

2019 FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

Program Summary

Franklin Soil and Water’s annual Conservation Mini-Grant program offers up to \$2,000 to three non-profits that demonstrate the need and ability to carry out on-the-ground conservation projects.

The Mini-Grant program is made possible through the District’s Conservation Fund, which utilizes profits from the District’s Annual Meeting, Tree Sale, and operational fees to support the implementation of conservation projects throughout Franklin County. The six-year-old program has awarded over 20 grants to deserving non-profits for their conservation projects. Any remaining funds are then utilized throughout the year by Franklin Soil and Water to implement projects and programs, many times in coordination with our partners. Projects are limited to Franklin County, Ohio.

—Important Dates and Who May Apply—

The Mini Grant program is open to non-profit organizations such as schools, watershed groups, municipalities, community groups (including governing bodies and associations such as HOAs and condo associations) and civic associations. Previously-awarded groups may not apply in consecutive years to encourage new applicants. Please contact us prior to applying if you have any questions regarding your organization’s eligibility.

Important Dates	
Applications Accepted	January 1, 2019 - March 20, 2019
Awardees Notified	March 31, 2019
Project Check-In #1	July 20, 2019
Project Check-In #2	November 16, 2019
Final Project Report Due	When project completed or end of year, whichever first
Project Closure	
Project Tour	

—Grant Application and Award Details—

- a) Grant proposals will be reviewed by Franklin Soil and Water staff with final approval of the Director and Board of Supervisors.
- b) Funds must be used by the year’s end, though the project can be completed anytime throughout the year.
- c) Preferred funding occurs on a reimbursement basis. However, fifty percent of funding may be disbursed upon grant approval if warranted, with the remaining funds to be released upon project completion and submission of project report.
- d) Previously completed projects are not eligible.

- e) Acceptable expenses may include supplies and tools for project implementation and signage or outreach materials, but the cost of these materials may not exceed more than 20 percent of the total funds requested. Grant funding cannot be applied towards design and consulting fees, research, administration, or food. Grant recipients must review and sign our Grant Agreement, provide progress and final reports, and host a final site visit upon project completion.

—Project Examples—

Preferred projects may include but are not limited to:

- Rainwater storage and/or harvesting with rain barrels and/or cisterns
- Reducing or slowing stormwater runoff by planting rain gardens, buffer zones, or installing green infrastructure projects
- Streambank or riparian zone stabilization or revegetation
- Landscaping and gardening with native trees and plants
- Invasive species removal and replacement
- Habitat improvement, such as litter collection, addition of wildlife shelter(s), bird houses, or pollinator sites
- Soil improvements such as the addition of compost, green manures, or cover crops

—Ranking and Criteria—

Staff uses the following criteria to help us rate applications:

Ranking and Criteria for Grant Evaluation		
1	Connection to FSWCD mission	Demonstrates clear promotion of responsible land use decisions for the conservation, protection, and improvement of soil and water resources.
2	Environmental impact	Environmental improvement and ecological benefit.
3	Visibility	Potential number of people reached, impacted, by the project.
4	Cost efficiency	The impact of the project relative to the funds requested.

—Application Materials—

Applications may be found at our website at <https://www.franklinswcd.org/conservation-mini-grants> and may be submitted online or by hard copy. Questions may be directed to Sara Ernst at sernst@franklinswcd.org or 614-486-9613.