

► University District Community Meeting

Date: Thursday April 24th, 2025

Time: 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Location: The Gerard Place, 2515 Bailey Ave, Buffalo, NY 14215

BSA/PROGRAM MANAGEMENT TEAM ATTENDEES

Charles Riley (BSA)	Regina Harris (BSA)	Scott Perry (BSA)
Chris Sieracki (TYLin)	Art Hall (Hallmark)	Katie Segarra (Hallmark)
Cambridge Boyd (Hallmark)	Courtney Kincannon (Hallmark)	Taylor Brown (JM Davidson)
Nadia Mugisha (Arcadis)	Jaia Ruffin (Arcadis)	

* The sign-in sheet with a complete list of community members who attended is attached.

AGENDA

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

ACTION ITEMS

1. Respond to questions on FAQs Poster Board
Program Management Team (PMT)

MEETING SUMMARY NOTES

Queen City Clean Waters: University District Community Meeting Summary Notes

Meeting Summary – April 24, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: University District – The Gerard Place, 2515 Bailey Ave, Buffalo, NY 14215

Who Attended

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

About the Initiative

- **Launched in late 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
- Focuses 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 2024.

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

University District Projects:

- **Sewer Patrol Point (SPP 254)**
 - **Location:** Bailey & Minnesota Ave.
 - **Goal:** Removal of an overflow barrier, replacement with a weir lower in elevation
 - **Timeline:** Completed 2024
 - **Budget:** Estimated \$200,000
- **Bailey & Amherst Real Time Control (RTC)**
 - **Goal:** Add Real Time Control Structure and improve the efficiency of Amherst Quarry Pump Station dewatering operations.
 - **Location:** Bailey Ave. and East Amherst St.
 - **Budget:** Estimated \$2 Million
 - **Timeline:** 2024 – 2028
- **Edison & Martha Offline Storage (OLS)**
 - **Goal:** Stores storm flows for up to 24 hours, then drains back to the sewer system.
 - **Location:** Roosevelt Park behind Charter School of Inquiry
 - **Budget:** Approx: \$84 Million
 - **Timeline:** 2027 – 2023

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:**
 - *In-person:* April, May & June – all nine council districts
 - *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

- **April 28th @ 6 PM:** Masten District Community Meeting In-Person at the Northland Workforce Training Center
- **July 12 @ 10 AM:** Virtual Community Forum

Stay Connected

- Visit: <https://buffalosewer.org/>
- Visit: BuffaloQCCW.org
- Follow-up: Meeting notes, Q&A responses, and ongoing design updates will be published

Community Questions & Responses

*Note: The following questions were submitted during the meeting. Responses will be provided on the interactive website at BuffaloQCCW.org.

1. **For Edison Martha Park, please retain the football field. It is VITAL to the community. (Sticky note on FAQs Poster)***
2. **Will construction be year-round or would it stop during the snow season and resume with better weather? (Sticky note on FAQs Poster)***
3. **More social media friendly influenced based marketing, that creates a basis of what the initiative means in a short/sweet method. (Sticky note on the FAQs Poster)***
4. **Does Buffalo Water link to Cheektowaga water and other suburbs? (Sticky note on the FAQs Poster)***

NEXT MEETING (IF APPLICABLE)

Date of Next Meeting: April 28th, 2025

Time of Next Meeting: 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location of next Meeting: Northland Workforce Training Center, 683 Northland Ave, Buffalo, NY 14211



B U F F A L O
SEWER AUTHORITY

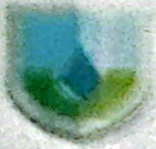
QUEEN CITY CLEAN WATERS



University Council District
Meeting Thursday April 24,
2025

Name	Email Address	Phone Number	Neighborhood	Do you belong to a Block Club?	Would you like to receive more info?
Taylor Braen	tbraen@jundson.com	716-361-8734	Parkside	NO	NO
Bethany F.	bethanyf@outlook.com	416-238-0318		.	
Bushra	bent.belady@gmail.com	716-817-6817			
Sara Juri	bent.belady@gmail.com	Carman Ohio			
Cawli Ben	cbms@buffalony.com				

NAME	EMAIL	Phone?	Neighborhood	Block Club?	More Info (Yes/No)
Rebecca Brooks	rbrooks@buffalo.ny.us	716 851 5256	Bailey		yes
Olivia Harris	oliebttons@gmail.com	(716) 290-9181	Hamlin park		No



BUFFALO

SEWER AUTHORITY

QUEEN CITY CLEAN WATERS



University Council District
Meeting Thursday April 24,
2025

Name

Email Address

Phone Number

Neighborhood

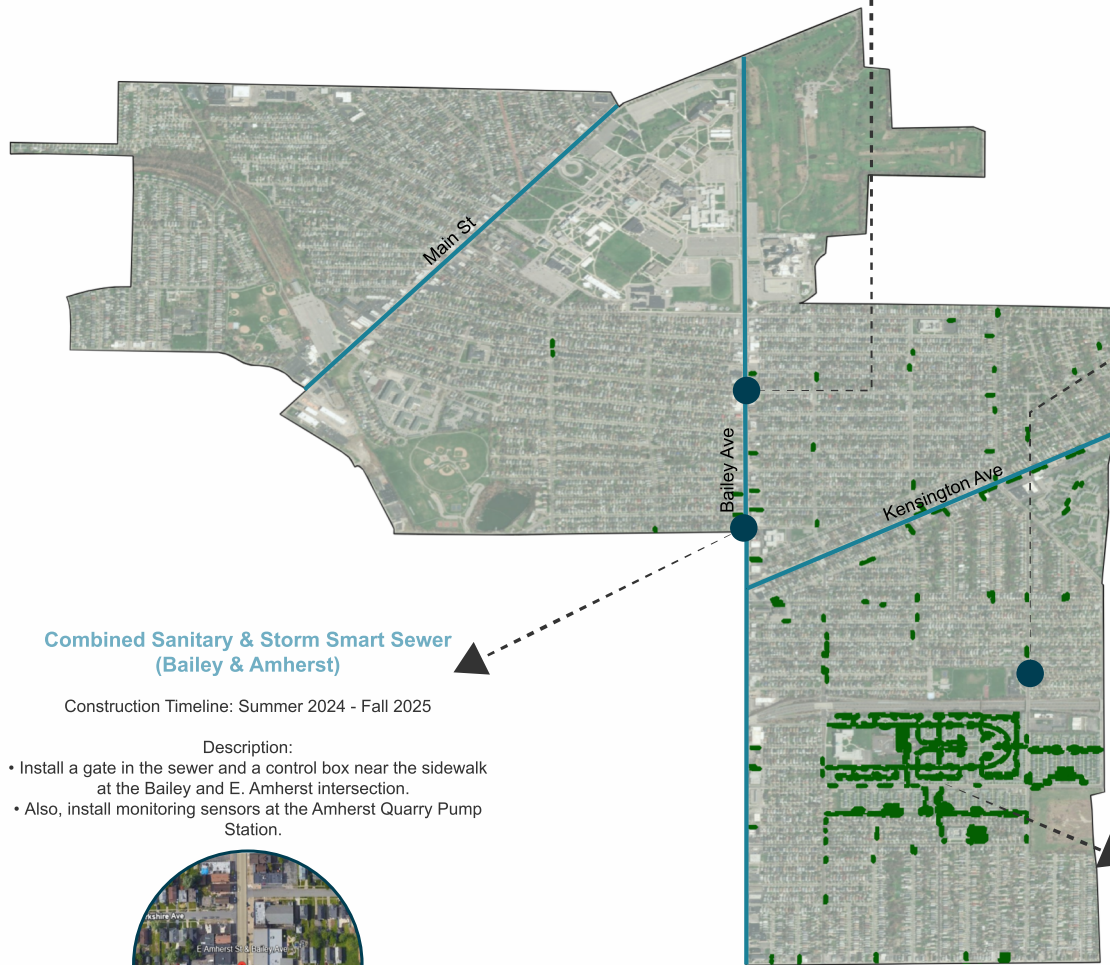
Do you belong to a
Block Club?

Would you like to
receive more info?

