

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONSERVATION and PLANNING

8020

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Department of Economic Development, Conservation and Planning is to promote a balance between economic growth, resource conservation, and sound land use planning throughout the County.

WHO WE SERVE

We serve other County agencies and local governments by providing advice and assistance for environmental regulatory compliance, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and mapping support, and other technical assistance on an as needed basis. In addition, the Department provides direct and indirect benefits to the public through our open space conservation programs and ongoing response to requests for information and assistance in a wide array of areas related to natural resource conservation. We also serve the County's agricultural community by administering the County Agricultural District Program, providing technical support to the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, and implementing specific recommendations proposed in the County Farmland Protection Plan.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The Department carries out its mission in the following program areas:

- The Office of Natural Resource Conservation provides assessments, recommendations, and technical assistance for natural resource conservation; administers environmental regulatory compliance on behalf of the County; coordinates the County's open space conservation, biodiversity, and farmland protection activities; and represents the County on several conservation-related committees.
- The GIS and computer mapping function provides the Department, other County agencies, and local governments with GIS capability, both in terms of ongoing development, and maintenance of the County's GIS data base and the County's participation in the New York State Geographic Information Systems (NYS GIS) Data Clearinghouse.
- The Department is actively involved with the Natural Resource Conservation and GIS/mapping components. Previously the Department was charged with Economic Development and Planning however these functions are currently carried out under the auspices of other County agencies.

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Carried out environmental regulatory compliance on behalf of all County agencies; conducted reviews to determine potential preservation value of all County-owned properties proposed for public auction. Conducted annual review of the County's three Agricultural Districts; monitored and provided recommendations on management and maintenance needs at county parks/preserves; and preparation and maintenance of digital tax maps for GIS.
- Orchestrated concerted effort to provide emergency financial assistance through a Federal grant program to farmers for crop loss resulting from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee.
- Represented the County's interests in cooperative Canada goose control program on County land near the Albany International Airport in concert with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Wildlife Services, and the Albany Airport Authority.
- Provided technical support for County compliance with NYS stormwater management regulations.
- Assisted the Department of Law in review and analysis of the Hudson River Black River Regulating District

APPROPRIATION HISTORY



1998:	\$1,046,746
1999:	\$1,121,247
2000:	\$1,120,935
2001:	\$751,499
2002:	\$863,127
2003:	\$783,567
2004:	\$714,744
2005:	\$730,921
2006:	\$555,519
2007:	\$1,016,136
2008:	\$8,335,610
2009:	\$668,696
2010:	\$244,806
2011:	\$150,554
2012:	\$145,643
2013:	\$176,450

CONTACT INFORMATION

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apportionment data and flood zone mapping related to ongoing litigation.

- Worked with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy to protect various conservation properties and make them available for public use.
- Continued work on Helderberg open space protection and biodiversity initiative and presented Helderberg biodiversity inventory data at the Northeast Natural History Conference in Syracuse and the Northeast Partners in Reptile and Amphibian Conservation Annual Meeting in New Hampshire.
- Provided mapping and database support for the County Health Department's lead inspection primary prevention program.
- Provided GIS mapping of designated park and preserve trail systems in Albany County at the request of the Albany County Sheriff for E-911 response.
- Provided GIS mapping support for the County Department of Public Works response to Tropical Storms Irene and Lee.
- Worked with local partners on development of regional sustainability plan and Mohawk Watershed Management Plan.
- Worked with the County Division of Information Services to apply Homeland Security Grant funding toward further development of County GIS system.
- Assisted in preparation of two grant applications in the State's Consolidated Funding Application Program toward development of the County Rail Trail project and a raised walkway at the Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve.
- Participated on the Albany Pine Bush Technical Committee, NYS (Region 4) Open Space Conservation Advisory Committee (Director, serves as Co-Chair and principal author of Region 4 Open Space Conservation Report), Albany County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, Albany County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (Senior Natural Resource Planner serves as Vice Chair), Albany County Stormwater Coalition technical workgroup, Onesquethaw-Coeymans Creek Watershed Council (Senior Natural Resource Planner serves as Vice Chair), Mohawk Basin Watershed Management Plan Committee, Normanskill Roundtable, and Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long-term Control Plan Community Advisory Committee.

2013 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- Conduct comprehensive, mandatory 8-year Review of Agricultural District No.1 pursuant to NYS Agriculture and Markets Law 25-AA in the towns of Berne and Knox.
- Represent Albany County on Regional Open Space Advisory Committee charged with mandatory update of the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan
- Continue GIS data coordination and provision of GIS technical support as needed to all County agencies, local governments, and the public.
- Update management and use plans for Lawson Lake and Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve with specific attention to trail marking and mapping, invasive species monitoring and control, updating signage, and exploring grants for facility improvements.
- Address maintenance issues related to black locust control project at the Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve carried out under Federal Wetland Mitigation Agreement.
- Continue comprehensive update of County's GIS parcel data to correct and improve the dataset for GIS users and for eventual inclusion in a public web map.

