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# GET GREEN COLUMBUS

## 2007 ANNUAL REPORT



City of Columbus  
Michael B. Coleman, Mayor  
Office of Environmental Stewardship



Mayor Michael B. Coleman's "Get Green Columbus" initiative is now three years old, and much progress has been made. This report will highlight some of our green achievements from the last year in the following areas:

1. Collaborating with City agencies and community leaders
2. Educating and engaging our community
3. Improving recycling efforts and reducing waste
4. Improving air quality and protecting the climate
5. Improving water quality
6. Growing a strong green economy
7. Building a greener Columbus
8. Fostering the "greening" of Columbus

## Collaborating with City agencies and community leaders

### Mayor's Green Team

The Mayor's Green Team, which is comprised of civic, business, environmental and community leaders as well as City staff, had a full and productive year in 2007. The Green Team consists of five committees: Green Business; Green Buildings; Green Transportation; Education and Outreach; and Growth and Development. The accomplishments of the Green Team include the following:

- The **Green Business Committee** held the 2nd Annual Get Green Case Competition on November 9-13, 2007. MBA student teams from The Ohio State Fisher College of Business, Keller School of Management (DeVry) and Otterbein competed for cash prizes totaling \$5,000. The corporate sponsor for the competition was Limited Brands which provided the case problem and the cash prizes. The four-day problem solving tackled by all teams dealt with sustainability challenges and opportunities at Limited Brands, which included energy use and waste generated at retail stores, as well as the drive for efficiency throughout the logistical network that delivers apparel from overseas manufacturers to local outlets. The first and second place teams were from OSU/Fisher and the third place team was from Otterbein.
- In 2007 the **Green Buildings Committee** worked with the City of Columbus on a comprehensive review of perceived or real roadblocks to building green, known as "Building a Greener Columbus." See the Building a Greener Columbus section for more information.
- The **Education and Outreach Committee** helped to spread the word by participating in the City's Neighborhood Pride events. Get Green Columbus had a display with educational materials for residents, representatives presented at lunch sessions during

Pride week to speak about our Get Green initiatives, and distributed 275 compact fluorescent lights (CFLs). This committee created a power point and talking points about what the City of Columbus is doing and how all Central Ohioans can assume a role in being more environmentally conscience.

- The **Green Transportation Committee** was vital in helping the City create its Green Fleet policy. In addition, the Committee worked with the Business Committee in hosting a Green Fleet seminar, which had over 100 attendees. The Committee continued to support the City and others in pursuit of alternative fuels and grant funding.

### Central Ohio Green Pact

- Mayor Coleman and 11 other central Ohio Mayors joined with MORPC in signing the Central Ohio Green Pact, a 10-point common sense approach to creating a more environmentally sustainable community. This Pact represents an historic, multi-jurisdictional commitment to Get Green with policies that enhance and protect the quality of life, environment and economic vibrancy of the region. Together these thirteen jurisdictions assert that it is in the best interest of residents and businesses for each community to take practical steps to protect the air and water, to preserve natural resources, to increase green space, reduce our consumption of raw materials and increase recycling. Those that have signed or endorsed the Pact:
  - Columbus
  - Bexley
  - Dublin
  - Gahanna
  - Grandview Heights
  - Grove City
  - Hilliard
  - Franklin County MetroParks
  - New Albany
  - Powell
  - Upper Arlington
  - Westerville
  - Worthington
  - MORPC

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## Educating and Engaging Our Community

Our responsibility is not only for our own operations, but also to lead by example and to encourage greater environmental stewardship by our citizens and businesses. We took the following steps to educate our community this past year.

