



May 12, 2020

Louisville Metro Government Council Members

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for your time and for the public service you provide year round, and especially now as you work to assess and approve this challenging budget during this most challenging of times.

The changes to our budget request from previous years are for the purposes of increasing our Environmental Educator position to full-time, and to hire an NRCS Soil Conservation Technical (split 25/75, where the District pays 25% and NRCS pays 75%-federal). Many other programmatic budget items have been reduced.

Administrative Secretary (Employee-Geri Johnson): Request reduced by about \$13,000. This position was reduced from full to part-time. This position is required.

Urban Agriculture Conservationist (Contractor-Lilias Pettit-Scott): Request increased by about \$2,000 to include a raise. This position was fully grant funded for the first year and partially grant funded for the second year. Since then the District has been funding this directly with our budget allocated from Metro. Lilias provides critical support to the county through the District's Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative, which includes the Urban High Tunnel Initiative and Urban Soil Health Initiative. For several years now Lilias has been the face of the District and a leader in bringing residents and organizations together to increase sustainable food production and backyard conservation in Jefferson County. Lilias worked in collaboration with Kurt Mason (recently retired NRCS employee) on the Urban High Tunnel Initiative.

Environmental Educator (Contractor-Erin James): Request increased by about \$32,000 to expand this position to full-time. Environmental education is a primary goal of the District which is exemplified throughout our programs. With proper education about our environment, residents, especially our youth, will have the factual information needed to decide for themselves what they think in regards to environmental issues, and likely will feel called upon to act. Education leads to concern and action, supporting not only the work of the District, but of Metro and all the other organizations out there working to increase the health and livability of the county.

Increasing Erin's position to full-time will allow her to better support the county through the existing programs of the District. As of late, our education programs have been minimally completed or missing from our work.

- Arbor Day tree giveaway in Schools- reach more students, provide hands-on lessons on planting trees, create ownership, promote kids planting trees throughout the community
- Jim Claypool Art & Writing Contest- reach more students, promote work of students throughout the community (fundraiser art show)
- Education in Schools- expand connection with teachers, provide teacher training on environmental education, provide lessons to teachers on a large-scale, increase student involvement with environmental education right at school, and develop a local Envirothon Team.

With a full-time position Erin will also be able to work on reaching every resident in Jefferson County.

This includes but is not limited to:

- Connecting with other student programs- home schools, parochial schools, etc.
- Adult programs- connecting people to nature in the urban setting/water conservation
- Marketing campaigns- TARC buses/social media/billboards/etc.
- Provide education/activities at farmers markets- where food comes from/resources to grow food



- Work with District partners- (Jefferson Memorial Forest/Nature Center/Olmstead Parks/MSD/etc.)
- Support Metro- Provide education to support success of Metro programs and sustainability initiatives.

There is a substantial gap in environmental education in our community and Erin, Certified Environmental Educator, has begun to make huge strides in supporting the community through not only programs specific to the District, but also through working with partners to expand the reach and impact of these efforts.

Soil Conservation Technician (NRCS): This will be a shared position between NRCS (pays 75%) and the District (pays 25%). This is a necessary position to ensure the county continues to receive NRCS support. This does not come close to replacing the work of Kurt Mason (retired NRCS employee), but will at a minimum assist with the management of current conservation grants and provide assistance to help with future funding.

Funding in NRCS Contracts:

- 2017-2018:
 - High Tunnels- \$104,811
 - Wildlife/invasive species/stream buffers- ~\$50,000+
- 2018-2019:
 - High Tunnels- \$53,325
 - Wildlife/invasive species/stream buffers - \$62,603
- 2019-
 - Urban Invasive Species Special Project- \$167,000 over the next 4 years.
 - Wildlife/invasive species/stream buffers- ~\$50,000+
 - Current Grant Applications- High Tunnels- 25/\$5,000 average funding = \$125,000, if fully funded.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a federal agency within the US Department of Agriculture.

Grants: The District has been active in applying for grants to assist with our staffing and programmatic expenses. We will continue to do this and have multiple applications currently under review. We currently do not have another funding source to cover our requested expenses.

We couldn't ask for better staff! They are community leaders and self-starters. They are the reason we can proudly say that the **mission of the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District is to conserve Jefferson County's natural resources by coordinating financial, technical and educational assistance that will help both rural and urban communities implement sustainable solutions.**

Thank you again for all your help! Please do not hesitate to contact the district with any questions.

