

Skaneateles Lake Watershed Wave Reviews

Summer 2025 Edition

Visit the Skaneateles Lake website for resources and tips on how to protect the water quality of Skaneateles Lake
www.skanlakeinfo.org

In this Issue:

New Parks, Trails & Preserves page on the Skaneateles Lake Watershed website (p.1) - Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County

Finger Lakes Land Trust Secures Pristine Shoreline at the South End of Skaneateles Lake (p.2) - Finger Lakes Land Trust

Protecting Skaneateles Lake Resources With Riparian Forest Buffers – Cortland County (p.3) - Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District

Helpful Contacts and Resources for Watershed Residents (p.4)

*Brought to you by the City of
Syracuse Department of Water
Ben Walsh, Mayor*

New Parks, Trails & Preserves page on the Skaneateles Lake Watershed website!

By: Camille Marcotte, Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County

New page on the Skaneateles Lake Watershed website just launched! Our new Parks, Trails, and Preserves page shares outdoor recreation opportunities in and around Skaneateles Lake.

From kayak access to lakeside parks, fishing spots to hiking trails, the Skaneateles watershed has something for everyone. This page brings together information from the local municipal parks, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation spots, and land trust preserves into one convenient place. The map at the top of the webpage allows visitors to view the locations of different outdoor recreation sites and toggle on and off based on the type of recreation they are interested in that day.

We hope you take some time to visit the page and maybe find a new spot to explore! Check it out at: www.skanlakeinfo.org/outdoors



Ripley Hill (photo credit Central New York Land Trust)



Hinchcliff Family Preserve (photo credit David Spaulding)

The Skaneateles Lake Watershed website is created by the Skaneateles Watershed Municipal Partnership. Our goal is to work collectively to bring you the most up to date information regarding the Skaneateles Watershed and to work together to promote a healthy future for our beautiful water source.

The Skaneateles Watershed Education Program works to protect the water quality of Skaneateles Lake, a treasured resource that serves as the primary drinking water source for Skaneateles and the City of Syracuse. The City of Syracuse has funded this program since its inception in 1996.

Cornell Cooperative Extension
Onondaga County



Finger Lakes Land Trust Secures Pristine Shoreline at the South End of Skaneateles Lake

By: Edie Jodz, Assistant Director of Communications, Finger Lakes Land Trust



Photo Credit: Chris Ray

The Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) acquired 850 feet of shoreline and 15 forested acres along the eastern shore of Skaneateles Lake in the town of Spafford, Onondaga County. The property includes 1,120 feet of streambank on Barber Gulf and a portion of the iconic Staghorn Cliffs, the site of an ancient, fossilized coral reef.

Located near the south end of the lake, this acquisition extends the FLLT's protected shoreline to 3,000 feet in this area, preserving the remarkable staghorn coral fossils as well as habitat for Bald Eagles and other wildlife. The property is adjacent to the organization's 90-acre Staghorn Cliffs Preserve and 21-acre Cora Kampfe Dickinson Conservation Area, which together encompass some of the most pristine shoreline remaining in the Finger Lakes region.

This acquisition will also help ensure water quality within Skaneateles Lake – the unfiltered drinking water supply for 220,000 area residents, including people living in the city of Syracuse. Due to the hazardous nature of the steep hillsides above the cliffs, the property will be owned and managed by the FLLT as a nature preserve accessible by canoe or kayak.

The property was identified as a priority for protection as part of the FLLT's effort to create a greenbelt around the south end of Skaneateles Lake. Other nearby conservation lands include the High Vista and Hinchcliff Family preserves. The greenbelt is recognized as a priority project within New York State's Open Space Plan and, because of its value for migratory birds, it is also recognized by National Audubon as one of the state's Important Bird Areas.

"The quality of our lakes depends on the condition of the landscapes that surround them," said FLLT President Andrew Zepp. "This acquisition will secure steep slopes and sensitive shoreline areas that would lead to increased erosion and runoff if they were developed."

The acquisition was made possible by an internal loan from the FLLT's Opportunity Fund. The organization is now launching a fundraising campaign to raise \$1.1 million to cover the cost of the purchase as well as the long-term management of the site. Please contact the Finger Lakes Land Trust at (607) 275-9487 or info@fllt.org if you would like to make a gift toward this project or would like to learn more.



