

**F.O.C.U.S. Greater Syracuse
Water & Waterways Strategic Plan**

MISSION STATEMENT

To assure action to preserve & market our pure & abundant water for a variety of uses, and improve our waterways for recreation, tourism, and economic development

ONONDAGA LAKE & INNER HARBOR

CHALLENGE:

- *Timely development of Inner Harbor and Lakefront Area*
- *Finding ways to attract local residents and tourists to the harbor*
- *Bring events to the entire Lake and Inner Harbor*
- *Marketing Onondaga Lake's connection to waterways throughout the U.S.*
- *Maintain current public ownership and create access throughout Lakefront*

Recommendation	Progress to date	Champion	Human & Financial Resources	Strategies	Champion	Start Finish
1. Build restaurants, retail stores, residences, to encourage visitors and Central New York residents to the Inner Harbor.	RFP-Lakefront Dev. Corp.	Lakefront Dev. Corp. City of Syracuse Onondaga County MDA	NYS Developers DestiNY USA	Keep it clean; Increase signage; Publicize the process; Accelerate approvals		
2. Plan widely publicized summer weekend events to attract masses of people to the Inner Lake Harbor and Onondaga Lake Park.	See County Parks web site event list	County Parks; City Parks LakeFront Dev Corp	IRC Duck Race Media	Bring back Regatta; Advertise in Spanish; Provide public transportation; Open Children's day camp		
3. Include neighbors and natives in development and planning.	Onon. Lake Partnership	Onondaga Lake Cleanup Committee, Onondaga Lake Partnership, Cornell Cooperative Extension, SUNY-ESG, Canopy	TNT, City, County, Onondaga Nation F.O.C.U.S.,	Develop vision for Lake; Involve TNT Sec 8; Keep lake shore public; Create plan for shoreline.	Onondaga Lake Partnership	
4. Add maps, historic markers, and signage for way finding.		County Parks, Lakefront DEC, City, OHA, OLP	County, City, funders	Create watershed educational signs; Maintain historic nature around lake, waterways and tributaries		

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Recommendation	Progress to date	Champion	Human & Financial Resources	Strategies	Champion	Start Finish
5. Market Onondaga Lake: To national and international boaters, fishing enthusiasts, developers, and homeowners.		CVB/Chamber, City, Realtors, MDA, F.O.C.U.S.	Ray Scott of Bass Masters is interested	Carp Tournament; Build facility on east side of lake; Positive media and other public statements		
6. Provide boat rentals available to public.	Group rentals	Private enterprise, Onondaga Parks & Recreation, NYS Fair, DEC, DOT	Mid Lakes Navigation	Build boat access near State Fair; Build facility for boat rentals; Encourage individual boat activity; Improve public transportation to the Lake		
7. Build a hotel near marina in Inner Harbor and/or Lake for boaters/provide shuttle service to hotels.		Private enterprise City Parks, Syracuse Visitors & Convention Bureau		Build motels within walking distance of docks		
8. Clean the Lake, Harbor, Creek to high standards. Identify minimum standards to reduce or eliminate sewage overflow	Ongoing	Private, Honeywell, City, County, DEC, NYS, OLCC, OLP, Onondaga Parks & REC.		Remove surface and underwater debris; Identify & mark hazardous areas for boating safety; Improve weed control		
9. Walkway around the Lake should increase knowledge of the watershed and 7 tributaries				Complete trailways around the whole Lake/with educational signs.		
10. Increase citizen knowledge		F.O.C.U.S.		Information about waterways, watershed areas, tributaries, recreational fishing, boating; clean water standards; create a positive image.	Onondaga Lake Partnership	

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ONONDAGA CREEK & TRIBUTARIES

CHALLENGE:

- *Coordinate and implement the multiple plans for Onondaga Creek*
- *Secure funding for implementation*
- *Assure government support to create an enticing environment for recreation, tourism, and economic development*

