

Mt Hope Reservoir

Thank you for being a Trail Ambassador for Mt Hope Reservoir. This sheet is filled with key information about Mt Hope. If you have questions about the park or trails, please don't hesitate to ask.

Mt Hope Reservoir became a City of Oneida park in 2001. It features 64 acres of land for fishing, hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, and camping (permit required).

The loop around the lower reservoir is approximately 1 mile. The upper reservoir features two out and back trails that are each approximately 0.5 mile in length. A future goal for the park is to install a bridge across the upper reservoir to create a loop trail. Mt Hope is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Mt Hope History

-Developed between 1883 and 1906, the two reservoirs at Mt Hope served as the original source of water for drinking, fire protection, and industrial needs, for the then village of Oneida.

-How did that happen? In 1883, realizing the great need of pure water supply for the then village of Oneida, Judson W. Warner, a surveyor, engineer, and local businessman, began construction of a water works system which he named Warner Water Works.

-After years of service, the Warner Water Works had proven to be one of the best in the state, and was acquired by the village of Oneida in 1895.

-In 1927 Glenmore Reservoir, approximately 20 miles north of the city, replaced Mt Hope as the municipal water supply. Glenmore Reservoir is still the source of Oneida's water today.

-In the 1940s, the local Oneida Fish and Game Club leased the Mt Hope site and stocked it with fish as well as built a swimming pool on the site. The pool was 150' x 300' and had a gradient depth from 1-10 ft; the water supply came from the upper reservoir.

-The pool remained at Mt Hope until 1970 when it was replaced with a larger facility in another City park. Photo of the pool at Mt Hope bottom right. It was a very popular place!

-Throughout the 1970s improvements were made to the park including the trail network that exists virtually unchanged today.

-By 1979 the site was essentially abandoned, but in 1996 a non-profit was formed to help preserve the site.

-In 1996, the reservoirs and site were listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The City also received a grant to completely restore the 1883 lower dam, spillway, and valve control house which can be seen today.

-Mt Hope became an official City park in 2001.

Mt Hope Amenities and Sites

-A port-a-potty is available; approximately April - October.

-The lower reservoir is open to non-motorized boats and is a great place to kayak and canoe as well as fish.

-Terrain and informal obstacles for mountain biking

-Camping is available in Mt Hope; 4 spots available year round. Each site has a fire ring. Reservations must be made and easy to do by calling the Oneida Parks Department at (315) 363-3590.

-See history! The 1883 lower dam, spillway, and valve control house have been restored and can be seen in the park.

-In the spring, the park is a great place to see trillium, a native perennial flowering plant.

Trail Etiquette

The rules for the trail are posted within the park

- Respect Private Property
- Be responsible with pets
- Carry in, carry out
- Pass with care (bikes)
- No motorized vehicles or boats

If people want to report unsafe trail conditions, they should call Oneida Parks Dept at (315) 363-3590.

The trails in Mt Hope are maintained by the City and by volunteers. If folks are interested in volunteering for trail work days get their email and pass it along to Patti in your report; they will be added to our trail list-serv.



Encourage winter use! The Oneida Parks Department lends out cross-country skis and snowshoes for FREE!

City of Oneida Parks and Recreation
Mt. Hope Reservoir
 1222 Mount Hope Avenue, Oneida, NY

Mt. Hope Reservoir features 64 acres of land for fishing, hiking, mountain biking, cross country skiing, and camping (permit required).

The loop around the lower reservoir is approximately 1 mile. The upper reservoir loop trail features uniquely different woodlands on each side.

The reservoir served as the original source of water for drinking, fire protection, and industrial needs for Oneida and is listed on the National and State Register of Historic Places.



Legend

- Mt. Hope Park
- Mt. Hope Trail

Park Features

- Parking
- Trailhead Sign
- Restroom
- Picnic Table
- Camp Site
- Firepit
- Bridge
- Waterfall
- Future Bridge

