

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 2012 Funders

Franklin County Board of 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 and the Franklin County Sanitary Engineer
The Ohio Environmental Education Fund
Natural resources assistance from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Soil and Water Resources.

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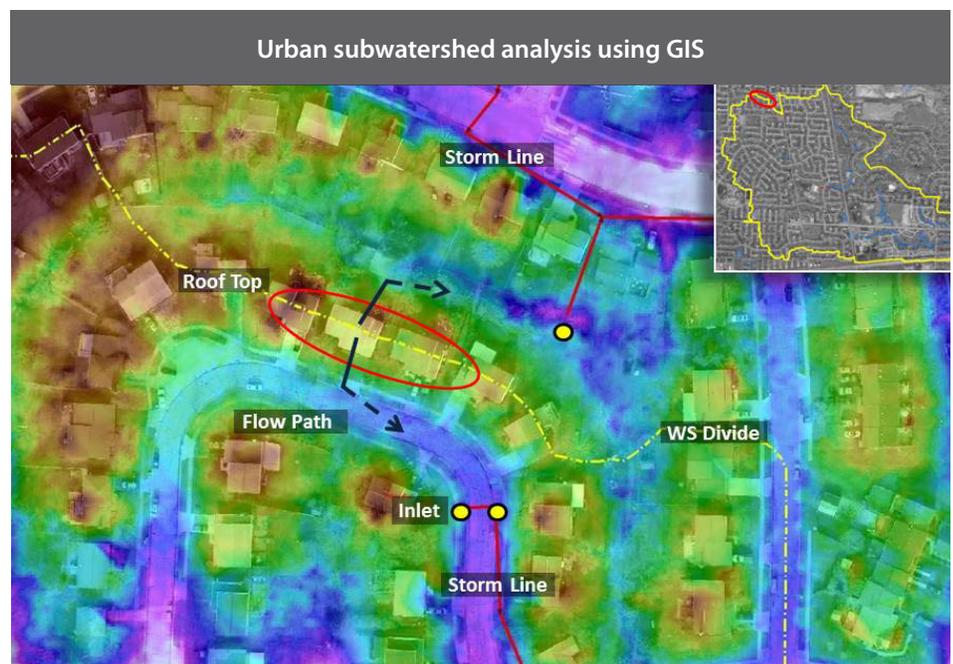
Just What Does Franklin Soil and Water Do?

The function of the Conservation District is to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources.

National Association of Conservation Districts

The answer to this question may vary greatly depending on which of our partners you talk to. As director of Franklin Soil and Water, my short answer to this is "We do all things related to natural resources in Franklin County." This is great for a quick elevator ride, but it really does not accurately describe what we do.

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We have an array of programs for a small staff. For example:

- We provide environmental education programs in schools, to scout groups and to as many organizations as resources permit.
- We are working with garden centers to provide tools and resources that assist them in talking to customers about rain gardens and other practices that improve water quality and stream protection.
- We use a geographic information system (GIS) extensively to access existing soils, topography, aerial photo and drainage information to create new resources, including wetland potential maps, household sewage treatment system pollution indices, forestry



Girl Scouts learn about stormwater at Grove City rain garden



Public-private partnership with garden centers to promote rain gardens

coverage and changing watershed delineations based on redirection of water by storm sewers.

We strive to be strategic in our work and focus on natural resources concerns where we have the greatest expertise and where there is the greatest need. In Franklin County, the intersection of need and our expertise is stormwater management. This does not mean that we don't support natural resources conservation on agricultural land or collaborate with partners on other environmental

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and sustainability concerns such as local foods or invasive species. In fact, much of the agricultural best management practice (BMP) knowledge has been the foundation for stormwater management BMPs.

