

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.

Thank You to Our Funders

Franklin County Commissioners
The Ohio State Legislature
The City of Columbus
The Cities of Canal Winchester, Dublin, Gahanna, Grove City, Hilliard, New Albany, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Westerville and Worthington; and the Village of Obetz
The Franklin County Economic Development and Planning Department
The Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Natural resources assistance from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources

Event Sponsors

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Reducing Costs to Local Governments

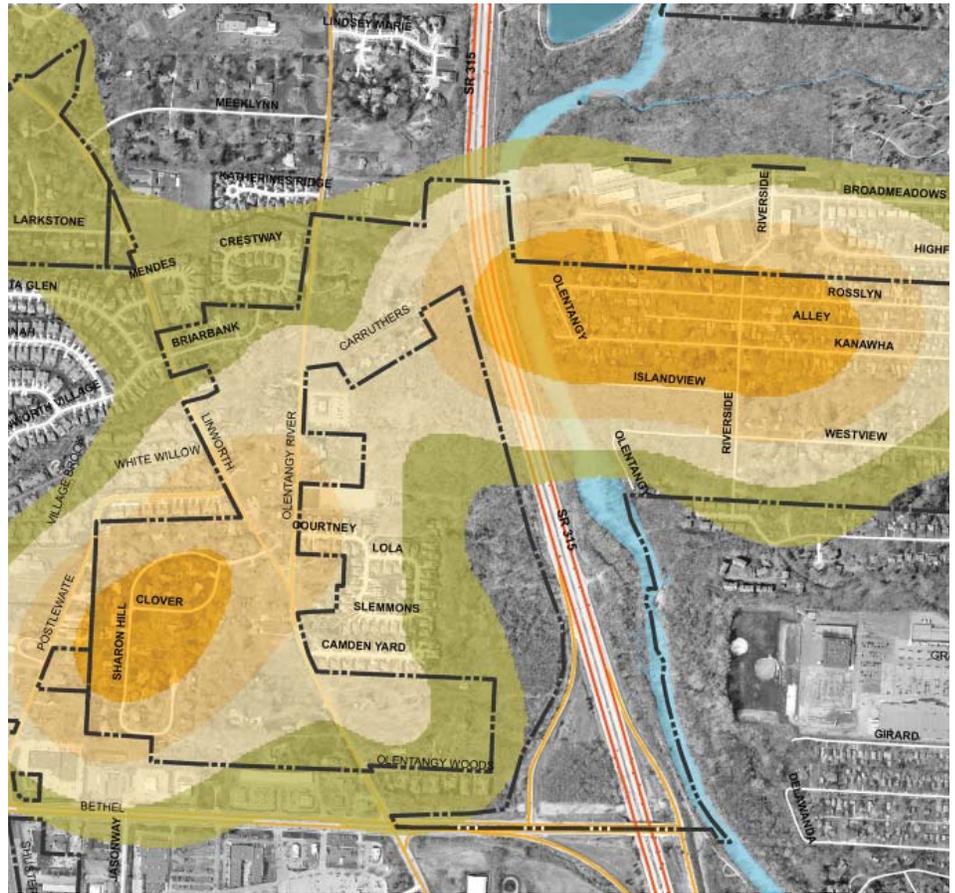
Franklin Soil and Water assisted Franklin County, its 17 townships, and Canal Winchester, Dublin, Gahanna, Grove City, Hilliard, New Albany, Obetz, Reynoldsburg, Upper Arlington, Westerville and Worthington with one or more of the six minimum control measures in Ohio EPA's stormwater permit. These specialized services are provided at a low cost to local governments who also consult with us for feedback and guidance on their own programs. We are particularly proud that local government partners have received good audits of their storm water programs by Ohio EPA.



Highlights

Addressing Failing Home Sewage Treatment Systems

A common pollutant found across Ohio is the effluent from old and nonfunctioning household sewage systems (HSTS). Proactive responses by Franklin County Public Health and Franklin Soil and Water informed homeowners of their responsibilities and the efforts of Public Health to abate the health nuisance caused by untreated human waste in county waters. Franklin Soil and Water's award-winning GIS team mapped HSTS effluent flows and identified areas of concern to prioritize enforcement and plan for future sewerage. Communicators in the partnering agencies reached out to stakeholders through the media, public meetings and through an interactive Web site hosted by Public Health.



