

**TRACIE DAVIES**  
Director

THE CITY OF  
**COLUMBUS**  
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES

July 18, 2019

Dear Neighbor:

The Land Stewardship Program provides contiguous property owners with a means to access and modify the city-owned land surrounding the drinking water reservoirs. Program participants have been able to legally maintain an access path, establish a view of the reservoir, manage invasive plant species, or install a boat dock.

The Land Stewardship Program recognizes that reservoir access is a desirable amenity which can exist without compromising the health of the reservoirs. Healthy reservoirs are integral to our communities' high-quality drinking water supply, while also supporting recreational access and providing valuable habitat for native plants and animals. In light of these considerations, the City of Columbus is reviewing and updating the Land Stewardship Program.

Updates to the Land Stewardship Program will be designed to achieve the following objectives:

- Balanced approach to meet water quality needs, maintain public access, and authorize stewardship activities.
- Access and design standards to protect water quality and shoreline health.
- Consistent and clear guidelines that are applied throughout the reservoirs.
- Inclusive design criteria to encompass the diversity of geological and ecological characteristics.
- Transparent and streamlined program.

The City of Columbus values our partnership with property owners adjacent to the reservoirs and the benefits the Land Stewardship Program provides. In November 2018 we held two open house meetings to provide more information about the Stewardship Update Project including goals, process, and timelines. The next step in the project was to finalize draft land stewardship design standards, which has been completed. Beginning the week of July 22<sup>nd</sup>, we invite you to review the design standards. The draft standards are available online at [www.columbus.gov/watershed](http://www.columbus.gov/watershed). If you are unable to electronically access the standards, please contact 614-245-0451 for a paper copy. Comments and feedback on the draft design standards will be received through August 23, 2019 on the website listed above.

We look forward to working with you to maintain a clean and safe water supply for the central Ohio region.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Westerfield, Ph.D., P.E.  
Administrator  
Division of Water

