

## Niagara District Community Meeting

Date: Thursday June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: The Belle Center, 104 Maryland St, Buffalo, NY 14201

#### **ATTENDEES**

Rosaleen Nogle (BSA)	Perry Pope (BSA)	Katherine Murphy (BSA)
Kathryn Rozwood (TYLin)	Aria Harris (TYLin)	Brittany Fletcher (TYLin)
Nadia Mugisha (Arcadis)	Jaime Davidson (JMD)	Cambridge Boyd (Hallmark)

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Queen City Clean Waters Program Overview
- 2. Overview of University District Specific Projects
- 3. Q&A

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

Respond to questions on FAQS Poster Board Hallmark/ PMT

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES



# **Queen City Clean Waters: Niagara District Community Meeting Summary Notes**

Meeting Summary – June 12th, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

**Location: Ellicott District – The Belle Center,** 104 Maryland St, Buffalo, NY 14201

### Who Attended

- Queen City Clean Waters representatives
- Local partners
- Community members and residents

#### **About the Initiative**

- Launched in early 2024, as an update to Buffalo Sewer's Long-Term Control Plan
- Investing \$1 billion+ across 50+ combined sewer overflow and wastewater treatment projects in all nine council districts over the next 10–15 years
- Focus on environmental upgrades with economic and social benefits for local communities

### **History of Buffalo Sewer**

- Establishment: April 8, 1935, in response to a Department of Health mandate.
- Early Challenges: Financial instability leading to the creation of a state-established authority with \$15 million capacity.
- Long-Term Control Plan:
  - Initial report submitted in 2004, approved in 2014.
  - Ongoing adjustments revealed the need for additional projects to achieve full compliance by 2022.
  - Rebranded to the Queen City Clean Waters Initiative in 2023.

#### **Stakeholder Advisory Committee**

- Formed in January 2025 to ensure community voices shape project design
- Includes reps from Board of Block Clubs, Urban League, Health Equity groups, and block clubs
- Supports transparency, inclusion, and local leadership in the process



### **Niagara District Projects:**

### **Bird Island Treatment Facility Upgrades: Phase I**

**Goal:** Grit removal and cleaning of the secondary system aeration basins. Upgrades to pipes and valves for the return activated sludge system.

Location: Bird Island

**Budget:** Estimated \$60 Million

o **Timeline:** In Construction 2022-2030

### **Bird Island Wastewater Treatment Facility: Phase II**

- Goal: Improve sludge pumping and sedimentation tanks. Add new odor control & chlorine treatment systems. Disinfection with upgraded dosing and pumping.
- o **Location:** Bird Island
- o **Budget:** Estimated \$125 Million

o **Timeline:** 2026-2031

#### **Bird Island Wastewater Treatment Facility: Phase III**

- Goal: Upgrades to secondary treatment system. Improve flow into existing clarifiers and add 2 new clarifiers. Install another chlorine tank.
- **Location:** Michigan & Riley o **Budget:** Estimated \$80 Million

o **Timeline:** 2028-2031

### **Breckenridge Street Combined Sewer Overflow Project**

- o Goal: Lining of the Breckenridge sewer from West to Herkimer, installation of new waterline, sewer, and manholes along West Avenue from Breckenridge to Lafayette, installation of a new drop manhole and chamber to the Scajaquada Tunnel (requiring deep excavation) at the intersection of West and Lafayette.
- o Location: Breckenridge St
- o **Budget:** Estimated \$23 Million

Timeline: 2025-2029

### **Sewer Patrol Point (SPP 023)**

- o Goal: Widen the opening under the barrier to let more water pass through and raise barrier height to better control and reduce overflow during the rain.
- o **Location:** Niagara Thru. & Albany St.
- o **Budget:** Estimated \$60,000

o **Timeline:** 2030-2032

#### **Sewer Patrol Point (SPP 296)**

- Goal: Widen the opening under the barrier to let more water pass through and raise barrier height to better control and reduce overflow during the rain.
- o **Location:** Niagara Thru. & Albany St.
- o **Budget:** Estimated \$60,000

Timeline: 2030-2032

#### **Sewer Patrol Point (SPP 024)**

- o Goal: Widen the opening under the barrier to let more water pass through, sending more water to the South Interceptor.
- **Location:** Chicago & Exchange





Budget: Estimated \$60,000
 Timeline: 2030-2032

#### • Northern Relief Tunnel

- o **Goal:** Move more water to the wastewater treatment plant and store extra water during storms to prevent overflows.
- o Location: 3-Part Tunnel System
  - North of Scajaquada Creek
  - South of Scajaquada Creek
  - Southern Relief Tunnel
- o **Budget:** Estimated \$72 Million
- o **Timeline:** 2033-2040

#### Delavan Drain Real-Time Control (SPP 170A)

O Goal: Installation of an automatically controlled gate that will adjust based on sewer level to balance flows between the Delavan Drain sewer and the Scajaquada Drain to store flow where capacity may exist. This will involve opening up the existing structure at the intersection of West Delavan and Niagara Street and installing control elements.

