



Superfund  
Redevelopment  
Initiative

# SITE REDEVELOPMENT PROFILE

Onondaga Lake Superfund Site

Geddes, Salina, Solvay, Liverpool and Syracuse, New York



Vegetation along the walking and biking trail on site. (Source: EPA)

**Site Location:** Geddes, Salina, Solvay, Liverpool and Syracuse, New York

**Size:** Lake covering 4.6-square-miles; seven major and other minor tributaries and upland sources.

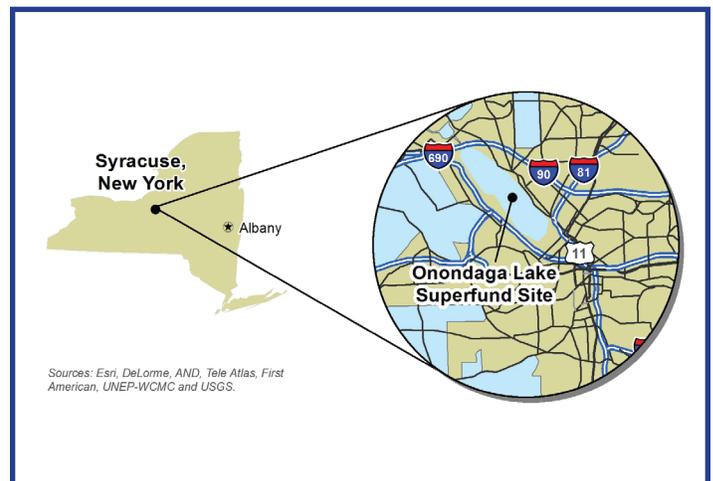
**Existing Site Infrastructure:** All major types of infrastructure are located on site.

**Current Site Uses:** St. Joseph's Health Amphitheater at Lakeview, a maintained lake, walking and biking trails, Honeywell Visitors Center, Onondaga County Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Plant (Metro), and Salina Industrial Powerpark are located on site.

**Use Restrictions:** Restrictions on dredging the lake and excavating of consolidation areas; other restrictions may be placed with additional cleanup decisions.

**Surrounding Population:** Syracuse, New York has an estimated population of 146,000.

The Onondaga Lake Superfund site in Geddes, Salina, Solvay, Liverpool and Syracuse, New York is home to a new amphitheater, a restored lake and a network of trails. In addition, several businesses operate at the Salina Industrial Powerpark on site. These reuses provide the community with significant economic, recreational and ecological benefits. In 2013, one of the site's main potentially responsible parties (PRPs), Honeywell International, Inc. (Honeywell), opened the Onondaga Lake Visitors Center to allow the public to access the significant work advancing at the hands of hundreds of scientists, engineers, and skilled craft laborers from the region.



Location of the site in Syracuse, New York.

Onondaga Lake covers about 4.6 square miles. In addition to Syracuse, it borders the towns of Geddes and Salina and villages of Solvay and Liverpool. This large site incorporates 11

## SITE HISTORY AND REDEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

- 1880s - 1988** - Various manufacturing facilities operated in Solvay, New York, next to Onondaga Lake.
- 1994** - EPA placed the site on the NPL.
- 1999** - PRP-led cleanup activities began.
- 2007** - Entered into a consent decree with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for Onondaga Lake subsite cleanup.
- 2013** - Site PRP Honeywell opened the Onondaga Lake Visitors Center.
- 2014** - Onondaga County Capital Improvement Plan included Onondaga Lake West Shore Revitalization project.
- 2015** - St. Joseph's Health Amphitheater at Lakeview opened.

subsites that include the lake and its tributaries as well as upland sources of contamination. Beginning in the early 1800s, industrial waste and municipal sewage flowed into Onondaga Lake. The state of New York banned the use of the lake for swimming in 1940 and for fishing in 1970. In 1986, the fishing ban ended; however, New York State issued a fish advisory for consumption of fish. Since then, the state has periodically updated the advisory. EPA added the site to the National Priorities List (NPL) in 1994.

The site has several PRPs due to the industrial and manufacturing facilities located along the shore of the lake or tributaries that were sources of contamination to the lake. With oversight by New York State and EPA, PRPs began cleanup activities in 1999. Activities included industrial building demolition, and removal and treatment of contaminated soil and sediment. Cleanup of upland areas included hydraulic control and treatment of contaminated groundwater, as well as wetlands restoration. The PRPs dredged contaminated channels as well as creek and tributary floodplains. Expansion of municipal wastewater treatment facilities has taken place to reduce pollutant concentrations. Cleanup continues as remedy decisions are made on all of the subsites. Upland area cleanup has made commercial development possible at several site properties.



A picnic break area along the walking and biking trail.  
(Source: EPA)



In 2014, the Onondaga County Planning Board included the Onondaga Lake West Shore Revitalization Project as part of the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Plan. The project focused on connecting communities, rebuilding neighborhoods and revitalizing Onondaga County's industrial core on the west side of Onondaga Lake, and ultimately, improving the quality of life for all Onondaga County residents. The Plan included the St. Joseph's Health Amphitheater at Lakeview facility, with recreational trails and amenities, all of which are now in place and being enjoyed on a daily basis.

Water quality has dramatically improved in the lake and wildlife is returning faster than expected. More than 250 species of fish, birds and other wildlife have returned to restored habitat near

the lake. About 90 acres of wetlands have been restored and over one million native plants are being planted. Area residents use the lake for fishing, rowing and recreation. Walking and biking trails around the lake are used extensively. The county and Honeywell have plans to complete trails to circle the entire lake. Future plans also call for a public boat launch and a floating fishing pier along the southwest shore of the lake for deep-water fishing. The community continues to enjoy the benefits from the Superfund cleanup.

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In May 2017, EPA established a task force to restore the Superfund program to its rightful place at the center of the Agency's core mission to protect health and the environment.

[epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force](http://epa.gov/superfund/superfund-task-force)