

April 2017

## Draft Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan Potential Projects

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation are considering a series of projects to restore and protect wildlife habitat and water quality and increase recreational opportunities at Onondaga Lake. Project highlights include connecting the Erie Canal Trail from Camillus to Onondaga Lake, extending the Loop-the-Lake trail, creating 100 acres of native grassland habitat, providing increased access for fishing and recreation, and preserving wetlands, restoring habitat, and conserving more than 1,400 acres within the Onondaga Lake watershed.

### Erie Canal Trail Project

- New trail connecting Old Erie Canal Trail to existing County Trail
- Gere Lock preserved as historic site
- Public parking area for additional access
- Increased guarding on railings on State Fair pedestrian bridges over I-690

### Southwest Shore Recreation Trail Project

- New asphalt trail extension of West Shore Recreation Trail from near Onondaga Lake Visitors Center to Harbor Brook area
- Fencing installed along certain portions of trail that have a steep bank near water
- Bench seating installed along trail

### Deep Water Fishing Pier Project

- Floating fishing pier installed to give anglers deep water access along southwestern shore
- Connection from fishing pier to Southwest Shoreline Recreation Trail
- Annual installation of pier in early spring and removal in late fall

### Southwest Shore Angler Access Project

- Improved fishing access along shoreline between Onondaga Lake Visitors Center and Harbor Brook, directly accessible from Southwest Shore Recreation Trail
- Access to give anglers exposure to deep, moderate, and shallow water depths
- New parking area to be created

### Visitors Center Transfer Project

- Onondaga Lake Visitors Center Transfer
- Picnic area added to lawn area north and east of Visitors Center
- Potable water connection installed from County's West Side Pump Station to Visitors Center
- Cold water rinse station to assist in invasive species control efforts

### Nine Mile Creek and Hudson Farms Fishing Access Project

- Public fishing rights for recreational anglers along streambank, implemented on lands adjacent to Nine Mile Creek
- New parking area near intersection of Armstrong and Airport roads
- Canoe launch at Pumphouse Road parking area reopened or moved to new location for public use



Erie Canal Trail Project

### Nine Mile Creek Corridor Ecological Enhancement

- Conservation of 100 acres of habitat
- Floodplain forest enhancements including invasive species control and native plant establishment and protection
- Five acres of wetland enhancements including invasive species control and native plant establishment

### Hudson Farms Ecological Enhancement

- Conservation of 117 acres of habitat
- Forest habitat enhancement including invasive species control and native plant establishment and protection
- Wetland habitat enhancements including invasive species control and native plant establishment
- Establishment of vernal pools



Nine Mile Creek and Hudson Farms Fishing Access Project

**Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment:**

<https://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/ec/onondaga.htm>

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Southwest Shore Projects

**Native Grasslands Restoration Project**

- 100 acres of native grassland bird habitat
- Establishment of native grassland plants

**Maple Bay In-Lake Habitat Enhancement**

- In-lake habitat enhancements, shallow water habitat, and shoreline invasive species control
- Wetlands restored to allow for fish spawning
- Wild rice and floating aquatic vegetation introduced in shallow water
- Native floating aquatic species installed in calmer protected areas
- Structure enhancements include placement of woody structures, large rocks, and gravel reefs

**Maple Bay Onshore Habitat Enhancement Project**

- Wetlands enhanced through control of invasive species and establishment of native plants including native wetland plants and cover crop
- Habitat conservation
- Vernal pool creation

**Northwest Shoreline Onshore Enhancement Project**

- Habitat conservation including wetlands and uplands
- Wetland enhancements including invasive species control and establishment of native plants
- Establishment of vernal pools

**Outlet Jetty Enhancement Project**

- Improvements to existing Onondaga Lake outlet jetties to enhance recreational opportunities for anglers and pedestrians
- Gaps in west and east jetties filled with stone and gravel material
- Paved walking path provides access to west jetty from County Bike Trail
- Deck with railings constructed atop portion of east jetty that is located entirely in lake
- Ramp with railings installed to provide access from pedestrian walkway to adjacent lawn area in Onondaga Lake Park
- Walking path installed to connect east jetty to County Park parking lot



Boat Launch Project

**Boat Launch Project**

- Development of property for use as a public boat launch and parking area
- Concrete double boat ramp, floating boat dock, and ADA-compliant platform installed
- Property transferred to New York State upon completion

**In-Lake Habitat Creation**

- Fish habitat structures installed on acres of the lake bottom

**Wetland Conservation**

- Conservation of wetlands in the Onondaga Lake area, location to be determined

**Invasive Species Control and Habitat Preservation**

- Fund for restoration projects established to control invasive and pest species in Onondaga Lake watershed

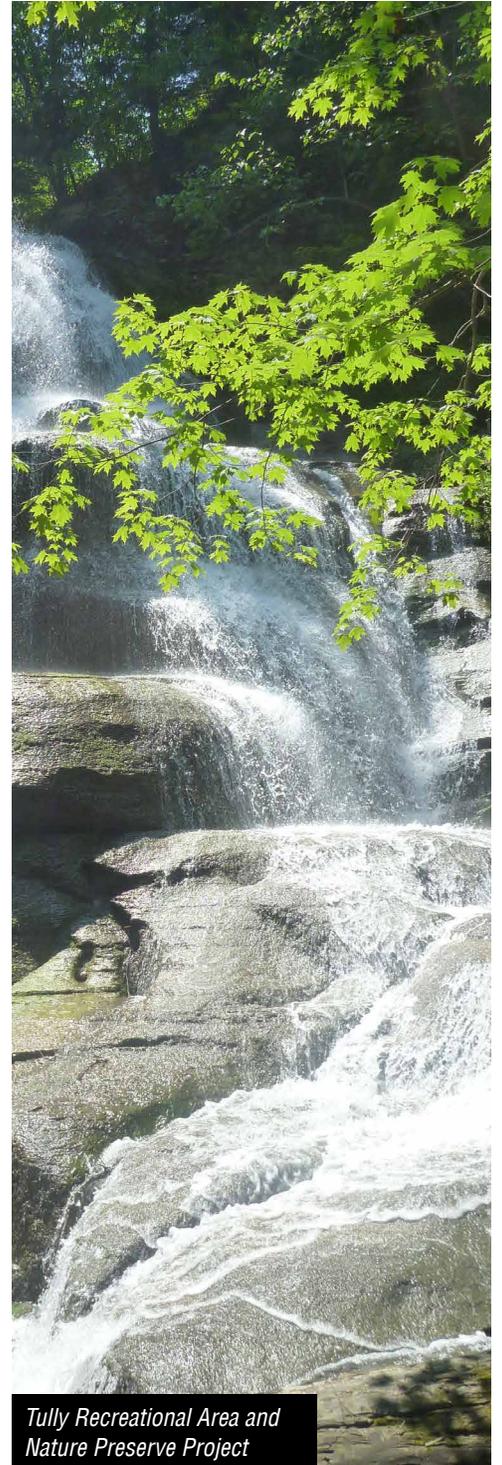
**Tully Recreational Area and Nature Preserve Project**

- Hundreds of acres established as recreational area and nature preserve including forest and successional fields and wetlands and floodplains
- Conservation easement to ensure designated wetland and forested areas remain conserved and undeveloped in perpetuity
- Streambank enhancements include planting of native species and trees
- Public fishing allowed along all streams and tributaries
- New parking areas created to provide access to streams and trails

**Public Fishing Access Project**

- Funding provided for public fishing rights along streambanks
- Additional public parking area for anglers for minimum of eight cars

**Future Project Fund**



Tully Recreational Area and Nature Preserve Project