Location: Niagara & W. Delavan

o Budget: Estimated \$5.5 Million

o **Timeline:** 2033-2036

### **Project Impacts and Mitigation**

#### • Construction Impacts:

- Equipment and traffic on roads, temporary noise and dust.
- Potential road and sidewalk closures, limited street parking, and detours.
- Mitigation measures are in place to minimize disruptions.

#### • Environmental Compliance:

- State priority environmental review completed.
- Measures to control erosion and runoff during construction.

#### • Operational Benefits:

- Reduction in CSOs
- Improved public health and ecosystem enhancement
- Compliance with Environmental Protection Agency regulations

### **Community Engagement Highlights**

- Interactive Website: BuffaloQCCW.org for ideas, surveys, and concerns
- Public Forums:
  - o *In-person:* April, May & June all nine council districts
  - o Virtual: July 12, 10 AM–12 PM (Zoom)
- Outreach Tools: Mailers, social media, texts, and presence at community events like National Night Out



### **Upcoming Events**

- **June 17**<sup>th</sup> @ 6 PM: North District Community Meeting In-Person at the Northwest Buffalo Community Center
- July 12 @ 10 AM: Virtual Community Forum

### **Stay Connected**

- Visit: BuffaloQCCW.org
- Art Hall from Hallmark Planning & Development
- Follow-up: Meeting notes, Q&A responses, and ongoing design updates will be published

### **Community Questions & Responses**

- 1. Are you working with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper on this initiative?
  - Yes, we have a good relationship with Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper. We often
    are guest speakers at their events; they also are a part of our stakeholder advisory
    committee for the initiative. We keep each other in the loop on each of our
    projects and often work together when we are able.
- 2. I live in the North Buffalo area, my basement tends to flood during heavy storm events, why is this?
  - In North Buffalo, this tends to happen more often due to the shallow rock below ground and how deep the sewer is. The way that pipes connect to sewer mains for many homes in North Buffalo needed to be constructed with the topography in mind. Many of the pipes are built flat and then straight down to the main. Over time due to various reasons the pipes have begun to disconnect from the sewer main, therefore not all flow coming out of the home is getting to the main. That is most frequently the reason for this area of the city.

**NEXT MEETING (IF APPLICABLE)** 



Date of Next Meeting: June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Time of Next Meeting: 6:00 PM

Location of next Meeting: Northwest Buffalo Community Center





# Niagara Council District Meeting Tuesday June 12, 2025

Name	Email Address	Phone Number	Neighborhood	Do you belong to a Block Club?	Would you like to receive more info?
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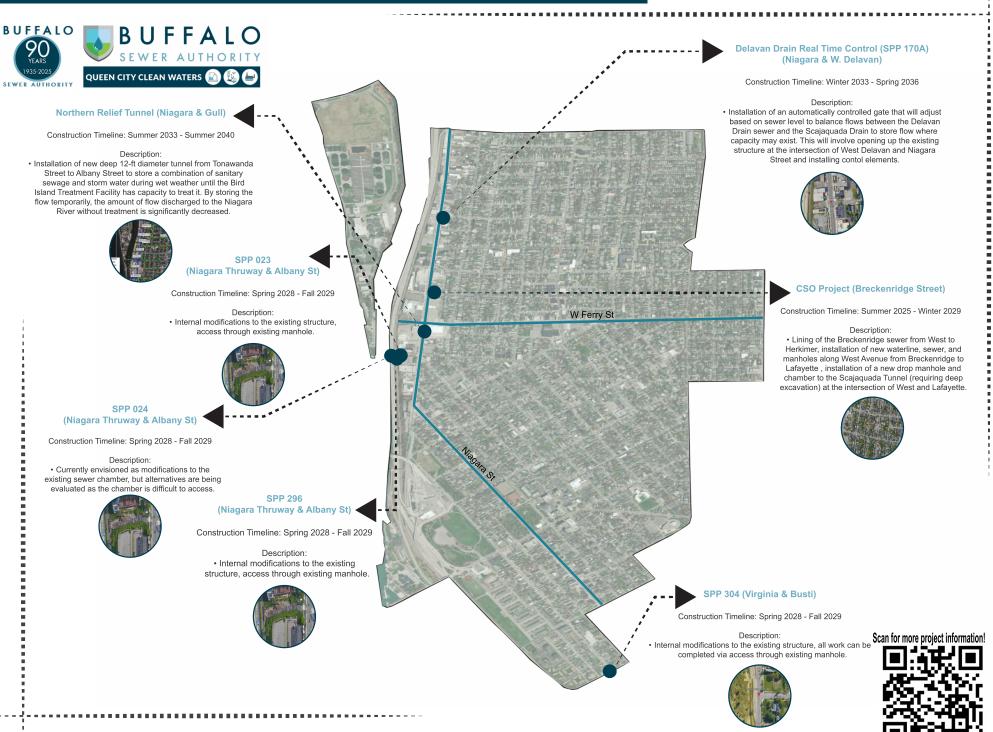


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# **NIAGARA DISTRICT**





# Disclaimer

- This Presentation is provided as of June 12, 2025.
- If you are viewing this Presentation after that date, subsequent events could have a material effect on this information.
- By presenting this information, Buffalo Sewer has not undertaken any obligation to update the information beyond the date of the Presentation.
- Data and other information provided are not warranted as to completeness or accuracy and are subject to change without notice.
- The views, policies, programs, and practices reflected herein also are subject to change without notice.
- This Presentation is provided for your information and convenience only.

