



MAYOR BYRON W. BROWN

**B U F F A L O**  
SEWER AUTHORITY



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 16, 2019

Contact: Tracy F. King

(716) 851-4664

---

## **MAYOR BROWN, BUFFALO SEWER AUTHORITY ANNOUNCE THE RELEASE OF RAIN CHECK 2.0 OPPORTUNITY REPORT**

---

*Rain Check 2.0 Opportunity report explores the next generation of green infrastructure in Buffalo. Residents can learn about the 6 priority basins, the results of our preliminary exploration work, and the many opportunities for green infrastructure throughout Buffalo.*

BUFFALO, NY – Mayor Bryon W. Brown and Buffalo Sewer Authority (BSA) have released their second Rain Check Buffalo report. The focus of Rain Check 2.0 is on the framework to guide future green infrastructure investments in the City of Buffalo that work towards reducing combined sewer overflow (CSO) events as part of BSA’s long term control plan. The opportunity report communicates key suggestions for green infrastructure implementation as well as our initial understanding of the social, environmental and economic context surrounding our 6 priority basins.

“Green Infrastructure is an opportunity to invest in our neighborhoods, increase employment and economic prospects for our citizens and, directly address climate change through projects that involve mitigation, adaptation, and overall resilience of our city,” said Mayor Brown, “Green Infrastructure is an opportunity to further improve quality of life while performing important utility functions. Our project on William Street added several green infrastructure elements from Michigan to Jefferson Avenue. Porous pavement was installed in the parking lane on the north side of the street, and the roadway median was widened to include trees and rain gardens that manage stormwater runoff from the street.”

High performance green infrastructure landscapes benefit water quality, and also bring a wide range of co-benefits that include reducing air pollution, improving property values, reducing energy usage from the ability of vegetation to regulate urban temperatures, and increasing the walkability of the built-in environment. Green Infrastructure provides justification for community investment to address inequality.

While Rain Check 1.0 focused on the city’s stormwater challenge and the unique role green infrastructure plays in addressing it and what have been done so far, the Rain Check 2.0 Opportunity report is guide on how to coordinate our efforts within the City of Buffalo to increase our efforts in addressing our stormwater challenge and expand the types of projects BSA can take on.

“I am excited to release Rain Check 2.0 Opportunity Report to the community because this report describes both the various opportunities where green infrastructure could be implemented as well as the opportunities that green infrastructure provides, such as in community development and beautification, economic and workforce development, as well as the opportunity to work towards enhancing public health,” said Buffalo Sewer General Manager Oluwole “OJ” McFoy.

Green Infrastructure presents an opportunity to fulfil a community’s vision for its neighborhood, and this document is in part a community resource and planning tool. Rain Check 2.0 report sets the foundation for future analysis, discussions, and planning – it provides the background information to inform discussions and collaboration.

Rain Check 2.0 Report has been published on [www.raincheckbuffalo.org](http://www.raincheckbuffalo.org)

Since 2010, the City of Buffalo and Buffalo Sewer have installed 1,000 acres of Green Infrastructure throughout the City of Buffalo that has helped keep 1 billion gallons of stormwater out of our bodies of water annually. To date, BSA has transformed 9 miles of streets, hundreds of green demolition sites, and several community parking lot retrofits. Many of these projects can be seen on the Rain Check website through a virtual tour of green infrastructure in Buffalo.

The Buffalo Sewer Authority protects public health and our Great Lakes waterways from water pollution. To do this, we capture dirty water, treat and clean it so that it can be safely returned to our rivers and lakes. Our job is to maintain and improve the infrastructure, innovation, and efficiency of our water resources to ensure the quality of life throughout Western New York.

###