

Day 4: Greenest

Lea Kyle, Matthew Taboni and Andy Whitehead, posting on @ubgreenteam on instagram from the University at Buffalo. Our Project Green Challenge username is bwhitehe.

When it rains in Western New York, sewage and untreated stormwater often flows into many of our creeks, lakes, and rivers. Throughout the Great Lakes, aging sewage infrastructure creates a threat to our freshwater resources and human health. Sewage pollution is an ongoing problem that influences the quality of our water because of bacteria, algae blooms, odors, and the aesthetic of our waterways. Climate change poses a new threat because of the increase in rainfall and more severe storms.

Many people have not taken the time or care about learning about their sewage system. However, it is something that makes a large impact on our quality of life. In Buffalo and Niagara Falls, street drains and sewage enter into shared pipes that are located underground. These pipes are a combined sewer system, which open into local rivers and streams. When there are severe storms or heavy rain, portions of rain and sanitary water do not enter into the treatment facility, and instead enter into local bodies of water. Raw sewage, animal waste, litter, motor oil, fertilizers and pesticides harm the environment. Currently there are around 800 combined sewer overflow systems in New York State, covered under a municipal wastewater treatment plant's State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System.

In August 2021, E.Coli was found in Black Rock Canal, The Buffalo River, Niagara River, Cazenovia Creek, Ellicott Creek, and Eighteen Mile Creek, consistently exceeding the safe limits established by the federal government. This canal is popular with fisherman, swimmers, and boaters. At the moment, the Buffalo Sewer Authority has plans in place to reduce sewage overflows that will cost \$380 million and take until 2034 to complete. There is no short-term solution or plans in place now to solve this problem.

This is a health concern for the Buffalo and larger Western New York Area, and we are asking you to act now, providing attention and funding to this problem.

BUFFALO NIAGARA WATERKEEPER



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

WATER DEFINED BUFFALO'S HISTORY AND CLEAN WATER WILL SHAPE WESTERN NEW YORK'S FUTURE

Water advocates, wildlife and fishing enthusiasts, scientists, nature lovers, but mostly, people who recognize clean water is a fundamental human right.

Together, we fight for clean water and look forward to a day when it is safe for everyone to drink, fish, and access our waterways. With so many challenges facing our waters, there is no time to waste.




TAKING ACTION TO ADDRESS SEWAGE POLLUTION IS CRITICAL TO BUFFALO NIAGARA WATERKEEPER'S ADVOCACY



LEARN MORE:

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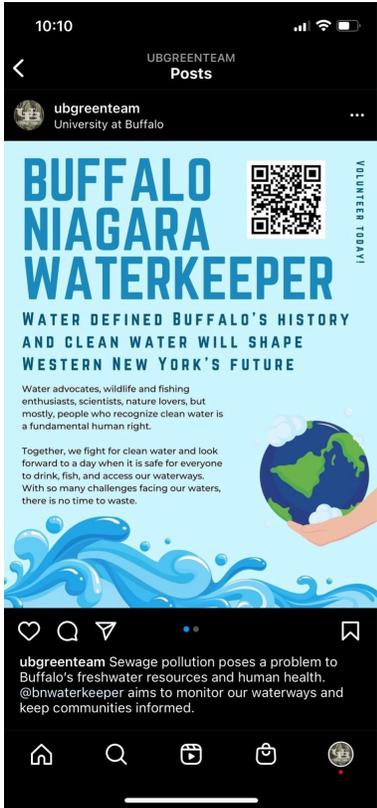
Throughout the Great Lakes, aging sewage infrastructure presents an increasing threat to our freshwater resources and human health.

Buffalo Niagara WaterKeeper Focuses on 2 ways to help the Sewage Pollution Problem:

Regularly monitoring our waterways for harmful bacterial pollution caused by sewage overflows and notifying and educating the public on results.

Keeping communities informed on local municipal efforts to improve infrastructure and holding agencies accountable to make steady progress.





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Creating and mobilizing around climate action and environmental justice! We are Team UB Green, from the University at Buffalo. #pgc2022 @turninggreenorg