Sincerely,

Board Supervisors
Jefferson County Soil & Water Conservation District
4233 Bardstown Road, Suite 100-A
Louisville, Kentucky
www.jeffcd.org
jeffersonswcd@gmail.com
502.499.1900



ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK & BUDGET

FY-2021

**Jefferson County Soil
and Water
Conservation District**

**4233 Bardstown Rd., Ste. 100-A
Louisville, KY 40218**

**Phone: 502.499.1900
Email: jeffersonswcd@gmail.com**

In 1944, the state of Kentucky authorized the formation of the Jefferson County Conservation District and in doing so, authorized the district to undertake, sponsor, and participate in activities which promote conservation of natural resources.

In Jefferson County, we work to fulfill our mission to conserve the county's soil, water, air, plants, and wildlife, through programs that integrate technical assistance, outreach, education, cost-share and partnerships. Our activities also include a special focus on urban and suburban activities relevant to the Louisville Metropolitan Area.

In 2019 we:

- Distributed **1,112 soil vouchers** to Jefferson County residents to test the nutrient levels in their soils for fiscal year 2019, and **90 soil lead vouchers**. The total cost of those vouchers ran \$4,258. For 2020, we have already distributed **508 vouchers** to date.
- **Distributed 1800 tree seedlings** to students at 20 schools throughout the county.
- Worked with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service to install an additional **9 urban high tunnel structures** to extend the growing season through the winter for residents, urban farmers and support organizations throughout Jefferson County. We added irrigation setup assistance to our program this year, installing drip irrigation systems that will **reduce water needs by 66%**. **In the past 3 years, we have installed 43 tunnels** through the program.
- **Educated 171 residents** in soil and water quality improvement techniques through workshops and garden demonstrations. We partnered with the University of Kentucky, the Healing Place, Jefferson County Cooperative Extension, Louisville Grows, Common Earth Gardens, Southwest Community Ministries, and the River Network.
- **Educated and engaged 23 students** at two schools located in low-income, food desert neighborhoods in garden-based learning covering topics from soil health and the carbon cycle to crop production all while tasting fresh foods from the garden along the way.
- **Convened the Urban Agriculture Coalition (UAC)** in its third year of work, bringing together representatives from gardening, food and agriculture focused organizations throughout the city. In 2019, the UAC identified its policy priority to remove the barriers to land access throughout Jefferson County. Check out the resources and community garden map available on the UAC's website at www.foodinneighborhoods.org/grow.
- Engaged Jefferson County residents to report their top resource concerns. The top 5 were **tree canopy, air pollution, preserving green space, urban sprawl and stream health**.



The SWCD is a subdivision of the state of Kentucky and is governed by a seven-member, locally elected board. Assistance to the public is provided at no charge through the Jefferson County SWCD. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) personnel provide technical assistance to the soil and water conservation district and their clientele through a cooperative agreement.

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

FY 2021

Project or Activity	Outputs/Measurable Outcomes	Expected Budget	Primary Partners	Target Dates	Explanations/Comments
<p>1.Urban Agriculture Conservation Program Lead-Full Time</p> <p>Plan 2040</p> <p>4.1 Community Form</p> <p>Goal 2 - 14</p> <p>4.5 Livability</p> <p>Goal 1-36, 2-7, 3-3</p>	<p>1) Continue to provide direct assistance to all of Jefferson County residents with a focus on urban/underserved areas.</p> <p>2) Address soil health and water quality by providing educational and technical assistance specific to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sustainable gardening and food production • water conservation and stormwater runoff <p>3) Collaboration with community partners, leadership for Urban Agriculture Coalition, and support for community groups (garden, agriculture, environmental).</p>	<p>\$59,200</p> <p>Salary - \$57,200</p> <p>Supplies - \$500</p> <p>Travel - \$1,500</p>	<p>•All Metro Council members•Develop Louisville•Office of Sustainability•KY Divisions of Conservation•Forestry & Water•USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service•Jefferson Co. Public Schools•Jefferson County Extension Services•Louisville Grows•Food Literacy Project•Catholic Charities-Common Earth Gardens•Americana Community Center</p>	<p>12 Months</p> <p>(2020-2021)</p>	<p>The Urban Agriculture Conservationist Program Lead has proven to be a vital resource to the community. By helping to bridge the gap between conservation of natural resources (water, soil, air) and agriculture, the abundance of sustainably produced food has drastically increased (See Activities 5 + 7). Additional program activities include public outreach (community events, social media, monthly e-newsletter), workshops (home gardening and season extension, healthy soil, water conservation, high tunnel), and technical assistance (on-site, one-on-one, group).</p> <p>* The need for this position is more apparent with the recent loss of USDA-NRCS presence (Kurt Mason, Urban Agriculture Conservationist).</p>
<p>2.Urban High Tunnel Initiative - see pages 8-11</p> <p>Plan 2040</p> <p>4.5 Livability</p> <p>Goal 2-7</p>	<p>12 high tunnels</p> <p>7,500 square feet</p>	<p>\$10,000.00</p>	<p>•USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service•Jefferson County Cooperative Extension•University of Kentucky•Kentucky State University</p>	<p>2020-2021</p>	<p>Program reduces the cost for urban gardeners to access year-long growing infrastructure from 50% to 7% of total cost. Provide technical assistance and workshops to learn best practices and maximize food production. Mylar-covered, growing structure that extends growing season and reduces use of pesticides.</p>

