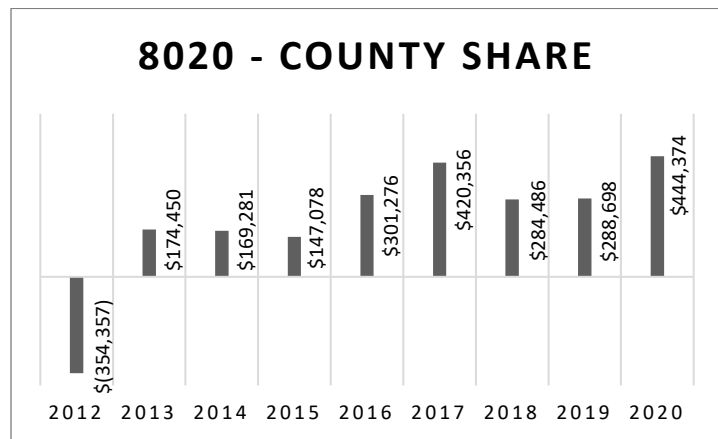


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONSERVATION AND PLANNING 8020



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 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:

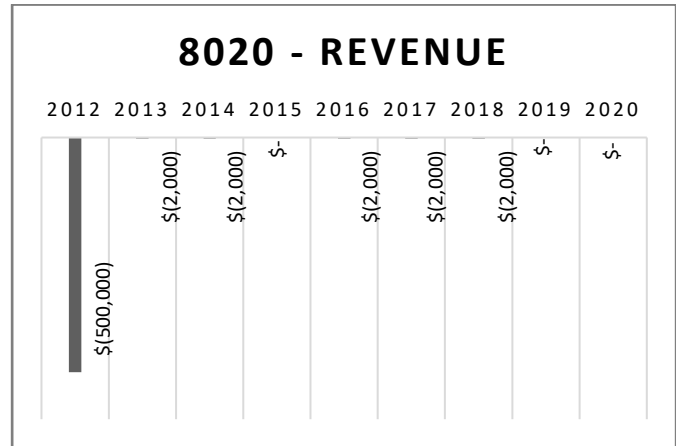
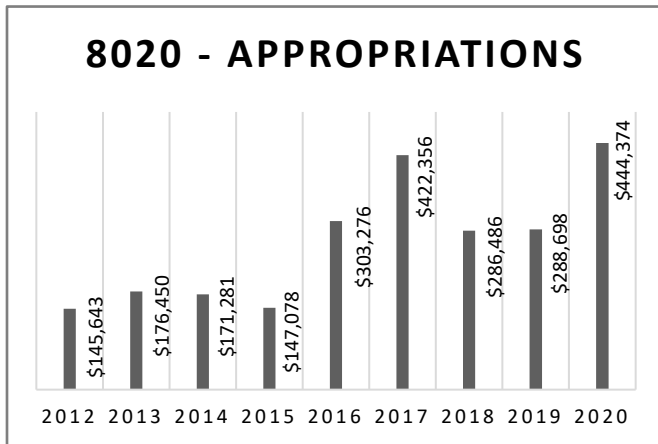
- The Office of Natural Resource Conservation provides assessments, recommendations, and technical assistance for natural resource conservation; administers environmental regulatory compliance on behalf of the County; coordinates the County's open space conservation, biodiversity, and farmland protection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

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- Began implementation of the updated County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan
- Secured and administered a \$12,984 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
- Completed 8-year review of Agricultural District #3
- 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 Heathy Capital District Initiatives 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 (UDSA) Wildlife Services, and the Albany Airport Authority.
- Conducted reviews to determine potential preservation value of all County-owned properties proposed for sale or transfer.
- 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.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, CONSERVATION AND PLANNING - 8020

- Planned for trail extensions at Ann Lee Pond Preserve
- Worked with Shaker Heritage Society and Soil and Water Conservation District to coordinate interpretation of natural and cultural resources at Ann Lee Pond Nature and Historic Preserve.
- Worked to coordinated implementation of the County pollinator friendly municipality initiative



2020 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.
- Work with DPW, SWCD, CCE to develop pollinator friendly areas at county facilities.
- Administer 2019-20 NYS OPRHP Snowmobile Trails Grant-in-Aid Program on behalf of local trail maintenance entities.
- Progress implementation of goals of the 2018 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan.
- 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.
- Develop signage for Ann Lee Pond Preserve related to wetlands, other natural resources and trails.
- 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 information on County parks and preserves 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

Twenty-Five thousand dollars was added to the budget for implementation of the County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan adopted in 2019.

The Department partnered with the Town of Bethlehem, Town of New Scotland, and Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy to sponsor two public workshops on open space and farmland protection methods and success stories.