



Our Mission:

To promote responsible land use decisions for the conservation, protection and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information and assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance and education.

Our 2025 **Top 5**

Five District Activities That Defined Our Year

1

Administered Over \$340,000 in Local Community Grants

We can't be everywhere at once, so we offer grants for on-the-ground conservation to local community groups. Administering these grants is a lot more than just signing checks! Our staff work closely with every community group that's awarded a grant to make sure projects follow the latest scientific guidance, have the largest possible impact and are maintained long term.



The Urban Agriculture Critical Infrastructure Grant funded an irrigation system at Upper Arlington Lutheran Church, expanding production of food, like this Napa cabbage, that is primarily donated to new American families.



Public Outreach Coordinator, Kori Sedmak, prepares to talk to over 300 residents at the annual Reynoldsburg Tomato Festival. 2025 Outreach Interns painted a rain barrel to match the theme.

2

Reached Over 5,000 people at Community Events.

While the Outreach team handles the bulk of our events, many staff pitched in to participate in 75 community events over the course of the year. Face-to-face conversations are the best way to promote environmentally friendly behaviors, and getting out into communities who aren't as familiar with Franklin SWCD helps bring conservation where it's needed most!

3

Began the Columbus Watershed Partner Service Agreement Program

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District partnered with Columbus Water & Power to develop the Watershed Partner Service Agreement. This program helps fund projects by non-profit watershed groups that contribute to Columbus Water & Power's mission, such as public education or implementation of projects that use best practices to control or reduce stormwater.



The Watershed Partner Service Agreement provided funding for the new Scioto Watershed Action Group (SWAG) to become a registered non-profit!

4

Celebrated the Completion of our Hellbranch Meadows Restoration Project at our Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting theme over the past several years has been to highlight each of Franklin County's watersheds. This year's Big Darby celebration was quite literally in the field as we celebrated the completion of our restoration of Hellbranch Meadows using an EPA 319 Grant and H2Ohio Wetland restoration grant.

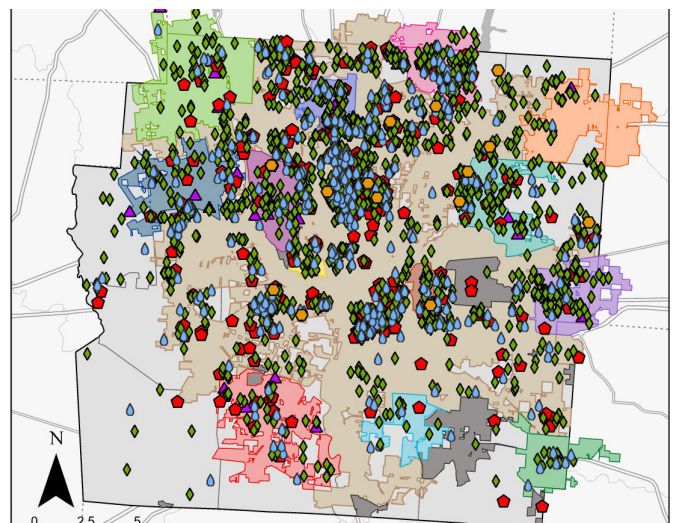


Annual Meeting attendees were able to see the Hellbranch Meadows restoration from a hot air balloon!

5

Provided Record Community Backyards Rebates

We set a record for our Community Backyards rebate program, with over \$118,000 reimbursed to county residents for the purchase of rain barrels, rain gardens, compost bins and native plants that not only improve soil and water quality, but also save residents money on utilities, increase climate resilience and offset food waste. This program also includes an educational course that reached over 3,400 residents in 2025.



This map, made by Outreach Program Specialist, Grace Chaffin, shows participation in the 2025 Community Backyards program.

2025 Numbers from the Field:

Conservation Easement Program

33 conservation easements inspected with 757 acres of land protected.

Conservation Site Inspections

1,658 site inspections completed.

Mapping, Water Quality Monitoring, Field Data Collection

Inventoried over 25,424 features (including pipes, catch basins, and open channels) to detect possible pollution sources and assist in municipal and county storm sewer mapping, and pollution identification and elimination.

Field data collection and mapping for 2025 included:

- Dry Weather Screening
- Storm Sewer System Mapping
- Home Sewage Treatment System Mapping
- Waterway Assessment and Mapping

Conservation Projects

380 instances of on-site natural resource or backyard assistance.

