



# Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

*Creating Conservation Solutions for Over 70 Years*

## **City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District 2025 Working Agreement**

This working agreement is between the City of Columbus (“Columbus”) and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (“FSWCD”). This agreement is effective upon the execution of the City of Columbus and terminates on March 31, 2026. The agreement is subject to the limitations of authorities, resources and policies of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Columbus.

The purpose of this agreement is to provide support and coordination for the following programs and projects:

- 1) Community Backyards & Resident Outreach: \$222,450 (Attachment A)
- 2) Business Outreach: \$19,480 (Attachment B)
- 3) Stormwater and Conservation Education in schools within City of Columbus: \$27,540 (Attachment C)
- 4) Outreach to Developers, Contractors, and Stormwater Professionals: \$2,000 (Attachment D)
- 5) Columbus Watershed Management Assistance: \$23,250 (Attachment E)
- 6) Franklin County Stream Resource Geo Database: \$20,800 (Attachment F)
- 7) Columbus Urban Watershed Delineation: \$50,000 (Attachment G)
- 8) Watershed Partnership Service Agreement: \$58,000 (Attachment H)

For the benefit of Columbus Department of Public Utilities in managing stormwater and improving source water quality.

**The City of Columbus will provide the following:**

The City of Columbus shall compensate FSWCD in the form of a working agreement in the amount of **\$423,520**. FSWCD reserves the right to expend funds as needed to meet working agreement components and overhead costs. This agreement is not intended to be a fee for service agreement, but rather support for mutually beneficial programs and services. FSWCD will provide services and support to Columbus within and outside this agreement as requested and as resources allow. This agreement supports our current mission and goals.

**It is Mutually Agreed:**

That FSWCD is a conservation technical and education service agency and therefore is not granted regulatory authority in the Ohio Revised Code.

That the City and FSWCD will meet when necessary to review and coordinate activities and programs with the aim of developing a multi-discipline approach to resource management.

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 signatures below certify consent on the above agreement.

FRANKLIN SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Signature	Title	Date
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CITY OF COLUMBUS

Signature	Title	Date
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## Attachment A

### 2025 Community Backyards Program Scope of Services

***A. Franklin Soil and Water and the City of Columbus' intergovernmental working agreement will continue to have the following goals:***

**1) Community Backyards**

- i) Education: Increase awareness among City of Columbus ("Columbus") residents and businesses on behaviors and practices that influence the local environment including stormwater runoff, residential flooding, water quality, and water efficiency. Information and resources will be provided through the Community Backyards rebate program website, written materials, online course, workshops, and social media.
- ii) Community Backyards Rebates: Engage as many Columbus households as resources allow in implementing backyard conservation practices. Rebates will be provided for approved rain barrels, native plants (including perennials, shrubs, and trees), and rain gardens. Technical assistance will be available through email, phone, and site visits conducted in-person or remotely.
- iii) Business Rebates: Engage and incentivize local businesses and organizations via cost shares for stormwater BMPs including native plants, rain gardens, and green infrastructure projects. Special consideration will be given to projects benefiting underserved communities and projects accessible to the public.
- iv) Lawn Care: Continue relationships with lawncare companies, OSU Turfgrass, and professional organizations. Continue outreach at events and directly to residents in coordination with community backyards.

**2) Rain Gardens & Gardening for Clean Water**

- i) Rain Garden Rebates: Promote rain garden rebates via Community Backyards. Provide direct assistance and support to landowners installing rain gardens.
- ii) Gardening for Clean Water: Promote Community Backyards and native plant education at local nurseries and garden centers.
- iii) Master Rain Gardeners: Provide training to interested residents and professionals while encouraging community engagement through the installation or maintenance of rain gardens.

**3) Program Coordination & Evaluation: Coordinate efforts with city staff and partners and promote collaboration. Identify opportunities to increase outreach and engagement. Evaluate program effectiveness internally and with city staff.**

- 4) **DEI Outreach:** Maintain and expand opportunities and partnerships to diversify the face and message of Community Backyards by creating a network of partners, community leaders, residents, and organizations that serve residents in opportunity neighborhoods including IMPACT Community Action.
- 5) **Partnerships:** The program will coordinate and collaborate with various local partners and programs including: City of Columbus' GreenSpot, Blueprint, Sustainable Columbus, Urban Forestry Master Plan, Franklin Soil and Water's Gardening for Clean Water and Master Rain Gardener, SWACO, IMPACT Community Action, Green Columbus, and Grange Insurance Audubon Center. Outreach and education will coordinate with local watershed and community partners including: Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW), Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT), Simply Living, IMPACT Community Action, Green Columbus, Columbus Garden School, Grange Insurance Audubon Center, and Franklin County Pollinator Pathway. Community partners are organizations focused on promoting conservation, BMPs, and native plants.

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

**1) Evaluate and update program materials and promotional strategies.**

- i) Internally and externally evaluate any changes that need to be made to the program, handouts, website, or course content.
  - (a) Continue to seek partners with diverse perspectives.
- ii) Provide information and resources such as text, graphics, links, and handouts for City of Columbus to use for their website, social media, or newsletters.
- iii) Seek opportunities to promote the programs to residents at libraries, community centers, or community events.
- iv) Use targeted social media to reach new audiences.

**2) Implement the Community Backyards rebate program for residents.**

- i) **Education Course:** Offer an educational course that will place the primary focus on stormwater, stormwater pollution and abatement, and water efficiency via rain barrels, rain gardens, proper lawn care, and native plants. The course will be offered online and in-person from Franklin Soil and Water staff and trained facilitators.
- ii) **Voucher:** Interested Columbus residents can receive a voucher after completing the course. Participant information and tax district will be verified via the Franklin County Auditor. The voucher will be personalized and indicate eligible rebate item and how much, how to redeem their rebate, and the requirements. Vouchers are valid for 45 days after issuance. Vouchers will no longer be accepted after December 1, 2025.
  - (a) Online course participants will receive a voucher via email or mail after passing the online quiz (70% or better) within 2 weeks of participation.

