

Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Projects Outreach Community Working Group Roles and Responsibilities

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, collectively known as the Trustees, are soliciting additional community input on Onondaga Lake Watershed Restoration Projects being implemented under the Natural Resource Damage (NRD) process. Extensive public input was undertaken to date that provided the Trustees with recommendations for identification and selection of projects. The selected projects are fully described in the [March 2018 Consent Decree and attachments](#). Additional community input is being solicited for consideration in selected design aspects prior to construction and implementation.

The Trustees have formed an **Onondaga Lake Restoration Community Working Group** comprised of a broad range of representative Onondaga Lake stakeholders. Invited stakeholders include volunteer community organizations that have a local constituency and that previously indicated an interest in Onondaga Lake NRD restoration projects.

The participants in the Onondaga Lake Restoration Community Working Group will each be invited to provide input on requested topics, attend meetings to learn about project status, and seek additional input from the membership each is representing within set timeframes. The individuals and entities participating at each meeting of the Working Group will also have an opportunity to propose and help solicit from the public additional NRD project ideas and share back their reactions regarding additional projects being considered for the future restoration projects funding.

Working Group meetings will be led by Trustees and supported by the Project Implementation Team consisting of Honeywell, Onondaga County, and their consultants. The Implementation Team will help identify areas where stakeholder input can be incorporated into design plans. Input received from the participants in the Working Group will be assessed by the Project Implementation Team for consideration into the design and evaluated based on project scope, requirements, and ability to implement.

Trustees will provide project updates to the broader public through U.S. Fish and Wildlife's [Onondaga Lake NRD website](#), DEC's [Onondaga Lake News](#) email list, and meetings of the Onondaga Lake Watershed Partnership, Community Participation Working Group, and presentations to additional interested community groups as requested.

For more information about Natural Resource Damage projects, please contact Amy Roe, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, at 607-753-9334, amy_roe@fws.gov or Jared Reed, Environmental Program Specialist, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, at 518-402-4890, jared.reed@dec.ny.gov.

ONONDAGA LAKE NRD RESTORATION PROJECTS UPDATE



November 2, 2023

AGENDA

- Trustees Projects Update
 - Invasive species implementation
 - Stewardship properties
 - Sponsored projects and project solicitation
- Honeywell Projects Update – *Honeywell*
 - Schedule update
 - Fishing pier
 - Jetties
 - NMC angler access/ parking
 - Habitat enhancements
 - Vernal Pools
 - Maple Bay and NWS Enhancements
 - Hudson Farms and NMC Corridor Enhancements
 - Maple Bay In-Lake monitoring
 - Grasslands
 - Tully Streambank

STEWARDSHIP PROPERTIES UPDATE

Honeywell purchased properties for habitat conservation purposes
Trustees requested proposals from qualified organizations for ownership of these properties and management for conservation purposes

Transfer Completed

-Wetland Conservation Area 2:

The Nature Conservancy

-Wetland Conservation Area 1:

The Wetland Trust

Transfer Underway

- Hudson Farms, and Ninemile Creek: *The Wetland Trust*

-Onondaga Lake Visitor Center: *NYSDEC*

-North/South Tully: *Onondaga Nation*



TRUSTEE SPONSORED NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION PROJECTS

*Proposed projects must **restore, replace, rehabilitate or acquire the equivalent** of natural resources injured by mercury and other hazardous substances*

33 Project Proposals Received (2019 through March 2023)

12 Proposals met the Full Proposal Criteria

1 Proposal Received for review (September 2023)

Under Review

Sponsored by Trustees: **Approximately \$4.5 million**

Restoration Funds Remaining: **\$3.29 million** (\$450K interest)

TRUSTEE SPONSORED NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION PROJECTS

Update on Sponsored Proposals:

- Erie Canal Tree Planting (Village of Solvay) – *COMPLETED September 2021*
- Otisco Lk Shoreline Protection (Finger Lakes Land Trust) – *COMPLETED June 2022*
- Boat Launch Restrooms (NYSDEC) – *Completion expected 2023*
- Onondaga Creek Greenway (City of Syracuse) – *Invasive plant species management and plantings underway with Onondaga Earth Corp 2023*
- Onondaga Creek Canoe/ Kayak Launch (City of Syracuse) – *COMPLETED MAY 2023*
- Wetland/ Forest Protection (217 acres) and Restoration (The Wetland Trust) – *Restoration underway and award end date extended to August 2025*
- Amboy Dam Removal (NYSDEC/ USFWS) - *Design/permitting continued in 2023*

TRUSTEE SPONSORED NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION PROJECTS

Update on Sponsored Proposals Continued:

- Common Tern Rafts (Riveredge Associates) – *Award documents under review*
- Pleasant Valley/ Onondaga Creek Watershed Protection (Central New York Land Trust) – *Awarded June 2022, open to the public, restoration underway 2023*
- Syracuse Inner Harbor Kayak/ Canoe Launch (City of Syracuse) – **COMPLETED May 2023**
- Erie Canal Tree Planting Phase 2 (Village of Solvay) – **COMPLETED 2023**
- Watershed Invasive Species Prevention/ Boat Cleaning Stations (NYSDEC) – **COMPLETED 2022**

PROJECT PROPOSALS NOT SPONSORED

- Outside of Onondaga Lake Watershed
- Did not result in project that would be sufficiently available to the public
- Project objectives not restoration specific (objectives may have been research or staff based)
- Project did not restore resources or resource uses injured by hazardous substances
- Cost effectiveness not demonstrated
- Technical feasibility not demonstrated

BIANNUAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Two-Step Process

<https://www.fws.gov/media/onondaga-lake-nrdar>

Step 1

Submit a completed Onondaga Lake NRDAR Project Concept Proposal to: Amy Roe and Jared Reed. **Concept Proposals are accepted throughout the year.**

Step 2

Applicants that receive Trustee approval of Onondaga Lake NRDAR Concept Proposals are eligible to submit a full Onondaga Lake NRDAR Proposal by the biannual deadlines of **March 1 and September 1 of each calendar year** to: Amy Roe and Jared Reed.

BIANNUAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS



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I WANT TO



Onondaga Lake NRDAR



Document - application/pdf



Onondaga Lake NRDAR

In 2018, the U.S. Department of the Interior and New York State, together the Trustees, settled a natural resource damage claim valued at over \$26 million with Honeywell International Inc. and Onondaga County, New York, for the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site in Onondaga County, New York. The 2018 Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Consent Decree outlines specific restoration projects currently underway and includes additional funding for Trustee sponsored natural resource restoration projects. Community Working Group updates on restoration projects can be found in the PDF Portfolio: Onondaga NRDA Community Working Group PDF Portfolio.pdf, linked below. Trustee solicitation and implementation of restoration projects is ongoing.

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How to Submit a Funding Proposal to the Onondaga Lake Trustees

There is a two-step process to submit a funding proposal for natural resource restoration projects consistent with the 2017 Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration (NRDAR) Plan and Environmental Assessment and the 2018 Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Consent Decree (to access these files see the following PDF in the Portfolio attachment below: Onondaga NRDA Restoration Plan CD PDF Portfolio.pdf).

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Attachments

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 Onondaga NRDA 2017-2018 Outreach PDF Portfolio_0.pdf	22.91 MB



Working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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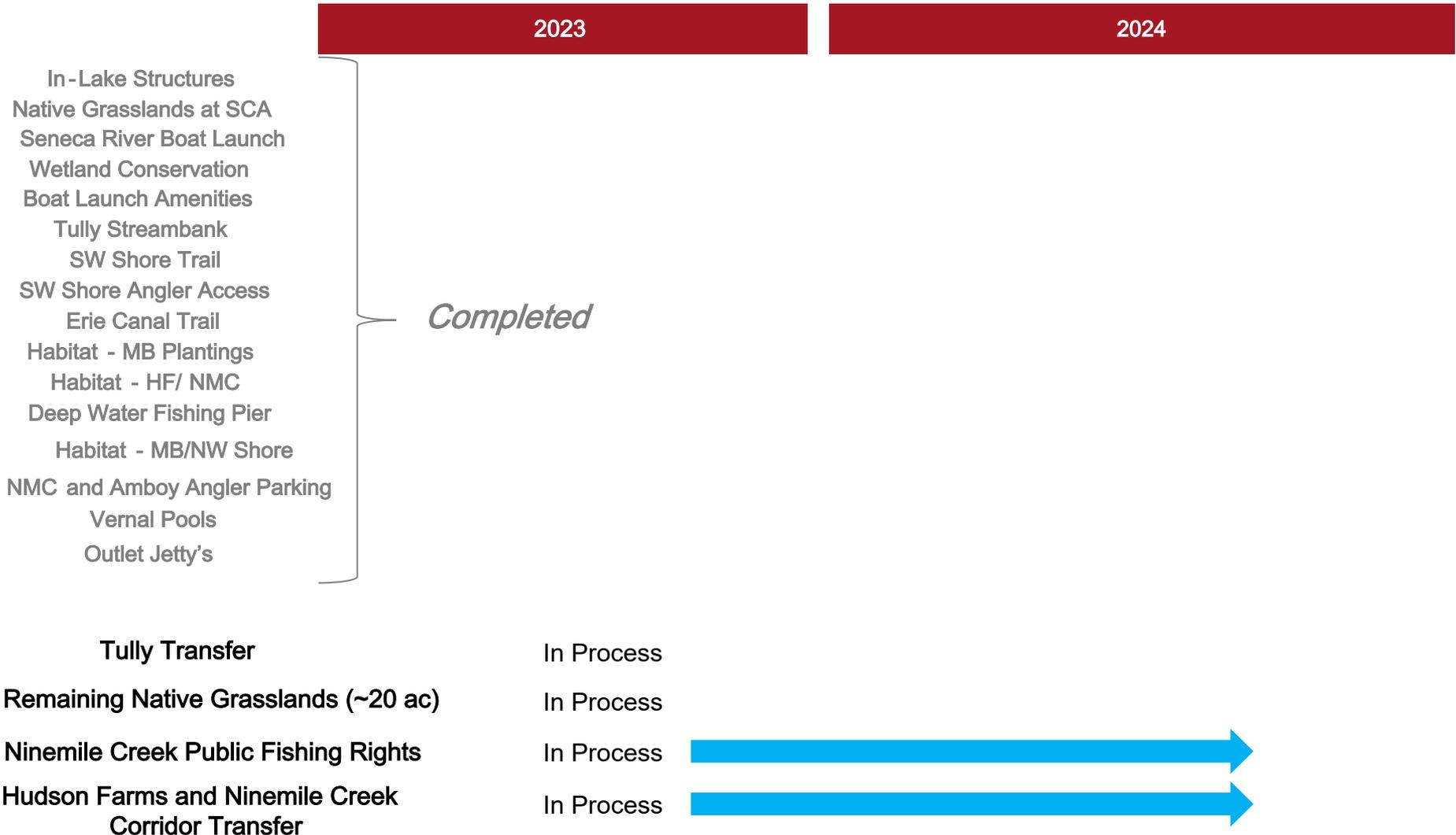
Accessibility

Freedom of Information Act

Notices

ANTICIPATED PROJECTS SCHEDULE

 Implementation



DEEP WATER FISHING PIER

- Opened in May
- Extensively used by public



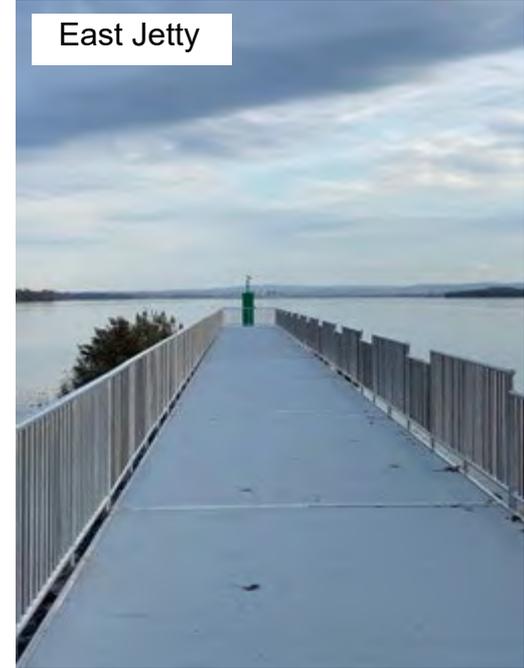
OUTLET JETTY ENHANCEMENTS

- Completed in October
- Extensive use by public

West Jetty



East Jetty



West Jetty



NINEMILE CREEK FISHING ACCESS

- Granting of Public Fishing Rights (PFR) in process
- New angler parking areas completed



VERNAL POOLS

- Complete and functioning
- Amphibians breeding in all pools



Tadpoles in Maple Bay vernal pool



Young tree frog from Maple Bay vernal pool



Egg mass in Hudson Farms vernal pools



Green frog in Hudson Farms vernal pool

MAPLE BAY AND NW SHORELINE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

- Wetland Enhancement Complete
- Wetland Performance Verification (Yr 1 of 5)
 - Native plant growth variable
 - Invasive species growth minimal
 - Treatment occurred in early Oct.
 - Additional seeding/planting planned for '24



HUDSON FARMS AND NINEMILE CREEK CORRIDOR

- Wetland Performance Verification (Yr 2 of 5)
 - Extensive native plant growth
 - Invasive species growth minimal
 - Treatment occurred in early Oct.



Hudson Farms west basin



Hudson Farms east basin



Ninemile Creek Corridor



Ninemile Creek Corridor

HUDSON FARMS AND NINEMILE CREEK CORRIDOR

- Upland and Floodplain Performance Verification (Yr 2 of 5)
 - Deer fence holding up well
 - Native seedlings establishing
 - Invasive species remain low
 - Treatment in October



Ninemile Creek Corridor floodplain enhancement deer fence and natural regeneration



Hudson Farms forest enhancement deer fence and natural regeneration

MAPLE BAY IN - LAKE ENHANCEMENT

- Performance Verification, Year 5 of 5,
- Shoreline emergent and offshore floating plants established
- Wild rice present



NATIVE GRASSLANDS

- SCA Performance Verification, - Five years of monitoring completed; performance criteria exceeded; Completion Report Approved
- C&D Performance Verification, - 2023 is year 4 of 5
 - Maintenance seeding - grassland mix from 2021 establishing

SCA

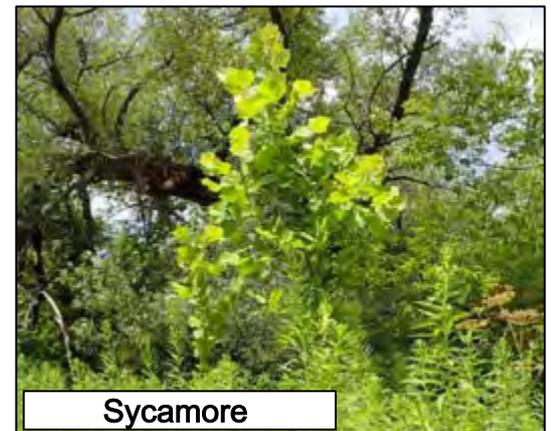


C&D



TULLY STREAMBANK

- Performance Verification, 2023 is Year 4 of 5
- Survival remains high, with good growth
- Beavers have downed some trees
- Some additional planting completed in spring



WRAP - UP

Email additional input to:

- Amy Roe: amy_roe@fws.gov
- Jared Reed: jared.reed@dec.ny.gov

ONONDAGA LAKE NRD RESTORATION PROJECTS UPDATE



October 3, 2022

AGENDA

- Trustees Projects Update
 - Invasive species implementation
 - Stewardship properties
 - Sponsored projects, NEW website, and project solicitation
- Honeywell Projects Update – *Honeywell*
 - Schedule update
 - Fishing pier
 - Jetties
 - NMC angler access/parking
 - Wetland Conservation
 - Habitat enhancements
 - Vernal Pools
 - Maple Bay and NWS Enhancements
 - Hudson Farms and NMC Corridor Enhancements
 - Grasslands
 - Maple Bay In-Lake monitoring
 - Tully Streambank

