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SIMPLE STEPS: BIG BENEFITS FOR THE MOHAWK RIVER



ONEIDA COUNTY  
SEWER DISTRICT  
OVERFLOW  
MITIGATION  
PROJECT

2018 PROGRESS REPORT

TM



OPERATION  
*Ripple Effect*™



## FROM THE **COUNTY EXECUTIVE**

Over the past 11 years, Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD) representatives, engineers and member municipalities have worked diligently to identify and implement a cost-efficient strategy to rehabilitate our aging sanitary sewer system. We've taken on the task of repairing a system that went far too long without the necessary investments and maintenance.

Despite these challenges, with just three years left to eliminate sanitary sewage overflows into the Mohawk River, I stand proud at the work that has been accomplished and have no doubt that we will achieve our goal.

Our approach has been strategic and collaborative, as we have worked for years with a Steering Committee, representative of all District municipalities, to set a course for efficient and responsible methods of repair. Progress is being made at every angle, from upgrades to our pumping and treatment facilities, to greater awareness among community members on how they can do their part.

While rate increases are an inevitability in order to accommodate the level of work completed to date and additional work needed, the OCSD has enacted a prudent saving practice that ensures the system is able to respond to both unexpected and anticipated future system needs. This strategic foresight enabled us to reduce the impact of the first OCSD rate increase in several years by half and greatly reduced the burden to ratepayers in 2018.

As we continue to approach the state's 2021 consent order deadline, we must continue our progress with a strategic mind and a collaborative attitude. The only path to success is by working together.

**Anthony J. Picente Jr.**  
County Executive  
Oneida County

*I stand proud at the work that has been accomplished and have no doubt that we will achieve our goal.*



## FROM THE **COMMISSIONER**

### **RECONSTRUCTING A COMPLETELY UPGRADED WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, WHILE KEEPING THE PLANT ONLINE AT THE SAME TIME, IS AN UNDERTAKING...TO SAY THE LEAST.**

Staff have worked around construction equipment, in temporary trailers and with knee-deep mud for the past two years — and we have three years left. But the important work that these OCSD employees complete each day ensures the continued, successful operation of our sewage treatment system.

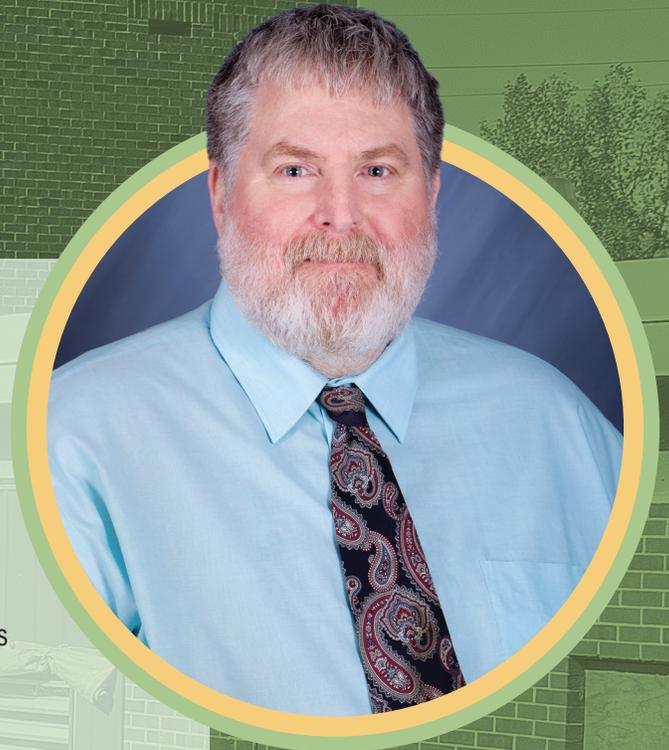
The treatment plant upgrades are designed to help eliminate overflows into the Mohawk River, satisfy New York State DEC Consent Order requirements, and assist the City of Utica with treatment elements of its Long-Term Control Plan. Oneida County has obtained grants from NYSERDA and New York State Empire State Development, as well as low-interest financing and principal forgiveness through New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation to fund the project.

