

ALBANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NEWS

www.albanycounty.com/swcd

Spring/Summer 2026

2025 School Assistance Program Funding

Schools in Albany County were encouraged to apply for funding up to \$8,000 to complete conservation-related projects with educational and/or resource protection purposes that engage students. Nine applications were received and funded, each varying in ideas and concepts, with seven being implemented.

Tree Planting - Latham Ridge Elementary in Latham was awarded funding to bring nature to their playground. The school used this as an opportunity for education across the entire school, K-5. Over 450 students learned about local wildlife, native trees, and the impacts of weather and climate on nature while planting 15 trees and building bird houses. – **Project Costs = \$6,685.50**



Horticulture Program Expansion - LaSalle School in Albany continued enhancing and expanding their horticulture program. This project consisted of constructing new raised platforms to expand garden production, fortifying existing raised beds that had started to degrade, and converting the school's front courtyard into a native plant garden. These projects were completed by eight students but will be a source of learning by the entire school for years to come. - **Project Costs = \$4,077.95**

Increasing Student Leadership in School-Wide Conservation Initiatives - Shaker Middle School in Latham used funding to create and integrate composting, a sensory walk and an outdoor learning space. Students can now experience hands-on learning about waste reduction, soil health and sustainable practices, and fostering a connection to nature. Connection to nature is further deepened with the implementation of the sensory walk, providing awareness to local ecosystems, continued exploration and a space for outdoor learning. Over 500 students participated in this project. – **Project Costs = \$7,755.52**

Raised Bed Construction - Colonie Central High School in Colonie created new raised beds for their new greenhouse. After their last greenhouse was moved due to construction, a new greenhouse has been constructed. Bigger than the last greenhouse, this provides students with the opportunity to grow more. Funding was used to create more raised beds to grow more food to be eaten by students or donated to local food pantries. Around 70 students were involved in this project. – **Project Costs = \$820.00**

**Albany County
Soil & Water
Conservation District**
24 Martin Road
Voorheesville, NY
12186
518-765-7923
ACSWCD@gmail.com

District Directors
Douglas LaGrange
At Large
Vacant
Grange
Matthew Miller
County Legislator
William Reinhardt
County Legislator
Vacant
Farm Bureau

District Staff
Susan L. Lewis
Executive Director
Vacant
District Technician
Daniel J. Maguire
District Technician
Linda M. Moak
District Clerk

USDA, NRCS
Jim Unser
District Conservationist

Office Hours
Monday - Friday
8:00am - 4:30pm

**Board of Directors
Meetings Third
Tuesday of Each
Month at 2:00pm**
(Open to the public)

(Continued on page 4)



Available For Review

- Albany County Agricultural Districts
- Albany County Soil Survey
- Floodplain Maps
- NYS Freshwater Wetlands Maps
- Geographic Information Services Data - 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022 Imagery
- Historic Aerial Photographs
 - ⇒ 1940 1" = 660'
 - ⇒ 1952 1" = 660'
 - ⇒ 1960 1" = 660'
 - ⇒ 1969 1" = 1320'
 - ⇒ 1969 1" = 660'
 - ⇒ 1977 1" = 1320'
 - ⇒ 1982 1" = 1320'
 - ⇒ 1986 1" = 1000'

2026 Board of Directors Meeting Schedule:

April 21st
 May 19th
 June 16th
 July 21st
 August 18th
 September 15th
 October 20th
 November 17th
 December 15th

Meetings will be held at 2:00pm at 24 Martin Road in Voorheesville.

We have a variety of wildlife boxes available for purchase at the District office. Reach out for more details.

District Chair Steps Down After 17 Years of Service

Edward Kleinke has served on the Conservation District Board since October of 2008 as the Farm Bureau Representative. In January of 2021 Ed was elected by the members of the Board to the Chair position and he held that title until his resignation in December of 2025. Ed served as a liaison between the District and the Farm Bureau, keeping both organizations informed to ensure that local farmers' needs were always considered in programming decisions.

As Chair of the Conservation District Board, he also served on the Albany County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board.

Ed's knowledge of agricultural issues and his dedication to the mission of the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District will be missed. The District Board and Staff extend their gratitude to Ed for his service, and we wish him the best in his next chapter.

Grange Representative Steps Down

After 10 years of service, Jo Downey is stepping down from the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors. Since 2016, Jo has served as the Grange Representative to the Conservation District. While with the District she also served as the Financial Officer to the Board. She reviewed all financial reports as well as time sheets for the management positions.

The entire team at the District thanks Jo for her years of service and belief in our mission. We wish her all the best and will miss her.

2025 Nonprofit Assistance Program Funding

Qualified nonprofit organizations were encouraged to apply for mini-grants of up to \$30,000 to complete conservation-related projects that protect the natural resources of the county and beyond. While opportunities were varied and numerous, three applications ranked to receive funding.

Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve is a nonprofit land trust with a mission of conservation, education, recreation, and scientific research that is open to the public every day of the year. In 2023 and 2024, heavy rains destabilized a stream crossing, washing out a road used as a primary educational trail and causing significant downstream erosion. ACSWCD grant funding provided stream stabilization with large block stones upstream and below the culvert for grade control, riprap along the steep downstream banks, and native shrub plantings along the stream bank.

