

**USEPA Green Infrastructure Educational Program
Project Summary**

Total: \$ 123,000
PI: Jeff Bates

Project Period: 11-1-2015 to 10-31-2016
Key Personnel: Jeff Spain

Columbus State, in collaboration with USEPA, the City of Columbus, Columbus Urban League, Franklin Park Conservatory, Alvis House, Huckleberry House, Grange Insurance Audobon Center, Friends of Alum Creek and Tributaries (FACT), Friends of the Lower Olentangy Watershed (FLOW) will offer a Green Infrastructure Educational Program that enables the City of Columbus to implement an environmentally friendly program entitled “*Blueprint Columbus. Clean Streams. Strong Neighborhoods.*” to maximize rainwater retention and minimize runoff into the wastewater sewer system.

Project goal:

Columbus State Community College (Columbus, OH) and its sub-grantee partners will implement a green infrastructure educational program. The six-week course will provide local residents with the entry-level skills to implement an environmentally-friendly alternative to the current Wet Weather Management Plan required under an Ohio Environmental Protection Agency consent order that consists of wastewater treatment plan upgrades, storage tanks, tunnels, and piping augmentation. The environmentally friendly alternatives will involve installing rain gardens, porous pavements, gutter and downspout improvements on private property, and other more sustainable measures.

Deliverables of the grant:

This project will meet the definition of environmental education by focusing on green infrastructure construction and maintenance including: the hydrologic cycle, storm water infrastructure, soil basics and preparation techniques, plant ecology, greenscape maintenance, and hands-on field experiences.

1. To sponsor three, six-week Green Infrastructure courses by October 31, 2016.
2. To educate 60 low-income, inner city residents on green infrastructure concepts by October 31, 2016.
3. To engage seven partners in the Central Ohio Region as sub-grantees to achieve the project goal by October 31, 2016.

The project will address several USEPA educational priorities:

USEPA Educational Priority	How this Project Addresses USEPA Priorities
Education Advancement	The project advances the <i>Blueprint Columbus</i> plan and infuses environmental literacy into an educational program for new entry-level technicians.
Community Projects	The project educates entry-level landscape technicians to help implement the <i>Blueprint Columbus</i> plan to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows during periods of heavy rain.
Career Development	During this Green Infrastructure Educational Program, participants will learn new skills and build knowledge as they install a variety of community projects that retain rainwater and minimize runoff into the wastewater system.