Background Information

Bald Eagles rely on established roost sites year after year. Murphy’s Island, at the south end of Onondaga Lake, provides adequate roosting habitat with tall trees and nearby open water, especially critical during winter months when this type of habitat is scarce. Because of this protected area, we are privileged with the ability to view these majestic birds living right here within the city limits! As many as 43 eagles have been observed at one time during the winter, and at least 3 eagles are present year round.

Last December, the Onondaga County Legislature agreed, as part of an amended resolution, to ask County Officials to locate the proposed 1-mile Murphy's Island trail extension near the railroad tracks, away from the Bald Eagle roosting area. Onondaga Audubon supported this as the best possible option for trail placement, barring keeping a trail off of Murphy's Island completely (which is the best option).

We have recently learned that the County intends to go back on this agreement and place an additional trail along the shoreline, which has the greatest potential to disturb roosting eagles. During a recent site visit, as many as 3 Bald Eagles were pushed off their roosts by County Officials who were inspecting the potential path placement areas.

What you can do:
1. Call and e-mail your county officials to request that this trail not be placed along the shoreline. Please contact:
   a. Your local County Legislator ([http://www.ongov.net/legislature/members.html](http://www.ongov.net/legislature/members.html))
   b. Ryan McMahon, the incoming County Executive
      (315) 435-2070, ryanmcmahon@ongov.net
   c. Travis Glazier, Director, Office of the Environment
      (315) 435-2647, TravisGlazier@ongov.net
   d. Michael Plochocki, Chair, Environmental Protection Committee
      (315) 435-2070, mikeplochocki@hotmail.com

2. Attend the next Onondaga County Legislative Session. You can bring your own letter to read or remain in the gallery showing support.
   November 7, 1:00 PM
   County Court House Room 407
   401 Montgomery St., Syracuse, NY 13202

   The more voices that are added, the better chance that the County will reconsider its plans to place a trail in a location unsuitable for the eagles.