

2021 Conservation District Business Plan

Northampton County Conservation District

Approved by the NCCD Board of Directors on 12/08/20

Function: To utilize available technical, financial and educational resources, whatever their sources, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land manager for the conservation of soil, water and related natural resources.

We serve: General Public, Governmental Departments & Agencies.

Why: To conserve Northampton County's natural resources.

Mission Statement: To provide the public with a coordinated program of natural resource education and conservation within Northampton County.

Vision Statement: As Northampton County's leading advocate for conservation, we will encourage residents and businesses alike to value the county's natural resources, protect its environments and engage in conservation Best Management Practices.

Critical Natural Resource Issues: Soil Conservation/Management
Water Quality/Stormwater Management
Watershed Management
Invasive Species Outreach/Coordination

Special Geographic Areas:
Special protection and impaired watersheds.

Statements of Intent (outcome) for each of the natural resource issues.

1. Increase District field presence.
2. Increase public and municipal understanding/knowledge of District programs.
3. Support and assist with watershed stewardship; with a focus on target watershed(s).
4. Develop and maintain conservation education programs.
5. Assess the need for long-term strategic planning and measure performance throughout the year.
6. Increase District Agricultural Assistance Program efforts and continue towards full Conservation Planning certification for the Agricultural Conservation Specialist.
7. Work towards permit terminations and archiving completed District project files per DEP policy.

Priority Actions for the next 12 months:

1. By 12/31/21, conduct a Chapter 102 educational program for the regulated community.
2. By 3/01/21, all District Board committees to have Goals & Priorities established for 2020
3. By 3/31/21, conduct Nutrient Management/Manure Management education workshop
4. By 7/31/21, hold Master Watershed Steward Education Program
5. By 8/31/21, execute an Ailanthus control project on public land for SLF Grant Program
6. By 10/31/21, staff & Board participate in Riparian Buffer project
7. By 11/31/21, review Business Plan and Goals & Objectives.
8. By 11/31/21, conduct Dirt & Gravel Road Program education workshop
9. By 12/31/21, contract one DGR and one LVR project
10. By 12/31/21, conduct teacher environmental education workshop
11. By 12/31/21, Evaluate Service Fee Schedule
12. By 12/31/21, hold at least two MS4 Roundtables for Municipalities

Staffing Needs:

Maintain current staff and required licenses and certifications. Obtain a fulltime Chapter 102 Program Specialist; Continue summer Internship program. Evaluate need for an Environmental Educator position/split position and additional office space

Annual Budget Needs: Please see attached budget.

Key Agencies/Organizations for Program Success:

Board of Directors & District Staff
DCNR, Bureau of Forestry
DCNR, Bureau of Recreation & Conservation
DCNR, Bureau of State Parks
Lehigh Valley Greenways
Lehigh Valley Planning Commission
Municipalities
Northampton County Farmland Preservation
Northampton County Government
Northampton County Junior Conservation School
PACD and other Conservation Districts
PA Department of Environmental Protection
PA Department of Agriculture
PA Fish & Boat Commission
PA Game Commission
Penn State Center for Dirt & Gravel Roads Studies
Penn State Extension
State Conservation Commission
Trout Unlimited
US Army Corps of Engineers
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
Watershed Coalition of the Lehigh Valley
Watershed Groups