



## Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Stormwater Awareness Week Urges Central Ohioans to Be the Change for Clean Water This October**

**Franklin County, Ohio** - Communities across central Ohio are urging residents to “Be the Change for Clean Water” and take action during Stormwater Awareness Week, October 7-13.

“While rainwater is great for lawns and gardens, it can be dangerous for streams and rivers. Stormwater can push common household items - such as trash, law fertilizer or paint - into local waterways, threatening our environment and clean drinking water. Stormwater Awareness Week offers central Ohioans an opportunity to learn how they can take small actions to make a big impact on protecting drinking water,” said Jennifer Fish, director of the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

Franklin County has over 2,940 miles of open drainage including our ditches, streams, and rivers. This open drainage collects water from over 543 square miles of land in Franklin County. Unfortunately, this water also includes pollutants from across the landscape.

During Stormwater Awareness Week, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District urges residents to take one or more of the following actions:

- Pick up trash in your neighborhood or a local park. It can be a family game to see who can fill up a bag first.
- Check the weather report before applying fertilizer to your lawn or any oil or chemicals to driveways and sidewalks. This will protect the environment and your pocketbook.
- Make sure lawns have 3-4 inches of topsoil under the grass. This will reduce runoff, as well as make lawns easier to maintain.
- Plant native plants that have deep roots, which will help break up clay soil and increase the amount of water remaining on a property while benefiting birds, butterflies and bees.
- Plant a tree in your yard or install a rain garden. Trees can soak up 900 gallons of rain a year and a well-designed rain garden almost entirely reduce stormwater from a property.
- Encourage local businesses to become a [Water Quality Partner!](#)

“We want all residents and business to take a moment during this week to understand that any pollution they leave on roadways, sidewalks, driveways and parking lots drains directly to our streams and rivers. Simple actions

can improve water quality and reduce stormwater runoff,” said Fish. “Most importantly, we need to educate central Ohioans that no one should ever dump grease, trash, paint, concrete wash, or anything else that is not 100 percent clean water down a storm drain.”

Stormwater can also erode away streams, which can cause flooding. Each year the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District investigates multiple sources of pollution and assists hundreds of homeowners concerned with stream erosion and flooding, all caused by stormwater runoff.

“There is so much we can do for Clean Water in Franklin County and Central Ohio. Please take a moment at home and at work during the week of **October 7<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>**, to make your family and co-workers aware of what they can do to make Franklin County and Central Ohio a great place to live, work and play,” said Fish.

For more information on programs and resources for stormwater education and conservation visit [franklinswcd.org](http://franklinswcd.org) and [bethechangeformcleanwater.org](http://bethechangeformcleanwater.org).

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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.