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

FY 2021

Project or Activity	Outputs/Measurable Outcomes	Expected Budget	Primary Partners	Target Dates	Explanations/Comments
3.Urban Soil Health Initiative – see pages 12-13 Plan 2040 4.3 Community Facilities Goal 2-14 4.5 Livability Goal 1-36	150 people attending, 715 households, 17 acres	\$8,500.00	•USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service •KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife •Cooperative Extension Service•KY Waterways Alliance•Beargrass Creek Alliance•Common Earth Gardens•Louisville Grows•community gardens	2020-2021	Water Conservation and Rain Barrel workshops, Healthy Soils workshop, native plant seed giveaway, technical guides aimed at residents and community gardens. Promote cover crop use in community gardens and urban farms through classes and distribution programs to reduce soil runoff and compaction over the winter. Grant funded at the discretion of KY Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Provides vouchers for Jefferson County residents to test soils for lead contamination and nutrient deficiency.
4.Environmental Education Program Lead-Full Time Promote conservation in the classroom Plan 2040 4.5 Livability Goal 1-36	1) Provide assistance to Jefferson County schools (public and private) and residents with a focus on urban/underserved areas. 2) Address the gap in environmental education by providing education directly to students, training and curriculum to teachers, and learning opportunities for residents. 3) Promote conservation through existing education programs (Activities 3, 6, and 8) 4) Collaboration with community partners and leaders.	\$56,000 Salary - \$52,000 Supplies - \$3000 Travel - \$1,000	•Jefferson Co. Public and Private Schools•Kentucky Association for Environmental Education•Jefferson Memorial Forest•Louisville Nature Center	12 Months (2020-2021)	Continued increase in funding to support environmental education in Jefferson County, specifically, for public schools in underserved areas. Educator will increase student engagement with existing programs (art & writing contest, tree giveaway, science fair, Envirothon team).

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

FY 2021

Project or Activity	Outputs/Measurable Outcomes	Expected Budget	Primary Partners	Target Dates	Explanations/Comments
5. Soil Conservation Technician position (shared with USDA-NRCS) Plan 2040 4.1 Community Form Goal 2 - 14 4.5 Livability Goal 1-36, 2-7, 3-3	Provide assistance to Jefferson County farmers and landowners to address decline in natural resources.	\$11,000.00	•USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service •Jefferson County Cooperative Extension •University of Kentucky •Kentucky State University	12 Months (2020-2021)	Position will be an employee of District partner USDA-NRCS and funded through a 75%/25% program where the District pays 25%. *The need for this position is more apparent with the recent loss of USDA-NRCS presence (Kurt Mason, Urban Agriculture Conservationist).
6. Tree Seedling Program Plan 2040 4.4 Economic Devt. Plan Goal 2-3 4.5 Livability Goal 1-4, 1-41	1,800 trees distributed	\$1,500.00	•KY Division of Forestry •Seneca High School Agriculture/FFA Students •Jefferson Co. Public and Private Schools	Mar 2021	Promote tree establishment through an outreach and distribution program focused on schools.