Once complete, the OCSD treatment plant will become one of the largest wastewater facilities in New York State — and that's an accomplishment to be proud of.



**Steven P. Devan, P.E.**

Commissioner  
Oneida County Department of Water Quality and  
Water Pollution Control



**In 2007, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) issued a consent order on Oneida County that required the elimination of sanitary sewer overflows into the Mohawk River or face hefty fines. Under the leadership of County Executive Anthony J. Picente Jr., a Steering Committee consisting of representatives from each District municipality has provided invaluable project oversight and direction. Every town and village in the District has had the opportunity to review the planning, engineering and cost aspects of the project, and ensure that their community's interests are represented in the mitigation plan currently underway.**



# STATE OF OUR SYSTEM

The Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD) sewage collection system is made up of hundreds of miles of pipe, plus facilities that deliver critical sewage disposal and treatment services to residents throughout 15 municipalities.

## PROBLEMS

Extensive televising has revealed that our aging sewer pipes exhibit deterioration, cracks, settling and breaks from tree roots. All these issues cause sewage to leak out and groundwater to infiltrate, which can lead to blockages and backups. Compounded by the improper disposal of fats, oils, grease and other materials, impassable blockages can form. In addition, flushable wipes can fortify these blockages and lead to costly and inconvenient repairs. Finally, when excess clean water enters the system during heavy rain or snow melts, the overwhelmed system overflows into the Mohawk River.

## PROGRESS

### COLLECTION SYSTEM:

We have made great progress in identifying issues in our collection system and determining reliable solutions. We've televised approximately 195 miles of sewer, or 90 percent of total sewers in the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station basin to ascertain their condition and determine necessary repairs. We've also rehabilitated or repaired 130 miles of pipe. Sewer work includes:

- The installation of new, jointless sewer lining within existing pipe that minimizes root intrusion and water infiltration, improves flow and provides for a more structurally sound pipe.
- Spot repairs and grouting to repair minor defects.





### SAUQUOIT CREEK PUMPING STATION:

Progress is obvious at the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station. Masonry construction, roofing, and painting is complete at the new screenings building. The new emergency generator is also fully operational. Ongoing electrical, HVAC, and plumbing renovations are progressing at the existing building.

### WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT:

General construction at the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) is over 95% complete, with all new buildings erected and most new process equipment and piping installed. Additional achievements include:

- Anaerobic digester training is ongoing with WPCP staff
- Demolition of existing Primary Settling Tank numbers 1 and 2 complete
- Excavation and pile driving for new Primary Settling Tank numbers 1 and 2 and the HRD tank is complete
- Ongoing concrete/masonry work for the influent building, grit buildings numbers 2 and 3
- Installation of miscellaneous yard piping; ongoing asbestos abatement and interior renovations in the administration building



## FUTURE

Collection system, Water Pollution Control Plant and Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station work will continue through 2019. As we near the 2021 consent order deadline, the responsibility will shift to municipalities to complete their share of the remaining rehabilitation.

# FOG Fats, Oils & Grease

## FATS, OILS & GREASE INSPECTION PROGRAM

The OCSD and Oneida County Department of Health (OCDOH) have combined efforts to conduct inspections of foodservice establishments to assess fats, oils and grease (FOG) program compliance.

The FOG program is an OCSD initiative aimed at limiting the amount of FOG entering the sewer system. When improperly disposed of into the sanitary sewer system, FOG can build up and cause blockages and backups. FOG also decreases capacity for sewage during heavy rain events, thus contributing to overflows into the Mohawk River.

FOG inspections will be conducted in conjunction with OCDOH inspections that are regularly conducted at commercial foodservice establishments, including restaurants, school and meeting facilities with commercial kitchens, and more.

The goal of these inspections is to identify and document existing and/or potential sources of FOG that may enter the sanitary sewer system in foodservice facilities. The inspections will also assist in determining when facilities need to be brought into compliance.