# Agenda



**BACKGROUND** 



**OVERALL PLAN** 



SPECIFIC PROJECTS
WITHIN COUNCIL
DISTRICT



OPPORTUNITIES TO STAY ENGAGED



# Key Terminology







CSO: Combined Sewer Overflow

GI: Green Infrastructure

ILS: In-line Storage







OLS: Off-line Storage Tank

RTC: Real Time Control

SPP: Sewer Patrol Point

# Background

# A Brief History of Buffalo's Sewers

- Erie Canal opened in 1825
- Drain the Swamp
- Cholera epidemics
  - 1832
  - 1849
  - 1852

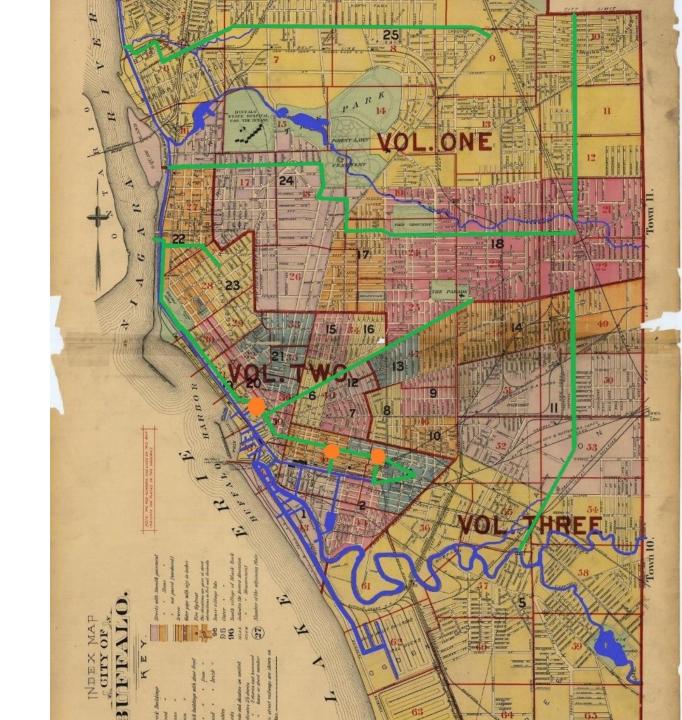






# A Brief History of Buffalo's Sewers (Cont.)

- George E. Waring, Jr. 1884
- Considered, but rejected
  - Sewer separation
  - Treatment Facility
- Swan
  - Main & Hamburg Canal and Wilkenson Slip: putrid
  - 90 Degree turn at Albany Street
  - Bird Island Pier, now the tip of Freedom Park



# 1900-1929: Burying of Waters

- Hamburg Drain
- Ohio Drain
- Scajaquada Creek toScajaquada Drain 1925







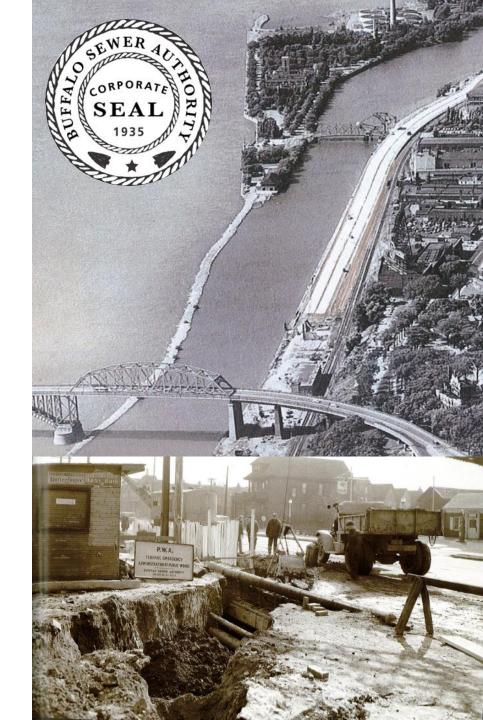




# Buffalo Sewer Authority's Founding

- 1907 Canadian Report:
  - Niagara Falls, NY Typhoid Rate
  - 0.2% Population Dying Each Year
- International Joint Commission: January 11, 1909
- 1918 Report: 80% Niagara River Pollution from Buffalo
- NYS Dept. of Health Mandate: March 1935
  - Primary Sewage Treatment Plant
  - Interceptor Sewers
- Establishment of BSA: April 8, 1935
  - \$15 M Bonding Capacity (\$344 M 2024)











# 1941-1970: Storm Relief and Sprawl

# **NYS Route 33**

- Severed Bird-Ferry Trunk
- Stormwater added to system
- New pump station for stormwater and groundwater
- New trunk sewers constructed