- (b) Workshop participants will receive their voucher at the workshop if they registered in advance. If they did not register, they can request a voucher via a sign-in sheet at the workshop. Their information will be verified and sent within 2 business days.
- (a) Franklin Soil and Water will organize 10 workshops within the City of Columbus.
  - (i) At least 4 workshops will be held in underserved communities. We will continue conversations with other groups for inclusivity such as: Columbus Metropolitan Library, Human Services Chamber, local food groups, and IMPACT Community Action.
  - (b) Additionally, Columbus residents can attend workshops in other communities besides Columbus at no additional cost to Columbus.
- iii) **Reimbursement Incentives (Rebates):** Rebates are limited to one rebate per household per year. The following rebates are available: \$75 rain barrel, \$50 native plants/trees/shrubs, or \$250 rain garden. Reimbursements for compost bins are also available to Columbus residents, funded via SWACO, at no additional cost to Columbus. To receive a rebate, residents have the option to 1) redeem at a local participating retailer for an immediate discount rebate or 2) submit to Franklin Soil and Water to receive a reimbursement check.
  - (a) **Immediate Discount Vendor Reimbursements:** In the interest of convenience, program growth, and reducing administrative workload, we will coordinate with 6 local participating vendors where residents can receive an immediate discount rebate at point-of-sale: City Folk's Farm Shop, Sunny Glen Garden, Fisher's Gardens, Scioto Gardens, Leaves for Wildlife, and the FSWCD/SWACO Compost Bin Sale. To be paid, the vendor must invoice Franklin Soil and Water monthly at a minimum and provide itemized receipts and voucher information. Because the vendors sell approved rebate items, the resident is not required to send in photos.
  - (b) **Traditional Reimbursements:** To redeem via Franklin Soil and Water, the resident purchases an eligible rebate item from a legitimate retailer and provides photos and receipts to Franklin Soil and Water after the item has been purchased and installed or planted. After approval, the resident will receive a reimbursement check via mail. To increase our accessibility and speed, beginning in 2025, we will also offer the option to receive a physical or digital gift card instead of a mailed check. We will work with a third-party vendor to offer the gift cards.
- iv) **Low Income Rain Barrels:** We will offer free rain barrels to Columbus Department of Public Utilities customers who participate in the low-income and/or senior discount programs. Limit one per household per year. The resident must provide a copy of their water bill that indicates the discount is received and complete a short half-page form to receive their free rain barrel from Franklin Soil and Water. There will be 20 free rain barrels available for 2025 through Franklin Soil and Water.
- v) **Invasive Trade-In Program:** We will pilot an invasive trade-in reimbursement program. This program will be adapted from our original pilot with City of New Albany. This is a separate reimbursement program from Community Backyards, but it will be promoted via Community Backyards. Residents are not required to participate in a class to qualify. Program dates will coincide with Community Backyards.

- (a) Requirements: Residents must remove at least one invasive tree or shrub, purchase at least one new native tree or shrub, and plant it in the ground. Additionally, they must submit pictures and receipts to receive reimbursement. Reimbursement will be up to \$100 per household. The reimbursement amount is the amount they spend on the new native tree or shrub(s). There will be 20 reimbursements available.
- (b) Targeted Species for Removal: We will primarily target the following 5 invasive species for removal through this program and call them the “Top 5 Most Wanted.” If someone has another invasive tree or shrub they would like to remove, we will allow it on a case-by-case basis, contingent on funding. The top 5 most wanted species are:
  - (a) Callery Pear/Bradford Pear
  - (b) Non-native Bush & Vine Honeysuckles (including Amur, Morrow, Tartarian and Japanese)
  - (c) Tree of Heaven
  - (d) Burning Bush
  - (e) Japanese Barberry
- vi) Work with the Department of Neighborhoods and neighborhood commissions to promote the program to residents.
- vii) All participants will be registered as a Columbus GreenSpot member after completing the course. A list of participants will be provided to the GreenSpot Coordinator monthly.

### **3) Implement the Community Backyards Business Rebate program.**

- i) Businesses and organizations can receive a reimbursement grant up to \$2,500 per project. The grant program will be rebranded from the original name “Columbus Business Rebates” to “Community Beyond Backyards.” Limit one grant per project. Projects can include any green infrastructure and stormwater BMPs such as native plants, rainwater collection and runoff reduction, and rain gardens.
  - (a) The business or organization must be a registered organization with the Ohio Secretary of State and able to provide an IRS W9 form to Franklin Soil and Water for state auditing requirements.
- ii) Two information sessions will be conducted virtually and coincide with Franklin Soil and Water’s Conservation Mini Grant and Columbus Tree Assistance Program (Recreation & Parks) information sessions in the interest of time.
- iii) An application will be required that asks for basic project information, estimated budget, and environmental and community impacts. Special consideration will be given to projects located in Columbus Opportunity Zones, Celebrate One neighborhoods, and areas with less than 20% tree canopy cover.
  - (a) Applications will be competitive and accepted February 1, 2025 – February 28, 2025.
  - (b) Awardees will be determined and notified by mid-March. Columbus staff will be invited to judge applications and provide input in the awardee selection process.
  - (c) Projects will need to be completed, and all documentation provided to Franklin Soil and Water by November 15, 2025.

- iv) Franklin Soil and Water staff will be available for technical assistance and guidance throughout the process for applicants and awardees.
- v) A site visit will be completed for each awardee after their project has been completed. Pictures and PR information will be provided to Columbus staff.
- vi) Awardees will be signed up as a GreenSpot Business. The list will be provided to the GreenSpot Coordinator after awardees have signed rebate agreements with Franklin Soil and Water.
- vii) If we still have funding remaining after the initial application pool, we will keep the application open on a first-come, first-served basis until all spots are filled.

