



County of Onondaga
Office of the County Executive

J. Ryan McMahon II
County Executive

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Media Release

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County Executive Ryan McMahon Announces the 2019 Rain Barrel Workshop Schedule

Over 2,300 Rain Barrels have been distributed to date

SYRACUSE, N.Y. – County Executive J. Ryan McMahon, II announced the schedule for the 2019 Rain Barrel Workshop. The Rain Barrel Workshops are part of County’s Save the Rain program. Residents of Onondaga County will be able to attend a 30-minute workshop to learn about the Save the Rain program and how residents can help in the clean-up of Onondaga Lake by using a rain barrel.

Rain barrels are an integral part of the Save the Rain program. Each rain barrel reduces the stormwater runoff that otherwise enters the sewer system and each rain barrel can capture 50 gallons of stormwater every time it rains. The cumulative effect of the 2,300 rain barrels distributed since 2010 is significant.

County Executive J. Ryan McMahon said, “An important part of addressing the infrastructure challenges in our community is to keep excess water out of the system. Our popular Rain Barrel program helps accomplish that goal and we are pleased to announce the program will be back for the Spring and Summer of 2019.” McMahon continued, “Working together as a community to reduce stormwater runoff through the use of rain barrels has proven to be very successful and we look forward to continued success.”

Rain barrels are an integral part of the Save the Rain program. Each rain barrel reduces the stormwater runoff that otherwise enters the sewer system and each rain barrel can capture 50 gallons of stormwater every time it rains. Over 2,300 rain barrels have been distributed resulting in the elimination of significant runoff.

In 2018, Save the Rain projects, including rain barrels, kept an estimated 171 million gallons of stormwater out of the sewer system.

The County's Save the Rain program has now exceeded the final mandated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) capture percentage of 95 percent ahead of schedule; capturing 97.6 percent of flows in 2017.

"The more people who use the rain barrels, the closer we come to zero sewer overflows into Onondaga Lake," said McMahon.

Classes will be held at the shelters located at Willow Bay in Onondaga Lake Park and the Syracuse Metropolitan WWTP on Hiawatha Boulevard in the City of Syracuse. Attendees of the workshops will receive a rain barrel to take home at no-charge. Registration is not required.

"I heard from many people how much they love to use their rain barrel to water their flowers, lawns, or even wash their cars." said County Executive McMahon, "I appreciated their contribution to a greener, more sustainable Onondaga County."

The full 2019 rain barrel schedule is available at http://savetherain.us/str_project/rain-barrel-program/

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