

Land Trust and Partners Complete Restoration Project on Otisco Lake

Last summer, the Land Trust acquired 35 acres with 2,300 feet of shoreline on the east side of Otisco Lake in partnership with Onondaga County and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

This past fall, the partnership completed a restoration project on the site, including planting approximately 650 native trees and shrubs, many of which were planted by the Onondaga Earth Corps—a local nonprofit created “to empower youth to be active participants in creating positive change for their communities and the environment.”

Tree saplings and shrubs were planted with decomposable weed mats and either wire cage protection or deer-repellent granules. All trees and shrubs planted were documented as native to Onondaga County. The plantings create a buffer around the existing wetlands and lakeshore on the property, increase native plant diversity, and enhance water quality protection.

“Planting at Otisco Lake was different because we were out of the city of Syracuse but I enjoyed it,” said Nesha Walker, Onondaga Earth Corp crew member. “It was a good experience to be on the vast property next to the lake. I would love to do it again and I hope our shrubs grow well!”

“This protection and restoration project on the shore of Otisco Lake is a great example of what can be achieved when partners come together to achieve a common conservation goal,” said Land Trust Director of Conservation Max Heitner. In the future, the organization will convey the property to Onondaga County to manage as a public conservation area subject to a perpetual conservation easement held by the Land Trust.

Funding for this project came from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s Water Quality Improvement Projects program and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service’s Natural Resource Damage Assessment, Restoration and Implementation Program.



Members of the Onondaga Earth Corp with FLTL Land Protection Specialist Becky Sibner after a morning of planting