- The Get Green Columbus website ([www.GetGreenColumbus.org](http://www.GetGreenColumbus.org)) was launched in 2007, and had more than 56,000 visitors.
- We published and distributed “Join Mayor Coleman’s Get Green Columbus Campaign: Top 10 Ways You Can Make a Difference.”
- The Green Team brought green education to the City’s Neighborhood Pride events.
- We partnered with SWACO and Cadberry-Shweppes bottling company to place stickers on 12-packs that remind folks to recycle their cans and bottles. 14,000 stickers were placed on 7,000 12-packs.
- We added an “Environmental Steward” corner to the City’s Human Resources newsletter. Each newsletter features a different green educational component.
- Mayor Coleman spoke at and/or attended 20 green events in 2007. He participated in events such as Earth Day, Riverfest, and the Big Darby Accord 1st Anniversary. Mayor Coleman’s Environmental Steward spoke at and/or attended over 50 events.
- Recreation and Parks created a *Get Green* activity area at the Grange Insurance Family Fun Fest which focused on the educational aspects of recycling and alternative energy. Solar ovens were used for cooking demonstrations and recyclable materials such as bottles and cans were reused to create musical instruments.
- The Refuse Collection Division’s Keep Columbus Beautiful (KCB) Program engages community groups, churches, schools, businesses and citizens volunteers. KCB opened a new Visitor and Supply Center in the spring of 2007 where work gloves, safety vests, and an array of tools are made available on loan along with free trash bags to support volunteer litter abatement initiatives. During 2007 KCB assisted 423 cleanup events, utilizing 7,967 volunteers who collected 168.1 tons of litter. In addition 38 of the events and 1,049 of the volunteers also took part in beautification projects. Volunteers logged 22,164 hours with a dollar value of \$424,986.32 for the year.
- Recreation and Parks provided environmental education programming for 8,375 youth at Indian Village on Griggs Reservoir, creating environmental awareness and appreciation and the environmental stewards of tomorrow.
- The Department of Public Utilities continues its significant educational efforts, including holding rain garden and rain barrel workshops; distributing “We All Live Downstream” information; holding river clean-ups; and distributing information in bill inserts, on its web page and at special events.

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# Improving Recycling Efforts and Reducing Waste

## Practicing What We Preach

- **Buying recycled paper** – In 2007 Mayor Coleman issued an executive order for the exclusive procurement and utilization of recycled content paper. The 2007 executive order puts into effect a policy that directs every City agency, division and department to purchase and use only recycled content paper and paper products.
- **Reducing paper usage** - The executive order also directed City departments to limit printing and copying. City employees were additionally directed to print on both sides of the paper when printing was deemed to be necessary. The goal of the order is to reduce the amount of paper that is bought and used. Some Departments are already implementing paper reduction strategies:
- The Department of Public Utilities is already reducing paper through the initiation of a completely paperless electronic approval process for all wastewater treatment plant submittals by its construction contractors. This is expected to save 2,000 to 3,000 paper documents per month for the life of the Wet Weather Management Program.
- The Department of Public Utilities Sewer Maintenance Operation Center stopped printing the daily assignment sheet. It is now distributed electronically. This has saved printing 30 copies of 8 pages every day – over 62,000 pages per year.
- The Department of Public Service is likewise reducing paper usage by relying on the power of the web. Efforts to expand their website and electronic payment capabilities have greatly reduced the reliance on paper, envelopes, and stamps. 40% of all parking citations were paid electronically in 2007 instead of coming in from the US Mail. In addition, they processed over 11,000 emails in 2007 that would have normally come from the US Mail.
- **City Employee Recycling Program** - the original paper recycling initiative was expanded in 2006 beginning at City Hall to include commingling of plastic, aluminum, glass, and steel recyclable materials. The marketing and data collection of this project is being carried out by Public Service's Keep Columbus Beautiful. There are currently 38 City buildings participating. The program diverted 365 tons of recyclables from the landfill in 2007. A website for the program is located on the City's intranet and a promotional packet was distributed to all Stewards. A full promotional campaign will launch in 2008.

