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### PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **City of Oneonta 2021 ARPA Plan Provides New Opportunities for Outdoor Activities**

#### *Statement from Mayor Gary Herzig:*

"I am proud to say that the City of Oneonta's plan for the use of our federal ARPA funding will focus on providing our families with expanded opportunities to enjoy healthy outdoor activities right here in the City of Oneonta. Our ARPA Plan will provide a significant investment in our public parks supporting healthy lifestyles and opportunities for all of our families and children to enjoy the outdoors more often."

Funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides money for local municipalities to meet pandemic response needs and to rebuild healthier and stronger local communities. The City of Oneonta was awarded just over \$1.4M with half having been received in 2021 and the balance expected in 2022. The Common Council has signaled its approval of a plan developed by Mayor Herzig and City Administrator Mattice to allocate the 2021 funds to creating more opportunities to enjoy healthy outdoor activities in Oneonta's beautiful parks and outdoor spaces. Planned priority projects include the following:

- Paved millrace Neahwa Park trail to provide access to all (walkers, wheelchairs, runners)
- Neahwa Park permanent performance stage/amphitheater
- New Neahwa Park basketball court
- Rehabilitation of the Neahwa Park skate park
- Playground improvements
- Neahwa Park Electric Infrastructure Improvements
- Installation of Public Art
- Wilber Lake Trail Bridge replacement

The City of Oneonta's 2022 allocation will support the upgrade of the City's water infrastructure supporting the City's ability to continue to provide uninterrupted clean, healthy water to all city residents.

For additional information, contact Mayor Gary Herzig at [gherzig@oneonta.ny.us](mailto:gherzig@oneonta.ny.us); 607-432-6450