



Latest park protects water quality

The 80-acre **Mary Beth Doyle Park and Wetland Preserve**

is a new recreation area designed to help reduce flooding within Malletts Creek to improve water quality and to provide opportunities for wildlife viewing throughout the year. The Wetland Preserve is an innovative cooperative project involving the city, the Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner's Office, Pittsfield Township, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. When site-wide renovations are completed later this summer, the park will also include new play structures, picnic tables, basketball court, asphalt walking and biking paths, and an 18-hole disc golf course. The park is named after a local environmental activist, who died in 2004. Mary Beth Doyle especially worked with communities in developing local, state, and national efforts to reduce toxic chemical exposures to children. This beautiful park is located between Packard, Stone School, Verle roads, and I-94.



- The Wetland Preserve has the capacity to hold 15 million gallons of water at any one time, which is equivalent to holding water, 42 feet deep, on a full-sized football field. An estimated 1.5 billion gallons of water will flow through the Wetland Preserve each year.
- 35 percent of the stormwater-carried phosphorus will be removed as the water flows through the Wetland Preserve, helping to protect the quality of water in the Huron River, Ford, and Belleville Lakes.
- 60 percent of the silt and sediment in stormwater will be removed through the slowing down of Malletts Creek river flow in the Wetland Preserve.

Removing mosquito breeding areas will help reduce the spread of West Nile Virus. Check and empty areas of standing water from furniture covers, pet dishes, flowerpots, etc. Check for screens on top of rain barrels. Change water in bird-baths and wading pools at least twice a week. Garden pools that include running water or fish will prohibit mosquito larvae from hatching. For more information, consult Washtenaw County's Web site at <http://ewashtenaw.org>.

Stormwater rate-reduction credits available

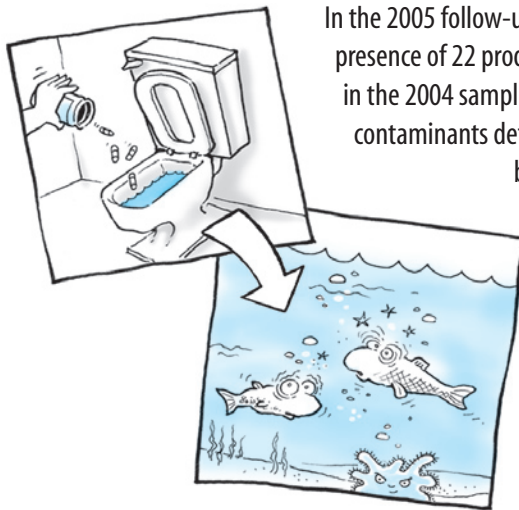
You can lower your stormwater bill by taking steps to protect stormwater quality and reduce the amount of water draining from your property. If you are a one- or two-family residential customer, consider using up to three of these optional stormwater credits. You can learn more and apply on-line at www.a2gov.org/storm or call the Customer Service line at 734.994.2666.

- Make your home a **RiverSafe Home** partner and save \$1.24/quarter. Review Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner's online RiverSafe home information and take the survey. The survey is also available by mail by calling 734.222.6860. Participants receive a RiverSafe Home plaque. There is no cost to enroll.
- Install **rain barrels** on your downspouts and save \$1.79/quarter (total, for one or more rain barrels). Rain barrels are sold locally at many garden centers and also online. The city's Web site provides postings of periodic local rain barrel workshops and bulk sale opportunities, as available.
- Create a **rain garden, cistern, or drywell** (limited to one of these per property) and save \$2.80/quarter. In addition to being beneficial for the watershed, rain gardens can be a very attractive landscaping feature. Details on how to qualify for these options are posted online.

If you have nonresidential property, commercial properties, or residential apartment units larger than two units, your location may qualify for additional credits, as described online or by phone. For more information on the city's stormwater rates, online property assessments, and credit opportunities, please visit: www.a2gov.org/storm.

Pharmaceuticals in water test results

Through grants from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality in 2003 and 2005, the City of Ann Arbor was able to test for minute quantities of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in our water. In 2003, the city tested both source water from the Huron River and finished drinking water for the presence of 22 pharmaceutical and personal care products: seven antibiotics, two analgesics, one anti-epileptic, nine hormones and stabilizers, as well as caffeine, a nicotine metabolite, and a solvent stabilizer. Of the 22 contaminants, trace quantities of ten compounds were found in the source water and four were detected in finished water. Three plant steroids were detected in less than one parts per billion; and Ibuprofen (an over-the-counter anti-inflammatory) was detected in parts per trillion. "Parts per billion" can be visualized as a half teaspoon of sugar in an Olympic-sized swimming pool.



In the 2005 follow-up study, the city tested for the presence of 22 products, 11 of which were not included in the 2004 sampling pool. In addition to the four contaminants detected in the 2003 study, two beta blockers (estrone and propranolol),

four new hormones (17-b-estradiol, 17-aethinylestradiol, coprostanol and estriol), one anti-epileptic (carbamazepine), and caffeine were also detected in the parts per trillion range. Initial studies indicate that concentrations of these contaminants at these

levels are not a human health risk, but more research is needed. The City of Ann Arbor continually monitors toxicological studies to determine if additional water testing or actions are necessary.

To help prevent medications and personal care products from entering the drinking water supply, please dispose of prescription and over-the-counter drugs correctly. Never flush drugs down the toilet. Instead, carefully "wrap and trash" medications, unless advised otherwise by your health care professional. For information on proper disposal of medications, or to read the city's water study reports, please visit:

http://www.a2gov.org/government/publicservices/water_treatment

Good to Know...

Want to save money on your water bill?

Ann Arbor water customers are able 'watch' your actual water usage online through the city's "My Property" link at www.a2gov.org. Your water consumption data is available by daily and monthly calculations. Lawn watering is the highest use of water for many property owners. You can choose to save water and money on landscape maintenance through: 1) more strategic watering (turn off the daily sprinklers since only one inch of water per ten days is recommended for maintaining green lawns); 2) replacing lawn areas with less water-dependent native plant species and mulch; or 3) allowing lawn areas to go dormant without water during heat spells (lawns will rebound to green when cooler, moist fall days return).

Save time by setting up an automatic water bill payment option

from your checking account. To initiate an Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT) account service, simply find a recent water bill and a blank check, and then phone the Customer Service Center at (734) 994-2666 during weekday business hours. Once in place, you will still receive a detailed water bill for your records, marked "Thank you for your EFT payment" and will always receive the "on time" payment discount.