

Citizens for a Better Plan
Lakeview Amphitheater Project:
What We Don't Know

In its rush to build this project, the County has hurriedly completed two major pre-construction planning documents: the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Conceptual Design Report. Unfortunately, these documents leave many questions unanswered.

❖ **Does the Amphitheater make economic sense?**

- The County has not provided a business plan for the project or even a simple analysis of market demand in terms of musicians looking for venues or fans looking for concerts.
- The County does not explain whether the amphitheater will rely on local patronage or is intended to draw visitors from around the area and presents no data on the likelihood that people would travel to Syracuse for concerts.
- Although one of three goals for the project is “sparking economic revitalization in Geddes and Solvay,” the County provides no evidence to support the claim that there will be economic benefits to neighboring communities.

❖ **Will the project be managed to reduce harmful impacts?**

- The County is trying to assess the potential harmful impacts of its project before the following key design documents have been developed:
 - Landscape design, best management practices, and “wayfinding” tools (like signs): intended to mitigate against intensive human use on sensitive areas of the site, protect users from dangerous areas, and prevent light pollution
 - Site management plan: intended to limit erosion and site degradation that could uncover on-site contamination and harm water quality.
 - Superfund Remedial Action Plan: intended to protect human health and the environment against exposure to on-site contamination.
 - Final construction design: intended to ensure that structures can be safely built on the wastebeds, which are unstable and corrosive to steel and concrete. Tentative plans call for laying down six or more feet of fill to support roads and smaller structures, driving support piles down to bedrock 200 feet below the waste for large structures, and potentially employing a range of mechanisms to protect support piles against the corrosive effects of Solvay Waste.
 - Definite mitigation plans for noise and traffic: intended to limit the negative impacts identified in the DEIS.
- The County doesn't evaluate the potential impacts of noise, traffic, intensive human use or loss of open space on wildlife that live, visit, or breed in the area.
- The County doesn't evaluate the potential impacts of fertilizers, herbicides or other chemicals used to maintain facility greenspace on water quality or wildlife.

❖ What will the project cost?

- The County has not provided any estimates of construction costs. For example, what are the additional engineering, materials, and construction labor costs of building on unstable Solvay Wastebeds?
- The County has not developed concrete mitigation plans for traffic or noise impacts. Instead, it lists strategies that “might” be used with no cost information.
 - The County suggests relying on police to control traffic on concert days. There is no estimate of costs for this strategy or reason to assume relying on police will even be effective.
 - The County suggests expanding highway access to the site to accommodate traffic. There is no estimate of costs for this strategy, nor do we know whether the NYS Department of Transportation would be amenable to any proposed changes.
 - The County suggests that residents “self-mitigate” unavoidable noise impacts by staying inside or leaving the area during concerts. Community costs of losing outdoor space for 20+ evenings over the course of a summer concert season are not defined.

❖ Who wants the amphitheater?

- The County failed to consult the public at all before announcing the proposed amphitheater. There was no grassroots push for this facility.
- The County suggests that there is community support for this project in other design and planning documents, such as the *FOCUS on Onondaga Lake* report. However, the highest public priority revealed in that report was preservation or expansion of forested areas around the Lake. This project does the opposite.

❖ Why the rush to build this amphitheater?

- The County states that the amphitheater must be operational by Fall 2015 to ensure a full concert schedule in 2016. However, there is no reason given for the need to open an amphitheater in 2016.

Tell the County: Do Your Homework Don't Blindly Spend Public Money!

Submit comments BY SEPTEMBER 5, 2014 to:

- David Coburn, Onondaga County Office of the Environment, DavidCoburn@ongov.net
- Ryan McMahon, Onondaga County Legislature Chairman, jryanmcmahon@gmail.com
- Mike Plochocki, Onondaga County Legislature Environmental Protection Committee Chairman, mikeplochocki@hotmail.com

Please also call or email your County Legislator:

<http://www.ongov.net/legislature/members.html>

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