Promoting Stormwater Management

By organizing and hosting the annual Stormwater and Erosion Control Expo and the quarterly Central Ohio Roundtable, Franklin Soil and Water provided continuing education for stormwater professionals. We also held workshops, hosted Web seminars and published the award-winning *The Urban Review* newsletter to promote the latest technologies and practices in stormwater management to local government and private-sector employees.

Highlights

Supporting Watershed Coordinators

Franklin Soil and Water brought under one roof two watershed coordinator positions that had previously been held by Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT), Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) and Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission. This allows the watershed coordinators to collaborate on current district projects as well as receive support from our GIS, Conservation Implementation and Urban Conservation staff, and the USDA NRCS district conservationist.



Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Practices

Franklin Soil and Water is fiscal agent, and a staff member is project manager, on an Ohio EPA 319 grant that funds the installation of best management practices (BMPs) at the OSU Waterman Agricultural and Natural Resources Laboratory. These progressive projects on a working dairy farm are already serving as application tools for current and future farmers. In the grant's first year, three statewide water quality organizations toured the site. 2012 will see additional BMPs and educational opportunities.



Advocating for Stream Protection Regulations

A time-tested and proven means of water quality protection and flood mitigation is using stream setback regulations to preserve riparian corridors. Franklin Soil and Water staff worked closely with Franklin County Economic Development & Planning Department staff on the Clean Streams Northeast initiative. We also assisted with messaging to the public through numerous public workshops, meetings and stakeholder interviews.

Communicating the Importance of Local Control of Natural Resources Protection

HB 153, the Ohio biennium budget, created the Conservation Delivery Task Force to examine how Ohio's 88 soil and water conservation districts deliver services, identify barriers to efficient service delivery and explore opportunities for shared services. Franklin Soil and Water director Jennifer Fish was a member of the Conservation Program Delivery Advisory Group, where she took the lead in communicating the importance of maintaining the local connection to conservation delivery. Franklin Soil and Water's long history of collaboration with all levels of government from national to township, and with public, private and nonprofit organizations shows that the current model provides for cost-effective and efficient conservation on the ground.

2011 by the numbers

Board of Supervisors

Mark Dilley, Chair
 David Donofrio, Vice Chair
 Katie Renner, Treasurer
 Andrea Salimbene
 Thomas Shockley

2011 Accomplishments

Acquired 9.5 acres of conservation easement on two properties in 2011 through donations

Planted 900 trees on 2 acres

Provided 12,264 trees to 399 customers

Delivered 900 rain barrels with stormwater information

Planned and facilitated the installation of 25 rain gardens

Provided 72 landowners with backyard conservation or stream management assistance

Assisted 22 landowners with natural resource assistance, 19 landowners with drainage assistance and 6 landowners with pond assistance

Completed 343 site inspections on 30 construction sites

Collected 15 water quality samples and inventoried 5,892 features including pipes, catch basins and open channels to detect possible pollution sources

Assisted in county storm sewer mapping and conservation implementation

Provided natural resource information and land use guidance to 3,764 landowners, 207 local government staff, 257 consulting firm employees, 126 contractors and developers and 15 watershed group members

Provided training at 16 workshops for 340 local government, natural resource and education professionals

Total receipts:

\$1,482,900.78

Total disbursements:

\$1,337,109.37

The entire financial report is available by calling the office at (614) 486-9613



Provided 17,200 students and adults with natural resources and land use information through presentations

Participated in 16 community events reaching over 2,000 residents with a conservation message

Provided over 15,000 stakeholders with an audience-specific newsletter: Frankly Speaking, SWIFT or The Urban Review

Issued press releases and media advisories resulting in 14 news stories

NRCS created, restored or enhanced 36 acres of wetland

NRCS applied conservation practices to 451 acres of forest land

NRCS applied conservation practices to 1,902 acres of cropland and 442 acres of grazing land

NRCS restored or improved 630 acres for wildlife



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

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