: Expand existing pavilion to accommodate additional facilities for Beach 1B Location, including M/W restrooms and concessions, and waterfront promenade.

PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Existing: Playgrounds
Proposed: Maintain existing playground equipment (repair and clean as required). Provide new natural play elements and new safety surface.

Site Features: Existing and Proposed

2 BEACH AREA

Existing: Waterfront area closest to pier.

Proposed: Multi-use beach space and ADA accessible walkway along waterfront designed to accommodate activities including: picnicking, wading, swimming, etc.

Approx. Size: 1.05 acres

GATEWAY

Existing: Entrance from parking lot to trail.

Proposed: Define and enhance main entrance, install signage, and provide planting and seating area.

MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM

Existing: East Shore Recreation Trail and pathways within Onondaga Park.

Proposed: Provide new paths throughout park to link existing and new program elements.

PEDESTRIAN NODES

Existing: Picnic areas.

Proposed: Provide gathering areas adjacent to program elements and provide new site furnishings and interpretive signage elements.

NEW BATHHOUSE + PROMENADE

Proposed: Provide bathhouse to accommodate new program elements and park visitors, including M/W restrooms, concessions, and storage space near the proposed beach location. Create adjacent promenade from Bathhouse along beach with ADA accessible pathway and gathering nodes.



Evaluation Matrix of Site Options

Land Use and Amenities	Willow Bay Site 1A	Willow Bay Site 1B	Bloody Brook Site 2
Adequate space to build a sand beach	●	●	●
Playgrounds nearby	●	●	●
New land based recreation opportunities (spray park, concessions, volleyball court, etc.)	●	●	●
Adjacent green areas or passive recreation space	●	●	●
Water based recreation opportunities (kayak rentals, canoeing, paddle board, etc.)	●	●	●
	10	8	7

Legend: ● = Favorable (2) ● = Moderately Favorable (1) ● = Not Favorable (0)

Evaluation Matrix of Site Options

Connectivity and Access	Willow Bay Site 1A	Willow Bay Site 1B	Bloody Brook Site 2
Accessible to vehicles	●	●	●
Sufficient parking for potential users	●	●	●
Parking in close proximity to beach area	●	●	●
Parking area conveniently accessible from outside of park	●	●	●
Parking area conveniently accessible from a major highway	●	●	●
Transit stops nearby	●	●	●
Pedestrian and bicycle connectivity	●	●	●
Walkable to nearby destinations (food, bathrooms, etc.)	●	●	●
Connection to County's loop the lake trail system	●	●	●
	16	15	14
Utilities & Support Facilities	Willow Bay Site 1A	Willow Bay Site 1B	Bloody Brook Site 2
Public water supply available	●	●	●
Sanitary sewer supply available	●	●	●
Solid waste disposal available	●	●	●
Proximity to existing restrooms	●	●	●
Picnic and shelter structures present	●	●	●
Proximity to existing shelters	●	●	●
Development of future infrastructure (i.e., changing rooms, etc.)	●	●	●
	12	11	7

Evaluation Matrix of Site Options

Upland Site Conditions	Willow Bay Site 1A	Willow Bay Site 1B	Bloody Brook Site 2
Well drained site	●	●	●
Favorable wind conditions	●	●	●
Site free of constraints by wetlands or floodplains	●	●	●
Site free of constraints by historic and cultural resources	●	●	●
Site free of constraints by endangered species and habitats	●	●	●
	8	8	6
In-Water Site Conditions	Willow Bay Site 1A	Willow Bay Site 1B	Bloody Brook Site 2
Water quality	●	●	●
Bathymetry and water depth	●	●	●
Wave energy	●	●	●
Shoreline transition	●	●	●
Boat accessibility	●	●	●
Submerged Plants / Macrophytes	●	●	●
	10	7	4
TOTAL	56	49	38



PROVIDE PUBLIC ART
ELEMENT OR SIGNAGE

REDESIGN / RESTRIPE
EXISTING PARKING LOT

REDESIGN / RESTRIPE
EXISTING PARKING LOT

CREATE
GATEWAY

EXISTING
RESTROOMS

OPEN GREEN SPACE
POTENTIAL INFORMAL
MULTI-SPORT AREA

NEW PLAYGROUND
W/ NATURE PLAY
ELEMENTS

FOOD-TRUCK
PARKING & LOOP

OPEN WATERFRONT
PICNIC SPACE &
OUTLOOK

EXISTING
PAVILION

EXISTING
PLAYGROUND

PICNIC
AREA

GREEN SPACE
& PICNIC LOOP

EXISTING
PLAYGROUND

PROVIDE INTERPRETIVE
SIGNAGE

MULTI-USE
GREEN SPACE
FOR LARGE EVENTS

BATHHOUSE

POTENTIAL BEACH
LOCATION (~1 ACRE)

PROVIDE INTERPRETIVE
SIGNAGE

PROVIDE INTERPRETIVE
SIGNAGE

Concept Plan

BEACH FEASIBILITY STUDY CONCEPT PLAN RENDERING



Concept Rendering

ONONDAGA  LAKE

BEACH FEASIBILITY STUDY

CONCEPT RENDERING A



Concept Rendering

ONONDAGA  LAKE

BEACH FEASIBILITY STUDY
CONCEPT RENDERING B



Concept Rendering

ONONDAGA  LAKE

BEACH FEASIBILITY STUDY



What's Next?

- **Draft feasibility report will be released – Summer 2019**
- **Shovel-ready design and contract documents will be prepared**
- **Costs to develop a beach with amenities will be known**
- **Third public meeting (late 2019) will unveil final designs**
- **Change of use determination (NYSDEC, NYSDOH, EPA, Army Corps) will proceed**
- **If there is public support, County may seek funding**

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