School of Environment and Natural Resources

Outreach Intern at Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

Cara Annandono – Environment, Economy, Development and Sustainability Community Development Specialization

LOCATION

Columbus, Ohio

AGENCY

Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District

TIME

Spring 2022 – Autumn 2022

TITLE

Outreach Intern



WHAT KIND OF AGENCY?

Government agency that partners with local municipalities and businesses to achieve conservation objectives in Franklin County.



Fellow intern, Leah, and I working a booth at Paws In The Plaza in Gahanna.

MISSION STATEMENT

Promote responsible 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.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Found Outreach Intern position on Handshake and School of Environment and Natural Resources job board.
- Applied with resume and cover letter via email.
- Interviewed with Outreach Team.

MY ROLE

- Assisted in managing community outreach programs, specifically the Community Backyards Rebate Program.
- Performed administrative tasks such as proofreading materials for the public and managing Excel database of program participants.
- Worked 10 community outreach events across Franklin County to promote programs and messaging.
- Engaged with coworkers to expand knowledge base of conservations processes and practices.

COMMUNITY BACKYARDS

Rebate program to incentivize homeowners in Franklin County to purchase and utilize composters, rain barrels, and native plants and trees / shrubs.



REFLECTION

- First involvement with formal conservation organization.
- Valuable experience, as conservation is a key tenet of sustainability.
- Expanded my network of environmental professionals in Columbus.



Native plants we encouraged homeowners to purchase.

LOOKING FORWARD

Hope to secure a position in private or non-profit sector — in an area of sustainability outside of conservation — to expand my breadth of experience in sustainability related work.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A special thank you to the wonderful staff at Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for their warm welcome and guidance over the summer.