

Forward

The Onondaga Creek corridor cuts a broad swath through much of the center of southern Onondaga County. Once an important artery for wildlife and a sustaining force for the Onondaga Nation, it gradually became a wastewater conveyance stream, largely channelized and converted into an open linear sewer. The *Onondaga Creek Conceptual Revitalization Plan* (OCRCP), presents to the public, developers, and government decision makers, a conceptual plan for how to remake this corridor into an attractive asset for the community. The hope is that this plan will serve as a catalyst for invigorated civic pride and economic, social, cultural, spiritual, and environmental renewal.

The OCRCP is the culmination of countless hours of work undertaken by many individuals (see acknowledgements) over the past three years. Many participants have long felt Onondaga Creek was long overdue for a new look at its potential for revitalization. The document before you represents the output from this effort and presents you with a comprehensive view of the potential and how conditions can be changed for the better along the length of Onondaga Creek.

The OCRCP is a first and necessary step towards developing community consensus and promoting an action plan for the corridor. The OCRCP is not meant as a detailed lot-by-lot analysis of future design of the corridor, but a more comprehensive and schematic rendering of segments of the corridor based on history, culture, economics, and imagination. The resulting recommendations are intended to be implemented incrementally and over a substantial period of time. Implementation will proceed through the careful collaboration of the public and private sectors. The basis for the OCRCP was to consider what the corridor once was; and to envision what it could be for our collective future. No one expects a recreation of what might have existed two centuries or more ago; historical restoration in a technical sense would not be possible or indeed desirable. However, it is important to accommodate the past functions into a plan that serves the needs for the twenty-first century.

You should read the document, think about it, discuss it with friends and colleagues, and then let the community know your thoughts. This is a living document prepared in a relatively short time frame by interested persons, it will evolve and continue to be relevant through your interest, support, comments and suggestions, which are always welcome and greatly appreciated, thank you.