STEWARDSHIP PROPERTIES UPDATE

- Honeywell purchased properties for habitat conservation purposes
- Trustees requested proposals from qualified organizations to take ownership of these properties and manage for conservation purposes

Transfer Completed

- Wetland Conservation Area 2: *The Nature Conservancy*
- Wetland Conservation Area 1: *The Wetland Trust*

Transfer Underway

- Hudson Farms, and Nine Mile Creek: *The Wetland Trust*
- Onondaga Lake Visitor Center: *NYSDEC*
- North/South Tully: *Onondaga Nation*



TRUSTEE SPONSORED NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION PROJECTS

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33 Project Proposals Received (2019 through 2022)

12 Proposals met the Full Proposal Criteria

1 Revised Proposal Received for review (September 2022)

Sponsored by Trustees: **Approximately \$4.4 million**

Restoration Funds Remaining: **\$3.2 million** (\$300K interest)

TRUSTEE SPONSORED NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION PROJECTS

Update on Sponsored Proposals:

- Erie Canal Tree Planting (Village of Solvay) – *COMPLETED September 2021*
- Otisco Lk Shoreline Protection (Finger Lakes Land Trust) – *COMPLETED June 2022*
- Boat Launch Restrooms (NYSDEC) – *95% complete as of October 2022*
- Onondaga Creek Greenway (City of Syracuse) – *Fence and dead tree removal and plantings in 2021 and 2022*
- Onondaga Creek Canoe/ Kayak Launch (City of Syracuse) – *Design and public input August 2022 with construction Spring 2023*
- *Wetland/Forest Protection (217 acres) and Restoration (The Wetland Trust) – Restoration underway and requested an award end date extension*

TRUSTEE SPONSORED NATURAL RESOURCE RESTORATION PROJECTS

Update on Sponsored Proposals Continued:

- Amboy Dam Removal (NYSDEC/USFWS) - *Design/permitting in 2022*
- Common Tern Rafts (Riveredge Associates) – *Award documents under review*
- Pleasant Valley/ Onondaga Creek Watershed Protection (Central New York Land Trust) – *Awarded June 2022, open to the public, restoration underway*
- Syracuse Inner Harbor Kayak/ Canoe Launch (City of Syracuse) – *Awarded June 2022, design and permitting underway*
- Erie Canal Tree Planting Phase 2 (Village of Solvay) – *Approved April 2022 and award documents processing*
- Watershed Invasive Species Prevention/ Boat Cleaning Stations (NYSDEC) – *Equipment ready for public use in 2023*

PROJECT PROPOSALS NOT SPONSORED

- Outside of Onondaga Lake Watershed
- Did not result in project that would be sufficiently available to the public
- Project objectives not restoration specific (objectives may have been research or staff based)
- Project did not restore resources or resource uses injured by hazardous substances
- Cost effectiveness not demonstrated
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NEW AND ONGOING BIANNUAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Two-Step Process with **NEW** Website address

<https://www.fws.gov/media/onondaga-lake-nrdar>

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ANTICIPATED PROJECTS SCHEDULE

 Implementation



- In-Lake Structures
- Native Grassland SCA*
- River Boat Launch
- Wetland Conservation
- Boat Launch Amenities
- Tully Streambank*
- SW Shore Trail
- SW Shore Angler Access
- Erie Canal Trail
- Habitat - MB Plantings*
- Habitat - HF/ NMC *

Completed

Fishing Pier



Habitat - MB/NW Shore



NMC and Amboy Angler Parking



Outlet Jetty's



Vernal Pools



Tully Parking

TBD

Native Grassland C&D (~20 ac)

TBD

** Habitat projects within five -year performance period*

SOUTHWEST SHORE FISHING PIER

- Abutment installation complete
- Pier installation - spring '23



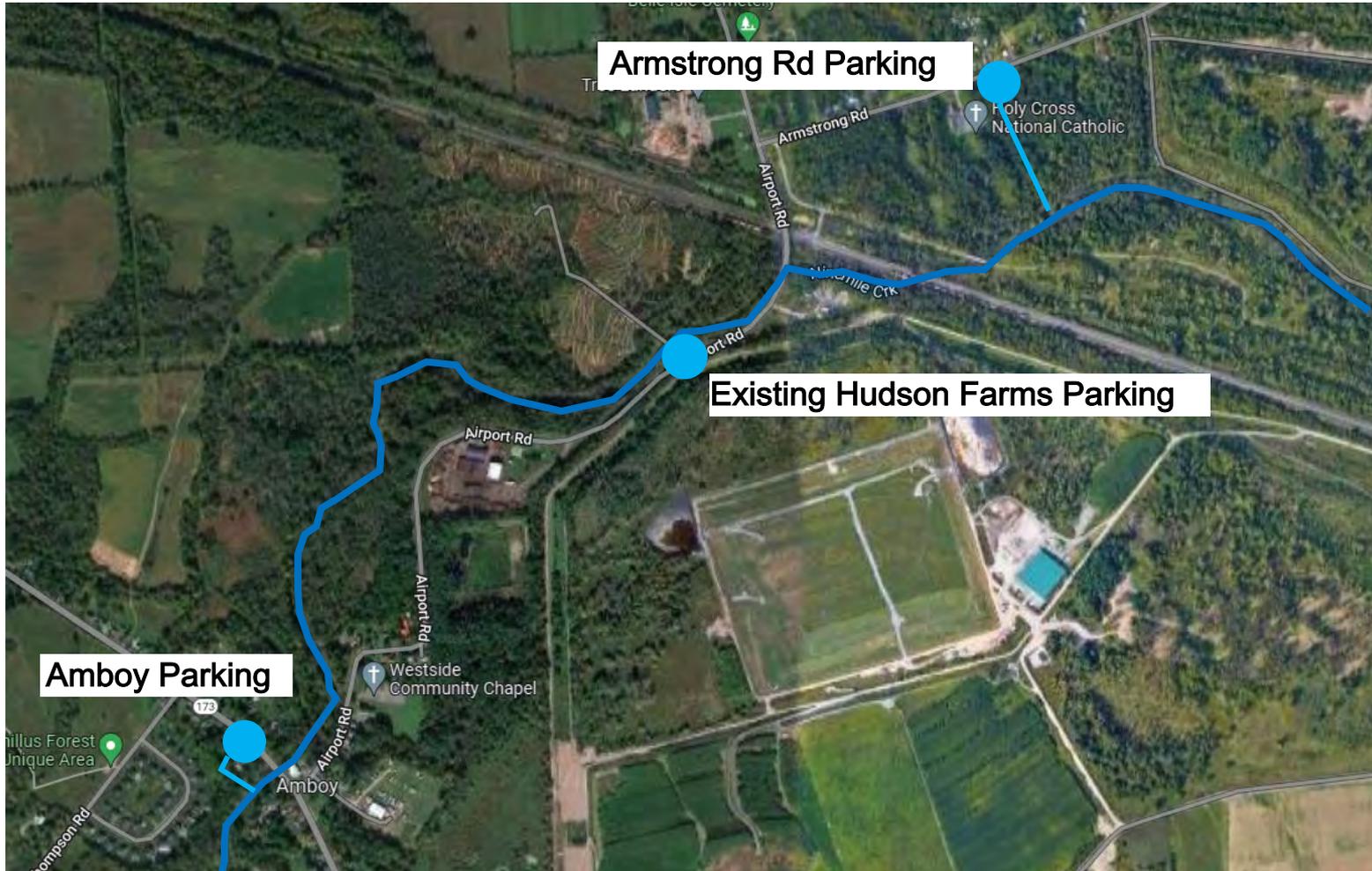
OUTLET JETTY ENHANCEMENTS

- Construction winter'22/'23
- Coordination with Onondaga County Parks



NINEMILE CREEK FISHING ACCESS

- Granting of Public Fishing Rights (PFR) in process
- Designs for new angler parking areas approved
 - Outreach complete, construction this fall



WETLAND CONSERVATION PROJECT

- Complete
- Excellent coordination with Trustees, Nature Conservancy, and The Wetland Trust



VERNAL POOLS

- Consolidated locations based on feedback from Dr. James Gibbs at SUNY ESF
 - Hudson Farms - 10,000 square feet
 - Maple Bay - 10,500 square feet
- Design approved and permits obtained
- Construction scheduled to start November

Hudson Farms



Future Locations of Vernal Pools

Maple Bay



MAPLE BAY AND NW SHORELINE

- **Wetland Enhancement Implementation**
 - Three invasive species treatments complete
 - Native seeding underway
 - Invasive species presence very low
 - Re-establishment of native species from seedbank impressive in some areas



HUDSON FARMS AND NINEMILE CREEK CORRIDOR

- Wetland Enhancement (complete)
 - NMC final seeding completed summer 2022
- Wetland Performance Verification (Yr 1 of 5)
 - Hudson Farms native plants re - establishing well from seeding in Fall '21
 - Invasive species presence low



September 2022



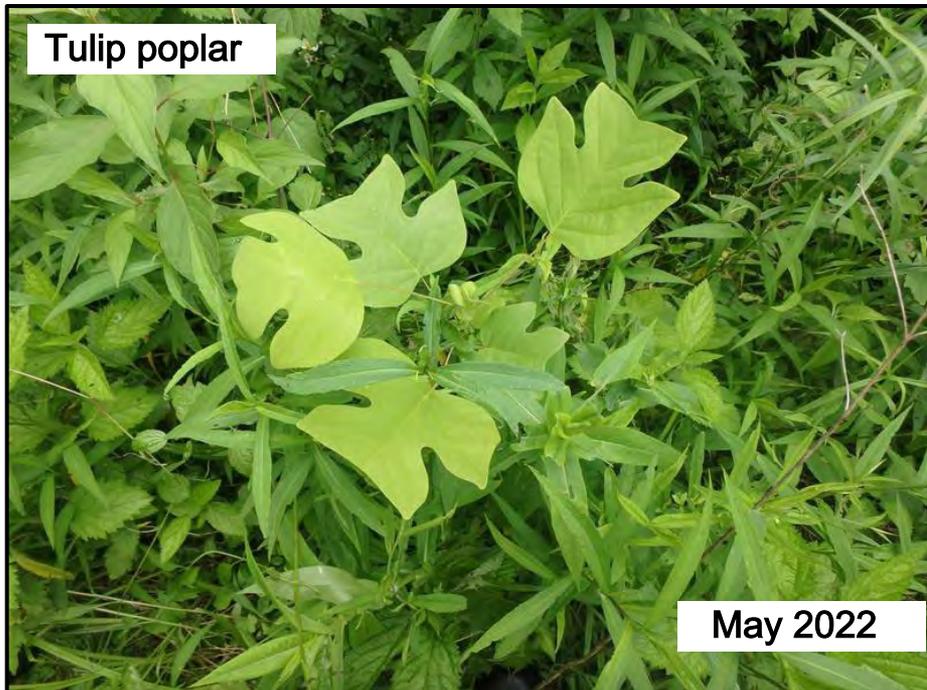
July 2022



September 2022

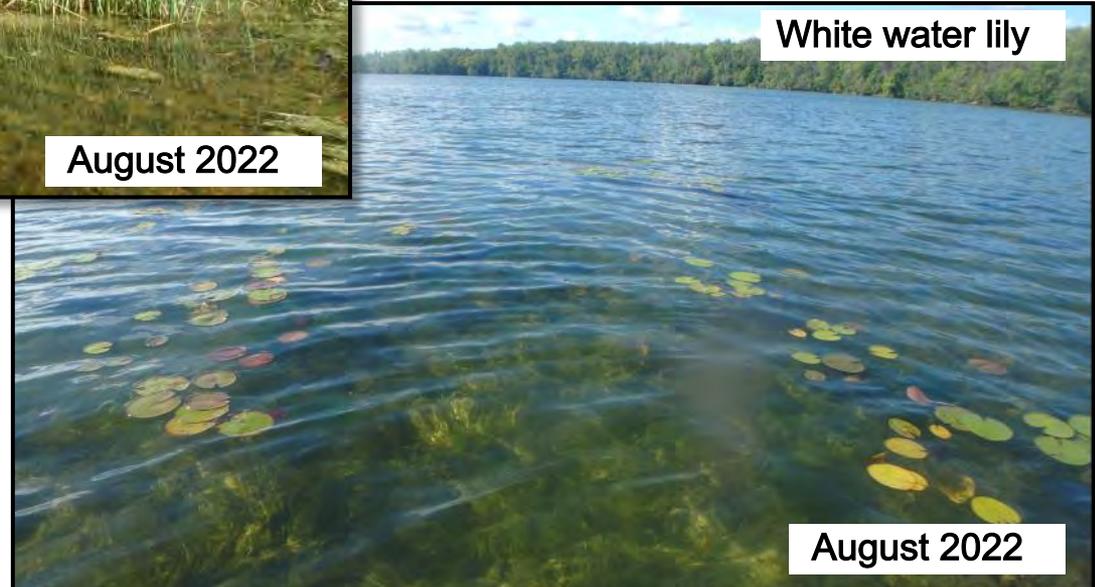
HUDSON FARMS AND NINEMILE CREEK CORRIDOR

- Upland and Floodplain Performance Verification (Yr 1 of 5)
 - Deer fence holding up well
 - Native seedlings establishing
 - Invasive species remain low
 - Some buckthorn and multiflora rose being targeted



MAPLE BAY IN - LAKE

- Performance Verification, 2022- Year 4 of 5
- Shoreline emergent and offshore floating plants established
- Minimal supplemental plantings needed in 2022
- Wild rice present



SCA AND C&D GRASSLANDS

- SCA Performance Verification, - 2022 is year 5 of 5; performance criteria exceeded
- C&D Performance Verification, - 2022 is year 3 of 5
 - Maintenance seeding - grassland mix in 2021



TULLY STREAMBANK

- Performance Verification, 2022 is Year 3 of 5
- Survival remains high, with good growth
- Minor supplemental plantings completed in spring



WRAP - UP

Email additional input to:

- Amy Roe: amy_roe@fws.gov
- Jared Reed: jared.reed@dec.ny.gov

Onondaga Lake NRD Restoration Projects

October 2021 Update



Southwest Shore Trail



Meeting Agenda

October 2021

- Welcome and Introductions

- Status of projects underway

Trustees

- Invasive species implementation
- Stewardship properties update
- Trustee sponsored restoration projects and project solicitation

Honeywell

- Completed projects:
 - Erie Canal trail parking, Hudson Farms and NMC Corridor enhancements, Maple Bay/NW Shore Wetland enhancements, Maple Bay in-lake plantings, C&D/SCA Grasslands, Tully Streambank
- Projects in design phase:
 - Outlet Jetty enhancements, NMC and Amboy angler parking

- Site visits and next meeting

Stewardship Properties Update

- Honeywell purchased properties for habitat conservation purposes
- Trustees requested proposals from qualified organizations to take ownership of these properties and manage them for conservation purposes

Transfer Completed

- Wetland Conservation Area 2:
The Nature Conservancy

Transfer Underway

- Wetland Conservation Area 1, Hudson Farms, and Ninemile Creek: *The Wetland Trust*

Future Transfers

- Onondaga Lake Visitor Center and North/South Tully:

Trustees evaluating options defined in CD - decision deadline of March 2022



2019 Trustee Sponsored Natural Resource Restoration Projects

*Proposed projects must **restore, replace, rehabilitate or acquire the equivalent** of natural resources injured by mercury and other hazardous substances*

24 Project Proposals Received (April 10-July 31, 2019)

7 Proposals met the Proposal Criteria (September 2019)

1 Revised Proposal (April 2020)

Sponsored by Trustees: Approximately \$3.4 million

2019 Trustee Sponsored Natural Resource Restoration Projects

Update on Sponsored Proposals: Approximately \$3.4 million

- Otisco Lake Shoreline Protection (Finger Lakes Land Trust) – **acquisition and restoration complete, conveyance of property to Onondaga County 2021/2022**
- Onondaga Creek Greenway (City of Syracuse) – **Spring 2021 public meetings to discuss designs, fence and dead tree removal in Summer/Fall 2021**
- Onondaga Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch (City of Syracuse) – **Design review Fall 2021**
- Erie Canal Tree Planting (Village of Solvay) – **Completed September 2021**
- Boat Launch Restrooms (NYSDEC) – **Construction underway September 2021**
- Common Tern Rafts (Riveredge Associates) - **To be awarded in Fall 2021**
- Amboy Dam Removal (NYSDEC/USFWS) - **Design discussions Fall 2021**
- **Wetland/Forest Protection (217 acres) and Restoration (The Wetland Trust) – acquisition to be completed October 2021, design and bird surveys completed**

Project Proposals Not Sponsored

- Outside of Onondaga Lake Watershed
- Did not result in project that would be sufficiently available to the public
- Project objectives not restoration specific (objectives may have been research or staff based)
- Project did not restore resources or resource uses injured by hazardous substances
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New and Ongoing Biannual Request for Proposals

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December 21, 2020

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Great Lakes
Restoration Initiative

Fish Enhancement,
Mitigation & Research
Fund

Upper Susquehanna
Conservation Alliance

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Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment

In March 2018, the United States Department of the Interior, acting through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the State of New York, acting through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), together the Trustees, settled a natural resource damage claim with the Responsible Parties, Honeywell International Inc. and Onondaga County, New York, for the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site in Onondaga County, New York.

