

Stormwater Watch: Summer 2020



City of
Delaware
Public Utilities
Department

Upcoming 2020 Events:

Due to COVID-19, these programs may be impacted. Contact ccicerchi@delawareohio.net for the status of events.

Stream Clean-up:

September 16, 4:30-5:30, Blue Limestone Park. Registration required.

Student Career Day Speaker Series

October 5-7, virtual

Olentangy Watershed Forum:

October 22, from 8 am - noon, virtual

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

[FLOW](http://FLOW.org)
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 stormwater fund.

NOW Event Highlights NORTHERN OLENTANGY WATERSHED **FESTIVAL**

The Annual Northern Olentangy Watershed (NOW) Festival went virtual for the first time this year, on July 18. Several organizations, including Public Utilities, provided videos on topics such as:

- Fish and bugs in the Olentangy River
- River habitat
- Kayaking safety
- Water pollution
- Rain barrels
- How to recycle right

A live question-and-answer session also took place with expert panelists. If you missed the event, it was recorded and can be found on the [City's website](#), as well as on the [Public Utilities Facebook Page](#). Thank you to the community partners that made the event possible:



On July 11, two groups of dedicated volunteers, 14 in total, helped to plant a variety of seedlings on the west side of S. Houk Road. The site is a location of a future City park. Approximately 350 seedlings were planted including river birch, sugar maple sycamore, swamp white oak, and black gum species.

Trees are great stormwater management tools. They can absorb rainfall from their leaves, branches, trunk and roots to reduce impacts during heavy rain events.



Let's Talk Dirt

Have you ever wondered what the fencing is around construction sites, or perhaps what those orange bags on curbside drains are for? Let's talk some dirt.

The Ohio Environmental Protection Agency has statewide regulations for construction projects, designed to help protect our waterways and our natural resources in general. The City of Delaware actually has more restrictive regulations than other parts of the state because the Olentangy River is such a high-quality watershed with sensitive species that reside within it. One key component of these regulations is managing dirt, or more commonly referred to as sediment.

Sediment is a naturally occurring material that can be transported by weathering, erosion, rain, and gravity. Once transported, these particles can be deposited and settle to the bottom of a liquid. When there is bare dirt exposed from excavation on a construction site and rainfall hits, the sediment is likely to move and follow any natural or manmade drainage way in its path. This is especially problematic if the construction site is next to a river or stream. Too much movement of sediment can cause erosion, allowing for even more deposition of solids to the bottom of a waterway. In this context, dirt can be considered its own type of pollutant. It can carry with it nutrients and chemicals from its source. When there is too much sediment in a stream, often referred to as siltation, it impacts the habitat of the fish and bugs and their overall quality of life. The amount of dirt in a waterway can be measured by looking at the total suspended solids, or TSS. The suspended, not dissolved particles in a sample of water are ran through a filter. The remaining dry weight indicates the amount of solids per that volume of water. This is measured in milligrams per liter (mg/L). Per data from the Ohio EPA, the Olentangy River Watershed is impaired by the amount of TSS present.

What are ways we can prevent siltation and limit the TSS in a waterway? The fencing and the orange bags. Silt fence is used around the perimeter of construction sites to catch the material before it has a chance to become pollution. The sediment hits the fabric, which is partially trenched into the ground, and deposits on the inside of the fence staying out of harm's way. The "orange bags" are a form storm drain inlet protection. They catch sediment that reaches storm drains around construction sites. This is especially critical, as all storm drains eventually drain into the Olentangy, untreated. Both of these practices allow water to pass through, while catch the fine particles of sediment and preventing them from becoming runoff. The City's engineering staff helps to oversee development projects in City limits, to ensure these types of practices are installed and functioning during the entirety of the excavation phase.



Example of silt fence



Example of storm drain inlet protection



Example of sediment-laden water

Career Day Speaker Series

Public Utilities was awarded a grant from the Ohio EPA's Ohio Environmental Education Fund (OEEF) to put on a series of programs and conduct water quality monitoring of the Delaware Run in 2019-2020. The grant was written in coordination with Ohio Wesleyan University. One goal of this initiative is to facilitate the exploration of careers in the environmental sciences for students. A Careers in Water Management Speaker Series is being held virtually October 5-7. The target audience is high school through college students. Speakers include Public Utilities employees, Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Del-Co Water, and more! For more information, contact the Watershed Coordinator.



*Protecting Public Health
Promoting Environmental Responsibility*

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

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