



**Franklin Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years

THE CITY OF
COLUMBUS
ANDREW J. GINTHER, MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AND THE CITY OF COLUMBUS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

2024-2025 WATERSHED PARTNER SERVICE AGREEMENT PROGRAM

[10/16/2024]

A. PURPOSE

The City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities (DPU) recognizes watershed organizations provide essential services to Columbus and DPU's Contract Communities in the Department's service area. These organizations further DPU's goal of addressing water quality concerns through community engagement and education, monitoring, and the planning, funding, and implementation of projects related to innovative stormwater management practices, including green infrastructure, that reduce pollution and minimize the introduction of stormwater into storm, sanitary, or combined sewers. These organizations also further Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District's (FSWCD) 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.

B. NEED

Through FSWCD, DPU desires to fund Service Agreements with watershed organizations demonstrating the ability to provide public education relevant to DPU/FSWCD, and to perform projects implementing pollution prevention techniques and best practices to control stormwater runoff, improve water quality within the City of Columbus, facilitate water-quality focused education and outreach, and promote climate resiliency.

C. SERVICE AGREEMENTS

The service agreement amount will be based on the eligible services offered and is limited to eligible watershed organizations. The total value of these services across all group awards shall not exceed \$50,000 annually. Each service will be individually defined. Individual groups may apply for up to \$25,000 in services, and may submit additional line items for up to \$50,000 total to ensure total distribution of funds. The selection of services is solely at FSWCD/DPU's discretion and FSWCD is not obligated to purchase services from any watershed organization nor is FSWCD obligated to purchase specific services from any specific organization. For example, FSWCD may contract with a watershed organization outside a particular watershed if that organization is best able to provide such services to the FSWCD. Payment for services contracted

under a service agreement will be reviewed quarterly with watershed organizations receiving payment upon review and approval of submitted documentation.

D. ELIGIBLE WATERSHED ORGANIZATIONS

Watershed organizations with 501(c)(3) status that primarily provide service to the tributary watersheds within Columbus City limits are eligible to propose services to FSWCD as detailed in this Request for Proposals.

A watershed organization that does not have 501(c)(3) status may still propose services to FSWCD as long as attainment of the status is proposed as a service and completed first. Watershed organizations must demonstrate how attaining this status will enhance their ability to improve water quality/promote storm water and water quality awareness. Subsequent purchase of other services will be contingent on successfully attaining 501(c)(3) status and at the discretion FSWCD.

E. ELIGIBLE SERVICES

FSWCD seeks to contract with eligible watershed organizations for the following services:

- Services related to community engagement and education on Columbus' water quality issues and best practices to address these problems, as well as monitoring and planning work that advances watershed management in Central Ohio.
- Restoration of streams, wetlands, and other degraded landscapes to address flooding, streambank erosion, and water quality problems.
- Preservation and conservation of open spaces through land acquisition and conservation services.
- Educational programming, workshops, or watershed management assistance to promote conservation, pollution prevention, and other water quality improvement practices.
- Implementation of innovative stormwater and watershed management practices, such as de-paving, tree planting, or green infrastructure projects, that reduce pollution and increase water quality.
- Development of NPS-IS Nine-Element Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategic Plans (NPS-IS) for HUC-12s within the City of Columbus.
- Coordinate and implement climate resiliency measures, projects, and programs throughout Columbus City limits.
- Services to promote the use of pollution prevention techniques and best practices to control stormwater runoff and minimize illicit discharges through the implementation of stormwater management practices.
- Salary for necessary work related to completing services. Additional tracking and documentation will be required for salary-related payment.

- Attainment of 501(c)(3) status, as long as attainment of this status is completed prior to the purchase of any other proposed services. A watershed group seeking funding for attaining this status must provide an explanation of how attaining this status will enhance their ability to improve water quality/promote storm water and water quality awareness.

F. WATERSHED ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBILITIES, FAILURE TO COMPLY AND LIMITATIONS OF FSWCD SUPPORT

Upon signing a service agreement with FSWCD, watershed organizations will be required to:

- Recognize DPU and FSWCD in presentations, publications, annual reports, websites, and other documents as appropriate.
- Complete work as detailed in the proposal submitted in response to this Call for Proposals.
- Complete and submit required progress and financial reports. Templates for these reports will be provided by FSWCD.
- Meet with FSWCD staff when requested to review progress.

Failure to meet any of these requirements may result in the termination of the service agreement.

Entering into a service agreement with FSWCD shall not be construed as FSWCD's support for the watershed organization's overall activities. Watershed organizations shall not use FSWCD or DPU's name or logo in connection with activities outside the scope of an approved agreement without prior approval of the Watershed Resource Specialist.

G. SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on need for eligible services and criteria described in this section. Proposals are eligible for funding only if all the criteria detailed below are addressed. DPU will review proposals and award points in each category based on the quality and depth of answers provided. Proposals will be evaluated individually on points awarded. Service agreements will be offered for services that are the most advantageous to Columbus DPU at their discretion.

1. Provide sufficient detail to substantiate that proposal is submission of an Eligible Applicant per Section D. Include: board rosters, three (3) letters of support from local governments, and other information sufficient to substantiate that they are considered a representative organization dedicated specifically to the improvement of the designated watershed. (10 points)
2. Describe the organizational structure, staffing, and membership. Include recent audited financial statement or IRS Form-990 and annual budget. (20 points)
3. Provide status of Nine-Element Nonpoint Source Implementation Strategic (NPS-IS) Plans, Balanced Growth Plans, and Total Maximum Daily Load studies. (10 points)

4. Complete an individual Watershed Partner Proposed Service Worksheet for each of the, services that will be provided by the watershed organization to DPU (see Attachment
a. Submit only one (1) page per service. (50 points)
5. Underserved Community: Note if the service will be located in a historically underserved community (Celebrate One Neighborhoods, UMFP Priority Equity Areas, CDC Social Vulnerability Index, or others). (10 points)

H. APPLICATION

The application for the Watershed Partner Service Agreement is located at:

www.franklinswcd.org/columbus-watershed-partners

I. QUESTIONS AND IMPORTANT DATES

Please direct all questions regarding this funding opportunity to Henry Stahl, Watershed Resource Specialist of FSWCD:

Henry Stahl
614-813-8443
hstahl@franklinswcd.org

Important Dates

1. Call for Proposals available from FSWCD: [10/16/2024]
2. Proposals due: [11/17/24]*
3. Project awards anticipated: [11/25/24]
4. Service Start Date: [12/1/24]

**Anticipate a notice of proposal receipt upon submission*

ATTACHMENT A



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WATERSHED PARTNER PROPOSED SERVICE WORKSHEET

Title of Proposed Service:

Total Cost:

Eligible Service Category *(see Section E):*

Description of Proposed Activity *(limit to 150 words):*

Service Deliverable(s) *(list in bullet format):*

Long-term Outcomes(s):