

Reservoir Reflections

Watershed Management News

Spring 2015

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

Expanded Land Stewardship Program Now Available to Adjacent Property Owners

As the Department of Public Utilities continues to work with its consultant on watershed master planning, we are pleased to announce that additional options will be available through the Land Stewardship Program starting this spring. The department remains committed to protecting the quality of the city's drinking water reservoirs and the riparian buffers located on them. These new options described below will be available on city-owned reservoir land where the creation of such would not adversely affect water quality or sensitive riparian habitat, at the adjacent property owner's expense.

- **Access paths** (without the requirement of a boat dock or stake): paths up to five feet in width may be approved using the following materials, listed from most preferred to least: mown grass, soil, natural and undyed mulch, washed river gravel, and stepping stones. Proper installation is required and monitoring for soil erosion applies. The contiguous land owner will be responsible for ensuring the path is safely passable, maintained in good condition and to the original specification.
- **View corridors:** creation of one view corridor per property will be possible using prescribed methods (up to a 50' width maximum at any point). Methods include: removal of noxious weeds and invasive species (as defined by ODNR), and/or planting low-growing species from an approved native plant list, pruning native volunteer saplings to reduce multiple trunks or leaders, and/or replacing non-native or tall native shrubs with lower growing native shrubs, and crown raising by pruning of trees. Annual maintenance of the view corridor may be requested, and all trimming must be authorized in advance and performed by an approved International Society of Arboriculture certified arborist.
- **Noxious weed and invasive species removal:** approved professionals contracted by the contiguous property owner or by the City of Columbus can address invasive growth through the use of methods aimed at removing the invasive plants and preventing re-establishment. Pesticide use and any associated tree removal will require appropriate licenses, as well as demonstrated knowledge of plant identification.

Not all properties will be eligible for these options. For example, paths may not cross a wetland or nature preserve, and the creation of a view corridor may not harm a wetland, or sensitive plant species. Path alignments will be designed to minimize environmental impact and overlap current paths when applicable. Only diseased, hazardous or sapling trees can be removed to establish a path. Slopes, mature trees, and erodible soils are also considerations. Additionally, the following properties will not be eligible:

- Properties that have an existing encroachment on city-owned property; encroachments must be resolved before an LSA can be obtained
- Properties that are more than 250 feet from the reservoir shoreline
- Properties adjacent to a nature preserve

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To discuss or apply for the new options, please contact the Watershed Management Office at (614) 645-1721 or email watershed@columbus.gov. Those with an existing land stewardship agreement can apply for a modification to their agreement, and those without an existing agreement can apply for a new one. Options and details will be discussed through that process.



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RECREATION AND PARKS DEPARTMENT

Invasive Species Pilot Project Update

We have completed approximately 60 acres of invasive species removal on city-owned land around the Griggs, O'Shaughnessy and Hoover Reservoirs. Each site will receive a second treatment this spring to minimize re-growth, and removal on some city-owned properties will continue this year through contracted services set up last year. If you are interested in participating in this program, please contact the Watershed Management office at 645-1721 or watershed@columbus.gov.

Reservoir Area Construction Season Information

Both Griggs and Hoover Reservoirs will have roadway improvements done this year. Work is anticipated to begin by May and will last through the summer season.

Central Ohio River Pride Cleanups

Various waterway litter cleanups will occur in June during Central Ohio River Pride month and volunteers are needed. Below is a Griggs Reservoir area cleanup opportunity, and please visit www.utilities.columbus.gov for other event listings and updates.

Scioto River Cleanup

Saturday, 6/13, 9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Sponsored by Columbus Watershed Management
and the Scioto Boat Club

For more information, contact:

lowinters@columbus.gov or (614) 645-1748

Interested in organizing your own neighborhood or stream bank cleanup? Please contact Keep Columbus Beautiful for supplies and assistance: 645-2421 or keepcolumbusbeautiful@columbus.gov.

2015 Boating Season Information

Public marina season begins on May 1 at Griggs, O'Shaughnessy, and Hoover Reservoirs. Docks are available at all three reservoirs.

Griggs and O'Shaughnessy marina docks will be available on a first come, first served basis beginning April 20.

Hoover marina docks will be awarded in a lottery on April 23. The lottery will start promptly at 9:00 AM in the Jerry Hammond Center, 1111 East Broad Street, Columbus, OH, 43205.

If you wish to rent a dock, please bring a valid Ohio boat registration and payment. The dock and the boat must be registered in the same name. A bill of sale will initially be accepted if a boat is not yet registered.

If you are a returning marina customer and wish to change docks, please contact us.

If you need additional information, please call the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department at (614) 645-3337 or visit columbus.gov/crpdrentals.

Happy boating and please be safe.

