

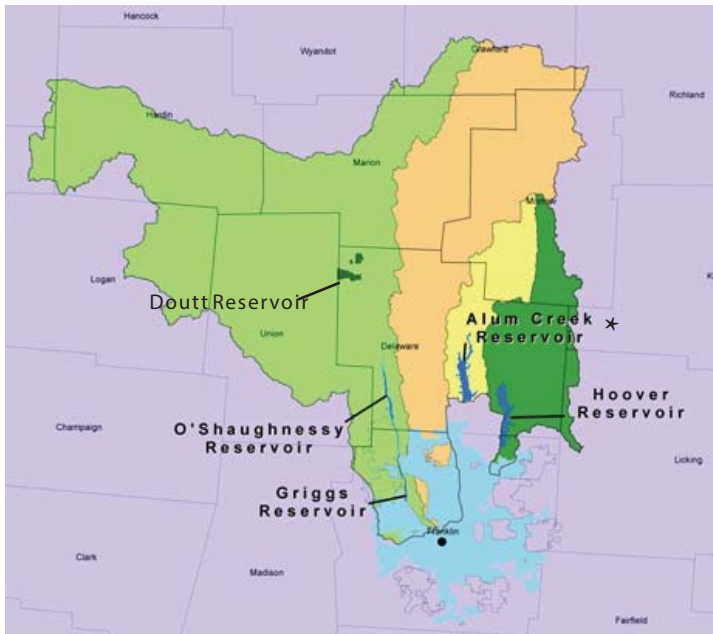
please visit [www.FloodSmart.gov](http://www.FloodSmart.gov) or call (888) 379-9531.

**Is swimming allowed in the Columbus reservoirs or waterways?**  
Swimming is not permitted in Columbus reservoirs per Columbus City Code. For more information on recreational activities that are allowed, please visit: [www.columbus.gov/RecreationandParks/](http://www.columbus.gov/RecreationandParks/).

**Who should I notify if I see people swimming, diving, or any other potentially dangerous situation in a Columbus reservoir?**  
Please notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency immediately, whether that be Columbus Police, a county township, sheriff or suburban police department. If an emergency, please call 911.

**Why do the reservoir water levels sometimes get so low?**  
Changes in the water level are related to the amount of rainfall and water pumping demand at the plants.

**For questions about Columbus' water reservoirs, please contact:**  
Columbus Watershed Management Office, (614) 645-1721 or email [watershed@columbus.gov](mailto:watershed@columbus.gov).



\* Columbus can draw from Alum Creek Reservoir when needed to supplement Hoover Reservoir, but does not own or operate it.

FACTSON

# COLUMBUS WATER RESERVOIRS



THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES

## About the City of Columbus Reservoirs

The City of Columbus water reservoirs and dams were built for providing drinking water to what is now 1.1 million customers in the Columbus metropolitan area. In addition to serving Columbus customers, water is also provided to most of the surrounding suburbs by contract.

The Columbus Department of Public Utilities (CDPU) owns and operates three in-stream drinking water reservoirs that were created by constructed dams:

- The Griggs Reservoir, in the Upper Arlington area, was built on the Scioto River in 1906 to supply water to the Dublin Road Water Plant.
- The O'Shaughnessy Reservoir, in Delaware County near Powell, was built in 1925 on the Scioto River to supplement water supplies to the Dublin Road Water Plant.
- The Hoover Reservoir was built on Big Walnut Creek in 1953 in the Westerville area and spans Franklin and Delaware Counties. It supplies water to the Hap Cremean Water Plant on Morse Road.

In 2014, the John R. Douth Upground Reservoir went into service. This off-stream reservoir is located west of the Scioto River in Delaware and Union counties near Richwood and supplements water supplies to the

Dublin Road Water Plant. The dam for this reservoir is inflatable and remains flat on the river bottom when not in use. The Del-Co Water Company shared in the cost of the construction and retains rights to a portion of the stored water.



The Parsons Road Water Plant is supplied by a well field and therefore does not rely on surface water.

For information regarding recreational opportunities on the reservoirs, please visit [www.columbus.gov/RecreationandParks/](http://www.columbus.gov/RecreationandParks/) or call the Columbus Department of Recreation and Parks at (614) 645-3300.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Do the Columbus reservoirs have any flood control ability?**

The reservoirs were built for drinking water storage and not flood control. When the in-stream reservoirs become full following rain or melting snow, they were designed so that the excess water coming in from the creeks and rivers spills over the dams to the waterway below the dam. In the case of Hoover Reservoir, there is a limited amount of control by lowering and raising gates at the dam, but only by a few feet.

Whether or not downstream flooding will occur depends on the weather pattern. When rain continues and a reservoir is already full, the water will continue to go over the dam and enter the creek or river below, as it would if there were no dam. If there is a break between storms and the reservoir level drops, that can create some space to hold some water from the next storm. Another factor can be how much water is flowing into the rivers and streams upstream of the dam and reservoir.

### **Are conditions monitored when downstream flood conditions may exist or be imminent?**

Yes. During high water level conditions, gauge levels and weather forecasts are monitored closely by the CDPU staff and the Franklin County Emergency Management and Homeland Security (FCEMHS) office. The city uses the United States Geological Survey river gauge data at <http://oh.water.usgs.gov/> to monitor river levels. In addition, the Division of Water's Watershed Rangers patrol some nearby flood-prone areas to do spot checks.

### **If concerned about flood preparation or evacuations, where do I call?**

Any voluntary or mandatory evacuation notices are handled by the FCEMHS office, and they will coordinate with local agencies involved in emergency response efforts. To reach FCEMHS, please call (614) 794-0213 or visit [www.fcemhs.org](http://www.fcemhs.org). For other questions, contact your local jurisdiction. If in Columbus, call 311 or (614) 645-3111 and in an emergency, please dial 911.

### **If I live in a floodplain or floodway downstream of one of the dams, can I obtain flood insurance?**

This is best answered by your insurance agent. It is important to understand that this type of designation exists because of the creek or river and land elevation and not because of the dams. For more information,