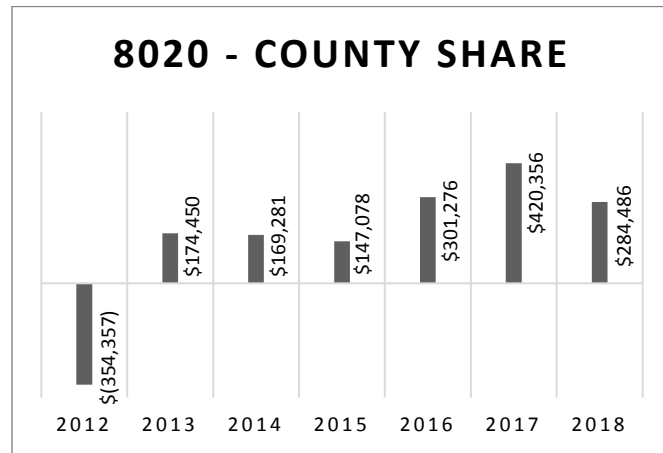


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONSERVATION AND PLANNING 8020



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) 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 work on open space conservation and ongoing work in 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:

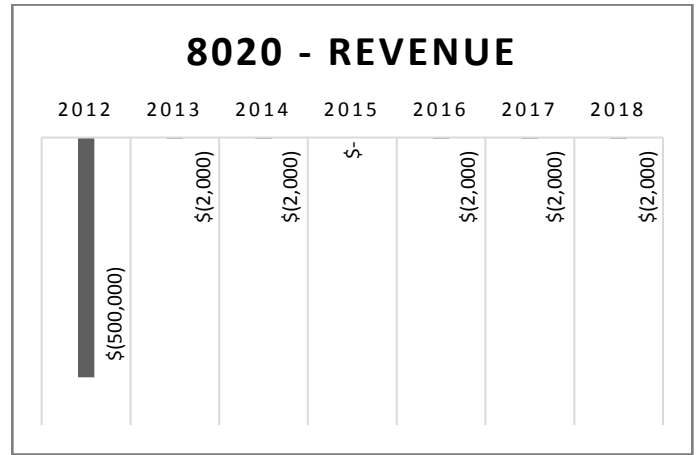
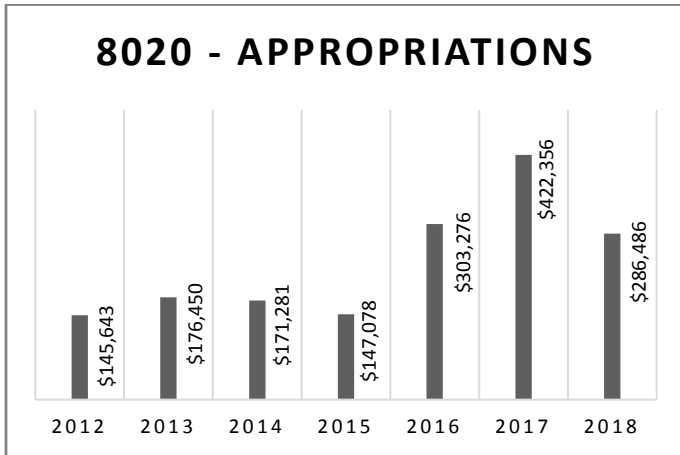
- The Office of Natural Resource Conservation provides assessments, recommendations, and technical assistance for natural resource conservation; administers environmental regulatory compliance on behalf of the County; coordinates the County's open space conservation, biodiversity, and farmland protection 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.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- Completed an update of the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan
- Secured and administered a \$11,100 grant through NYS OPRHP for snowmobile trail maintenance
- Carried out environmental regulatory compliance on behalf of all County agencies
- Conducted the annual review of the County's three Agricultural Districts
- Provided technical support for County compliance with NYS stormwater management regulations.
- Monitored and provided recommendations on management and maintenance needs at County parks/preserves.
- Prepared updated digital tax maps for GIS and updated other data on County's public interactive map.
- Provided mapping and database support for the County Health Department's lead inspection primary prevention program.
- Represented the County's interests in a 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.
- Conducted reviews to determine potential preservation value of all County-owned properties proposed for transfer to the Land Bank resulting in conveyance of parcels to the City of Albany to protect the Krumkill and City water line.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONSERVATION AND PLANNING – 8020

- Participated on Albany Pine Bush Technical 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, FEMA Region 2 RISC GIS Subcommittee.
- Improved trail markings at Ann Lee Pond Preserve and created online interactive maps for County parks and preserves



2018 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- Assist DPW staff in developing and implementing a compliant stormwater management program
- Continue GIS data coordination and provision of GIS technical support as needed to all County agencies, local governments, and the public.
- Administer 2017-18 NYS OPRHP Snowmobile Trails Grant-in-Aid Program on behalf of local trail maintenance entities.
- 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 and other wetland mitigation area issues at the Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve.
- 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.
- 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, and farmers markets.
- Complete ArcGIS online training and expand GIS use among other County departments

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

- Increased funding in computer supplies to accommodate an alternative Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) licensing option

Staff participated on an Advisory Committee with local farmers and municipal leaders to update the County’s Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan and organized public meetings to get feedback on the Plan.