

# Skaneateles Loop the Lake Attractions and Sites

## Water Access & Recreation

The Skaneateles Lake Watershed is an enormous recreational resource for swimming, fishing, and boating.

## Swimming

- 2 **Clift Park**  
W. Genesee Street, Skaneateles

This popular park features a public swimming area, park benches, a gazebo, and great view of the lake! For a small fee paid to the lifeguard, anyone can enjoy the lake's cool, clean water.

## Fishing

Skaneateles is a deep cold-water lake, with the exception of warmer, shallow bottom areas (close to shore) at the north and south ends of the lake. The lake includes yellow perch, chain pickerel, small-mouth and large-mouth bass, rock bass, pumpkinseed and bluegill. Important cold-water species include land-locked salmon, rainbow and lake trout. In addition to wild populations, the lake is also stocked yearly with rainbow trout and salmon.

## Boating

As both boating and fishing are popular activities on the Lake, they require lake stewardship. Aquatic invasive species, such as Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Water Milfoil and a number of other harmful animals and weeds, can wreak havoc on a lake when they are introduced from another location. Boaters and fishermen should take precautions to thoroughly inspect their vessel and equipment before and after leaving the lake, to remove any plant fragments, seeds, mud, bilge water or mussels, and dispose of them on land. Bait fish, live wells, and other water that could carry microscopic "hitch hikers" should never be dumped in or shared between waterways.

- 3 **Skaneateles Community Dock**

The Community Dock is available from mid-May – mid-October, dawn to 10pm.

- 4 **Mid-Lakes Navigation Cruises**  
11 Jordan St., Skaneateles, NY 13152  
(315) 685-8500 • [www.midlakesnav.com](http://www.midlakesnav.com)

"Loop the Lake on the water! Choose a lunch or dinner cruise for a great meal with your boat ride. To try a sample of local scenery, take a 50-minute sightseeing cruise. Or for a true around-the-lake experience hop aboard the famous US Mailboat and help deliver the mail to cottagers along the way!"

- 6 **NYS DEC Boat Launch**

- 8 **Skaneateles Marina / Launch**  
1938 West Lake Road, Skaneateles, NY 13152  
(315) 685-5095 • [www.skaneatelesmarina.com](http://www.skaneatelesmarina.com)

Boat rentals, marine sales & service, fuel, ship store, 5 miles south of village on Rte. 41A in Mandana.

- 9 **Skaneateles Public Boat Launch**

- 12 **Carpenter's Falls**  
Appletree Point Rd., (FL#14)  
Moravia, NY 13118

Carpenter's Falls is 90 ft. high and is the location where Bear Swamp Creek plunges 67 ft. over a bedrock precipice down a ravine into a deep, round pool. It is near the west shore of Skaneateles Lake. The bedrock of the Skaneateles Lake Watershed consists of sedimentary rock deposited over 360 million years ago. Eventually the sediments were compressed and hardened to form the various rock formations we see exposed in the gorges and gullies throughout the region.

- 20 **Grout Brook**

- 21 **Glen Haven Hotel Launch**



The watershed boundary is marked by a purple line on the map. The land inside this watershed boundary drains to Skaneateles Lake. The land outside the boundary belongs to other watersheds and drains to neighboring waterways, such as Otisco and Owasco Lakes and Nine Mile Creek.

- 29 **Skaneateles Sailing Club**

SSC is a member owned and operated organization dedicated to promoting the sport of sailing safely, to encourage racing and seamanship skills, and to protect the purity and natural beauty of Skaneateles Lake. Along with being enthusiastic sailors, our members are expected to volunteer time to maintain the club and assist with sailing and social events. For more detailed information, please visit our website at [skansailclub.com](http://skansailclub.com).

## Finger Lake Vistas

It wasn't until 1881 that the first cottage was built on the lake by Captain George Knapp Collins, a Civil War Veteran. Collins stated that many people who came to see his cottage ridiculed him for doing something so "fool hardy." Many remarked that summer cottages would never amount to anything. Since then, much of the shoreline of the lake has been developed for cottages and second homes. Over the past few decades, the rate of development has increased due to the lake's proximity to urban centers, such as the cities of Auburn and Syracuse, and the availability of good highways. Although much of the shoreline is developed already, development pressure on the land currently used for agriculture has increased as people are building on lands that offer a lake view. When Collins wrote about Spafford, he noted the beauty of the views one could see from the road leading from the Village of Scott to the Village of Skaneateles on what is now Route 41.