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

FY 2021

Project or Activity	Outputs/Measurable Outcomes	Expected Budget	Primary Partners	Target Dates	Explanations/Comments
7. Field Day Plan 2040 4.3 Community Facilities Goal 2-14 4.5 Livability Goal 1-36	200 attendees 10 partners	\$5,000.00	•USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service•KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife•Cooperative Extension Service•KY Waterways Alliance•Beargrass Creek Alliance•Common Earth Gardens•Louisville Grows•community gardens•Salt River Collaborative•Metropolitan Sewer District	Fall 2020	Collaboration with community partners to provide a field day targeted to Jefferson County residents. A Field Day will educate on natural resources conservation specific to the area and provide attendees with practical knowledge and resources that can be implemented at home.
8. Awards and Sponsorships Promote landuse conservation Plan 2040 4.4 Economic Development Goal 2-3 4.5 Livability Goal 1-8, 1-18	1) Sponsor art & writing contests 2) Science and Engineering Fair 3) Master Conservationist 4) Student Grants and Scholarships 12,500 Participants	\$3,370.00	•Louisville Regional Science and Engineering Fair and duPont Manual Science Fair•USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service•Kentucky Waterways Alliance•Floyds Fork Environmental Association•Kentucky Association for Environmental Education•Archdiocese of Louisville•Jefferson Co. Public Schools•Private & Home schools•Jefferson County Farm Bureau	Mar 2021	Support for long-standing programs that promote learning & recognition of student participation, work of community leaders, and conservation practices implemented by farmers. Also includes additional support for a Jefferson County Envirothon Team and funding for students to participate in educational camps.

**Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District
Action Plan 2020-21**

Operating Expenses:	\$	46,000.00	
Personnel	\$26,895		
Rent	\$13,645		
Office operation, supplies, utilities	\$2,495		
Travel/mileage reimbursement	\$1,000		
Insurance and bonding	\$1,965		
Projects & Activities:	\$	161,070.00	
Urban Agriculture Conservationist (UAC) position	\$57,200		
UAC Supplies	\$500		
UAC Travel (Conferences/Events)	\$1,500		
Urban High Tunnel Initiative	\$10,000		
Urban Soil Health Initiative (soil testing, cover crop)	\$8,500		
Environmental Educator (EE) position	\$52,000		
EE Supplies	\$3,000		
EE Travel (Conferences/Events)	\$1,000		
Envirothon Team (Registration/Travel)	\$1,500		
Soil Conservation Technician position (25%) shared with USDA-NRCS	\$11,000		
Tree Seedling Program	\$1,500		
Workshops and Field Days	\$5,000		
Awards and Sponsorships	\$3,370		
Program Outreach (Advertising, Displays, Brochures)	\$5,000		
Board of Supervisors Expenses:		\$8,045	
Per Diem	\$5,150		
Travel/mileage reimbursement	\$2,500		
FICA/Medicare	\$395		
Other Expenses:		\$3,080	
Legal Notice	\$330		
Membership & Association Dues	\$2,475		
Required Local & State Fees	\$275		
Total 2020-21 Agency Budget:	\$	218,195.00	
Total 2020-21 Louisville Metro Budget Request:			\$ 147,135.00

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District					
Action Plan 2020-21					
Primary Population Being Served:					
Zip Codes: Entire population of Jefferson County					
Demographics: Entire county of Jefferson					

Gender: The Jefferson County Soil and Water District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation or gender identity, ancestry, age, disability or veteran's status.

Information:					

The Jefferson County Conservation District was founded in 1944 to conserve the natural resources within Louisville/Jefferson County. The Conservation District is a non-profit, sub-division of state and county government organized and mandated by KRS.262 which states that they shall be funded either by the local county government or by the levy of a tax on all real property. The Jefferson County Conservation District has been funded by Louisville Metro Government for 75 years. There are 121 Conservation Districts in Kentucky (2 in Logan County) and 82 of those Districts are funded by a millage tax with the remaining 39 being funded by their local Fiscal Court. We are organized under the Kentucky Division of Conservation and enable USDA services to be available in our county. The Conservation District is considered to be a Special Purpose Government Entity and held accountable to all state accounting and reporting standards.

The Conservation District provides free technical assistance on conservation issues to landowners and homeowners by working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, provides State and Federal Soil Erosion & Water Quality programs, distributes information on conservation of soil, water, forestry, wildlife and air and teaches the youth in both the urban and rural sectors in public and private schools on the importance of all natural resources. The Conservation District launched its Urban Conservation Initiative in 2016 with an emphasis on educating residents about conserving their soil and water resources through the lens of vegetable and fruit gardening. It is more important now than ever to educate the public on issues that affect the sustainability of our community as well as how to live in an urban area and still maintain clean water, breathable air and healthy food. The Conservation District participates in events all across Jefferson County and through our office services are provided to: homeowners, businesses, private landowners, public and private schools, Metro Parks, MSD, 21st Century Parks, Future Fund and numerous other entities. We also work with many State and Federal organizations such as Ky. Division of Water, Ky. Fish and Wildlife, Ky. Division of Forestry, USDA Farm Service Agency and Jefferson County Extension Services to provide services for our landowners.