# I-198

- New storm sewers
- Direct discharge to Scajaquada Creek

## I-190

- Old Erie Canal bed
- On top of:
  - Swan Trunk
  - Interceptors
  - Hamburg Drain

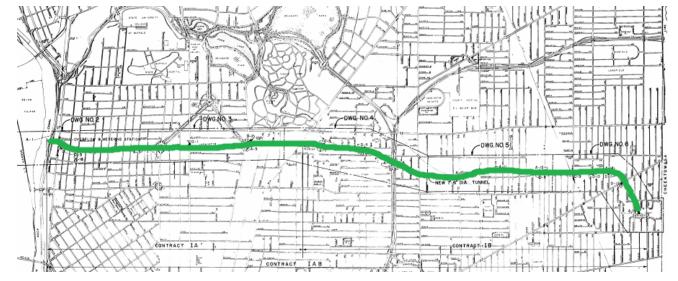


# Clean Water Act (1972)

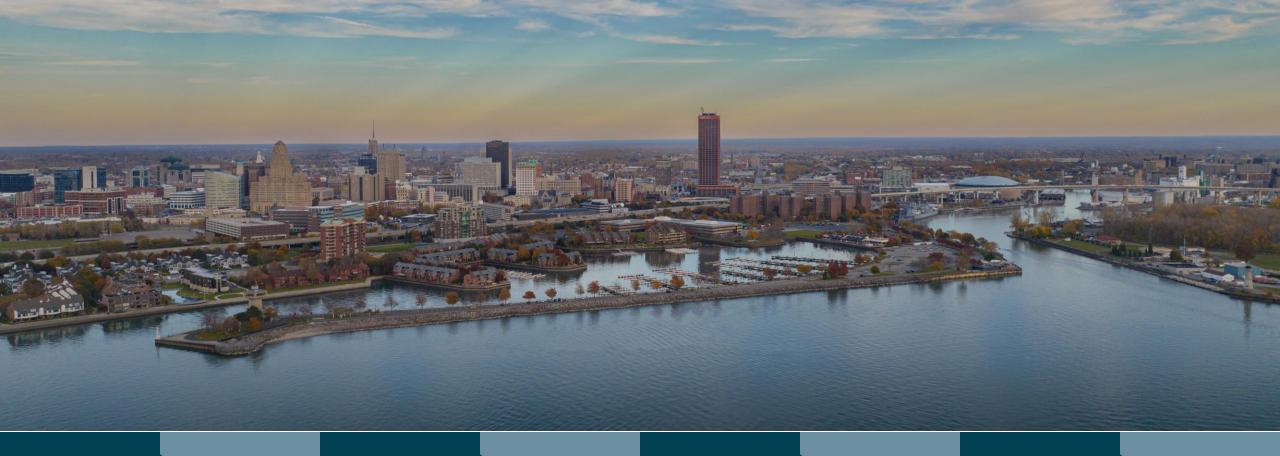
- Scajaquada Tunnel
- Weir Modifications
  - Diversion from Scajaquada Drain to Tunnel
  - Raising of Weirs
- Kelly Island Connection
- Backwater Gates
- Secondary Treatment Process











	1994	2004	2007	2009	2012	2014	2022	2023
USEPA CSO Control Policy Issued (Required Development of LTCP)  Submitted Initial LTCP to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)  NYSDEC/USEPA Request Additional Evaluations  NYSDEC/USEPA Request Addition of Consent Decree Begins  Negotiation of Consent Decree Begins  Submitted LTCP Update to USEPA/NYSDEC (as directed by regulatory agency)  Final LTCP Report Submitted to USEPA/NYSDEC  Submitted to USEPA/NYSDEC  (as directed by regulatory agency)  NYSDEC	Control Policy Issued (Required Development of	LTCP to New York State Department of Environmental Conservation	Request Additional	Consent Decree	LTCP Update to USEPA/ NYSDEC (as directed by	Submitted to	system model is	(51 proposed projects) submitted to

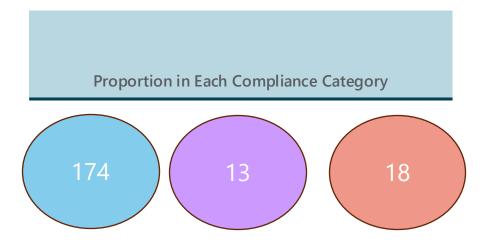
# Approved Recalibration Results

- Some Combined Sewer
   Overflows (CSOs)
   Already in Compliance
   (Some Projects Not Needed)
- -LTCP Does Not ReachCompliance for Others!