The "March 2018 Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Consent Decree" outlines specific restoration projects currently underway and includes additional funding for Trustee sponsored natural resource restoration projects. Specifically, this funding "shall be applied toward the costs of restoration, rehabilitation, or replacement of injured natural resources, and/or acquisition of equivalent resources, including, but not limited to, any administrative, legal, oversight and maintenance costs, and expenses necessary for, and incidental to, restoration, rehabilitation, replacement and/or acquisition of equivalent resources."

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Onondaga Lake NRDAR Consent Decree

Environmental Quality

Natural Resource
Damage Assessment

Great Lakes
Restoration Initiative

Oil Spill Response

Refuge Support

Special Projects

2021 Trustee Sponsored Natural Resource Restoration Projects

*Proposed projects must **restore, replace, rehabilitate or acquire the equivalent** of natural resources injured by mercury and other hazardous substances*

7 Project Concept Proposals Received

3 Full Proposals Received

2 Full Proposals Sponsored: \$938,500

- Pleasant Valley/Onondaga Creek Watershed Protection (Central New York Land Trust)
- Syracuse Inner Harbor Kayak/Canoe Launch (City of Syracuse)

Sponsored by Trustees To Date: **Approximately \$4.3 million**

Restoration Funds Remaining: \$3.1 million

- Complete
- Scheduled

ANTICIPATED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE



In-Lake Structures
 Native Grassland SCA
 Tully Streambank
 Wetland Conservation
 River Boat Launch
 Boat Launch Amenities
 SW Shore Trail
 SW Shore Angler Access
 Erie Canal Trail

Completed

Fishing Pier

Habitat
 Enhancements

HF, NMC,
Tully

HF,
NMC

HF, NMC,
MB, NW
Shore

HF/NMC
Deer
Fence

HF/NMC,
MB, NW
Shore

MB, NW
Shore

MB, NW
Shore

Invasive Species Control

Projects to be implemented long-term by Onondaga Lake Trustees

Native Grassland C&D

~30 ac

Outlet Jetty
 Improvements

NMC Angler Parking

Erie Canal Trail - Parking

- Gere Lock parking area scheduled opening week of 10/18



Hudson Farms and Ninemile Creek Corridor

- **Wetland Enhancements**
 - Final invasive species treatments completed
 - Native seed bank germinating
 - Seeding this fall
- **Upland and Floodplain Invasive Species Control**
 - Deer fence installed



Hudson Farms Phragmites treatments have been effective, re-seeding this fall

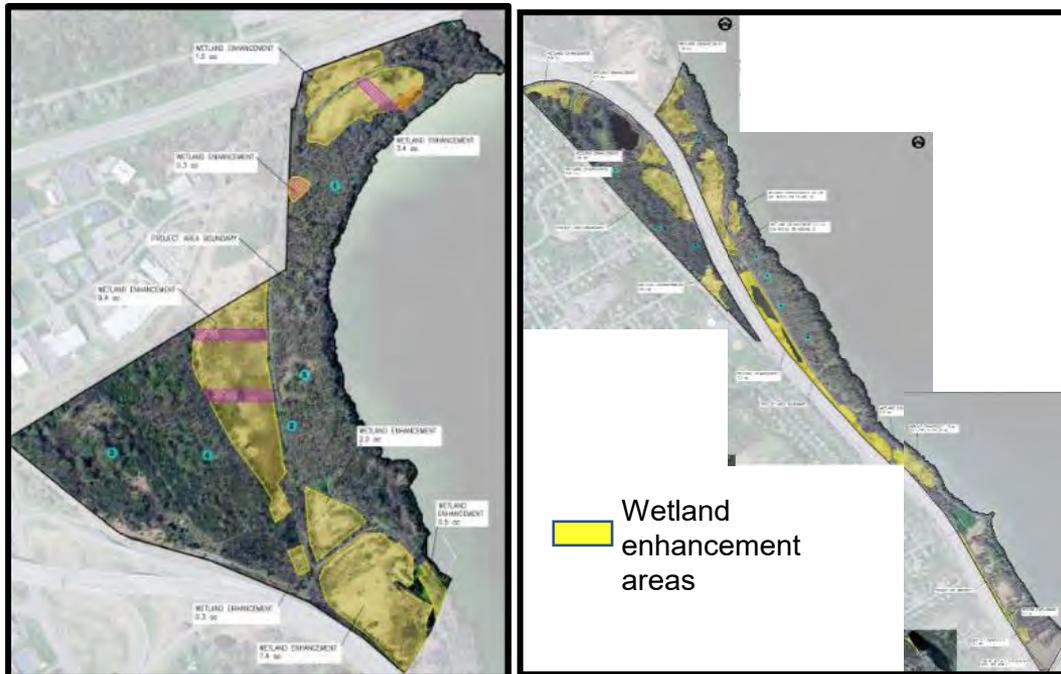


A photograph of a wetland area with a large pile of dry, brown reeds in the foreground. The water is shallow and reflects the sky. The background shows a dense forest of green trees under a blue sky with light clouds.

Maple Bay and NW Shore Wetland Enhancements

43 acres of wetland enhancements started Sept. 2021

- Invasive controls
 - Fall '21
 - Spring '22
 - Fall '22
- Seeding
 - Fall '22



Performance Verification Monitoring (PVM): Maple Bay In-Lake

- Year 3 of 5
- Wild Rice installed
- Survival of plantings appears excellent
- Shoreline Phragmites control completed Sept. 2021, seeding in Oct.

White water lily



Waterfowl resting on cobble wave dampers



Pickereel weed and softstem bulrush



White water lily



PVM: C&D Grasslands

- Year 2 of 5
- Dense vegetation established
- Supplemental seeding available if needed to boost native species



PVM: SCA Grasslands

- Year 4 of 5
- Excellent outlook for meeting year 5 performance criteria

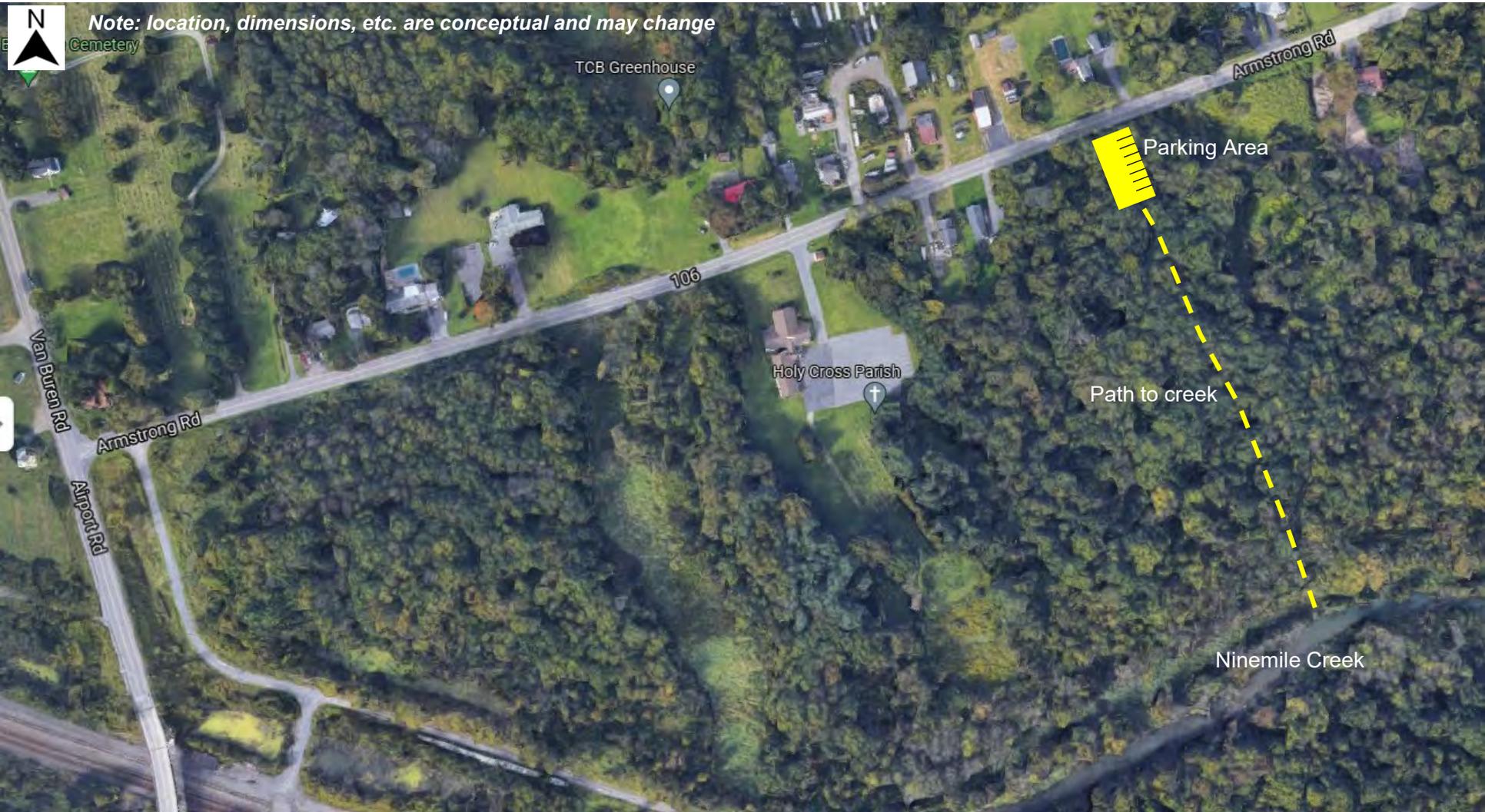


PVM: Tully Streambank

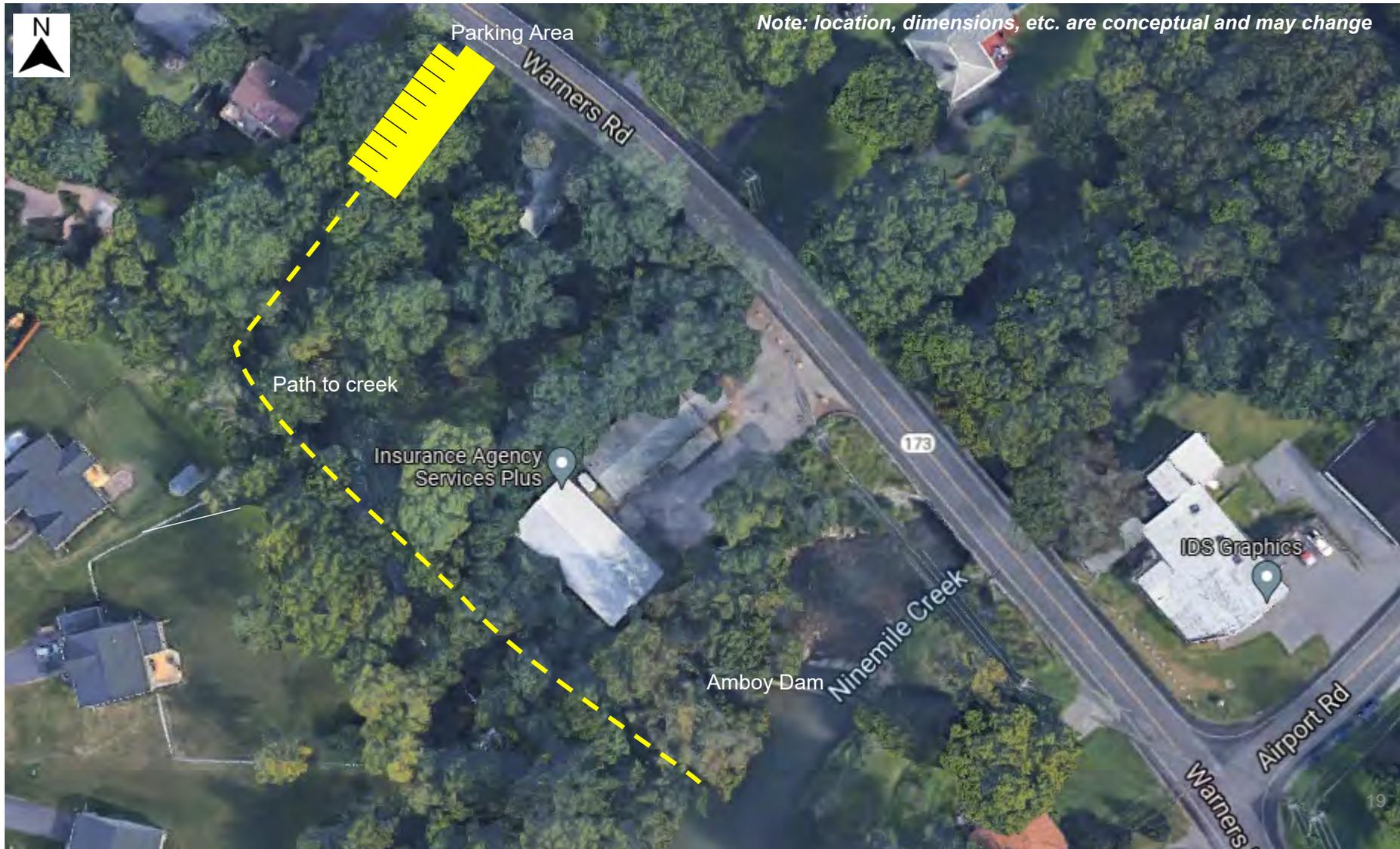
- Year 2 of 5
- Survival remains high overall
- 1,000 additional bare root trees added in Spring '21 to select areas



