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## **New Castle Conservation District**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New Castle Conservation District is one of 19 nationwide to receive urban agriculture conservation grant**

Newark, Delaware, August 21, 2017 – The New Castle Conservation District in New Castle County, Delaware is one of 19 districts in 14 states awarded a National Association of Conservation Districts grant to boost technical assistance capacity for urban agriculture conservation projects.

Conservation District Board chair Robert Emerson noted “ we are excited that NACD has selected NCCD and our partners from the University of Delaware Cooperative Extension, Delaware Center for Horticulture, and the Delaware Urban Farm and Food Coalition as one of NACD’s 2017 urban agriculture conservation grant award winners. Our project team is looking forward to improving access to, and information about, all of the locally grown fresh vegetables and fruits being produced throughout New Castle County and the City of Wilmington.”

NACD established the Urban Agriculture Conservation Grants Initiative in 2016 to help conservation districts and their partners provide much needed technical assistance for agricultural conservation in urban areas with limited access to fresh and healthy foods. Since then, NACD has awarded a total of \$3 million in grants to 61 conservation districts in 30 states [through this initiative](#).

“Today, 86 percent of Americans live in urban areas, which cover just 28 percent of the nation’s land area. The landscapes our customers own and manage have changed since the Dust Bowl when many of our nation’s 3,000 conservation districts were first established, and so has conservation districts’ approach to serving them,” NACD President Brent Van Dyke said.

“A majority of conservation districts are now involved in some form of urban and community conservation work. As a delivery system, and as a conservation family, we’ve risen to the challenge of providing world-class technical support whenever – and wherever – it is needed.”

For a complete list of the 19 conservation districts who received awards in 2017, visit NACD’s website by [clicking here](#).

*The National Association of Conservation Districts is the non-profit organization that represents the nation’s 3,000 conservation districts, their state associations and the 17,000 men and women who serve on their governing boards. For more than 70 years, local conservation districts have worked with cooperating landowners and managers of private working lands to help them plan and apply effective conservation practices. For more information about NACD, visit: [www.nacdnet.org](http://www.nacdnet.org).*