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First-of-its-kind Blue Roof to Reduce Water Pollution and Flooding

1/11/2016 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO— Eco-friendly development is a key element of Grove City’s growth objectives as one of central Ohio’s fastest-growing suburbs. When Grove City encountered maintenance challenges including interior water leaks caused by the flat-basin roof design at the Grove City Safety Complex, site of the city’s Division of Police and Mayor’s Court, city officials sought an eco-friendly solution. The low impact development (LID) technique selected was a blue roof supplemented by rain gardens.

Blue roofs exploit natural processes to manage and filter pollutants in stormwater in urban areas dominated by hard surfaces such as streets, sidewalks, driveways and roofs. This LID technique decreases the quantity and force of water flowing from downspouts. Less stormwater entering streams and rivers reduces the risks of erosion, nutrient pollution and flooding.

Blue roofs are comprised of several layers of stone and fabric that hold rainwater allowing time for evaporation before water enters the downspouts. The remaining water channels through downspouts to a complex system of underground pipes ending in a permeable, subterranean stormwater retention basin serving as a slow-release holding cell. Water is released gradually into the ground where it is naturally filtered before returning to the water cycle. During heavy rainfall, excess water is diverted to nearby rain gardens where native plants filter pollutants before it enters the groundwater system.

Grove City partnered with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and Rain Brothers, a Columbus-based sustainable construction company, to design and construct the blue roof with funding from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

The Grove City Safety Complex is located at 3360 Park Street, Grove City. An infographic (see below) detailing the project is located on signage in the rain garden. A [video](#) produced by Rain Brothers documents the installation process of the Grove City Safety Complex blue roof.

For more information, please contact:

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- Linda Rosine, Environmental Coordinator at Grove City Parks and Recreation Dept. at (614) 277-3058 or lrosine@grovecityohio.org



Thank you to all of our partners in making this project possible. Design creation and implementation to improve water quality in central Ohio would not be possible without you.

The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote land-use decisions for the conservation, protection and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance and education.