

Onondaga Lake Watershed Progress Assessment and Action Strategies

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Produced by:

Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board
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With support from the **Onondaga Lake Partnership**

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Cover photo sources: background - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, top inset - Onondaga Lake Partnership, bottom inset - Patti Rusczyk, Onondaga Lake Partnership 2004 photo contest (2nd place, adult flora and fauna category)



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Buffalo District



Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board



Statement of Purpose

The Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP) was formed to promote cooperation among government agencies and other parties involved in managing the environmental issues related to the rehabilitation of Onondaga Lake. The OLP is comprised of Federal, State, and local governments and not-for-profit representatives with a vested interest in the rehabilitation of Onondaga Lake. The six principal members of the OLP include:

- United States Army Corps of Engineers
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Office of the New York State Attorney General
- Onondaga County
- City of Syracuse

The Onondaga Lake Watershed Progress Assessment and Action Strategies (OLWPAAS) report summarizes the history, degradation, and recovery of Onondaga Lake. The report provides an assessment of the OLP's progress toward achieving the objectives outlined in the 1993 "Onondaga Lake: A Plan for Action", also known as the Onondaga Lake Management Plan (OLMP). The report recommends specific action strategies and identifies remaining actions to be taken by the OLP to complete the rehabilitation of Onondaga Lake in accordance with the OLMP. These recommendations were developed based on the OLMP progress assessment, and with consideration of new information and technologies available since the writing of the OLMP. Where possible and appropriate, potentially responsible parties are identified for completing planned restoration activities in the lake and its watershed. The action strategies are organized in eight Strategic Areas that address different aspects of lake rehabilitation. More information on the identification and intended purpose of the action strategies can be found in the introduction to Chapter 3.

In addition to the OLP, there are many agencies, organizations, schools, and individuals that are taking an active role in the recovery of Onondaga Lake. While this document does not attempt to provide an account of all of these efforts, the OLP acknowledges that such initiatives also play an important role in the rehabilitation of the lake.

This report was reviewed by the individual members of the Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP) and approved for release to the public for purposes of providing general overview information. Approval for release does not signify adoption or approval for purposes of regulatory, enforcement or other legal actions, of the factual, scientific or other assertions, characterizations or conclusions contained herein.