

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Stormwater Treatment Wetland Created to Protect Franklin County Waterways  
At Crawford Farms Park**

**10/27/2015 FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO**— The Crawford Farms Park Stormwater Treatment Wetland project is a local example of a new trend in stormwater management that uses plants and soil to improve water quality and reduce stormwater volumes. Funded by the Ohio EPA and the City of Columbus and implemented by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District, the wetland was designed and constructed to retrofit a stormwater basin in Crawford Farms Park. Stormwater runoff leaving the basin has contributed to the water quality impairment of a nearby stream, Dysart Run. The new wetland slows stormwater runoff, filters pollutants from the water and reduces the amount of stormwater that enters Dysart Run.

Projects like this one improve the water quality of our creeks and reduce streambank erosion that can threaten homes, buildings, and infrastructure—and the bank erosion of Dysart Run is no exception. As we develop larger areas of watersheds, covering land with hard surfaces like roads, houses and parking lots, the amount of stormwater runoff increases, impairing our creeks. Kurt Keljo, Watershed Coordinator at Franklin Soil and Water and Manager of the Crawford Farms project states that “Unless we begin to use stormwater management practices that infiltrate rain water, store it or enable it to evaporate, existing and future development will progressively degrade our streams and cost both landowners and taxpayers money as we are forced to take measures to protect property from erosion.”

At a Central Ohio Stormwater Roundtable event held at the Franklin Soil and Water office in Grandview on Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Dr. Andy Ward, a professor at The Ohio State University, explained how stormwater runoff is destabilizing our creeks, increasing the erosion of streambeds and banks. He noted that the only way to truly fix the problem is to reduce the amount of stormwater entering our streams. David Reutter, Urban Conservationist, indicated that “plants are key” to cutting down on runoff and offered examples of Green Infrastructure (GI) in Franklin County. GI can save developers money while protecting our streams and creating onsite, natural amenities.

As for the Crawford Farms Park Stormwater Treatment Wetland project, not only does the wetland increase water quality, it has also become home to many species of plants and animals, including mallard ducks and various species of frogs and dragonflies. For updates on this ongoing project, visit the Franklin Soil and Water website at: <http://www.franklinswcd.org/> and click the “Crawford Farms” tab to the left.

*Thank you to all of our partners in making this project possible. Design creation and implementation to improve water quality in central Ohio would not be possible without you.*



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The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote 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.