



NEWS RELEASE



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ONONDAGA CREEK GOVERNMENT WORKSHOP: JUNE 14, 2007

Syracuse — June 14, 2007- On Thursday, June 14th, 28 representatives from the local, regional, state, and Federal government offices gathered in the Syracuse University Warehouse overlooking the creek to learn how a revitalized creek can benefit a community. Staff from the Onondaga Environmental Institute (OEI) briefed them on ideas that community members have contributed to the Onondaga Creek Revitalization Plan (OCRP) project over the past year, and encouraged them to discuss the roles that their organizations and agencies can play in realizing those goals.

Sponsored by the Onondaga Lake Partnership with funding provided by Congressman James T. Walsh through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the goal of the OCRP project is to develop a community-based revitalization plan for the Onondaga Creek watershed. Over the last year, stakeholders and community members have contributed their goals and concerns for the future of Onondaga Creek through a series of community meetings. These ideas are being integrated into a draft revitalization plan for Onondaga Creek created by the Onondaga Creek Working Group. The Working Group will base the Onondaga Creek Revitalization plan on their firsthand experience and technical documents, as well as the community input.

Thursday's meeting allowed government employees to hear the community's wishes and begin to build the bridges across organizations that will bring those goals to fruition. OEI president, Edward Michalenko summed it up stating, "One of the best outcomes of today's meeting is that individuals from various agencies and organizations see how the function of their organization fits into a project like creek revitalization."

The Onondaga Creek Revitalization Plan will provide a big picture guide for linking current, fragmented projects which revolve around Onondaga Creek. It is expected to be completed by fall, and will be released to the public for comment thereafter.

For additional information, please contact the Onondaga Environmental Institute at 315-472-2150 x22, or by email at mperreault@oei2.org. You can also visit the project's website at www.esf.edu/onondagacreek/.

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