- **Recycling at Festivals** – Recreation and Parks started to bring recycling to our downtown festivals, an effort we intend to expand next year. Music in the Air staff recruited a volunteer to coordinate recycling at the Rhythm on the River summer concert series. During two performances 50 % of the garbage that was collected was recycled. We also implemented bottle and can recycling at the 2007 Grange Family Fun Fest event.

## Using Recycled Materials in City Construction Projects

- Flyash, a byproduct from coal combustion, and blast furnace slag, a byproduct from blast furnace iron, were used in the production of ready-mixed concrete.
- Recycled asphalt was included when mixing hot-mixed asphalt for new construction or resurfacing.
- In addition, the City requires that resurfacing contractors return the milled asphalt to the City for use in road repair projects. In 2007, 1,028 tons of asphalt millings were recycled for repair work.
- 337 tons of ground tire asphalt was used to resurface 1,400 linear feet of 21st Street.
- Recycled plastic was used for all benches and tables at the new Barnett Recreation Center sprayground.
- Recreation and Parks used reclaimed paving brick in the Italian Village Park and reclaimed stone in the Karns Park redevelopment projects.

## Oil filters

- Beginning in 2007 the City's Fleet began reclaiming all crushed filters and sent them to a recycling company, which in addition to recycling generates revenue. In addition, Fleet is replacing a parts washer with an "environmentally friendly" units that are self contained, generate no waste and reduce costs to the City of Columbus by approximately \$210,000 over the life cycle of the units (10 years).

## Helping Our Community Recycle

- In the fall of 2007, Columbus partnered with Columbus Public Schools and SWACO to add 121 new recycling drop off locations – almost tripling the number of available sites. The drop off program is going well. Even though all of the new sites were not available for most of the year, the amount of recycling in 2007 increased over 2006 by more than 1,100 tons to a total of 10,756 tons. To find the nearest location to you, go to [www.SWACO.org](http://www.SWACO.org) and enter your zip code.

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## Improving Recycling Efforts and Reducing Waste

- The City's Refuse Collection Division piloted a litter container recycling program in the final quarter of the year. All of the material in the litter containers along our public streets was collected and taken to the Rumpke Recycling Facility. Rumpke found that on average 26% of the material was recyclable. The three month pilot ended at the end of the year, but we hope to resume the pilot when warmer weather arrives, and Rumpke further assesses internal operational functions.
- **Recreation Recycles** is a program that encourages recycling at 31 community recreation centers. Thirteen community centers are involved in expanded recycling that includes paper, plastic and aluminum.
- **Demolition Debris Recycling** – City continues to require that at least 25% of the demo material from non-residential demolition sites is recycled.

