



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.

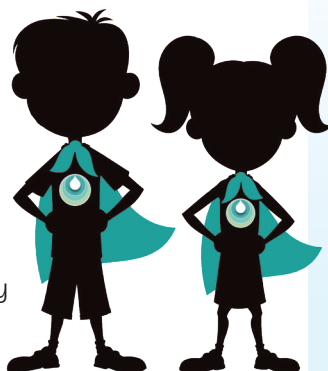
Operation Ripple Effect is a program of the Oneida County Sewer District that asks residents, businesses, and municipalities to do their part to reduce overflows. Together, we can help keep the Mohawk River clean.

SIMPLE STEPS: Mohawk River Champion program turns students into superheroes!

In early 2017, the Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD) started the “Mohawk River Champions” school education program. Program lessons include teaching students how to prevent sanitary sewer system blockages and overflows, along with what materials can and cannot go down the drain. They also have opportunities to learn how to keep clean stormwater from entering the sanitary sewer system by rerouting, reclaiming, and recharging excess water, which can include disconnecting a downspout, creating rain gardens to absorb excess rainwater, or capturing water with a rain barrel.

In 2018 alone, the Mohawk River Champion school program reached more than 600 students at schools and libraries within New Hartford, New York Mills, Whitesboro, Marcy, and Utica. Additionally, more than 200 students participated in summer programs.

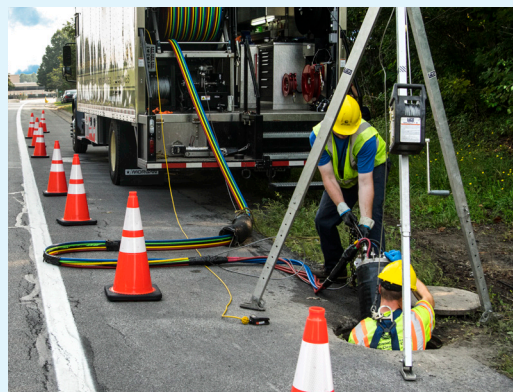
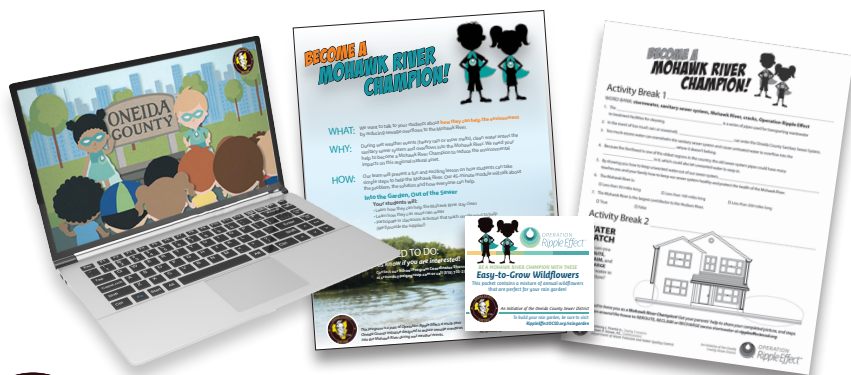
The Mohawk River Champion program is currently in the process of working with local educators to incorporate these lessons into their curricula. For more information on how to request a school program kit, which contains a video lesson and activities for students, contact Ann Martel at ann@paigroup.com.



BIG IMPACTS: Flow meters show progress

In 2015, 63 flow meters and five rain gauges were installed to monitor and consistently collect flow data throughout the Oneida County Sewer District. These monitoring devices assist in determining the effect of sanitary sewer and manhole rehabilitation on the amount of I/I entering the sanitary sewer system.

Since their installation, they have recorded significant reductions in rain-derived infiltration/inflow (RDII). The quantity of I/I removed due to sewer rehabilitation completed as of July 2019 indicates a reduction of approximately 5.6 million gallons of RDII during winter storms (including rain on snow events) and 5.6 million gallons of RDII during summer storms.



For more project information, visit RippleEffectOCSD.org



Contact cmanion@paigroup.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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