

TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PROTECT ONEIDA LAKE

1. Plant native vegetation along the lake and stream shoreline and on slopes to filter pollutants and reduce soil erosion.
2. Observe the 5 mph boating speed limit within 200 feet of the shoreline to minimize erosion and to protect swimmers. Operate the boat away from shallow areas since motors can churn up vegetation and fish habitat, scare nesting birds, and re-suspend sediment.
3. When fishing, follow open seasons, minimum size restrictions and daily catch limits to minimize adverse effects on fish.
4. Never feed ducks, geese or other waterfowl (especially near swimming areas) to reduce the risk of human health problems.
5. Inspect and pump your septic tank every 3-5 years to keep the system functioning properly and to protect human health.
6. Help limit the spread of water chestnut, zebra mussels and other nuisance plants and animals that can harm the lake ecosystem. After cutting or raking aquatic plants, remove them from the lake to discourage re-growth. Inspect all boats, trailers, and equipment after every use. Remove zebra mussels and vegetation and dispose of them in the trash.
7. Don't dump yard wastes such as grass clippings or leaves into Oneida Lake or its tributaries.
8. Conserve water to save money and to reduce the load on your septic tank.
9. Never pour household chemicals into your septic tank or down storm drains. Chemicals can contaminate surface and groundwater supplies. Take used oil and other automotive waste to certified garages for recycling.
10. Good quality water in Oneida Lake depends on your actions. Join your lake association, participate in the lake and watershed management plan, and make a commitment to do your part.