



ONTARIO COUNTY Planning Department

Thomas P. Harvey^{AICP}, Director

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Dear Honeoye Lake Shoreline Landowner,

Ontario County is preparing for the **2019 Honeoye Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management Program (AVMP)**. Below you will find the 2019 operations schedule and contact information. Also enclosed is important information for shoreline property owners and others with **water lines extending into Honeoye Lake that could be affected by harvesting operations**.

HARVESTING PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND GOALS

Residents know Honeoye Lake is a shallow, eutrophic (nutrient rich) lake. It supports abundant plant growth that may impede boating and other lake uses. Ontario County works with the Towns of Canadice and Richmond to deliver an aquatic vegetation management program using a mechanical harvester to cut and remove the top three to seven feet of vegetation. This program is now in its third decade. Aquatic plants provide oxygen to the lake and food and protection for a variety of lake organisms, and so mechanical harvesting is intended to manage, but not eliminate, plant growth. Aquatic plants also take up nutrients from the lake sediments, acting as a “nutrient sink”. Removal of vegetation from Honeoye Lake also removes nutrients that would be recycled back into the lake upon plant death and decay. Harvested plant material is used for compost at area farms.

The AVMP also operates a shoreline management program to pick up plant debris at the shoreline. Some plant fragments from harvesting operations may be blown to shore, as are plants cut by boats or broken up on windy days. A small work barge or the harvester (backing into shore in certain areas) may be used to pick up plant debris. At times, the harvester may be used to skim (not cut) an area to pick up plant fragments.

While the AVMP has an operations strategy based on where excessive plant growth is dense, residents are encouraged to contact the program office when impacted to request harvesting or shoreline pickup.

The goals of the Honeoye Lake AVMP are to:

- 1) **Open up lake access** for recreational uses by cutting aquatic plants that have reached the lake surface or close to it. No harvesting occurs in the state regulated wetland at the south end of the lake.
- 2) **Remove nutrients** from the lake environment.
- 3) **Aid circulation of water** in areas choked by weeds and/or fragments.

2019 TENTATIVE OPERATING SCHEDULE (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Below is our tentative schedule for operations.

DATES	OPERATIONS PLAN
June 24-June 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waterline Marking• Shoreline Collection• Perimeter Weed Harvesting and/or On-Demand Localized Harvesting (First Cut)
July 1-July 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shoreline Collection
July 8-July 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shoreline Collection• Perimeter Weed Harvesting and/or On-Demand Localized Harvesting (Continue First Cut)

DATES	OPERATIONS PLAN
Jul 15-Aug 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On-Demand Localized Weed Harvesting• Shoreline Collection
Sep 3-Sep 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perimeter Weed Harvesting (Final Cut) to remove nutrients before plants decompose in the lake.• Shoreline Collection
Sept 16-Oct 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shoreline Collection

Operations occur Monday through Thursday, with effort split between Shoreline Collection (often in the morning) and Harvesting. A three day work week may be used during the season when demand is low. The schedule will vary based on weather and lake conditions, as well as requests from residents. Harvesting is focused in areas where plant growth is at or near the surface of the water. The shoreline barge will visit recently harvested locations for fragment pickup. Neighbors are encouraged to work together to develop consensus about the timing and services desired. This has worked well in many neighborhoods around the lake. Residents who do not want the harvester to cut in front their shoreline should also contact the office to express and/or update their preferences. For those requesting service, every effort will be made to accommodate you, providing access is adequate.

WATERLINE INFORMATION

If you have a waterline in Honeoye Lake please see the important attached flyer! The County will arrange waterline marking for those unable to set their own markers (see enclosed flyer) on **June 24-27**.

PROGRAM COMMUNICATION AND STAFFING

Program updates will be posted on the County’s website at: <http://www.co.ontario.ny.us/honeoyelake>. **Betsy Landre**, Senior Planner for Ontario County serves as the program manager. **Randy DePew** and **Scott Strong** are returning as the operations team. Contact information is below.

DOCKS AND HARVESTING

Residents are reminded that the harvester cannot trim around docks as the machine is not designed to maneuver in such tight spaces. Residents interested in learning more about controlling weed growth around docks should contact us for ideas and information.

SHORELINE PICKUP

Fragments should be raked up in loose piles or rows along shore to reduce gravel and stones. Contact the office for pickup. Residents are asked to assist the crew when physically possible which, in turn, makes it possible for the crew to serve more people. Those with gardens are encouraged to compost aquatic weeds on site.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

At times our staff will be involved in research on the lake or assisting at Sandy Bottom Park.

The AVMP team looks forward to working with our partners and the landowners around Honeoye Lake.

Sincerely,
Betsy, Randy and Scott
The Honeoye Lake AVMP Team
at Ontario County Planning Department

Question, Concern, Suggestion?
Tel: (585) 396-4458
Email: betsy.landre@co.ontario.ny.us
Website:
www.co.ontario.ny.us/honeoyelake