



Legislation Text

File #: 0746-2015, **Version:** 1

The purpose of this legislation is to authorize the Director of Public Utilities to enter into a grant agreement with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) for the GreenSpot Backyards program for the Fiscal Year 2015.

In 2011, a pilot rain barrel program was expanded through a partnership established by Mayor Michael B. Coleman with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, local watershed groups, and EarthMinded (a subsidiary of Greif, Inc.). The program has been a success ever since and the message of water conservation and storm water management continues to be well received by the community. The Office of the Mayor wishes to join with the Department of Public Utilities in a collaborative effort to provide the funding necessary to support the program again in 2015.

The goal of the GreenSpot Backyards program is to engage residents on the topic of water conservation and storm water management practices and offer tools to help implement these practices. These tools include a rebate on rain barrels, native plants and trees, compost bins, and rain garden assistance and education.

In order to obtain any of these tools, residents will be required to attend one (1) of six (6) in-person, free workshops or view an online course and pass the quiz with at least a 70% score.

In 2015, the program will continue to focus on providing rain barrels, conservation and storm water education, outreach and marketing, working with watershed groups such as Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed and Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries, and the promotion of the City of Columbus GreenSpot and Get Green Columbus initiatives. Furthermore, 50 rain barrels were made available at no charge to recipients of the City's Low Income Discount Program, reflected in 2013 & 2014 budgets as 50 Subsidized Barrels. At the conclusion of the 2014 Rain Barrel program 30 low income barrels remain. Project partners continue to explore methods to reach economically disadvantaged communities. The program will take advantage of opportunities to support other overlapping City of Columbus efforts including GreenSpot, Blueprint Columbus, Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative, City composting programs and the Columbus stormwater credit.

This grant agreement will be from the date of execution through and including December 31, 2015.

SUPPLIER: Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (31-0847446)-Non-Profit Organization

FISCAL IMPACT: Funding for the program is budgeted and available from the following sources: \$30,000.00 from the Storm Sewer Operating Fund, \$24,000.00 from the Water Operating Fund, and \$20,000.00 from the General Government Grants Fund. In 2011, the program was limited to City of Columbus residents only. Beginning in 2012, the program was expanded to serve residents of surrounding communities.

\$48,000.00 was spent in 2014

\$48,000.00 was spent in 2013

\$40,500.00 was spent in 2012

EMERGENCY DESIGNATION: Emergency action is requested to authorize the Director of the Department of Public Utilities to enter into a grant agreement with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for the continuation of the GreenSpot Backyards Program to the residents of the City of Columbus and surrounding communities in order to continue providing rain barrels, conservation and storm water education, outreach and marketing without delay.

To authorize the Director of Public Utilities to enter into a grant agreement with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for the 2015 GreenSpot Backyards Program for the Division of Sewerage and Drainage, Stormwater and Regulatory Management Section, the Division Water and the Mayor's Office, to authorize the expenditure of \$24,000.00 from the Water Operating Fund, \$30,000.00 from the Storm Sewer Operating Fund and \$20,000.00 from the General Government Grants Fund, and to declare an emergency. (\$74,000.00)

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Utilities wishes to enter into a grant agreement with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District (FSWCD) for the 2015 GreenSpot Backyards Program, and

WHEREAS, the goal of the program is to improve environmental stewardship and water conservation of the City of Columbus residents and surrounding communities, and

WHEREAS, the FSWCD will continue to provide education workshops, provide rain barrels at a discounted cost, and work with various watershed groups to promote the program, and

WHEREAS, the program will promote the GreenSpot and Get Green Columbus initiatives as well as providing residents with education on water conservation and stormwater runoff, and

WHEREAS, 30 rain barrels will be distributed to participants of the City's Low Income Program at no cost to the resident, and

WHEREAS, opportunities to support other overlapping efforts including GreenSpot, Blueprint Columbus, Central Ohio Rain Garden Initiative, City composting programs and the Columbus stormwater credit program will be included, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Utilities wishes to continue supporting the GreenSpot Backyards Program for the Fiscal Year 2015, and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Mayor wishes to join in supporting the GreenSpot Backyards Program for the Fiscal Year 2015, and

WHEREAS, the grant agreement will be from the date of execution through and including December 31, 2015, and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Public Utilities and the Office of the Mayor in that it is necessary to authorize the Director of Public Utilities to enter into a grant agreement with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for the continuation of the GreenSpot Backyards Program to the residents of the City of Columbus and surrounding communities for 2015, in order to continue providing rain barrels, water conservation and storm water education, outreach and marketing without delay; now, therefore

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

SECTION 1. That the Director of Public Utilities be and is hereby authorized to enter into a grant agreement with the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, 1404 Goodale Boulevard, Suite 100, Columbus, Ohio 43212, to provide the 2015 GreenSpot Backyards Program to the residents of the City of Columbus and surrounding communities for the Division of Sewerage and Drainage, Stormwater and Regulatory Management Section, the Division of Water, and the Office of the Mayor. The term of this agreement will be from the date of execution through and including December 31, 2015.

SECTION 2. That the Director of Public Utilities be and hereby is authorized to expend \$74,000.00 or so much thereof

as may be necessary as follows:

DIVISION OF SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE, STORMWATER AND REGULATORY MANAGEMENT SECTION

DEPT/DIV: 60-15
FUND: 675
OCA: 675002
OBJECT LEVEL 1: 03
OBJECT LEVEL 3: 3407
AMOUNT: \$30,000.00

DIVISION OF WATER

DEPT/DIV: 60-09
FUND: 600
OCA: 601849
OBJECT LEVEL 1: 03
OBJECT LEVEL 3: 3407
AMOUNT: \$24,000.00

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

DEPT/DIV: 40-01
FUND: 220
OCA: 401401
OBJECT LEVEL 1: 03
OBJECT LEVEL 3: 3407
AMOUNT: \$17,673.65

DEPT/DIV: 40-01
FUND: 220
OCA: 404001
OBJECT LEVEL 1: 03
OBJECT LEVEL 3: 3407
AMOUNT: \$2,326.35

TOTAL: \$74,000.00

SECTION 3. That the funds necessary to carry out the purpose of this ordinance are hereby deemed appropriated, and the City Auditor shall establish such accounting codes as necessary.

SECTION 4. That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.