*Cora Kampfe Dickinson Conservation Area
(photo credit Darin Harrison)*

Protecting Skaneateles Lake Resources with Riparian Forest Buffers – Cortland County

By: Stacy Russell, Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District

Do you own shoreline or stream property within the Cortland County portion of the Skaneateles Lake Watershed? Do you want to enhance your property for pollinators, increase carbon sequestration, expand native species plantings, and prevent soil erosion? Streams are their best when the riparian area, or land area adjacent to the water resource, is forested. These areas are commonly known as a riparian forest buffers.

Buffers help protect water resources from the potential impacts of adjacent land use. If the riparian area is not vegetated, or if the vegetation is of poor condition, water quality is vulnerable. Riparian buffers aid stream and lake stability by capturing rainfall, reducing runoff and slowing flood waters as well as reducing bed and bank erosion. Forests can also absorb and filter out nutrients from storm water, helping to protect waterways from nutrient pollution. Healthy buffers are essential to reducing excess nitrogen and phosphorus and to keeping our water clean.

Riparian buffers also provide shade and improve terrestrial and aquatic habitat. Shaded streams have lower temperatures and higher oxygen content providing for a more habitable area for invertebrates and fish. Forested buffers also provide leaf litter, an important part of the aquatic food chain.

Terrestrial animals benefit too from the food, shelter and nesting sites provided by buffer plants. Plus, pollinators and migratory birds are attracted to these areas.

Are you interested in planting a forested buffer along your stream or shoreline? Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is available to work with Cortland County landowners to provide riparian forest buffer technical and planning assistance. Participants will receive free trees and shrubs, as well as protective tree shelters and support stakes. Landowners are responsible for providing the water frontage property and sweat equity to prepare and plant the site. Both private and public properties are eligible to participate.

Please contact Cortland County SWCD at 607-756-5991 or email: stacy.russell@cortlandswcd.org to participate. Funding is limited; projects will be supported on a first come, first serve basis, pending site visit and compatibility with program requirements.

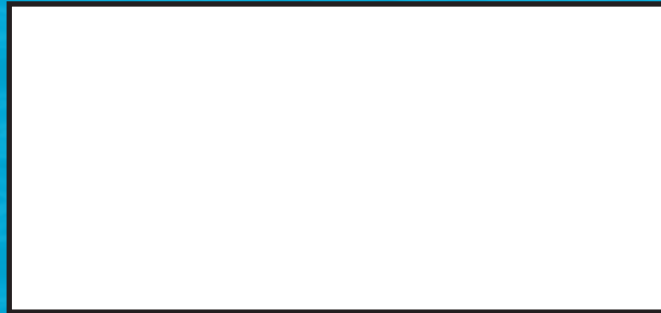


Photo of streamside planting courtesy of Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District

CCE Onondaga
6505 Collamer Road,
East Syracuse, NY
13057

Skaneateles Lake Wave Reviews

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 3381
SYRACUSE, NY



Stay connected!

Join our Water Quality List-serve to receive digital WAVE Reviews, event announcements, and more. Skaneateles Watershed Residents and those looking to protect water quality in their community are encouraged to join.

List serve accessible through this direct link <http://eepurl.com/bQ22XP> or by visiting our website at www.cceonondaga.org and searching for our 'Skaneateles Lake' landing page.

Don't forget to check out the new Skaneateles Lake Watershed website at www.skanelakeinfo.org

Important Contacts for the Skaneateles Watershed

Cayuga County Health Department 315-253-1405
Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District 315-252-4171
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County 315-424-9485
Cortland County Health Department 607-753-5036
Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District 607-756-5991
NYS DEC Region 7 Environmental Permits (Onondaga & Cayuga) 315-426-7438
NYS DEC Region 7 Environmental Permits Sub-office (Cortland) 607-753-3095
NYS DEC Spill Prevention and Response 800-457-7362
NYS DEC Region 7 Water & Wastewater (Stormwater, Dam Safety, Flood Control) 315-426-7500
Onondaga County Health Department 315-435-3252
Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District 315-457-0325
Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program 315-457-0325
Syracuse Water Department (Skaneateles) 315-448-8366

This newsletter was created by Camille Marcotte of Cornell Cooperative Extension Onondaga County and Rich Abbott, City of Syracuse Water Department.

Special thank you to our partnering contributors.

Skaneateles Lake Watershed Education Program

Funding for Cornell Cooperative Extension programming in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed is provided by the City of Syracuse Department of Water.

*Cornell Cooperative Extension is an equal opportunity program and employment provider.
If you need special assistance, please contact our office at 315-424-9485.*