VANESSA WOODS	VANESSA.WOODS@buffalo-sewer.com	716.303.3003	INTERPRETER		
JAH BOSTON	JAH.BOSTON@buffalo-sewer.com	716.303.3096			
Nadia Mughisha	Nadia.Mughisha@buffalo-sewer.com	716.303.3007			
Wafa ElSah			INTERPRETER		

NAME	EMAIL	Phone	Neighborhood	Block Club?	More Info? (P.O. No.)
Maria Perez					Spanish Interpretive
Katie Segarra					
Cambridge Park					
Courtney Kinnaman					
Art Hall					
Chris Seracki					
Charles Kelly					

UNIVERSITY DISTRICT



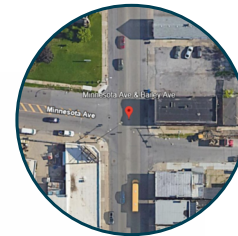
Bailey & Minnesota Sewer Patrol Point Project

COMPLETED

Construction Timeline: July 2024

Description:

- All work was done within the existing manhole.



Offline Storage OLS (Edison & Martha)

Construction Timeline:
(Upcoming 2027 - 2029)

Description:

- Below ground wastewater storage tank in Roosevelt Park, behind Charter School of Inquiry. New sewers will be installed on the side of the school and connect on Edison Avenue.

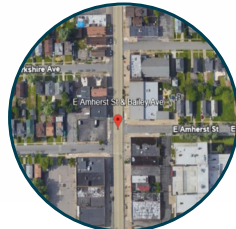


Combined Sanitary & Storm Smart Sewer (Bailey & Amherst)

Construction Timeline: Summer 2024 - Fall 2025

Description:

- Install a gate in the sewer and a control box near the sidewalk at the Bailey and E. Amherst intersection.
- Also, install monitoring sensors at the Amherst Quarry Pump Station.



BSA Green Infrastructure Projects



Scan for more project information!





Queen City Clean Waters

Public Participation Plan

April 24th, 2025 – Gerard Place

BSA Capital Projects Program Management Team:

TYLin | Greeley and Hansen
Water Solutions

Arcadis | JM Davidson Engineering | Hallmark Planning & Development | e3 Communications | Watts Architecture & Engineering | CORE
Environmental | Atlantic Testing Laboratories | Frandina Engineering and Land Surveying | KHEOPS Architecture, Engineering and Survey |
International Institute of Buffalo | Jade Stone Engineering | NASCO Construction Services | JKMuir | People Inc. | CWD Consulting

Disclaimer

- This Presentation is provided as of April 24, 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

