

County Executive Joanie Mahoney



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Monday, March 11, 2013

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COUNTY EXECUTIVE JOANIE MAHONEY AND LEGISLATIVE CHAIRMAN RYAN MCMAHON, ANNOUNCE \$2 MILLION AVAILABLE FOR 2ND ROUND OF SUBURBAN SAVE THE RAIN GRANT FUNDING

*Monies Available For Design And Construction Of Stormwater Management And Sewer Improvement
Projects In The County's Consolidated Sanitary District*

Onondaga County Executive Joanie Mahoney and Legislative Chairman Ryan McMahon announced today the opening of the second round of funding for the County's Suburban Save the Rain, green infrastructure program. The Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection (OCDWEP) is now accepting project applications from municipalities within the County's consolidated sanitary district through April 30th. In December 2012, the County Legislature authorized OCDWEP to solicit applications for up to \$2 million in new Save the Rain projects in suburban communities.

"I am very pleased to join Chairman McMahon in announcing this new round of funding for the Suburban Save the Rain program," said County Executive Mahoney. "In line with the "fix-it-first" program outlined in my 2013 Budget proposal, these monies will help suburban communities to build innovative green infrastructure and sewer repair projects that help to keep clean, rainwater out of our aging sewer pipes and treatment plants, where it doesn't belong," she continued.

"Save the Rain is an important program for our community and we are very happy to partner with the County Executive to continue the expansion of this effort in our County's suburban neighborhoods," said Ryan McMahon, Chairman of the Onondaga County Legislature. "Fixing our aging infrastructure is a critical issue for towns and villages and the Suburban Save the Rain program is an opportunity for the County to partner with our Mayors and Supervisors in using innovative, green solutions to address growing concerns about our ability to comply with environmental rules and regulations."

This new round of funding will continue the progress made in round one and support projects that help to eliminate the intrusion of storm water into village, town and county sanitary sewer systems. When stormwater enters the sanitary sewer system, pump stations are stressed, treatment plants operate at capacity and overflows can occur that pollute rivers and streams in violation of the Federal Clean Water Act.

"I would like to thank County Executive Mahoney, Chairman McMahon and his fellow legislators for their continued support of the Save the Rain program. Keeping stormwater out of our sanitary sewer system is tremendously important to protecting our environment, containing costs of plant operations, and ensuring we have capacity for growth within our system. This is an important program and we look

forward to an enthusiastic response from our municipal partners,” said Tom Rhoads, Commissioner of the Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection.

The Suburban Save the Rain program promotes the use of green infrastructure technologies in managing stormwater in urbanized areas where there is often a high percentage of impermeable surfaces, including roofs and parking areas. Through the Save the Rain program, Onondaga County is now a national leader in using both conventional “gray” infrastructure and innovative “green” technologies to manage stormwater to protect our water resources.

Constructing rain gardens, bio-swales, green roofs or using permeable pavement in parking lots, helps to capture stormwater where it falls and preserve the capacity of often aging sewer systems. Onondaga County is using green infrastructure in the City of Syracuse to capture millions of gallons of stormwater annually in an effort to protect Onondaga Lake from sewer overflows. Similar efforts in Onondaga County’s towns and villages will help to protect the water quality of Onondaga Lake as well as the Seneca River, Limestone Creek, Nine Mile Creek and Mudd Creek.

In 2012, the County Legislature approved \$3 million in funding for fourteen green infrastructure projects in six villages and six towns. Funding from round two of this program is available for projects sponsored by municipalities within the Onondaga County Consolidated Sanitary District. For copies of grant application materials, answers to Frequently Asked Questions, as well as additional details on previously funded projects, please visit, www.SavetheRain.us.

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