**4) Promote proper lawn care messaging under the Community Backyards program.**

- i) Work with partners for continued program development and support. Engage with lawn care companies, program partners, and green industry professionals for feedback and content development.
  - (a) Attend seminars, conferences, or trade shows by related organizations such as the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation, Midwest Green Industry Experience, Ohio Green Industry Association, and Columbus Home & Garden Show.
- ii) Provide materials for distribution. Utilize print materials such as program flyers and seasonal tip sheets. Provide personalized “Seasonal How-To” tip sheets for lawn care companies to pass out to residents that include Columbus and Franklin Soil and Water logos. Explore radio ads. Continue giving talks on Ron Wilson’s Garden Show. Continue to include Get Grassy messaging in the Community Backyards programming and course content. Include lawn care information on the Community Backyards website.
- iii) Communicate digitally via website, social media, and e-updates. Provide graphics, information, and links to Columbus regarding lawn care and seasonally appropriate content.
- iv) Seek opportunities to collaborate with DPU and community partners to reach communities of color and opportunity neighborhoods.
  - (a) Inventory lawn care companies and partners in opportunity neighborhoods or minority owned.
- v) Hold 2 workshops on low input lawncare in collaboration with OSU Turfgrass Science/Extension staff. The workshop will also be a Community Backyards workshop where attendees will be able to receive a rebate voucher for attending, but the content will be primarily lawn care with some stormwater education.
- vi) Distribute educational information to 10,000 residents through newsletters, utilities bills, community events, social media, community backyards and/or direct mailing.

**5) Provide rain garden education and assistance through the Community Backyards and Master Rain Gardener programs.**

- i) **Rain Garden Rebates:** Rain garden rebates up to \$250 per household will be provided through the Community Backyards rebate program.
  - (a) A short application is required after completing the Community Backyards via the online course or in-person workshop.

- (b) Technical assistance and guidance will be provided by Franklin Soil and Water via in-person or remote site visits to ensure the proper planning and placement of rain gardens. Efforts will be made to avoid placement over lateral lines in SSO and CSO areas.
- ii) **Gardening for Clean Water:** Support Gardening for Clean Water to promote rain gardens, native plants, backyard conservation practices, and water efficiency at local participating nurseries including: Fishers Gardens, Oakland Nurseries, Straders, Dills Garden Center, Sunny Glen Garden, and Scioto Gardens. Franklin Soil and Water will provide outreach or workshops to garden center staff on installing rain gardens, labeling native plants or native rain garden plants in the nursery, and providing an educational kiosk at participating locations.
- iii) **Master Rain Gardener:** Continue the development and implementation of a rain garden volunteer and educational program called Master Rain Gardener. This program will train interested individuals and professionals alike on how to plan, site, install, and maintain rain gardens. We will continue to develop the course and train up to 15 volunteers per year. This effort is separate but in coordination with Blueprint Columbus and will be used to increase rain garden education and implementation within the City of Columbus.
  - (a) **Two Cohorts:** We will have 2 in-person class cohorts of approximately 20 students per cohort. Online recordings from the 2024 online class will be available for past and future students to reference or substitute for missing a class.
  - (b) **Scholarships:** Two scholarships will be available for underserved residents who wish to participate but face a financial barrier to participating. This may include 2 scholarships for IMPACT Community Action's Empowered program participants or Community Advocates.
  - (c) **Workdays & Volunteerism:** Develop a volunteer effort and hold rain garden workdays to encourage volunteerism and continue engaging current and past students. Hold one volunteer recognition event.

**6) Partner with IMPACT Community Action.**

- i) Work with IMPACT Community Action to improve equitable outreach and engagement through their Empowered and Home Weatherization programs.
- ii) Coordinate with IMPACT's Home Weatherization program to provide free rain barrels to residents participating in the Home Weatherization program. FSWCD will purchase and provide 20 EarthMinded RainStation rain barrels for IMPACT for 2025.
- iii) Coordinate IMPACT's Community Advocates for Community Backyards workshops and program outreach. Two training courses will be provided for the 6 Community Advocates. After the two training courses, Advocates will facilitate 3 Community Backyards workshops per community (6x3=18 workshops total). Advocates will attend local community events and distribute program information to residents. Franklin Soil and Water can loan any materials, giveaways, tables, or tents for events as needed.
- iv) Franklin Soil and Water will provide 3 educational classes to Empowered students along with relevant field trips or hands-on activities (one class per cohort = 3 total for 2025). Additional presentations will be completed by Community Advocates.



**7) Measure and evaluate program participation and effectiveness.**

- i) Provide a data summary, dataset, and GIS maps of the residents who have participated or received rebates.
- ii) Participation and rebates will be tracked to assess changes in public awareness and subsequent behaviors resulting from program participation.
- iii) Website visits, data collection, materials distributed, participant surveys, and requests for additional information will be tracked to gauge level of participation in the programs.
- iv) This information will be summarized in the Community Backyards Annual Program Reporting and provided to City of Columbus in the year-end report.

**Overview of Grant Revenue  
Community Backyards**

	Grant Revenue Detail	Cost	Item(s)	Budget
Grant Revenue	Columbus Grant -- Stormwater			\$ 195,450.00
	Columbus Grant – Water			\$ 27,000.00
	FSWCD Matching Funds* <i>*Rebates are not matchable</i>			\$ 50,580.00
	Total Grant Revenue			\$ 273,030.00

**Estimated Expenditures**

	Partner & Facilitator Payments	Cost	Item(s)	Budget
Partner & Facilitators	Community Backyards Workshops (10)	\$ 400.00	10	\$ 4,000.00
	Community Backyards “Train the Trainer” (5 facilitator groups)	\$ 100.00	5	\$ 500.00
	IMPACT Partnership - Oversight	\$ 6,700.00	1	\$ 6,700.00
	IMPACT - Advocate Training (per advocate per training - 6 ad., 2 trainings = 12)	\$ 100.00	12	\$ 1,200.00
	IMPACT - Weatherization support	\$ 200.00	1	\$ 200.00
	IMPACT - Workshop facilitation	\$ 200.00	18	\$ 3,600.00
	IMPACT - Workshop assistance (6 ad. x 3 each)	\$ 100.00	18	\$ 1,800.00
	IMPACT - Promotion at events (1 per advocate)	\$ 100.00	6	\$ 600.00
	Total Conservation Education			\$ 18,600.00

	Rebate Dollars Detail	Cost	Item(s)	Budget
Rebates	Rain Barrels	\$ 75.00	250	\$ 18,750.00
	Native Plants	\$ 50.00	375	\$ 18,750.00
	Native Trees/Shrubs	\$ 50.00	375	\$ 18,750.00
	Rain Gardens	\$ 250.00	15	\$ 3,750.00
	Business & Organizational Rebates	\$ 2,500.00	12	\$ 30,000.00
	Free Low Income Rain Barrels (FSWCD)	\$ 100.00	20	\$ 2,000.00
	Free Rain Barrels for IMPACT Home Weatherization Program	\$ 100.00	20	\$ 2,000.00
	Invasive Trade-In Rebates	\$ 100.00	20	\$ 2,000.00
	Total Rebate Dollars			\$ 96,000.00

Program Fees	Program Implementation Detail	Cost	Item(s)	Budget
Community Backyards	Community Backyards Program Development - Video, presentation, quiz, website updates, educational material development, printing, giveaways for workshops, developing other options for people to participate.	\$ 8,000.00	1	\$ 8,000.00
	Community Backyards Program Administration - Registration, ordering, pick-up, vouchers, processing rebates, customer service, program evaluation, assistance to facilitators and partners.	\$ 80,000.00	1	\$ 80,000.00
	IMPACT Empowered Program - FSWCD provide 3 presentations classroom and field trips	\$ 500.00	3	\$ 1,500.00
	Business Rebates - Grant promotion and management (2 info sessions, promotion on social media, grant review and notifications, and project oversight)	\$ 2,000.00	1	\$ 2,000.00
	15 Site Visits for Businesses (\$300/each)	\$ 300.00	15	\$ 4,500.00
	20 Site Visits for Rain Gardens (\$300/each)	\$ 300.00	20	\$ 6,000.00
	Get Grassy/Lawncare - program management & outreach	\$ 8,650.00	1	\$ 8,650.00

	Get Grassy/Lawncare - 2 workshops or events on lawn care	\$ 600.00	2	\$ 1,200.00
Rain Garden & Native Plant Outreach	Gardening for Clean Water Program & Outreach	\$ 8,000.00	1	\$ 8,000.00
	Master Rain Gardener - Program support for 2 cohorts (shared with City of Columbus, Grove City, Westerville)	\$ 10,000.00	1	\$ 10,000.00
	Master Rain Garden - Scholarships (2 for IMPACT Advocates, 2 for community members)	\$ 75.00	4	\$ 300.00
	Master Rain Gardener - Maintenance workdays program development and implementation (12 workday events + 1 volunteer recognition event)	\$ 8,780.00	1	\$ 8,780.00
Program Coordination	Public Relations/Outreach and Advertisements/Events/Coordination.	\$ 5,000.00	1	\$ 5,000.00
	DEI Outreach - Assistance to facilitators and partners to increase outreach and engagement with underserved communities.	\$ 12,000.00	1	\$ 12,000.00
	GIS Mapping Assistance	\$ 2,500.00	1	\$ 2,500.00
	Program Implementation Expense			\$ 158,430.00
Total Estimated Expenditures				\$ 273,030.00



# Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

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## Attachment B

### 2025 Clean Water Guide for Businesses

#### Scope of Services

The purpose of these services is to provide public outreach and education to targeted businesses within the City of Columbus. We will continue to distribute “Dry It, Don’t Dump It” pamphlets to businesses, promote messaging on “Be Salt Smart” and native plants. After developing “Don’t Drip & Drive” materials in 2024, we will further implement this messaging and get out to businesses.

Franklin Soil and Water will provide the following services for the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities:

1. **Dry It, Don’t Dump It:** Promote proper waste management and disposal of paint and concrete wastewater by contractors.
  - a. Maintain relationships with 10 businesses and continue to engage new businesses that sell products, supplies and equipment to painting and masonry contractors.
  - b. Continue to promote through targeted marketing with a focus on opportunity neighborhoods.
2. **Be Salt Smart:** Promote salt smart messaging to commercial and real estate businesses.
  - a. Use salt smart messaging developed by the Conservation Foundation.
  - b. Use guidance from RAMA consulting for targeting businesses.
  - c. Promote through targeted marketing with a focus on opportunity neighborhoods.
3. **Plant Native Plants:** Promote native plants with a focus on commercial businesses and green industry professionals, especially landscapers and landscape architects. Include water conservation messaging.
  - a. Continue messaging, guidance, and a targeted marketing plan with assistance from RAMA consulting and Earth Economics.
  - b. Provide incentives to interested businesses through Community Backyards (see Attachment A).

- c. Develop and implement a Landscape Architect CEU program to reach landscape architects through outreach, training, partnerships or other avenues. Our CEU program accreditation will be through the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA).
4. **Don't Drip & Drive:** Promote "Don't Drip & Drive" messaging to auto businesses.
  - a. Use existing Don't Drip & Drive messaging that we adapted for Columbus in 2024.
  - b. Following our initial mailing in 2024, we will conduct store visits to auto-related businesses in 2025. We will visit at least 10 stores or auto shops.
5. **GreenSpot Business and Water Quality Partner Program Collaboration:** Collaborate with Columbus GreenSpot Coordinator and One Water Coordinator to do more intentional outreach to businesses on water quality and sustainability initiatives. Invite GreenSpot Coordinator and One Water Coordinator to attend store visits and business outreach events.
6. **Program Evaluation:** Measure participation and program effectiveness.
  - a. Website visits, data collection, materials distributed, business feedback, and requests for additional information will be tracked to gauge level of participation in the program and effectiveness.

