

# Stormwater Watch: Winter 2020



City of  
Delaware  
Public Utilities  
Department

## Upcoming 2020 Events:

### **Stream Clean-up:**

April 15, from 4:30-5:30 at Blue Limestone Park

### **Earth Day Tree Planting:**

April 22, from 4:30-5:30

### **Rain Barrel Workshops:**

May and June First Fridays

### **NOW Festival:**

June 20, from noon to 3 p.m.

### **Olentangy River Clean-up:**

August 22

Questions? Email  
ccicerchi@delawareohio.net

## Watershed Resources:

City of Delaware  
Delawareohio.net

Olentangy Watershed Alliance  
Olentangyriver.org

Delaware SWCD  
Delawareswcd.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.*

## 7th Annual NOW Festival



Each year, the Public Utilities Department organizes the Northern Olentangy Watershed Festival in June at Mingo Park. The festival helps engage and educate the community about our land and water resources, especially those within the Olentangy River Watershed. This summer, the festival will be held on June 20 from noon to 3 pm. There will be free raffle prizes, canoeing, a rubber duck race down the river, food trucks, music, a rain barrel raffle, and more. You can get involved with the festival by sponsoring or painting a rain barrel for the raffle! A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from a roof that would otherwise be lost to runoff and diverted into storm drains. There are several benefits to rain barrels, including reduced stormwater runoff, a free/sustainable source of water for lawn and gardening care, reduced pollutants being carried into waterways, lower water bills, and they can be works of art!

- Cost to sponsor is \$30, non-refundable, and covers the price of a rain barrel converter kit. Limit 3-barrels per sponsor.
- Sponsors may paint their own barrel, or request a local art program paint it on their behalf. The City will randomly assign painters internally.
- Free to paint sponsored barrels, but supplies are not provided.

Barrels are raffled off during the festival, and all of the proceeds go to the [Olentangy Watershed Alliance](#), a local non-profit. The deadline to submit a sponsorship form is April 10th. For more information, contact Caroline Cicerchi at ccicerchi@delawareohio.net.



## Blue Limestone Clean-up

The City of Delaware Public Utilities Department was awarded a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency's Ohio Environmental Education Fund in May 2019. In coordination with this grant, the City and Keep Delaware County Beautiful will be holding a stream clean-up at Blue Limestone Park, 6 King Avenue, Delaware. The event will be on April 15 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. with a weather back-up scheduled for April 16 at the same time and location. All supplies will be provided and participants must wear close-toed shoes. Registration is required by April 13 and can be completed by emailing [ccicerchi@delawareohio.net](mailto:ccicerchi@delawareohio.net). Participants under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. In addition to the clean-up, a water quality sampling demonstration will take place.



Delaware Run, Blue Limestone Park

## Winter Stormwater Best Practices



Did you know that the water from sinks and indoor plumbing and the water that drains from roads and gutters are completely separate systems? Stormwater, unlike the water from sanitary sewer lines, does not get treated at a wastewater plant before it reaches the Olentangy River. Thus, keeping our roadways and sidewalks free of potential stormwater pollutants is critical. In the winter, you can help limit stormwater pollution by being mindful of salt usage at home.

- Consider using more environmentally friendly deicers containing calcium magnesium acetate (CMA), potassium chloride, or magnesium chloride. You can search the EPA's Safer Choice product list for specific types of deicers here: <https://www.epa.gov/saferchoice/products>
- Salt stops working below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Be mindful of this when applying it at home. When sidewalks are free of any ice or snow, be sure to sweep up excess salt before it becomes stormwater runoff.
- Keeping vehicles free of salt is a concern in Ohio. It is encouraged that vehicle washing is done at a commercial car wash and not on driveways. Car washes are connected to the sanitary sewer, and all of the soaps and materials removed from vehicles ultimately get treated.
- When shoveling the driveway, be sure to pile the snow in areas that don't typically have standing water issues in the spring months. Remove any ice or snow covering nearby storm drains to prevent any flooding.

## Need Volunteer Hours?

Each year, Public Utilities, in partnership with Keep Delaware County Beautiful, offers the opportunity for small groups to "label" storm drains around Delaware. These labels remind the community that storm drains flow straight to waterways untreated. Groups of about six-to-10 participants can help glue the labels to our inlets and pick up litter along the way. If you have a group that may be interested, please contact the Watershed Coordinator at the information below.



## 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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