Recommendation	Progress to date	Champion	Human & Financial Resources	Strategies	Champion	Start Finish
1. Publicize the potential uses for the Creek shoreline as a recreation, tourist and economic development engine	Onondaga Creek Day event 7/11 Clean Ups and tours	Congressman Walsh, Senator Schumer, Senator Clinton, FOCUS, Canopy Cornell Coop Ext, OLCC, OLP	OLCC, OLP, DEC. DOT, TNT (South), MDA, Chamber, FOCUS, SCVB, City & County, Community & Economic Development agencies	Develop Community Vision (OLCC); Signs for Creek Crossings; Educate about Creek; Public meetings; Media exposure; Annual event celebrating Creek; Support use of vacant Fire Station as trail rest stop with educational, historical, safety displays	MEDIA Canopy ESF Syracuse Firefighters	
2. Identify all the SUNY-ESF plans (three that we know of) and government plans and what parts are achievable immediately	ESF Urban Ecology Plans completed/presented to Mayor Matt Driscoll; Other ESF studies; OLCC Plan, OLP Plan			OLCC prioritize the plans from all existing studies; Involve Community Development, Economic Development agencies, County/ City in prioritization		

3. Connect the Creek walk from Onondaga Lake to Onondaga Reservation	Mayor's "State of the City" commitment; Some portions completed	Mayor Matt Driscoll Onondaga Creek Partnership Canopy Onondaga County		Clean the Creek; Remove/improve fences; annual creek celebratory event; Involve County		
4. Communicate with neighbors, government officials, educators, businesses, and entrepreneurs to interest them in the multiple existing plans and seek their involvement	FOCUS meetings/strategies planning, Core Groups, Conversation with Experts; ESF/ Canopy conference resulting in handbook	F.O.C.U.S. Canopy SUNY-ESF TNT		More public meetings; education; increased media coverage; Support an Advisory Committee for Creek		
5. Research and pursue funding resources		F.O.C.U.S., City/County, SUNY-ESF, OLP, EPA, DEC, OLCC, Tully Mud Boils \$\$		Assign responsibility; Convene all currently funded groups; Seek support from: Senator Schumer, Senator Clinton, Congressman Walsh, US Corps of Engineers, State and Federal reps; Unify the plans; Connect the plans with the \$		
6. Involve the Onondaga Nation.	Fed. Project do this: in progress, OLCC			FOCUS reach out to representatives from Onondaga Nation; send rep. materials from these sessions; work with OLCC Advisory Committee		
7. Improve and maintain water quality	SUNY ESF Mud boil Monitoring designs			Mud Boil monitoring J-Hooks/ cross veins to improve water flow; Pursue underground storage to keep partially treated sewage out		

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ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR

CHALLENGE:

- *Assure inclusion of Syracuse & CNY as a central feature in the restoration of the canal corridor*
- *Find ways to use existing historical sites and structures, and recount the history of the canal and the people who built it*
- *Advance creative ideas for linking the Canalway corridor with downtown Syracuse*
- *Improve Water Quality*

Recommendation	Progress to date	Champion	Human and Financial Resources	Strategies	Champion	Start Finish
1. Citizen input in the plans.	SUNY-ESF plans ECNHC Commission Open meetings	SUNY-ESF, ECNHC, OLCC, CCE, FOCUS, City, County, TNT		Create reenactments; Educational/historic, points of interest signage along canal; Canal/Lake event coinciding with State Fair; involve public through surveys; Identify, coordinate and publicize plans; Link local communities to share local canal information and build pride		

Recommendation	Progress to date	Champion	Human and Financial Resources	Strategies	Champion	Start Finish
2. Regular information sharing-electronically or through meetings.	Public Meetings	NYS Parks; F.O.C.U.S. County web site; CVB; NYS Thruway Authority Canal Corp.	Villages, towns, County, City	Include public in visioning and goal setting process; Consider linkage with other waterways; Publicize difference between <i>visual</i> appreciation and <i>physical needs</i> for Canal; Improve/ utilize Allied Waste Beds; Advocate for trail linkage; Increase level of community involvement; Marketing		
3. Identify local historians for research on local historical sites and stories.	Included in ECNHC plans	F.O.C.U.S., Libraries, Canal Museums, OHA		Incorporate Canal information at Port Byron Visitor Center; Do literature search about current books on canal; encourage new books to be written; Involve teachers, librarians, historians; Involve neighboring canal museums; Educate about historic value of Canal; Find other models: Providence, RI, San Antonio, Pittsburgh, PA, Chattanooga, TN; Coordinate plans with parks' development; Use PBS to promote		