Contractor Education and Outreach Program Estimated Expenditures		
Funding Request = \$19,480		
FSWCD Contribution Cost = <b>\$7,800</b>		
Material and Supplies	Budget	Notes
Printed Messaging Materials and Give Aways	\$ 3,480	We have plenty of pocket pals for 2025.
ASLA CEU Accreditation	\$ 200	Annual cost is \$400 for ASLA CEU certification. FSWCD will split half with Columbus.
Advertising	\$ 2,000	Marketing with a focus in Opportunity Neighborhoods
<b>Total Materials Development</b>	<b>\$ 5,680</b>	

<b>Program Outreach and Management</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Develop relationships with relevant trade organizations and businesses.	\$ 8,000	Time spent on actively reaching out to businesses and organizations.
Develop videos and digital assets for programs.	\$ 4,000	This can be internal, existing or professional videos or assets depending on the needs for each target audience.
Develop materials and messaging for commercial business and landscape architect outreach.	\$ 3,200	Time spent on developing materials, messaging and marketing.
Host 2 ASLA accredited native plant classes for landscapers and architects	\$ 3,200	Time spent organizing and hosting classes
Develop a coordinated business outreach effort with GreenSpot Businesses and our Water Quality Partners	\$ 1,600	Time spent communicating, creating and collaborating.
Evaluate programs and make recommendations	\$ 1,600	Track progress and evaluate effectiveness
<b>Total Program Outreach</b>	<b>\$ 21,600</b>	



## Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

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### Attachment C

## 2025 Stormwater and Conservation Education in Schools within the City of Columbus

### Scope of Services

The purpose of these services is to provide environmental education on topics related to stormwater pollution including water quality, soil and erosion in relation to Ohio State Science Standards.

Franklin Soil and Water will provide the following services for the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities:

1. Provide targeted programming to an estimated 5,000 students by providing classroom activities and presentations.
  - a. Provide detail on which schools are involved and in which neighborhoods these students reside.
2. Maintain a variety of programs and hands on displays available to teachers and adaptable to meet specific needs.
  - a. Take hands on displays to new events. Look for engagement opportunities in places like the new Linden Community Center, etc.
  - b. Facilitate a professional development workshop for Columbus City Schools Teachers at Spruce Run Nature Center.
3. Increase education and outreach to youth in opportunity neighborhoods using the following strategies:
  - a. Expand the connection made with summer camps in underserved areas through the Franklin County Grant Program.
  - b. Offer 1 Camp Canopy scholarships 100% paid for a weeklong camp focused on forestry focused to City of Columbus Schools.

- c. Engage high school youth in a workforce development program focused on local watersheds and water quality, in partnership with Lead the Way Learning.
  - d. Try to secure a diverse Envirothon competition team with the City of Columbus. Propose Spruce Run as site for competition.
  - e. Try to develop more teacher and curriculum contacts in Columbus City Schools.
4. Franklin Soil and Water will give a full account of programming types and numbers twice a year and upon request. Participation numbers and feedback from educators will be used to measure participation and program effectiveness.
5. Franklin Soil and Water will recognize City of Columbus as a supporter and partner and incorporate materials from *Columbus GreenSpot*, *KNOW Your Stream*, and *Blueprint Columbus* into education programs.

## Funding

The City of Columbus shall compensate Franklin Soil and Water in the amount of \$27,450.





# Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

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## Attachment D

### 2025 Outreach to Developers, Contractors and Stormwater Professionals.

#### Scope of Services

Franklin Soil and Water will provide the following services for the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities for stormwater education to city employees as well as to the regional development community.

- Provide up to 30 Columbus employees with seats on our Center for Watershed Protection Coalition membership. Each seat offers all the benefits of an individual membership, plus access to the live 2025 webcast series.
- Organize three Central Ohio Round Tables for all municipal, consultant and watershed partners. Topics vary and relate to stormwater program management and NPDES permit requirements, including local stormwater retrofit or green infrastructure projects.
- Provide Urban Review newsletter to stormwater professionals, consultants, and developers throughout Franklin County, recognizing City of Columbus as a partner. Other developer outreach materials are available including brochures, construction site posters, etc.
- Provide assistance or coordination as opportunities arise in relation to professional development, contractor and developer outreach as time and resources allow.

#### Funding

The City of Columbus shall compensate Franklin Soil and Water in the amount of \$2,000.



# Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

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## Attachment E

### 2025 Watershed Master Plan Assistance

#### Scope of Services

Franklin Soil and Water will provide assistance to the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities in the following areas:

- 1) Work with Watershed Management to develop, promote, or provide riparian buffer education and training as directed by City of Columbus staff. For 2025, this will include working with watershed staff to develop messaging related to protecting city owned reservoir buffer properties for realtors and landscaping companies. This effort was started in 2024 and will continue into 2025.
- 2) Assist with watershed related studies, conservation projects, resident outreach or other assistance needed in relation to watershed masterplan strategies. For 2025, this will include working with watershed staff to educate realtors and landscaping companies regarding restrictions on city owned reservoir buffer properties through industry newsletters, CEU programs, direct mailers, and other means. This effort was started in 2024 and will continue into 2025.
- 3) Provide support to *Be the Change for Clean Water* regional messaging.
- 4) Website visits, data collection, materials distributed, participant feedback, and requests for additional information will be tracked to gauge effectiveness of messaging and materials.

#### Funding Request

The City of Columbus shall compensate Franklin Soil and Water in the amount of \$23,250



## Attachment F

### 2025 Support for the Franklin County Stream Resource Geodatabase

#### Scope of Services

The purpose of this agreement is to provide support and coordination for the benefit of the Franklin County Stream Resource Geodatabase and the City of Columbus, Division of Sewerage and Drainage in managing stormwater and improving water quality.

#### **Franklin Soil and Water will provide the following services for the City of Columbus:**

1. Staff will perform maintenance and quality control on City of Columbus data in the Stream Resource Geodatabase. This will include adjustment of geometry if necessary, or adjustment of attributes if necessary. Maintenance and quality control will be provided against the most recent copy of the City of Columbus stormwater database as provided by City of Columbus as part of our data exchange.
2. Staff will add new or modified City of Columbus stormwater data to the Stream Resource Geodatabase as provided from the most recent copy of the City of Columbus stormwater database. Staff will modify existing surface drainage in the stream resource geodatabase as needed to connect new stormwater data from the City of Columbus or reflect modification or elimination of surface drainage.
3. Staff will continue to include unincorporated stormwater data into the stream resource geodatabase as this data is developed to a degree for inclusion. Staff will review connections between City of Columbus stormwater data and unincorporated stormwater data and adjust as necessary.
4. Work will predominantly be in the Hellbranch Run watershed, Big Darby Creek watershed, and Little Darby Creek watershed. Surface drainage outside the road R.O.W. and road drainage will be adjusted to 1-foot lidar elevations in the watershed. Changes that affect City of Columbus stormwater data will be tracked in an excel spreadsheet and provided to City of Columbus during the subsequent data exchange.
5. Franklin Soil and Water will recognize the City of Columbus as a partner and supporter of programming and communication materials.

