

**For Immediate Release**

May 8, 2009

**RESIDENTS ENCOURAGED TO HELP DURING RIVER PRIDE MONTH**  
*Volunteers can make a difference and join city's green effort*

Local groups, businesses and residents are encouraged to volunteer and “hit the streams” during June for the city’s eighth annual Central Ohio River Pride Month. The events, coordinated by the Columbus Department of Public Utilities, offer more ways for volunteers to “get green” and make a difference along area waterways. Mayor Coleman encourages individuals and groups to get involved and help remove the litter that ends up along river and stream banks through rain and melting snow.

**“This is another great way that residents can get involved and help our quality of life for Central Ohio by investing a few hours to take pride in our waterways,” said Mayor Michael B. Coleman. “They are a shared resource, beautifying neighborhoods and supporting natural wildlife. Let’s work together to clean up winter’s debris in our neighborhoods and along our rivers and streams.”**

**Four litter cleanups are scheduled during June:**

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact</u>
June 6, 9:00 a.m.	Griggs Reservoir (Upper Arlington)	Columbus Department of Public Utilities 645-1748 or LOWinters@columbus.gov
June 13, 9:00 a.m.	Adena Brook (Clintonville – also includes invasive plant removal)	Adena Brook Community 263-8125 or susanbarrett@columbus.rr.com
June 20, 9:00 a.m.	Olentangy River (Worthington – also includes invasive plant removal)	Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed 267-3386 or flow2004@sbcglobal.net
June 20, 9:00 a.m.	Alum Creek (East side – also includes canoe float)	Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries 409-0511 or kimwilliams@friendsofalumcreek.org

Residents interested in planning their own neighborhood or waterway cleanup can contact Keep Columbus Beautiful, 645-8027, or their local municipality for supplies and assistance.

**Other River Pride events include:**

- **Riverfest *On Tour!*** will kick off River Pride with activities at COSI and a presentation of Waterfire on May 29. A service of the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Riverfest weekend activities will continue through June. For more a complete schedule and more information, call 233-4124 or visit [www.riverfestcolumbus.org](http://www.riverfestcolumbus.org).
- The Ohio 4-H Center, on the campus of The Ohio State University, will host a **rain garden workshop** on June 6, presented by the Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative and the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District. For more information, call 486-9613, extension 125 or visit [www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org).

Volunteers are also needed for the city's "No Dumping, Drains To Rivers" storm drain marking project which runs seasonally from April through October. Call 645-2926 for an information packet or visit [www.utilities.columbus.gov](http://www.utilities.columbus.gov). This project is an easy way for students to earn community service hours and it can be done by an individual or a group on their own time.

Another way residents can help protect their local waterways is by properly disposing of household hazardous waste. Contact the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio for information at 871-5100 or visit [www.swaco.org](http://www.swaco.org).

For more information about Central Ohio River Pride, please visit [www.utilities.columbus.gov](http://www.utilities.columbus.gov) or call 645-STREAM (7873).