onondaga lake cleanup





Dredging of Onondaga Lake a year ahead of schedule

In 2014, Honeywell completed the dredging of Onondaga Lake under the supervision of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, a year ahead of schedule. Dredging activities began in July 2012. About 2.2 million cubic yards of material was removed from the bottom of the lake using hydraulic dredges that reduced truck traffic, emissions, and noise. The early completion of dredging is a result of focused execution of a carefully designed project plan. Capping and habitat restoration are scheduled to be finished in 2016. Restoration of Geddes Brook was completed in 2012 and Nine Mile Creek in October 2014. The water is cleaner, wildlife is returning, and the community is invested in the future use and stewardship of the lake and its watershed.



I'm hoping people will realize a tremendous asset is being returned as a result of the work Honeywell has done.

Native plants underwater growth & fish spawning

An isolation cap is being placed over shallow water portions of the lake bottom to seal in any remaining contamination. The cap, which is primarily sand and stone, provides a new clean lake bottom and a new habitat layer. During the summer months, liquid nitrate is being added to the deep water to inhibit methylmercury production in lake water, which will help reduce levels of mercury in fish. Nearly 250,000 native plants plus fish structures, such as porcupine cribs, will help support underwater vegetation growth and fish spawning. The isolation cap will cover 425 acres of the lake. Contaminants in the deep water portions of the lake are being addressed by thin-layer capping, nitrate addition, and natural recovery.

▼ Completing dredging activities Eighty-five percent of the labor for the project came from Central New York. This is a model for other projects that we have to do here in Central New York. William B. Magnarelli, New York State Assembly Member The transformation of this lake, the water quality changes, are nothing short of amazing. Charles Driscoll, Ph. D., Distinguished Professor of ystems Engineering yracuse University

Wildlife

to restored wetlands

More than 110 species of fish, birds, and mammals

have returned to restored wetlands and nearby areas in the Onondaga Lake watershed, including mink, beaver, wild turkey, bald eagles, northern pike, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, snapping turtles, pied-billed grebe, great heron, osprey, brown trout, and sunfish. Honeywell is improving wetlands and planting about 1.1 million plants, shrubs, and trees to enhance habitat for fish and wildlife. To date, 44 acres of wetlands have been restored at Geddes Brook, Harbor Brook, Nine Mile Creek, and the former LCP Chemicals site, and along Onondaga Lake's western shoreline. More than 300,000 native plants have been planted. The habitat restoration work along the western shoreline is visible to community members walking along the county's Onondaga Lake west shore trail extension.

Several recommendations by environmental organizations that formed the Habitat Community Working Group, a group that was created by Honeywell



and DEC, were incorporated into the habitat plans. These recommendations included bird nesting and foraging, fish habitat for spawning and nurseries, deep water fishing, fishing access, and native species.

Community volunteers preserve and Onondaga Lake

The Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps seeks to inspire future stewards of Onondaga Lake and its watershed through a hands-on, experience-based program that offers citizens and organizations the

Onondaga Lake

opportunity to participate in activities that help restore and sustain Onondaga Lake and its value as an Important Bird Area.

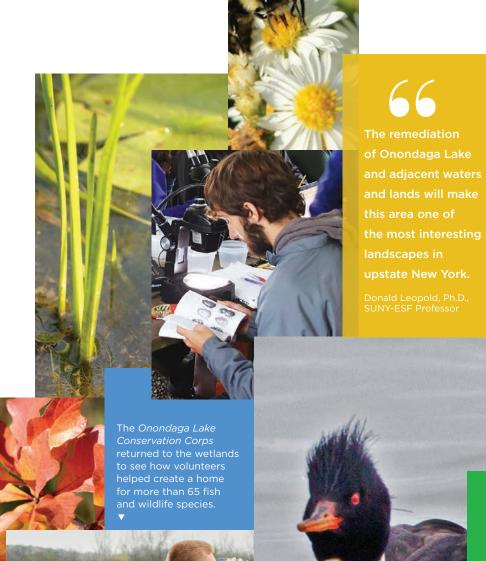
Since its formation in 2012, hundreds of community members have participated in Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps events. More than 500 volunteers have planted more than 4,500 native plants, trees, and shrubs at wetlands adjacent to Nine Mile Creek, Geddes Brook, and Harbor Brook, and along Onondaga Lake's western shoreline. Founding partners of the Corps include Audubon New York, Montezuma Audubon Center, Onondaga Audubon Society, Parsons, O'Brien & Gere, and Honeywell. Schools, community groups, local organizations, and individuals are welcome.

To learn more or participate in future activities, please contact montezuma@audubon.org or call 315.365.3588. For more information visit us at:

facebook.com/onondagalakecc

youtube.com/onondagalakecc





I have lived in Geddes my entire life. I never thought the lake would change in my lifetime. The water is cleaner and wildlife is returning; rare species are now calling Onondaga Lake 'home.' The future is bright.

Paul Marconi, Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps Volunteer

Rare and unique species at Onondaga Lake

During the first-ever Onondaga Lake BioBlitz in September 2014, more than 450 living species, including several rare and unique species, were identified by State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) professors and students, and Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps volunteers.

Led by SUNY-ESF, the BioBlitz, an extensive survey conducted in 24 hours, provides a snapshot of mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish, insects, fungi, trees, shrubs, and other plants. Scientists say that snapshot will help them learn more about how to continue restoring this important landscape. Among the discoveries were a patch of rare American ginseng, salt-meadow grass, and a naturally reproducing population of brown trout in Onondaga Creek.

