

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Since 2007, Oneida County Sewer District Repairs 1,345 Manholes, 104 Miles of Pipe to Reduce Overflows into Mohawk River

Since efforts began in 2007 to reduce sanitary sewer overflows into the Mohawk River, more than 1,360 manholes and the equivalent of approximately 104 miles of sanitary sewer have been repaired through the Oneida County Sewer District's Operation Ripple Effect™ program.

“With every manhole that is rehabilitated and every mile of sewer pipe that is repaired, we are closer to eliminating sanitary sewer overflows into the Mohawk River,” said County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr. “It is critical that property owners within the Oneida County Sewer District also help to achieve the solution by taking simple steps – such as disconnecting their rain gutter downspouts and sump pumps from the system.”

Normally, our sanitary sewer system has enough capacity to operate properly. But heavy rains or snowmelts can cause stormwater to overwhelm the system and result in sewage overflows into the Mohawk River, as well as backups into basements. National studies have shown that as much as 50 percent of the excess stormwater in sanitary sewer systems come from private property.

The answer to this is a three-part fix that includes rerouting stormwater from the sanitary sewer system through private property projects, rehabilitation and repair work throughout the district, and upgrades at the Water Pollution Control Plant.

Operation Ripple Effect is an Oneida County initiative, showing how individual actions can add up to widespread improvements to the system.

- **Reroute:** Prevent clean water from entering the sanitary sewer system by disconnecting your downspout and sump pump from the sanitary sewer system.
- **Reclaim:** Capture stormwater in a rain barrel for use at a later time. There are many types of rain barrels available to coordinate with your home — choose a simple rustic look or a more decorative, formal style. You can even get rain barrels that double as a flowerpot!
- **Recharge:** Divert water away from your home and into a rain garden. This is a unique and natural way to beautify your yard and protect the environment at the same time.

For more information about how individual actions can add up to widespread improvements to the sanitary sewer system, visit RippleEffectOCSD.org.

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