Although much of the forested land has matured, and in some areas obscures the view of the lake, there are still many stretches of road on Route 41 that provide breathtaking views. The vista Collins described still exists on Route 41, and is also known as a spectacular spot from which to enjoy a Skaneateles Lake sunset.

- 25 **Cortland / Onondaga County Line Rest-Stop**

## Land Protection

In the 1700's, the Finger Lakes region was almost completely covered with forest. The original forests were mainly sugar maple, beech, hemlock, black cherry, white ash, and red and white oaks. By the 1800's, newly established agricultural communities cut and cleared much of the virgin forests, drastically changing the landscape. Today, no virgin timber stands remain in the watershed. The present forests consist of second-growth stands of the original species, with chestnut and American elm missing as a result of disease. The forested areas of the watershed provide many water quality benefits, including storm water retention and erosion control. A current threat to these forests is the introduction of invasive tree pests. If transported into the area, these insects could cause the death of many trees, and devastate local forests. Since many tree pests lay their eggs on or live inside trees, visitors should, by law, avoid transporting any firewood (as it has the potential to spread the insects and result in new infestations).

- 14 **Bahar Nature Preserve**  
Appletree Point Rd., (FL#14)  
Moravia, NY 13118

Bahar Nature Preserve was established in 1998 by the Finger Lakes Land Trust from land once owned by nature-lover Hu Bahar. Bear Swamp Creek runs through this 51-acre preserve which features a dramatic forest and gorge landscape.

- 19 **Bear Swamp Forest**  
Route 41A, Moravia, NY 13118

Once cleared for settlements, the forest is now recovering through reforestation efforts by the NYS Department of Conservation. The state manages approximately 3,200 acres of land in Bear Swamp forest, which is popular with hikers, bikers, and Nordic skiers. Bear Swamp is also part of the Audubon Southern Skaneateles Forest Important Bird Area, and provides habitat to red-shouldered hawks, pine siskins and migratory songbirds.

## Skaneateles Lake Watershed Land Protection Plan

City of Syracuse, NY

In 1994, a cooperative program was developed by the City of Syracuse with farmers within the Skaneateles Lake watershed to reduce the of risk pathogens, nutrients, pesticides, & sediments from agricultural operations thus helping preserve the water quality of Skaneateles Lake. From 2005-2009, the City purchased conservation easements covering 858 acres of ecologically-sensitive land in the watershed. Each perpetual, conservation easement limited property development rights and included provisions to protect water quality. Farming and forestry are allowed to continue on these privately owned lands.

## Finger Lakes Land Trust

202 East Court Street, Ithaca, NY 14850  
(607) 275-9487 • [www.fllt.org](http://www.fllt.org)

By working cooperatively with landowners and local communities, the Finger Lakes Land Trust has protected more than 21,500 acres of the region's undeveloped lakeshore, rugged gorges, rolling forest, and scenic farmland. The Land Trust owns and manages a network of over 30 nature preserves that are open to the public and holds perpetual conservation easements on over 135 properties that remain in private ownership. The Land Trust focuses on protecting critical habitat for fish and wildlife, conserving lands that are important for water quality, connecting existing conservation lands, and keeping prime farmland in agriculture. The organization also provides programs to educate local governments, landowners, and local residents about conservation and the region's unique natural resources.

- 24 **High Vista Nature Preserve**  
Vincent Hill Road, Homer, NY 13077  
[www.fllt.org](http://www.fllt.org)

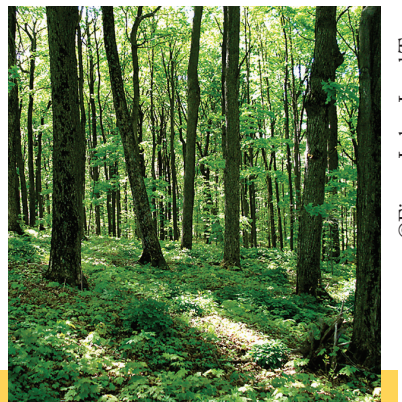
The Finger Lakes Land Trust owns this 139-acre property of forest and wetland. This steep hillside above Skaneateles Lake is open to hikers. A small parking area is uphill of the trailhead.

- 26 **The Hinchcliff Family Preserve**

The Finger Lakes Land Trust's 206-acre Hinchcliff Family Preserve peers over the eastern shore of Skaneateles Lake offering impressive vistas, diverse habitats, and a unique window onto the human history and changing natural landscape of the property.