This relationship and ability to provide services is essential in our community and brings thousands of dollars into Louisville Metro; both state and federal funds each year. We have access to many USDA programs and services that are an asset to Louisville Metro Government. With 75 years of experience we want to continue being a viable and valuable part of Jefferson County.

Share information that highlights any challenges the program is having: The soil and water conservation district is challenged in sustaining personnel to carry out current activities and programs to meet the current and future needs of Jefferson County residents. In order to educate our residents on conservation practices we require staff to work in the community with residents.

URBAN HIGH TUNNEL INITIATIVE

The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) seeks to continue the Urban High Tunnel Initiative in 2020-2021 so more residents can grow fresh vegetables year-round while managing water and pests effectively in their gardens. SWCD wants to assist in supporting sustainable food systems with neighborhood associations and stakeholders, in part by increasing the acreage under cultivation for urban agriculture, integrating small farms into the urban landscape and transforming ravaged urban neighborhoods. Current backyards and underutilized land will begin to create low-input or organic, local produce and address the health disparity issue in our community. As a grass-roots liaison partnering with Louisville Metro agencies, the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other organizations, the Jefferson County SWCD can provide the education and facilitate the community buy-in.

High Tunnels, also called hoop houses, make growing vegetables possible long after the first frost or before the first thaw. The key component of the Urban High Tunnel Initiative is the increased ability of the producer to continuously grow crops year-round. Two factors generally limit this ability: lack of optimum sunlight hours coupled with lower air and soil temperatures. Under the high tunnel systems these two limitations are mitigated and adaptable vegetable species can be grown during times that traditional gardens are in their dormancy phase. The ability to utilize every square foot under roof in a production mode **365 days a year** is huge. It's not how many pounds of food you produce, it's how long you can continuously provide a food product (variety of fresh food products) and make it available to your family and consumers.

The structure is an enclosed polyethylene, polycarbonate, plastic or fabric covered structure that protects crops from wind, excessive rainfall, and cold and extends the growing season in an environmentally safe manner. The high tunnel system requires crops to be grown in the soil or in raised beds. The system requires no heat or fans, thereby reducing the energy footprint required by traditional greenhouses. Under this production system, there is a more efficient use of water and an opportunity to utilize the biology of the soil to improve growth and production. Essentially, the hooped structure sits over the garden, forming a somewhat closed system. Arch shaped aluminum poles support removable heavy plastic sheets that trap heat from the sun, warming the air. Roll-up sides and doors provides for the necessary ventilation and air movement when called for. More elaborate systems are placed on rails (rolling systems) which allow producers to essentially double the square footage under production. Most have a peak height that allows an adult to stand easily with room to spare. High tunnels usually cost a few thousand dollars, \$3-\$4 per square foot, making them unaffordable for most people who don't grow food for profit. The sizes of these structures vary, ranging from 30 feet wide to as much as 100 feet long.

Through the Conservation Districts' affiliation with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) we will leverage dollars by providing an additional cost-share to the funding applicants receive through USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program. We can bring the cost-share from about 50% down to only 7% for the applicants. Applications will be accepted from the entire county with a

higher priority given to applicants located in targeted urban areas designated as food deserts with a larger number of vacant properties available. The Jefferson County SWCD will work with NRCS to make their ranking criteria more inclusive and give priority consideration to applications that help address extending seasons where urban populations benefit. If a high tunnel application is approved, the Jefferson County SWCD provides technical assistance in soil and site selections, planning for drainage considerations, part of the cost of purchasing the high tunnel and developing the water demand system. Non-profit organizations can also apply if they grow food for distribution in the targeted urban areas.

The Conservation District partnered with the USDA NRCS to pilot the program in 2017. There are currently nine (9) applicants waiting to be approved by the USDA for contracts. Last Year we had 9 approved and 2 applicants we were unable to fund. In three years, 43 high tunnels have been constructed.

Applicants must:

- Have control of eligible land for four years.
- Contact Louisville Metro Planning and Design to ensure compliance of set-back distances and other requirements of the zoning ordinance.
- Agree to maintain and use the high tunnel as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding.
- Support the following list of practices to help ensure that the resource concerns are addressed while implementing and managing the high tunnel:
 - Soil testing
 - Critical area planting
 - Irrigation system
- Be in compliance with the provisions for distribution on a fair and equitable basis.

2019 approved high tunnel systems

Marial Gardner – 1600 square feet (16' X 100')

Site: 1352 S. 6th St.

Ms. Gardner is revitalizing a vacant lot with a pollinator garden and high tunnel. She plans to grow cucumbers in her tunnel to make pickles for sale.

