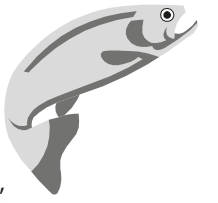


A Brief History of Oneida Shores County Park



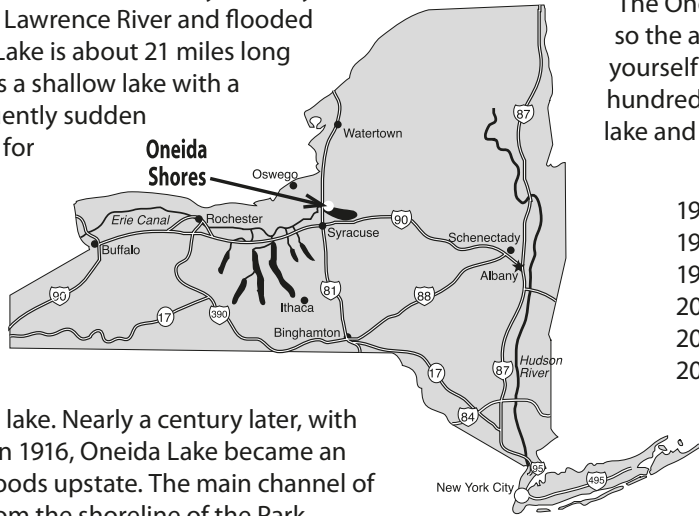
Oneida Shores Park was established in 1964 after being acquired by Onondaga County in three parcels. The facility covers 340 acres with 3,000 feet of frontage on Oneida Lake, the largest inland lake in New York State and one of the region's finest natural resources.

Oneida Lake is a remnant of a lake which formed nearly 12,500 years ago when a glacier dammed the St. Lawrence River and flooded much of Central New York. Oneida Lake is about 21 miles long and 6 miles at its greatest width. It is a shallow lake with a mean depth of 22 feet and consequently sudden storms can create hazardous waves for those caught out on the waters.

Lands surrounding Oneida Lake were opened for settlement in the late 1700's and the initial wave of immigrants settled these lands between 1790 and 1810. The Erie Canal was built in the early 1800's but did not pass through the lake. Nearly a century later, with the completion of the Barge Canal in 1916, Oneida Lake became an important link in the transport of goods upstate. The main channel of the canal system is only one mile from the shoreline of the Park.

The Park area is a land rich in the cultural heritage of the Native Americans of the Oneida Nation. The Oneidas were one of Five Nations which banded together into the Iroquois Confederacy approximately 500 years ago. The Oneidas were the smallest of the Confederacy and were called the "Little Brothers of the Mohawk".

The Oneida villages were prone to be moved from place to place, so the actual Park may have been a temporary site for several generations. Put yourself in "their moccasins" and walk through the Park, picturing a scene from hundreds of years ago that found families hunting the wooded areas, fishing the lake and traveling in canoes to other shores.



Park Milestones

- 1970 Beach opened
- 1979 McKinley Ridge reserved section opens
- 1994 Campground opened
- 2005 Boat launch expanded
- 2010 Boat Launch restroom opened
- 2010 Driver's Village playground opens



Please observe the privacy of campers. Electric and water service available at sites 40-64.



Feel free to visit the McKinley Ridge & Arrowhead Lodge reserved areas and learn about our fine facilities available for special functions such as weddings, graduations, reunions, retreats and company outings. Reservations for shelters, may be made online at www.OnondagaCountyParks.com, or by calling 315-451-6249. To reserve Arrowhead Lodge, call 315-676-7366.

