

Stormwater Watch: Summer 2018



Photo from the NOW Festival canoe float



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:

Olentangy River Clean-up:

August 25, 10 a.m. - noon at Mingo Park

Olentangy Forum: October 10, 2018. Location TBD.

DKMM Drop-off Event: October 13, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Watershed Resources:

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

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

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

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

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

5th Annual NOW Festival

The City held its 5th annual Northern Olentangy Watershed Festival on June 16 at Mingo Park. This year's festival highlighted the 50th anniversary of the Scenic River Act and the importance of our waterways.

Over 20 organizations and businesses set up information booths about natural resources, 19 rain barrels were raffled off and a rubber duck race was held in the Olentangy River. ODNR provided two free canoe floats and conducted a stream quality monitoring demonstration. Conservation Awards were announced; there were four winners across three categories this year. Thanks to local sponsors, dozens of raffle prizes were distributed to festival participants.

The rain barrel raffle raised almost \$500 for the [Olentangy Watershed Alliance](http://OlentangyWatershedAlliance.org). Barrels were painted by businesses and schools throughout the watershed. If you are interested in sponsoring and/or painting a rain barrel for next year's raffle, please contact the Watershed & Sustainability Coordinator at ccicerchi@delawareohio.net.



Rain barrel raffle



Conservation Award winners



Duck race finish line

If You Build It They Will Come

In late April, the City in coordination with Ohio Wesleyan University, installed two bioretention cells (or rain gardens) in front of the Branch Rickey Arena. Bioretention cells are gardens that have under drain systems along with engineered soils designed to help water infiltrate into the ground. The gardens receive runoff from the roof of the arena, and adjacent sidewalks and roads. Before the gardens were in place, the rain water coming off of these surfaces would enter into the low lying storm drains after passing through mowed grass. With the new bioretention cells, the water enters the engineered soils first, and, with the help of the native perennials, nutrients are absorbed in their deep root systems. The elevation of the storm drain lid was raised, thus water can only enter into it in a severe rain event, forcing the water to be “cleaned” before it leaves the site.

The plants used are all native to Ohio, which minimizes the amount of maintenance and watering needed. The flowers were carefully selected by City staff to ensure a wide variety of colors bloom, and at various times. Some species planted include bee balm, butterfly weed, creeping phlox, and blue flag iris. Since planting the dormant flowers in April, bumble bees and Monarch caterpillars have been spotted enjoying the new habitat!



Olentangy State Scenic River Night

On July 27, the City’s Public Utilities Department in coordination with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Scenic River Program, and the American Kayaking Association, held a scenic river celebration at Mingo Park. The AKA provided the opportunity for folks to try kayaking down the Olentangy. A live, educational fish display was provided by ODNR. The night came to a close with an outdoor screening of the documentary, “Call of the Scenic River” which highlights Ohio’s highest quality streams.



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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