Love City, Inc. – 2016 square feet (24' X 84')

Site: 2615 Alford Ave.

Love City added an additional high tunnel to their Porkland restaurant site to cultivate produce for use in their restaurant and to sell to neighbors at an affordable price.

Deedra Njuguna – 768 square feet (16' X 48')

Site: 902 Cath Cart Ct.

Mrs. Njuguna is excited to grow vegetables year-round for her family.

Doris Logan - 768 square feet (16' X 48')

Site: 620 S. 43rd St.

Ms. Logan is expanding her garden to grow vegetables year-round.

Melissa Winhorst – 2160 square feet (30' X 72')

Site: 1804 S. Pope Lick

Ms. Winhorst is adding another high tunnel to the Spade and Table Farm in order to produce more year-round vegetables to meet her customer's needs.

Thomas Edison – 512 square feet (16' X 32')

Site: 3210 Garland Ave.

Mr. Edison is expanding his garden through the high tunnel to produce vegetables year-round.



Stephen Lewis – 704 square feet (16' X 44')

Site: 1921 W. Kentucky

Mr. Lewis is using his high tunnel to produce food for his family and as a teaching opportunity for his community.

Parker Silliman - 1536 square feet (16' X 96')

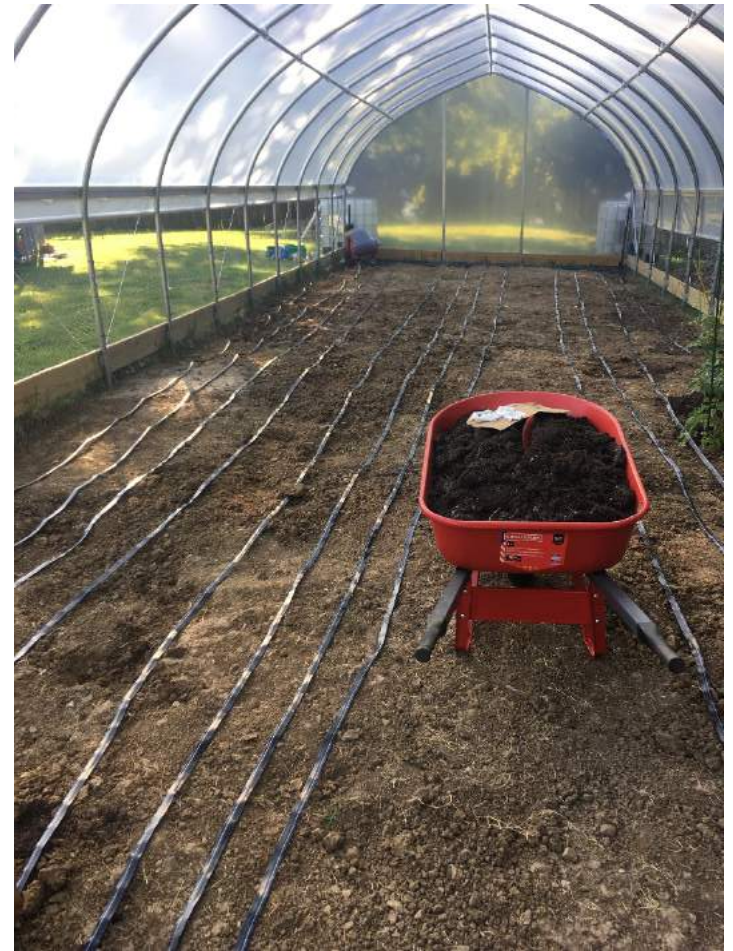
Site: 6697 Rutledge Rd.

Mr. Silliman is adding a high tunnel to his ¼ acre farm to increase the amount of produce he grows year-round. He sells his produce at farmers' markets throughout Louisville.

Vijay Kalkarni – 2160 square feet (30' X 72')

Site: 11305 Broad Run Road

Mr. Kalkarni is a beginning farmer getting started with a high tunnel on his farm property. He is excited to grow products to sell to local restaurants and markets.



URBAN SOIL HEALTH INITIATIVE

The Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) seeks to continue an educational initiative that reinforces a better understanding of “why” it is critical to build healthy soils throughout the community. Our urban soils play a key role in our environment’s ability to maintain its health as Louisville’s population continues to increase.