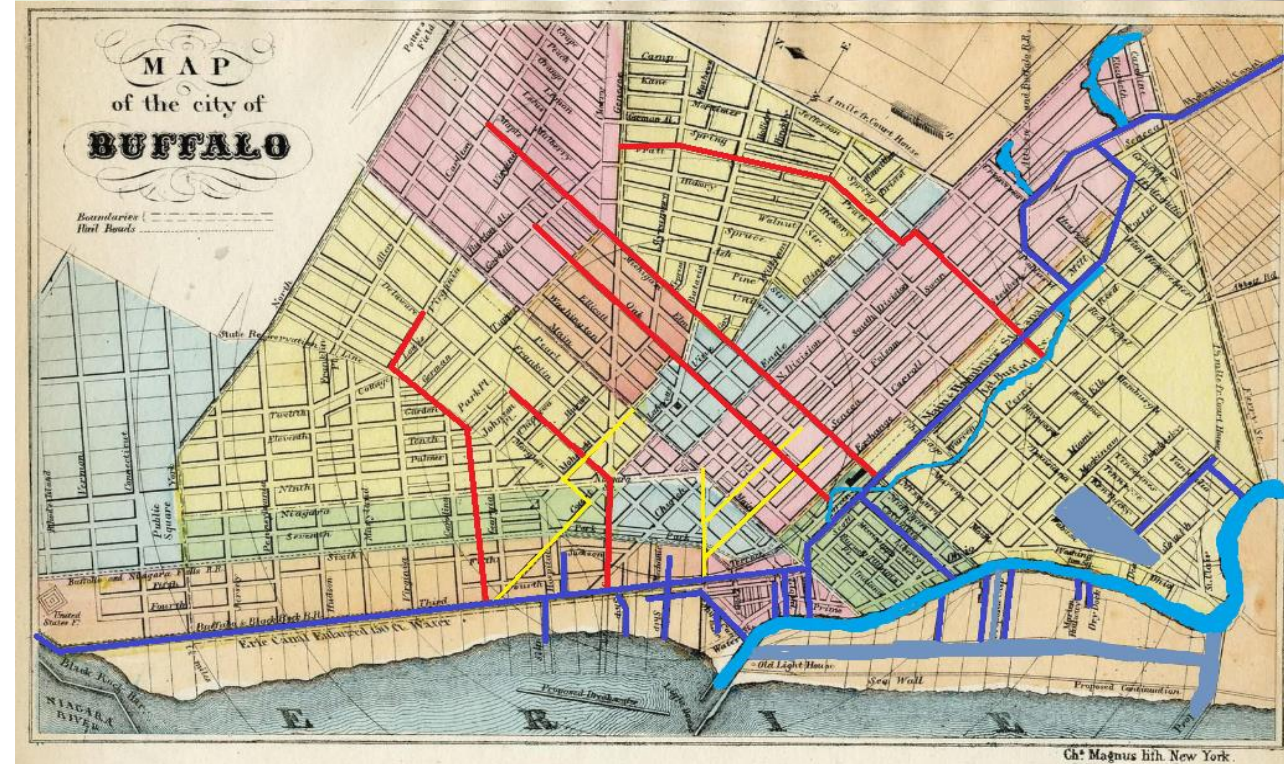


OPPORTUNITIES TO STAY ENGAGED

Background

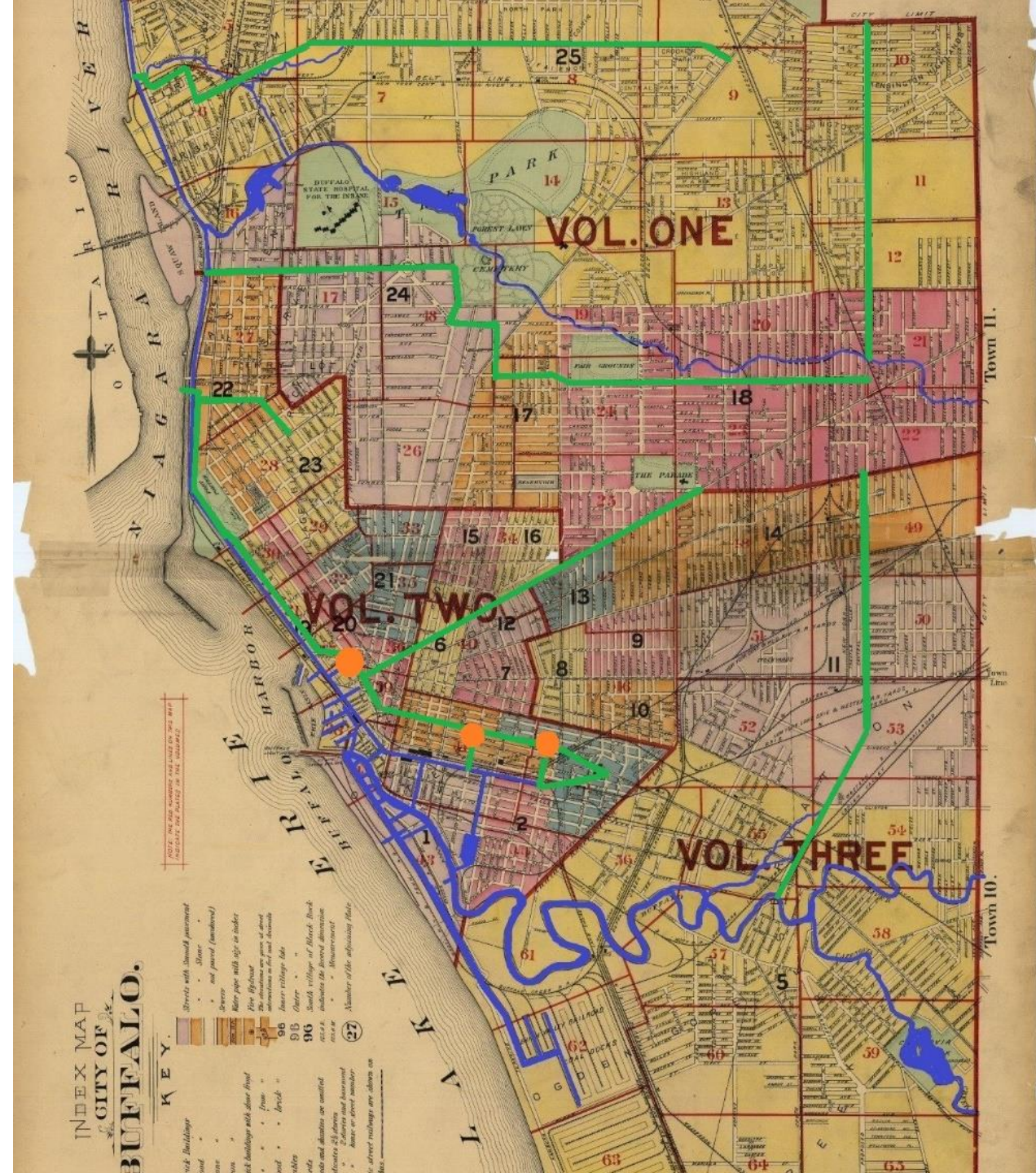
A Brief History of Buffalo's Sewers

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



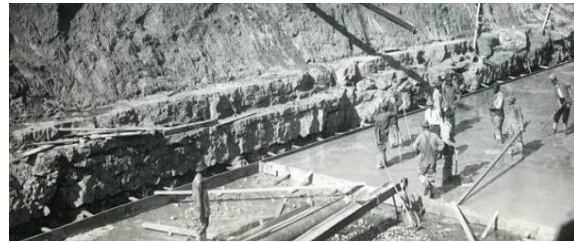
A Brief History of Buffalo's Sewers (Cont.)

- 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



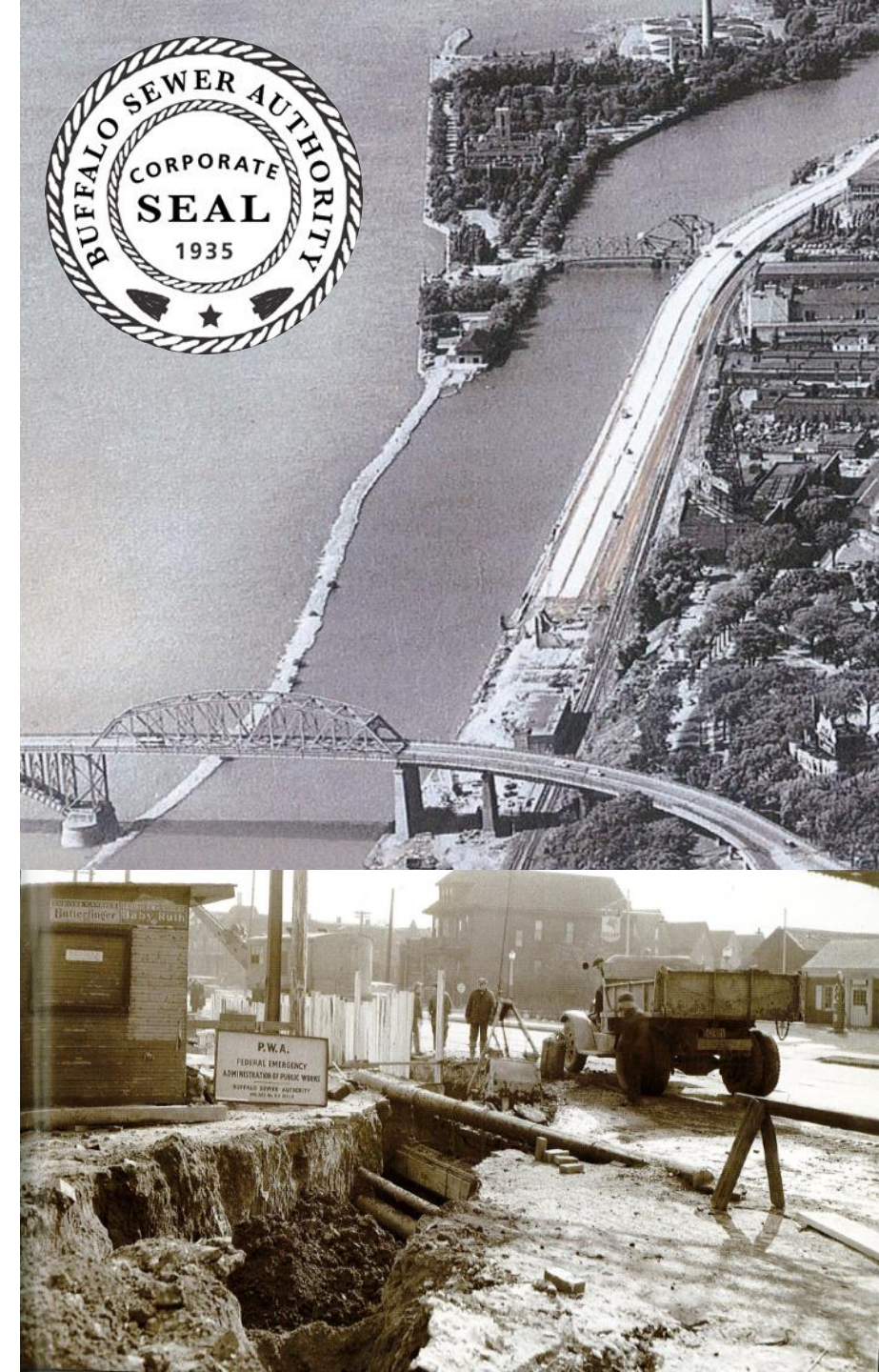
1900-1929: Burying of Waters

- Hamburg Drain
- Ohio Drain
- Scajaquada Creek to Scajaquada 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

I-198

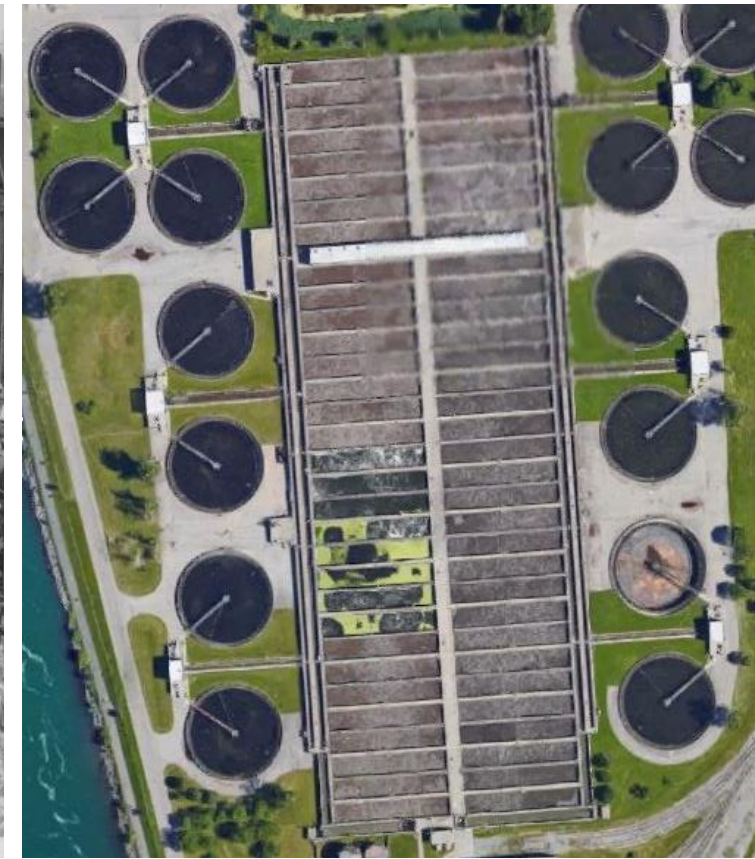
- New storm sewers
- Direct discharge to Scajaquada Creek

