

Stormwater Watch: Spring 2019



Photo from 2018 NOW Festival Rain Barrel Raffle



City of
Delaware
Public Utilities
Department

Upcoming 2019 Events:

NOW Festival:

June 22, 2019 from noon to 3 p.m.

Clean-up at Delaware Lake

July 20, 2019 from 8:30 to 11 a.m.

Olentangy River Sweep:

August 24, 2019 from 10 to noon

Questions? Email

ccicerchi@delawareohio.net

Watershed Resources:

City of Delaware

Delawareohio.net

Olentangy Watershed Alliance

Olentangyriver.org

Delaware SWCD

Delawareswcd.org

Sustainable Delaware Ohio

Sustainabledelawareohio.org

FLOW

olentangywatershed.org

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 storm water fund.

6th Annual NOW Festival



The 6th Annual Northern Olentangy Watershed Festival will be held on Saturday, June 22, at Mingo Park (500 E. Lincoln Avenue, Delaware, OH) from noon to 3 p.m. The festival encourages land and water stewardship with a focus on the Upper Olentangy River Watershed. The event is free to attend and will have food trucks, information booths from environmental organizations, a rain barrel raffle (cash only ticket sales), a rubber duck race down the Olentangy River, free canoeing, a live band, and a scavenger hunt!

The free-to-enter bingo card raffle will have several prizes this year including:

- Two children's (ages 5+) Outdoor Adventurer kits
- Gift certificates to Dairy Depot
- Certificates for a free round of golf at Hidden Valley Golf Course
- T-shirts
- Gear from REI
- A free night of camping at an Ohio State Park campground
- Pool passes to Jack Florance Pool
- \$50 gift card to Outdoor Source

Timeline of Events:

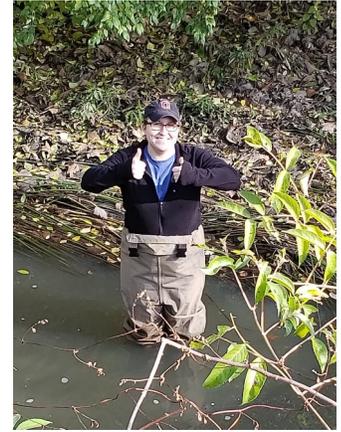
- 12:30 Guided nature walk
- 1:00 Conservation Awards announced
- 1:30 Rubber duck race
- 2:30 Rain barrel raffle drawing
- 3:00 Bingo card raffle prizes drawing
- 12:00-2:40 Canoeing and creeking for critters with ODNR *must wear water shoes, no flip-flops please*



Duck sponsorships for the big race will be sold the day of the event as well as on First Friday on June 7th. Proceeds go to Sustainable Delaware Ohio.

Who's in the River?

In late spring and throughout the summer, you may see our Watershed & Sustainability Coordinator and other public utilities staff wading in the Olentangy River. Why? The City of Delaware maintains a small municipal separate storm sewer permit, or Small MS4 Permit, with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). This permit allows the city to discharge stormwater directly into the Olentangy untreated. In order to keep in compliance with permit requirements, we check all storm pipes, or outfalls, that feed into the river during the dry season when it hasn't rained for at least 72 hours; we call this process dry-weather screening. Since the storm sewer system does not get processed at the wastewater treatment plant first, if the outfall is flowing when there has been no rain event, there is a good chance it could be from stormwater pollution.



City's Watershed Coordinator in the field.

Every outfall has a unique identification number so that the city can keep track of the frequency of dry-weather discharges as well as their location. Observations are recorded at every pipe, including: whether or not the pipe is damaged, if it is flowing, if there's an odor, and if the water is clear. When a flow is observed, staff runs water quality tests to determine if it contains pollutants. If the flow is determined to be illicit, the storm line gets traced upstream until a source can be identified and eliminated.

Dry Weather Screening Facts:

- Test for ammonia, total suspended solids, chlorine, and E. coli at wastewater treatment plant lab
- Approximately 140 outfalls inspected annually
- New outfalls discovered every year and are added to storm sewer maps
- Test for pH and temperature in the field
- Send summary of findings to OEPA annually



Example of outfall.

Spring Success Stories

On March 9, 2019, the Public Utilities and Parks and Recreation Departments, in coordination with the Olentangy Watershed Alliance (OWA) hosted an invasive species removal event at Mingo Park. Two trailers full of chipped honeysuckle were cleared from the north end of the park along with ten bags of trash thanks to the help of 25 volunteers.

On Earth Day, April 22, 59 volunteers helped clean-up 32 bags of trash and plant 250 seedlings in the same location the invasive honeysuckle was removed. The new seedlings will help keep the honeysuckle away, and are all native to Ohio. The species planted include sycamore, white oak, swamp white oak, flowering dogwood, shagbark hickory, and shellbark hickory. Thank you to all of our volunteers and partners! If you'd like to be notified when similar opportunities arise, please email the Watershed & Sustainability Coordinator at the information below to be added to the email list.

Rain Barrel Workshop

The Public Utilities Department will host rain barrel workshops during First Friday downtown on June 7th from 6 to 9 p.m. Participants will receive coupons for 50 gallon EarthMinded barrels.



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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