

Reservoir Reflections

Watershed Management News

Summer 2018

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

Land Stewardship Program Pilot Study Planned

Hoover, O'Shaughnessy and Griggs Reservoirs are maintained and operated by the City of Columbus to provide drinking water to over a million customers and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors throughout central Ohio. As part of the Land Stewardship Program, standards are in place that allow contiguous landowners to perform agreed-upon services to the city-owned property between their private property and the shoreline in exchange for access to the reservoir, dock installation, invasive species removal, or to enhance private property views.



Based on public feedback received, the city and its contracted consultant are reviewing and will be updating the Land Stewardship Program. The intent is not to become more restrictive with the program, but to ensure that the standards, which may allow contiguous landowners to access and perform stewardship activities, are clear, consistent and science-based. It is extremely important that the city-owned property along the reservoirs is managed to preserve and protect the water quality. Preventing erosion and sedimentation, protecting the shorelines and riparian areas, and maintaining high quality native species will contribute to the long-term health of the reservoirs.

A pilot study will begin this fall and will involve testing the preliminary draft of the new standards on a sample of properties at each of the reservoirs. The pilot study properties will help to evaluate different geological and ecological characteristics, access paths, boat dock locations, and other aspects representative of existing conditions in order to make the final standards as inclusive as possible. Property owners included in the pilot study will be contacted by project representatives in the coming months. Findings from the study will then be evaluated and incorporated into the final standards. The updated Land Stewardship Program is anticipated to launch in early 2020.

City of Columbus et al v. State of Ohio

Owners adjacent to the city's three in-stream drinking water reservoirs are reminded that the lawsuit between the cities of Akron, Barberton, Columbus, Lima and Westerville vs. the State of Ohio over Section 743.50 of the 2015 state budget continues to work its way through the court system. Last year, the court ruled that the case can move forward on three major counts. Until the case is resolved, the provision remains on hold and city-owned land may not be altered in any way without an approved land stewardship agreement with the City of Columbus. Other court cases related to individual encroachments continue to be filed when necessary.



Please follow us on Facebook (Columbus Public Utilities) and Twitter (@cdpu)

Volunteer Opportunities

Please join other volunteers on Saturday, **September 29**, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to help pick up litter along the Hoover Reservoir shorelines. This is a great way for individuals, families and community groups to gain some community service hours while also helping to protect one of our greatest resources. Volunteers will meet at the shelter house on the lower west side of the dam at 9:00 a.m. Bags, gloves and refreshments will be provided. For questions, please call the Division of Water's Watershed Management Office at 614-645-1721 or email watershed@columbus.gov.

The annual Columbus Race for Global Water 5K run will be Saturday, **October 6**, 9:30 a.m. at Hoover Reservoir. For more information about this partnership fundraiser to help people around the world obtain access to safe water, please visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/OH/Westerville/CbusWaterForPeople5K>.

New Oxbow Boat Ramp Completed

The new Oxbow Road Boat Ramp is open for boating and fishing activities on Hoover Reservoir (photo below). The Department of Public Utilities collaborated with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department on this public improvement that will greatly enhance the user experience at Hoover. Some of the highlights of the new area include improved lighting, a longer one-lane concrete boat ramp, floating courtesy docks, asphalt paved parking for 27 car/boat trailers and 18 car-only spaces. Rocks sloping into the water will help protect the shoreline from erosion and also offer an excellent place for shoreline fishing access.

