

Department Name	Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District
Account(s)	8730

Department Function
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 the coordination of resources from federal, state, and local governments. The District works with landowners, land managers, local government agencies, and other local interests to address a broad range of resource concerns.

Current Year Highlights
• Collaborated with our counterparts in our 7-sister counties to coordinate and host the 21st Annual Capital Region Enviro-thon; an environmental competition for high school students. • Promoted invasive species outreach and education to the community by installing 2 boot-brush stations at the Ann Lee Nature Preserve and hosting a forest walk during Invasive Species Awareness Week. Both were a result of our collaboration with the County Office of Natural Resources and the Capital Mohawk PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management). • Distributed 3,000 free Liatris bulbs to 200 customers as a part of the District's "Pollinator Initiative Program" and our "Spring Tree & Shrub Program". • Hosted 3 waste tire recycling events in which we properly disposed of over 2,500 tires. • Sponsored funding to all Albany County schools (grades K-12) that completed conservation and/or resource protection projects that engaged students. • Funded 4 projects through our Municipality Conservation Assistance Funding Program. • The District was awarded NYS funding of \$100,000 to cover 75% of project costs related to employing "Best Management Practices" on 2 farms in the County. • Over 8,200 bare root trees and shrubs were purchased by over 270 landowners through our annual "Tree & Shrub Program" which provides regionally appropriate plans for various land management practices. • Continued the implementation of the "10,000 Trees...and Growing" Program, sponsored by National Grid, to promote reforestation in municipalities affected by the October 2020 derecho storm.

Next Year Projects
• Apply for grant assistance and implement awarded projects to assist farms with their conservation efforts. • Apply for a contribution agreement through the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, which would allow us to continue our outreach, planning, and implementation of projects through the Environmental Quality Improvement Program and the Conservation Reserve Program. • Conduct 10 site assessments to document current land stewardship. • Develop 5 conservation plans addressing concerns and opportunities tailored to a farm's specific goals. • Evaluate 15 previously assessed farms to ensure previously developed plans are being implemented. • Sell over 10,000 trees, shrubs, and groundcovers to landowners for conservation purposes. • Sell over 9,000 fish for landowners to stock ponds. • Cohost the 22nd annual Capital Region Enviro-thon. • Partner with municipalities to provide funding for conservation-related projects.

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/departments/soil-and-water-conservation-district
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