



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.



BIG IMPACTS: LEARNING THE ROOTS

“Into the Garden, Out of the Sewer” teaches how rain gardens and rain barrels help keep stormwater from entering the sanitary sewer system. The program includes a hands-on activity in which students are encouraged to literally get their hands dirty.

Everyone receives a bag with the proper tools to begin a rain garden. This includes a biodegradable cup, soil, seed packet and instructions on how to create a garden at home. We plant the seeds together and then the planting pots are brought home to share with their families.

This activity helps the students learn that not only are they becoming Mohawk River Champions by reusing rainwater to water their garden, but they can also use natural resources to help take care of it!

SIMPLE STEPS: EVERYONE CAN BE A MOHAWK RIVER CHAMPION!

In early 2017, the OCSO began the “Become a Mohawk River Champion” school program that shows students how their families can really help reduce sanitary sewer overflows into the Mohawk River. Through research studies, it has been found that attitudes toward the environment start developing at an early age. Children can have a positive influence on adults in learning new behaviors.



The education team has conducted many “Into the Garden, Out of the Sewer” presentations throughout the community this summer. From fifth-grade classrooms to libraries and summer recreational programs, this presentation showcase helps teach children how they can become Mohawk River Champions by taking just a few simple steps.

For more information or to sign up for the fall/winter presentation “Down the Drain,” contact our School Program Coordinator Shannon Rounds at srounds@paigegroup.com or 315-733-2313.



Contact cmanion@paigegroup.com to schedule a briefing.
For more news and reports, visit www.RippleEffectOCSD.org.
An Initiative of the Oneida County Sewer District

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