

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, natural 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 Agricultural and 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 planning and conservation-related committees.
- The GIS and mapping program supports the Department's work and provides GIS services to other County agencies and local governments. This includes development and maintenance of GIS data, oversight of data provided through the New York State Data Sharing Cooperative, data analysis, and provision of map products.

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
2014:	\$256,964

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economic
Development, Conservation
and Planning
County of Albany
112 State Street
Suite 720
Albany, New York 12207
Office: (518) 447-5660
Fax: (518) 447-5662

2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- Carried out environmental regulatory compliance on behalf of all County agencies.
- Conducted annual review of the County's three Agricultural Districts and commenced 8-year review of Agricultural District #1.
- Monitored and provided recommendations on management and maintenance needs at County parks/preserves.
- Prepared updated digital tax maps for GIS.
- Provided mapping and database support for the County Health Department's lead inspection primary prevention program.
- Prepared maps of foreclosed properties and airport area properties for Office of Real Property.
- Represented the County's interests in cooperative Canada geese 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.
- Represented Albany County on Regional Open Space Advisory Committee to complete mandatory update of the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan (Director, served as principal author of Region 4 Open Space Conservation Report).

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- Conducted reviews to determine potential preservation value of all County-owned properties proposed for public auction which resulted in agreements 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.
- Submitted grant to NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) to replace the raised walkway and make other improvements at Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve.
- Submitted grant application and awarded funding through NYS OPRHP Snowmobile Trails Program.
- Participated on Albany County's Team Green, the Albany Pine Bush Technical Committee, NYS (Region 4) Open Space Conservation Advisory Committee, 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 Watershed Council (Senior Natural Resource Planner serves as Vice Chair), Mohawk Basin Watershed Management Plan Technical Committee, Capital District Economic Development Council Agrinomics Workgroup, FEMA Region 2 RISC GIS Subcommittee, and City of Albany Sustainability and Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan technical committees.

2014 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- Complete 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.
- Continue GIS data coordination and provision of GIS technical support as needed to all County agencies, local governments, and the public.
- Begin update of management and use plans for Lawson Lake and Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve with specific attention to maintenance and facility improvements, trail development, educational opportunities, and monitoring invasive species and water quality.
- Address maintenance issues related to black locust control project and other wetland mitigation areas at the Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve.
- Work with the newly created Team Green to develop and implement sustainable practices for County operations.
- Continue comprehensive update of County's GIS parcel data to correct and improve the dataset for GIS users and for inclusion in updates to our public web mapper.
- Explore invasive species monitoring and management related to emerald ash borer.
- Update the farmers' market interactive web map and enhance natural resource information available on the county website.
- Prepare updated data for interactive web map including parcels, agricultural districts.
- Apply for funding from NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets to update the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.
- Administer 2013-14 NYS OPRHP Snowmobile Trails Grant-in-Aid Program and apply for 2014-2015 funding on behalf of local trail maintenance entities.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2014 Executive budget for Economic Development, Conservation and Planning proposes to make the Director's position full time.

The Office of Natural Resource Conservation worked closely with the Division of Information Services, Real Property Tax Service Agency and the County Executive's Office to develop the County's new public interactive web map. The Office took the lead working with our consultant to develop the format, content, and functionality of the mapper.

				2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2014	2014
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	\$29,769	\$31,212	\$90,000	\$90,000	-
A	8020	12628 001	550008 Senior Natural Resr Planner	1	1	\$47,675	\$49,601	\$50,594	\$50,594	-
<i>Personnel Services Individual Subtotal</i>				2	2	\$77,444	\$80,813	\$140,594	\$140,594	\$0
Personnel Non-Individual										
A	8020	19950	Longevity Raise			\$1,250	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$0
<i>Personnel Non-Individual Subtotal</i>						\$1,250	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$1,700	\$0
Equipment										
A	8020	22050	Computer Equipment			\$0	\$5,034	\$0	\$0	\$0
<i>Equipment Subtotal</i>						\$0	\$5,034	\$0	\$0	\$0
Contractual Expenses										
A	8020	44020	Office Supplies			\$253	\$900	\$1,400	\$1,400	\$0
A	8020	44021	Computer Supplies			\$0	\$4,202	\$3,459	\$3,459	\$0
A	8020	44035	Postage			\$67	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$0
A	8020	44036	Telephone			\$437	\$450	\$225	\$225	\$0
A	8020	44037	Insurance			\$1,713	\$1,558	\$1,372	\$1,372	\$0
A	8020	44038	Travel,Mileage,Freight			\$100	\$100	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
A	8020	44046	Fees For Services			\$60,656	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
A	8020	44065	Photocopier Lease			\$944	\$472	\$472	\$472	\$0
A	8020	44468	Ann Lee Pond Walkway			\$0	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
A	8020	44903	DGS Shared Services Charges			\$27,591	\$28,567	\$28,704	\$28,704	\$0
<i>Contractual Expenses Subtotal</i>						\$91,761	\$61,399	\$39,782	\$39,782	\$0
Fringe Benefits										
A	8020	89010	State Retirement			\$11,684	\$17,998	\$29,401	\$29,401	\$0
A	8020	89030	Social Security			\$5,989	\$6,192	\$10,885	\$10,885	\$0
A	8020	89060	Hospital and Medical Insurance			\$34,476	\$30,974	\$34,602	\$34,602	\$0
<i>Fringe Benefits Subtotal</i>						\$52,149	\$55,164	\$74,888	\$74,888	\$0
Total Appropriations						\$222,604	\$202,541	\$256,964	\$256,964	\$0
Revenue										
A	8020	02770	Other Unclassified Revenues			(\$3,670)	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)	\$0
Total Revenue						(\$3,670)	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)	(\$2,000)	\$0
County Share						\$218,934	\$200,541	\$254,964	\$254,964	\$0