



February 29, 2016

To: Chairman McMahon and members of the Onondaga County Legislature  
CC: Joanne M. Mahoney, Onondaga County Executive  
Travis Glazier, Onondaga County Environmental Director  
From: Paul Richardson, President, Onondaga Audubon Society

Dear Chairman McMahon and members of the Onondaga County Legislature,

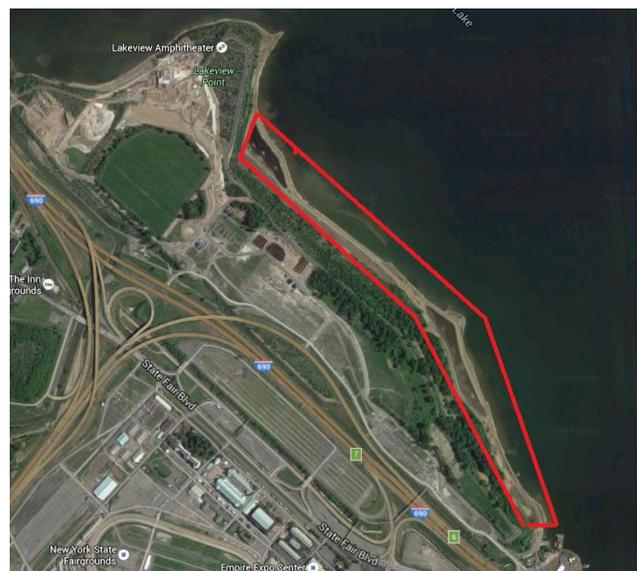
I am writing to you on behalf of the board of directors and members of the Onondaga Audubon Society regarding Onondaga County's plan to build the Lakeview Point Landing along the eastern edge of Lakeview Point. Onondaga Audubon is disappointed to learn that the landing is being approved using a negative declaration that will not allow for a complete environmental impact study. Although the construction of the landing and the access trail that will connect it to Lakeview Park will be an "enhancement to the existing wastebed cap", we feel it is structurally unsound to conclude that the project will not have a negative impact on the inhabitants of the wetlands located just to its south.



Onondaga Audubon is aware that the Lakeview Point Landing project will likely be approved when the legislature convenes on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately, my career obligations will not allow me to personally express my concerns or offer suggestions at your March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. However, Onondaga Audubon would like to send along, in writing, the following environmental mitigation suggestions:

- 1) A “No Wake Zone” be created and enforced to protect the shoreline area southeast of the landing. This will help minimize the effects that boats will have on shorebirds, herons, gulls and terns.
- 2) Restrict the use of personal watercraft that discharge raw fuel into the water (jet skis, etc.) near the Lakeview Landing area.
- 3) Install monofilament fishing line recycling stations at high use fishing locations around Onondaga Lake (including Lakeview Landing). Fishing line poses a significant health threat to birds, fish and turtles. The state of Virginia has a large scale fishing line recycling program and the details can be found here.  
([http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/CoastalZoneManagement/Virginia\\_Fishing\\_Line\\_Recycling\\_Program\\_Virginia\\_Marine\\_Debris\\_Summit\\_%202013.pdf](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Portals/0/DEQ/CoastalZoneManagement/Virginia_Fishing_Line_Recycling_Program_Virginia_Marine_Debris_Summit_%202013.pdf))
- 4) Shrubs and trees be planted that would create a visual buffer between the Lakeview Point Landing/Lakeview Park connecting trail and the adjacent wetlands.

I would like to devote the rest of my letter to inform you of what Onondaga Audubon feels is an important environmental conservation/education opportunity that still exists along the west shore of the lake. Over the past few years Honeywell has been working hard to create wetlands and restore shoreline habitat over a 1.3 mile region from Lakeview Point to the Honeywell Visitor Center.



Volunteers from the Onondaga Lake Conservation Corps have planted large amounts of native vegetation and wildlife has already started to respond in a positive way to this change. Shorebirds, who migrate to and from the tundra to breed, have historically used the Onondaga Lake shoreline as a critical resting location. Last spring, a small group of American Avocets, migrating back to their western United States breeding grounds, were seen by workers along this site.

([https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American\\_Avocet/id](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Avocet/id))

The public survey portion of the F.O.C.U.S. on Onondaga Lake study from 2012 indicated that the largest percentage of respondents ranked “maintaining or reforesting the natural areas around the lake” as being of high importance. Since the west shore trail has already been constructed inland and above this region, its preservation would not conflict with the county’s plan to loop the lake.

Onondaga Audubon’s suggestion would be to continue closing off the access road of this area to public use (making it a permanent “authorized personnel only” road) and to perhaps create one or two viewing locations that would connect to the already existing west shore trail. This would allow people of Onondaga County the opportunity to view wildlife in the wetlands and shoreline area with minimal habitat disturbance. If additional funds are available (or a grant can be secured), educational signs and permanently fixed scopes might also be placed in these viewing areas.

Onondaga Audubon encourages the county legislature to consider designating this narrow shoreline/wetlands region to be of high environmental value to the lake’s ecosystem and advocate for its protection and preservation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,



Paul Richardson

President

Onondaga Audubon Society

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