### Best Management Practices TO HELP PREVENT SEWER OVERFLOWS & BACKUPS



✓ DO  
✗ DON'T

Put oil and grease in collection containers





# OPERATION Ripple Effect™

## **SIMPLE STEPS: BIG BENEFITS FOR THE MOHAWK RIVER**

### **OTHER PROJECTS**

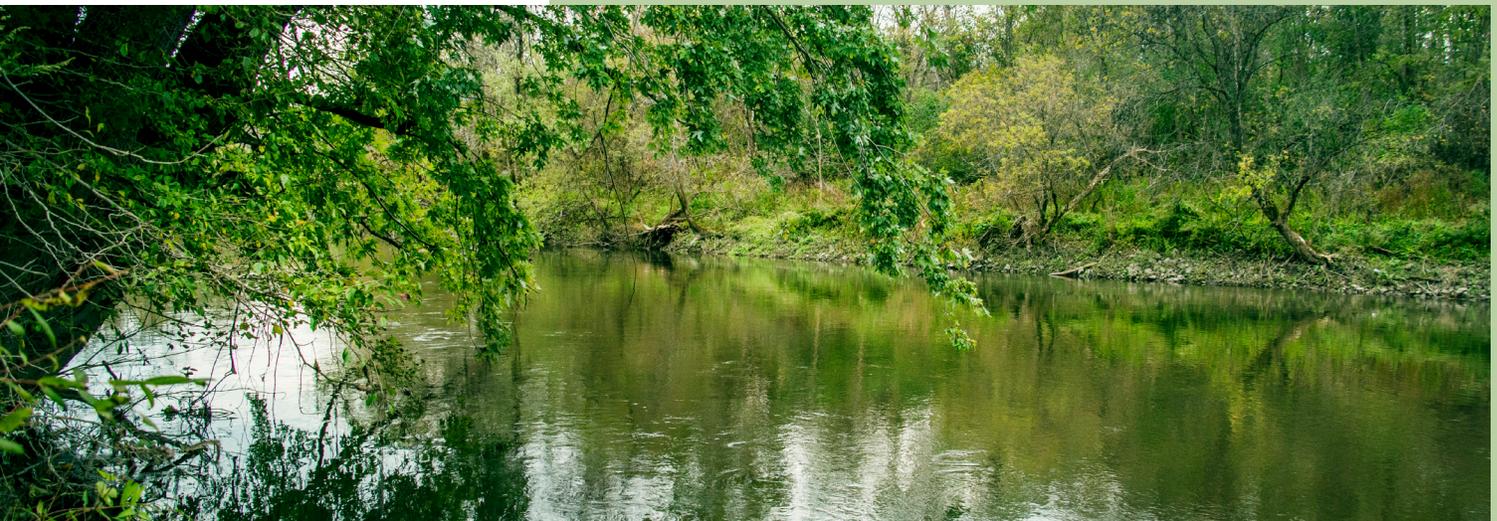
#### **Easement Maintenance:**

The County advanced a small easement maintenance contract that involved cutting trees and vegetation along the Deerfield East Interceptor Sewer easement located east of Leland Avenue, between the Canal and the NYS Thruway. The easement was overgrown and required re-establishment for future inspection and maintenance of the interceptor sewer. Work was done using low ground pressure forestry equipment and hand tools. The work was completed prior to March 31 and did not involve grading and/or filling.

#### **Sauquoit Creek Interceptor Sewer Stabilization (Victoria Drive):**

The County received bids and ultimately awarded a construction contract to Jablonski Excavating, Inc. to repair/stabilize a section of 24-inch interceptor sewer exposed in Sauquoit Creek between Victoria Drive (Utica) and NYS Route 8 (New Hartford). The work, which included stream bank stabilization, along with grade control at the immediate downstream limits to help mitigate the existing water elevation drop, and re-establish aquatic biota passage through the reach, was substantially completed by the end of September as required by the NYSDEC permit. Floodplain Development Permit applications were submitted to the City of Utica and Town of New Hartford.

