



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

Backyard Conservation Update – August 2017

Localized Flooding? You can help!

In any number of neighborhoods in Franklin County, there has been an increase in localized flooding over the past few years. This flooding is a product of more intense rains and hard surfaces. The two combine to create larger volumes of water running off of the ground more quickly than used to be the case. Many creeks and/or the stormwater systems can handle the new flows.

We could allow the creeks to adjust to the new volumes, but this would result in more bank erosion, degraded streams, and continued localized flooding until the creeks adjust. We could enlarge the capacity of our stormwater pipes, but this would put stormwater into the streams even more quickly, increasing damage to the streams, while adding to infrastructure costs.

Another option would be for residents to help out, one yard at a time:

- You could simply plant a tree to reduce rain runoff from your property.
- Creating a depression for a tree that can handle periodic wet periods and running downspout runoff to that depression enhances the stormwater impact of that tree, allowing the tree to function like the native plants in a rain garden.
- Install a traditional rain garden (see: <http://www.centralohioraingardens.org/> for instructions). Put in some deep-rooted, native plants in areas around your property, especially where water tends to run off your lot, if there is such a location.
- Replace hard, impermeable surfaces (e.g. cement or asphalt) with more permeable surfaces (e.g. pavers, mulch, stepping stones or crushed rock).
- If your downspouts are piped directly to the street, your yard infiltrates well and your local regulations allow, you could simply disconnect your downspouts from the pipes to the street, running the outflow to an area of your yard away from your house.

- [Put in and use rain barrels](#). If you do not empty your rain barrels between rain storms, they do not help reduce runoff. Using collected rain water to water plants is better for your plants than using tap water, reduces the burden on our drinking water systems and saves money.
- Reduce lawn irrigation when rain is expected, on rainy days and immediately after rainy days. This primarily applies to people with automatic irrigation systems. County residents can contact Franklin Soil and Water for a free sensor for their irrigation systems that can prevent overwatering. Lawns only require 1" of water per week and can be allowed to go dormant during the summer ([click here for more information on lawn care](#)).

Depending on where you live, you may be able to get rebates to help defray the costs of doing some of these things ([click here for more rebate information](#)).

Together, we can make a difference in reducing stormwater runoff and localized flooding!



A stormwater pond (see fountain in the distance to the right in the photo) overflowed and flooded a street after recent heavy rains. Implementing the practices identified above on the properties draining to this pond could have reduced this flooding.

Backyard Habitat Newsletter

You can find information related to backyard habitats in August's *Nature Scoop*. [Click here](#) to see the online newsletter.

Newsletters available:

[Frankly Speaking](#) (general readership)

[The Urban Review](#) (storm water and land use issues)
[SWIFT](#) (Soil and Water Information for Teachers)

DATE	EVENT	TIME	NOTES
8/19/2017	Grove City's Ecofest	10:00 am to 4:00 pm	Grove City's Town Center 3378 Park St C, Grove City, OH 43123
8/21/2017	Board of Supervisors Meeting	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Franklin Soil and Water District 1404 Goodale Blvd Suite 100 Columbus, OH 43212
8/24/2017	15th Annual Stormwater and Erosion Control Expo	8:00 am to 3:00 pm	Franklin County Fairgrounds 4100 Columbia Street Hilliard, Ohio 43026
9/4/2017	Labor Day- Office Closed		
9/9/2017	Obetz Community Backyards Workshop	10:00 am to 11:30 am	Vance Outdoors 4250 Alum Creek Drive Obetz, Ohio 43207
9/13/2017	Webcast: Stream Restoration, where are we now?	1:00 pm to 2:30 pm	Franklin Soil and Water District 1404 Goodale Blvd Suite 100 Columbus, OH 43212
9/18/2017	Board of Supervisors Meeting	6:00 pm to 8:30 pm	Franklin Soil and Water District 1404 Goodale Blvd Suite 100 Columbus, OH 43212
9/28/2017	Franklin Soil and Water Conservation's 71st annual meeting and Board of	5:00 pm to 7:30 pm	The Boat House Restaurant 679 West Spring Street Columbus, OH 43215

[Supervisors
Election](#)

To be removed from the e-mail list for this newsletter, please contact Kurt Keljo at (614) 486-9613 ext. 121, or kkeljo@franklinswcd.org

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Connect with us:

