



Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 60 Years

2016 GreenSpot Backyards Program

Franklin Soil and Water and the City of Columbus' intergovernmental working agreement will continue to have the following goals for the 2016 Program:

1. Increase awareness among City of Columbus residents on behaviors and practices that influence local environment including residential flooding, water quality, and habitat. Information and resources are provided through a website, written materials, and workshops.
2. Engage as many City of Columbus households in implementing backyard conservation practices as resources allow. Rebates are provided for approved rain barrels, compost bins, native plants, and trees. Additional assistance will be made available through emails, phone calls and site visits.
3. To coordinate with the following partner initiatives and programs: GreenSpot Columbus, Branch Out Columbus, Blueprint Columbus, Gardening for Clean Water, Columbus Lawncare, and Backyard Habitats with Grange insurance Audubon Center. Outreach and education are additionally extended via watershed groups Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) and Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT).

Franklin Soil and Water will provide the following services to the City of Columbus:

1. Implement the GreenSpot Backyards Rebate Program:
 - (a) Interested GreenSpot Members within Franklin County must complete an educational course to receive the rebate in one of two ways: attendance at a free in-person workshop facilitated by Franklin Soil and Water and partnering organizations; or completion of the online backyard conservation course and quiz through www.greenspotbackyards.org.

- (b) Vouchers will be created individually for each participant after their information is verified through ArcGIS (Geographic Information Systems). Vouchers will include eligible rebate items for each participant.
 - (c) Voucher is valid for 60 days with limited extensions upon request. Vouchers and rebates will not be accepted after December 31, 2016.
 - (d) In-person workshop attendees will receive a voucher of attendance at the end of the workshop. Their information will be verified prior to the workshop. Attendees who did not register for the workshop will receive an attendance slip which they can send in to request a voucher.
 - (e) Online course and quiz participants will receive a voucher through email or mail after passing the quiz (70% or better).
2. Original receipt or copy, voucher, and photo of item will be submitted to Franklin Soil and Water in exchange for a reimbursement rebate check for no more than \$50 for rain barrels, compost bins, or native plants. In support of Branch Out Columbus, city residents may use up to \$100 towards a tree purchase. Refund will be limited to **\$100 per household per year**.
- (a) Reimbursements will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Once reimbursement dollars are expended for each item, reimbursements will not be available for the remainder of 2016. Available vouchers and their corresponding expiration date will be tracked to ensure that the largest number of potential rebates is available at any given time.
 - (b) In the interest of convenience, program growth, and support of local retailers that carry appropriate items, Franklin Soil and Water has approached our more heavily utilized retailers (Rain Brothers LLC, City Folks Farm Shop, Scioto Gardens, and Oakland Nurseries Columbus branch) about the possibility of immediate discounts at point-of-sale. Vendors may invoice Franklin Soil and Water monthly or more frequently for the amount of vouchers claimed. Because an approved item will have been purchased, it will not be necessary to send in receipts, photos, and voucher/certificates to Franklin Soil and Water for pre-approval.
 - (c) "Approved" items are rain barrels with diverters to avoid overflow; fully enclosed composting units (including bottom); and perennials, shrubs, or trees. No vegetables, annuals, or invasive plants (as per Ohio Invasive Plants Council, ODNR, and Midwest Invasive Plant Network)

are permitted. Though native plant use is highly encouraged, non-natives are eligible for reimbursement.

Franklin Soil and Water will provide the following services and information to residents of Franklin County throughout the year:

- 1) Franklin Soil and Water will work with Neighborhood Pride coordinators to offer information to homeowners on the Low Income Water and Sewer program offered through the Department of Utilities. We will provide information on how qualified low-income GreenSpot members may receive free rain barrel after completion of workshop or online course. Fifteen low-income rain barrels are currently available.
- 2) Franklin Soil and Water will advertise availability of free rain sensors to homeowners with automated sprinklers. Sensors save water by measuring precipitation amounts and suspend irrigation cycles when water is unnecessary.
- 3) Rain garden assistance and education:
 - (a) Guidance from Franklin Soil and Water and onsite evaluations will be available to help ensure proper planning and placement of rain gardens. Efforts will be made to avoid placement over lateral lines in SSO and CSO area.
 - (b) City of Columbus will be recognized as a Gardening for Clean Water program supporter to provide backyard conservation and rain garden information to garden center customers.

The City of Columbus, Office of the Mayor and Department of Public Utilities will provide the following support to Franklin Soil and Water

- 1) Public Utilities shall compensate Franklin Soil and Water in the amount not to exceed **\$74,000**. (DPU will collect \$20,000 from Mayors Office). These funds will be distributed on or near January 31st, 2015.

2016 GreenSpot Community Backyards Budget

Revenue	2016	2015 Budget
Columbus Grant – Sewer and Drains	\$30,000	\$30,000
Columbus Grant- Water	\$24,000	
Columbus Mayor’s Office	\$20,000	\$24,000
		\$20,000
Municipal County Funding		
FSWCD Funding Match	\$26,500	\$26,500
280 unused rebates from 2015 to roll over for 2016 season 185 (out of 350) Rain Barrels 75 (out of 200) Compost Bins 20 (out of 150) Plants & Trees	\$14,000	
Credit for 14 low income rain barrels FSWCD bought back	\$770	
Total	115,270	\$100,500
Revenue	2016 Budget	2015 Budget
Workshops \$500/Workshop	Approximate Number of Workshops- 8 (Subject to Change)	Approximate Number of Workshops- 10 (Subject to Change)
Franklin Soil and Water - \$500 per Workshop		
Partners- \$350 Full Workshop, \$200 Assist with Workshop		
Grange Insurance Audubon Center - \$600 Full Workshop (facilities cost)	Total: \$4,200	Total: \$3,100
Cost Share and Rebate Dollars (Estimated)	600- \$50 Rebates \$ 30,000	
250 Rain Barrels		
150 Compost Bins		
200 Plants	200 - \$100 Rebates \$ 20,000	\$35,000
200 Trees		
(\$50 Rebate)		
(\$100 Rebate- Trees)	Total – \$50,000	
“Train the Trainer” workshop	\$500	\$500
Paid Advertising (Magazines, Newspapers, Prints)	\$2,000	\$1,400

Public Relations/Outreach and Advertisements/ Gardening for Clean Water (PR Staff)**	\$4,250	\$4,000
Video/power point/ quiz/ website updates, educational material development, printing	\$6,000	\$7,000
Registration, Ordering, Pick-up, Customer Service (Admin Staff)	\$45,000	\$36,000
Oversight, research QA/QC	Rolled into Admin Costs	\$10,000
10 Site Visits for Rain Gardens	\$1,500	
GIS Mapping Assistance	\$2,000	
Total Expenses	\$115,270	\$100,500

It is Mutually Agreed:

- 1) That all parties will review quality of service, coordinate activities, share expertise and address concerns as they arise.

- 2) That credit will be given jointly to Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Columbus GreenSpot program in presentations and materials.
- 3) That this working agreement may be amended or terminated at any time by mutual consent or the agreement may be terminated by either party giving sixty (60) days' notice in writing to the other.

SIGNATURES

The below signatures certify consent on the above agreement.

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Signature

CITY OF COLUMBUS

Signature