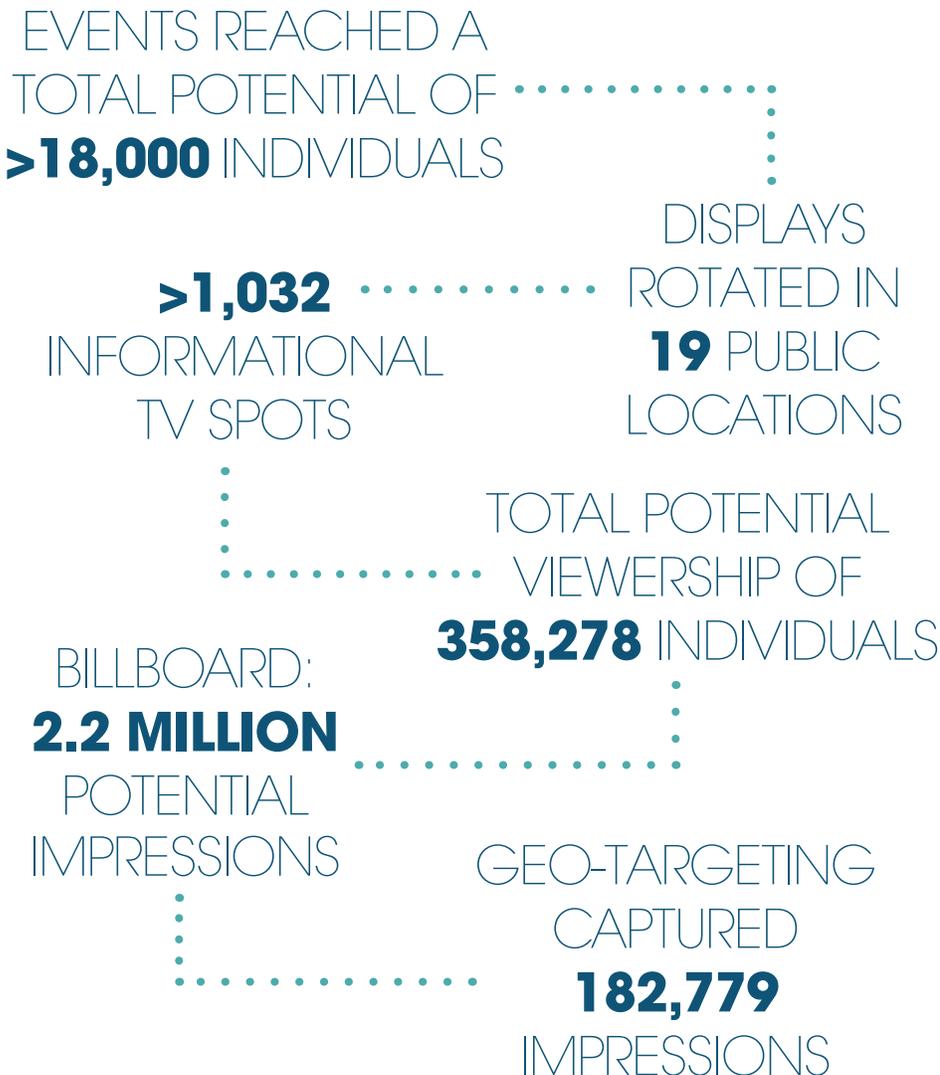
**Operation Ripple Effect™**  
*is an Oneida County  
initiative that acts as a  
guide to provide simple  
steps to help keep the  
Mohawk River clean.  
This program highlights  
how individual actions  
add up to widespread  
improvements for  
the system.*



# PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Eliminating sanitary sewer overflows and ensuring the proper condition of our sewer system isn't solely the job of District municipalities. Homeowners, business owners and all residents in the District have a role to play.

**Operation Ripple Effect™** is an Oneida County initiative that offers simple advice on how to keep the Mohawk River clean. Since its public launch in 2015, the program's educational materials and community outreach activities have expanded. Following are some of the recent program activities that are increasing community awareness of the benefits of rain barrels, rain gardens and other inflow/infiltration mediation measures.



