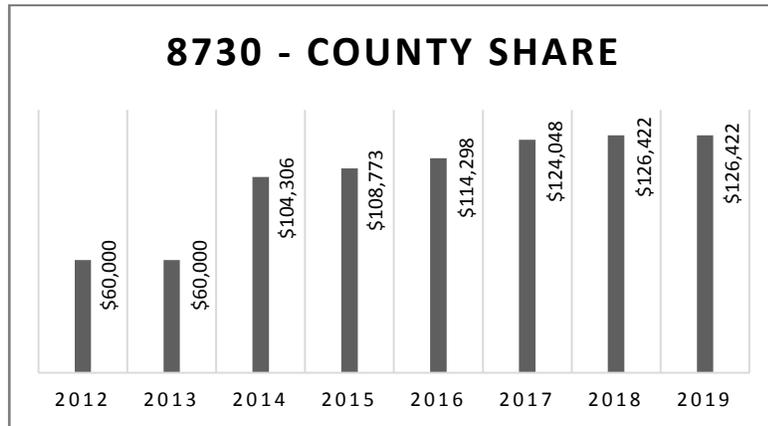


SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT 8730



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.

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Awarded funding from the Capital Mohawk Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management to have the "Albany County Invasive Species Billboard Roadshow". We created billboards mounted on a trailer that focus on invasive species outreach and education for the general public.

Collaborated with Montgomery Co. SWCD, Rensselaer Co. SWCD, Schenectady Co. SWCD and Schoharie Co. SWCD to host the 17th Annual Capital Region Envirothon which is an outdoor environmental competition for high school students. The team from Berne Knox Westerlo High School won the event for Albany County, qualifying them for the State Competition.

Applied for funding under the Agricultural NonPoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Round 24 Funding Cycle.

Host a grazing training for farm operators in the region, with presentations from grazing experts.

Utilizing NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Program funding staff hydro-seeded road ditches for local municipalities.

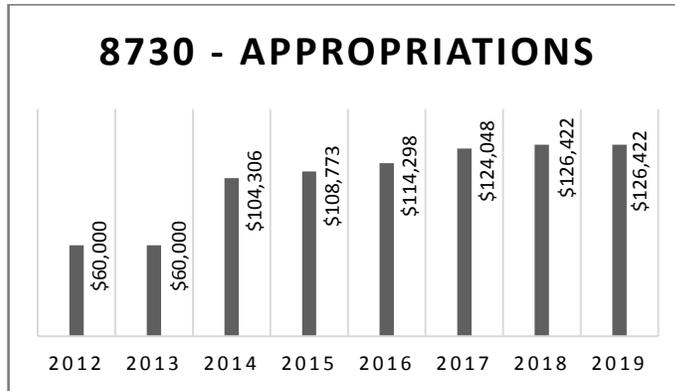
Over 10,855 bare root tree and shrubs were purchased by 261 landowners through the Annual Tree and Shrub Program. This annual sale supports the District's ongoing programs and provides appropriate plants for various land management practices, including wildlife habitat/food, reforestation, soil stability, riparian buffers and windbreaks.

Hosted a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation endorsed 4 hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training.

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.

Continued to increase countywide participation from farmers in the Agricultural Environmental Management program; have participation from over 250 farm operations.

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT - 8730



2019 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Continue to apply for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant to assist farms in implementing farm conservation practices.

Under the Agricultural Environmental Management program, conduct 15 Tier 2 site assessments to document current land stewardship, develop 9 conservation plans addressing concerns and opportunities tailored to farm goals and evaluate 16 previously assessed farms to ensure the protection of the environment; in accordance with the AEM Annual Action Plan.

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.

Cohost the 18th annual Regional Envirothon competition and increase participation from schools in Albany County.

SUMMARY OF BUDGET CHANGES

The 2019 Budget for ACSWCD does not include substantive changes.

The Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District offers a variety of conservation education opportunities to the general public throughout the year. Whether it be one on one education to a concerned landowner or to a larger targeted group at an event. We pride ourselves on reaching a wide audience.

In the spring of 2018, Conservation District staff members attended the Normanskill Farm School Days event. Over a two day period, ten presentations were given on watersheds, water quality, and pollution prevention. Over 150 students in 3rd grade were in attendance from Eagle Point, North Albany and TOAST schools. A model was used to give the students a hands on experience of a watershed. By adding food coloring and scraps of paper, students were able to see how water carries pollutants and how to prevent stormwater pollution.