

Central Ohio River Pride Begins June 1



The Columbus Department of Public Utilities and partners will kick off the 15th annual Central Ohio River Pride month in June. The event was designed to promote awareness and appreciation of our natural waterways through environmental stewardship and recreation. Activities include stream-bank litter cleanups, invasive plant removal, rain garden workshops and more. Volunteers are invited to participate in the events listed below.

Dates and times are subject to change; some events may be rescheduled due to rain. For updates, please visit www.columbus.gov/riverpride/ or call 645-STREAM (7873).

Date/Time	Location/Activity	Contact/Sponsoring Organization
Saturday, June 13 9:00 a.m. - Noon	Griggs Reservoir litter cleanup between Griggs Dam & Hayden Run	Columbus Department of Public Utilities and Scioto Boat Club, 645-1748 lowinters@columbus.gov
Saturday, June 13 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Adena Brook litter cleanup and invasive plant removal	Adena Brook Community judyrob59@gmail.com 447-8043

Other Ways to Get Involved Year-Round

Contact any of the above-listed organizations to participate in additional opportunities they may offer throughout the year. For a complete list, please visit www.columbus.gov/volunteer/.

Plan your own neighborhood or waterway cleanup. Contact Keep Columbus Beautiful for assistance and supplies by calling 645-8027 or visit www.columbus.gov/PublicService/kcb/. If you live outside Columbus, please contact your local municipality.

Organize a storm drain marking community service project (see reverse side).

The following organizations plan periodic events and are excellent sources of stewardship information (all phone area codes 614):

- Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT) is seeking volunteers for cleanup service projects along the Alum Creek corridor; email info@friendsofalumcreek.org or call 569-8544. Find us on Facebook or www.friendsofalumcreek.org.
- Friends of the Scioto River promotes the protection and enjoyment of the Scioto River valley and organizes several cleanups each year; email info@sciotoriverfriends.org.
- Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District encourages conservation through a variety of activities, services and educational materials; visit www.franklinswcd.org.
- Riverfest *On Tour!*, a service of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, will take place this spring and summer with canoe rides along several of our local waterways from May through July. For more information please visit www.morpc.org/riverfest.



Please join Columbus Public Utilities on Facebook and Twitter for tips and updates.

Volunteers Needed For Water Pollution Prevention Awareness Project

Do you or another family member need to complete a community service project? The Department of Public Utilities' "No Dumping, Drains to Rivers" storm drain marking project is an easy volunteer activity for individuals or groups. While the activity can be done from April to October (weather permitting), it is also a good way to participate in the Central Ohio River Pride month in June.

The vinyl markers are designed to remind residents not to dump household hazardous waste into storm drains. These storm sewers direct water to streams and rivers, untreated. The markers display the phone number to report illegal dumping or accidental spills, which is 645-STREAM (7873), or by calling 311 or 645-3111. The calls are relayed to the city's 24-hour Sewer Maintenance Operations Center, a service of the Division of Sewerage and Drainage. The project is part of a public education program developed by the city in part to comply with Ohio Environmental Protection Agency requirements on protecting surface water. To learn more, visit www.columbus.gov/SpringTopics/, where you can find informative links and simple steps you can take at home to prevent water pollution.

The activity can be done on your own time and you choose the Columbus neighborhood in which to place the markers. For areas outside Columbus, please contact your jurisdiction.

Application of the markers is temperature dependent and therefore seasonal and must also be done during dry weather. The vinyl disks, adhesive and instructions



are provided to the volunteers. Supplemental educational materials are also available. The markers can be applied from the sidewalk. For safety, adult supervision is recommended for children who participate.



Please consider getting involved in protecting our water supplies; we all depend on clean water. To request a storm drain marking information packet and a copy of the Protecting a Vital Resource guide to preventing water pollution, please call 645-2926 or visit our Web site at www.columbus.gov/StormDrainMarker/.

For information on how to properly dispose of household hazardous waste, please contact the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio at 871-5100 or visit online at www.swaco.org.

Get Your Garden in Full Bloom with Com-Til Compost



Com-Til and Com-Til Plus products are made from composted yardwaste, wood chips and biosolids from the wastewater treatment plants. The City of Columbus has manufactured these products for over 30 years and sells them wholesale from the Compost Facility. Both products will help improve the soil and fertilize plants. Regular Com-Til can also be used as mulch; its dark brown color makes a lovely contrast with the green plants in gardens.

Be green, recycle, reuse and help central Ohio lead the way to a greener world. Check the Web site www.columbus.gov/Com-Til/ for additional information and area retailers who sell Com-Til.