Awarded 3 Conservation Mini-grants to local non-profit organizations who demonstrate their ability to carry out on-the-ground conservation projects in Franklin County:

Provided 14 rain garden cost shares.

- **Bexley Recreation & Parks**- Jeffrey Park Woods Restoration: Invasive Removal and Tree Planting
- **FACCES**- Urban Garden Native Plants & Trees
- **The Garden District Corporation**- Replacing Turfgrass with Native Plants

Donated \$2,088 of native plant material to staff projects and non-profit groups.

Sold 14,285 native trees and shrubs, 100 native plant kits, 47 seed packets, and 25 mushroom kits in the 2025 Tree Sale.

Program Highlight: Invasive Trade In

- The Invasive Trade in began in 2024 as a pilot in New Albany. Residents remove an invasive plant and receive reimbursement for a new native plant.
- In 2025 we expanded the program and had 48 participants in 7 communities.
- News stories, social media posts and website articles have spread the word about the harm of invasive plants to over 10,000 residents.
- Future plans for the program include discounts on invasive plant removal and the participation of even more Franklin County communities.



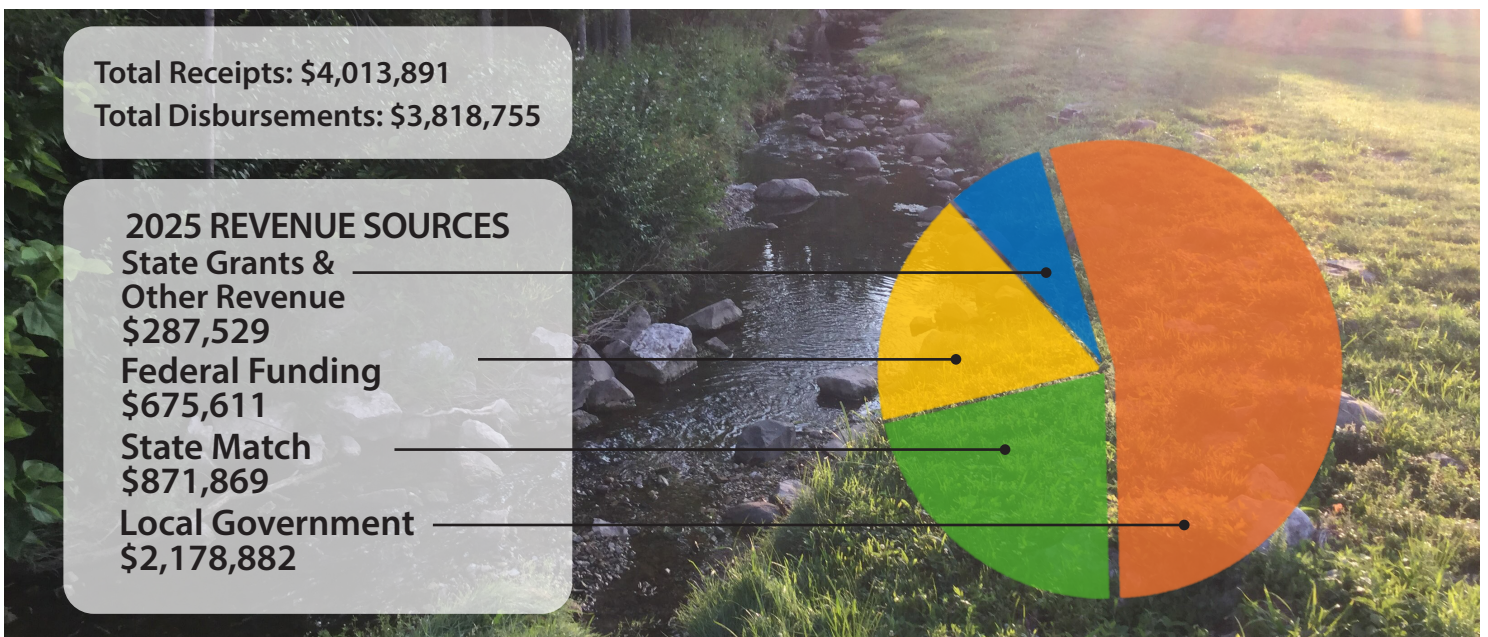
An invasive Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) lies destroyed before being replaced with a native plant through the Invasive Trade In program.

