

Reservoir Reflections

Watershed Management News

Spring 2022

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

Columbus Reservoir Land Stewardship Update

Following an extensive process that began in 2018 and included research and professional consultant support, coordination with the Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, stakeholder input and Columbus City Code changes, the updated Land Stewardship Design Standards for city-owned land adjacent to private property owners are now in effect. A virtual meeting with neighbors was held on April 28 and all landowners were invited to attend. Thank you to all who attended, and if you missed it, please visit columbus.gov/watershed where you can view the presentation. Approved land stewardship design plans are also now online so that adjacent owners can view allowable modifications to city property through license agreements. Approved agreements provide adjacent owners the authorization to install a private boat dock, establish an overland path, create a filtered view corridor, and manage invasive plant species.

LAND STEWARDSHIP DESIGN STANDARDS



The new license agreement program replaces the former land stewardship program that had been in place since the 1990s for Columbus' three in-stream reservoirs, Hoover (on Big Walnut Creek), and Griggs and O'Shaughnessy (on the Scioto River). All current agreements will be transitioned in order to align with the new standards. The city's reservoirs, and vegetated land buffers that help filter pollutants carried in overland stormwater, exist primarily for providing high quality drinking water to 1.3 million customers in central Ohio. The updated stewardship program will continue to protect water quality while also permitting eligible contiguous landowners to perform stewardship activities on city-owned property.

We thank all of the stakeholders who participated in the process and look forward to working with adjacent owners on the new program. For questions or more information, visit columbus.gov/watershed, email us at LandStewardship@columbus.gov or call 614-645-1721.

Hoover Reservoir Capital Improvements

Capital improvements that began at the Hoover Reservoir dam in August 2020 are expected to be completed this summer. Access to areas around the dam have been restricted during the construction for safety reasons, and public access areas will reopen as the project is finished. We appreciate the public's patience while these improvements were being made.

The boardwalk at Hoover Reservoir near Galena is a very popular place for anglers, birders and park visitors. Managed by Columbus Recreation and Parks Department, the boardwalk was inspected by professional engineers last year and it was determined that the boardwalk is not safe for individuals to use. It has been closed until it can be redesigned and rebuilt. Reinvesting in this new boardwalk will create a more sustainable and accessible amenity for the Hoover Reservoir area. The new boardwalk is planned to be open to the public in 2024. For updates please visit: <https://www.columbus.gov/recreationandparks/parks/Hoover-Reservoir-Park/>.



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

Griggs Boat Launch Improvements

Replacement of the Trabue-Murphy and Nottingham boat ramps at the Griggs Reservoir is nearly finished. The work included improved ramps, courtesy docks, and site enhancements to improve accessibility for both power boats and paddle craft. Final completion is expected this spring. This cooperative project between the city's Public Utilities and Recreation and Parks departments was partially funded through a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

Safety First for Water Fun

Whether sailing, motoring or paddling, boating on the reservoirs is a great way to spend the day. But, before you say, "anchors aweigh," always make safety a priority. Each year Watershed Rangers encounter many

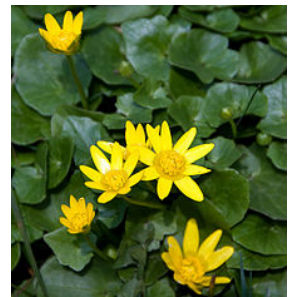
unprepared boaters who are missing required safety equipment. Safe boating is more than just having a properly-sized life jacket for every person on board. Boaters can visit ohiodnr.gov to view a checklist of required safety equipment based upon boat type. Reservoir boaters may also contact a Watershed Ranger through the Watershed Management Office's main phone line at 614-645-1721 to request a courtesy boat safety inspection, or to receive information specific to the reservoir waterways.

The popularity and availability of kayaks and paddleboards have introduced many new boaters to the water. Before launching these, or any type of vessel, be sure to consider water temperature, wind, and weather forecast, as these conditions can cause unforeseen hazards, especially for a novice boater.



Reservoir Area Plant Foe

Does the plant in the picture look familiar? It's a non-native invasive species known as Lesser Celandine, which is part of the buttercup family. It's starting to creep into backyards in central Ohio and has been spotted around the reservoirs. This plant can be extremely aggressive in taking over a landscape, quickly displacing natural plant ecosystems. Like many invasive plants, Lesser Celandine often takes root in disturbed soil, with seeds spread by wind and birds, and prolific root systems. More information can be found on various websites including this Ohio State University link: <https://bygl.osu.edu/node/1212>



Report Blue Catfish Catches

If you fish Hoover Reservoir, you'll be interested in learning about a tool to report catching Blue Catfish that the Ohio Department of Natural Resources is using. Scan the QR code with your mobile device to report your Blue Catfish catch, and for more information, visit <https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/hunting-fishing-boating/fishing-resources/blue-catfish-reporting>.