- 27 **Central New York Land Trust**

Central New York Land Trust, founded in 1972, seeks to preserve and protect natural areas in order to provide our communities clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat and a chance to connect with the land. With preserves in Skaneateles and Spafford watershed protection is central to our mission. Snow Creek Ravine, Ripley Hill and High Hickory Wildlife Sanctuary protect portions of important tributaries to Skaneateles Lake. In total we have over 47 preserves protecting water quality and habitat throughout Central New York. Central New York Land Trust is a nonprofit organization supported by membership donations and grants. We invite you to become a member today.



©Finger Lakes Land Trust



## Local Harvest

Agriculture is important in the Skaneateles Lake Watershed. Today, about 48% of its land is categorized as agricultural. These rolling fields and rural vistas are classic signatures of the Finger Lakes landscape. The Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program (SLWAP) was created in 1994 by the City of Syracuse and the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District to offer farmers in the watershed the opportunity to implement Whole Farm Planning and to work towards water quality protection.



©Anyela's Vineyards

### Anyela's Vineyards

2433 West Lake Road  
Skaneateles, NY 13152 • (315) 685-3797  
[www.anyelasvineyards.com](http://www.anyelasvineyards.com)

Anyela's began three generations ago in Eastern Europe and continues today on the hillside high above Skaneateles Lake. The vintners have combined their experience with the area's colder climate patterns and fertile soil to grow select grapes. Unlike vineyards on neighboring Finger Lakes, Anyela's protects its vines from the cold by burying them in winter to insulate the sensitive primary buds. In spring, the vines are re-trellised. The grape yield is also controlled to cultivate the ripest, most flavorful fruit. Since planting the vineyards in 2001, Anyela's has three vintages in development and continues to grow in reputation. Wine tastings daily. Call or visit the website for hours and additional info.

### Schoolyard Sugarbush House

13 5967 Appletree Point Road  
Moravia, NY 13118 • (315) 497-3480  
[www.schoolyardsugarbush.org](http://www.schoolyardsugarbush.org)

### October Rose Farm

17 3181 State Rt. 41A  
Moravia, NY 13118 • (315) 496-2328  
[www.octoberrosefarm.com](http://www.octoberrosefarm.com) / Instagram

This family-owned and operated farm specializes in pasture-fed poultry including chickens, free-range laying hens, ducklings, and turkeys. Their poultry are raised without antibiotics, and farm processed. Using no commercial fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides, pasture management consists of rotational goat and sheep grazing. This system produces pasture grasses. The farm sells eggs year-round, on site, and fresh chickens and turkeys at the Skaneateles Farmers' Market. Visitors are welcome by calling ahead, May-Nov.

### What is the Skaneateles Lake Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a particular receiving body of water. In the case of the Skaneateles Lake Watershed, the watershed consists of the adjacent land that drains into Skaneateles Lake. When precipitation falls onto the land within the watershed boundary, the water slowly begins a downhill journey towards the lake by flowing over the surface of the land and through streams, groundwater flow, ditches, and drainage systems. In many regards, the watershed is comparable to a basin or bathtub -- any water that falls within the basin eventually makes its way into the drain, or lake! Similarly, any activities that impact the land in the watershed can also impact the lake. This means that the ways watershed residents use their yards, and municipalities use public properties, can affect the lake.

### Skaneateles Lake Association (SLA)

The mission of the Skaneateles Lake Association (SLA) is to protect the Skaneateles Lake ecosystem and the quality of its waters and promote environmentally sound regional management of its watershed. SLA protects the purity and water quality of Skaneateles Lake through research-driven preventative measures. SLA strives to educate the public about the environmental impacts on the lake as a beloved resource. SLA collaborates with experts and lake lovers to achieve the common goal to preserve our community's lifeblood. SLA is in its 50th year as a nonprofit organization and is supported by membership donations and grants. Go to [SkaneatelesLake.org](http://SkaneatelesLake.org) to learn more about the SLA, volunteer, become a member, or submit a donation.