We are concerned about watersheds and will partner outside the county, especially with adjacent soil and water conservation districts to keep the state partnership strong. We write grants and provide support for projects outside of the county and we share resources with other soil

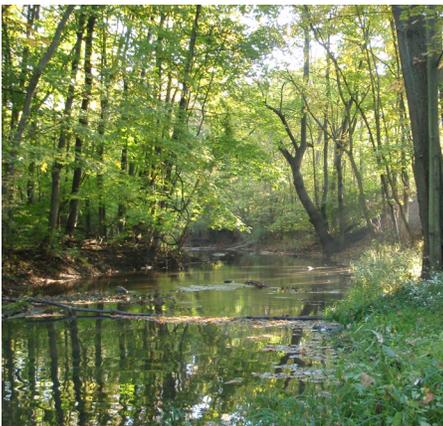
and water offices.

We focus on encouraging voluntary practices for natural resources conservation by providing technical and grant-writing assistance ... mostly. We do work with local governments to review construction plan reviews and we do conduct site inspections. If these sites are in non-compliance with local or state regulations we will work with landowners to get their sites in compliance. If we do not have timely cooperation or the non-

compliance is purposeful and egregious, we will notify the proper authorities so that they can take enforcement action. The same approach is used for urban and agriculture pollution complaints.

We advocate for clean water and natural resource conservation ... carefully. We research and provide the most up-to-date technical information, including trends, studies and natural resources information when a natural resource concern arises.

Often we find that the information we present is not as black-and-white as proponents or opponents of a natural resource related controversy think. We also strive to keep open lines of communication with environmentalists, developers, farmers, government agency staff, businesses and residents alike. We all affect the quality of our natural resources and communicating both our positive and negative impacts on these resources is a primary focus of our organization.



Assistance with stream setback regulations



Photo documentation of site inspection



Hands-on backyard conservation at State Fair



Soil tunnel is a popular school presentation

Sincerely,

Director

2012 by the numbers

Board of Supervisors

David Donofrio, Chair
 Katie Renner, Vice Chair
 Andrea Salimbene, Treasurer
 Thomas Shockley
 Jessica D'Ambrosio

Total receipts: **\$1,666,332.35**
 Total disbursements: **\$1,403,266.99**

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

2012 Accomplishments

Provided 9,495 trees to 448 customers
 Planted 300 trees on 3 acres
 Planned & facilitated the installation of 5 rain gardens & provided assistance to 2 bio-infiltration projects
 Provided low-cost rain barrels to 946 county homeowners
 Provided 63 landowners with backyard conservation or stream management assistance
 Assisted 7 landowners with natural resource assistance, 8 landowners with drainage assistance & 4 landowners with pond assistance
 Completed 436 site inspections on 27 construction sites
 Collected 15 water quality samples & mapped 9,331 features including pipes, catch basins & open channels to detect possible pollution sources
 Submitted funded proposal to replace 5 failing HSTS
 Submitted funded proposal for in-stream bioreactor
 Submitted funded 319 grant for stormwater basin retrofit
 Assisted in county storm sewer mapping & conservation implementation
 Provided natural resource information & land use guidance to 1,000 landowners, 80 local government staff, 52 consulting firm employees, 28 contractors and developers & 15 watershed group members
 Provided training at 8 stormwater management workshops for 733 local government, natural resource & education professionals
 Provided 15,091 students & teachers with stormwater & environmental education presentations, trainings & hands-on activities
 Provided 15 conservation workshops & presentations to 316 landowners & natural resource professionals



Natural resources mapping involves field (and stream) work

Participated in 23 community events reaching over 5,287 residents with a conservation message
 Mailed 4R program materials to county landowners
 Delivered four audience-specific newsletters to the development community (535), education professionals (5,600),

professional partners (433) & landowners (7,500)
 Issued press releases & media advisories resulting in 14 news stories
 Outreached through Web site & social media to 15,871 unique visitors, 666 'likes' on 2 Facebook pages & 424 followers on Twitter
 NRCS restored or enhanced 58 acres of

wetland
 NRCS applied conservation practices on 243 acres of forest land
 NRCS applied conservation practices on 34 acres of grazing land
 NRCS improved 675 acres for fish & wildlife habitat
 NRCS wrote conservation plans on 729 acres

NRCS applied conservation to improve soil quality on 830 acres
 NRCS applied conservation to improve water quality on 1,293 acres
 NRCS applied conservation on 41 acres to improve irrigation
 NRCS installed 4 seasonal high tunnels



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

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