I-190

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

Clean Water Act (1972)

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





1994

USEPA CSO
Control Policy
Issued (Required
Development of
LTCP)

2004

Submitted Initial
LTCP to New York
State Department
of Environmental
Conservation
(NYSDEC)

2007

NYSDEC/USEPA
Request
Additional
Evaluations

2009

Negotiation of
Consent Decree
Begins

2012

Submitted
LTCP Update to
USEPA/ NYSDEC
(as directed by
regulatory agency)

2014

Final LTCP Report
Submitted to
USEPA/NYSDEC

2022

Revised collection
system model is
approved

2023

QCCW
(51 proposed
projects)
submitted to
NYSDEC

Approved Recalibration Results

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

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

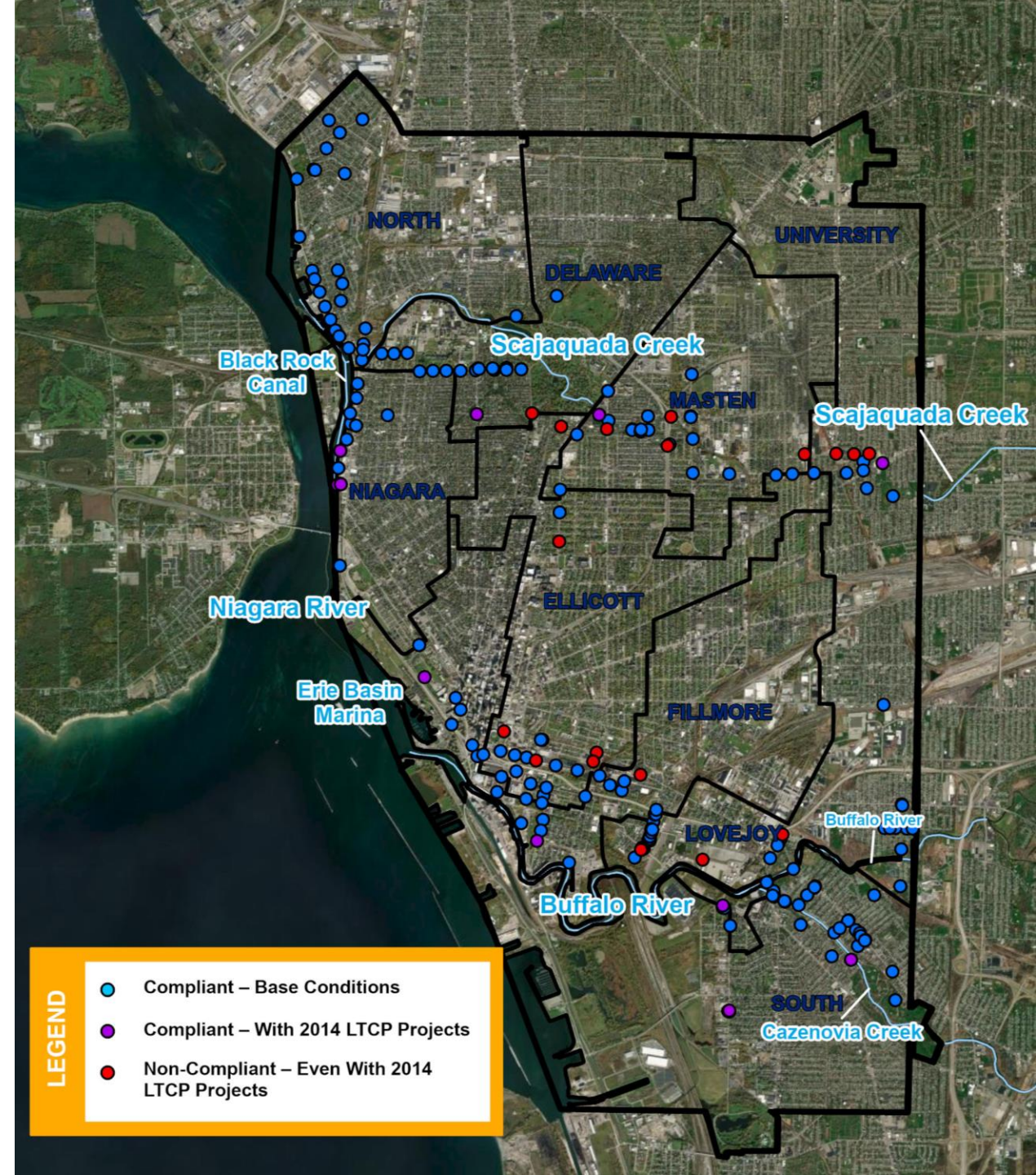
Sewer Patrol Points (SPP) Compliance

Proportion in Each Compliance Category

174

13

18



Optimization Approach

Globally Coordinated Control Strategy

Real time control (RTC) sites collaborate to prevent overflows and reduce peak flows, regardless of local conditions.

System Evaluation Considerations and Constraints

- Property ownership
- Underground contamination concerns
- Gravity flow vs. pumping
- Prioritization of sewer patrol points (SPP) with low activation requirements and high overflow in baseline projects
- Potential coordination



Original Projects Considered

77 projects including In-line (ILS) and Off-line Storage (OLS), Green Infrastructure, Sewer Separation, and Sewer Patrol Point (SPP) Modification



Optimization Rounds

- Project alternatives per SPP
- Full system optimization
- Minimizing cost while achieving compliance



