

Reservoir Reflections

Watershed Management News

Summer 2015

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

MICHAEL B. COLEMAN, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

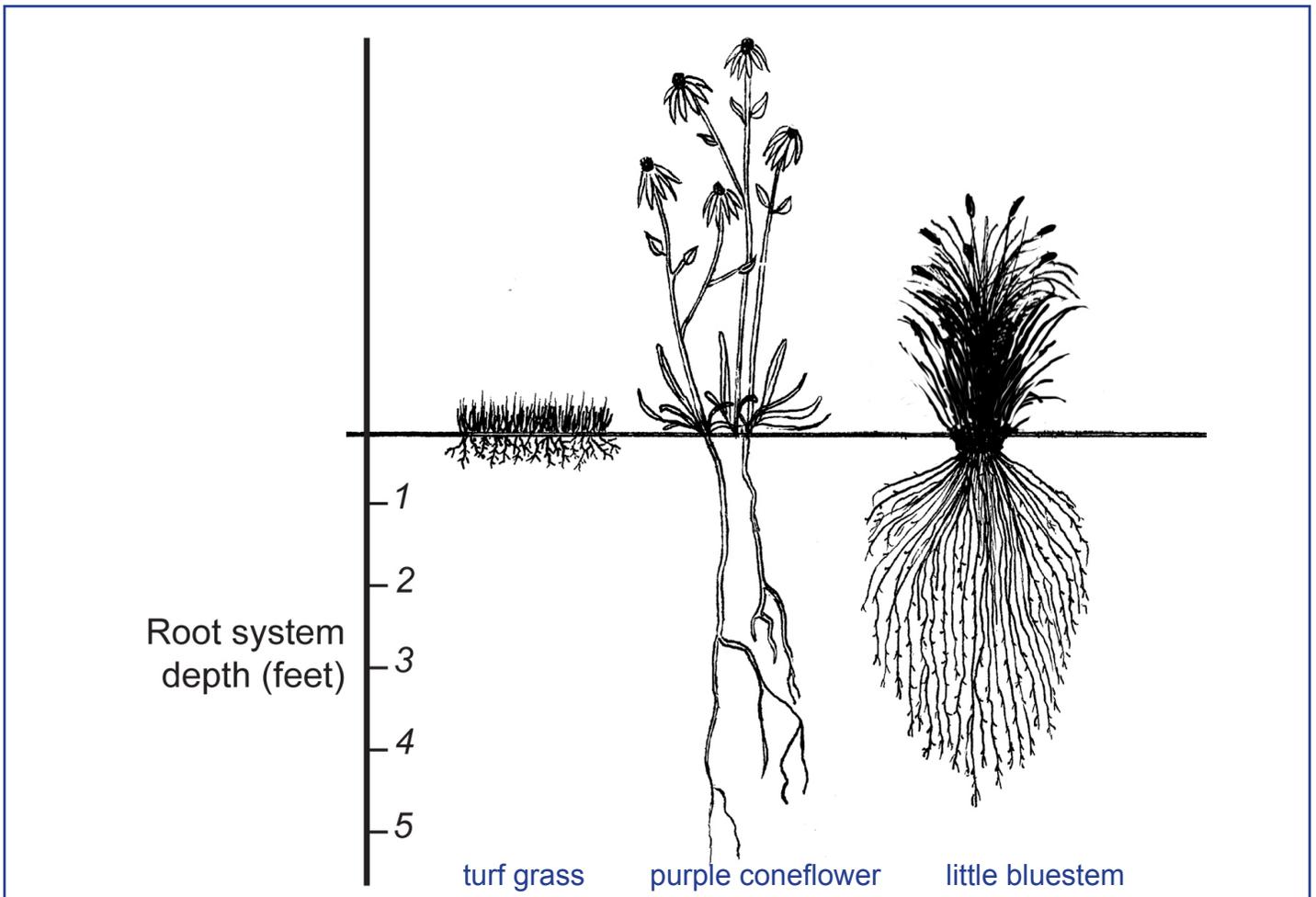
We All Play a Role in Water Pollution Prevention

Water quality challenges across Ohio such as the toxic algae in Toledo last summer and Columbus' recent drinking water nitrate advisory illustrate that we all share a responsibility to protect our water supplies. Water quality issues can be caused by nitrogen and phosphorus running off via stormwater, resulting in an excess of nutrients in the source water. This can cause issues for water consumers, aquatic life and pets. Whether a homeowner maintaining a lawn or a farmer planting crops, there are many simple best practices we all can do to help prevent contaminants from entering our waterways. Some tips for homeowners:

- **Use lawn chemicals sparingly** and only as needed. Hand pull weeds after a rain when soil is soft, and spot treat instead of entire applications. Check weather forecasts before applying to avoid the chemicals from running off into stormwater, and follow the manufacturer's application recommendations. Sweep up any granules on paved surfaces.
- **Not all plants are created equal** when it comes to natural water filtering performance. Deep-rooted, perennial native plants are recognized as the best management practice because they filter and remove pollutants carried in stormwater best, prevent soil erosion and require less maintenance and water. Native trees, bushes, prairie grasses and wildflowers provide the most benefit, with turf grass providing the least benefit on stormwater pollutant filtering. (Please see the graphic on the back showing how shallow Kentucky Bluegrass roots are compared to more beneficial landscaping options).
- **If you have a septic tank or aerator home sewage system**, make sure it is functioning properly.
- **Pick up pet waste** and dispose of it in the trash.
- **Never dump yard waste into an open waterway**; use your local yard waste collection program.
- **Dispose of household hazardous waste properly** and never in a waterway, storm drain or ditch.
- **Wash cars over grass or gravel** if possible instead of on a paved driveway to keep suds from entering storm drains, or use a commercial car wash (which drain to sanitary sewers).
- **Consider installing a rain garden** on your property to capture and filter rainfall.
- **Rain barrels** capture and store rain, save tap water, and can provide a convenient water source on a side of your home that lacks a faucet. The City of Columbus has a partnership rain barrel program with Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District. For more information, please visit <http://www.greenspotbackyards.org/>. If outside Franklin County, please contact your local water conservation district office for assistance.
- For more information, please visit our web site at www.utilities.columbus.gov or call Watershed Management at 645-1721.



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Reservoir Improvements Update

Griggs Reservoir: parkland area work underway includes the park road north of the marina parking lot, the Nottingham entrance closure, and boat launch parking lots. Rain has slightly delayed progress but this work should be completed soon. Additional work scheduled to begin in mid-July includes parking lot improvements around Fishinger Road, scheduled to be done by mid-August. Previous work completed includes the parking lot adjacent to the marina, concrete, curbs and sidewalks.

Hoover Reservoir: improvements were recently completed in the west side parking lot adjacent to the dam along with park roads around the dam. Work underway includes the east dam road and parking lots north of dam, the Hoover Nature Preserve (Surface Water Improvement Fund), and improvements will include pervious pavers that help with stormwater pollution prevention (see picture). Work to begin soon includes: parking lot relocation south of dam and stormwater basin and other maintenance work to be completed toward the end of July.