## Improving air quality and protecting the climate

### Improving Outdoor Air Quality

- **Air Alert Days** - In 2007, the City initiated the development of a comprehensive City Wide Air Alert Action Plan, coordinated by Columbus Public Health. Central Ohio is in non-attainment with federal standards for ozone -- the main gas that makes up smog, and particulate matter -- tiny solid particles and liquid droplets produced from motor vehicles, power plants and industrial facilities. When these pollutants are forecasted to at levels harmful to human health, a regional air alert is issued for area residents. The alert advises residents of the pollution threat, and tells them how they can better protect their health. The City is creating its Action Plan so that employees can be better informed when an air alert is issued, and so city agencies can effectively respond with actions to reduce pollution levels. The Action Plan has two main components: 1) a citywide communication system that notifies all city employees when an alert is issued, and 2) the actual operational steps that each City agency would take to reduce air pollution during that time. The citywide communication system was implemented in June 2007, and was used to send out 12 air quality alerts to city employees. At the close of 2007, city agencies were compiling draft recommendations for their respective air alert plans, with the second phase of the Action Plan scheduled for completion early next year.
- Jackson Pike Wastewater Plant made a concerted effort this year to increase the amount of biosolids it sent to farmers for land application, instead of incineration. These efforts resulted in a 22% decrease in the amount of sludge incinerated in 2007, compared to 2006. Jackson Pike is attempting in particular to curtail the use of its incinerators during Ozone Alert days.
- **Green Fleet Action Plan** – The City of Columbus has approximately 3,100 on-road and 2,800 off-road vehicles, which consumed approximately 3.6 million gallons of fuel in 2007, and were responsible for more than 35 thousand tons of greenhouse gas emissions. The City adopted an update to the City's Green Fleet Policy, effective January 1, 2008. The goals of the policy include:
  - **Cut Fuel Consumption:** Reducing overall fuel use 3% by 2010, and reducing petroleum use by 12% by 2010. The city plans to meet these goals by reducing the amount of miles driven by City employees, reducing idling, buying vehicles that get better gas mileage and using 100% biodiesel by the end of 2008;
  - **Get Rid of Dirty Diesels:** Diesel engines manufactured before 2002 are much dirtier than newer engines. The City is setting a goal of retiring and/or retrofitting all eligible pre-2002 diesels by 2012;
  - **Buy Greener Vehicles:** By 2010, 100% of the new light duty vehicles that the City buys will be green, and by the end of 2008, most new off-road equipment should be non-petroleum powered if such an option is viable;
  - **Teach Green Driving Skills:** To increase the effectiveness of this policy and the already adopted Anti-Idling policy, the City will create a green driver education course, and train all employees on it by 2009.

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## Improving air quality and protecting the climate

### Encouraging biking

- **Pedal Instead** encourages area residents to ride their bicycles to and from events by providing free valet bike parking. Pedal Instead is a cooperative venture with Central Ohio Biking Association (COBA), which provided volunteers to run the corrals. The bike corrals were used at 7 downtown festivals and 3 OSU home football games, resulting in more than 2300 bicycles parked. The bikes parked represented more than 19,000 miles of travel. These miles being biked instead of driven resulted in saving over 900 gallons of gasoline saved and more than 18,000 pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.
  - The City added a connector bridge across the Olentangy River to the Olentangy Trail at Broadmeadows Drive, which will encourage bike commuting opportunities for cyclists.
  - The City partnered with MORPC to perform the Bicentennial Bikeways Master Plan. The plan will provide comprehensive recommendations to the City about how to improve bike safety and accessibility.
  - Parking Enforcement Officers have been given bicycles to reduce our need on automobiles.
  - Nineteen bicycle racks were added on Gay Street during its conversion back to a two-way roadway, with a few more planned for spring 2008 installation.

### Improving indoor air quality

- The goal of the Columbus Public Health, Healthy Homes Program is to reduce preventable household hazards associated with asthma, lead poisoning, and unintentional injuries among children. Program staff conduct in-home assessments to identify and eliminate these hazards. A \$1-million program expansion, funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, was awarded in 2004, enabling a total of 478 assessments to be completed in 2007. Healthy Homes staff work with homeowners and tenants to eliminate conditions that may housing-related diseases. Of these, 100 homes with identified household hazards were repaired by the program, while lead hazard control and major home repair issues were referred to the Department of Development's Housing Division. The program also provided integrated pest management using least toxic methods to control pests in 58 homes. In addition, 359 grant-funded in-home educational visits

were conducted in 2007 to help families reduce environmental health risks in their home.

- Columbus Public Health is supporting community-based organizations and services to provide outreach and prevention of asthma triggers through four \$6,000 grants awarded in 2007. One was awarded to Nationwide Children's Hospital for its "Asthma on the Block" Program with childcare and after school programs. The program uses puppetry to teach children about asthma and provide referrals to the Healthy Homes Program. The second grant was awarded to the Central Ohio Asthma Coalition for a project lead by Nationwide Children's Hospital to produce an asthma resource directory for Central Ohio. The Third grant was to the Ohio Hispanic Coalition to develop and conduct asthma and trigger management workshops and outreach for the Latino community. The fourth grant was to The Breathing Association to integrate healthy homes activities into new and existing services for individuals with asthma.
- In 2007, Columbus Public Health developed and distributed publications on indoor health issues at 26 community events to help all Columbus Citizens make their homes healthier. In addition, the program conducted 3,399 phone consultations to address housing-related health concerns.