Tools Used

Cloud computing for alternatives analysis



Outcome

51 projects identified as Selected Alternatives

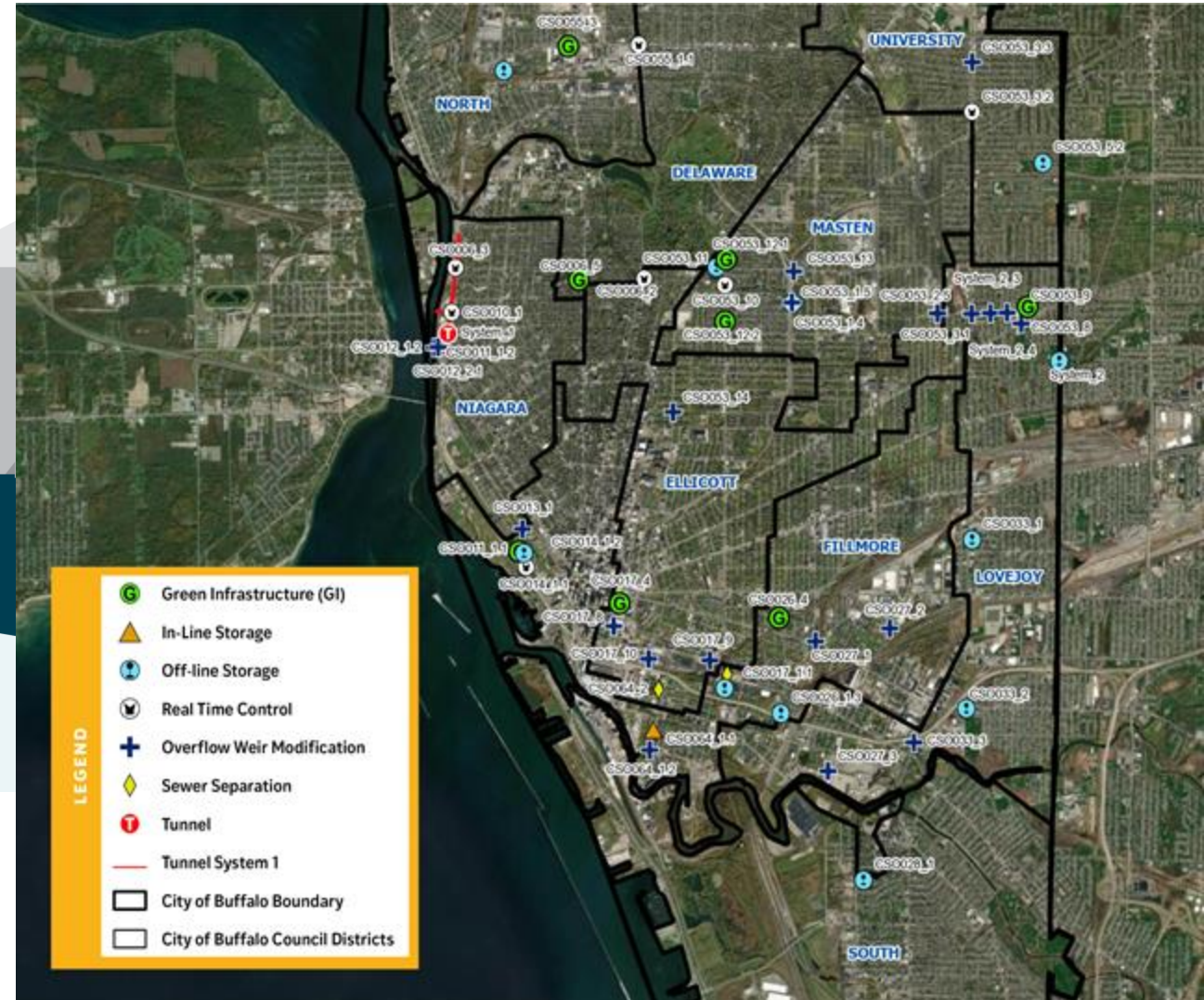
Queen City Clean Waters

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

50+
SITES

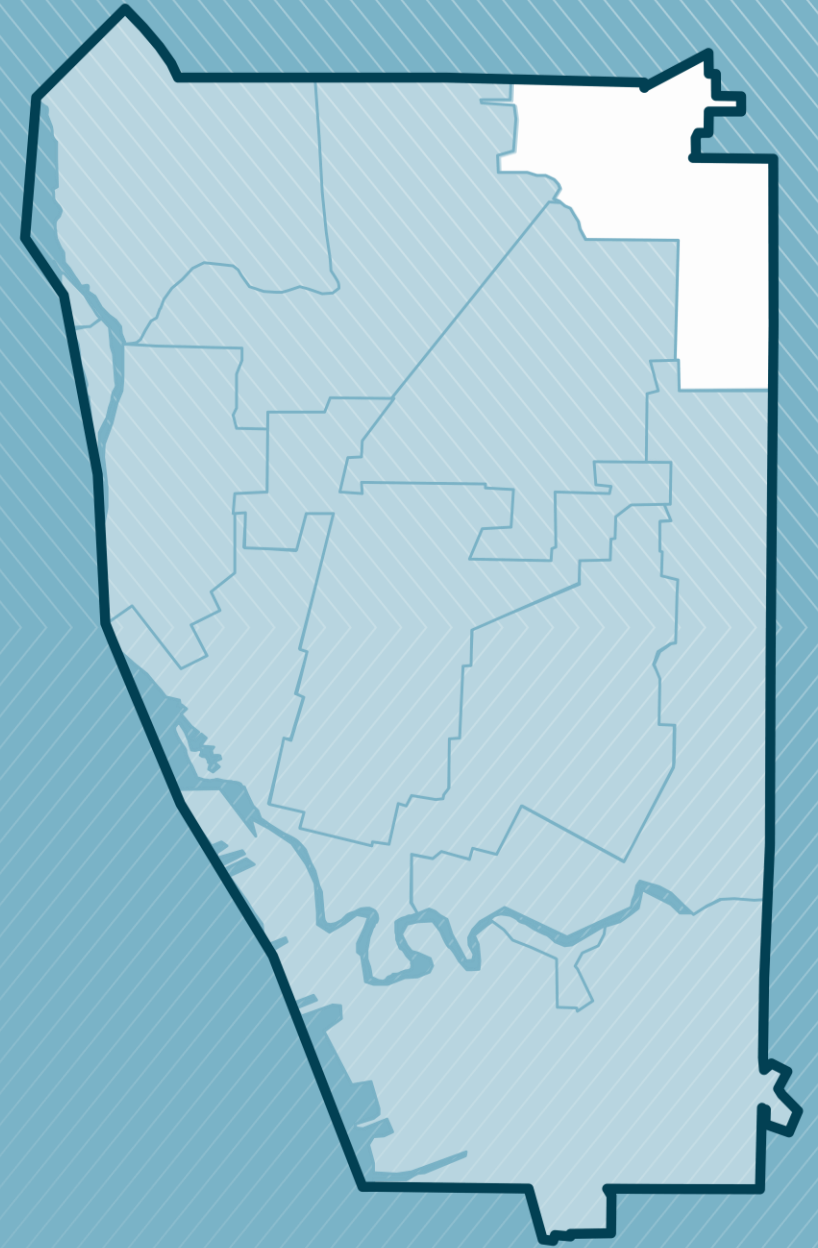
\$1
BILLION

15
YEARS



University District

Specific Projects



Bailey & Minnesota

SEWER PATROL POINT (SPP 254)

Project Description:

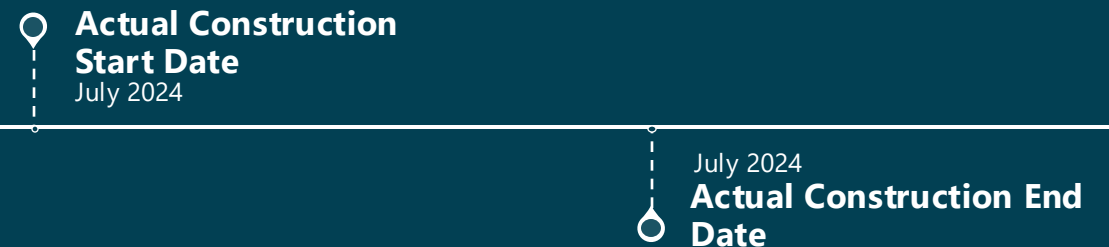
- Remove the overflow weir, which is a flow control barrier
- Install a new weir that is lower than the original

Estimated Cost: \$232,385

Waterbody Impacted: Scajaquada Creek



TIMELINE ▼



Bailey & Amherst

REAL TIME CONTROL (RTC)

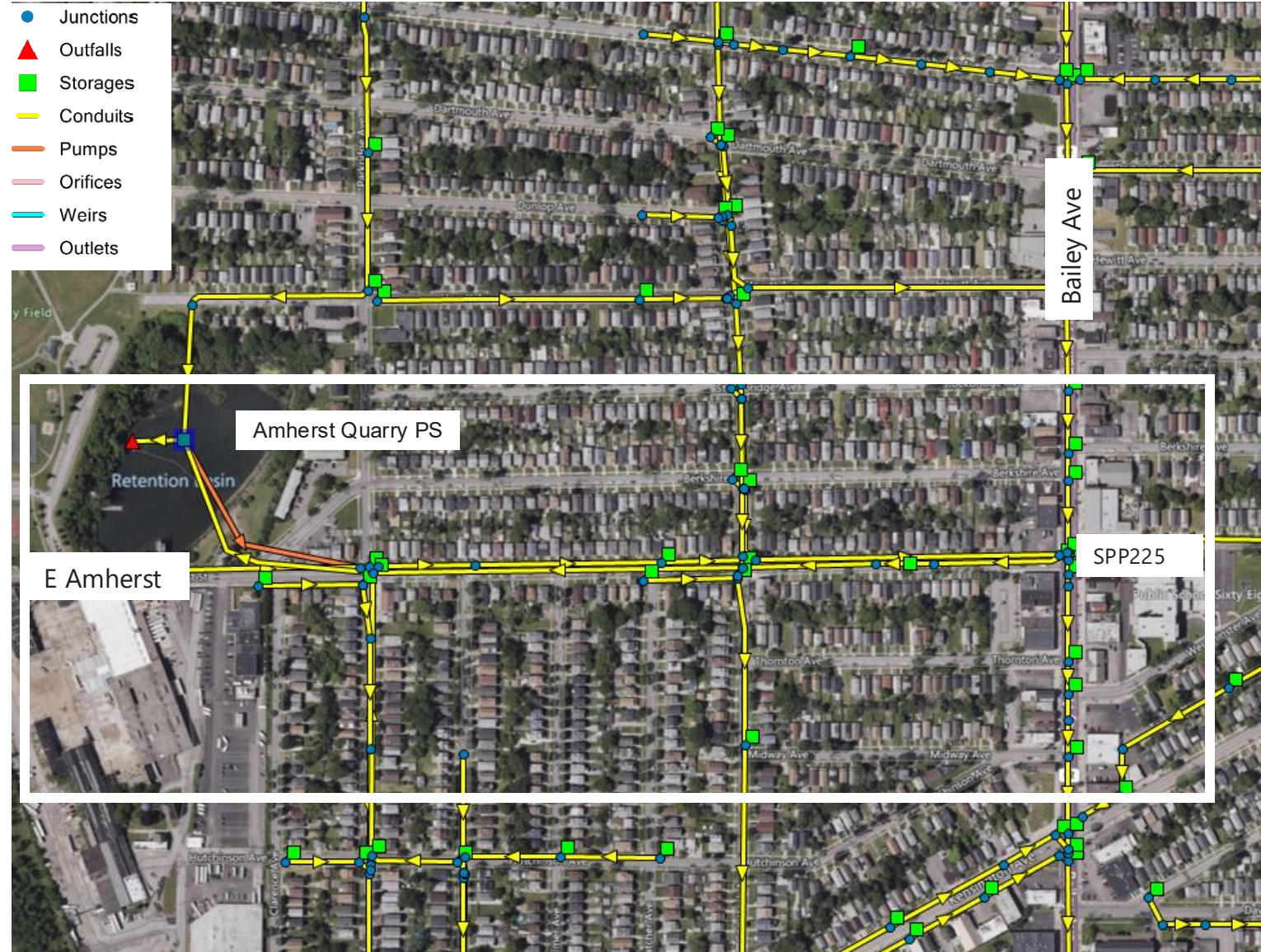
Project Description:

