



# OPERATION Ripple Effect™

## SIMPLE STEPS: BIG BENEFITS FOR THE MOHAWK RIVER

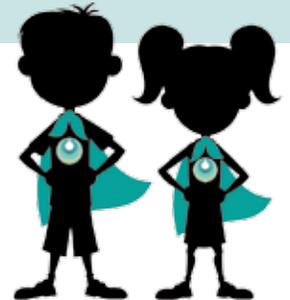
### PROJECT BULLETIN

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, including 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:

## OPERATION RIPPLE EFFECT SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM LAUNCHES



The Oneida County Sewer District's Operation Ripple Effect School Program delivered its first presentation to more than 60 fifth grade students in Mrs. Kate Radell's science class at Hart's Hill Elementary in Whitesboro.

Guided by data from the Public Awareness Survey conducted in 2016, the school program goal is to increase awareness among elementary school students on how stormwater can cause sewage overflows into the Mohawk River. The program also teaches students how the items that they may dispose of down the drain can impact the environment.

In each 45-minute session, students participate with both interactive discussions and activities that help to recognize the problem, as well as identify ways that they can be part of the solution.

Similar to successful programs on recycling, our youth have proven to be important contributors to sharing information at home and encouraging adults to adopt practices that protect the environment.

Upcoming programs are scheduled at Westmoreland Road School in Whitesboro.

*Are you interested in scheduling a school program? Contact School Program Coordinator Shannon Rounds at [srounds@paigegroup.com](mailto:srounds@paigegroup.com) or call (315) 733-2313.*

## Simple Steps: In the Community

Operation Ripple Effect informational materials were recently displayed and promoted at several community events:

- The Mohawk Valley Home Show 2017, sponsored by the Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Mohawk Valley, was held on April 1 and 2 at MVCC and attracted more than 1,200 attendees.
- More than 800 employees learned about how they could take simple steps by installing a rain garden or rain barrel at the MetLife Earth Day event on April 21 in Oriskany.
- Operation Ripple Effect was a featured partner at the annual Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority (OHSWA) Earth Day Event on April 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Oneida-Herkimer Recycling Center, 80 Leland Avenue Ext. in Utica.



- Program partner Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) promoted Operation Ripple Effect at the Cornerstone Church's Hip Hop Health Event on April 20 and Garden Meet and Greet on April 21.

## Upcoming Events

Visit us at one of the following events:

- **Utica Zoo Earth Day Celebration** (with partner OHSWA) April 29 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Utica Zoo, Utica
- **Farm Fest 2017** (with partner Cornell Cooperative Extension) June 2 from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. at DiNitto Farms, Marcy
- **21st Annual Herb & Flower Festival** (with partner Cornell Cooperative Extension) June 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Parker F. Scripture Botanical Gardens, 121 Second Street, Oriskany



Contact [cmanion@paigegroup.com](mailto:cmanion@paigegroup.com) to schedule a briefing. For more news and reports, visit [www.RippleEffectOCSD.org](http://www.RippleEffectOCSD.org).  
An Initiative of the Oneida County Sewer District

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