Project Costs \$29,118.29

Helderberg Lake Environmental Restoration Corp. represents the 29-acre lake which provides a vibrant ecosystem with natural resources of fish, plants and wildlife. Over many years the lake has been negatively impacted by the inflow of significant amounts of sediment. Long neglected stormwater detention basins were no longer controlling the sediment influx, creating a deep layer of muck supporting a large increase in invasive weeds. The ACSWCD grant funded a contractor to clear out approximately 300 feet of stream bed and create a pool to catch and hold the debris coming downstream and prevent it from entering the lake, protecting the lakebed and the natural resources it supports. **Project Costs \$20,000.00**

Ten Broeck Mansion, is a community-centered museum and historic garden covering about four acres in Arbor Hill in the City of Albany. With grant funding, Ten Broeck Mansion was able to hire professionals to clear invasive plant species, making way for deep-rooted native plants which will reduce runoff velocity, absorb excess stormwater, and ease strain on the city infrastructure. Further, they are educating visitors about the value of native species and erosion control methods.

Project Costs \$6,705.00



Spring Fish Sale 2026

Albany County Soil & Water Conservation District
(518) 765-7923



ORDER DEADLINE : Monday, April 13, 2026

PICK-UP: Thursday Morning, April 30, 2026 : you will receive verification of your time slot

Species	Price	Quantity Ordered	Total Cost
4-6" Largemouth Bass	\$4.10 each		\$
4-6" Rainbow Trout	\$3.25 each		\$
Fathead Minnow - 200-225/lb.	\$25.00 per lb.		\$
*40lb. bag barley straw pellets	\$90.00 per bag		\$

*Treats 1/3 acre (inhibits new algae growth)

A Farm Fish Pond License is required for any fish stocking in NYS.
Contact NYSDEC or the District for an application.

	Subtotal	\$
	Add 8% sales tax	\$
Triploid Grass Carp**	\$26.00 each non-taxable	\$
Total Due		\$

**A Triploid Grass Carp Stocking Permit is required by NYS DEC. Please submit a copy with your order. Call the District or NYSDEC at (607) 652-7366 to ask for a permit application. Start the permitting process ASAP.

NAME _____

ADDRESS (for pickup information) _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____ EMAIL _____

DAY PHONE # _____ HOME PHONE # _____

Please note: The District is not responsible for any mortality of stock which may occur during transport. Refunds will **not** be given for failure to pick up your fish on the designated pick-up day/time. If you cannot pick up your fish, you must make arrangements to have them picked up. We have no way to hold your fish. Size of fish subject to change dependent on growing season.

SEND PAYMENT, PERMITS, AND ORDER FORM TO:

Albany County SWCD
24 Martin Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186

NO ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT

There will be a \$30 charge for any returned checks.

BASS:

- Max. pond temp. during July and August is 75-85 °F
- Pond depth should be 6-8 feet
- Stocking ratio: 75-100 per acre with forage fish at a rate of 750-1000 per acre

MINNOW:

- In newly built ponds it is best to stock with minnow prior to stocking predatory fish
- Recommended stocking ratio 750-1000 per acre

TRIPLOID GRASS CARP:

- A non-chemical method of aquatic weed control
- Some aquatic vegetation commonly eaten by Grass Carp: Coontail, Pondweed, and Milfoil
- Contact the District for permit application

RAINBOW TROUT:

- Max. pond temp. during July and August is 65-70 °F
- Pond depth should be at least 8-10 feet
- Stocking ratio: approximately 600 fish per acre
- Trout should not be stocked with bass

Pick - Up : Orders will be available for pick-up at the District Office parking lot at 24 Martin Road in Voorheesville, Thursday Morning, April 30th. During the week of April 20th, you will receive confirmation of your order and your exact pick-up time. **If you do not receive confirmation by April 24th, please call the District ASAP.**

****Orders will be pre-packaged in oxygenated bags & boxed for travel - no container is needed for fish pickup****

WE MUST HAVE A COPY OF YOUR GRASS CARP PERMIT WITH YOUR ORDER FORM

Albany County Soil & Water
Conservation District
24 Martin Road
Voorheesville, NY 12186
(518) 765-SWCD

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
DELMAR, NY
PERMIT NO. 6

Return Service Requested

2025 School Assistance Program Funding (cont.)

Garden Compost System - Blue Creek Elementary School in Latham installed a solar powered aerated composting system as well as adding accessibility paths so all students can fully participate. Involving over 400 students, the project consisted of students collecting food after lunch periods, demonstrating the impact of food waste. A group of 4th and 5th graders were responsible for mixing the compost. – **Project Costs = \$6,685.50**

Hydroponics Gardening System - Guilderland High School in Guilderland purchased a hydroponics system providing an innovative educational teaching tool for science, nutrition, agriculture-related work skills and sustainability. With over 50 students directly participating in this program, this fosters collaborative learning and environmental stewardship. The hydroponics system provides a wide range of opportunities for conservation and experimental learning. – **Project Costs = \$1,748.99**

Grows & Glows from the Garden - Heatly, Green Island UFSD in Green Island used funding to create a school garden for outdoor education. With nearly 200 students participating, many students were given the opportunity to better themselves through simply spending their time outside around the garden. Students collected scraps of food to compost and help minimize food waste. Raised beds were made to grow more food and educate on the importance of healthy food choices, and their impact on ecosystems. – **Project Costs = \$1,807.91**

Celebrating 25 Years of Service

Congratulations to Susan Lewis, Executive Director, for her 25 years of service to the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District. Susan received her years of service certificate and pin at the Conservation District's Employees Association 2026 Water Quality Symposium.