



**Franklin Soil and Water  
Conservation District**  
*Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 60 Years*

# 2010 Annual Report



## Our Mission:

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.



# Program Areas

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District receives state matching funds for grants received from Franklin County and local townships and municipalities. In 2010, match-funding was 50 per cent. What this means for local governments is that we are able to bring you more programming, more technical support and more on-the-ground conservation for your money.

In addition to the program areas highlighted here, one of our strengths is grant management and the ability to partner with government, non-profit and private organizations in order to achieve project success. Two large grant-funded, multiple-partner projects in 2010 were the OSU Waterman Farm agricultural demonstration project and the Brook Run neighborhood rain garden monitoring project in Westerville.

## Backyard Conservation and Landowner Assistance

With the goals of reducing the impact of storm water runoff and improving urban wildlife habitat, we offer site assessments, evaluation and technical guidance to help landowners learn about and implement conservation practices. Practices include stream buffers, streambank protection, alternative drainage management, rain gardens, rain barrels, composting and the use of native plants. We also offer workshops and municipal cost-share programs on these practices.



## Conservation Easements

We partner with landowners, developers and local governments to hold donated or purchased easements along streams to improve water quality, protect streams, restore wetlands and protect against flooding. We currently use a targeted approach, focusing on one watershed at a time, to make the greatest impact on the protection of the stream. Over 700 acres of stream corridors in Franklin County are now protected by permanent conservation easements that filter pollutants, reduce streambank erosion and provide a healthy stream ecosystem.

## Developing Lands

We provide technical services for storm water management and sediment and erosion control on developing lands. Services provided to municipalities, developers and residents include guidance on practices to reduce soil loss, review of storm water pollution prevention plans, construction site inspections and training in these topics. Achieving compliance with NPDES permit regulations reduces the negative impacts of storm water runoff and improves water quality.





## Environmental Education

We provide a variety of educational programming to both students and educators. Resources for students include loan kits, in-class presentations, field investigations including stream quality monitoring and competitions such as the Envirothon for high school students and the conservation poster contest for grades pre-K to 12. All student programs are correlated with Ohio Academic Content Standards. Environmental education workshops for in-service and pre-service teachers are offered throughout the year.

## Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE)

We assist Franklin County Public Health in meeting NPDES Phase II illicit discharge detection requirements for Franklin County and local municipalities. Dry weather screening and sampling of outfalls is conducted in coordination with stream resource mapping. IDDE field staff are certified by Ohio EPA as qualified data collectors. The IDDE data is fully integrated into our nationally recognized GIS geodatabase for ease of municipal or township management.



## Public Outreach and Participation

We provide a variety of public education, outreach, involvement and participation programs for townships and municipalities to help meet the requirements of NPDES storm water permits. These programs include both print and electronic newsletters, social media platforms, community displays, workshops on backyard conservation topics, volunteer opportunities and stream clean-up events.

## Stream Resource Mapping

We are completing and updating a comprehensive county stream geodatabase that can be used for hydrologic modeling. Over 40,000 data points have been collected along 1,400 stream miles. Data points include agricultural tile outfalls, septic outfalls and surface intersections. This GIS tool allows land use planners digital access to drainage information and storm water managers pollution source tracking, while overlaying information with roads, buildings, soil types and parcel maps. Received the 2010 OGRIP Best Practices Award.



