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Franklin Soil and Water Recognizes Local Leader with Conservation Steward Award

3/19/2019 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO— Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) recognized Shawn Daugherty, Worthington Parks Supervisor, with the Great Blue Heron Award on March 18th, 2019 at the Worthington City Council meeting.

The Great Blue Heron Award recognizes outstanding contributions in natural resources and stream protection within Franklin County. Franklin Soil and Water recognizes the importance of partnerships to the sustainability and success of its mission to protect and improve soil and water resources, and is pleased to recognize Shawn with this award.

Shawn has been a strong supporter and implementer of improvements at Worthington Parks. Partnering with Friends of the Lower Olentangy (FLOW), he lead the removal of invasive bush honeysuckle from a small stream at Olentangy Parkland in the fall of 2017, and also facilitated Earth Day planting events at Whitney Playground, Highgate Playground and a large section along the Olentangy Trail in 2018. For future plans, he will be coordinating a honeysuckle removal along Rush Run at Park Blvd Park to be followed up by a restoration planting.

Managing public spaces to remove invasive plants and replace them with native plants is important to addressing the decline in bird and bee populations. Native animal populations depend on native plants that they have evolved with for food and shelter.

In the short time FLOW has been working with Shawn, multiple accomplishments have led to a huge improvement in the watershed. FLOW secretary Laura Fay exclaimed “We wish that there were more conservationists like him!”

Franklin Soil and Water is happy to present Shawn with a Great Blue Heron Award for all his conservation projects completed and ones to be performed in the future.



Deirdre Donaldson and Laura Fay, Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed; Shawn Daugherty, Great Blue Heron Awardee; Jennifer Fish, Director, Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District; Darren Hurley, Worthington Parks and Rec Director

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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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