

Top stories in this newsletter



Erosion Control



Illicit Discharge Training



World Toilet Day



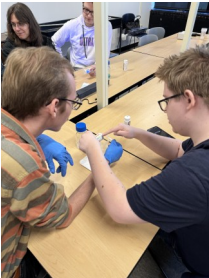
NYWEA Tree Ornament

NYWEA Chapter Official



Our kicking off meeting in Fall 2024 began with a celebration of the official formation of our NYWEA student chapter at Buffalo State. It was followed by a campus walking tour of the erosion and sediment control measures. These measures are part of the SWPPP, Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. A SWPPP plan is a written document that outlines the measures that a construction site will take to prevent stormwater runoff from carrying pollutants into nearby waterways. These plans are needed whenever a construction project disturbs an acre or more of land. The photograph shows a sediment sock located around a catch basin in the Bengal Walkway Project.

Illicit Discharge Training



In October, we welcomed Mary MacSwan, Chief Environmental Compliance Specialist for the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning. Mary demonstrated the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) sampling components of the Phase II stormwater regulations. An illicit discharge is any discharge to a stormwater conveyance system that is not 100% stormwater or that is not specifically authorized.

Students learned about the EPA Phase II stormwater regulations and how to track down an illicit stormwater discharge. Students were trained using test strips for ammonia, total chlorine, ph/conductivity, nitrates/phosphates and detergents. These tests indicate sewage contaminants, tap water inflow, industrial discharge, lawn care chemicals, animal waste and residential discharges.

World Toilet Day



World Toilet Day is a United Nations international observance day to inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis and reach the 3.5 billion people still living without safely managed sanitation.

For our 1st annual World Toilet Day, we welcomed Jamie Davidson, PE, founder and president of JM Davidson Engineering. Her presentation was titled "Designing the New Highmark Stadiums Sanitary Sewer System." For this event, lunch was provided by the NYWEA Western Chapter. This event was a joint event with the UB NYWEA student chapter and a NYWEA young professional event. This engaging presentation included a segment from a Sponge Bob Square Pants episode.

NYWEA Ornament



In the fall of 2024, Buffalo State was seeking departments and clubs to design themed ornaments for the President's Holiday Tree. NYWEA student chapter member, Allison Panek, designed this year's NYWEA ornament. The ornament features the slogan "Only Rain in the Drain" which is stenciled on many of the campus catch basins to raise awareness around storm water.

Flower Planting



In the spring of 2025, NYWEA student chapter members helped to beautify campus by planting annuals in 10 containers located on the west side of SAMC. A variety of geraniums, zinnia and celosia. The student chapter will maintain these pots and rotate in seasonal plantings.