

# ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK 2021-2022

262.020 Purpose of soil and water conservation district -- Methods of achieving purpose. The purpose of a soil and water conservation district is to conserve and develop all renewable natural resources within the district. In so doing, the district is authorized to undertake, sponsor, or participate in projects and activities which promote the conservation, development, maintenance and use of the land, water, trees and other renewable natural resources of the district. Such projects and activities shall include but not be limited to conservation practices on agricultural lands, the control of soil erosion, retardation of water runoff, the construction of flood prevention and control reservoirs, the maintenance of flood plains, the promotion of projects to assure an adequate municipal, industrial and agricultural supply of water, watershed stabilization, the avoidance and abatement of sedimentation and pollution in streams and other bodies of water, forestation and reforestation, the establishment of parks and outdoor recreation areas, the protection of open space, greenbelt areas and scenery, the preservation of wilderness areas, the protection of fish and wildlife, working for the location of highways, industries, housing developments, airports and other structures as are consistent with the district's objectives and will offer the least possible interference with the conservation and best multiple use of the renewable natural resources, and all other activities consistent with the total natural resources development of the district. History: Amended 1968 Ky. Acts Ch. 64, sec. 1. -- Recodified 1942 Ky. Acts Ch. 208, sec. 1, effective November 1, 1942, from Ky. Stat. sec. 42i-2.

Boone County Conservation District  
[info@bccdky.org](mailto:info@bccdky.org)





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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Mission of the Boone County Conservation District (BCCDKY) is to promote the protection and wise use of natural resources through education and service to the citizens of Boone County, Kentucky. As a Conservation District, we identify and address natural resource issues and provide technical assistance, conservation planning, and access to cost share programs to the community.

BCCDKY has determined that the most pressing natural resource concerns in Boone County include the protection of water resources (e.g. stream health), soil health and stabilization, and the health and ecological integrity of our forest and wildlife resources. These priorities have been determined through day-to-day interactions and interfaces with the community, as well as productive collaboration and partnerships with local, state, and federal resource agencies. Education and awareness of these identified resource concerns is perhaps BCCDKY's most pressing priority. The District's mandate to address these issues is solely in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare of every Boone County citizen and has driven the development of our Annual Plan of Work.

Enormous changes in Boone County's land use, population growth, and development in the last 30 years has led to the degradation of some of our most valuable natural resources, and this continues to be a focus of BCCDKY. Some of these changes have been documented by the EPA-approved and completed Woolper Creek and Gunpowder Creek Watershed Plans. The immense developments (e.g. Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport), occurring in the headwaters of Boone County's watersheds, pose a continued threat to our natural and built infrastructure downstream. Other direct impacts of this development include forest fragmentation and wildlife displacement.

Despite urbanization on the Eastern side of Boone County, 44% of the county remains forested, which harbors a rich diversity of native wildlife, including several species of endangered plants and animals. Among other threats, invasive species, such as the emerald ash borer and Amur bush honeysuckle, have already completely changed the composition of our forests, as many other threats remain on the horizon. BCCDKY recognizes these threats to our natural resources and local economy and are committed to addressing these serious issues.

In the last few years, progress has been made in the BCCDKY budget to address some of the identified issues, however much work remains. Therefore one of our priorities over the next year is to continue to work toward the development of an equitable and efficient budget that supports robust conservation programs to address these issues.

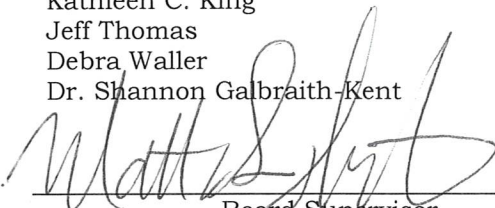
The BCCDKY Board of Supervisors and Staff is determined to meet these challenges and has developed the following Annual Plan of Work.

### **Board Members:**

Matt Wooten, Chair  
Rebecca Ortwein, Vice Chair  
Mike Wilson, Treasurer  
Kathleen C. King  
Jeff Thomas  
Debra Waller  
Dr. Shannon Galbraith-Kent

### **Staff:**

Mark Jacobs, Director of Conservation Programs  
Pavla Link, District Administrative Secretary  
Susan Brown, Conservation Education Specialist

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Supervisor

3/18/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## **OPERATIONS**

### **Maintain a Budget Committee to pursue equitable and sustainable funding for BCCDKY.**

- Ensure that the budget supports the Annual Plan of Work and Long Range Plan activities.
- The Budget Committee will meet quarterly for updates, if necessary, and with the Accountant(s).
- The Budget Committee will establish a three- or five-year budget plan, in addition to the required one-year budget.
- The Budget Committee will meet with the Judge County Executive and County Administrator at least once a year.
- The Budget Committee will meet with the County Commissioners at least once a year.

### **Meet and exceed the statutory requirements that are listed in the BCCDKY Long Range Plan, revised March 2018.**

### **Provide conservation services to the citizens of Boone County**

- Provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to landowners and land managers.
- Develop partnerships with local and regional conservation groups.
- Maintain close relationship with The Boone Conservancy in efforts to collaborate on land preservation and other conservation programs.

### **Evaluate and update staff salaries, job descriptions and benefits.**

### **Manage Earl Jones Conservation Fund**

- Manage investment accounts.
- Identify and pursue future opportunities to establish conservation center.

## **CONSERVATION PROGRAMS**



### **Forest & Wildlife Resources**

- Hire a full-time Forest Conservation Specialist.
- Identify forest and wildlife management issues of concern in Boone County to develop a long-term strategy to address such issues. Focus should be on ecological function of forest lands. Priority issues include: forest health, invasive species, biodiversity, habitat fragmentation, threatened/endangered wildlife and species of concern, and land management.
- Begin the process of planning and implementation of the shared NRCS/BCCDKY Focused Conservation Project – The Middle Creek Watershed Forest Health Initiative in collaboration with local land owners.
- Work with local universities to encourage student research on local forest and wildlife issues.
- Pursue bat mitigation and heritage funds to protect forest and wildlife resources.
- Collaborate closely with other local, state, and federal agencies where appropriate in support of mitigation efforts of public forest and land.
- Continue to develop educational opportunities for management of forest and wildlife resources (i.e. field days, lectures, etc.).
- Continue to develop Forest Education Programs for K-12 audience.







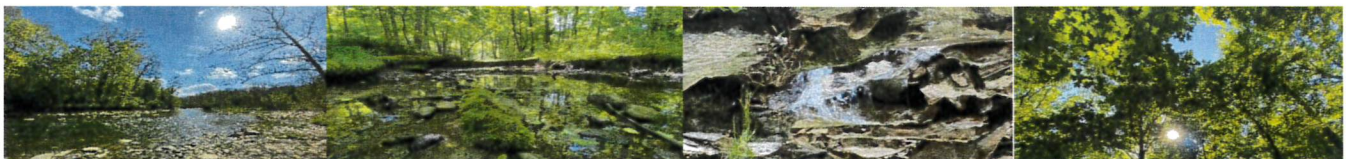
## Water Resources

- Expand access to Ohio River waterfront in collaboration with local partners.
- Collaborate with Boone County Ohio River Trail Initiative.
- Continue to work closely with NKU Center for Environmental Restoration and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Stream Mitigation Group and other organizations and agencies to identify stream, wetland and forest mitigation projects in Boone County.
- Continue efforts for improved stream health through implementation of Watershed Plans for Gunpowder Creek and Woolper Creek.
- Continue to seek partnerships to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) identified in the approved Watershed Plans.
- Continue close working relationship with Sanitation District No. 1 to monitor the water resources in Boone County.
- Continue monitoring and collecting data at established test sites and adding new monitoring locations in all major watershed in Boone County.
- Maintain and strengthen partnerships developed through prior watershed initiatives.
- Identify conservation priorities along the Ohio River and major tributaries in Boone County.



## Agricultural Resources

- Hire Agriculture Technician.
- Provide technical assistance and planning services to Boone County landowners and producers.
- Facilitate assistance from other resource agencies when necessary.
- Facilitate landowner compliance with the Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Act (KAWQA).
- Continue to promote and facilitate landowner participation in Kentucky Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program and Federal Cost Share Programs, when available, to decrease soil loss and improve water quality.
- Provide financial assistance for landowners and producers for the Heavy Material Removal.
- Manage Dead Farm Animal Removal program until funds are exhausted.
- Continue recertifying Agriculture District program participants.
- Begin planning for the future Boone County Farm Tour and ways to improve.
- Promote Ag literacy and safety K-12.





## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

### **Provide support for K-12 and homeschool students and teachers**

- Provide lesson plans and curriculum resources for in-class or field trip experiences.
- Coordinate Conservation Education Grant program.

### **Develop Conservation Leadership Program**

- Create pathways for careers in conservation for local youth.
- Develop college internship program.
- Provide scholarships for college students studying conservation.
- Provide opportunities for students of all ages to engage in outdoor recreation, citizen science, and conservation practices.
- Develop summer youth programs.
- Create opportunities for students to grow leadership skills.

### **Increase awareness of the Ohio River's natural and cultural resources**

- Collaborate with Boone County Ohio River Trail Initiative.
- Develop educational resources and programs for the general public.

### **Promote the mission of BCCDKY through community outreach**

- Maintain [bccdky.org](http://bccdky.org).
- Engage with the general public through print, online, and social media.
- Participate in local fairs and festivals.
- Provide presentations to civic groups, clubs, meetings, etc.

### **Promote conservation practices and BMPs among local agencies**

Maintain communication with Boone County Fiscal Court, Boone County Parks, and other city, county and state agencies.

### **Engage and effectively communicate with local legislators**

### **Provide conservation education programs to community groups**

- Facilitate hands-on programs for scouts, 4H, and other youth groups.
- Develop programs for family audiences.
- Integrate current research and citizen science into programming.
- Maintain safe, supportive, and inclusive environment for learners.
- Support partner organizations through collaborative programs.







## BCCDKY Committees as of March 2021

### **Executive Committee**

Chair: Matt Wooten  
Vice Chair: Rebecca Ortwein  
Treasurer: Mike Wilson

### **Education Committee**

Chair: Shannon Galbraith-Kent Ph.D.  
Susan Brown  
Pavla Link  
Debra Waller  
Kathleen King  
Megan Clere

### **HR Committee**

Chair: Matt Wooten  
Kathleen King  
Susan Brown  
Debra Waller

### **Budget Committee**

Chair: Mike Wilson  
Becky Ortwein  
Matt Wooten  
Mark Jacobs  
Pavla Link

### **Land Use Committee**

Chair: Jeff Thomas  
Mark Jacobs  
Shannon Galbraith-Kent  
Becky Ortwein  
Pavla Link

