



# News Release

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## **Onondaga Lake Partnership seeks public input on habitat restoration**

Syracuse, N.Y. – The Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP) will conduct an interactive information meeting to seek public input concerning the development of a comprehensive habitat restoration strategic plan covering the entire 248-square mile Onondaga Lake watershed. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at the LeMoyne Manor, 629 Old Liverpool Road. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is managing the project on behalf of the Onondaga Lake Partnership.

Development of the habitat restoration plan will address every type of habitat that naturally occurs in the watershed and prioritize which habitats are most needed in specific subwatershed locations. A summary of established baseline habitat conditions and existing data will be presented. Public input is needed to comment on draft recommend goals and objectives for the future habitat restoration, which will be finalized

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by a Habitat Restoration Team. That team includes representatives from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Onondaga County Health Department, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection, Onondaga and Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Cornell University and the Corps, in addition to members of the delivery team, led by Parsons Engineering, the Corps' contractor for the project.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Onondaga County are jointly sponsoring the development of the comprehensive habitat restoration plan for the Onondaga Lake watershed, at a total cost of \$262,700. An additional \$10,000 for coordination and reporting requirements is 100% federally funded. It is one of many projects currently under way by the Onondaga Lake Partnership, a consortium of federal, state and local agencies and other interested parties working together to restore and enhance Onondaga Lake and its watershed. A second public involvement meeting is tentatively planned for spring 2004, and it is anticipated that a final plan will be completed in June 2004.

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