Duties of SWCDs

- Implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) on farms/rural lands to protect & improve soil health, water quality, and wildlife habitat
- Enhance fish & wildlife habitat
- Management of invasive species
- Protect public & private property with stream and stormwater management practices
- Plant trees
- Enhance farm stewardship & viability through conservation planning
- Educate developers, municipalities, and homeowners in soil erosion & sediment control practices
- Conduct education & outreach to communities, schools, municipalities on natural resources conservation

Typical Job Duties for District Technician

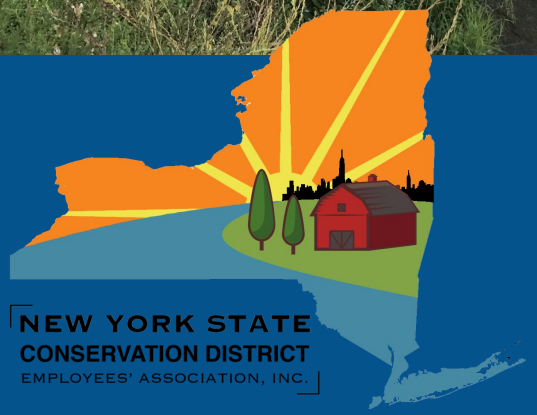
- Provides assistance to landowners and municipalities in planning and implementing best management practices that stabilize soil, improve water quality, manage stormwater runoff, preserve open space, and manage fish and wildlife habitat
- Performs environmental site assessments on farms and provides conservation plans
- Provides education and outreach to all ages on conservation issues
- Assists in the survey & design of soil & water conservation projects such as ponds, drainage ditches, & subsurface drain tile
- Assists in preparing maps & specifications
- Collects data for the purpose of practice design & cost estimation
- Helps maintain conservation practices on the land by establishing grass seedings, stone rip-rap, fencing & other planned conservation endeavors
- Reviews conservation plans and offers advice for operation & maintenance of practices
- Reviews Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans and conducts construction site visits for compliance with the NYS DEC State Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit

New York State Conservation District Employees Association, Inc.

www.nyscdea.com

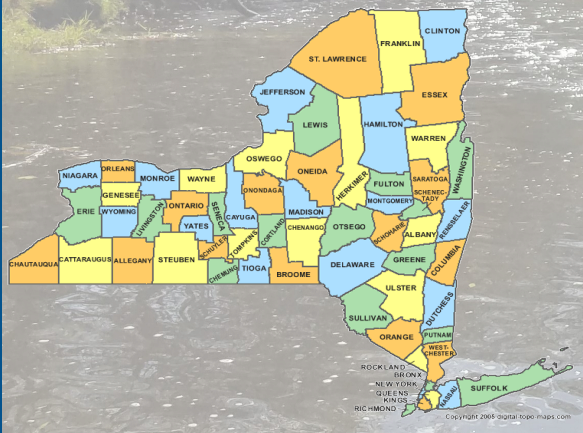
Careers in New York State Soil & Water Conservation Districts

"Providing Today, Protecting Tomorrow"



What is a Conservation District?

Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are a political subdivision of New York State established by counties under state law to manage resources and implement environmental programs at the local level. There is an SWCD in every county across New York State. SWCDs are responsible for coordinating assistance from public, private, local, state, & federal sources to develop local solutions to natural resource concerns.



County Soil & Water Conservation Districts in NYS

Photo courtesy of geology.com

Many Colleges in NYS offer Environmental Degree Programs

- SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry, Syracuse, NY
- The State University of New York College of Agriculture & Technology, Cobleskill, NY
- College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- Finger Lakes Community College, Canandaigua, NY (2 year degree only)
- Paul Smith's College, Paul Smiths, NY
- Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY
- SUNY Brockport, NY

Typical Course Requirements

(Information taken from various universities)

General Education Core Class Work

- Environmental and Public Communication
- General Biology
- General Chemistry or General Physics
- General Ecology
- Calculus and Applications
- Intro to Statistics & Probability
- Economics or Biostatistics
- Research Writing and Humanities
- Sociology or Psychology
- Global Environmental Issues and Evolution of Human Societies

Professional Education Core Class Work

- Applied Biology & Ecology
- Introductory Soils or Geology
- Environmental Economics
- Natural Resource Policy
- Integrated Resource Management
- Senior Thesis, Internship, Independent Study
- Environmental Engineering
- Environmental Mapping
- Wildlife Ecology

Degree Requirements

- Bachelors Degree
  - Natural Resources Conservation
  - Environmental Science
  - Agronomy

Typical Job Titles

- Conservation District Technician
- Watershed Conservation Specialist
- Water Quality Specialist
- Nutrient Management Specialist
- Conservation Educator
- Agricultural Engineering Technician
- Watershed Program Manager

SWCD staff member surveying for a stormwater pond project