

Columbus Water Supply Historical Timeline

- 1871 First water supply system, consisting of well and pump station, constructed at the Scioto and Olentangy rivers confluence
- 1904 Construction of Griggs Reservoir/dam begins (370 acres, 1.4 billion gallons)
- 1908 Scioto River Purification Plant and Pump Station construction completed, Griggs Reservoir dedication
- 1925 O'Shaughnessy Reservoir/dam completed (943 acres, 4.8 billion gallons)
- 1945 White Sulfur Quarry used as emergency water supply (33 acres, 445 million gallons), city purchased quarry in 1965
- 1950 Nelson Road Water Plant comes online as an intermittent water plant for summer peak flows, plant taken offline in 1961 after Big Walnut Water Treatment Plant comes online
- 1953 Hoover Reservoir built on Big Walnut Creek (3,024 acres, 20.8 billion gallons)
- 1956 Big Walnut Water Treatment Plant on Morse Road completed (later renamed the Hap Cremean Water Plant in 1988)
- 1971 City joins cooperative agreement with US Army Corps of Engineers to build Alum Creek Reservoir as supplemental water supply for Hoover Reservoir (3,387 acres, 44 billion gallons)
- 1975 A new Dublin Road Water Plant replaces the Scioto River Purification Plant
- 1979 A new wellfield water plant to serve southern Franklin County begins construction, the Parsons Avenue Water Plant, which goes into service in 1984
- 1988 Severe drought depletes city's reservoirs, water use restrictions imposed on customers
- 1990 Water Beyond 2000 Study begins to develop a plan to ensure an adequate, dependable and high quality water supply through 2020
- 1993 Land purchases in northwestern Delaware County begins, city purchases over 2,000 acres
- 1998 Water Beyond 2000 Study completed, recommended expansion of south wellfield in 2003 and construction of three upground reservoirs in northern Delaware County to begin in 2005
- 2001 Water Beyond 2000 Study updated using 2000 census data, recommended delaying original plan by three years
- 2004 Preliminary design/environmental investigations begin for new upground reservoirs known as R1, R2 and R3
- 2006 Detailed design started on R2 which was chosen to be constructed first because it is the largest (842 acres, 9.3 billion gallons)
- 2008 Hartman agreement signed to manage the south well field over the next 40 years and resulting in a new water supply reservoir in the distant future
- 2009 Trees removed from R2 to facilitate construction; project put on hold due to economic downturn and department focus on wet weather management/sewer plan
- 2011 Reservoir, pump station and 72" water line construction begins; two new wells were added to south well field, increasing well field safe yield by 7 million gallons per day
- 2013 Reservoir, pump station and water line construction is complete; water from the Scioto River is first pumped into the upground reservoir
- 2014 Upground reservoir reaches normal pool elevation of 955' and initial filling completed on May 5; R2 dedicated as John R. Douth Upground Reservoir on September 30