

Executive Summary

Green Infrastructure and Save The Rain Initiatives in Q2 2020

In the second quarter of 2020, the County saw progress on the design and planning of several green infrastructure projects in the City of Syracuse.

The Grand Ave. sewer separation project has received City and DEC approval, and is moving rapidly toward construction. The project will provide significant rainwater capture, increasing sewer capacity and relieving downstream hydraulic restrictions. Also planned for Grand Ave, and in a similar stage of development, is a sewer abandonment project consisting of closing off an unused section of sanitary sewer, disrupting a major source of Inflow and Infiltration that has created undue stress on the system. The design team for the CSO 060/077 Green Streets project is currently awaiting pricing from the County's term contractor, with construction expected to begin within the calendar year. Pricing is also being finalized on the CSO 010 sanitary sewer improvement project, with construction to begin within the month.

The County also met with NYS DOT officials in the second quarter, to discuss project scope, timing, and utility impacts with respect to the proposed I-81 replacement project.

Additionally, construction on the Washington Square Park improvement project was completed, realizing another successful collaboration between Onondaga County and the City of Syracuse. Construction on the South Salina Street Green Corridor project began in June 2020, with an expected completion date within the current calendar year. It is projected to remove 5 million gallons of stormwater from the combined sewer system annually, and features a variety of aesthetic upgrades, including a collaboration with the City's Southside TNT neighborhood group to equip this stretch of South Salina Street with new trash receptacles and planters.

During this period, the County advanced three projects to the MiniBid RFP bidding phase, including two Green Streets projects in CSOs 066 (Genesee Street) and 020 (Butternut Street), which feature green infrastructure and boast a combined capture of nearly 12 million gallons/year, as well as a regulator upgrade project in the 052 sewershed.

The County also advanced a variety of Save the Rain program initiatives, including a continuation of its educational collaboration with Baltimore Woods, albeit in an altered format, shifting its Nature in the City program to a virtual platform in response to the school closings mandated by New York State. Plans for additional online content are in progress.

The Green Improvement Fund (GIF) committee met twice during the second quarter, and reviewed and approved three additional projects in priority CSO areas. The committee also discussed and approved the program for the 2020 season, which opened in May. The 2020 season changes included an updated priority map, consisting of the addition and removal of several CSO areas, and the adjustment of funding caps across the targeted areas.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Mento', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Mento, P.E.
Commissioner