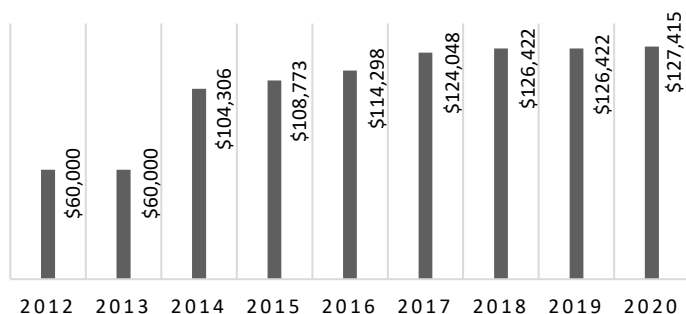


ALBANY COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 8730

8730 - COUNTY SHARE



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, and 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

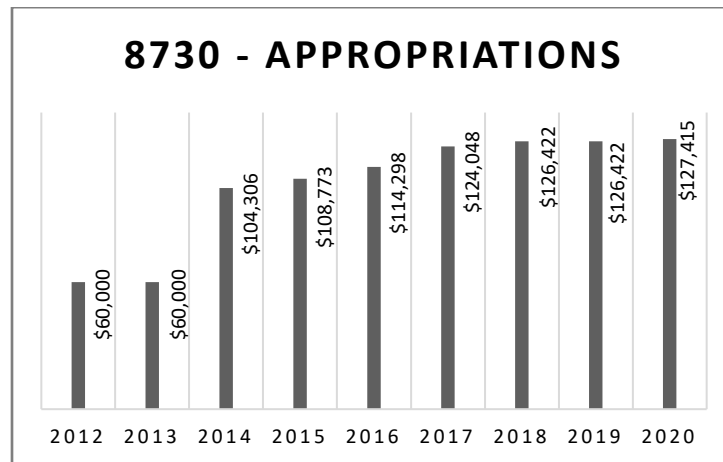
The Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District is a local governmental subdivision established under state law to carry out programs for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources. Created on May 14, 1945 by the Albany County Board of Supervisors, the District 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.

2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- Promoted invasive species outreach and education using the “Albany County Invasive Species Billboard Roadshow” trailer mounted display.
- Coordinated an iMapInvasives training for the public to learn how to identify and report species of high concern.
- Collaborated with Montgomery Co. SWCD, Rensselaer Co. SWCD, Schenectady Co. SWCD, and Schoharie Co. SWCD to host the 18th Annual Capital Region Envirothon which is an outdoor environmental competition for high school students.
- Participated in multiple events utilizing the EMRiver Model to show the effects of erosion on water quality and stream dynamics.
- Coordinate and Host the 2019 Conservation Field Day for 5th and 6th grade students at the Normanskill Farm.
- Continued to increase countywide participation from farmers in the Agricultural Environmental Management program; have participation from over 250 farm operations.
- Offered the High Tunnel focused School Assistance Program to all Albany County schools, grades K-12. This program assists in the installation of a High Tunnel Growing System on school grounds to aid existing or foster development of future agricultural programs.
- Applied for funding under the Agricultural NonPoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Round 25 Funding Cycle for two of our Ag Environmental Management participating farm operations.
- Hosted a tire recycling event for all Albany County residents; recycling was available free of charge to all participants.
- Over 8,000 bare root tree and shrubs were purchased by 210 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.

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- Offered the annual spring fish stocking program for private pond owners across the region to stock their ponds with Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Triploid Grass Carp or forage fish. Adding a diversity of fish life to improve the overall health of a homeowner's pond.
- Hosted a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation endorsed 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training with over 50 individuals receiving training certification.
- Maintained Demonstration Rain Gardens around the County and the District's Plant Material Center which is used to grow stock to replant the Rain Gardens.



2020 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- Continue to apply for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grants and Climate Resilient Farming Grants to assist farms in implementing farm conservation practices.
- Under the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program, conduct 10 Tier 2 site assessments to document current land stewardship, develop 4 conservation plans addressing concerns and opportunities tailored to farm goals, and evaluate 17 previously assessed farms to ensure the protection of the environment; in accordance with the AEM Annual Action Plan. Utilize the new AEM implementation funding on operations that have conservation plans to implement Best Management Practices.
- Sell over 10,000 trees, shrubs, and groundcovers to landowners for conservation purposes and over 9,000 fish for landowners to stock ponds, including Triploid Grass Carp for vegetation control, through our annual seedling sale and fish stocking program.
- Cohost the 19th annual Regional Envirothon competition and increase participation from schools in Albany County.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2020 Budget for ACSWCD does not include substantive changes.

Utilizing Conservation Project funding, the District was able to purchase an EMRiver Model which is used to demonstrate stream dynamics, erosion on streambanks and several methods to mitigate the effects for both youth and adults. Staff had the opportunity to utilize this model for the Ag Day at the Berne Knox Westerlo School. Approximately 400 students ranging from PreK to sixth grade participated in the day and were given the opportunity to see the model first hand. The students were able to visualize sediment mobilization, transportation, and deposition as the display media moved from one end of the constructed channel to the other. Erosion control methods such as plantings and stone fortification were exemplified with control areas of no mitigation, amplifying the cause and effect. The students and teachers greatly enjoyed the visual learning and realistic application of the model.