### Protecting Our Climate

- In February, 2007, Mayor Coleman signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement. In doing so, Mayor Coleman joined 600 mayors from across the country in making a commitment to reduce the City's impact on global warming. Once the agreement was signed, the first step for the City was to complete a baseline emission inventory of its greenhouse gas emissions. This baseline was recently completed, and now the City is working on establishing reduction goals and an action plan.
- The City is already investing in renewable power, which will be a significant part of the Climate Protection Plan. The Division of Power and Water generates hydro electricity at the O'Shaughnessy Dam; last year, they doubled the output from this plant. The Division of Sewer and Drains has digesters at Jackson Pike, and is building digesters at Southerly. These digest sewage sludge into digester gas that can then be used to run boilers at the plants, eliminating the need for natural gas.

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## Improving air quality and protecting the climate

- The City also continues to invest in energy efficiency. The Department of Public Service continued its policy of replacing incandescent bulbs in traffic signals with LED bulbs. During 2007, 818 signal heads were replaced with LED bulbs, providing an annual electricity savings of \$46,600, which is \$33,400 from vehicular signal heads and \$13,200 from pedestrian signal heads. The Department also completed the upgrade of 245 school signal-flasher units at 109 public and private schools using all LED lighting versus incandescent bulbs. In addition, the Department of Technology is exploring ways to maximize power management of personal computers. All new and reconfigured PC's will have power management incorporated.
- The City worked with the Ohio State University to create a new greenhouse gas inventory tool that is geared towards municipalities. The City is making it available for free to the rest of the Central Ohio community, so that other cities may more easily complete a baseline inventory.

## Improving water quality

### Big Darby Accord Plan

- In 2007, Mayor Coleman and other elected officials celebrated the one year anniversary of the Big Darby Accord Masterplan. Six jurisdictions, representing 95% of the planning area, have adopted the plan. Since adopting it, the jurisdictions have been busy implementing the plan, establishing the Big Darby Accord Advisory panel, and starting the planning on the Town Center.

### Wet Weather Management Plan

- 2007 saw significant progress on the City's ambitious, 40-year, \$2.5 billion dollar plan to eliminate sewer overflows and basement back-ups. The new headworks at Southerly wastewater treatment plant was completed. This \$106 million dollar investment will increase the capacity of Southerly to 260 million gallons per day.
- **Green Infrastructure** – The City has begun investing in “green infrastructure” – capital improvements that increase the ability of our infrastructure to control and clean stormwater runoff. A few examples:
  - Rain gardens were piloted with installations at Overbrook Drive and North High Street, and two on Gay Street. Rain gardens form bio-retention areas by collecting water runoff and storing it, permitting water to be filtered slowly and absorbed by the soil, which improves the quality of storm water runoff prior to discharge to streams.
  - The City will be installing a vegetated roof on a portion of the Whetstone Recreation Center. There is also a green roof on the renovated Lazarus building.
  - The Department of Public Utilities Idlewild Stormwater Improvement Project will not only control stormwater, it will create a 3 acre wetland to clean the runoff. The wetland is configured with an upper tier that treats stormwater from a 20-acre commercial development immediately upstream. The wetlands were configured with input from the Division of Parks and Recreation, who will utilize the basin for public education by incorporating educational signage and kiosks along the proposed basin walking trails. This will provide much needed neighborhood park space while meeting the stormwater quality and quantity objective. In addition, the project will restore approximately 2000 linear feet of stream while preserving many tree species and restoring damaged areas to promote biodiversity.
  - The City continues its rain barrel programs, holding workshops and giving rain barrels away. The City also hosted a work shop on rain gardens.
  - The City also completed a downspout disconnection pilot program in Driving Park. This is an area with significant basement back-ups. The City investigated whether homes have their downspouts connected directly to the sanitary sewers, and if so, disconnected them. 27 homes had this work completed.
  - An Earth Kind rose garden was planted at the Whetstone Park of Roses. The drought resistant Earth Kind roses require no fertilization or pesticides and are designed to conserve water and energy. The Earth Kind rose variety was developed in Texas and the demonstration Earth Kind garden at Whetstone is the first in the midwest.