# 2010 By the Numbers

## Agricultural Conservation

- NRCS applied conservation practices to 1,309 acres of cropland to improve soil quality and to 1,663 acres to improve water quality
- NRCS applied conservation practices to 313 acres of forest land and 5 acres of grazing land
- NRCS restored or improved 612 acres for wildlife and 15 acres of wetlands
- NRCS wrote conservation plans that covered 1,711 acres

## Backyard Conservation and Landowner Assistance

- Provided 6,923 low-cost tree seedlings to 240 landowners
- Planned and facilitated the installation of 24 rain gardens
- Provided 35 landowners with backyard conservation or stream management assistance
- Assisted 5 landowners with natural resource assistance, 12 landowners with drainage assistance and 15 landowners with pond assistance
- Provided natural resource information and land-use guidance to 2,872 landowners, 559 local government staff, 187 consulting firm employees, 182 contractors and developers and 15 watershed group members

## Conservation Easements

- Acquired 58 acres of conservation easements
- Inspected 26 conservation easements on over 700 acres
- Planted 300 trees on 2 acres

## Developing Lands

- Completed 253 site inspections on 29 construction sites

## Environmental Education

- Provided 13,963 students and adults with natural resources and land-use information through presentations

## Illicit Discharge Detection And Elimination

- Collected 108 water quality samples and inventoried 13,382 features including pipes, catch basins and open channels to detect possible pollution sources

## Public Outreach and Participation

- Participated in 24 community events reaching over 14,012 residents with a conservation message
- Delivered three audience-specific newsletters (Frankly Speaking, The Urban Review and SWIFT) to over 14,000 individuals
- Provided training at 26 workshops for 680 local government, natural resource and education professionals
- Issued press releases and media advisories resulting in 18 news stories

Funding Source	Percentage
Local government funding	60%
State match dollars	30%
Donations, interest and other	4%
State, federal and private grants	3%
Fees, sales and registrations	3%
USDA Farm Bill	0%
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$1,284,131</b>
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>\$1,049,935</b>

## Thank you to our Funders:

Franklin County Commissioners  
Ohio State Legislature  
City of Columbus

The Cities of: Dublin, Canal Winchester, Gahanna, Grove City, Hilliard, New Albany, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Westerville, and Worthington

The Village of Obetz

The Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department and the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer

Ohio Environmental Education Fund

Event Sponsors: SonicRim, August Mack Environmental, Oakland Nursery, AEP, MORPC Center for Energy and Environment, McMahon Degulis, and Ohio Environmental Council

And natural resource assistance from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources

The entire financial report is available at the **Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District** office:  
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(614) 486-9613  
[www.franklinswcd.org](http://www.franklinswcd.org)  
[www.facebook.com/franklinsoilandwater](http://www.facebook.com/franklinsoilandwater)  
[www.twitter.com/franklinswcd](http://www.twitter.com/franklinswcd)

# Staff and Board

Franklin Soil and Water is led by a five-member, volunteer and publicly elected Board of Supervisors. Supervisors are elected to staggered, three-year terms at an election held each year at the Annual Meeting in October.

## 2010 Board of Supervisors

Chair: Dan Binder

Vice Chair: Mark Dilley

Secretary and Fiscal Agent: Katie Renner

Member: Suzan Jervey

Member: Lindsay Bair

## 2010 Staff

**Director:** Jennifer Fish

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**Habitat Conservationist:** Stephanie Suter

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**Natural Resources Conservationist:** Kyle Wilson

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**NRCS District Conservationist:** Mary Ann Core

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## What is a soil and water conservation district?

Soil and water districts in Ohio are political subdivisions of the state, organized along county boundaries. Funding however, comes voluntarily from local governments: the county commissioners, townships and municipalities within a county. This local revenue is then matched by the state, if it is budgeted by the state legislature.

The precedence taken by local funding keeps soil and water districts responsive on a grass-roots level to the needs of local communities. This allows rural districts to be heavily involved with agricultural drainage and urban districts such as Franklin Soil and Water to focus on polluted storm water runoff, green infrastructure and outreach to homeowners.

Urban districts have also become the go-to experts for local governments seeking assistance in meeting the requirements of Ohio EPA-regulated storm water permits. Specialized storm water requirements, including detailed GIS mapping of water infrastructure, construction site inspection, and facilitating citizen-led watershed groups, become even more cost-effective for local governments when they partner with soil and water conservation districts bringing in state matching funds to their already efficient and experienced program areas.