Ninemile Creek Angler Parking Conceptual Drawing

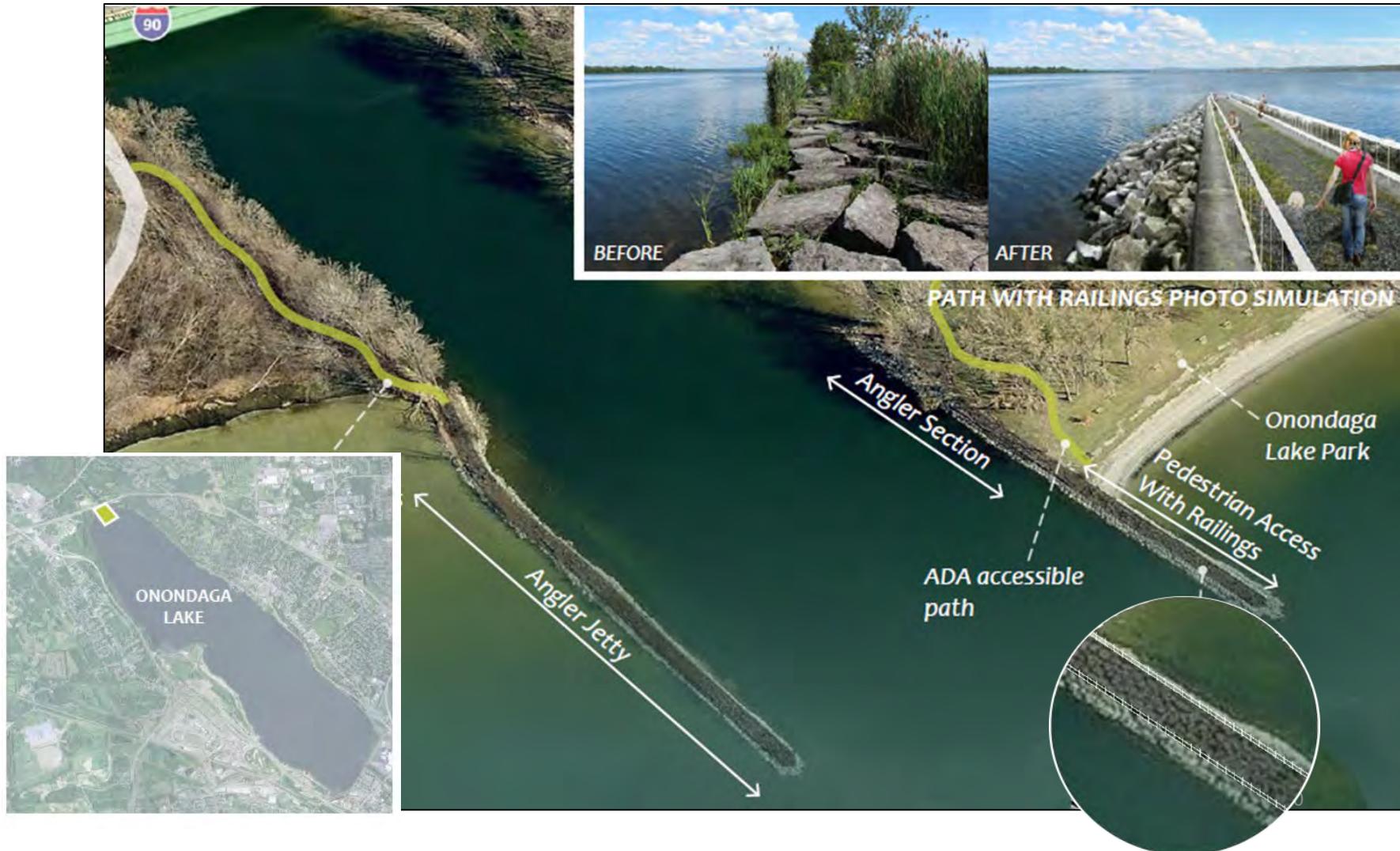


Amboy Angler Parking Conceptual Drawing



Outlet Jetty Enhancements

- Construction scheduled for 2022



Wrap-Up and Next Meeting

Email additional input to:

- Amy Roe: amy_roe@fws.gov
- Jared Reed: jared.reed@dec.ny.gov

Onondaga Lake NRD Restoration Projects

January 2021 Update



Southwest Shore Trail



Meeting Agenda

January 15, 2021



- Welcome and Introductions
- Status of Projects Underway or Recently Completed
 - Trails, Hudson Farms and NMC Corridor Enhancements, Maple Bay In-Lake Plantings, SCA and C&D Grasslands
- Upcoming Projects
 - Fishing Pier, Outlet Jetty Enhancement Project, Maple Bay and NW Shore Habitat Enhancements
- Additional Project Updates and New Project Solicitation
 - Property Stewardship
 - Invasive Species Plan
 - 2019 Trustee Sponsored Natural Resource Restoration Projects
 - New and Ongoing Biannual Request for Proposals
- Wrap-up and Next Meeting

- Complete
- Scheduled



ANTICIPATED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE



In-Lake Structures
 Native Grassland SCA
 Tully Streambank
 Wetland Conservation
 River Boat Launch
 Boat Launch Amenities
 SW Shore Trail
 SW Shore Angler Access
 Erie Canal Trail

Completed

COVID Schedule Impacts

- Fishing pier
- Outlet jetty
- Hudson Farms and Ninemile Creek deer fence

Fishing Pier

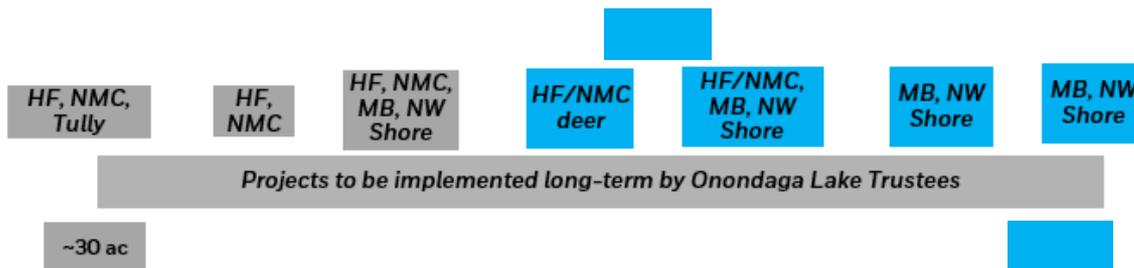
Habitat Enhancements

Invasive Species Control

Native Grassland C&D

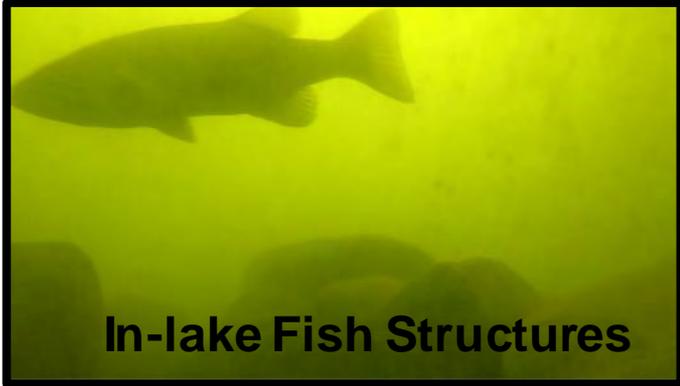
Outlet Jetty Improvements

Angler Parking Areas



Occurs with PFR or property transfer

Completed Projects



Erie Canal Trail

Open for public use



Erie Canal Trail - Parking



- Parking area construction to start soon



Southwest Shore Trail and Angler Access

Open for public use



- Trail
- Parking area
- Road improvements
- County trail (complete)



Hudson Farms and Ninemile Creek Corridor



- **Wetland Enhancements**
 - Invasive controls appear effective
 - Final treatments in 2021 followed by native seeding
- **Upland and Floodplain Invasive Species Control**
 - Treatment of buckthorn seedlings completed in spring and fall
 - Area of multiflora rose also ID'd and treated
 - “Touch-up” treatments possible in spring 2021
 - Deer fence to be installed spring 2021
 - Native seeding in 2021
 - Treatments follow NYSDEC regulations



Performance Verification Monitoring (PVM): Maple Bay In-Lake



- Year 2 of 5
- Survival of plantings appears excellent
- Shoreline Phragmites control is the last implementation task

Shoreline plantings



White water lily plantings and wild rice



PVM: C&D Grasslands



- Year 1 of 5
- Some sparse areas (lack of precipitation) re-seeded with cover crop while native vegetation establish



PVM: SCA Grasslands



- PVM Year 3 of 5
- Excellent outlook for meeting year 5 performance criteria



July 2020

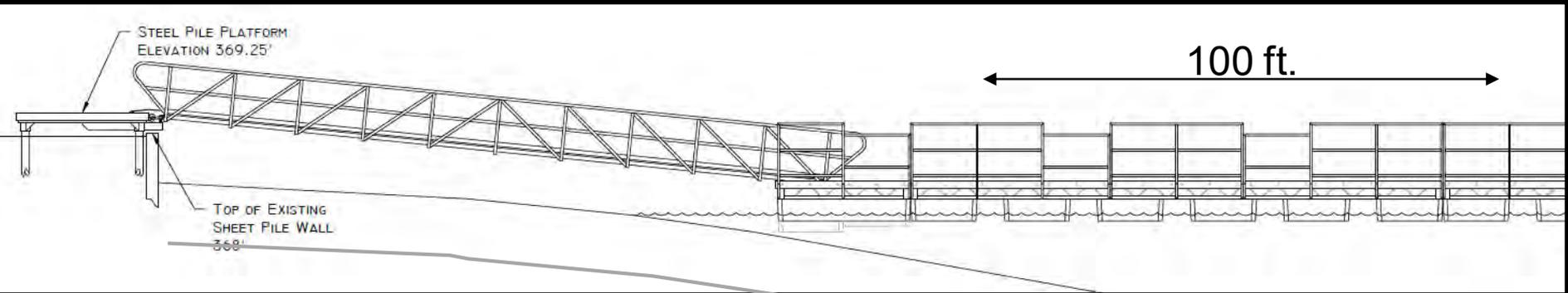
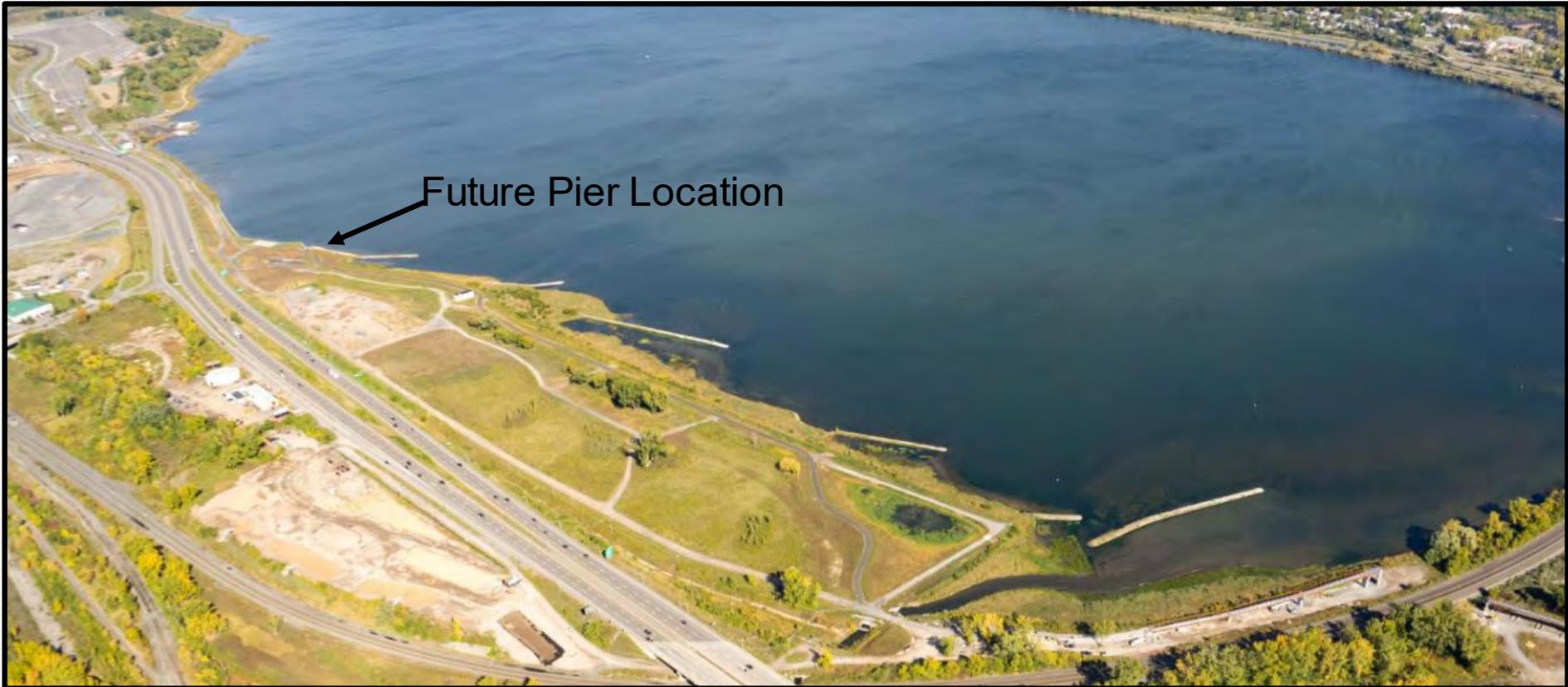


PVM: Tully Streambank

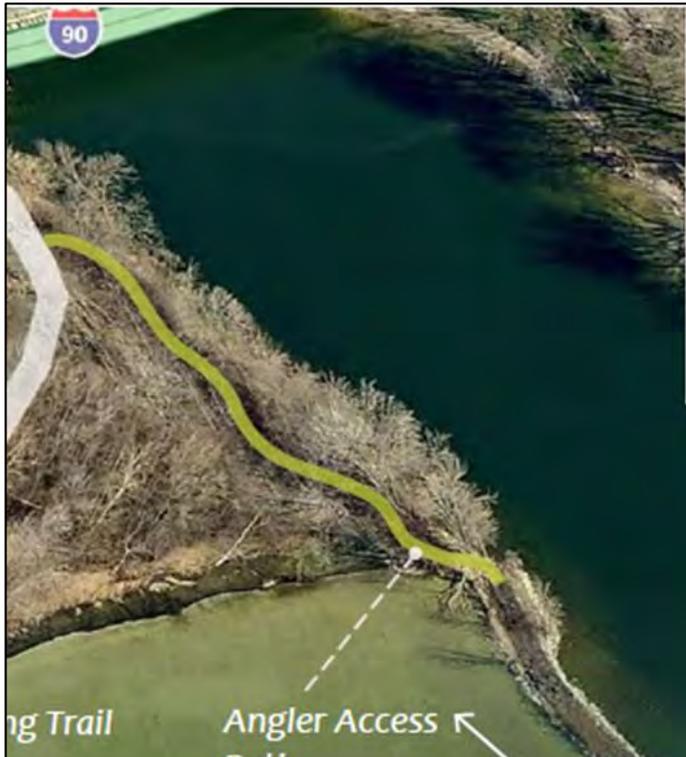
- PVM Year 1 of 5
- Initial survival appears high