2025 Education & Outreach Numbers

Public Information, Education, Outreach and Involvement

19,221 students reached with educational presentations.	Provided general assistance to 3,447 landowners, local government staff, contractors and developers, watershed groups and other nonprofit partners.
Participated in 75 community events, reaching 5,516 people with conservation messaging.	2,179 rebates distributed to residents for rain barrels, compost bins and native plants.
22 trainings provided to 220 local government stormwater and education professionals through webinars, conferences and meetings.	Reimbursed 1,490 planted Native Trees & Plants through the Community Backyards Program.
865,206 individuals reached through radio programs, newspaper articles, advertisements, and social media.	3,306 Water Quality Partnership program brochures mailed. 30 businesses pledged to adopt clean water practices in 2025.
<p>Delivered the following audience specific newsletters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13,831 landowners received the <i>Frankly Speaking</i> newsletter. • 5,575 residents received our <i>Backyard Conversation</i> monthly e-newsletter. • 1,541 developers received the <i>Urban Review</i> newsletter. • 697 partners received <i>Update to Partners</i>. • 77 Community PR professionals received our monthly outreach articles to share as needed. 	<p>Participated in 17 regional programs and shared services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AmeriCorps and America's Service Commissions • Be the Change for Clean Water • Children's Water Festival • Central Ohio Watershed Council • Central Ohio Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management • Central Ohio Food Waste Initiative Convening • Environmental Education Council of Ohio • Leave No Child Inside Central Ohio Collaborative • Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission • Native Plant Backyard Challenge • Ohio Federation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts • Ohio Stormwater Association • School Gardens of Ohio • Terrific Resources for Environmental Education • Water Management Association of Ohio

This table is a partial list of representative projects and activities of the District.



Our financial report is available by calling the office at (614) 486-9613.

Thank you to all the Partners, Funders, Sponsors and Supporters of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District.

There are many ways that residents, businesses and local governments in Central Ohio support the mission of our District. We acknowledge their generosity, as we all benefit from conserving and protecting our natural resources.

Business Partnerships

- 315 businesses in Franklin County are Water Quality Partners - www.franklinswcd.org/water-quality-partner-businesses
- 8 garden center and nursery partners through our Gardening for Clean Water Program
- 5 local vendors participate in the Community Backyards immediate discount rebate vendor program- communitybackyards.org/immediate-discount-vendors

Thank You To Our Sponsors!

Conservation Advocate: Coldwater Consulting LLC

Conservation Steward: MAD Scientist Associates, Oakland Nursery, Del-Co Water Company, Kathryn & Matt Paulson

Conservation Friend: 3C Technology Solutions, Jennifer Lee

Conservation Partner: Maureen Penmen, Leslie Westerfelt, Christine Dilley

2025 Funding Partners:

25 Local Governments • Working Agreements • Grant funding • State Match



Giving to Conservation

Franklin Soil and Water fundraises for sponsors for our annual meeting and professional education events and seeks donations for our Columbus Foundation Conservation Stewardship Fund throughout the year.

The purpose of the Conservation Stewardship Fund is to raise money for the implementation of conservation projects targeted at improving water quality for the benefit of wildlife, recreation and drinking water. Along with proceeds from our annual meeting and spring tree sale, these funds support our mini grant program, which allows us to supplement conservation funding for grassroots projects undertaken by our partners around the county.

Sponsorship of Urban Program events, including our Central Ohio Stormwater Roundtable Series, Center for Watershed Protection Webcast Series and Stormwater Awareness Week helps provide development and education to land use decision makers.

For more information or to donate visit: www.franklinswcd.org/conservation-fund.



Sponsorship of events like our Annual Meeting (pictured) is a win-win for funding conservation and helping companies promote themselves to Central Ohio's environmental professionals.

District programs and services are offered on a non-discriminatory basis.

2025 Board of Supervisors

Lydia Cumming
Jessica D'Ambrosio
Kim Landsbergen
Erin Miller
Leigh Anne Ward

Leadership Team

Jennifer Fish, Director
Kyle Wilson, Assistant Director
Josh Garver, GIS and Special Projects Director
Aaron Hebert, GIS Manager

Connect With Us



**Franklin Soil and Water
Conservation District**
Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

1404 Goodale Blvd, Suite 100
Columbus, OH 43212

(614) 486-9613
www.franklinswcd.org



[facebook.com/
franklinsoilandwater](https://facebook.com/franklinsoilandwater)



[linkedin.com/company/frank-
lin-soil-and-water-conserva-
tion-district/](https://linkedin.com/company/franklin-soil-and-water-conservation-district/)



[instagram.com/
franklinsoilandwater](https://instagram.com/franklinsoilandwater)