

Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Trustee Council



Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Restoration

Trustee Goals, Criteria, and Public Process



Restoration Goals

Eligible projects must benefit natural resources and resource services damaged or lost due to contamination. Resources include animals that live in or use stream, shoreline and/or lake habitat within the Onondaga Lake watershed. Resource services include ecological, recreational, and cultural functions.

Other restoration project criteria:

- Improves public use of/connection to relevant resources.
- Likelihood of success.
- Cost effectiveness.
- Ability to produce demonstrable, quantifiable benefits.
- Compatibility with Trustee resource management goals.
- Not funded by other sources.

Public Participation

The Trustees are in the process of collecting information about potential restoration projects. The public can suggest projects using a Restoration Suggestion form, available at: www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/ec/onondaga.htm.

Comments/suggestions can also be made by contacting the Trustees:

Anne Secord, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, anne_secord@fws.gov

NYSDEC Region 7, Reg7info@gw.dec.state.ny.us

Alma Lowry, For the Onondaga Nation, alma.lowry@gmail.com

Once compensable injuries and restoration projects have been identified, the Trustees will release a draft Restoration Plan with a formal public comment period.

As a result of decades of industrial and other activity, Onondaga Lake in NY, its tributaries, and the natural resources that utilize these habitats, likely have been injured by hazardous substances. While the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) continues to oversee clean-up efforts, the natural resource trustees for this site – the US Fish and Wildlife Service, NYSDEC, and the Onondaga Nation – are conducting a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process to assess injury and restore injured natural resources.

Money recovered through the NRDA process will be used to fund projects that restore, replace, or acquire the equivalent of injured natural resources or compensate the public for lost services provided by those resources. The Trustees are requesting ideas for such projects. Suggestions will be evaluated using regulatory and site specific criteria. This Fact Sheet describes Trustee restoration goals, project criteria, and the public participation process.

**More NRDA
information available at:
[http://www.fws.gov/northeast/
nyfo/ec/onondaga.htm](http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/ec/onondaga.htm)**



Example projects:

- Fish, bird, amphibian or reptile habitat enhancement.
- Wetland restoration.
- Land acquisition & protection.
- New or enhanced natural resource-based recreational opportunities.
- Invasive species control.
- Water quality improvement.