



# 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.

# Protect Your Operation Ripple Effect™ Progress This Winter

Preparing your household for winter doesn't stop with the interior of your home. If you've participated in Operation Ripple Effect™ by removing your downspout, installing a rain garden or capturing rainwater with a rain barrel, there are a few extra steps you can take to protect these from inclement weather.



## Downspout

By disconnecting your roof leader or downspout, you can prevent that water from entering our sewer system and causing sewage backups and overflows.

If you have diverted water from your disconnected downspout to a rain barrel or rain garden, it's important to clean twigs and leaves from the gutters so water and melting ice won't be blocked.



## Rain Gardens

Rain gardens are a great way to absorb excess rain water, while adding curbside appeal to your home with native plants that help support local species.

Winterizing your garden helps keep it healthy and protected while you wait for the spring planting season. If your rain garden is made up of wildflowers, you can leave them up throughout the winter – this will help promote re-seeding when they come back next season. In early spring, cut your wildflowers down to the ground, making sure to rake up old growth to allow new plants plenty of room to grow.



## Rain Barrel

Rain barrels are containers that capture the water that used to drain into the sewer system from your roof leader. Because rain barrels are generally exposed to the elements, they can be damaged if water inside the barrel freezes. To avoid this, you can use up or drain the barrel so there's no more water inside. Store your barrel inside when it's not being used, if possible, or turn it upside down so it can't collect water.

For more information on how you can **reroute**, **reclaim** and **recharge** stormwater, visit [RippleEffectOCSD.org](http://RippleEffectOCSD.org).



Anthony J. Picente Jr., County Executive

Steven P. Devan, P.E., Commissioner

Department of Water Quality Control and Water Pollution

Contact [info@paigegroup.com](mailto:info@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