

Revive the Onondaga Lake Watershed

WAYS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



FOR ALL LIVING THINGS

- Properly recycle or dispose of household and car wastes (not into storm drains or as litter) to avoid contaminating the land, tributaries, and the lake.
- Don't send lawn clippings to a landfill. Instead, return their nutrients to the soil by leaving them on your lawn or composting them.
- Clean up after your pets. Pet waste should be disposed of in the trash or down the toilet.
- Whenever possible, avoid using lawn chemicals like fertilizers and pesticides.
- Use non-toxic household products and cleaning supplies (like white vinegar) for a safer alternative for you and the watershed.
- If you have a septic system, service it every 2-3 years.
- Walk, bike, or take public transportation whenever possible to reduce air pollution from car traffic.
- Volunteer to help with watershed clean-ups to restore a healthier habitat.
- Donate to local environmental initiatives.
- Spread the word, and share this with your family, friends, and neighbors.

THROUGH COMMUNITY PLANNING

- Join the conversation about the lake's future and read the Onondaga Nation's Vision for a Clean Onondaga Lake at onondaganation.org.
- Advocate for a clean watershed by participating in public meetings about Onondaga Lake, its tributaries, green infrastructure planning, and other town and city planning initiatives.
- Support the installation of green infrastructure in your city, town, or neighborhood. Examples include:
 - Permeable pavement that allows the soil to absorb and filter rainwater
 - Vegetated bioswales and other urban green spaces that absorb and slowly filter storm water runoff
 - Bump-out street curbs that lead water runoff into nearby bioswales or rain gardens
 - Downward-shining, energy-efficient lights that protect birds and other wildlife from the effects of light pollution

BY CREATING GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND HABITATS AT HOME

- Create a rain garden to slowly filter rainwater through the soil, reduce stormwater runoff, and help prevent combined sewer overflows.
- Install rain barrels to manage storm water. Use the reserved water in the barrels for watering your yard or washing your car.
- Build nest boxes for birds or habitats for other animals like bees and bats.
- Plant native trees and other plant species to create wildlife habitat and help improve air quality.
- Join local efforts to identify and manage invasive plants and insects in the watershed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- » Visit reviveonondagalake.blogspot.com to get involved.
- » Learn about "Save the Rain" at savetherain.us.
- » Track water quality in the watershed at ongov.net/wep.