#### **Funding**

The City of Columbus shall compensate Franklin Soil and Water in the amount of \$20,800.



## Attachment - G

### Urban Watershed Delineations 2025

#### 1.0 Purpose

Provide continued assistance to the City of Columbus with developing urban delineations and associated services to assist with the Blueprint Columbus effort currently underway and projects supporting the results of the study. The focus of this effort is eliminating sanitary sewer overflows while also investing in Columbus neighborhoods and the local economy by using means other than gray infrastructure. The following provides an overview of our organization, elaborates on our understanding of the scope of services required for this project, and outlines a proposal for undertaking the project.

#### 2.0 Background

Note: Some information comes directly from City of Columbus Website

Starting in 2001, FSWCD and the City initiated a partnership for the mapping of stormwater infrastructure and surface water resources. These efforts include refinement of surface water flow routes, in-field verification and mapping of outfalls, and connectivity of stormwater lines throughout Columbus as well as a majority of the municipalities within Franklin County.

In recent years, the US Environmental Protection Agency started encouraging the adoption of an integrated planning approach to address Clean Water Act (CWA) requirements. This approach is intended to be an option to help municipalities meet their CWA obligations by optimizing the benefits of their infrastructure improvement investments through the appropriate prioritization and sequencing of work. This policy encourages cities to integrate the work needed to comply with both stormwater regulations and elimination of sewer overflows, and strongly promotes the use of green infrastructure to meet these challenges.

The City submitted a proposal in September 2015 (titled: Blueprint Columbus) to Ohio EPA as an alternative to the City's 2005 Wet Weather Management Plan. On December 1, 2015, the City received an official approval letter from Ohio EPA granting the City to proceed with Blueprint Columbus. We were very pleased to hear of the approval and are grateful that we have been able to contribute to this new comprehensive approach to managing stormwater!

Core to implementing an integrated plan is having a thorough understanding of the municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) including, but not limited to: the extents of the system, system components and system connectivity, as well as land cover, land use, and land ownership across the landscape contributing flows to the MS4. However, when evaluating urban watersheds in an environment such as Columbus, understanding the makeup of watersheds is complicated by the fact that subsurface drainage changes the configuration of watersheds from boundaries which originally corresponded to naturally occurring surface drainage to configurations dictated by the extensive network of stormwater pipes and appurtenances.

The intent of this project is to continue the process of developing and refining urban watershed delineations in Blueprint Columbus project areas and summarizing a variety of statistics for the delineations. The approach to this project will be to utilize 'best available data' from the City and FSWCD using a GIS. This data will then be provided to the City in file geodatabase format for review, comment and use.

FSWCD will continue to produce base maps for the Blueprint Columbus project areas. This mapping includes impervious surfaces, stormwater related structures, and non-stormwater related structures. Additional priority areas and associated needs will be identified by the City as this effort continues to develop during the upcoming years.

This effort is being undertaken with the understanding that priorities and emphasis may change. For the City, Fang Cheng is to be the point of contact and will assist in coordination with the delineations. The following sections describe in more detail the approach to this effort.

### **3.0 Technical Expertise**

This urban watershed delineation project is GIS-based, utilizing data provided by the City and developed by FSWCD. The GIS software used in this project will predominantly be ESRI's ArcMap package and associated geoprocessing tools.

Core to FSWCD's current operations is the use of GIS and associated mapping, and core to this effort is the district's Geomatics program. FSWCD has made extensive use of GIS supported by over twenty years of field data acquired by district staff using GPS equipment. This combination of customized, accurate field data, supplemented by substantial amounts of base data throughout Franklin County, is central for the day-to-day operations of the organization and has improved the services and products that the FSWCD is able to provide to the central Ohio community. The ability to use GIS has established ongoing partnerships, has allowed FSWCD to expand services, and further organizational goals by producing more comprehensive, accurate products.

Work directly related to urban watershed delineations include the following efforts developed and maintained by FSWCD: Stream Resource Mapping, Stream Resource Geodatabase and additional urban watershed delineations.

- Stream Resource Mapping**  
 Initiated in 2001, FSWCD, in partnership with the City of Columbus and Franklin County Commissioners, started an effort to create a high-resolution dataset of surface drainage throughout Franklin County. This effort was predominantly completed in 2007 and resulted in over 1,600 miles of streams being walked by staff members and over 40,000 features identified, documented with pictures, and managed with a GIS.
- Stream Resource GeoDatabase**  
 Started in 1998 prior to the Stream Resource Mapping effort, a comprehensive database of surface water drainage and subsurface stormwater infrastructure was created and is continually updated and improved for the extents of Franklin County as an ongoing effort. Over the past 20 years, FSWCD has mapped nearly all the surface drainage in the county, including previously unmapped headwater streams and outfalls into streams. This information has been reconciled with existing storm sewer data in most communities, including the City of Columbus. Features include an array of information including historical data and directionality of flow. This dataset consists of over 9,100 miles of drainage and over 380,000 features.
- Watershed Analysis Projects**  
 FSWCD has been able to leverage their GIS to assist various municipalities and county agencies with a variety of analysis projects to meet the varying needs of their partners. These include, but are not limited to: stream walks to inventory riparian corridors to document existing conditions as well as providing data for flow models and municipal work orders. They also include health-based assessments for planning of outreach, inspections and utility work, watershed assessments for prioritizing locations for green infrastructure projects and outreach to assist with water quality/quantity concerns, and natural resource evaluations on a county-wide and watershed scales to target appropriate locations for natural resource protection and/or enhancement projects.

