What will change in my neighborhood once the project is completed?

The only thing visible from the surface following construction will be four new manhole covers and an access hatch in Hertel Avenue at Deer Street, and a control panel on the east side of Deer Street.

Will this project increase the risk that my basement will backup?

No. While the project will modify the local sewer system, these modifications will not increase the likelihood of basement backups.

Will this project affect the integrity of the sewer system?

No. The existing sewer system is in excellent condition despite its age. The new chamber has been designed and will be constructed using state of the art materials and construction methods.
Why is the Buffalo Sewer Authority doing this project?

The Buffalo Sewer Authority (BSA) is working together with the Environmental Protection Agency and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation on a 20-year Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). The LTCP is focused on significantly improving water quality of the local water bodies and waterways. A portion of the LTCP involves improvements to the existing sewer system.

Project Location Map

What does this project involve?

The Hertel at Deer project will reduce combined sewer overflows by controlling flow to the Bird Island Wastewater Treatment Plant in wet weather. The implementation of this project will cost approximately $4,000,000.

How was this project designed?

This project was designed by Licensed Professional Engineers who are highly proficient in water and wastewater conveyance and treatment.

Where can I find design details?

Plans and specifications are located at the BSA’s office at 1038 City Hall.

When and what can I expect during construction?

Construction is expected to start in March of 2019, and conclude at the end of 2019. The construction work will be completed in phases. First, temporary traffic controls will be installed on Hertel Avenue at Deer Street intersection that will prevent vehicle traffic in either direction. Residences within the vicinity of the project will still be easily accessible during construction. Hertel Avenue will remain closed from Foundry to Short Street for the duration of construction. Once temporary controls are installed, existing utilities in Hertel Avenue will be moved. Hertel Avenue at Deer Street will then be excavated to install the Real Time Control (RTC) Chamber, which is a concrete chamber with moveable gates. When construction is complete, the contractor will remove the traffic controls and restore the work area.

In addition to traffic disturbances, other disturbances such as noise and dust will occur while heavy machinery is operated for the excavation. Odors from the sewer may also be present during construction, and these temporary disturbances will be minimized as much as possible. The BSA will have a full-time representative onsite during construction to answer any questions or complaints. If you would like further information, please call or email Catherine Knab, Principal Sanitary Engineer, at the BSA at (716) 851-4664 or cknab@buffalosewer.org.