

CONSERVATION NEWS

Fall cover crop registration deadline is October 3rd

SUMMER 2020

CONSERVATION COST SHARE PROGRAM ASSISTS LANDOWNERS

Private landowners with soil and water concerns are able to install conservation practices with financial assistance from the District. Recent projects include repairing the pipe outfall to a pond in Newark, a backyard tile drain system in Bear, another backyard drainage system in north Wilmington and pasture/field fencing north of Smyrna.



FALL COVER CROP PROGRAM SIGN-UP



Funds are available for New Castle County ag producers to plant cover crops on their fields. Registration opened on August 3rd and closes on Friday, October 2nd. Forms are available on the District website at www.newcastlecd.org or at the District office during office hours between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Eligible cover crops include annual ryegrass, cereal rye, wheat, triticale, spring oats, barley, forage radish, forage radish and spring oats, crimson clover and cereal rye, and hairy vetch and cereal rye.

A HOT SUMMER FOR WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Even though this summer has seen a lot of 90 degree plus days, it didn't stop contractors from installing a number of water management projects over the past few months. Recent projects are:

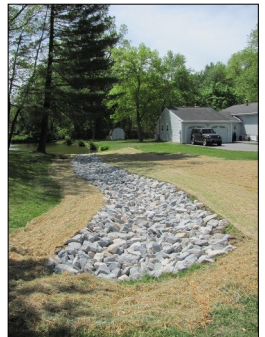
- ◆ Great Good Place II - roadside drainage system
- ◆ Augustine Ridge - backyard drainage, roadside curbing and sign repairs
- ◆ Little Falls Village - curb and gutter replacement
- ◆ Westover Hills - drainage swale
- ◆ Whethersfield - backyard drainage system
- ◆ Heatherbrooke - backyard drainage system
- ◆ Village of Red Lion - drainage swale and tile line
- ◆ Meeting House Meadows - drainage system and swale
- ◆ North Star (Mercury Road) - road and yard drainage
- ◆ Oak Hill School Road - ditch reconstruction
- ◆ Scottfield/Breezewood (Dawson Drive) - ditch reconstruction
- ◆ Caravel Farms (Clipper Court) - road and yard drainage
- ◆ Augustine Hills - roadside curbing
- ◆ Simonds Gardens - Community drainage improvements
- ◆ Alban Park Tax Ditch - backyard drainage system, clearing vegetation



Simonds Gardens
road drainage



Great Good Place II



Meeting House Meadow



Existing ditch below Scottfield



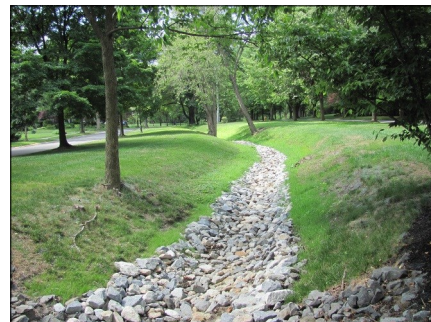
Sediment being removed from ditch



View of completed work from I-95



Underdrain in Village of Red Lion



Drainage swale in Westover Hills



Backyard drainage in Whethersfield

URBAN AGRICULTURE COST SHARE ASSISTING LOCAL COMMUNITY GARDENS

Two additional grant projects were approved this past spring under the Cost Share program funding - a water access line installation at Bellevue Community Garden and garden improvements at The Village Tree Community Garden in Wilmington.



Brand new community garden at a church near Newark

More "Grow It Yourself" videos were completed and added to the GIY YouTube channel and several Facebook Live sessions were held with community gardens.



Filming a GIY garden video

The District is a member of the Delaware Food and Farm Coalition (DEUFFC). The group is hosting a virtual urban agriculture related movie screening each month and a garden tour was held in August.



Drip irrigation system

MORE URBAN WATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS



North Star - Mercury Road



Pipe outfall of same project



Little Falls Village curbing



Augustine Ridge drainage



Oak Hill School Road



Augustine Hills curb



Alban Park Tax Ditch



Alban Park Tax Ditch



Caravel Farms



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 YouTube Channel/[New Castle Conservation District](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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"The New Castle Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer and provider"



Board of Supervisors (L to R): Norman Pierce (Associate Member), Mike Harris (Representing County Executive Matt Meyer), Julian Pellegrini (Associate Member), Dan Severson (Secretary), Richard Morris (Vice-Chair), Robert Emerson (Chair), Brandon Yerkes (Member), Gwen Pierce (Treasurer), and S. R. Smith, III (Member). Board meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m.



The 2021 Soil and Water Stewardship theme stresses the important link between healthy forests and healthy communities. Food, shade, water quality, air quality, and wildlife habitat are a few of the benefits.



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EDUCATION AND OUTREACH



Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, most scheduled outreach events were cancelled or postponed. One event that did take place was the Delaware State Fair, where the Conservation Partnership of the three Conservation Districts, the state association, and our federal partner at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service teamed up to place a pollinator themed display in the Ag Commodity's building. The display featured pollinator fact sheets

and a postcard with QR codes that took you to pollinator information located on the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts website. Free pollinator seed packets were available for the taking.

