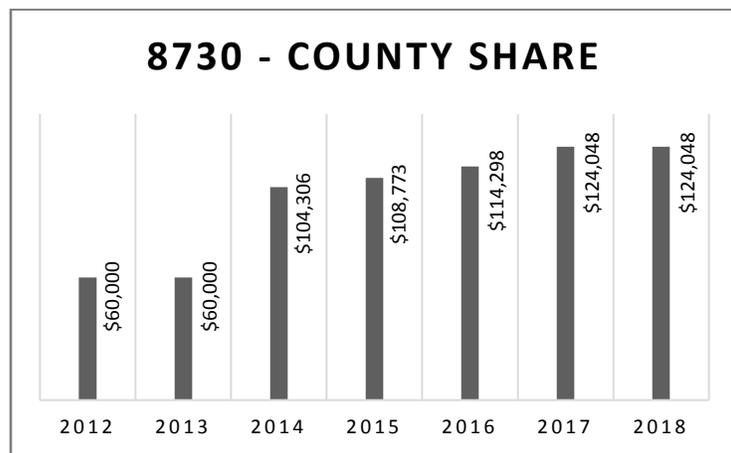


SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 8730



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District is to advance comprehensive natural resource management on a voluntary basis to residents, landowners and units of government. The District leads by providing science based technical and educational assistance and coordination of resources from Federal, State, Local governments and other sources.

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.

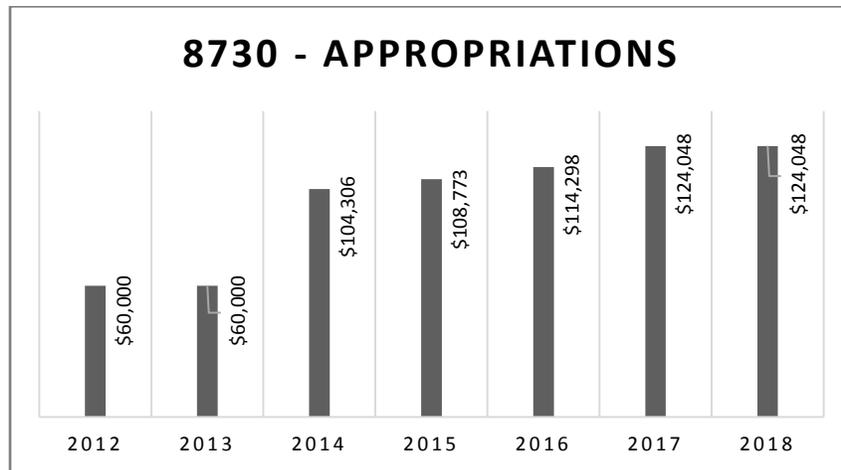
ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

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.

2017 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- Awarded \$86,600 under the Agricultural NonPoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Round 22 Funding Cycle for a farm operation in the Town of Berne.
- Collaborated with Montgomery Co. SWCD, Rensselaer Co. SWCD, Schenectady Co. SWCD and Schoharie Co. SWCD to host the 16th Annual Capital Region Envirothon which is an outdoor environmental competition for high school students
- Applied for a grant under the Agricultural NonPoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Round 23 Funding Cycle.
- Hydroseeded approximately 0.5 acres of exposed soil for the Town of New Scotland on Hilton Road between the Albany County Helderberg-Hudson Rail Trail and the Hilton Barn to reduce erosion concerns.
- Utilizing State Aid funding from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund provided 56 Pet Waste Disposal Stations to municipalities within Albany County for installation in public parks and recreation areas.
- Partnered with the Helderberg Homeowners Association to complete a street tree planting project on New Scotland Ave.
- Utilizing NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Program funding staff hydro-seeded road ditches for local municipalities
- Over 8,600 bare root tree and shrubs were purchased by 225 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
- Completed an Upland Water Storage and Erosion Control grant on a farm with funding through Governor Cuomo's new Climate Resilient Farming grant pilot program. The project improves flood water holding capacity during storm events, improves drainage of nearby crop fields, and improved water table stabilization of adjacent areas.
- Hosted a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation endorsed 4 hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training with 78 people being certified
- Partnered with the Helderberg Neighborhood Association to install street trees on New Scotland Avenue in Albany to mitigate stormwater runoff
- Hydroseeded 4 miles of road banks in the Town of Guelderland and the Town of Rensselaerville to prevent erosion and protect water quality.
- 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
- Continued to increase countywide participation from farmers in the Agricultural Environmental Management program; have participation from over 245 farm operations

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - 8730



2018 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- Continue to apply for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant to assist farms in implementing farm conservation practices
- Hydroseed 5 miles of road banks to prevent erosion and protect water quality
- Collaborate with the County of Albany on grant applications
- 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 Day 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 2018 Budget for ACSWCD does not include substantive changes.

The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program is a voluntary program, led by the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District, designed to help farmers protect soil, water and other important natural resources. Using a five tiered approach Conservation District staff have worked with over 245 farmers to gauge interest, document existing stewardship and identify potential environmental concerns. Farm-specific conservation plans are developed in partnership with the farmer and the District provides technical assistance to help implement best management practices identified in those plans.

Working closely with a particular farm owner in the Town of Berne, the District has helped them progress through the tiered process. Utilizing the plan that was developed the District has been awarded a NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant to implement a rotational grazing system and install a riparian buffer on a stream that runs through the property. The grazing system will exclude the animals from the stream, which in turn will help protect the water quality of the Fox Creek. Soil health and erosion issues will be improved by reducing overgrazing on pastures.