- **Media and public relations:**  
Multiple news releases were distributed and numerous informative articles and feature stories appeared in local news media.
- **Public education events:**  
Informational booths were staffed at a number of events throughout the past year, including the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority's Annual Earth Day Event, Oneida County Public Market and Dunham Public Library. These events reached a total potential of more than 18,000 individuals.
- **Educational displays:**  
Displays featuring information on rain barrels, rain gardens and Down the Drain were rotated in 19 public locations throughout the member municipalities.
- **Mass communications:**  
More than 1,032 informational TV spots ran on HGTV, Food Network, FOX News and MSNB on Spectrum reaching a total potential viewership of 358,278 individuals in the Utica-Rome area. Eight billboards were placed at locations in Whitesboro, New Hartford, Frankfort, Barneveld and Utica where it made close to 2.2 million potential impressions from spring to fall this year. Website geo-targeting captured 182,779 impressions with Townsquare Media.



# SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM:

## Mohawk River Champions



The second full year of the OCSD Mohawk River Champion school program reached more than 600 students at schools and libraries within New Hartford, New York Mills, Whitesboro, Marcy and Utica. The program has been offered to all municipalities in the Oneida County Sewer District. Over 200 students participated in summer programs.

Mohawk River Champions is a fun way to show students how their families can really help reduce sanitary sewer overflows into the Mohawk River. The program encourages students to become a Mohawk River

Champion with two learning modules: "Down the Drain" and "Rain Barrels and Rain Gardens."

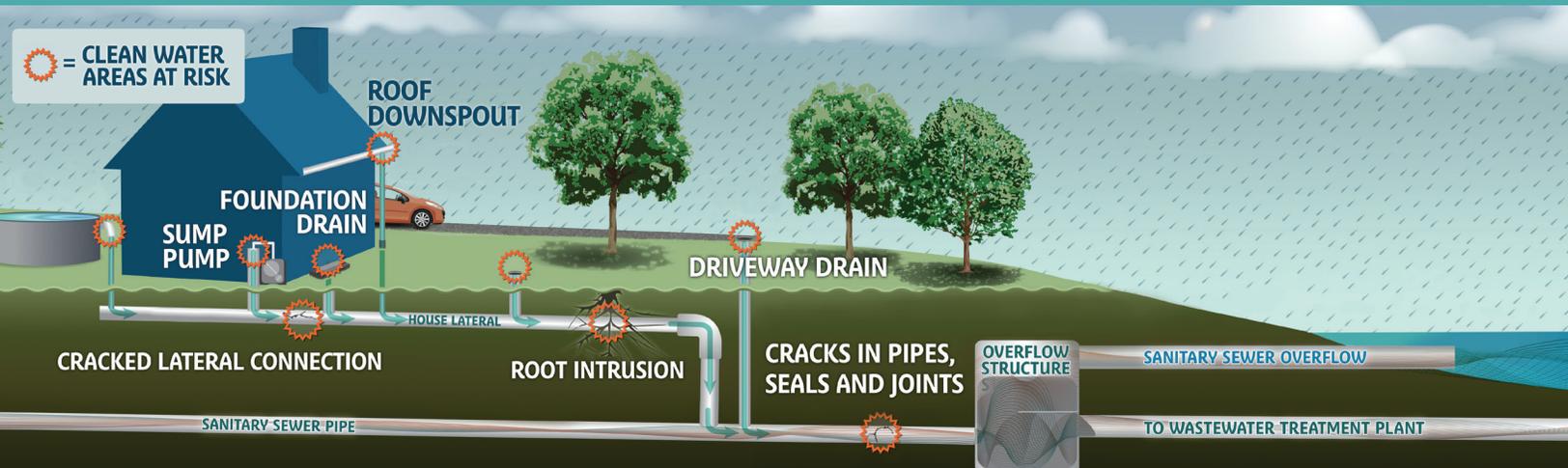
Teacher feedback has described the program as very positive: "Overall a great presentation! This is a unique topic that is not often discussed with children and is a super important issue!"

This program is more than just "something new" for children to learn in class. It is information they can learn, process and take home to their families and friends. The more each person can contribute, the bigger the ripple effect. When it comes to saving the Mohawk River, every effort counts.