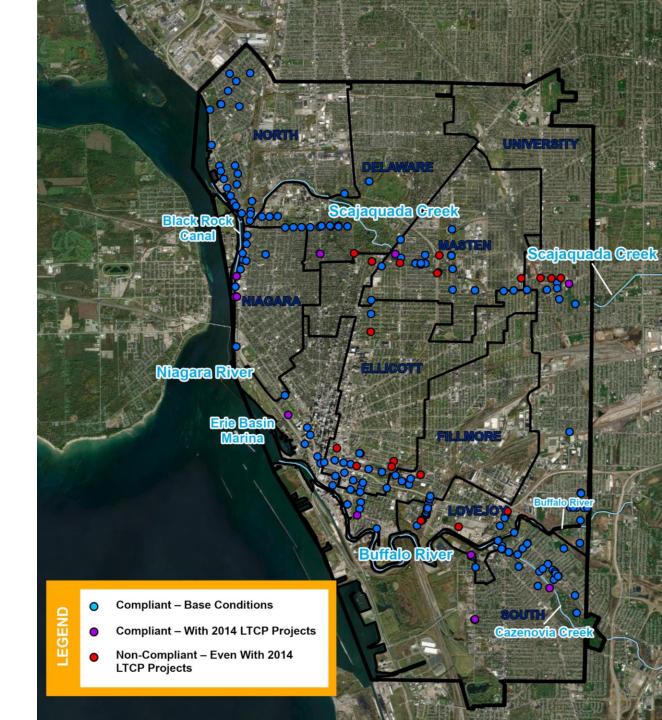
Waterbody	Activation Goals	Projected Activations
Buffalo River	6	15
Niagara River	9	14
Scajaquada Creek	4	19



# Sewer Patrol Points (SPP) Compliance



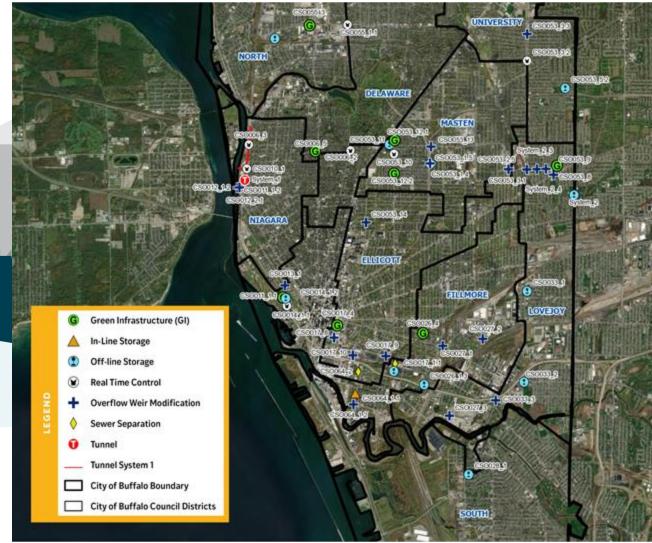




# Queen City Clean Waters

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

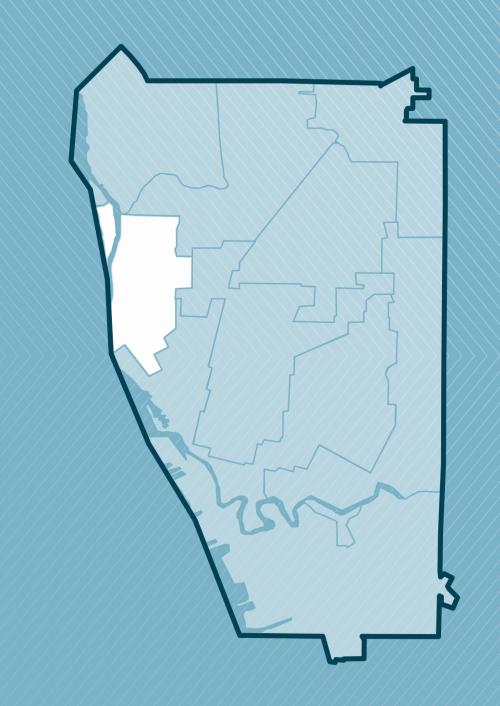






# Niagara District

**Specific Projects** 



# Treatment Facility Upgrades: Phase I

BIRD ISLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

# **Project Description:**

- Grit removal and cleaning of the **secondary system** aeration basins
- Replacement of the aeration diffusers
- Replacement and upgrading of piping and valves for the return activated sludge system

**Estimated Cost:** \$60,553,127



## TIMELINE ▼



Y

**Actual Construction Start Date** 

September 2022

# Treatment Facility Upgrades: Phase II

BIRD ISLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

**Project Description:** 

**Primary Treatment System Upgrades:** 

- Improved sludge pumping and sedimentation tanks
- New odor control and chlorine treatment systems
- Disinfection with upgraded dosing and pumping

**Estimated Cost:** \$125,000,000

**TIMELINE** ▼

**Design Start Date** 

October 2020



**Required Construction Start Date**July 2026

# Treatment Facility Upgrades: Phase III

BIRD ISLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

## **Project Description:**

- Upgrades of the existing secondary treatment
   system
- Improving flow into existing clarifiers
- Adding two new clarifiers
- Installing another chlorine tank

**Estimated Cost:** \$80,000,000





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# Treatment Facility Upgrades: Phase III Additional Improvements