ESF has been thrilled with the opportunity to work with Honeywell to restore the habitats around the lake. It really is one of the greatest sources of hope today.

Quentin Wheeler, Ph.D., SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry President

photography exhibit showcases lake's

Audubon New York

Nearly 500 Central New Yorkers viewed spectacular images of bald eagles, common mergansers, American black ducks, and other waterfowl at Audubon New York's "Birds of Onondaga Lake" photography exhibit in spring 2014 at the Onondaga Lake Visitors Center. Audubon New York hosted the exhibit with support from Honeywell and the Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps. Onondaga Lake became an Important Bird Area in 1997 and was subsequently co-adopted by Montezuma Audubon Center, Onondaga Audubon Society, and Honeywell because of its value to waterfowl.

Onondaga Lake Visitors Center tours OPENTO ALL

More than 8,000 people have visited the Onondaga Lake Visitors Center, which was designed and built by Honeywell to provide an up-close look at Onondaga Lake and the work taking place by hundreds of scientists, engineers, and skilled craft laborers from this region. To schedule a tour, please call 315.552.9751 or submit the form on our website, lakecleanup.com. Open houses are held on Friday from 12–4:30 p.m. from mid-April to mid-November. There is no fee to visit.





the next generation of science and math leaders

HONEYWELL EDUCATORS @ SPACE ACADEMY

Seven Central New York teachers were awarded scholarships to attend



Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy

at the U.S. Space & Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama, in 2014.

Space Academy is designed to help teachers move beyond the standard math and science curriculum with supplemental teaching techniques developed through real-life astronaut training. Since 2006, 28 Central

New York teachers have participated in the program.



While at the Visitors Center I learned about the *Conservation Corps* and volunteered. Knowing that I helped rekindles a sense of pride.

Sara Pieklik, New York State Master Teache

ONONDAGALAKE

Community Participation Working Group

By Frank Moses, Chair

A milestone in the cleanup of Onondaga Lake was reached in 2014 with the end of dredging. Lake operations including lake bottom capping and habitat restoration will continue into 2016.

DEC created the Community Participation Working Group (CPWG) in 2009. Our task is to operate as an independent panel of community stakeholders to inform, discuss, and offer opportunities for community involvement and input throughout all phases of the cleanup.

Since 2009, the CPWG has met nearly 50 times. Meetings have consisted of site tours and presentations from scientific experts and project leaders. They have been highly informative and provided a greater understanding of the complexity and successes of the project. As a group of community members, we continue to strive for accurate, open dialogue among the community, DEC, and Honeywell.

For more information or to provide recommendations for future meeting topics, please visit our website at **onondagalake.info**. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming meetings.



Canoe and Kayak Club of CNY, Commodore

HONEYWELL SUMMER SCIENCE WEEK AT THE MOST

During the past nine years, more than 500 Central

New York eighth-graders have completed Honeywell

Summer Science Week at the MOST. The weeklong
exploration of the Onondaga Lake watershed inspires
students to pursue science, technology, and math
education while becoming environmental stewards
in their community.

HONEYWELL SPORTSMEN'S DAYS AT CARPENTER'S BROOK

Honeywell's commitment to sportsmen and enhanced recreational opportunities

continued during the 2014

Honeywell Sportsmen's Days
at Carpenter's Brook. Nearly
7,000 people learned about
habitat and wildlife
conservation and participated
in outdoor sports including



fishing, archery, turkey calling, and skeet shooting.



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Dear Community Members,

It is an exciting time for Onondaga Lake. With dredging completed, a year ahead of schedule, we are continuing with capping and habitat restoration through 2016. More than 110 species of fish, birds, and mammals have already returned to restored wetlands, and nearby areas.

The community's pride and passion have helped fuel this progress and are being rewarded as the lake becomes a healthy, sustainable asset for generations to come. More than 500 volunteers have participated in hands-on, experience-based Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps programs that help restore and sustain the lake and its value as an Important Bird Area.

As recovery continues, the community is enthusiastic about all of the opportunities to use the lake now and in the future. We hope you get or stay involved, and learn more about the cleanup by coming to the Onondaga Lake Visitors Center or by becoming a member of the Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps.

For more information, please visit our website, lakecleanup.com, or call 315.552.9784.

Thank you,

John McAuliffe

John P. Milarliffe

Syracuse Program Director

Construction Projects

Onondaga Lake capping resumes

Spring

Western Shoreline wetlands and shoreline construction continue

Spring/Summer/Fall

Southwest Shoreline property grading

Spring/Summer/Fall

Consolidation area closure

Spring/Summer/Fall

Summer/Fall

Onondaga Lake deep water treatments

Habitat Improvement Projects

Western Shoreline wetlands

Spring/Summer

Southwest Shoreline planting

Spring/Summer

Honeywell Summer Science Week at the MOST 10th Anniversary year

Honeywell Hometown Solutions

Citizen Participation &

Community Participation

Working Group (CPWG)

Onondaga Lake

F-newsletters/

Website updates

Conservation Corps

Free Fishing Weekend

Center tours/meetings

Onondaga Lake Visitors

Community Enhancement Projects

Throughout the year

July

June

Monthly

June

Spring/Summer/Fall

Throughout the year

Throughout the year

Honeywell Sportsmen's Days at Carpenter's Brook

September

For more information or to sign up for our e-newsletter, please visit our website, lakecleanup.com.

Lake bottom habitat

Summer/Fall

Geddes Brook, Nine Mile Creek, Upper Harbor Brook and LCP wetlands

habitat monitoring

Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy