

Reservoir Reflections

Watershed Management News

Summer 2014

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

Pilot Project Underway; Future Changes in Development

The Columbus Department of Public Utilities pilot project for invasive species control, as discussed at a public meeting last fall, began in July. Two contractors were hired to work on selected city-owned land adjacent to private property parcels. The department chose locations based on two criteria: areas in most need of attention and areas where adjacent owners were willing control invasives on their property. Work has begun in the Griggs, O'Shaughnessy and Hoover Reservoir areas. A limited number of locations were chosen because it is a pilot project with a specific amount of funding. Around \$450,000 was allocated for this work, and below are pictures of a before and after example. The department appreciates the support seen from the various neighbors willing to cooperate and help with this project.

The department is pleased to announce that we will be allowing paths on city-owned property to access the water without a dock permit and the creation of view corridors. A land stewardship agreement is required in both circumstances and some restrictions may apply, depending upon slope and distance from the reservoir. Based on recommendations received from the consultant, we are developing guidelines for these additions to our stewardship program. Upon completion of the guidelines and staff training, the Watershed Manage-

ment team will be ready to accept requests for such agreements around the end of this year.

The longer-term watershed master planning review process also officially began with the hiring of a professional consultant. CDM Smith is the lead consultant on the effort, and they bring much experience in the environmental and water consulting field. Other subconsultants such as Stantec will also be involved in reviewing and recommending best management practices, which will include the city's land stewardship program. This effort will provide expertise and recommendations to the department in evaluating risk and watershed protection strategies for the three reservoirs that provide drinking water supplies for 1.1 million customers in central Ohio.

We will continue to update our reservoir neighbors on these efforts as they progress. If you have any questions regarding watershed management or land stewardship agreements, please contact the Watershed Management Office at 645-1721, visit www.watershed.columbus.gov or email watershed@columbus.gov. For boat dock or stake permit application information, please contact the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department at 645-3337.



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

Upcoming Waterway Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, September 20
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Hoover Reservoir
Litter Cleanup

Contact: Lorraine Winters, Watershed Management, 645-1748 or LOWinters@columbus.gov

Bags, gloves and light refreshments are provided and all are welcome to join.

Reservoir Area Improvements Update

An improvement project will begin in the Hoover Reservoir area in mid-September to stabilize the slopes and provide erosion control by rock fill on the northeast causeway of Smothers Road. Work is being coordinated with the Franklin and Delaware County Engineer's Offices and will require a bridge closure for approximately two months; please watch for signs advising of lane closures and detours. The project will continue through late summer 2015.

Pavement improvements that were planned in the Hoover Reservoir dam area this year have been delayed until next year.

The City of Columbus had also planned to replace pavement between the Griggs Reservoir Dam and Fishinger Road this year but this work has been delayed to 2015. These improvements will be coordinated with the Department of Recreation and Parks to allow for at least one boat launch ramp to be accessible at all times once the work begins.

Fall Leaves Reminder

As a reminder, blowing or dumping leaves and other yard waste into water reservoirs or storm drains is not a legal disposal method. Doing so adds excess nutrients to the water, which can be harmful for water quality. Please use your local jurisdiction's yard waste collection program. Yard waste can be dropped off for no charge at the City of Columbus Compost Facility; for more information please call 645-3153. Private companies will sometimes accept yard waste as well.

Get Free Pet Goodies!

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It only takes an online minute. Promise to pick up poop to keep Columbus water cleaner and we'll send you PUP biodegradable bags or a bandanna - one per household while supplies last. Bagging your pup's poop and placing it in the trash, whether at home or in the park, eliminates the direct contribution of bacteria to local waterways.



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