



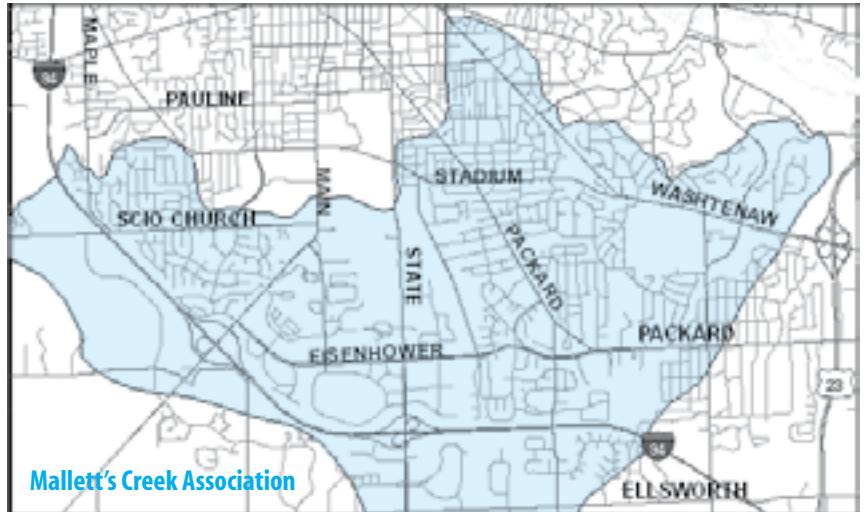
Malletts Creek restoration projects

Malletts Creek is Ann Arbor's largest waterway and it contributes the highest share of pollutants to the Huron River. Stormwater runoff continues to be the primary cause of local water pollution. Eroded soil and phosphorus threaten aquatic habitat and cause algae blooms, while oils, heavy metals, E. coli and salt contaminate the river each time it rains.

Since developing the Malletts Creek Restoration Plan in 2000, the City of Ann Arbor and the Washtenaw County Office of the Water Resources Commissioner have partnered with the Department of Environment Quality (DEQ) and neighboring townships to reduce high flows, improve water quality, and stabilize the Malletts Creek corridor. One result of this collaboration is the 2008 construction of a water quality treatment wetland at Mary Beth Doyle Park, located between I-94 and Packard, Stone School, and Verle roads. This basin area can hold up to 15 million gallons of stormwater before slowly releasing the water back into Malletts Creek. Besides helping to stabilize the creek flow after a storm, the wetland also filters and removes 35 percent of stormwater-carried phosphorus and 60 percent of the silt and sediment.

Recently the MDEQ awarded the county a combination of green infrastructure grants and low-interest loans worth \$2.8 million for stream bank stabilization in Malletts Creek. From fall 2011 through spring 2012 the Malletts Creek stream channel will be reinforced in critical areas—such as at turns and road crossings—using a combination of re-grading, rock armoring, and native vegetation. The project is expected to prevent 685 tons of erosion (roughly enough to cover a football field 1 ½ feet deep) and reduce phosphorus entering the river by an additional 15 percent annually.

Areas disturbed by construction will have non-native species removed and replaced with native vegetation. Staff from the City of Ann Arbor's Natural Area Preservation (NAP) office and the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission have been active throughout the design process. The County Farm Park segment includes improvements that are highly visible to the public. This work involves construction of a 3-acre wet meadow west of the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center and south of the existing Washtenaw Avenue bike path. For further information, please contact Harry Sheehan at 7334.222.6851 or via sheehan@ewashtenaw.org.



Partnership provides energy savings for businesses and residents



a2Energy is a joint program between Clean Energy Coalition (CEC) and the City of Ann Arbor to provide energy savings information and assistance to Ann Arbor commercial and residential properties.

For commercial properties, a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program was launched in late 2011 to provide special assessments for energy projects in commercial and industrial properties across the city. State of Michigan legislation adopted in 2010 authorized local governments to create these programs. Ann Arbor is the first city in the state to officially enact one.