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## Improving water quality

- In 2007, the Water Protection Program of Columbus Public Health caused 76 households to be connected to public sanitary sewer. The removal of the corresponding 76 household sewage treatment systems resulted in the full treatment of about 6.6 million gallons per year of previously under treated wastewater.
- The Department of Public Service piloted a beet-juice derivative as an eco-friendly solution for treating winter roads. We tested the juice as a coating for salt and salt brine, an anti-icer. The material causes

less damage to vegetation than uncoated Sodium Chloride or Calcium Chloride and can be used at outdoor temperatures lower than uncoated Chloride limitations.

- **River clean-ups** – In addition to the annual river clean-ups sponsored by the Department of Public Utilities, the Division of Recreation and Parks assigned a crew to focus on removing litter – 2.5 tons of bulk trash and 183 bags of trash in the downtown stretch of the Scioto.

## Promoting Green Business

### Fostering Green Businesses

- **Green Business Incentives** –The City will offer a performance incentive that is 30 – 45% of the company's estimated payroll withholdings from new jobs could be offered for any new or expanded green business. The City has successfully used green business incentives in the past, for companies such as Rastra. Rastra, which broke ground earlier this year, will recycle Styrofoam into building materials.

### Buying Green Products

- In 2007 the City's Purchasing Office notified vendors of the City's new Environmental Preference Code, and language defining minimum packaging requirements per this Code was added to all bid documents. As a result the Purchasing Office awarded the following UTC contracts based on 'green' specifications:
  - Office Papers (recycled/ 30% post consumer)
  - Sanitary Paper Products (100% recycled paper)
  - Paint & Paint Supplies (low VOC paints)
  - Pest Control (minimum pesticides, no fumigants)
  - Automobiles (Flex Fuel Capability)
  - Light Duty Trucks (Flex Fuel Capability);
  - Oils & Greases (Rerefined/Recycled)
  - Fuels (Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel & Biodiesel)
  - Several UTC's were bid to enhance water & sewer controls
  - In addition there were several formal bid awards

for Mowers, Street Sweepers, Power Washers, Boat Motors and Chemicals specifying green options which resulted in 10 contract awards.

### Encouraging Green Contractors

- In 2007, the City adopted language to encourage Environmentally Preferable professional consultants and contractors:
  - All request for proposals should include language stating that the City prefers hiring environmentally preferable consultants. While each department will determine how to award credits, generally, consultants may win points for having team members that have credentials or experience, or for having an innovative green proposal.
  - Construction contracts will also award points for green contractors. Specifically, a contractor may get a 5% credit (up to \$20,000) for having a construction site waste management plan that results in 50% of the waste being recycled, or a green fleet policy, or a project specific environmental proposal.
  - Several departments have implemented these tools. Recreation and Parks used the green credit to award a contract to the second low bidder. The Division of Sewers and Drains has found that about half of the contractors included a request for the EP credit.

