



County of Onondaga  
Office of the County Executive

J. Ryan McMahon II  
County Executive

[ongov.net](http://ongov.net)

**Media Release**

**For Immediate Release:** 8.24.2021

**Contact:** Justin Sayles (315) 435-3516

## **County Executive Ryan McMahon Declares Skaneateles Lake a “No-Wake Zone”; 5 MPH Speed Limit In Effect**

*Declaration is a joint effort between Onondaga, Cayuga and Cortland Counties*

**SYRACUSE, N.Y.** – Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon today announced Skaneateles Lake a “No-Wake Zone” effective immediately. The emergency declaration, done in partnership with Cayuga and Cortland Counties, requires a 5 miles-per-hour speed limit to minimize erosion caused by record high waters.

Onondaga County Executive Ryan McMahon said, “Besides being a source of recreation and enjoyment, Skaneateles Lake is also a drinking water source many in our community. We have a responsibility to take any necessary action to limit the erosion of its shoreline and protect this vital natural resource.” McMahon continued, “I want to thank our partners in this critical effort including Legislator Abbott-Kenan, the Skaneateles Lake Association and the Cayuga and Cortland Counties.

In the past week, the Skaneateles Lake watershed has seen nearly seven inches of rain from various storms that have pushed the lake to record high levels. These high water levels not only increase the opportunity for erosion, but subsequently add sediment and nutrients to the lake which are known to increase the likelihood of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). Limiting the speed on the lake is intended to reduce this possibility.

The Executive Order takes effect immediately. It calls for a \$250 fine for any violation of the speed restriction. The order will be rescinded once lake levels have returned to normal seasonal levels. Enforcement of the order will be through the respective County Sheriff’s.

###