



# OPERATION Ripple Effect™

## SIMPLE STEPS: BIG BENEFITS FOR THE MOHAWK RIVER

### PROJECT BULLETIN

Normally, our sanitary sewer system has enough capacity to operate properly. But, when we get heavy rains or sudden snow melts, stormwater overwhelms the system and causes overflows into the Mohawk River. That stormwater runoff enters the sanitary sewer system from multiple sources: deteriorated and damaged public sanitary sewers; and private property connections, such as roof leaders and sump pumps.

Operation Ripple Effect is a program of the Oneida County Sewer District that asks residents, businesses, and municipalities to do their part to reduce overflows. Together, we can help keep the Mohawk River clean.

## MAKING PROGRESS: GRANT ENABLES VILLAGE OF EAST SYRACUSE TO REDUCE PRIVATE PROPERTY I/I

### BACKGROUND

Just as in Oneida County, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) issued a Consent Order for the Village of East Syracuse to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows. A major contributing factor to the sanitary sewer overflow problem were connections of rooftop downspouts, some which were illegal, to the sanitary sewer system. In addition, Onondaga County passed a local law that requires an inspection certificate attesting that the properties have no roof drains connected to the sanitary sewer system prior to sale or transfer of title.

### ACTIONS

The Village of East Syracuse sought and obtained grant funding to undertake a project to remove improper connections through the use of green infrastructure measures. The funds allowed the Village to complete this work at no cost to the property owner. However, the Village requested resident participation and cooperation through signed agreements, which included the following:

- Permission to undertake the project on the landowner's behalf;
- Permission to access the private property for purposes of the project;
- Confirmation that the private property owner had insurance coverage on the property and agreed to indemnify the Village in the event of a loss in connection with installation of the improvements on the property;
- Agreement to not modify, remove or bypass the project after completion;
- Assignment of maintenance and repair to the private property owner;
- Permission for the Village to conduct periodic inspections of the system, and perform maintenance and repairs as needed (when not performed by the property owner), with costs to be assessed to the homeowner.



### RESULTS

This project reduced East Syracuse sanitary sewer overflows and helped bring the municipality closer to compliance with the NYSDEC consent order. By installing the four green infrastructure measures in the Village, approximately 550,000 gallons of stormwater have been removed from the sanitary system annually. Property owners also benefitted from disconnection and rerouting of their illicit connections at no cost, in addition to the reduction of potential sanitary sewage backups into their basements.

### OCSD Actions:

- Assisted Village of Yorkville in development and realization of a sewer rehab project
- Working with Town of Paris on Private Property I/I program
- Rehabilitated 104 miles of sewer since 2007
- Repaired 1,345 manholes since 2007

**Reroute**  
DISCONNECT YOUR  
ROOF LEADERS

**Reclaim**  
INSTALL A RAIN BARREL

**Recharge**  
PLANT A RAIN GARDEN



Contact [cmanion@paigegroup.com](mailto:cmanion@paigegroup.com) to schedule a briefing.  
For more news and reports, visit [www.sewerrehabocsd.org](http://www.sewerrehabocsd.org).

An Initiative of the Oneida County Sewer District

Anthony J. Picente Jr., County Executive

Steven P. Devan, P.E., Commissioner  
Department of Water Pollution and Water Quality Control