BIRD ISLAND WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

# **Project Description:**

Improvements to the secondary

treatment system

**Estimated Cost:** \$60,000,000



## TIMELINE ▼



**Design Start Date** 

March 2024

Required Construction Start Date

March 2028

# Breckenridge Street

COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW (CSO) PROJECT

**Estimated Cost:** \$23,000,000

Waterbody Impacted: Black Rock Canal



Will Prevent Overflow of 8 Million Gallons of Combined Sewage to the Black Rock Canal Per Year

### TIMELINE ▼

Design Start Date

March 2022

P

**Required Construction Start Date** 

August 2025

# Niagara Thruway & Albany St.

**SEWER PATROL POINT (SPP 023)** 

## **Project Description:**

- Widening the opening under the barrier to let more water pass through
- Raising the barrier height to better control and reduce overflow during rain

Estimated Cost: \$60,000

Waterbody Impacted: Black Rock Canal

## **TIMELINE** ▼







**Required Construction Start Date** June 2030

# Niagara Thruway & Albany St.

**SEWER PATROL POINT (SPP 296)** 

## **Project Description:**

- Widening the opening under the barrier to let more water pass through
- Raising the barrier height to better control and reduce overflow during rain

Estimated Cost: \$60,000

Waterbody Impacted: Black Rock Canal

## TIMELINE ▼

**Design Start Date** March 2026

**Required Construction Start Date** 

June 2030



# Niagara Thruway & Albany St.

**SEWER PATROL POINT (SPP 024)** 

## **Project Description:**

- Widening the opening under the barrier to let more water pass through
- Sending more water to the South **Interceptor** to help prevent sewer overflows during storms

Estimated Cost: \$60,000

Waterbody Impacted: Black Rock Canal

## TIMELINE ▼

**Design Start Date** March 2026

**Required Construction Start Date** June 2030



# Niagara & Gull

NORTHERN RELIEF TUNNEL

**Project Description:** 

- Three-part tunnel system:
  - North of Scajaquada Creek
  - South of Scajaquada Creek
  - Southern Relief Tunnel
- What This System Will Do:
  - Move more water to the wastewater treatment plant
  - Store extra water during storms to prevent overflows

**Estimated Cost:** \$72,810,744

Waterbody Impacted: Niagara River

## TIMELINE ▼



Y R

**Required Construction Start Date** 

June 2033



# Niagara & West Delavan DELAVAN DRAIN REAL TIME CONTROL (SPP 170A)

## **Project Description:**

- **Past:** Water went to a treatment pipe, and any extra flowed into the Black Rock Canal.
- **1970s:** A gate sends all water straight to the canal; the treatment pipe is only used when it rains a lot.
- **Future:** Raise a barrier to let more water follow the natural creek, take pressure off drains, and use the treatment system more effectively.

**Estimated Cost:** \$5,500,000

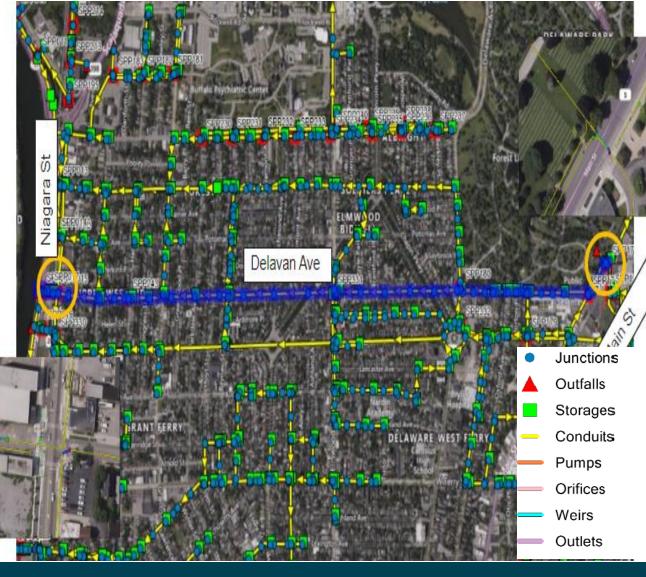
Waterbody Impacted: Buffalo River

## TIMELINE ▼



**Required Construction Start Date** 

June 2033



# BSA Green Stormwater Infrastructure Program

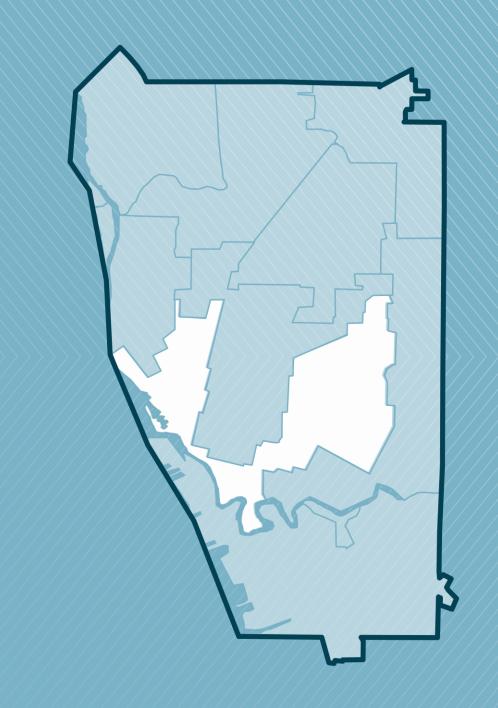
## **CITY WIDE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

