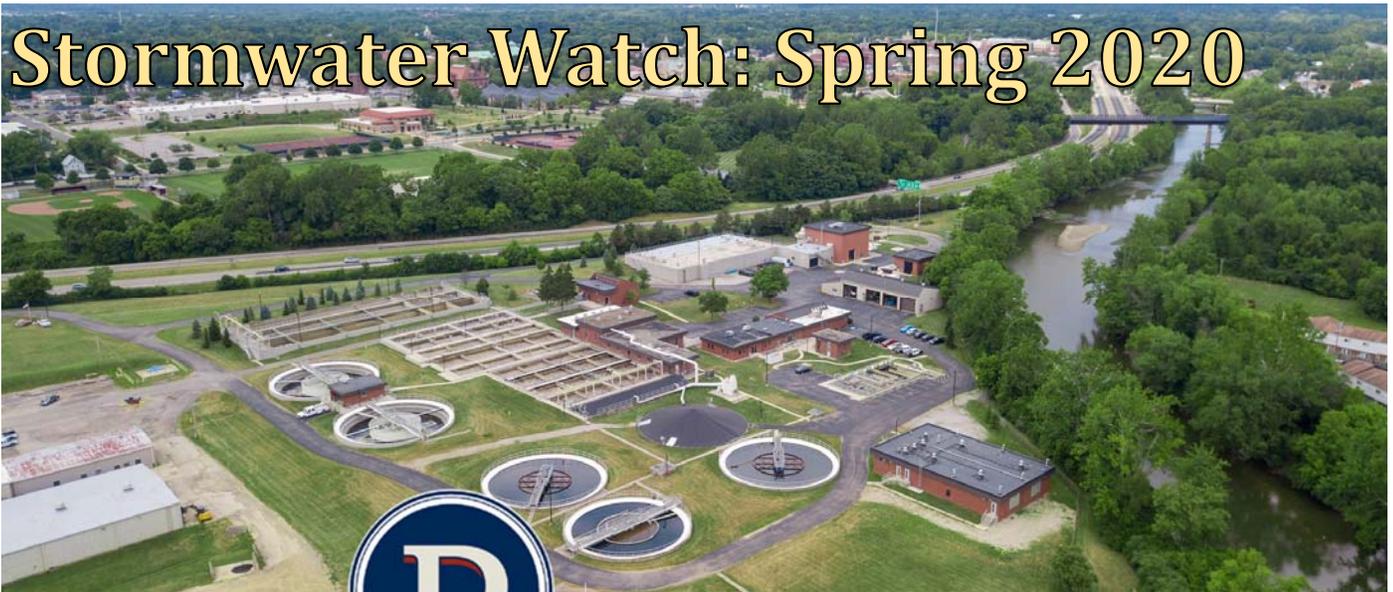


Stormwater Watch: Spring 2020



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 2020 Events:

Due to COVID-19, it is possible these programs may be impacted. Contact ccicer-chi@delawareohio.net for the status of events.

Rescheduled Stream Clean-up:
September 16, from 4:30-5:30 at Blue Limestone Park

Rain Barrel Workshops:
June First Friday, Downtown

NOW Festival:
June 20, from noon to 3 p.m. at Mingo Park

Olentangy River Clean-up:
August 22 from 10 to noon at Mingo Park

Watershed Resources:

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

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

[Delaware SWCD](http://DelawareSWCD.org)
Delawareswcd.org

Stormwater Activities at Home

COVID-19 has shifted how and where we spend our time; with the weather warming up, many folks are turning to spring cleaning and yard work. Did you know there are plenty of activities that can be done around the house that benefit both the city's storm sewer infrastructure and the Olentangy River as a whole?

Consider cleaning off your storm drain. Storm drains convey rainwater, untreated, to our streams and rivers. Keeping the drains clear of debris, including leaves, grass clippings, and litter, will help prevent flooding on roadways and also help to keep our water resources healthy. Public Utilities reminds you to never try to remove the lid from the storm drain yourself, simply clear the debris from above. The use of gloves and a broom are encouraged and will allow for a safe sweep of the inlet.



Spring is the perfect time to consider adding a rain barrel to your home. Rain barrels are simple, DIY projects that can help lower your water bill, minimize flooding and pollutants entering the storm sewer, and can be a free source of water for yard care. Public Utilities sells discounted rain barrels year-round. Contact the Watershed Coordinator for more details on this opportunity.



Gardening and lawn care pick back up in the spring time, and it is important to keep in mind some best management practices, or BMPs, when working in the yard. Many people turn to using fertilizer for the appearance of a healthy, green lawn. Before you even apply fertilizer, did you know you could get a snapshot of your lawn's soil health needs? The Ohio State University (OSU) Extension's office offers assistance in how to sample the health of your soils, from your lawn to your garden. This test can provide a prescriptive list of ways you can improve the health of your yard without adding nutrients from fertilizer that may already be abundant in your soils. Consider giving the Delaware County OSU Extension office a call at (740) 833-2030.

Lawn Care Continued

In lieu of conducting soil tests, consider researching the types of fertilizers available. There are many organic fertilizer products that are less harmful to the environment, and can actually have a longer lasting effect on your lawn. Organic material takes longer to break down, thus these fertilizers remain in the soil even after heavy rainfall. The slow release of nutrients from organic fertilizers allow for the effective absorption of them by plants, and as results, lowers the need for frequent reapplication. Synthetic fertilizers often provide a burst of nutrients that encourages grass growth, which leads to increased mowing, and an increase in the release of those nutrients through the clippings. No matter the fertilizer utilized, always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for application. Be sure to sweep up unused fertilizer pellets and grass clippings back into your lawn so they do not become stormwater pollution when it rains.



RESCHEDULED: Stream Clean-up

Due to COVID-19, the Public Utilities Department has had to reschedule the stream clean-up that was advertised in the winter newsletter. The clean-up, which will take place at Blue Limestone Park, 6 King Avenue, Delaware, has been rescheduled for September 16, 2020 from 4:30-5:30pm. Delaware is partnering with Keep Delaware County Beautiful and the Ohio EPA to host the event. All supplies will be provided and participants must wear close-toed shoes. Registration is required by September 14 and can be completed by emailing ccicerchi@delawareohio.net. Participants under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

DKMM Solid Waste District



The City of Delaware is part of the DKMM Solid Waste District, a political subdivision funded by a fee on solid waste generated within the district. DKMM funds programs that provide education about and alternatives to disposal of generated wastes. These programs include: recycling, composting, education and awareness, solid waste environmental and monitoring and household hazardous waste, electronics and tire collections.

*On June 6, 2020, a special collection event will be held at the Delaware County Fairgrounds, 236 Pennsylvania Ave., Delaware, from 9 am to 1 pm. Hazardous waste and paint are the focus of this drop off event. Additional items being accepted include: adhesives, automotive fluids, batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, and household chemicals and cleaners. There is a fee for latex paint payable by cash or check only. Special collection events are solely for residents of Delaware, Knox, Morrow, and Marion Counties. Delaware residents can attend the other county's drop-off programs if unable to make the June 6th date.

*COVID-19 could impact this program, please check for updates on DKMM.org.



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-



*Protecting Public Health
Promoting Environmental Responsibility*

**City of Delaware
Public Utilities Department
MS4 Program**

For watershed information, contact:
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740-203-1905