Southwest Shore Fishing Pier



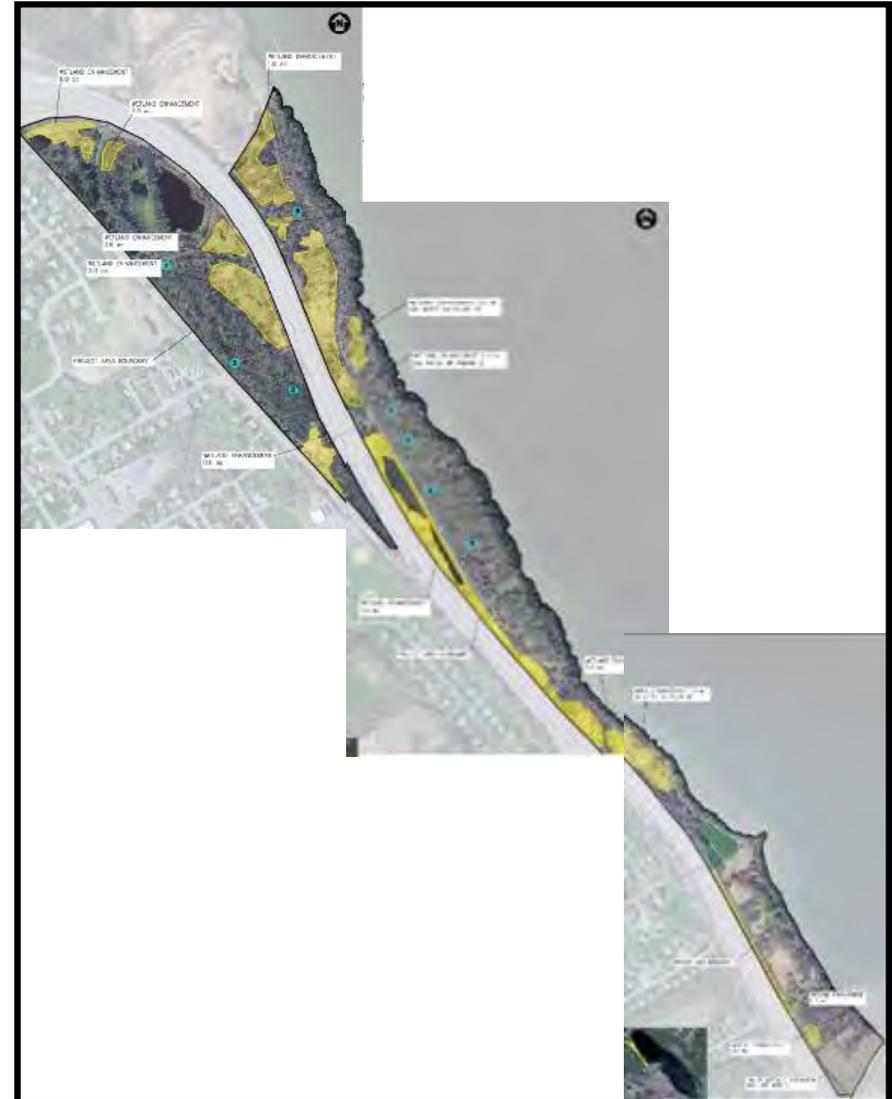
Outlet Jetty Enhancements



Maple Bay and NW Shore Habitat Enhancements



43 acres of wetland enhancements planned



Stewardship Properties Update

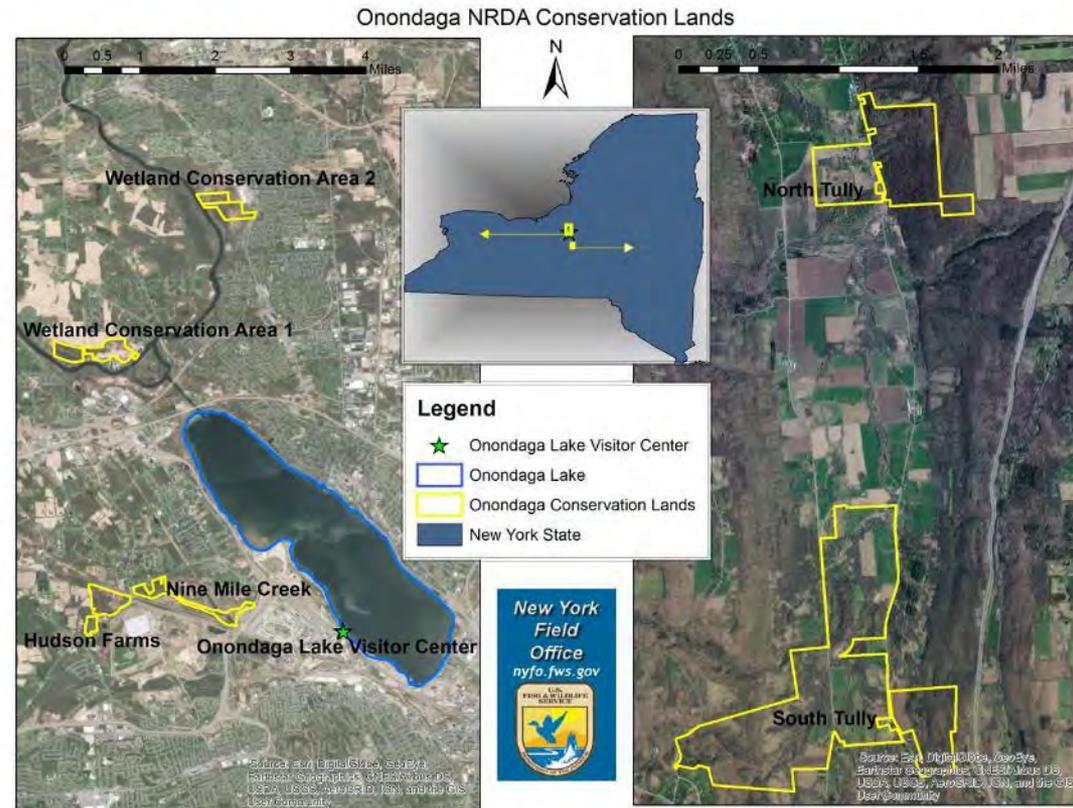


- Honeywell purchased properties for habitat conservation purposes
- Trustees requested proposals from qualified organizations to take ownership of these properties and manage them for conservation purposes

- Wetland Conservation Area 2
The Nature Conservancy

- Wetland Conservation Area 1,
Hudson Farms, and Ninemile
Creek
The Wetland Trust

- Onondaga Lake Visitor Center
and North/South Tully
NYSDEC

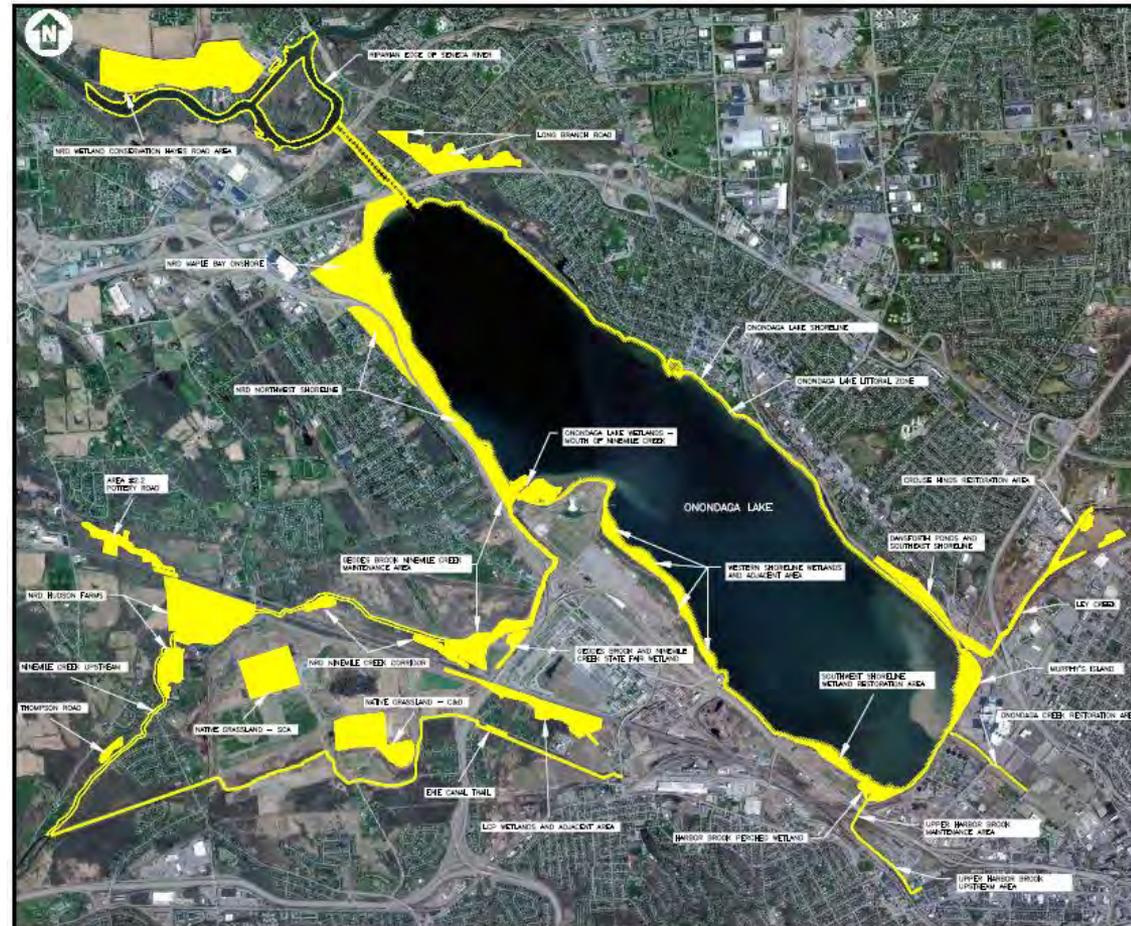


Invasive Species Plan Update

- Final Plan completed in July 2020
 - Available at <https://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/ec/onondaga.htm>

Provides a strategy and timeline for invasive species monitoring and control over the initial five years of the 15 year project

Trustees are preparing to announce the notice of funding opportunity for years 1-5 implementation in early 2021



2019 Trustee Sponsored Natural Resource Restoration Projects



*Proposed projects must **restore, replace, rehabilitate or acquire the equivalent** of natural resources injured by mercury and other hazardous substances*

24 Project Proposals Received (April 10-July 31, 2019)

7 Proposals met the Proposal Criteria (September 2019)

1 Revised Proposal (April 2020)

Sponsored by Trustees: Approximately \$3.4 million

2019 Trustee Sponsored Natural Resource Restoration Projects



Update on Sponsored Proposals: **Approximately \$3.4 million**

- Otisco Lake Shoreline Protection (Finger Lakes Land Trust) – ***acquisition complete***
- Onondaga Creek Greenway (City of Syracuse) – ***Spring 2021 start***
- Onondaga Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch (City of Syracuse) – ***Spring 2021 start***
- Erie Canal Tree Planting (Village of Solvay) – ***Spring 2021 Start***
- Boat Launch Restrooms (NYSDEC) – ***Spring 2021 start***
- Common Tern Rafts (Riveredge Associates)
- Amboy Dam Removal (NYSDEC & USFWS)
- ***NEW: Wetland and Forest Protection (217 acres) and Restoration within Onondaga Lake Basin (The Wetland Trust) – acquisition underway***

Project Proposals Not Sponsored



- Outside of Onondaga Lake Watershed
- Did not result in project that would be sufficiently available to the public
- Project objectives not restoration specific (objectives may have been research or staff based)
- Project did not restore resources or resource uses injured by hazardous substances
- Cost effectiveness not demonstrated
- Technical feasibility not demonstrated

New and Ongoing Biannual Request for Proposals



Two-Step Process

<https://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/ec/onondaga.htm>

Step 1

Submit a completed Onondaga Lake NRDAR Project Concept Proposal to: Amy Roe and Jared Reed. **Concept Proposals are accepted throughout the year.**

Step 2

Applicants that receive Trustee approval of Onondaga Lake NRDAR Concept Proposals are eligible to submit a full Onondaga Lake NRDAR Proposal by the biannual deadlines of **March 1 and September 1 of each calendar year** to: Amy Roe and Jared Reed.

New and Ongoing Biannual Request for Proposals



fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/ec/onondaga.htm



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

New York Field Office

Northeast Region

Search

Monday,
December 21, 2020

Home

Endangered Species

Conservation Planning
Assistance

Environmental Quality

Partners for Fish &
Wildlife

Contact Information
and Directions

Great Lakes
Restoration Initiative

Fish Enhancement,
Mitigation & Research
Fund

Upper Susquehanna
Conservation Alliance

Newsroom

Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment

In March 2018, the United States Department of the Interior, acting through the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the State of New York, acting through the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), together the Trustees, settled a natural resource damage claim with the Responsible Parties, Honeywell International Inc. and Onondaga County, New York, for the Onondaga Lake Superfund Site in Onondaga County, New York.

The "March 2018 Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Consent Decree" outlines specific restoration projects currently underway and includes additional funding for Trustee sponsored natural resource restoration projects. Specifically, this funding "shall be applied toward the costs of restoration, rehabilitation, or replacement of injured natural resources, and/or acquisition of equivalent resources, including, but not limited to, any administrative, legal, oversight and maintenance costs, and expenses necessary for, and incidental to, restoration, rehabilitation, replacement and/or acquisition of equivalent resources."

How to Submit a Funding Proposal to the Trustees

There is a two-step process to submit a funding proposal for natural resource restoration projects consistent with the 2017 Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Assessment Restoration (NRDAR) Plan and Environmental Assessment and the 2018 Onondaga Lake Natural Resource Damage Consent Decree.

Step 1

Submit a completed Onondaga Lake NRDAR Project Concept Proposal to: Amy Roe at amy_roe@fws.gov and Jared Reed at jared.reed@dec.ny.gov. **Concept Proposals are accepted throughout the year.** The Trustees will endeavor to make Concept Proposal decisions within 30 days from receipt of Concept Proposals.

- [Onondaga_Lake_NRDAR_Project_Concept_Instructions_11-2020.pdf](#)

Step 2

Applicants that receive Trustee approval of Onondaga Lake NRDAR Concept Proposals are eligible to submit a full Onondaga Lake NRDAR Proposal by the biannual deadlines of **March 1 and September 1 of each Calendar Year**: to Amy Roe at amy_roe@fws.gov and Jared Reed at jared.reed@dec.ny.gov. Funding decisions will be made by April 30 and October 31 of each Calendar Year.

