

# Stormwater Watch: Spring 2018



Photo taken at the City's Wetlands Park, 480 Mill Run Crossing



City of  
Delaware  
Public Utilities  
Department

*This newsletter assists the City in meeting Minimum Control Measure (MCM) 1 as part of the stormwater permit issued by the Ohio EPA. It is funded through the City's stormwater fund.*

## **Upcoming Public Events:**

**-Litter Clean-up:** April 15, accepting volunteers

**-Olentangy River Clean-up:** August 25, accepting volunteers

**-Northern Olentangy Watershed (NOW) Festival:** June 16 from noon-3 p.m. at Mingo Park

**-Rain Barrel Workshops**

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## **Watershed Resources:**

[City of Delaware](http://CityofDelaware.org) Delawareohio.net

[Olentangy Watershed Alliance](http://OlentangyWatershedAlliance.org)  
Olentangyriver.org

[Delaware Soil and Water Conservation District](http://DelawareSoilandWaterConservationDistrict.org) Delawarewcd.org

[Sustainable Delaware Ohio](http://SustainableDelawareOhio.org)  
Sustainabledelawareohio.org

[Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed](http://FriendsOftheLowerOlentangyWatershed.org) olentangywatershed.org

## **April showers bring ... flooding!**

Nothing highlights low-lying areas in yards, parks and other green spaces quite like a substantial rain event. Fortunately, there are ways to alleviate localized flooding issues.

**Residential fixes:** Consider installing a rain garden in areas of depressions. Rain gardens consist of native plants that have a high moisture tolerance. These plants not only help with localized flooding, but take up nutrients in the process, eliminating some potential stormwater pollutants from making their way into our streams and rivers. Common locations for these gardens are in line with downspouts. Disconnecting downspouts allows the water from an impervious surface to slow down and infiltrate into the soil which takes some of the stress off our storm sewer system. Before you dig for any garden project, be sure to call Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) 1-800-362-2764.



There are many perks to rain gardens. Because native plants are used, there is very little maintenance or watering required once it's established! These gardens can be selected to benefit specific types of wildlife, such as Monarch butterflies, hummingbirds and several pollinator species. Contact the City's Watershed & Sustainability Coordinator (see reverse) for more information.

**Park fixes:** The City of Delaware has multiple stormwater practices in its parks. Blue Limestone Park has several bioretention basins that are essentially rain gardens with underlying infrastructure. There are also numerous sections of permeable concrete which consist of a porous material that allows water to infiltrate down, recharging the groundwater. As the weather warms up, take a self guided tour of these management practices!

While these practices help filter and slow down stormwater run-off, Blue Limestone is still prone to flooding due to the nearby Delaware Run. Roughly 90 percent of the park falls within the 100-year floodplain which is defined as the land that is predicted to flood during a 100-year storm, which has a 1-percent chance of occurring in any given year.



A mallard enjoying a flooded area at Blue Limestone.



Outline of 100-year floodplain in Blue Limestone. Green is the park limits; blue is the floodplain boundary.



Permeable concrete at Blue Limestone Park.

## Spring cleaning

Residents doing some spring cleaning should keep in mind the DKMM Solid Waste District's drop-off events taking place in 2018. This year's schedule includes an October 13 event for hazardous waste, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, 935 U.S. 23 North Delaware. Some accepted items include:

- ◇ Paint and paint related materials (fees apply)
- ◇ Automotive fluids
- ◇ Household cleaners
- ◇ Batteries



This is for Delaware County residents only. No businesses, schools, institutions or churches may participate. Containers of hazardous waste cannot exceed five gallons. Visit [DKMM.org](http://DKMM.org) for more information. Remember to never dump hazardous waste into storm drains. The water that enters the storm sewer system does not get treated before it enters our waterways. If you see stormwater pollution in the city you may report it to the City's Public Utilities Department at 740-203-1900.

## Upcoming events

The 5th annual Northern Olentangy Watershed (NOW) Festival will take place June 16 from noon-3 p.m. at Mingo Park. There will be free boat launches, food trucks, information booths on natural resources, raffle prizes, a duck race, and more! It is free and open to the public. Come celebrate our scenic Olentangy River Watershed!

## Tours

The City of Delaware's Public Utilities Department would like to extend an invitation to the public to tour our Wastewater and Water Treatment Plants. The Wastewater Treatment Plant is located at 225 Cherry Street and the Water Treatment Plant is located at 3080 US 23 North. The Water Treatment Plant is home to our **new** education center which supplements tours with an interactive exhibit detailing the history and science of an essential public utility. Please schedule your tour by contacting our Public Utilities Department at 740-203-1900.



*Protecting Public Health  
Promoting Environmental Responsibility*  
City of Delaware  
Public Utilities Department  
MS4 Program

For watershed information, contact:  
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