## 4.0 Staffing

FSWCD is prepared to continue this project upon execution of applicable contracts. FSWCD has a seasoned staff with many project staff members employed at FSWCD for over five years. FSWCD is a dynamic and flexible organization capable of engaging and managing additional staff if workload and available funding permit. For this urban subwatershed project, oversight and coordination of the project will be conducted by Josh Garver. Day-to-day planning, coordination, and delineations and creation of basemaps will be conducted by Aaron Hebert. Coordination of updating GIS layers for stormwater lines and surface drainage to be conducted by Jeff Pierce.

### ***Josh Garver, GISP, GIS and Special Projects Director***

Josh Garver is assistant director at FSWCD. Josh has been with FSWCD for

seventeen years where he has also been employed as the GIS natural resources specialist and member of the geomatics team. He provides technology guidance and support to staff, maintains GIS data layers, and is involved in a variety of projects providing GIS expertise and support. Josh also coordinates GIS-based projects with various Franklin County agencies and local municipalities, which focus on improving water quality and meeting requirements of the NPDES permit held by Franklin County and its townships. Josh has a Master's Certificate in GIS from North Carolina State University, a minor in City and Regional Planning from The Ohio State University and a BS in Landscape Architecture from The Ohio State University. Prior to joining FSWCD, Josh worked several years in landscape architecture and planning firms as a project landscape architect, designing and managing a variety of urban, park and GIS-centric projects.

***Aaron Hebert, GIS Manager***

Aaron Hebert is a GIS Manager and leader of the geomatics team at FSWCD, where his responsibilities include coordination with GIS staff in managing hardware and data related to current programs and projects. Aaron graduated from Western State College of Colorado, with a BA in history with a geography minor. He has also completed a GIS-certificate program at Columbus State Community College. Prior to joining FSWCD, Aaron interned with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, editing land parcel data in eastern Ohio.

***Jeff Pierce, GIS Natural Resources Coordinator***

Jeff Pierce is GIS natural resources coordinator and a member of the geomatics team at FSWCD. Jeff graduated from Wilmington College (OH) with a BA in English and Communications. He also holds a MS in Educational Leadership and a Master of Environmental Sciences in Applied Ecology and Resource Analysis from Miami University. Jeff has served as a past member of the NRCS statewide GIS committee, as the Chair of the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program's statewide hydrology committee, and as a voting member of the Heart of Ohio RC&D Council. He has been with FSWCD since 1995 and founded the first soil and water conservation district GIS program in Ohio.

## **5.0 Primary Office Location**

It is expected that all production work related to this project will be conducted on-site at the FSWCD office. Various meetings and coordination will take place with City staff as necessary at locations agreed to by both parties on an as-needed basis. To support the desktop production work, it is expected that occasional, but minimal, field investigations will be necessary. These investigations will be conducted by district staff and will be coordinated from the FSWCD office.

## **Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District**

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Jennifer Fish, CMS4S, Director

Josh Garver, GISP, GIS and Special Projects Director

## **6.0 Project Approach**

The intent of this project is to continue with the development of urban watershed delineations with currently available data. The intent is not to create or otherwise locate additional data outside of what is addressed in this proposal. The bulk of the time and effort related to the watershed delineations will be spent in a GIS desktop capacity. The process will be an iterative process that will focus on deriving delineations by evaluating the relationship between surface elevations, the locations of inlet structures, the flow direction of surface water, and the flow within stormwater infrastructure. Surface elevations will be obtained through data layers provided by the City and the locations and flow direction of storm sewer components will be obtained from updates from the City as well as from the Stream Resource Geodatabase (SRG) maintained by FSWCD.

At this state of the project, FSWCD expects to be primarily coordinating with the City by means of Fang Cheng as the Columbus Blueprint project areas are defined and additional needs are identified.

An interactive, collaborative team environment internal to FSWCD will be used for the delineations and creation of basemap features. The City will provide an additional quality control component to the delineations with feedback to FSWCD for revisions and refinements of the delineations. Open and timely dialogue between FSWCD and the City will be required to facilitate efficient production of the delineations.

At this point in the project, the phase I and phase II delineations have been completed for the service areas of Columbus (other than the combined sewer area downtown) and phase III delineations are being conducted for Blueprint Columbus project areas as directed by the City. This third phase of delineations segments the phase II delineations based on catch basins (stormsewer inlets). To this end, for each project area, there are delineations defined for each catch basin and if/as requested by the City, each of these delineations also contains take-off calculations for defined land cover conditions. This level of delineation requires dedicated communication and review by the City to provide and/or confirm current storm sewer components and locations.

The approach to this project is adaptive with priorities, accommodations, and products reviewed, discussed and agreed to periodically by FSWCD and the City. This project will be reviewed at least on an annual basis to assess the current state of the project,



evaluate developing priorities and plan for further efforts. In addition to the larger project reviews, progress and delineation reviews will be conducted as outlines in section '6.1 Delineation Review' below.

### **6.1 Delineation Review**

Planned, periodic updates on the delineations will continue to be provided to the City at the City's request. The intent of these updates will be to promote dialogue between the City and FSWCD and allow all parties to make needed adjustments in the process. The updates are to include:

- A review of the delineations developed
- The most recent GIS files of the delineations
- Questions and concerns encountered during the delineation process which need addressed

At this time, questions and concerns arising during the delineation process will continue to be tracked within a GIS feature class maintained by FSWCD. This feature class will designate the location of the question or concern by means of a point feature and will have associated notes in the attribute table elaborating on the situation encountered. This file will be reviewable by Columbus staff at the regularly scheduled meetings or as needed using their GIS. Comments from City staff will be logged in the attribute table and returned to FSWCD for use with the delineations.

In addition, during the creation of stormwater and non-stormwater features associated with the base maps, notes are placed in the attribute table elaborating on questions or clarifications for the features created and how they relate to the most recent data provided by the City.

### **6.2 Primary Data for Deriving Watershed Delineations and Source**

The following are the primary GIS layers used in the urban watershed delineations. These data are currently available, are derived from currently available data and/or include data that may be provided as updates by the City or other local municipalities.

