

Does the State reimburse towns for providing access to the lake from town parks? Concerned about my town and county taxes, I wonder if towns get financial assistance from NYSDMV and NYSDEC for maintaining access points, particularly snow plowing for ice fishermen. Ice anglers pay license fees to DEC and register snowmobiles and trailers with DMV. Many of the park users are not from my town, yet I pay the taxes to support their access. Does part of their state fee come back to the towns?

The Towns of Cicero, Sullivan, Sylvan Beach, and Constantia each have public access points maintained by the respective local government. Onondaga County has Oneida Shores Park, NYSOPR&HP operates Verona Beach Park, and NYSDEC has public access at the South Shore Launch, Godfrey Point Launch, Big Bay, Phillips Point, and in Jewell.

The parks openly provide public access to Oneida Lake, seasonally for swimming, boating, or winter access. It is likely that most, if not all, local parks on the lake were built with help of state and federal grants. Based on communications with towns, OLA is not aware of any municipality that receives money from the state for access maintenance. The town parks are plowed because they provide winter activities. So, even if a park was not on a lake a town would still plow our roads and lots for people to use the park.

That said, it is incumbent upon anyone using the park, town resident or out-of-town visitor, to respect that public facility. For parks providing access to the lake, OLA encourages its members and visitors to be self-policing of litter, trespass, vandalism, and to demonstrate respect for the Oneida Lakes general environment.