Recommendation	Progress to date	Champion	Human and Financial Resources	Strategies	Champion	Start Finish
				history; Preserve remaining canal era buildings		
4. Link canal with downtown Syracuse and old Erie Canal sites.				Ex. Camillus Aqueduct; Promote Inner Harbor as destination; Use shuttle boats and busses to Downtown; Build more marine docks; Create amenities for boaters; Hold more Inner Harbor events; Develop Erie Blvd as a parkway identifying canal history; Manage stormwater; Tie in ECNHC plans to other long term planning; Provide public transportation; More bike paths		

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TOWN & GOWN

CHALLENGE:

- *Integrate all planning efforts for waterways and land use, and link each location to the others.*
- *Develop a process for coordination and communication among academics, between colleges & universities, government, and citizen groups.*
- *Develop implementation plan that includes how, who, where and when the plan can be accomplished*

Recommendation	Progress to date	Champion	Human and Financial Resources	Strategies	Champion	Start Finish
1. Convene leadership from the universities collaborate with the many existing organizations, businesses, government, and citizens groups to determine a process to bring together all the interested parties at least two to four times a year.		F.O.C.U.S. ESF SU/Maxwell		Encourage universities as conveners; Coordinate ESF plans within ESF and with City/County; Incorporate waterways, environmental history of water in college and school curriculums; Combine all efforts into one working Committee and coordinate goals & reports; Create learning center; Promote Upstate natural history lab		

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WATER

CHALLENGE

- *Promote water as a CNY asset*
- *Communicate the abundance of water to promote economic growth*
- *Proactive maintenance and funding for the infrastructure that carries the water from its source to the citizens.*
- *Standards for monitoring watershed protection, management of stormwater run-off and timely monitoring*

Recommendation	Progress to date	Champion	Human and Financial Resources	Strategies	Champion	Start Finish
1. Market and promote the fact that CNY has abundant, pure water that makes it a great place to do business, especially if the business requires water for its operation.		City, County, NYS, CVB, EC, Economic Development and Community Development Agencies F.O.C.U.S. MDA OCSWCD Onondaga Cty. Soil and Water Conservation District	MDA OCSWCD Jeffrey Carmichael	Ensure quantity and quality of drinking and industrial water supply; Seek cooperation of medical community, Project Watershed, Izaak Walton League, Corps of Engineers, Water Treatment Society; Develop comprehensive marketing plan; Identify grants; Educate community; Increase signage of watershed; Involve		

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				school kids to monitor and report; Identify standards; Demand and promote quality; Monitor quantity of local water to assure sufficient resource for community; Promote local water; Engage citizens in planning;		
2. Pay close attention to the infrastructure (replacement of old pipes, especially lead pipes) to assure the continued availability of pure water for all citizens	City Plans	City of Syracuse		Create a plan, execute it and report the results		
3. Monitor and protect watersheds and water quality		Regulators Reports		Support work of: OCWA, Metropolitan Water Board, Syracuse Water Department		

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ALL-INCLUSIVE

CHALLENGE:

- *Find a way to communicate to the many involved groups what each other is doing.*
- *Find a way for those groups to work more closely together and collaborate.*

Recommendation	Progress to date	Champion	Human and Financial Resources	Strategies	Champion	Start Finish
1. A semi-annual or quarterly convocation of all involved parties to share information & determine where & how collaboration efforts will advance the projects		Citizens Organizations, Engineering Firms, Government, Private Developers F.O.C.U.S.		Oversight by neutral group; Set priorities; Understand and allocate funding; Encourage public interests; Hold open dialogue i.e. "FOCUS Conversation with the Experts"		
2. Methods of timely communication with each other should be developed.	City Comprehensive Plan.	City, County, many others		Coordinate all agencies, entities; Make process interactive; Have regularly scheduled articles in newspaper and media. Encourage media to appoint an environmental editor to report on local environmental quality		