Soil

- supports the growth and diversity of plants and animals
- regulates and partitions rainfall
- acts as a living filter that serves to protect and enhance our entire ecosystem

Storm water runoff is an important issue in Louisville because of our combined sewer system. Many of our urban soils are heavily compacted from constant foot traffic, construction or heavy objects. Compacted soil can increase stormwater runoff into the drainage pipes and sewer system and create unhealthy conditions in the landscape. Building healthy soils throughout the city can reduce stormwater runoff and filter storm waters of harmful contaminants to keep them out of the waterways.

One key to successfully creating healthy soils is growing live plants 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Healthy soils should rarely be seen. Soils always require plant growth to maintain high levels of nutrients and microbes. Our soil initiative will educate residents on different techniques to keep plants growing in their soils year-round through workshops on the use of cover crops in vegetable gardens, installing native pollinator gardens, rain gardens and vegetable cultivation. Each of these techniques improves the amount of organic matter in the soil. Reduction of organic matter is the most limiting factor in the soil’s health. By increasing organic matter, residents increase soil’s water and nutrient holding capacity and improve overall soil structure.

Growing year-round is something urban gardeners do not traditionally do and lack the understanding of why it should be done. The Jefferson County SWCD plans to work with urban gardeners in establishing healthy soils that help to meet their objectives. These objectives could include increasing soil organic matter, improving biological diversity within the soil, reducing soil compaction, breaking up plow pans and hard pans, improving internal soil drainage, capturing nitrogen, filtering runoff, suppressing weed growth, improving soil moisture use efficiency and or reducing soil erosion.

The Urban Soil Health Initiative will provide workshops on

- soil testing
- cover crops

- native plant pollinator and rain gardens
- vegetable cultivation

The initiative will also provide funding for seeds. The Conservation District's Urban Agriculture Conservationist will provide hands on technical assistance to participating residents at their homes or garden sites. Once residents begin utilizing these techniques our hope is that by seeing the benefits, they will continue these practices as part of their annual gardening program. The Conservation District plans to partner with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, local seed vendors and garden shops to develop soil health cover crop mixtures, pollinator and rain garden mixtures and written materials on the value of improving the soil's biological diversity for it to function sustainably and to the benefit the community.

Fertilizer, lime, and other amendments can be very helpful in establishing happy, healthy plants and lawns, they pose a risk if not used properly. Excess fertilizer and chemicals wash away with rainwater and pollute our local streams and waterways. The first guideline of responsible fertilizer application is to take a soil sample and have it analyzed to determine fertilizer needs. Under this initiative the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District offers a soils test incentive program to offset the cost for Louisville Metro residents on testing for soil nutrients. Along with the soil nutrient testing program we have launched a soil contaminant testing program to help Louisville residents to determine if their soil is safe to use for vegetable gardening.

As the Urban Soil Health Initiative develops, the Conservation District hopes to increase the number of residents served to build networks of healthy safe soils throughout Louisville.



Cover crop growing - for improved organic matter and nitrogen capture.



Wildflower garden for pollinator habitat and beauty

ANNUAL BUDGET
JEFFERSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD JULY 1, 2020 **\$41,770.00**

R40000 INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES		\$172,890.00
R40100 FISCAL COURT		\$147,135.00
R40110 GENERAL FUNDS	\$147,135.00	
R40130 OTHER (Urban Conservationist, High Tunnel)	\$0.00	
R40300 STATE		\$15,755.00
R40310 DIRECT AID	\$8,255.00	
R40320 STATE COST SHARE	\$0.00	
R40330 ENVIRONMENTAL GRANT	\$7,500.00	
R40400 FEDERAL		\$10,000.00
NRCS Office space reimbursement	\$10,000.00	
R50000 CHARGES FOR SERVICES		\$0.00
R50200 INFRASTRUCTURE RENTAL		\$0.00
R50300 DISTRICT SALES		\$0.00
R60000 OTHER REVENUES		\$3,370.00
R60100 REIMBURSEMENTS		\$0.00
R60200 SURPLUS PROPERTY		\$0.00
R60400 GRANTS FROM PARTNERS		\$1,000.00
R60600 OTHER REVENUES		\$2,370.00
Petty Cash	\$25.00	
Credit Card Rewards	\$45.00	
High Tunnel Parts	\$400.00	
Workshop Fees	\$1,900.00	
R70000 INTEREST EARNED		\$165.00
R70100 BANK ACCOUNT		\$165.00
R70110 CHECKING	\$145.00	
R70130 MONEY MARKET	\$20.00	
R70200 CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT		\$0.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$176,425.00**