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- Conduct assessment of potential sites for continued implementation of State-funded “Trees for Tribs” program.
- Enhance the Department website by updating the farmers market interactive map, adding a parks and preserves map, and including natural resource inventory information.

The Office of Natural Resources played a large role in disbursing grant funding to local farmers for crop loss resulting from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee. While Natural Resources staff was integral in helping individual farmers through the application process, as well as coordinating grant administration, it is important to recognize that the overall effort involved contributions by the Office of the County Executive, the County’s Law Department, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County.

Account	2011 Expended	2012 Adjusted	2013 Proposed	2012-13 Change	2012-13 Percent Change
Appropriations					
Economic Development 8020) - (
Personal Services	\$78,464	\$78,925	\$79,375	\$450	0.57%
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$5,034	\$5,034	100.00%
Contractual Expenses	\$123,638	\$125,237	\$36,399	(\$88,838)	-70.94%
Fringe Benefits	\$62,260	\$35,678	\$55,642	\$19,964	55.96%
Appropriations Total	\$264,361	\$239,840	\$176,450	(\$63,390)	-26.4%
Revenue	(\$585)	(\$569,197)	(\$2,000)	\$567,197	-99.65%
Revenue Total	(\$585)	(\$569,197)	(\$2,000)	\$567,197	-99.6%
Total County Share	\$263,776	(\$329,357)	\$174,450	\$503,807	-52.97%

					2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2013	2013	
A 8020 Economic Development					Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted	
Personnel Services Individual												
A	8020	11022	001	550001	Dir Development Conserv Plan	1	1	\$29,423	\$30,000	\$30,000	\$30,000	-
A	8020	12628	001	550008	Senior Natural Resr Planner	1	1	\$47,675	\$47,675	\$47,675	\$47,675	-
					<i>Personnel Services Individual Subtotal</i>	2	2	\$77,098	\$77,675	\$77,675	\$77,675	\$0
Personnel Non-Individual												
A	8020	19950			Longevity Raise			\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$0
					<i>Personnel Non-Individual Subtotal</i>			\$1,250	\$1,250	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$0
Equipment												
A	8020	22050			Computer Equipment			\$0	\$0	\$5,034	\$5,034	\$0
					<i>Equipment Subtotal</i>			\$0	\$0	\$5,034	\$5,034	\$0
Contractual Expenses												
A	8020	44020			Office Supplies			\$299	\$300	\$900	\$900	\$0
A	8020	44021			Computer Supplies			\$0	\$0	\$4,202	\$4,202	\$0
A	8020	44035			Postage			\$180	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$0
A	8020	44036			Telephone			\$482	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$0
A	8020	44037			Insurance			\$1,624	\$1,404	\$1,558	\$1,558	\$0
A	8020	44038			Travel,Mileage,Freight			\$99	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0
A	8020	44042			Printing And Advertising			\$0	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0
A	8020	44046			Fees For Services			\$72,034	\$69,197	\$0	\$0	\$0
A	8020	44065			Photocopier Lease			\$1,078	\$945	\$472	\$472	\$0
A	8020	44468			Ann Lee Pond Walkway			\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
A	8020	44903			DGS Shared Services Charges			\$47,843	\$27,591	\$28,567	\$28,567	\$0
					<i>Contractual Expenses Subtotal</i>			\$123,638	\$125,237	\$36,399	\$36,399	\$0
Fringe Benefits												
A	8020	89010			State Retirement			\$15,931	\$15,575	\$17,998	\$17,998	\$0
A	8020	89030			Social Security			\$5,908	\$6,038	\$6,072	\$6,072	\$0
A	8020	89060			Hospital and Medical Insurance			\$40,421	\$14,065	\$31,572	\$31,572	\$0
					<i>Fringe Benefits Subtotal</i>			\$62,260	\$35,678	\$55,642	\$55,642	\$0
Total Appropriations								\$264,245	\$239,840	\$176,450	\$176,450	\$0
Revenue												
A	8020	02770			Other Unclassified Revenues			(\$585)	(\$500,000)	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)	\$0
A	8020	03805			Farm Operations Program			\$0	(\$69,197)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue								(\$585)	(\$569,197)	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)	\$0
County Share								\$263,660	(\$329,357)	\$174,450	\$174,450	\$0