

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - 8730

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District is to improve local land management practices and provide technical assistance to residents, landowners, and units of government throughout Albany County.

WHO WE SERVE

The Conservation District works with landowners, land managers, local government agencies and other local interests in addressing a broad range of resource concerns.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

The Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District is a local governmental subdivision established under state law to carry out programs for the conservation, use and development of soil, water and related resources. Created on May 14, 1945 by the Albany County Board of Supervisors, the District has been providing county residents' assistance for over 70 years. District programs provide information, service, and technical/financial assistance to agricultural, rural, urban and suburban constituents. Technical assistance is available to farmers, private landowners, municipalities, and commercial/business organizations. The District carries out planning as well as implementation activities.

2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- Applied for 2 separate grants under the Agricultural NonPoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Round 22 funding cycle
- Collaborated with Montgomery Co. SWCD, Rensselaer Co. SWCD, Schenectady Co. SWCD and Schoharie Co. SWCD to host the 15th Annual Capital Region Envirothon which is an outdoor environmental competition for high school students
- Partnered with the Town of New Scotland to mulch the Hilton Barn project sites to prevent erosion and to encourage vegetative growth
- Applied for funding to increase the District's capacity for Conservation Education utilizing hands on stream models
- Continued onsite investigations and mapping on public lands for invasive species within the Mohawk River Watershed
- Over 8,700 bare root tree and shrubs were purchased by 244 landowners through the Annual Tree and Shrub Program. This annual sale supports the District's ongoing programs and provides appropriate plants for various land management practices, including wildlife habitat/food, reforestation, soil stability, riparian buffers and windbreaks
- Awarded funding for an agricultural operation in the County, through Governor Cuomo's new Climate Resilient Farming grant pilot program
- Hosted a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation endorsed 4 hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training with 70 people being certified
- Partner with the Bethlehem School District to install a High Tunnel on school property to conserve natural resources, increase their vegetable production and to utilize for educational purposes
- Through the Conservation District Fish Stocking Program the District sold over 13,700 fish for landowners to stock their ponds. A variety of fish are available through this program including the Triploid Grass Carp which are a biological weed control, used as an alternative to applying herbicides
- Maintained 10 Demonstration Rain Gardens around the County and the District's Plant Material Center which is used to grow stock to replant the Rain Gardens
- As part of a statewide program, the Conservation District completed over 40 Soil Group Worksheets, identifying the various soil types that make up a parcel of land for eligible landowners to file for agricultural assessment
- Continued to increase countywide participation from farmers in the Agricultural Environmental Management program; have participation from over 230 farm operations

2017 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- Continue to apply for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant to assist farms in implementing farm conservation practices
- Hydroseed 2 miles of road banks to prevent erosion and protect water quality in the Mohawk River Watershed
- Collaborate with the County of Albany on grant applications

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- Sell over 10,500 trees, shrubs, and groundcovers to landowners for conservation purposes and over 9,500 fish for landowners to stock ponds, including Triploid Grass Carp for vegetation control, through the fish stocking program
- Host two Conservation Field Days for students in 5th and 6th grade.
- Complete 50 Soil Group Worksheets for agricultural landowners under the Agricultural Assessment Program
- Cohost the annual Regional Envirothon competition

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2016 Budget for ACSWCD does not include substantive changes.

Through the Conservation District’s annual Spring Fish program staff interacted with 61 members of the public to stock their ponds. Staff assisted with permit applications, stocking rates, and species selection. Staff were also on hand to distribute the fish and answer any questions. Species offered include Bass, Trout, Minnow, Catfish and Triploid Grass Carp. The Triploid Grass Carp are encouraged as an alternative to applying herbicides to the ponds for weed control. Over 13,700 fish were purchased by pond owners.

A8730 Soil Water Conservation		2016 Count	2017 Count	2015 Expended	2016 Adjusted	2017 Requested	2017 Proposed	2017 Adopted
Contractual Expenses								
A 8730 44473	Soil/Water Conservation Dist			\$297,754	\$114,298	\$114,298	\$114,298	\$0
Subtotal for: Contractual Expenses				\$297,754	\$114,298	\$114,298	\$114,298	\$0
Revenue								
A8730 02770	Other Unclassified Revenue			(\$188,981)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue				(\$188,981)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
County Share				\$108,773	\$114,298	\$114,298	\$114,298	\$0