

Welcome to the Exhibit

Something remarkable is happening to Onondaga Lake: It's getting cleaner.

New York State, Onondaga County, and Honeywell are working together on an approximately \$1 billion project to restore Onondaga Lake. The county's Save The Rain project is known throughout America. Save The Rain's projects in our community are also helping to keep pollution out of the lake. The water of Onondaga Lake is now clearer and healthier for the fish that live in it. The lake is meeting standards for water quality. The goal is a lake clean enough for swimming and fishing. That goal is now possible.

Restoring the lake also brings fish back to the lake, and wildlife and birds to the shore. At one time, the lake was down to perhaps a dozen types of fish. Now, you can find more than 60 species. During the winter, it is now common to spot a bald eagle soaring over the lake, hunting for food. This is just the beginning, as the state and federal governments work with the Onondaga Nation to restore the natural resources of Onondaga Lake.

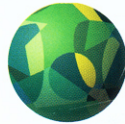
This exhibit shows you the hard work that many local and state organizations have put into cleaning and growing the lakefront. You can see here how this effort honors our history while helping to build our economy and clean our environment.

You can learn more about the Onondaga Lake cleanup, the Onondaga Lake Visitors Center, and the Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps at www.lakecleanup.com and at www.dec.ny.gov.



Thank you to our partners:

Empire State Development



destiny usa



State University of New York
College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Honeywell



Save the Rain



For more information, please visit www.nysfair.org/onondagalake



a FRESH Gateway to the NEW New York



A Walking Guide to the Exhibit

Glimpse the past, present, and future of Onondaga Lake. See how cleaning the lake and developing the waterfront affect your life.



1 Onondaga Historical Association



Time, and people, have changed Onondaga Lake. Those changes have, in turn, changed our attitudes towards the lake. Now, however, there is a clear sense that our future is tied to the health of the lake. The Onondaga Historical Association's exhibit shows how the lake has changed and explores its role in the life and identity of Central New York.

5 Audubon New York

Here, you will learn about the important symbols of the cleanup effort. Bald Eagles represent the return of eagles and other wildlife to the lake and the area. Fish in the lake provide food for the eagles.

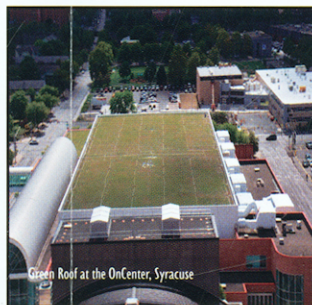


They can now sometimes be seen hunting for fish in the winter. Onondaga Lake was established as an Important Bird Area in 1996 because of its value to birds that winter

on the lake and because the lake helps support bald eagles. Montezuma Audubon works with groups such as the Onondaga Audubon Society, Honeywell, Parsons, and O'Brien & Gere. The new Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps helps spread the word about what people can do to support the work at Onondaga Lake.

2 Onondaga County: Save The Rain Program

Onondaga County is helping to clean Onondaga Lake by using green and sustainable ideas and by improving the way the county handles storm water. County Executive Joanie Mahoney's Save The Rain project is keeping tens of millions of gallons of storm water out of sewers by using green roofs, pavement that allows water to soak through, rain gardens, and rain barrels. The county also works with the city of Syracuse to rebuild city streets using green ideas.



6 Destiny USA

If you drove into Syracuse in 1984, you saw an eyesore: Big, rusty oil tanks and a huge scrap metal yard. Those tanks and that junk yard leaked chemicals into the ground and spread them in the air. That year, Robert Congel began work on his vision. The founder and chairman of Pyramid Management Group cleared out the tanks and the junk. His company built the shopping center that has become the 6th largest shopping and entertainment destination in America: Destiny USA. More than 23 million people come to Destiny USA to shop, eat, and play every year. This exhibit shows how more than 100 acres of polluted land became an international tourism hub. For more information, please visit www.destinyusa.com.



3 Honeywell

The Honeywell exhibit provides public access to the significant work taking place by hundreds of scientists, engineers and skilled craft laborers from this region. From significant improvements in water quality to the return of native plants and animals, visitors will learn about the progress being made to improve the natural beauty and habitat of Onondaga Lake. The Onondaga Lake cleanup is being done under the supervision of state and federal agencies. The progress that has been made is due in

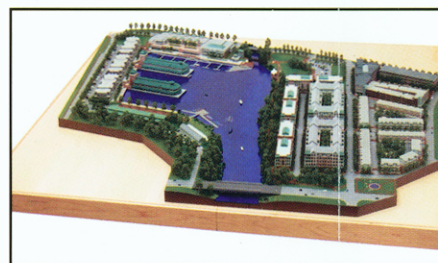


halfway complete.

large measure to the talent, creativity, and dedication of so many who reside and work in Central New York. By the end of 2013, dredging is scheduled to be about

7 COR Development

The City of Syracuse picked COR Development to turn 28 acres of land around Syracuse's Inner Harbor into a new neighborhood with housing, shopping, offices, and recreational and educational spaces. This exhibit shows you how the City, New York State and COR Development will work together to create a great place



to live, work, and play at the water's edge and reshape the future of the Inner Harbor and Onondaga Lake.

4 SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry

Here, you can see the work accomplished by many SUNY ESF students and professors since 1986. There is now more oxygen and less ammonia in the water. Zebra and quagga mussels, which filter water, are abundant in the lake and are making the water clearer. Plants now live in 80% of the shallow water areas. There are at least 65 species of fish in the lake, and 40 species show up during regular surveys. The large aquaria show some of the abundant fish, such as largemouth bass, walleye and pumpkinseed sunfish. The small aquaria show some of the 17 species of aquatic plants and some invertebrate animals. Under the microscope, you might see algae, zooplankton and tiny insects, such as midges and caddis flies. The willows in glass boxes are patented varieties that stabilize the wastebeds.



8 Morrisville State College

Have you ever heard of aquaponics? It's a way to combine plants and fish in ways that benefit both of them and protect our environment. Morrisville State College is a leader in this new field. Morrisville and the engineering company O'Brien & Gere are creating greenhouses that are kinder to the environment and provide local, healthy food all year. Here, you can see an example of an aquaponics system that can be as large as a country farm or as small as a home garden in the city. Enjoy watching the way the fish and plants live alongside each other.