### Glacial Signatures

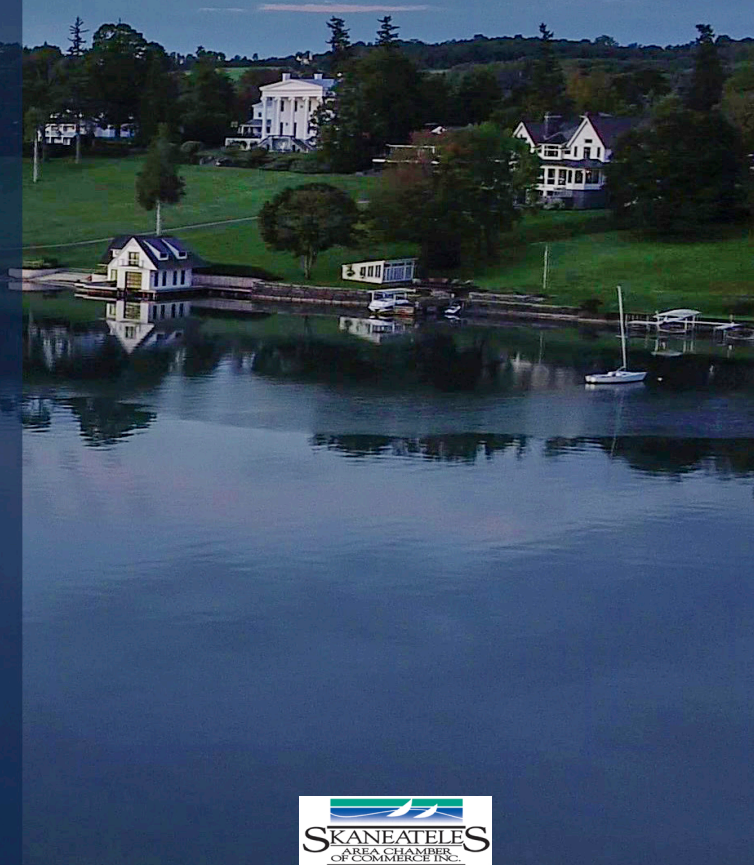
The character of the Finger Lakes landscape is greatly influenced by its glacial past. Two separate ice events took place that transformed the Finger Lakes Region into the characteristic "U" shaped lake valleys seen today. The first was the Kansan glacier that flowed over the region about one million years ago, and the second was the Wisconsinian glacier which withdrew 13,000 years ago leaving behind rock deposits. This deposit, known as the Valley Heads Moraine, effectively dammed the southward flowing streams and in doing so created Skaneateles Lake. Today this moraine acts as a dividing line between the northern lakes and streams that flow north to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and the southern lakes and streams that flow south to the Susquehanna River. The effect of this glacial dam can be seen first-hand by looking at the path of Grout Brook on the map.

The original Discover...the Skaneateles Lake Watershed brochure was created in 2009 by the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County. This version has been modified.

For more information about this brochure, please contact:  
**The Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce**  
22 Jordan Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152 • (315) 685-0552  
[www.skaneateles.com](http://www.skaneateles.com)

*Thank you to Skaneateles Drone for our cover image.  
Design by Askey Design & Illustration.*

## Skaneateles Loop the Lake Driving Tour & Attractions



Skaneateles Area Chamber of Commerce  
(315) 685-0552 • [www.skaneateles.com](http://www.skaneateles.com)



Visit Syracuse  
(800) 234-4797  
[www.visitsyracuse.com](http://www.visitsyracuse.com)



Cayuga County  
Office of Tourism  
(800) 499-9615  
[www.tourcayuga.com](http://www.tourcayuga.com)

## Skaneateles Lake Historic Sites, Shops, B&Bs and Restaurants

### 1 Village of Skaneateles

The Village of Skaneateles has always had a strong connection to Skaneateles Lake. In early times the transportation of goods by boats on the lake played a major role in the success and vitality of the community. Over the course of time the lake became known for its pristine water and value as a drinking water resource. Today, the lake continues to be the focal point of the community, with its beautiful vistas and recreational activities, attracting tourists, seasonal residents, and new homeowners.

### 5 The 1899 Lady of the Lake B&B

2 W. Lake Street, Skaneateles, NY 13152  
[www.ladyofthelake.net](http://www.ladyofthelake.net)  
(315)-685-7997 or (888)-685-7997  
[Reservations@ladyofthelake.net](mailto:Reservations@ladyofthelake.net)

Celebrating our 23rd Anniversary Newly renovated, award winning European Style B&B serving up Mediterranean Flavors & Memorable Mornings overlooking beautiful Skaneateles Lake! Romantic and elegant rooms, ensuite baths, tranquil wrap-around porch, and beautiful gardens. Daily gourmet breakfasts with porch dining. Just steps from the lake!