*Overall a great presentation! This is a unique topic that is not often discussed with children and is a super important issue!*

## OCSD SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW MITIGATION PROJECT



# STEERING COMMITTEE

## ACHIEVEMENTS

For the last decade, Steering Committee members, consisting of representatives from each District municipality have provided valuable system insight, data and project feedback to advance the Oneida County Sanitary Sewer Overflow Mitigation Project.

The Steering Committee serves an essential role in decisions affecting systems operations, management and costs. In addition, working groups

have helped guide two critical community-based initiatives: Capacity, Management, Operation and Maintenance (CMOM) and Private Property Inflow and Infiltration (PPII).

The full steering committee meeting met in January and December 2018 to discuss the progress of construction at the WPCP, SCPS and on the active sanitary sewer rehabilitation projects.

## MEMBERS

Scott Barron, Village of Clayville\*

Carla Bostick, Village of Clayville\*

Terry Dote, Mayor  
Village of Clayville

Ernest Lamoree  
Village of Clayville\*

Mike Steiger, Village of Clayville

Sam Arcuri, Town of Deerfield\*

Scott Mahardy, Supervisor  
Town of Deerfield

Glenn Asnoe, Supervisor  
Town of Frankfort

John Rota, Town of Frankfort\*

Ronald Testa, Town of Frankfort\*

Michael Bennison, Mayor  
Village of Holland Patent

Ken Cutler  
Village of Holland Patent\*

Ben West  
Village of Holland Patent\*

David Wilcox, Designee  
Village of Holland Patent

Brendon Candella  
Councilman, Town of Marcy

Richard Quigley, Town of Marcy\*

Brian Scala, Supervisor  
Town of Marcy

Paul Miscione, Supervisor  
Town of New Hartford

Chris Moran, Town of New Hartford\*

Richard Sherman  
Highway Superintendent  
Town of New Hartford\*

Don Bathke  
Village of New Hartford

John Grygiel, Mayor  
Village of New Hartford

Tom Hughes  
Village of New Hartford\*

Donald Ryan, Mayor  
Village of New Hartford

John Bialek, Mayor  
Village of New York Mills

John Constas  
Village of New York Mills\*

Joseph Cotrupe Jr.  
Village of New York Mills\*

George Majka  
Village of New York Mills

Dave Neary  
Village of New York Mills\*

Bruce Brodsky, Oneida County

Harvey Yando, Oneida County

Chris Burtch, Village of Oriskany

George Farley, Village of Oriskany\*

Don Mullen, Deputy Highway  
Commissioner, Village of Oriskany\*

Don Rothdiener, Mayor  
Village of Oriskany

Tony Cardillo, Town of Paris\*

James Christian Jr., Supervisor  
Town of Paris

Joe Inglis, Town of Paris\*

Gina Lamonte, Town of Paris\*

Phil Green  
Town of Schuyler

Kenneth Dodge, Supervisor  
Town of Schuyler

Phil Johnson  
Highway Superintendent  
Town of Schuyler

Anthony Lucenti  
Deputy Supervisor  
Town of Schuyler

Robert VanDusen  
Town of Schuyler\*

Sal Granato  
Highway Superintendent  
Town of Whitestown\*

Shaun Kaleta, Supervisor  
Town of Whitestown

Bill Schmitt, Town of Whitestown

Tyler Tormey, Town of Whitestown\*

Deb Day, City of Utica\*

Robert Palmieri, Mayor  
City of Utica

Robert Friedlander, Mayor  
Village of Whitesboro

Charles Tritten, Superintendent  
Village of Whitesboro\*

Kyle Tritten, Village of Whitesboro

Larry Felitto  
Highway Superintendent  
Village of Yorkville

Michael Mahoney, Mayor  
Village of Yorkville\*

*In memory of Don Sroka  
1958-2018*

*Town of Schuyler  
Highway Superintendent,  
Steering Committee member,  
and friend.*

*\*Also serves on a working group.*



Scale:  
 1 inch equals 6,000 feet  
 0 3,000 6,000 12,000  
 Feet

**— Sewer Line**



**Oneida County Sewer District Service Area**



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