- Add real-time control at Bailey Avenue and East Amherst Street (SPP 255)
- Improve efficiency of Amherst Quarry Pump Station dewatering operations

Estimated Cost: \$2,150,872

Waterbody Impacted: Scajaquada Creek

TIMELINE ▼



Edison & Martha

OFFLINE STORAGE (OLS)

Project Description:

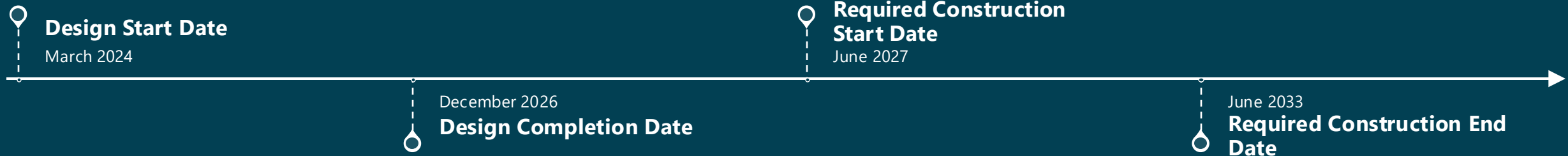
- 2.61 MG buried concrete offline storage tank
- Diversion structure
- Includes inlet and outlet gravity sewers
- Survey start date: April 17th, 2024

Estimated Cost: \$84,500,000

Waterbody Impacted: Scajaquada Creek



TIMELINE ▼



Edison & Martha (OLS)

Anticipated Construction Duration:

Goal: 3 Years, no more than 6 years

Year 1

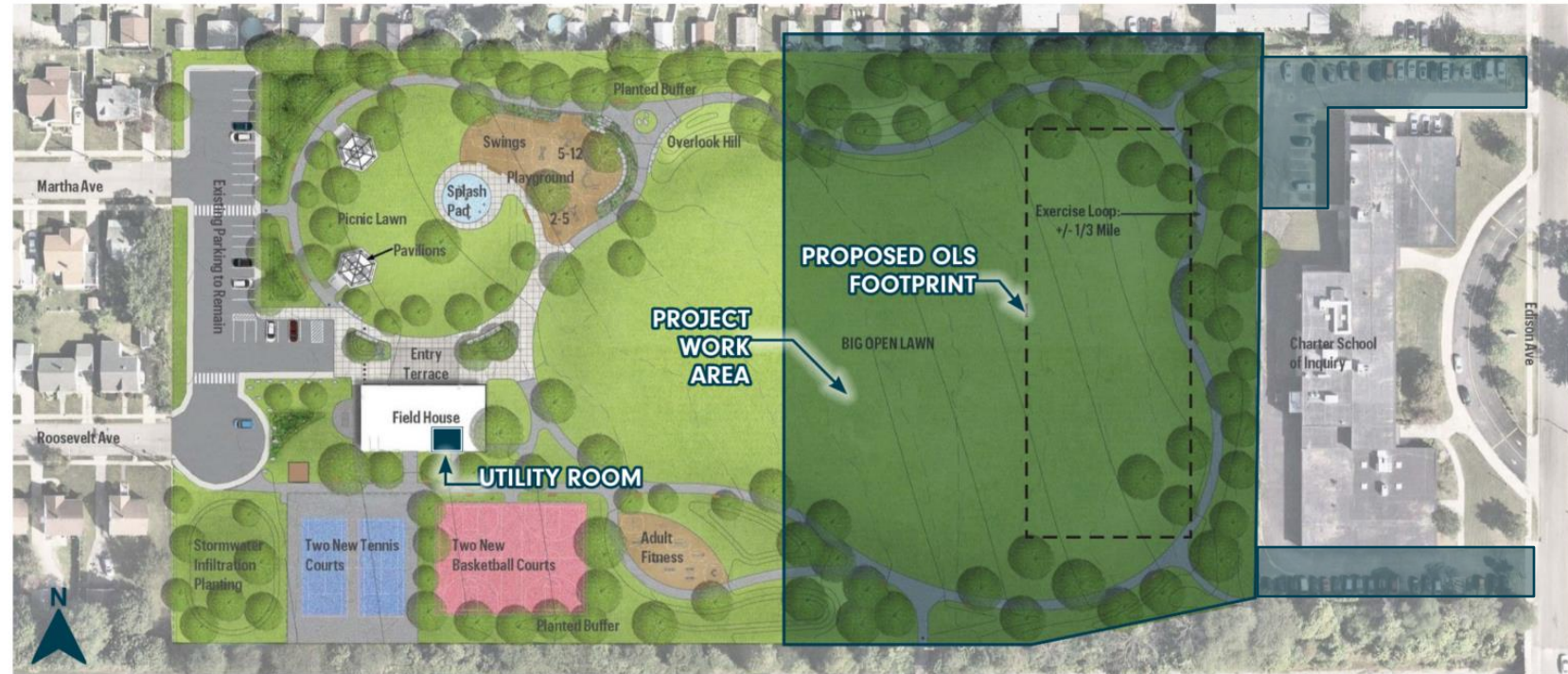
- Protective fencing and construction trailer
- Begin excavation for buried tank
- Start tank construction

