

Reservoir Reflections

Watershed Management News

Spring 2016

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

Happy spring! There is much going on in Columbus watershed management to share with our reservoir neighbors. First, as we head into gardening season, a reminder that when living along a waterway, what we do in our yards can affect water quality. Those who live adjacent to city-owned natural buffers to help filter pollutants going into drinking water reservoirs have a very important role in water pollution prevention. A few gardening tips with clean water being the goal for all, since we all depend on it:

- When using fertilizer, weed and pest control products on your yard, pay attention to instructions on the label.
- Make sure the liquids and granules fall on your lawn where they can do their job. Sweep up whatever falls onto a hard surface.
- Mulched lawn clippings are a natural fertilizer; let them go to work so you don't have to.
- Sweep surfaces with a broom rather than hosing them down. When using the hose, let your grass absorb the waste water instead of sending it to the street.
- If a spill occurs, use an absorbent material such as cat litter, sweep it up and discard it in the trash.
- When choosing plants near a waterway, it is best to opt for deep-rooted, native plantings as much as possible. They perform more water filtering than shallow-rooted turf grass. They also help prevent erosion and loss of land because the deeper roots help hold the soil in place.
- Learn more by visiting getgrassy.org. Get Grassy is a public awareness initiative sponsored by the City of Columbus and the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Watershed Master Plan and Land Stewardship Agreement Plan Update

Division of Water staff continue the review process of various recommendations made by a consultant on best management practices to incorporate into a future updated watershed master plan. Meanwhile, the expanded options for land stewardship agreements that began last year will continue to be offered, where possible. Those include access paths without the requirement of a boat dock or stake, view corridors, and the noxious weed and invasive species removal program.

Legal Update

The lawsuit between the cities of Columbus, Westerville, Akron, Barberton and Lima vs. the State of Ohio over Section 743.50 of the 2015 state budget continues to work its way through the court system. Until the case is resolved, adjacent owners are reminded that the provision remains on hold and to not alter city-owned land in any way without doing so through an approved land stewardship agreement with the city.

2016 Construction and Other Activity

Various work will be underway this year in the reservoir areas:

- Consultants with DLZ will be collecting information about the reservoirs by boat, relating to water volume, siltation, topographical mapping of the reservoir bottoms and other data.
- The Delco Water Company will be installing a water intake and pumping station on the O'Shaughnessy Reservoir near Home Road this summer.



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- An independent audit/study of the city's dams at the reservoirs has been underway to ensure safety and structural integrity.
- Paving projects will address the remaining park roadway needs at Griggs Reservoir this year.
- The Twin Bridges boat ramp area of Hoover Reservoir will see improvements. This partially grant-funded project in partnership with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources will turn a gravel parking lot into an asphalt and permeable concrete lot and install green infrastructure to help reduce sediment erosion and other runoff from polluting the reservoir. Erosion is a particular problem in the Hoover area due to the type of soil.



An example of pervious pavement

Griggs Reservoir Cleanup and Fishing Festival

Please join other volunteers on **Saturday, May 7th** for a litter cleanup from 9:00 to 11:00 AM, with fishing fun to follow. This event is a partnership with the Columbus Department of Public Utilities, Columbus Recreation and Parks Department and the Indian Village Day Camp, along with other partners. Meet at the shelter house just north of Griggs Dam on the east side of the reservoir/Scioto River. Bags and gloves will be provided.

Meet the New Watershed Manager

The Division of Water was quite fortunate in having in-house talent ready and willing to fill the recent vacancy of the position of Watershed Manager due to retirement. Please help us welcome Lorraine Winters Krzyzewski to the post. She began her career with the division in 1994 as an intern, and had been Watershed Protection Coordinator since 2002. Her experience has encompassed: overseeing the water protection specialist group including the watershed rangers, serving as project manager for the watershed master plan updates currently underway, is an active participant in the Children's Water Festival, and she brings many established partnership relationships with various agencies throughout the watersheds in central Ohio. Krzyzewski has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science with a water focus and also a Master of Education in Integrated Science Education.



For more information about Columbus Watershed Management, please call (614) 645-1721 or visit: <https://columbus.gov/watershed/>.

Recreational Boating Season Information

Interested in 2016 boat dock and stake permit information? Please visit the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department web site at: <https://www.columbus.gov/recreationandparks/facilities/Marinas-and-Docks/>.