

GreenSpot Business eNewsletter

June 2017

"The poetry of the Earth is never dead." -

John Keats



Topics in this edition:

- Gardening is in the air
- Summertime...air quality
- Central Ohio Commuter Challenge
- Blueprint Columbus rain gardens are here
- Moving, moving, moving...transportation options
- Did you know they are a GreenSpot? Woolpert

Gardening is in the air

As the weather warms, homeowners all across Columbus are breaking out their trowels and clippers, to ready their gardens for summer. Before you purchase new plants this year, make sure native plants are on your list. They will transform your garden into an environmental asset. Native plants, such as lilies and violets, are accustomed to Ohio's climate, so they take less watering and care. Many pollinators rely on native plants to survive, like the Monarch Butterflies' dependence on milkweed. A wide variety of native plants can be found at your local nursery. Incorporating native species into your garden provides numerous environmental benefits for the pollinators, birds, and other species of Ohio. Learn more [here](#), or see what plant species are native to your area on the ODNR's [website](#). You could be eligible for a rebate through the [GreenSpot Community Backyards program](#).



Summertime...air quality

Summer is here and while it brings lots of outdoor fun, it also means air quality season for ozone pollution. Don't let an air quality alert ruin your summer. MORPC has a great [website](#) where you can sign up for air quality alerts and learn what action you can take to lessen your exposure. The average adult breathes 2,000 gallons of air a day—let's make it clean and safe together!



Central Ohio Commuter Challenge

Get ready to commute, log, and WIN! MORPC, COTA, car2go and CoGo are teaming up once again to challenge Central Ohio commuters during the month of June. The Central Ohio Commuter Challenge encourages commuters to vanpool, carpool, take the bus, walk and bike to work, social events and errands from June 1-30.



Participants in the challenge will have a chance to win gift cards, tickets to the Columbus Zoo and Zoombezi Bay, COTA passes, car2go minutes, and CoGo passes. Simply create an account on [MakeYourMilesMatter.com](#) and log your sustainable commutes! You can even team up with friends and coworkers to challenge other teams for great prizes.

The challenge is a fun way to choose sustainable transportation options while traveling within our region, which helps improve air quality, improve public health, and reduce roadway congestion. Contact commuterchallenge@morpc.com for more info or for help creating a team.

Moving, moving, moving...transportation options

There are many transportation options here in Cbus. Did you know that single-occupancy vehicles account for almost a quarter of all GHG emissions in the country? You can help reduce your impact by taking an alternative method of transportation to work, to run errands, or just to get around the City.

Columbus is home to miles of bike trails and bike-friendly roads, plan your route by checking out the biker map on the MORPC [website](#). Bike sharing services, like [CoGo](#), are available at locations around the City for those who don't own their own bike. [COTA](#) routes go all over the City, and have a reduced environmental impact. If biking or busing isn't an option for you, consider using a car or ride sharing service. [Car2Go](#) allows you to rent your own fuel-efficient smart-car to get around the city and there are even free, dedicated parking spots at some locations. Using these alternative transportation options helps reduce your GHG emissions and can turn your morning commute into a new experience.

Blueprint Columbus rain gardens are here!

Blueprint Columbus has installed the first rain gardens in the Clintonville area! These rain gardens are being built to help improve water quality by acting as a natural filter for stormwater runoff, meaning that the water entering our rivers and streams is already clear of debris and many pollutants. As we continue to install rain gardens throughout Clintonville, OSU will be evaluating and monitoring not only changes in water quality, but also the effect to birds and insects, and the social/economic effects to the neighborhood. If you're in Clintonville, keep an eye out for their monitoring posts, which are marked with Blueprint signage. We are excited to install this sustainable option to Columbus, which brings multiple benefits for our communities aside from just stormwater management. Want to learn more about Blueprint? Follow us on Facebook and Twitter (@BlueprintCbus) for project updates and interesting facts about green infrastructure!



SWACO event waste reduction webinars

SWACO is developing educational resources to help Franklin County event organizers meet their goals of environmental stewardship and cost savings. To support this initiative, they created 2, 30-minute webinars focused on providing event organizers in Franklin County with the tools and knowledge required to reduce, reuse, and recycle at their events- no matter the size or type.



WEBINAR #1 will take place June 15th from 12:30-1:30pm. It will cover the 'what, how, and why of recycling' in Franklin County while answering your questions about bio-plastics and more. This content will help organizers understand how to properly sort materials before educating their attendees and vendors about sorting for maximum recycling and recovery rates. Register [here](#).

WEBINAR #2 will take place June 22nd from 12:30-1pm. It will dive into specific strategies for waste reduction at events including vendor contract language, purchasing decisions, and planning techniques. The first webinar is intended to provide the foundation for these strategies. Register [here](#).

Did you know they are a GreenSpot? Woolpert

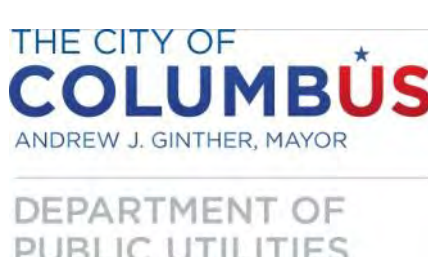
Woolpert is a national architecture, engineering and geospatial (AEG) firm with 26 offices nationwide. The firm was founded in 1911 and has had an office in Columbus for 35 years. During that time, Woolpert has steadily increased its environmentally friendly practices and applications, both in production and operation.



For several years, Woolpert has been adopting and furthering its sustainable design practices for its architecture and engineering projects. These include working within U.S. Green Building Council guidelines to build several LEED-certified and ENERGY STAR-designed structures, natural resource management and land utilization mapping, green infrastructure practices, and alternate energy sources and utility condition assessments.

In its daily operations, Woolpert's Columbus office actively recycles batteries, cell phones, electronic devices, computers, eye glasses, paper, cans, plastic, glass and coffee grounds. Each of the office's 24 employees has a recycling receptacle at his or her desk, and each paper copier is filled with recycled paper and has a recycling box next to it to maximize these recycling efforts. The office also promotes environmental practices through educational outreach programs. The firm uses door hangings to invite its neighbors to "Go Green and Join GreenSpot," and has challenged other businesses to do the same. It has developed "GreenSpot Spotlight" scenes on its internal digital signage to give employees ideas on how to become more environmentally friendly at work and at home. One example of this was informing employees who live in Franklin County that the city will contribute \$50 toward the purchase of a rain barrel. The firm also supplies bicycle repair toolkits to encourage employees to bike to work—not only on Bike to Work Day as many did on May 19, but every day.

Woolpert plans to continue to grow its environmental efforts and hopes to help set the standard for green building and energy efficiency throughout the AEG industry.



STAY CONNECTED:



City of Columbus Public Utilities,
910 Dublin Road, Columbus, OH 43215