©Skaneateles Drone

### 10 Mandana Inn

1937 West Lake Road, Skaneateles 13152  
(315) 685-7798 • [www.mandanainn.com](http://www.mandanainn.com)

Overlooking Skaneateles Lake, the Mandana Inn provides casual fine dining. Offerings include fresh seafood, Black Angus beef and Italian dishes utilizing local organic products. Banquets, special events, and catering are also available. Check our Facebook page for hours.



### 11 Brown Dog Antiques

4669 West Lake Rd, Rte. 41A,  
Skaneateles, NY 13152 • (315) 263-8189  
[www.browndogantiques.com](http://www.browndogantiques.com)

Brown Dog Antiques, a pretty country store overlooking Skaneateles Lake, carries antiques, collectibles, gifts, and CindaB handbags.

### 15 Millard's Nook

5963 New Hope Rd, Moravia, NY 13118  
To reserve, contact [www.Emersonrents.com](http://www.Emersonrents.com)  
or (512) 964-8379.

Once an Academy, this restored early 1800's structure, formerly New Hope Antiques, is now a charming AirBNB/VBRO rental. "Millard's Nook," is a comfy, one bedroom apartment. Named for Millard Fillmore, the 13th US President, who attended school and met his wife here, this vacation spot is available year-round for short or long term rentals. It has 1 bedroom, 1 bath, sleeps 4 and is all on one floor, with a private entrance & parking in the back of the building.



©Millard's Nook

### 16 Of the Earth Stone Art Gallery

6695 North Glen Haven Road  
Homer, NY 13077  
(607) 749-8465 • [www.oftheearthstoneart.com](http://www.oftheearthstoneart.com)

This gallery is nestled in the woods overlooking the southwest end of beautiful Skaneateles Lake. The artist and gallery owner, Kjirsten Hunter Neff, creates her own unique form of expressive art pieces that are truly one of a kind, many inspired by the natural form and beauty of stone. Gemstone jewelry, 3D art, wall art and garden displays featured. Open Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or by appointment.

### 18 Colonial Lodge

2630 41A, Moravia, NY 13118  
(315) 496-9401

Located in the Bear Swamp State Forest, the Colonial Lodge is an American, traditional restaurant and a favorite stop for bikers, hikers, crosscountry skiers, and snowmobilers. The Lodge serves fresh perch, Black Angus steaks, and has a moderate lunch menu. Open year-round, Wednesday thru Saturday, 11-9, & Sunday, 12-8.

### The Glen Haven Hotel

22 7434 Fair Haven Road, Homer, NY 13077  
(607) 749-3779 • [www.theglenhaven.com](http://www.theglenhaven.com)

Overlooking the South End of Skaneateles Lake, The Glen Haven Hotel is a great place to stop for beautiful views, great food and a timeless atmosphere. The Glen Haven is accessible by land and lake, also offering comfortable, modern lodging for guests looking to enjoy the serenity of the South End.



©Skaneateles Drone

### 23 Glen Haven School & Public Library

7435 Fair Haven Road, Homer, NY 13077  
(607) 749-4365 (Charles Jermy) or  
[cwj1@cornell.edu](mailto:cwj1@cornell.edu)

The Glen Haven School and Public Library was designed by Ehrick K. Rossiter, a noted New York City architect and summer resident. Built in 1901, this important landmark has been placed on the New York State and National Registers of Historic Places. When the school closed in 1968, it had the distinction of being one of the last operating one room public schools in the state. Its chartered New York State public library was located in the northern half of the building. In 1975, the Glen Haven Historical Society (GHHS) was organized to restore the School and Library.

### The Bond 1835

28 2498 East Lake Rd., Skaneateles, NY 13152  
949-233-7608 • [thebond1835.com](http://thebond1835.com)  
[reservations@thebond1835.com](mailto:reservations@thebond1835.com)

One hundred percent lovingly renovated, five star rated, new place to stay just outside the Skaneateles Village. Full hot breakfast, lake access, sunset views, beautiful gardens, cozy lobby with a extra huge fireplace, individually controlled heat & A/C wrapped in a unique 1835 farmhouse makes The Bond 1835 perfect for individual or group stays! Specializing in bridal parties, we have everything to make your day perfect! We invite you to check us out anytime!

