

RC&D CONNECT

First State Resource Conservation
and Development Council, Inc.

FY 2018 Annual
Report

MINI-GRANT PROJECTS FY 2018

At the end of FY 2017 and through FY 2018, the Council funded 8 mini-grant projects, 2 for invasive species management and 6 for community/school gardens.

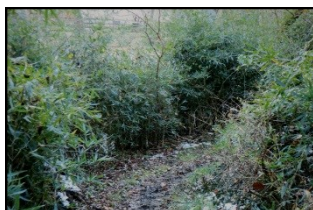
- The **Village of Fox Meadow** used funding to control invasive species in the community open space and to plant several areas into wildflower meadow. The Council was honored at a reception on May 6, 2018.
- The **Bellevue Community Center** improved their garden with a pollinator planting and bee condo installation and constructed a mobile farm market stand.
- **Las Aspira Academy** planted a pollinator garden and installed two, 3-bin compost areas.
- **Forwood Elementary School** planted a pollinator/native plant garden.
- **STEHM** installed a raised bed garden.
- The **City of Newark** is removing invasive bamboo on a trail along the Christina Creek.
- The **Rose Hill Community Center** is doing improvements to their community garden.



Village of Fox Meadow project. Dead invasive plants after second round of spot treatments. Wildflower meadow seed planting in December 2017.



The Bellevue community garden bee resort (top photo) and the new mobile farm market stand (bottom photo)



Invasive bamboo in Newark

More grant photos on page 2



Council President Rick Mickowski was a special guest at the Village of Fox Meadow's "Spring Fling" event on May 6, 2018.



The Council is a sponsor of the Delaware Envirothon. Charter School of Wilmington Team A are state champs.

The Council is a dues paying member of the Mid-Atlantic Association of RC&D Councils and the National Association of RC&D Councils.

The Council is a member of the Delaware Food and Farm Coalition (DEUFFC) and is a sponsor of the yearly urban agriculture tour.

First State Resource
 Conservation and Development
 Council, Inc. The Council is a
 501 C 3 non-profit organization
 – donations welcomed!

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302-741-2600 ext. 3 or contact Rick
 Mickowski at 302-365-8979.

Council Members

Rick Mickowski	President/Sec.
Rob Davis	Vice President
Tim Riley	Treasurer
Mark L. Davis	Member
Richard Kirschner	Member
Darl Kolar	Member
Kyle Hoyd	Member
Kesha Braunskill	Member
Robert Palmer	Member

The Council needs new volunteers to help us implement our mission and vision for Delaware communities. If you would be interested in serving on the Council, please contact Rick Mickowski at 302-365-8979 or by email at rick.mickowski@state.de.us

USDA NRCS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT



In August 2017, the Council was honored to work with State Conservationist Kasey Taylor and sign our first ever Cooperative



Agreement for conservation services. The 3-year agreement for \$260,000 covers the costs associated with the Large Animal Mortality program with the three Conservation Districts and calls for the planting of 40 acres of pollinator habitat. An additional \$100,000 was allocated to the agreement and the time-frame extended.

The large animal mortality program is an important part of protecting water quality in the state. Instead of animals potentially being left on the farm it provides an avenue for the safe pick-up and disposal of dead cows, pigs, and horses (non-race horses).

Pollinators are very important to crop production in Delaware so more effort is required to provide native pollinator planting sites to increase biodiversity and provide nesting and nectar sources for all types of pollinating insects. St. Andrews School near Middletown, DE is working on a pollinator meadow.



RC&D: MAKING THINGS HAPPEN!

MORE MINI-GRANT PHOTOS



Before and after at **Las Aspira Academy**. The non-native shrubs were replaced with a pollinator garden.



Two 3 bin compost units were installed to recycle and breakdown vegetative matter.



Garden beds installed at a transitional facility for women with children (**Martha's House — STEHM**).



Forwood Elementary School native plant garden —native trees, shrubs, and perennials.



Funded joint grant with Delaware Invasive Species Council and Department of Natural Resources