Commercial property owners may apply for a special PACE assessment on their property to be repaid over time and applied to energy audits, weather sealing, efficient lighting, heating/cooling upgrades, and geothermal and photovoltaic systems, and more! Eligible projects may range from \$10,000 to

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\$350,000. PACE funding will serve as a public benefit by not only reducing energy costs, but also by boosting local construction and clean energy jobs, driving economic stimulation, improving property values, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Details on Ann Arbor's PACE program including eligibility requirements, pre-application information and a program report are available online at www.a2energy.org or by contacting Wendy Barrott at PACE@a2gov.org or 734-794-6430 x 43714.

a2energy is for homeowners, too!

Although PACE funding is currently only available to commercial properties in Michigan, the city and CEC are rolling out a residential energy efficiency program this winter at a2energy.org. Look for inspiring and handy information at this web site and sign up for free energy newsletters. If you've already improved your home energy efficiency, share your story with a2energy and possibly be featured as an "epeer" with an online case study!

GOOD TO KNOW



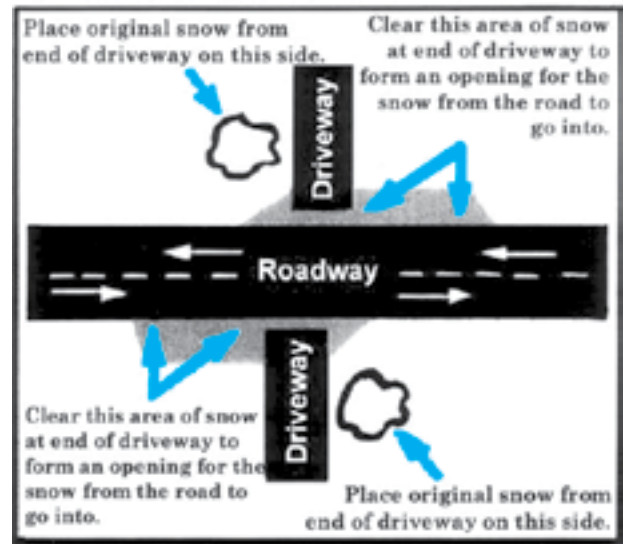
Take it from the tap. A selection of A2H2O refillable water bottles are sold for \$1-5 each at the Customer Service Center. Available models include plastic, glass, and stainless steel options. In addition a full-sized shopping bag that fits into a 2x4-inch pouch made with 99 percent recycled materials is available for \$5. Details and photos are posted online at www.a2gov.org/A2H2O and at the Customer Service Center on the first floor of Larcom City Hall.

Protect water meters and pipes from freezing.

Remember to bundle up your water meter and pipes to keep them from freezing during extreme cold spells. The following precautions can help prevent frozen meters, burst pipes, water damage, and avoid plumbing and meter replacement costs: Insulate water pipes in crawl spaces; apply heat tape to the entire pipe in an unheated area (according to manufacturer recommendations); add insulation between the outside wall and meter; set up a space heater near the meter; or simply leave the utility closet door open to circulate indoor heat. Residents may choose to allow a tiny trickle of water to run through one faucet to keep the water lines moving during a cold snap. If leaving town, you may call the Customer Service Center at 734.794.6333 to have the water turned off.

Driveway snow shoveling tips

It happens to all of us—we clear our driveway of snow only to have the bottom of the drive plugged as the street is plowed. Plows—by design—push snow ahead of the blades and deposit snow along the wake of the plow edge. Here are some hints that can help reduce the amount of shoveling required. First, use the extension between the street and sidewalk for storing shoveled snow because anything tossed into the street will just be pushed back to the curb and your driveway. If possible, leave space in the street to the left of the drive (see diagram) and the bulk of the plowed snow will be deposited in that space, with less snow available to pile across the driveway. When possible, try to remove street snow across driveways before it re-freezes and becomes heavier. Ann Arbor now provides online tracking of street plowing and deicing efforts (see below). This information can help you determine if the plows have made a first pass in the neighborhoods. Often a plow will take two passes on each side of the street to clear the snow, so best to wait a few minutes before starting to shovel.



Snow plow tracking

This year the city installed automatic vehicle location (AVL) devices on its snow plow vehicles. The AVL computer program allows supervisors to manage efficient street maintenance responses to ice and snow conditions in real time and space. The public is able to view the progress of snow plows within an online map. Interested users may go to the link at www.a2gov.org/snow and zoom into a city map of snow routes to see if the trucks are de-icing or plowing specific neighborhood or major streets. An on-demand report of recent street plowing or de-icing activities will also be available.