- [Onondaga_Lake_NRDAR_Proposal_Project NarrativeMapBudget_Instructions_11-2020.pdf](#)

Onondaga Lake NRDAR Consent Decree

Environmental Quality

Natural Resource
Damage Assessment

Great Lakes
Restoration Initiative

Oil Spill Response

Refuge Support

Special Projects

Wrap-Up and Next Meeting

Email additional input to:

- Amy Roe: amy_roe@fws.gov
- Jared Reed: jared.reed@dec.ny.gov

Onondaga Lake NRD Restoration Projects



November 4, 2019

Meeting Agenda

November 4, 2019



- Welcome and Introductions
- Status of projects underway
 - Seneca River boat launch, Trails, Fishing pier, Maple Bay in-lake plantings, Hudson Farms and NMC Corridor enhancements, and SCA Grasslands
- Upcoming projects
 - Outlet Jetty Enhancement Project
- New project solicitation
- Property stewardship
- Invasive species plan
- Wrap-up and next meeting

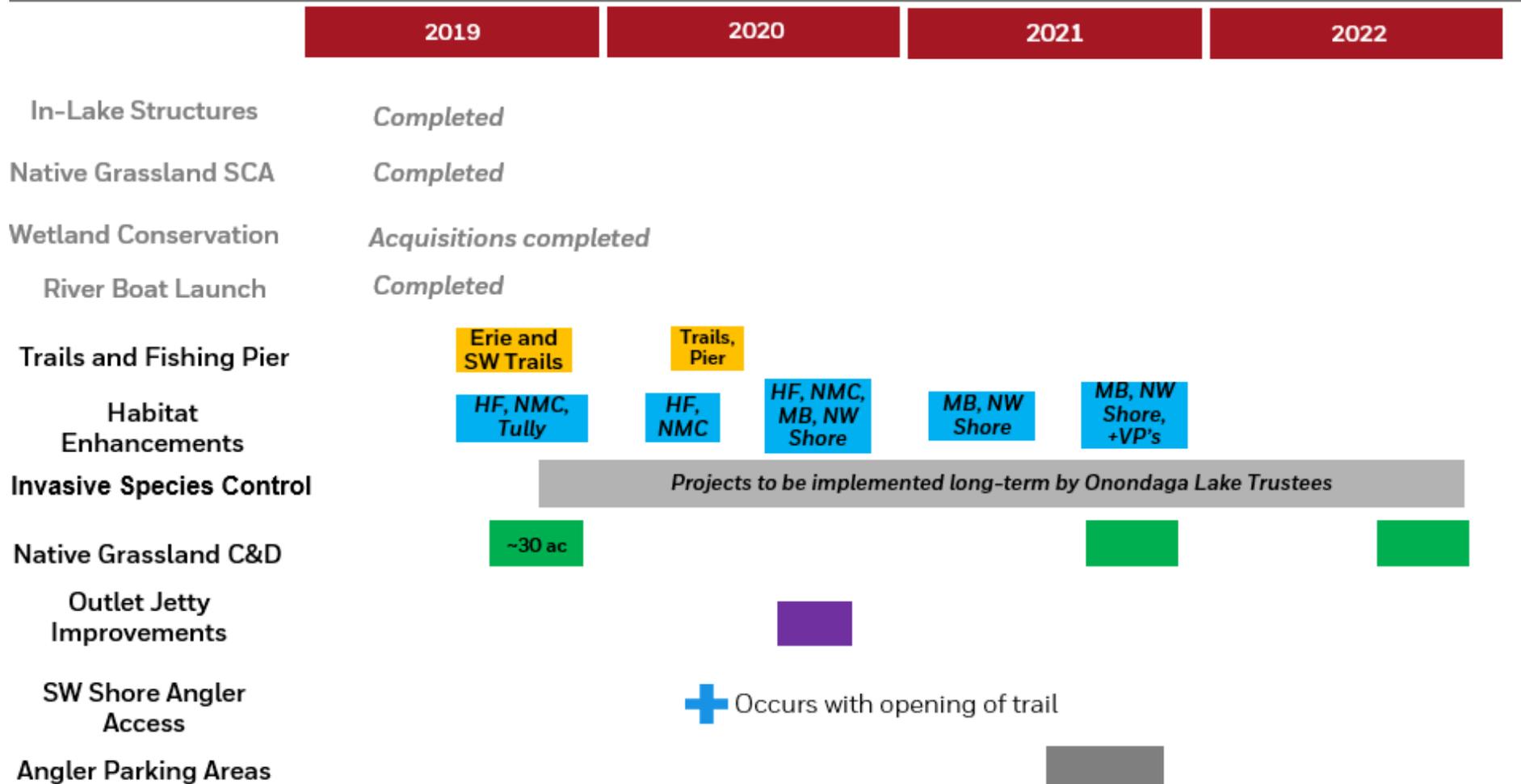
Discussion Ground Rules



Please...

- Understand that we are implementing a multi-party legal settlement with a fixed scope of work and deadlines
- Speak openly, share your ideas and comments
- Stay on point and allow everyone time to speak
- Listen with an open mind and respect others' views
- Refrain from side conversations and interruptions
- Focus on desired outcomes rather than the means of achieving them

ANTICIPATED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE



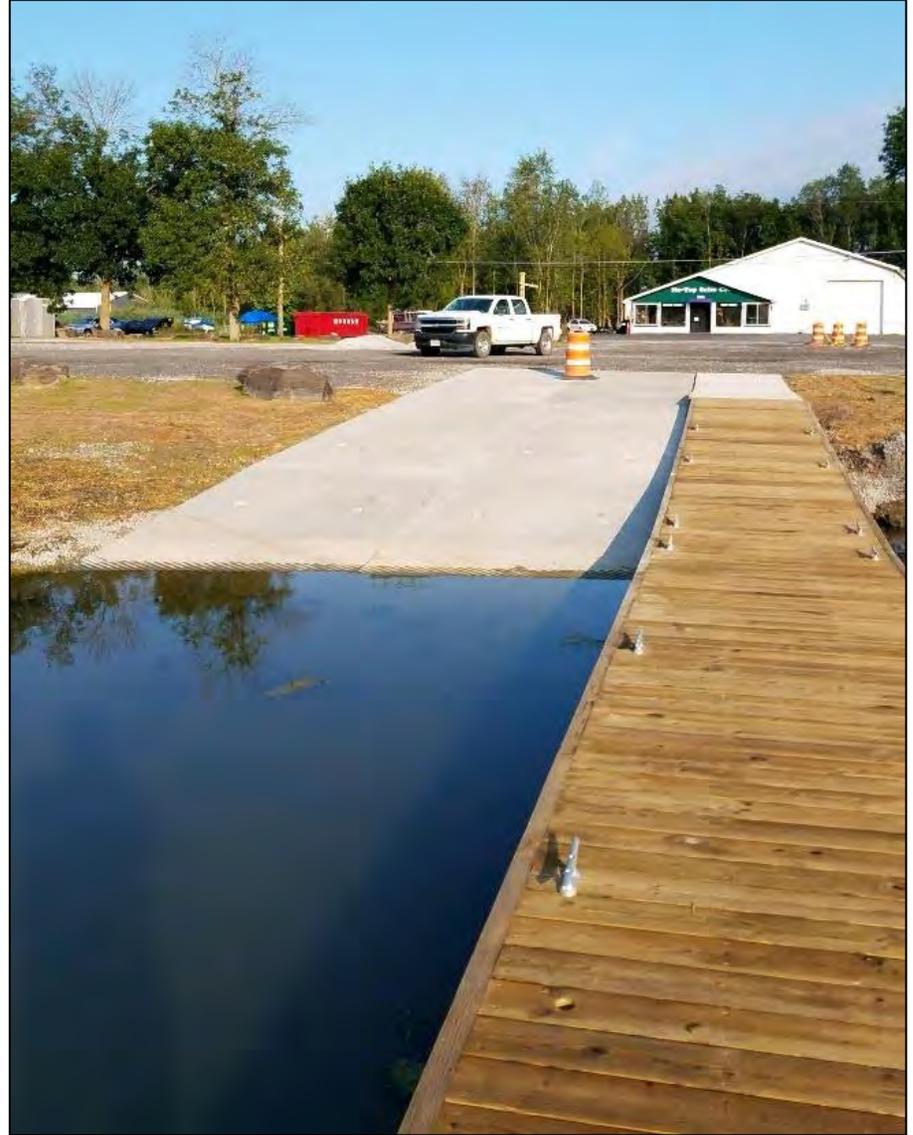
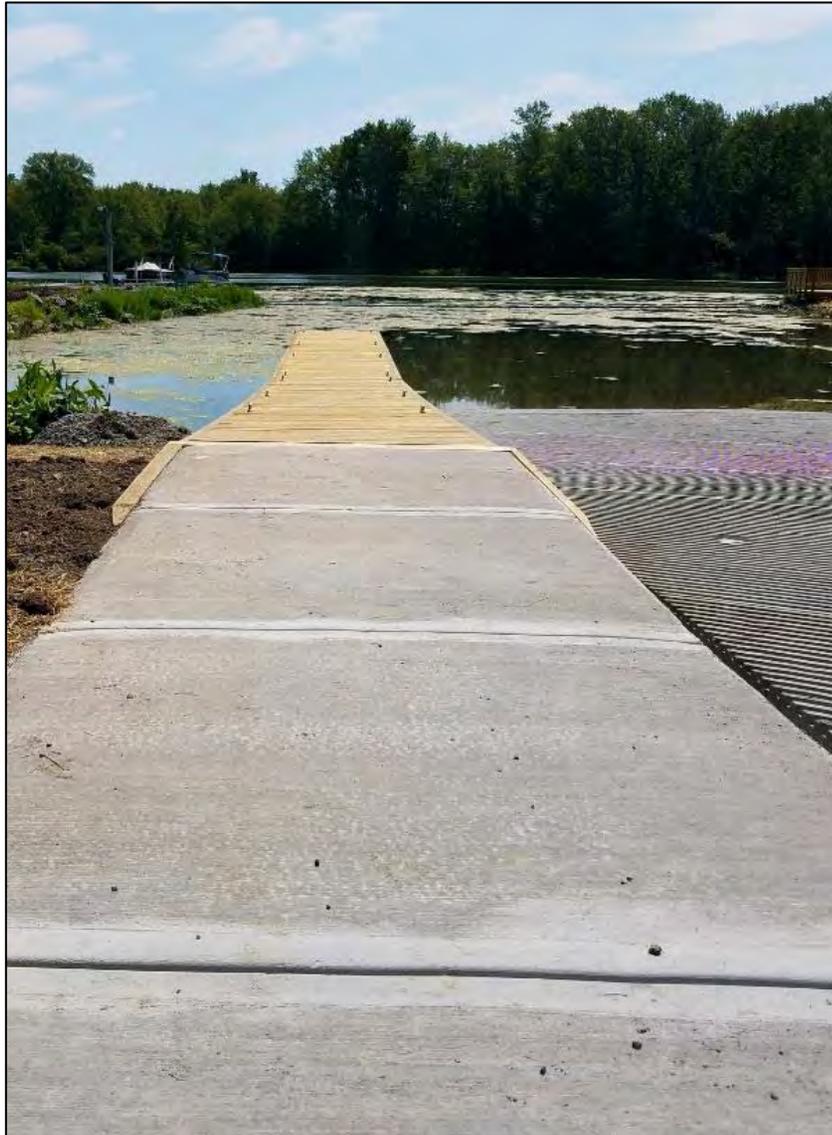
Status of Projects Underway



- Seneca River Boat Launch
- Trails
- Maple Bay In-Lake Plantings
- Habitat Enhancements
 - Hudson Farms
 - Ninemile Creek Corridor
- Grasslands

Seneca River Boat Launch

Opened October 2019



Seneca River Boat Launch *Opened October 2019*



Trails



- Outreach conducted to nearby neighbors and elected officials



Southwest Shore Trail

Construction Underway



ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA



THIS RESTORED HABITAT CONTAINS SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

- HELP PROTECT THIS NATURAL RESOURCE
- PLEASE DO NOT CUT, COLLECT, OR DAMAGE PLANTS
- BIRDS AND NESTS ARE PROTECTED BY FEDERAL AND STATE LAW, PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB

Signage in Wetland Areas



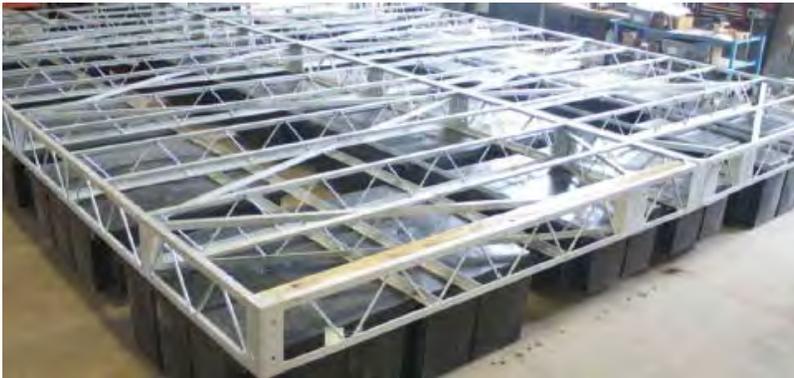
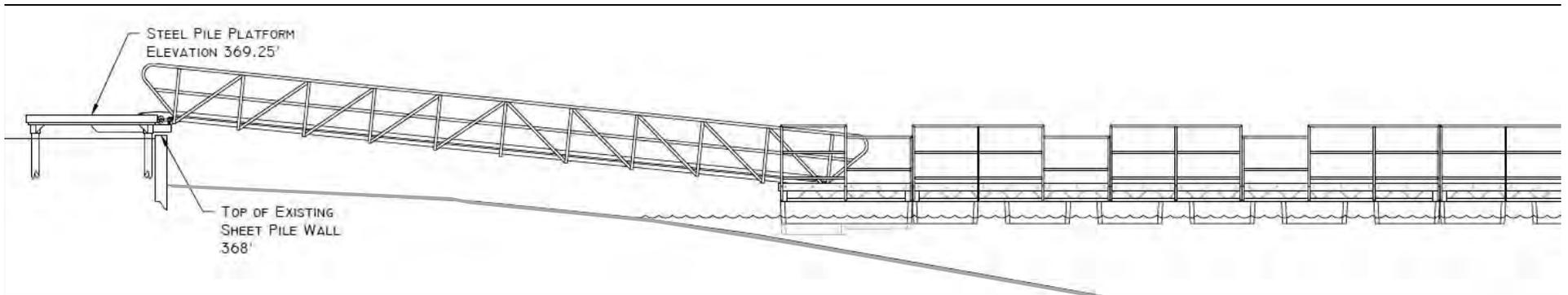
ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREA



THIS RESTORED HABITAT CONTAINS SENSITIVE PLANTS AND ANIMALS

- **HELP PROTECT THIS NATURAL RESOURCE**
- **PLEASE DO NOT CUT, COLLECT, OR DAMAGE PLANTS**
- **BIRDS AND NESTS ARE PROTECTED BY FEDERAL AND STATE LAW, PLEASE DO NOT DISTURB**

Southwest Shore Fishing Pier



TYP. FLOATING FRAME



Maple Bay In-Lake Plantings



Completed

- Wild Rice seeding (650 lbs)
- Shoreline emergent plantings (3,500)
- Enclosure Installation (6)
- Shallow water floating aquatic plantings (8,000)

To be completed

- Shoreline invasive controls
- Seeding of treated areas

Maple Bay In-Lake Plantings

9/20/19



Hudson Farms and Ninemile Creek Corridor



- **Herbaceous Invasive Species Control**

- First treatment completed
- Water samples (3) collected at mouth of NMC and analyzed for glyphosate (permit requirement)
 - Results were non-detect
- Second and third treatments next spring and fall; followed by native seeding

- **Upland and Floodplain Invasive Species Control**

- Herbaceous treatment completed
- Cutting of invasive understory this fall and stump treatment
- Girdling and cutting of invasive trees this fall
- Treat germinants next spring
- Deer fence installation next spring



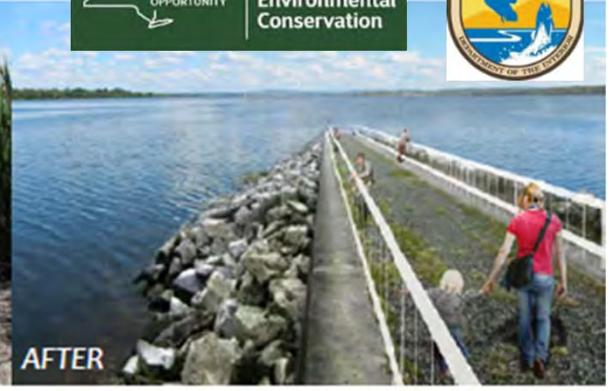
SCA Grasslands



- **Percent Cover is High**
- **Year-2 Maintenance (2019)**
 - Supplemental seeding- spring (200 lbs)
 - Invasive species management- early July
 - Entire area was mowed week of Sept. 23rd