Years 2

- Continued tank with concrete and steel

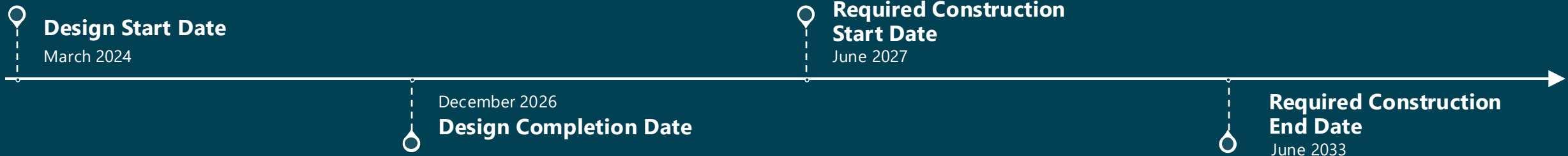
Years 3

- Finish tank construction
- Site restoration and park beautification



Project Area ▲

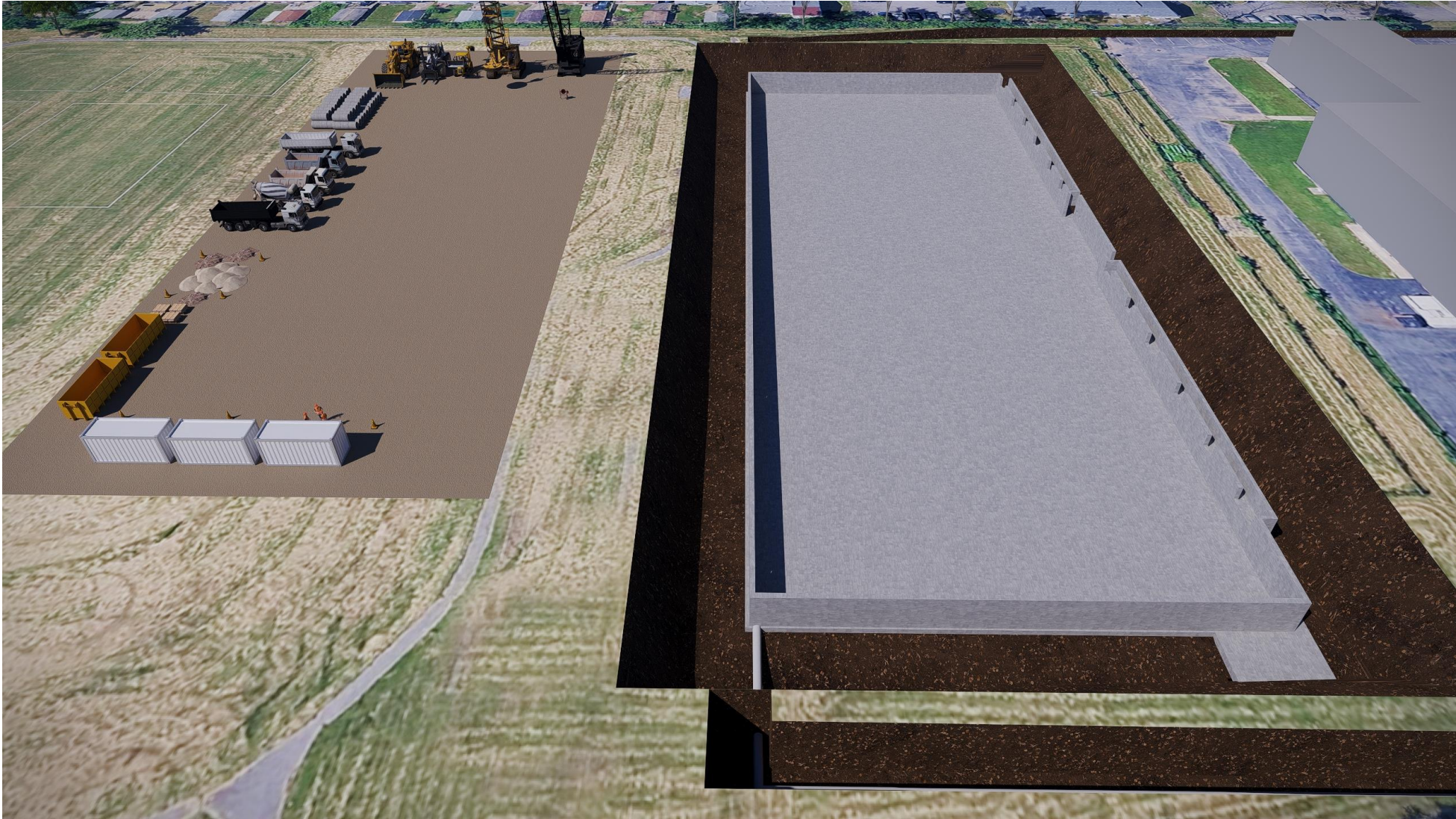
TIMELINE ▼



Edison & Martha OFFLINE STORAGE (OLS)



Edison & Martha OFFLINE STORAGE (OLS)



Edison & Martha OFFLINE STORAGE (OLS)



Edison & Martha OLS – Impact Assessment

Impact Category	Analysis
Land	Excavation of soil will disturb the site; erosion and runoff will be mitigated.
Open Space & Recreation	Roosevelt Playground use restricted during construction; restoration planned afterward.
Transportation	Periodic detours, closures, and pedestrian access changes near school and park.
Noise	Heavy equipment will generate noise throughout construction; limited to daytime
Light	Temporary lighting may affect nearby properties during early/late construction hours.
Odor	Odors from tank activation (~45x/year) may affect nearby community; Odor Control will be evaluated during design
Human Health (Construction)	Dust, diesel emissions, and potential soil contamination pose risks to vulnerable groups during construction.
Community Character	Visual and functional disruption of park; temporary fencing and equipment affect feel. Roosevelt Park Master Plan project will not be impacted

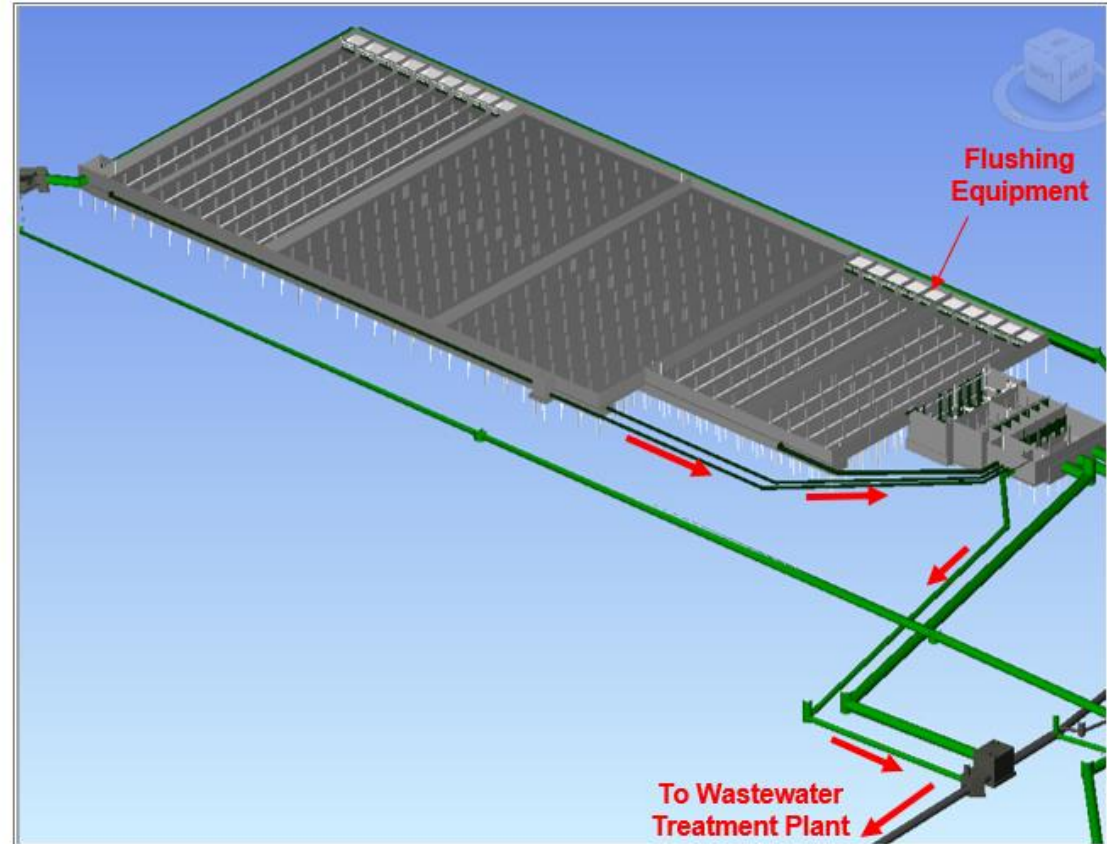
Example Project

Ottawa River Storage Facility – Toledo, OH

Project Description:

- Toledo Water Initiative project to clean waterways and reduce sewer overflows
- **36.3 MG** (10x larger than Edison Martha) buried combined sewage underground concrete storage basin
- Includes influent pumping station and effluent sewer system
- Project completed in 2022 . Took roughly 3 years