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# Building a Greener Columbus

## Green City Buildings

- Pursuant to Mayor Coleman's directive, the City's Office of Construction Management currently follows an internal policy of delivering most new buildings pursuant to the minimum certification of LEED Certified under the auspices of the US Green Building Council (USGBC). In some cases the elevated certification, LEED Silver is attainable. Currently, the City has six buildings in design or construction that will be LEED certified, including two fire stations, a policing center, and the West Side Health Center.
- Another six buildings are already designed and will not be LEED certified, but the City has added significant green elements to these projects. For instance, the City has implemented energy efficient lighting; 'Super T8' technology in its recent building designs. Considering buildings designed in 2007, this will yield an approximate savings of \$60,000 and a reduction in atmospheric carbon of approximately 800 tons annually.
- The City also undertook seven renovations last year that included an increased emphasis on energy and water efficiency.
- The City Hall Lighting Audit; completed in completed in 2007, is expected to generate approximately \$25,000 annual energy and maintenance savings with a 5.4 year payback.

## Encouraging Private Green Buildings

- In 2007, Mayor Coleman launched the Building a Greener Columbus Project. The purpose of this project, managed by the Department of Development, is to encourage the private sector and other entities to create more green and sustainable buildings in Columbus. To accomplish this, the City has been using research and systematic stakeholder outreach to:
  - (1) Identify whether there are roadblocks to green development in the Ohio/Columbus Building Code and Columbus Zoning Code:
  - (2) Determine whether sections of these two codes should be made greener; and
  - (3) Determine what incentives or other methods should be used to encourage green buildings.
- At this time, the stakeholder outreach is complete, and the City is working on determining what steps it should take to implement the stakeholder recommendations, which included addressing parking requirement, making pervious pavement easier to use, and developing incentives.

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## Fostering the “greening” of Columbus

### Planting Trees

- In the 2005 Green Memo, the City committed to planting 20,000 trees in five years. The City is on target to meet that goal.
  - In 2007 the City planted 5,263 trees on streets in Columbus neighborhoods.
  - The City partnered with Columbia Gas to plant 2,800 trees to protect water quality and wildlife habitat on Hoover Reservoir.

### Green Space Acquisition

- The City of Columbus acquired 72 acres of open space through rezoning commitments or Clean Ohio grant purchases, which increased vegetative buffers along streams.
- The City committed to preserving a 71 acre Category 3 wetland through zoning negotiations.
- We also collected 30 acres of conservation easements protecting stream banks along Alum Creek, Sugar Run, Rocky Fork and the Olentangy River.

## Looking Forward

### GreenSpots

- In the summer of 2008, in conjunction with Leadership Columbus, we will launch a recognition program for businesses, schools, individuals, and community groups that are going green. The purpose of this program is to inspire, educate and recognize community members in their efforts to promote a sustainable and healthier environment for the current and future citizens of Columbus. It will be a web based system that will include certain criteria for being recognized as a GreenSpot, with a window decal or certificate for those that participate. Keep watch for it at [www.GetGreen-Columbus.org](http://www.GetGreen-Columbus.org).

### Whittier Peninsula

- In 2007 substantial environmental assessment work was completed on the Whittier and consultants retained by the City have also completed a “No Further Action Letter” to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency for the future Grange Insurance Audubon Center site. Both the new Metro Park and the Audubon Center are moving forward expeditiously.

### Brownfield Clean-ups

- The City continued its successful Clean Ohio grant applications last year, when it was awarded two 3 million dollar grants, for Techneglas and Columbus Coated Fabrics. In addition, the City is working with the General Assemble to change State law to allow cities to create grant programs similar to Clean Ohio. If successful, the City intends to include a “Clean Columbus” proposal in the 2008 bicentennial bond package.

### GreenWorks

- **GreenWorks.** The City will partner with COWIC to create a program that focuses on training workers for the new emerging green industry. In its first year, we expect that the focus will be on training workers to do retrofits of existing buildings – electric, HVAC, plumbing, etc.

### Get Green Kids

- Working with Clary Communications, the City will launch “Mayor Mike’s Get Green Kids” web page this year. The site will have educational and interactive games for kids, with a particular emphasis on elementary schools. The site will focus primarily on recycling, and educating kids about the recycle drop off boxes at their schools – perhaps with an online tracking of each school’s participation.

