

Reservoir Reflections

Watershed Management News

Fall 2017

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS

ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

Events and Volunteer Opportunities

Preparations are underway for the 2017 Hoover Litter Cleanup, which will be held on Saturday, September 30 from 9 AM to 12 PM. This is a great volunteer opportunity for families and youth organizations to join in protecting water, our most valuable natural resource, by keeping the natural areas at Hoover Reservoir clean and beautiful. Volunteers will meet at the shelter house on the lower west side of the dam. Bags, gloves and light refreshments will be provided. For questions or additional information, please call the Watershed Management Office at 614-645-1721.

On Saturday, October 7, there will be a 5K Race for Global Water at Hoover Reservoir, a Water for People benefit event, starting at 9:30 AM. For more information and to register, please visit speedysneakers.com.

Legal Update

Owners adjacent to the city's three in-stream drinking water reservoirs are reminded that the lawsuit between the cities of Akron, Barberton, Columbus, Lima and Westerville vs. the State of Ohio over Section 743.50 of the 2015 state budget continues to work its way through the court system. In late August, the court ruled that the case can move forward on three major counts. Until the case is resolved, the provision remains on hold and city-owned land may not be altered in any way without an approved land stewardship agreement with the City of Columbus. Other court cases related to individual encroachments continue to be filed when necessary.

Construction Update

A ground-breaking event for the Oxbow Road Boat Ramp improvement project at Hoover Reservoir was held on August 26. This area (photo below) will see significant reinvestment courtesy of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The improvement will provide improved boating and fishing access in the northern pool of Hoover and replace an existing ramp with a new and longer one-lane concrete boat ramp. Floating courtesy docks, asphalt paved parking for 27 car/trailer and 18 car-only spaces, and improved lighting will greatly enhance this popular recreational area.



Additional project elements include rock slope protection and a new asphalt drive, complete with curb and sidewalk, to improve pedestrian and shoreline fishing access. Awarded to Engelke Construction, the project is being funded by ODNR Division of Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration Funds. To mitigate stormwater impacts, the project will also include the installation of a bioretention basin designed to filter stormwater entering Hoover Reservoir on the west bank of Hoover next to Sunbury Road the Columbus Department of Public Utilities and Columbus Recreation and Parks Department have partnered with



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ODNR to provide the land for the project, to review design, and to fund the installation of the storm water improvement. The boat ramp and associated park access area will be closed to the public beginning late summer/early fall and is expected to be completed in late May 2018.

The City of Columbus recently completed major improvements to the Twin Bridges Area of Hoover Reservoir. A large gravel parking area was converted to an asphalt and pervious concrete parking area, with an approach lane to a newly installed boat ramp (see photo left). The project increases safety by designating traffic flow, as well as 16 boat/trailer parking spots and 19 car parking spots. The project also includes two concrete fishing accesses/small craft launches off the west side of the lot.

Green infrastructure including bio-swales and rain gardens treat the stormwater runoff from the site. These beautiful areas filled with native wildflowers help protect the water supply by removing oils, chemicals and other pollutants before the runoff enters the reservoir. The reservoir provides water to the Hap Cremean Water Plant on Morse Road, which provides drinking

water to over a half million consumers.

The Twin Bridges project was funded through an ODNR Cooperative Boating Grant administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. These types of partnerships help bring good projects to the area, benefitting all who use the reservoir.

Over the summer, the Division of Water resurfaced the Glick Road bridge roadway over O'Shaughnessy and we thank those neighbors for their patience during that improvement project. Due to some unforeseen conditions found on the expansion joints on the bridge, additional repairs will be required in the future. We will provide notification and more information to the area residents once details are determined.

Another bridge improvement that was completed this past summer was the county's Smothers Road project over Hoover Reservoir.

Neighbors in the O'Shaughnessy Reservoir area may have noticed activity in the Home Road area. This is a Del-Co Water construction project for their new raw water intake building.

New Water Protection Coordinator

In June the Watershed Management Section welcomed a new staff member, Christopher Harper, who will oversee the watershed ranger and land stewardship programs. Chris brings previous work experience in stormwater protection, aquatic habitat maintenance and restoration, and experience with the U.S. Forest Service. Chris holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources from The Ohio State University.

For more information about Columbus Watershed Management, please call 614-645-1721 or visit <https://columbus.gov/watershed/>.

