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Franklin Soil and Water Recognizes Local Leaders with Conservation Steward Awards

10/2/2018 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO— Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District recognized three awardees with Conservation Steward Awards at its 72nd Annual Meeting and Board of Supervisors' Election on Thursday, September 27th.

Conservation Stewardship Awards are given to individuals, businesses or organizations that have exemplified during the past year Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's mission of promoting responsible land-use decisions for conservation, protection, and improvement of soil and water resources.

Support for the Annual Meeting and Supervisors' Election for 2018 was provided by Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, The Franklin County Engineers Office, 3C Technology and Solutions, Great Lakes Brewing Company, Meijer, and Coldwater Consulting LLC.

Franklin County Commissioners

The Franklin County Commissioners have helped Franklin Soil and Water fund the acquisition of one of the most substantial vernal pool wetlands remaining in Franklin County by acquiring a 19 acre conservation easement from Capital Baptist Church in the Big Walnut Watershed as well as acquiring a 20 acre conservation easement that protected one of the few remaining mature woodland stands in the Alum Creek Watershed. In total the commissioners have assisted us in acquiring over 700 acres of conservation easements across Franklin County including the acquisition of one easement on Franklin County property in the Big Run watershed.

The County Commissioners are long term partners of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's programs and efforts including community backyards, get grassy, and gardening for clean water.



Director Jennifer Fish and Commissioner John O'Grady

Hague Avenue Pervious Pavement Project led by the City of Columbus Department of Public Service

Hague Avenue, south from Broad Street to Sullivant, needed a storm-water utility upgrade. The location is a narrow residential urban connector corridor. The flat grade and 4500' length would have required a prohibitively large pipe or an open ditch to accommodate existing flow, which would also have needed additional right of way and closed the road during construction.

By using pervious pavers in the right of way and infiltrating stormwater the designed section allowed one sided construction, keeping a travel lane open during construction and provided additional storage and detention in the existing right of way. This allowed the road to remain open while adding additional stormwater treatment that reduces pollution entering nearby streams.

All stormwater that runs into our stormdrains drains directly to nearby streams untreated. Increasingly pervious pavement and vegetated swales are being used to provide some treatment of stormwater to improve water quality in our streams.



Urban Conservationist David Reutter and James Young accepting the award for the Department of Public Service

Steve Herminghausen

Steve works his full time job as a Librarian at the Hard Road Library and takes every opportunity to educate clients about the environment. Steve has hosted “Think Spring” at the Library in March for several years, to get people excited about the coming weather and educate them about monarchs, native plants, native animals, soils, water quality, etc. He also has been the lead on the naturalization of approximately 1 mile of Hard Road, post the expansion construction.

Steve is also an active member of the Friends of the Lower Olentangy (FLOW) Science Committee, a FLOW Stream Quality Monitor and is working with Ohio Wesleyan concerning the restoration of Delaware Run on campus.



Director Jennifer Fish and Steve Herminghausen

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The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote responsible 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.

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