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ORLEANS COUNTY SIGNS AGREEMENT FOR OAK ORCHARD RIVER ACCESS

Orleans County, NY - The Orleans County Legislature has signed a three-year lease agreement with a local landowner to provide year-round public fishing access on the Oak Orchard River at an annual cost of \$7,500. The agreement provides over 4,000 linear feet of stream access on a portion of the east river bank popular for fall fly fishing. The free public fishing area includes the renowned "Sycamore Hole," a mid-stream island and part of the peninsula north of the power dam. "We felt that opening this part of the river again to the public was important to enhance the economic impact on our restaurants, lodging businesses, and tackle shops," said George Bower, County Legislature chairman, who with Legislator Ken Rush, negotiated the agreement. The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation estimates that anglers produce \$9 million in annual expenditures while fishing in Orleans County.

Rules have been adopted and will be posted along with a map of the site, officially named, 'Oak Orchard River Access Area.' Anglers are encouraged above all to respect the rights of area property owners and to observe Posted signs while enjoying this world-class fishery. There is ample public and private parking available. Trails leading to the fishing area may be steep and narrow along the bank - caution is urged.

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