Hydrant Flushing Season Begins in April

The Columbus Division of Fire will be conducting the annual flushing of all city hydrants. You may experience low pressure or discolored, rusty water if they are in your neighborhood. Visit www.columbus.gov/HydrantFlush/ to check the schedule (other municipalities are included) and learn what to do during a rusty water event.

Outdoor Cleaning

Warm weather brings many opportunities for outdoor cleaning. As you power wash or use a hose to clean your vehicle, home, building, patio, deck or driveway, remember that every drop of water flowing off your property and into a stormwater inlet ends up in a nearby waterway.

Streams and rivers in our area contain the highest level of pollutants during the spring and early summer months. These pollutants include byproducts of outdoor cleaning such as detergents, oils, dirt, metals, solvents and other chemicals.

Here are some steps **residents** can take to help protect our waterways by keeping wastewater off the street and out of the storm sewer while cleaning their property:

- Prevent leaks and spills from reaching a surface by using drip pans or plastic sheeting; use absorbent materials like cat litter to absorb spills, sweep up and discard in the trash.
- Broom sweep surfaces rather than hosing them down; if hosing an area, direct wastewater to the grass instead of to the street and stormwater inlet.
- Use a wet-vac to dry puddled wastewater; empty vacuum into a toilet.
- Instead of using a hose, use a bucket and rag and empty the bucket down a toilet.



When water enters a stormwater inlet, it flows through underground pipes and empties directly into a nearby stream or river.

Businesses that provide power washing services are regulated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. Regulations are intended to protect receiving waters of the state, as defined by the Clean Water Act.

Wastewater generated from power washing is defined as industrial waste, even when biodegradable soaps or detergents are used. Under no circumstances can industrial waste enter a storm sewer without a permit from the Ohio EPA.

Under Ohio law, a company can be fined up to \$10,000 per day for violation of the regulations. If your business is involved in power washing, here are some places to turn for assistance to better understand

and follow the regulations in place to protect nearby waterways:

- A fact sheet is available at epa.ohio.gov/portals/41/sb/publications/powerwash.pdf
- The Ohio EPA has an Office of Compliance Assistance and Pollution Prevention. Staff assist small businesses with fewer than 100 employees comply with environmental regulations. Onsite assistance is available. Call 800-329-7518.
- If your power washing company is doing business in Columbus, contact the city's Stormwater Management Section at 614-645-0362 for assistance.

In Columbus, call 645-7102 to report any potentially hazardous spill to an open waterway or storm drain.

Would you like to conserve water while protecting our waterways? Put a rain barrel to work. Rain barrels collect rain water runoff from your roof and downspouts to use later on your garden and potted plants. The GreenSpot Backyards program can help you get started.

Greenspot Backyards offers workshops, an online course and reimbursements up to \$50 for the purchase of an approved rain barrel, compost bin or native plants. Just choose a conservation method that works best in your own backyard.

The program runs through the summer. For more information, please visit www.greenspotbackyards.org. Questions? Call 614-486-9613 or email Kristin Hilson, Program Coordinator, at khilson@franklinswcd.org.





PUP

Pick Up Poop

Get Free Pet Goodies!

Take the PUP Pledge Today.

It only takes an online minute. Promise to PUP to keep Columbus water cleaner and we'll send you PUP biodegradable bags or a bandana - one per household while supplies last. Send us a picture of your pooch and we'll add it to the PUP Pets Gallery too! columbus.gov/PUP



Hey, Columbus!

It's Time to PUP (Pick Up Poop!)

All dog owners can “doo” the right thing and scoop poop, not just when walking but also in your own backyard.

Picking Up Dog Poo Is Good for Everyone

Poo contains some nasty bacteria - like E. coli. When it rains, this bacteria washes into puddles and storm drains which flow into our nearby streams and rivers. None of this water is treated and once polluted, it can cause diseases for people and problems for fish, animals and the environment. Even a tiny dog's poop can be harmful.

Let's Talk Dirty

There are about 277,000 dogs in Franklin County. The average dog creates about .75 pounds of waste daily. That's nearly 104 tons of dog poop every day! That's a lot of bacteria to be polluting our water when it rains. And a lot of negative impact on public health and the environment. Yuck!

Is Bagging Dog Waste Any Better for the Environment?

While bagged poop still goes into the landfill, it eliminates the direct contribution of bacteria to local waterways. Biodegradable bags help even more. You can learn about other eco-friendly options at columbus.gov/PUP.

VISIT US ONLINE

columbus.gov/PUP

CALL THE PUP HOTLINE

614-724-3000

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VIDEO



THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