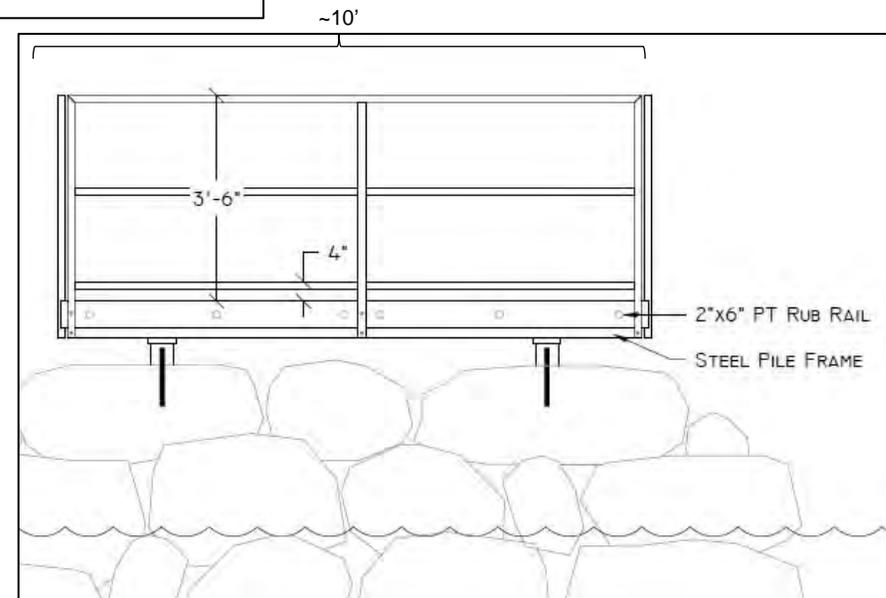
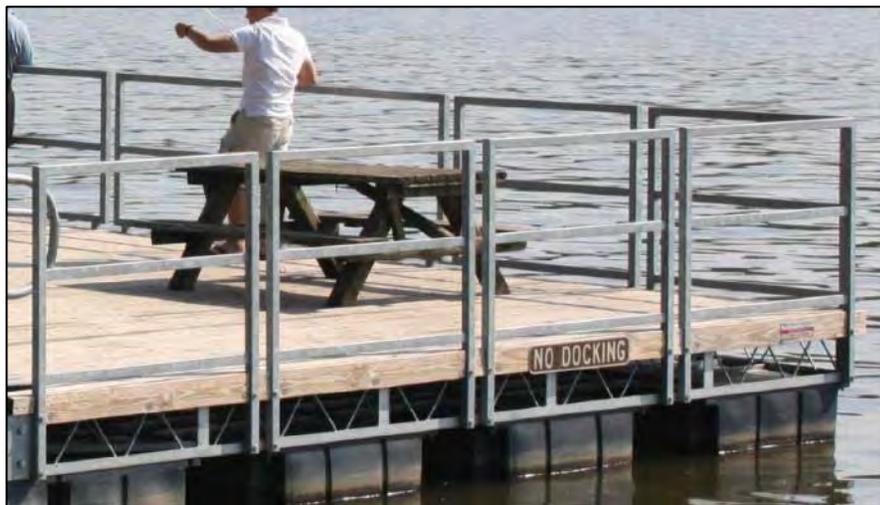
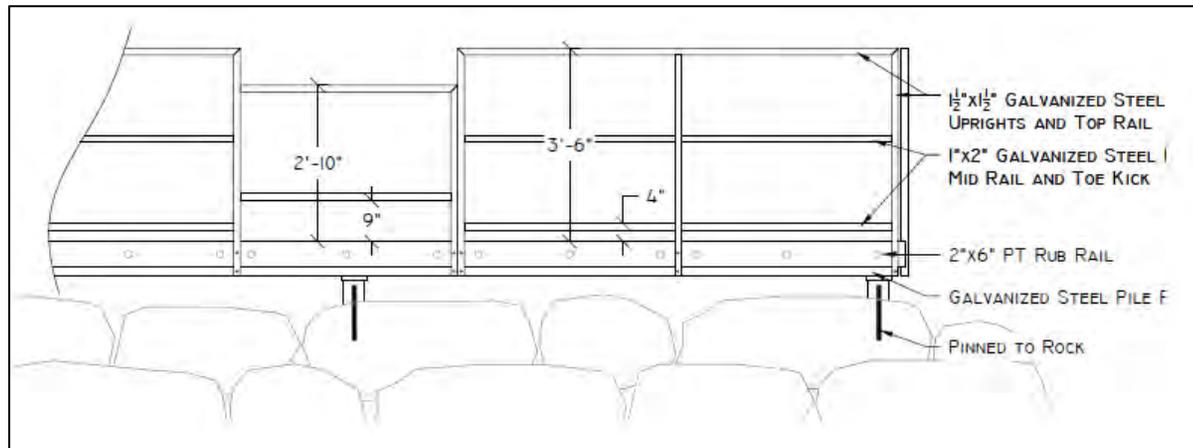
Outlet Jetty Enhancements



Outlet Jetty Enhancements



Conceptual Drawings



New Projects Solicitation



24 Project Proposals Submitted (April 10-July 31, 2019); **7 approved**

- *Proposed projects must **restore, replace, rehabilitate or acquire the equivalent** of natural resources injured by mercury and other hazardous substances*

Approved by Trustees:

- Common Tern Rafts (Riveredge Associates)
- Amboy Dam Removal (NYSDEC & USFWS)
- Otisco Lake Shoreline Protection (Finger Lakes Land Trust)
- Onondaga Creek Greenway (City of Syracuse)
- Onondaga Creek Canoe/Kayak Launch (City of Syracuse)
- Erie Canal Tree Planting (Village of Solvay)
- Boat Launch Restrooms (NYSDEC)

Approximately \$2 million total

Non-Preferred Projects



- Outside of Onondaga Watershed
- Did not result in project that would be sufficiently publicly available
- Project objectives not restoration specific (objectives may have been research or staff based)
- Project did not restore resources or recourse uses injured by hazardous substances
- Cost effectiveness not demonstrated
- Technical feasibility not demonstrated

Stewardship Properties Tour



- Honeywell set aside and purchased properties for habitat conservation purposes
- Trustees looking for qualified organizations to take ownership of these properties and manage them for conservation purposes.
- Site visit with interested parties conducted in May, 2019





Wrap-Up and Next Meeting

Onondaga Lake NRD Restoration Projects



Meeting Agenda

April 1, 2019



- Welcome and Introductions
- Status of projects discussed at November meeting
- Presentation and discussion of upcoming projects
 - Maple Bay In Lake Habitat Enhancement
 - Maple Bay Onshore Habitat Enhancement
 - Hudson Farms Ecological Enhancement
 - Outlet jetty enhancement project
- Invasive species comprehensive plan
- Conservation properties tour
- New project solicitation
- Wrap-up and next meeting

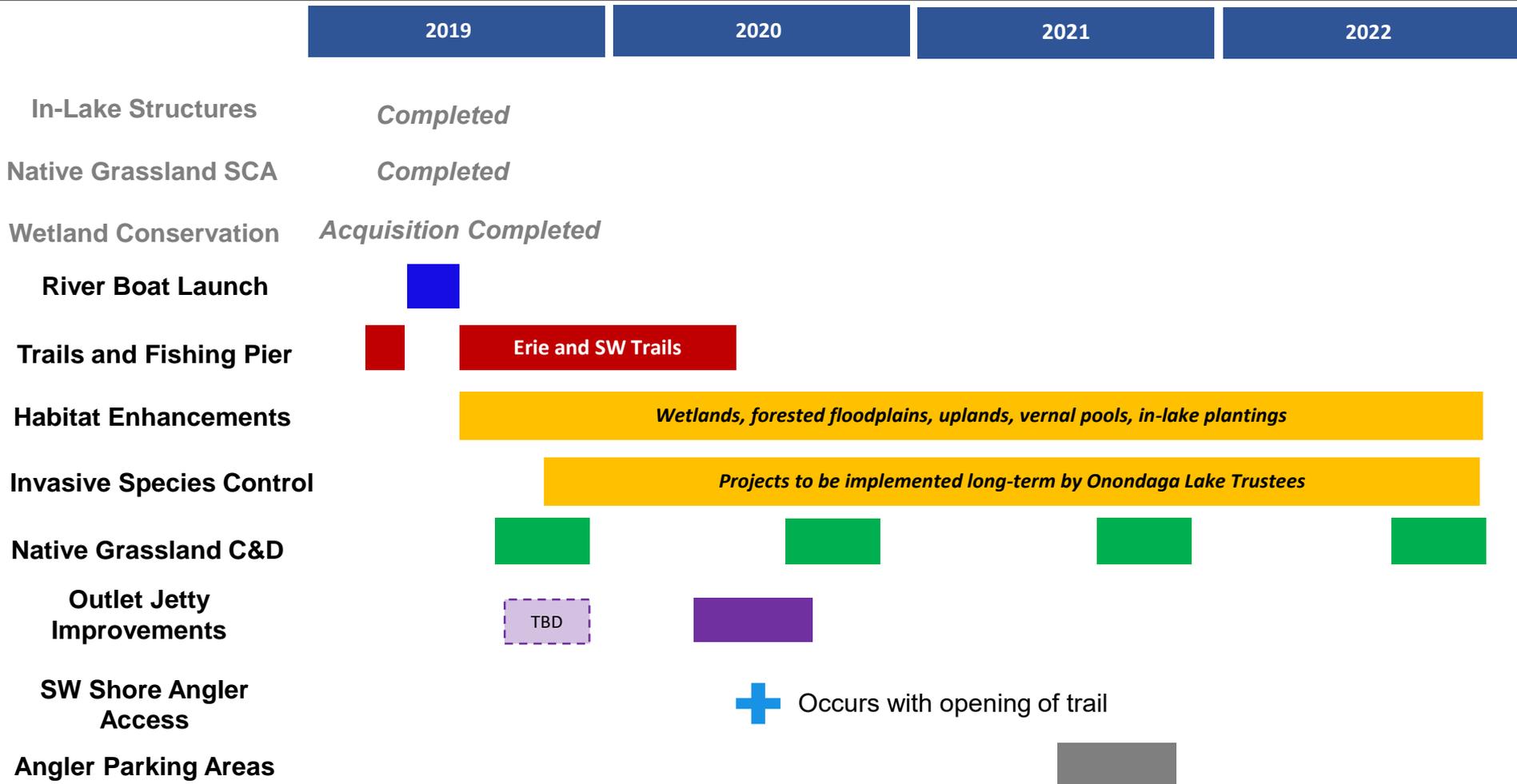
Discussion Ground Rules



Please...

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- Listen with an open mind and respect others' views
- Refrain from side conversations and interruptions
- Focus on desired outcomes rather than the means of achieving them

ANTICIPATED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE



Wetland Enhancements



Scope:

- 69 acres
- Invasive species control
- Establishment of native plants
 - Native seed mix

Planned Schedule:

- Invasive species control
 - 1st application; late summer '19
 - 2nd application; spring '20
 - 3rd application; late summer '20
- Seeding; fall '20
- Monitor and maintain; '21-'25



Maple Bay



**Northwest
Shore**



**Hudson
Farms**

Habitat Enhancement and Protection

- 1,700+ acres of habitat preserved
- Phragmites removal and reestablishment of native plant species
- Vernal pool creation
- Forest and floodplain enhancements
- Streambank enhancement



Maple Bay



Northwest Shore



Tully



Hudson Farms



Ninemile Creek

Vernal Pool Creation

Scope:

- Create 8 vernal pools within forested areas
 - Maple Bay (2)
 - NW Shore (4)
 - Hudson Farms (2)
- ~2,500 sq. ft. each
- Seeding with native mix



Planned Schedule:

- Field surveys and site selection; 2019 – early 2020
- Construction; fall 2020
- Monitor and maintain; '21-'25



Forested Floodplain and Upland Enhancement



Scope:

- 4 acres @ Ninemile Creek
 - Floodplain
- 32 acres @ Hudson Farms
 - Upland
- Invasive species control
 - Herbaceous
 - Woody
- Seeding with native mix
- Deer fence to protect naturally occurring seedlings

Planned Schedule:

- Invasive control; winter- summer '20
- Seeding; fall '20
- Deer fence; spring '21
- Monitor and maintain; '21-'25



Streambank Enhancement

Scope:

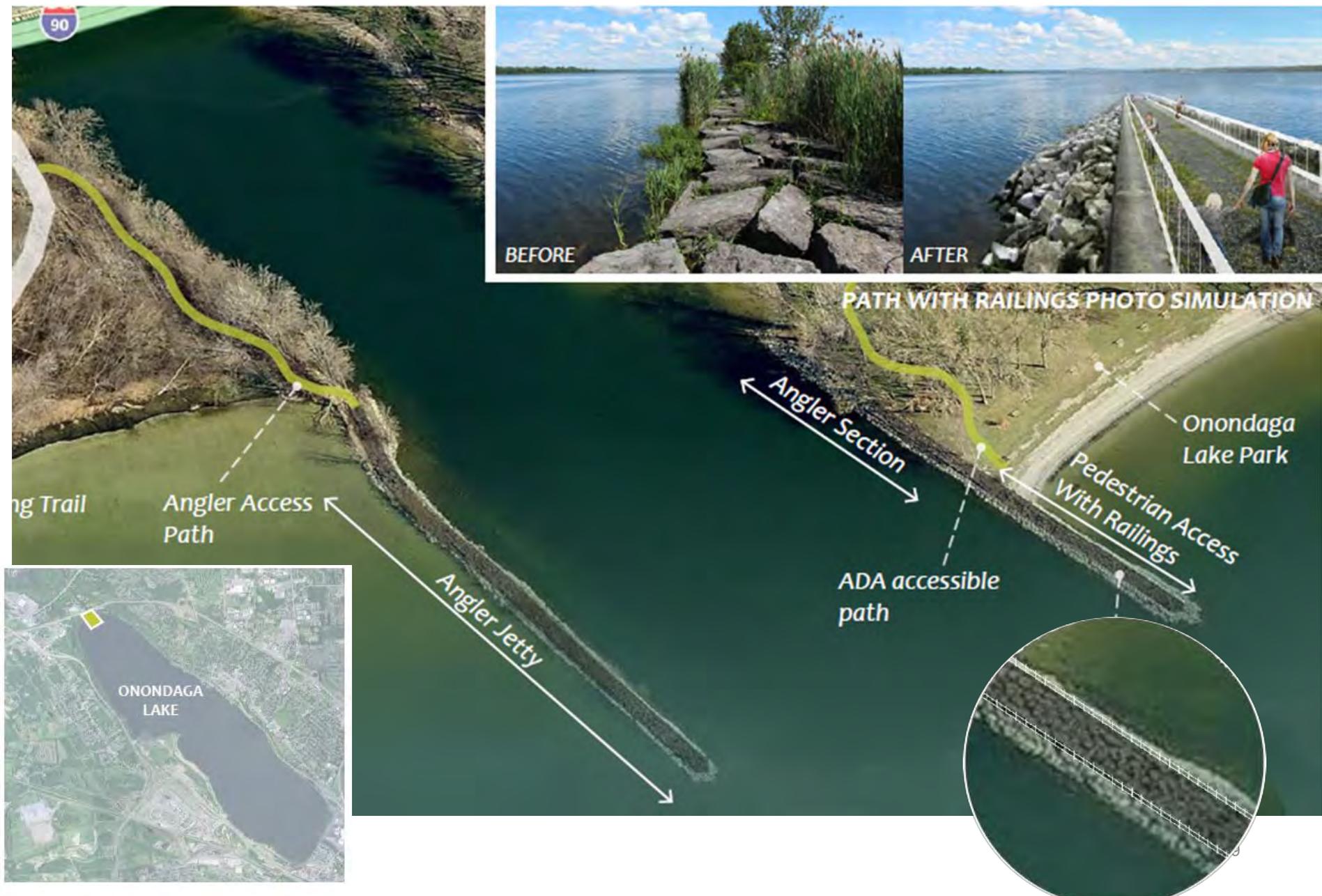
- Onondaga Creek in Tully
- Adjacent to proposed angler parking
- 2000 native trees/shrubs