Waterbody Impacted: Ottawa River



Example Project

Ottawa River Storage Facility – Toledo, OH



During Construction

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SEWER AUTHORITY



Post Construction

Example Project Results

Ottawa River Storage Facility – Toledo, OH



Community Engagement & Stakeholder Outreach

Program Management Impact:
Equity Indicators + Desired Outcomes

1
Community Ownership

2
Capacity Building

3
Healthy Communities

4
Heritage Preservation

5
Sustainable Wealth Creation

6
New and Reformed Policy for Sustainable Development

7
Growth Management and Neighborhood Development



Observation



Discovery

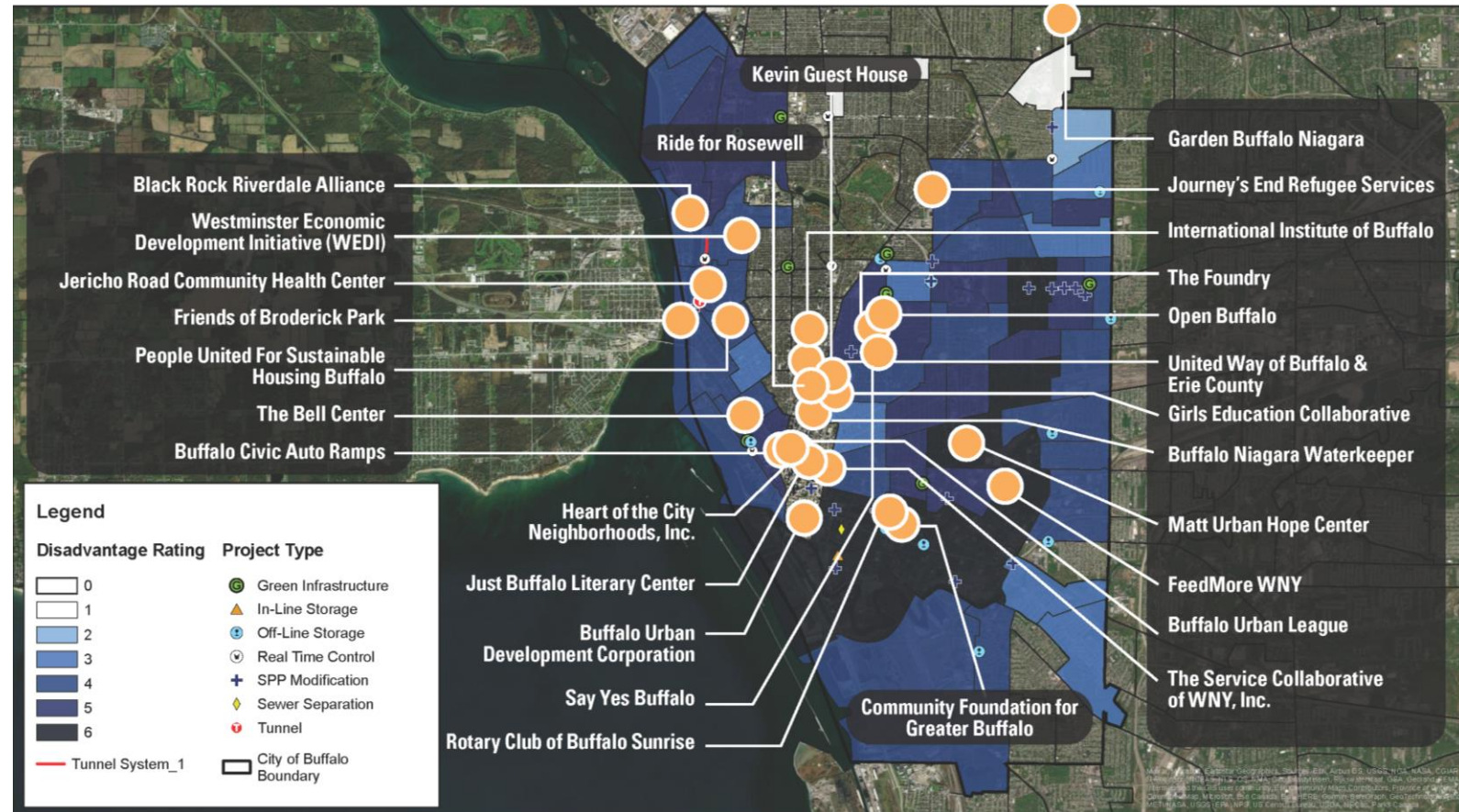


Planning and Application

Partner with Anchor Institutions to Reach the Community

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



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

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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](https://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 \$1B 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 on sewer improvement projects in your neighborhood

[Join Now >](#)



FAQs

- + [Why is Buffalo Sewer doing these projects?](#)
- + [Are there any community meetings or updates planned to keep the residents informed about the progress of the construction?](#)
- + [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
QUEEN CITY CLEAN WATERS



Interactive Map

Sewer Patrol Point (SPP 341A) (Kerns & Genesee)

Construction Timeline: June 2026 - December 2027

Description:

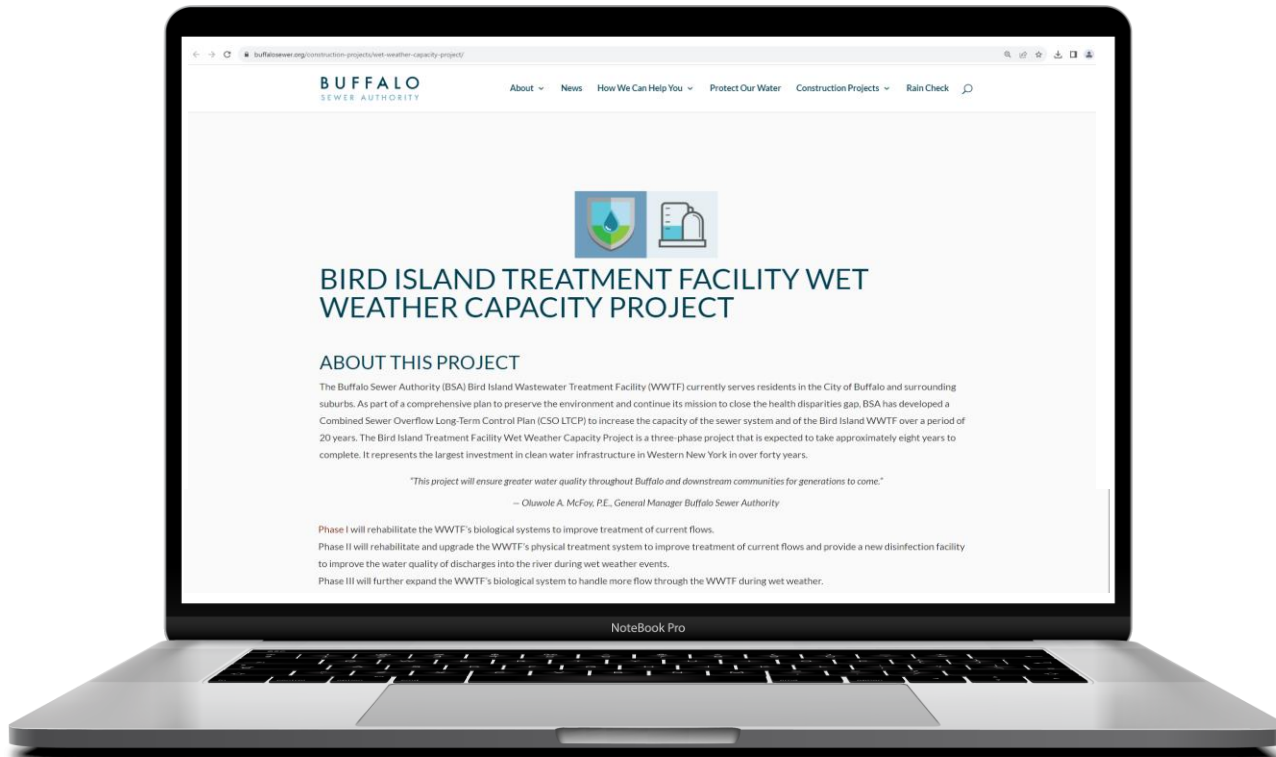
-A new chamber and drop shaft connection to the Scajaquada Tunnel will be built

[Read more >](#)

SPP Modification



Buffalo Sewer Authority Website



buffalosewer.org

Your BEST source of information!

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

Thank you!

GET IN TOUCH:



@BuffaloSewer



BuffaloSewer.org



@BuffaloSewer



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