



# News Release

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## ADDITIONAL ONONDAGA CREEK COMMUNITY FORUMS SCHEDULED

SYRACUSE, N.Y -- (6/2/06) – Due to overwhelming public interest, the Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP) has scheduled three more community forums to discuss visions for Onondaga Creek. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at Clary Middle School; the second on Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at Southwest Community Center; and the third on Thursday, July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Onondaga Nation School. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. to afford attendees time to view maps and other displays. The forums will begin promptly at 7 p.m.

Attendees will be given a short presentation about the Onondaga Creek Revitalization Plan (OCRCP) project. They will then be asked to introduce themselves and share their dreams and concerns for Onondaga Creek. A variety of opinion gathering methods will be used. The information will be compiled and released in a summary report in fall 2006. The summary report will be included with technical reports to create the OCRCP, due to be released in the summer of 2007. The goal is to develop a community-based revitalization plan for the Onondaga Creek watershed which will serve as a guide for future development, water quality, and habitat improvements that can enhance social, environmental, and economic conditions along Onondaga Creek.

The OLP sponsors the OCRCP project with funds from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The OLP may choose to incorporate the OCRCP into the overall management plan for Onondaga Lake. Visit [www.onlakepartners.org](http://www.onlakepartners.org) for more information on the OLP.

Onondaga Creek is important because its watershed, the area from which all rainfall flows eventually to the creek, covers approximately 111 square miles of Onondaga County, and accounts for 35 percent of the water flowing into Onondaga Lake. It connects diverse communities and habitats as it flows 27 miles from the hills of Tully, through the heart of Syracuse, to Onondaga Lake, passing through forests, farms, the Onondaga Nation, suburbs, city neighborhoods, businesses, museums, highways, and parks. The most knowledgeable and best acquainted people with Onondaga Creek are those people who live, work, or play in the Creek's watershed, and the OCRCP project needs to hear from them!

For more information, call the Onondaga Environmental Institute at 315-472-2150 extension 25, or visit [www.esf.edu/onondagacreek](http://www.esf.edu/onondagacreek).