Planned Schedule:

- Planting; spring '20
- Monitor and maintain; '20-'24

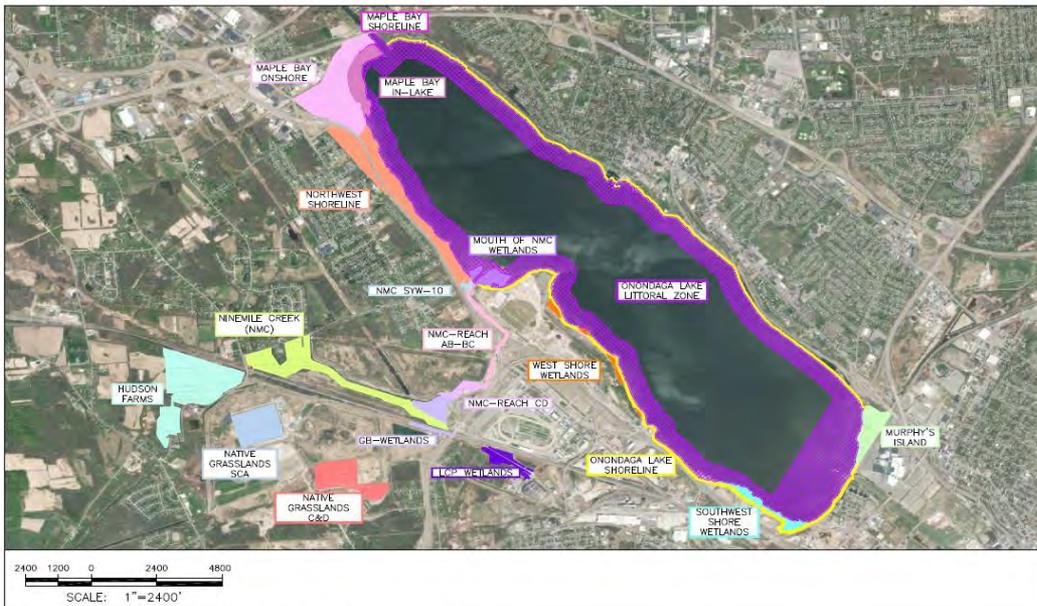


Outlet Jetty Enhancements



Invasive Species Comprehensive Plan

- A strategy and timeline for invasive species monitoring and control over the initial five years of invasive species control
- Anticipated by September 2019



Stewardship Properties Tour

- Honeywell set aside and purchased properties for habitat conservation purposes
- Trustees looking for qualified organizations to take ownership of these properties and manage them for conservation purposes.
- Field trip scheduled May 21, 2019



New Project Solicitation

- Public Notice on Grants.gov anticipated May 2019
- Approximately \$7.4 M available
- Proposed projects must **restore, replace, rehabilitate or acquire the equivalent** of **natural resources** injured by **mercury and other hazardous substances**
- Examples: wetland restoration, stream restoration, improvements to outdoor recreational facilities, habitat or open space protection
- Projects with more than a minor emphasis on studies, surveys, assessments, data analysis and development of management plan are not consistent with restoration requirements





Submit Ideas to:

Anne Secord

Deputy Field Supervisor

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

607-753-9334

anne_secord@fws.gov

Jared Reed

Environmental Program Specialist

NYS DEC

518-402-4890

jared.reed@dec.ny.gov

Onondaga Lake NRD Restoration Projects



Rendering of Southwest Lakeshore

Meeting Agenda



Introductions

Overview of Working Group

Review of All Natural Resource Damage Projects

Projects to be Discussed Today

- In-lake fish structures
- Native grassland restoration
- Maple Bay vegetative enhancements
- Wetland conservation
- Erie Canal and Southwest Lakeshore Trails
- Seneca River boat launch

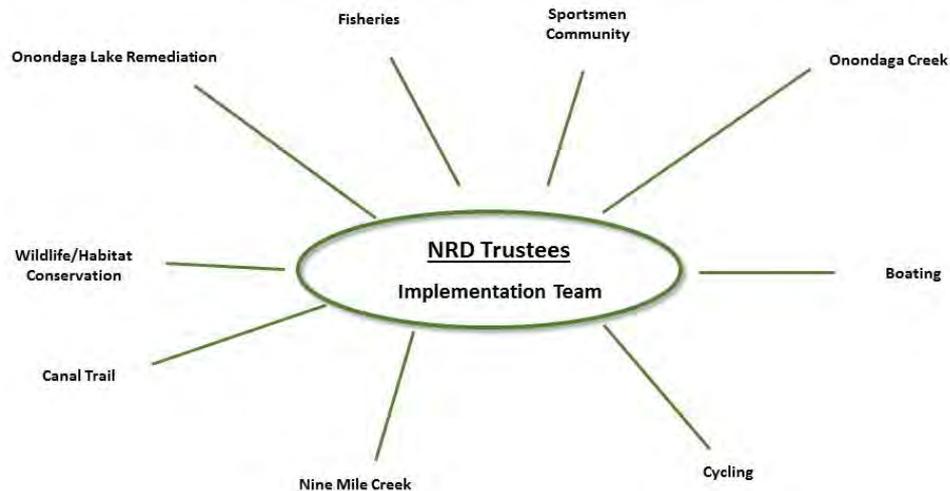
Next Steps

Onondaga Lake Restoration Community Working Group



- Formed by Trustees
- Comprised of a broad range of representative Onondaga Lake stakeholders
- Forum for participants to learn about project status and provide each of their recommendations to Trustees and Project Implementation Team on requested topics

NRD Projects Community Working Group: Broad Stakeholder Categories



Discussion Ground Rules



Please...

- Speak openly, share your ideas and comments
- Stay on point and allow everyone time to speak
- Listen with an open mind and respect others' views
- Refrain from side conversations and interruptions
- Focus on desired outcomes rather than the means of achieving them

Habitat Enhancement and Protection

- 1,700+ acres of habitat preserved
- Phragmites removal & reestablishment of native plant species
- Vernal pool creation
- Forest & floodplain enhancements
- Streambank enhancement



Maple Bay

Northwest Shore



Tully



Hudson Farms



Ninemile Creek

Recreational Access

- Public fishing access and parking



Projects Scheduled for 2019

- In-lake fish structures
- Native grassland restoration
- Wetland conservation
- Maple Bay vegetative enhancements
- Erie Canal and Southwest Lakeshore Trails
- Seneca River boat launch

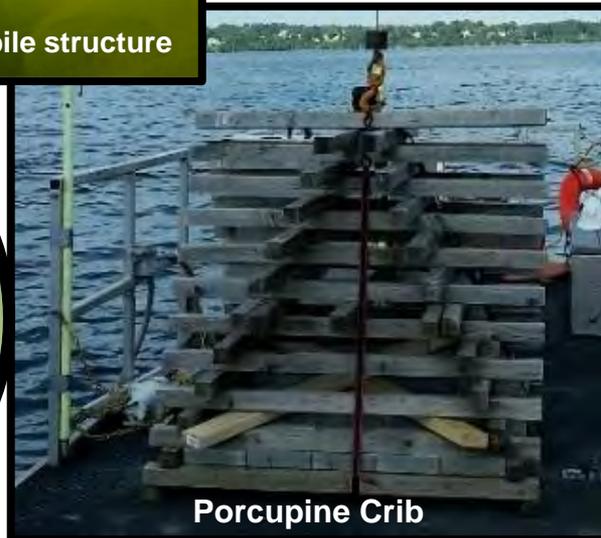


In-Lake Fish Structures (Completed Oct. 2018)

- 1100 Structures Installed for Fish Habitat
 - Rock piles
 - Porcupine cribs
 - Gravel reefs
 - Log cribs
 - 300' cobble bars
 - Downed trees
 - Boulders
 - Gravel reefs
 - Root wads



Smallmouth Bass utilizing rock pile structure



Porcupine Crib



Log Crib

Native Grassland Restoration

- 50 acres atop Sediment Consolidation Area (SCA) cover (completed)
- 50 acres atop C&D Landfill cover



August 2018

Wetland Conservation



- Acquire 200 acres of wetland habitat
- Conservation easements
- Trustees determine long-term management of property



Maple Bay In-Lake Vegetation Enhancements

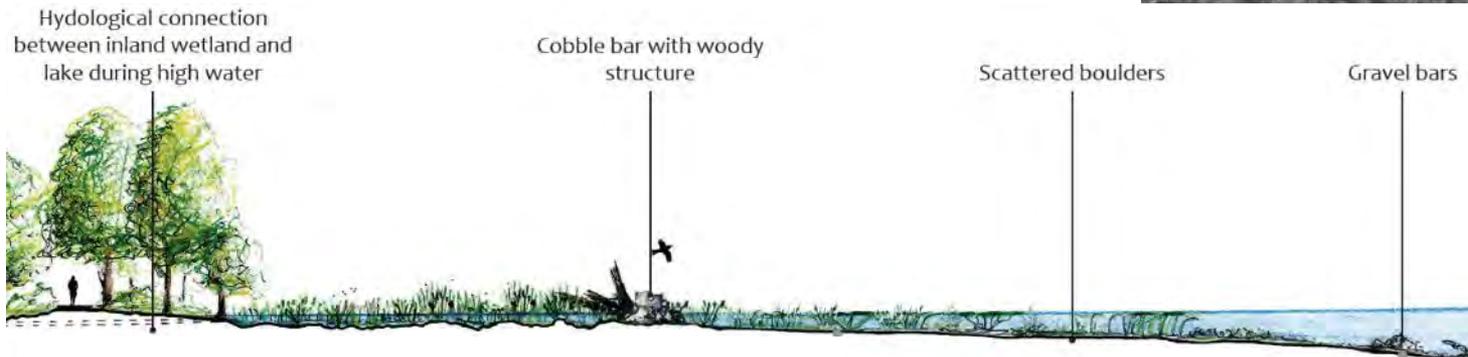


Scope:

- Phragmites control along shore
- Native plant establishment
 - Wild Rice (*Zizania aquatica*)
 - Emergent wetland species
 - Floating aquatic species
- Focus on areas behind cobble bar structures installed in 2018

Planned Schedule:

- June/July 2019



Erie Canal Trail – Part of NY Empire State Trail



Scope:

- Crushed stone surface in most areas
- Bound aggregate surface on slopes
- Connects to County Bridge Street Gateway project
- Designed to be ADA accessible
- New parking area @ Gere Lock

Planned Schedule:

- Construction start; spring 2019
- Complete; spring 2020



Southwest Shoreline Recreational Area



Scope:

- Paved multi-use trail
- ADA accessible
- New parking area (approx. 30 spaces)
- Fishing pier (100 ft. long)
- Shoreline fishing access

Planned Schedule:

- Construction starting spring 2019
- Completion planned spring 2020



Rendering of Southwest Lakeshore



Seneca River Boat Launch



Scope:

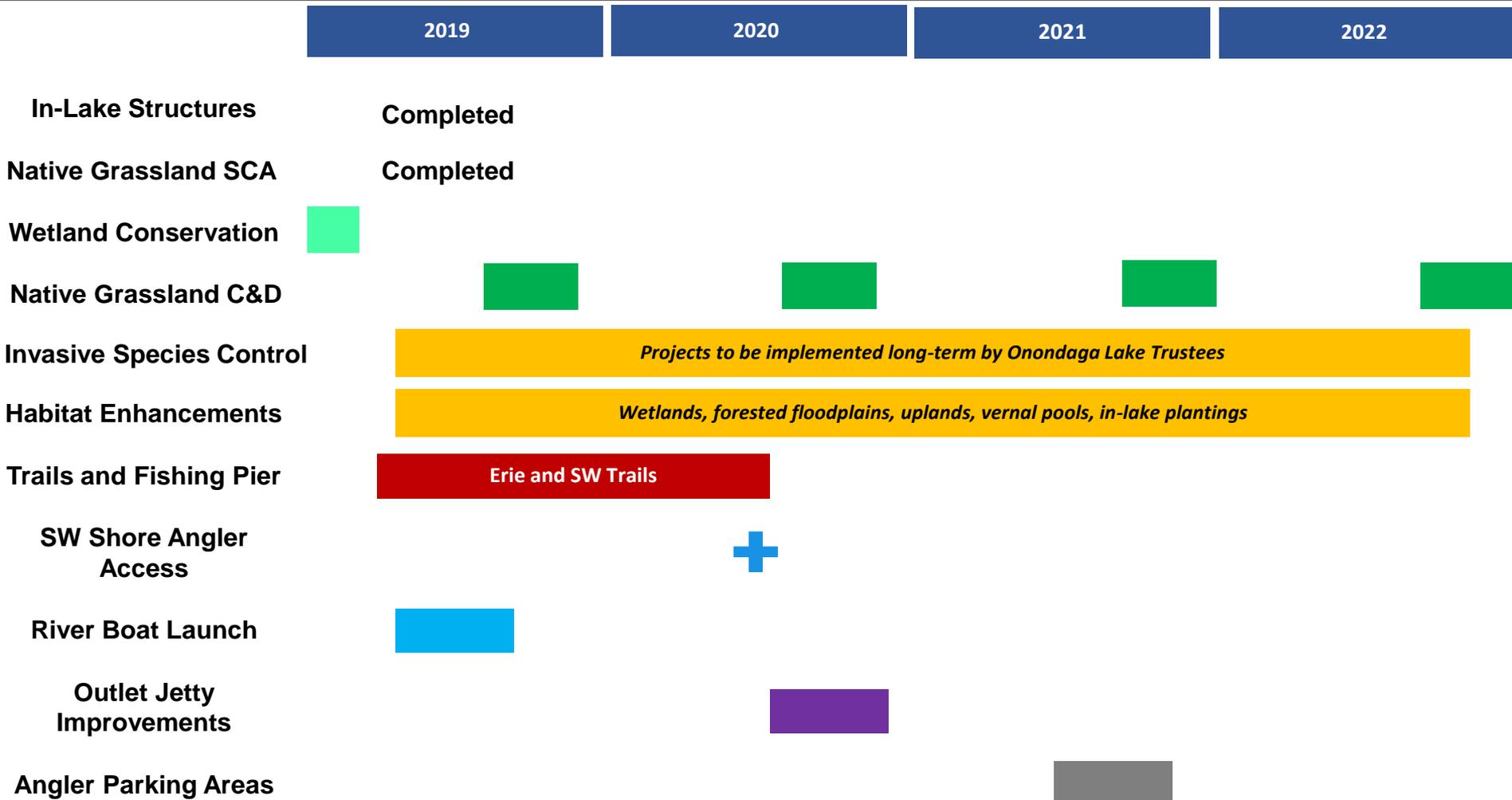
- Concrete double boat ramp
- Floating dock/ADA-compliant platform
- Parking

Planned Schedule:

- Construction starting spring 2019
- Completion planned summer 2019



ANTICIPATED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE





Submit Ideas to:

Anne Secord

Acting Deputy Field Supervisor

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

607-753-9334

anne_secord@fws.gov

Jared Reed

Environmental Program Specialist

NYS DEC

518-402-4890

jared.reed@dec.ny.gov

Future Projects Fund - \$7.38 Million

- \$5.04 million for joint Trustee sponsored natural resource restoration projects (March 2018 Consent Decree Honeywell and Onondaga County)
- \$2.34 million for joint Trustee sponsored natural resource restoration projects (April 2013 Consent Decree General Motors)
- All funds must be used for restoration, rehabilitation, or replacement of injured natural resources and/or acquisition of equivalent resources (pursuant to the above consent decrees)
- Request for Proposals anticipated 2019