Impacted Waterbody	Land Management	Start Date	Completion Date
Scajaquada Creek	16.7 acres managed	3/2/2028	3/1/2034
Black Rock Canal	52.5 acres managed	3/3/2031	3/1/2037
Niagara River	279.9 acres managed	3/2/2032	3/1/2040
Buffalo River	163 acres managed	3/3/2032	3/2/2039



## Fillmore District

**Specific Projects** 



## Carolina & 4<sup>th</sup> St.

### WATERFRONT PARK OFFLINE STORAGE (OLS)

## **Project Description:**

- This project consists of a new 5.55 million gallon (MG) underground offline storage tank
- Reduces overflow risk and eases Bird Island
   Treatment Facility load
- The tank will dewater through an attached pump station

**Estimated Cost:** \$62,440,000

Waterbody Impacted: Erie Basin Marina

### TIMELINE ▼

Design Start Date

March 2025



Required Construction Start Date

September 2028

## Trenton & 4th St.

**SEWER PATROL POINT (SPP 206A&B)** 

## **Project Description:**

- Proposed real-time control (RTC) project details:
  - Adds a dewatering gate
  - Connects to the South Interceptor

## Gate Operation:

- Opens to send more flow to the South
   Interceptor when it has available capacity
- Closes when near full capacity

**Estimated Cost:** \$4,000,000

Waterbody Impacted: Erie Basin Marina

#### TIMELINE ▼

**Design Start Date** 

March 2025



Required Construction Start Date

September 2028

## Virginia & Busti

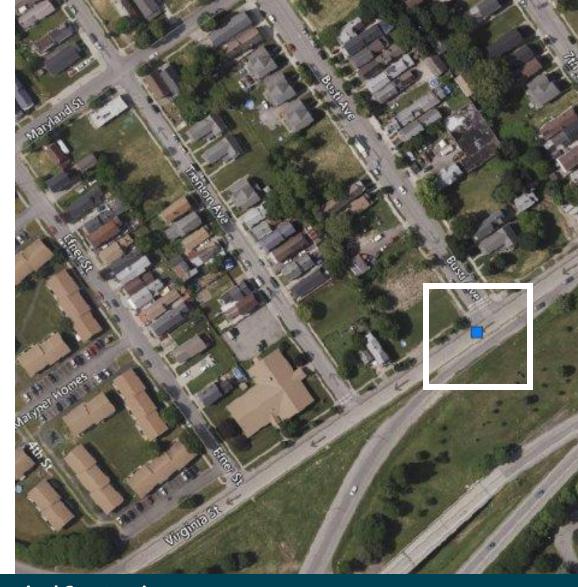
**SEWER PATROL POINT (SPP 304)** 

## **Project Description:**

- Remove the underflow orifice plate, which is a structure that restricts waterflow underneath a barrier
- All work will be done within the manhole

Estimated Cost: \$60,000

Waterbody Impacted: Black Rock Canal



### TIMELINE ▼



**Design Start Date** 

March 2026

0 !

Required Construction Start Date

June 2028

## Break / Q&A

# Community Engagement & Stakeholder Outreach

Program
Management
Impact:

**Equity Indicators + Desired Outcomes** 

Community
Ownership

**C**apacity Building

Healthy Communities Heritage
Preservation

Sustainable
Wealth Creation

New and Reformed Policy for Sustainable Development

Growth
Management
and
Neighborhood
Development



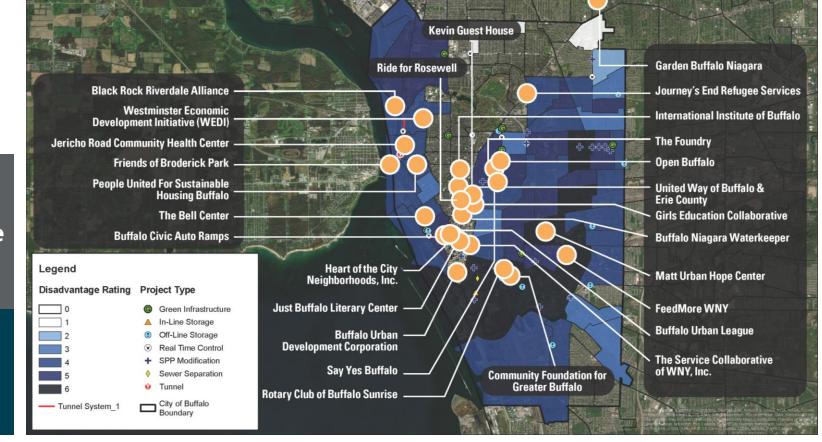
Observation

Discovery

Planning and Application

Build a robust **Community Benefits Program** of community partnerships and **Stakeholder Advisory Committee** comprised of community leaders and residents

Accountability + Transparency: Indicators, representation, how are resources distributed and made available Partner with Anchor Institutions to Reach the Community



## Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC)

The purpose of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) for the Buffalo Sewer Authority's Queen City Clean Waters Initiative is to serve as a vital bridge between the project team and the diverse communities of Buffalo. The SAC ensures that community perspectives, concerns, and insights are actively incorporated into the initiative's planning, implementation, and evaluation.