TOTAL AVAILABLE **\$218,195.00**

EXPENDITURES

E10000 PERSONNEL		\$32,440.00
E10100 SALARIES AND WAGES		\$26,795.00
E10110 NET SALARY	\$24,380.00	
E10120 FEDERAL TAXES	\$2,415.00	
Administrative Secretary	\$2,020.00	
supervisor per diem	\$395.00	
E10200 PER DIEM		\$5,150.00
E10400 Workers Comp		\$370.00
E10500 UNEMPLOYMENT		\$125.00
E20000 OPERATING EXPENSE		\$158,110.00
E20100 CONTRACTED SERVICES		\$137,490.00
E20110 ADVERTISING AND PRINTING (Legal Notice)	\$330.00	
E20130 MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS	\$750.00	
E20140 UTILITIES (Internet Service Website)	\$600.00	
E20150 RENTS AND LEASES	\$13,645.00	
E20160 INSURANCE AND BONDS	\$1,995.00	
Bond	\$700.00	
Insurance (Liability, E&O, Property)	\$1,295.00	
E20170 SHARED EMPLOYEE PAYMENTS	\$0.00	
E20180 OTHER CONTRACT EMPLOYEES/ENTITIES	\$120,200.00	
Urban Agriculture Conservationist	\$57,200.00	
Environmental Educator	\$52,000.00	
Soil Conservation Technician	\$11,000.00	
E20200 MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES		\$2,645.00
E20210 OFFICE SUPPLIES		\$1,145.00
Supplies	\$870.00	
Postage	\$275.00	
E20220 TREES AND TREE BAGS		\$1,500.00
E20300 OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE		\$17,975.00
E20310 EDUCATION AND PROMOTION		\$17,700.00
Urban Agriculture Conservationist Supplies	\$500.00	
Art & Writing Contest	\$600.00	
Displays, Advertising/Promo items, Brochures	\$5,000.00	
Science & Engineering Fair Awards	\$450.00	
Environmental Education Grants	\$1,000.00	
Workshops, Field Days, Home Schools, Festivals	\$5,000.00	
Sponsorships/Donations (Conservation & Forestry Camp, 4-H)	\$500.00	
Education Materials & Programs	\$3,000.00	
Envirolthon	\$1,500.00	
Master Conservationist Award	\$150.00	
E20320 FEES		\$275.00
Petty Cash/Bank Fees	\$25.00	
DLG-Special Purpose Government Entity (SPGE) Fee	\$250.00	
E30000 ADMINISTRATION		\$27,645.00
E30100 DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS		\$2,475.00

a. National Assoc. Of Conservation Districts Dues	\$250.00
b. Ky. Assoc. of Conservation Districts Dues	\$350.00
c. Alliances Coalitions, Associations	\$50.00
d. River Network Membership Dues	\$250.00
e. KWA Org memberships	\$50.00
f. Payroll service and Farmers Pride subscript.	\$1,500.00
f. Google Drive	\$25.00

E30300 GRANTS AND DONATIONS		\$670.00
Sponsorships/Donations (KWA, FFA, Auxiliary, FFEA)	670	
E30200 TRAVEL AND TRAINING		\$6,000.00
Secretary Training/Travel/Mileage	\$1,000.00	
Urban Agriculture Conservationist Travel	\$1,500.00	
Environmental Educator Travel	\$1,000.00	
Supervisor Travel/Mileage	\$2,500.00	

E30400 PROGRAMS		
E30430 LOCAL COST SHARE		\$3,500.00
Local High Tunnel	\$0.00	
Cover Crop Program	\$500.00	
Soil Contaminate Testing Program	\$3,000.00	
E30440 ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS		\$15,000.00
Soil Nutrient Testing Program	\$5,000.00	
High Tunnel Initiative	\$10,000.00	

TOTAL EXPENDITURES **\$218,195.00**

BALANCE ON HAND AS OF JUNE 30, 2021 **\$0.00**

I CERTIFY THAT THIS BUDGET HAS BEEN CONSIDERED AND APPROVED BY THE YOUR COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT.

D. W. Kael 2-18-2020
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT TREASURER DATE

CONSIDERED AND/OR UPDATED FIRST QUARTER (JULY-SEPTEMBER)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT TREASURER DATE

CONSIDERED AND/OR UPDATED FIRST QUARTER (OCTOBER-DECEMBER)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT TREASURER DATE

CONSIDERED AND/OR UPDATED FIRST QUARTER (JANUARY-MARCH)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT TREASURER DATE

CONSIDERED AND/OR UPDATED FIRST QUARTER (APRIL-JUNE)

CONSERVATION DISTRICT TREASURER DATE