- 1' Contours (City)
- Terrain model (City)
- City stormwater infrastructure (City)
- Stormwater infrastructure in county and surrounding municipalities (Stream Resource Geodatabase: FSWCD)
- Digital Elevation Model (FC Auditor's Office)
- Building/Structure Layer (Auditor data; needs processing)
- Most recent aerial photography (City/State)
- Drainage mapping data and photos (FSWCD)
- Digital copy of engineering plans (City)

Online aerial photography to assist in evaluating 'on the ground' conditions  
(Various)

### **6.3 Basemaps**

To assist with the development of Blueprint Columbus, FSWD will be developing basemaps for use in the planning process. Components of these basemaps will include: impervious surfaces (buildings, roads, driveways, parking lots, sidewalks, and alleys), tree canopy, and storm sewer structures (catch basins, crossover inlets & outlets, curb inlets, manholes, pipe inlets, and pipe outlets/outfalls). A combination of the City's current sewer layers, Cyclomedia and other aerial imagery will be used to make the best determination of the types and locations of structures.

### **6.4 Project Adaptation**

This project is being undertaken in conjunction with the City to implement components of Blueprint Columbus, and as such, this project is continuing with some needs and parameters undefined. FSWCD and the City are undertaking this work in a "cooperative approach" capacity with the intent of maintaining a "one team" culture for the project to encourage a spirit of cooperation, mutual trust and respect. This approach is to play an important role in the continuation of this project as both FSWCD and the City refine the parameters of the project and better define the formatting of the resulting GIS data.

### **6.5 Project Constraints**

The primary constraining aspects of this project with respect to completing watershed delineations are a lack of data, errant data, and incomplete data. Due to the nature of watersheds not corresponding to political boundaries, the accurate delineation of the watersheds will be limited by the availability and completeness of surface drainage and storm sewer infrastructure data. While the City and FSWCD maintain extensive stormwater datasets which are used for the delineations, the watersheds will encompass areas outside of the Columbus service area and Franklin County. To the maximum extent practical, delineations will be completed with the data available and/or provided to FSWCD during the course of the project. The intent of this project is to develop urban watershed delineations and basemaps with currently available data. The intent is not to create or otherwise locate additional data outside of what is addressed in this proposal.

In addition to the lack of completeness of data, errors in existing data may cause inaccuracies in the delineations. Examples of these errors have been explored by all parties and their possible impacts have been noted and accepted as part of this project. Elevation data obtained from the County will be used to determine surface water flow direction. As such, the accuracy of the delineations will be directly tied to the accuracy of the elevation information received. It is expected that occasional, but minimal, field verification of features will be undertaken by the City, or consulting firms when

uncertainty during the desktop work is encountered to verify the existence of features and/or the direction of flow within the stormwater network.

An additional known barrier to accurate delineations involves multiple flow directions within the stormwater network and the inclusion of combined sewers, sewer overflows and current construction projects related to stormwater management. The primary known area of concern for these conditions is the downtown area of Columbus.

## **6.6 Data Format**

All delineations and associated attribution will be provided to the City in ESRI's file geodatabase format. Upon request and in coordination with City staff, an overview exhibit will be produced and maintained for the watershed delineation project showing areas of completion, areas to be completed, areas of concern/interest, and additional supporting information relevant to the continuation and support of the project.

## **7.0 Costs**

Continue to provide assistance to the City of Columbus related to urban watershed delineations as needs and funding allow. Total funding request for 2025 is **\$50,000**.



## Attachment H

# 2025 Watershed Partner Service Agreement

## Background

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District and the City of Columbus Department of Public Utilities (DPU) intend to increase collaboration with watershed organizations that demonstrate the ability to provide public education relevant to DPU Sustainability and Stormwater Program Goals and to perform projects implementing pollution-prevention techniques and best practices to control runoff and improve water quality. The Watershed Organization Assistants Funds program are modeled after the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District's Watershed Organization Services Agreements program, as described here: <https://www.neorsd.org/stormwater-2/watershed-organization-service-agreements/>. Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District has an active Watershed Resource Specialist providing direct support to active watershed protection non-profit groups. Through this program, City of Columbus will provide support and direction to Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to collaborate with qualifying watershed and similar organizations engaging in stormwater and water quality protection activities that propose projects consistent with our shared goals.

## Scope:

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, in partnership with City of Columbus, will provide administrative support to watershed organizations including:

- Review and modify qualifying activities and projects to be completed by watershed organizations, application forms, guidelines and process in partnership with the City of Columbus in May and June 2025 as needed. This should include communication between assigned staff at City of Columbus DPU and Franklin Soil and Water as well as direct communication and advice from monthly DPU/FSWCD touch base meetings, local watershed organization leaders, and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.
- Advertise program, funding and guidance in July and August 2025 through City of Columbus, Franklin Soil and Water and other identified channels.
- Review applications and award funding to Watershed Organizations in September and October 2025 with an established committee of Franklin Soil and Water, Columbus DPU and any other identified parties.

- Retain clear written agreements and distribute funds as agreed to by City of Columbus DPU, with agreements to begin on January 1, 2026.
- Track progress of agreements and provide funding support, providing a progress report by February 1, 2026.
- Continue tracking progress of agreements and provide funding support, with the program ending on Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026
- Submit a final report by Dec 31, 2026.
- Evaluate and plan for an additional round of funding in partners with City of Columbus DPU in February and March of 2026.

**Funding:**

Funding for Watershed Groups	\$50,000	To be distributed as agreed upon with Columbus
Carry-over Funding for Watershed Groups from 2024 Program	\$31,787	A credit of \$31,787 remained from unallocated 2024 award funding. The value noted above brings the available funding to \$50,000.
Staff Support	\$8,000.00	To support planning, distribution and oversight.
State Matching Funds	\$4,000.00	To support planning, distribution and oversight.
Total	\$93,787	

The City of Columbus shall compensate Franklin Soil and Water in the amount of \$58,000 for administrative and organizational support.