## **Organizations & Agencies Represented:**

- Northland Workforce Training
   Center
- PUSH Buffalo
- Buffalo Urban League
- Board of Block Clubs
- NAACP
- Jericho Road

- Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)
- Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper
- City of Buffalo Office of Strategic Planning (OSP)
- Buffalo Center for Health Equity





Buffalo Sewer wants to ensure construction and professional services contracts deliver a positive economic, environmental, and social impacts for residents.

Companies working with Buffalo Sewer are encouraged to support Buffalo nonprofits through volunteerism or financial contributions to defined community partners. The program will be included in contract terms and compliance monitoring to ensure effective participation.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM Coming in 2025

## BSA's Commitment to the Inclusion of DBE/MWBE Firms

## **PURPOSE**



- Create economic opportunity for Disadvantaged/Minority/ Women –
   Owned Business Enterprise (D/MBE/WBE) firms, including firms who are new to working with BSA and/or the City of Buffalo
- Promote meaningful teaming arrangements, mentorship, and partnership between established, experienced firms and new and/or smaller firms



## Opportunities to Stay Engaged

## New! Queen City Clean Waters Interactive Website

## **BUFFALOQCCW.ORG**

#### Join Our Virtual Community!

Join the Queen City Clean Waters Interactive Website! Explore, learn, and take action to protect our local waterways. Get involved today and make a difference!



#### About The Initiative

The Queen City Clean Waters Initiative will reduce overflows from the City's sewers by helping flow reach the Bird Island Wastewater Treatment Facility during wet weather, instead of entering Buffalo's creeks and river. Implementing this initiative, which includes 50+ sites in total, will cost approximately \$18 over the next 15 years including \$250M in treatment facility upgrades.

- + Vision
- + Mission



#### Take Our Survey

Your feedback will help shape cleaner, resilient, and equitable solutions for Buffalo!

Start Now >



#### We need your input!

What do you think would work best to improve our Storm Water System? (Green Infrastructure, Community Initiatives, Placemaking, etc).

Share Now >

Join Our Social Map

Discover, learn, and comment

in your neighborhood

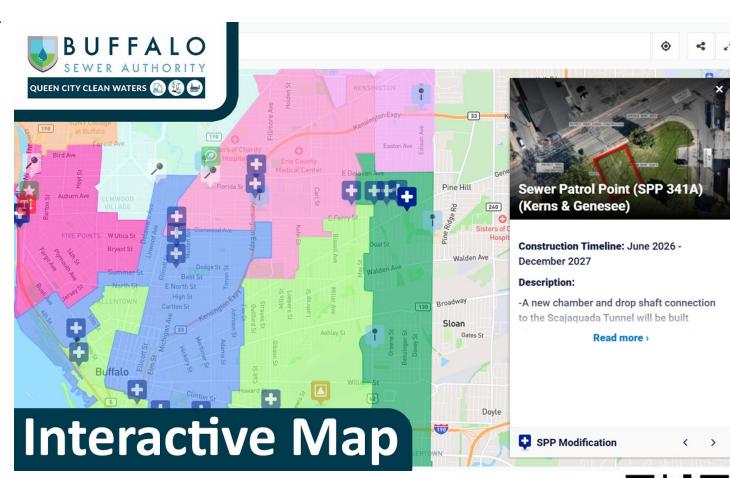
on sewer improvement projects



#### What can I expect during

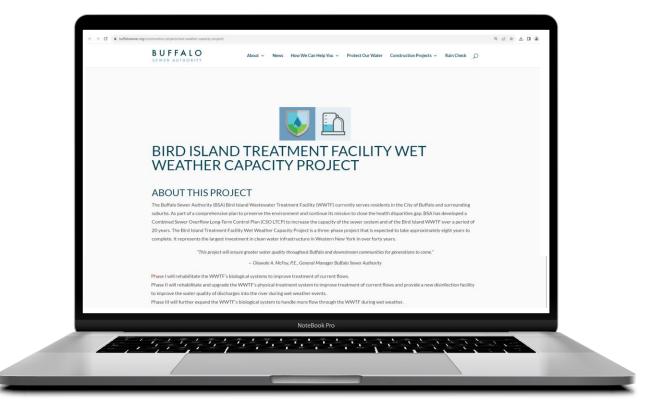
construction?

- + How will construction affect traffic in the area?
- How will the construction
  + impact local businesses and services?
- Will there be changes to
   parking or public transportation during construction?
- + How is this project being funded?
- What can I expect during construction?





## Buffalo Sewer Authority Website



buffalosewer.org

## Your <u>BEST</u> source of information!

- Consultant, Contractor, and Supplier Opportunities
- Construction Updates
- **FAQs**
- Board Meeting Minutes
- Public Participation Plans



## Thank you!

**GET IN TOUCH:** 







