



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Hon. Stephanie A. Miner, Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DATE: October 28, 2014

CONTACT: Alexander Marion
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**MINER OPENS OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
AT KIRK PARK**

Outdoor Classroom is the Product of NYS Department of State LWRP Funding, Will Serve as an Educational, Recreational Space in Kirk Park

Miner: Outdoor Classroom is Part of the City's Efforts to Make Onondaga Creek an Asset for the Community

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – Mayor Stephanie A. Miner formally opened the newly constructed outdoor classroom in Kirk Park along Onondaga Creek. This facility, part of the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) will be used for enhancing recreational and educational opportunities in Kirk Park. Mayor Miner was joined at the announcement by New York Secretary of State Cesar Peralas, whose agency funded the project.

“I know this new outdoor classroom will become a treasure for this neighborhood for generations to come,” said **Syracuse Mayor Stephanie A. Miner**. “The Outdoor Classroom is part of the City’s ongoing efforts to make Onondaga Creek an asset for the entire Syracuse community. This is a very welcome addition to Kirk Park.”

“This project is a win for the entire community, providing expanded opportunity to combine education with recreation, and enhancing Onondaga Creek’s connection to the City,” said **New York State Senator David J. Valesky**. “I commend Mayor Miner and Governor Cuomo for recognizing the importance of this effort and partnering to ensure its completion.”

“These improvements to Kirk Park and along Onondaga Creek will not only provide recreational activities for our children and the rest of the community, it will also create a vital connection between the Park and the downtown Syracuse business district,” said **New York Secretary of State Cesar A. Peralas**. “This project is a model for how a recreational park can drive regional economic growth. Governor Cuomo and his administration continues to encourage State, county and local partnerships to revitalize our upstate cities.”



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The newly opened Outdoor Classroom will be operated by the City of Syracuse Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Programs. The facility will provide space for recreation, outdoor education opportunities, and enhanced views of Onondaga Creek. Programming will be designed by the Parks Department, the Onondaga Environmental Institute, and the nearby Seals Community Center.

The Outdoor Classroom was made possible with \$500,000 in funding from the New York State Department of State. This project was conceived as part of the Onondaga Creek Waterfront Revitalization Strategy. City staff engaged with community members at four public meetings between the summer of 2012 and early 2013 to discuss the potential of a new project along Onondaga Creek. Through these meetings, public input was used to create design elements and develop the plan for the project.

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