



Program Overview

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Controls' (DNREC) Tax Ditch Program serves 234 Tax Ditch Organizations across Sussex, Kent and New Castle Counties. In 1951, the current Tax Ditch Law (Title 7, Chapter 41 of the Delaware Code) created Tax Ditch Organizations and mandated that the now Division of Watershed Stewardship, and Conservation Districts, would assist in the administration, planning, construction and maintenance of these ditch systems. This Chapter was last revised in 2008.

Mission Statement

The Program's mission is to provide effective, environmentally balanced water management services that are sustainable to citizens of Delaware for the preservation of public health and safety.

DNREC Staffing

The Tax Ditch Program consists of the below 8 full-time staff dedicated to providing administrative, technical & organizational assistance to Tax Ditch Organizations.

- Program Manager II
- Program Manager I
- Environmental Planner
- Administrative Assistant Coordinator
- Administrative Assistant Coordinator
- Technical Assistant Coordinator/Inspector
- Technical Assistant Coordinator
- Application Support Specialist

The Program also utilizes DNREC Drainage Program's Engineers Planners, & Field Technicians to assist in accomplishing its tasks.

Office Locations & Contact

Dover

285 Beiser Blvd., Suite 102
Dover, DE 19904

Georgetown

21309 Berlin Road, Unit 6
Georgetown, DE 19947

302-855-1930 • DNREC_Drainage@delaware.gov



Program Service Areas

Administrative Assistance

Tax Ditch Organization Services

We aide individual Tax Ditch Organizations in performing their duties through assistance in the preparation & filing of court & county documents:

- Calculate & Estimate Warrant Rates
- Provide Assessment Lists & Maps
- Right-Of-Way Obstruction Resolution
- Administer Audits
- Officer Bonding Guidance
- Support for Annual Meetings, Banking & Issues as Arise

Landowner Services

We assist landowners by providing information on tax ditches & guidance on processing court documents:

- Field Inquires on Tax Ditches:
- Process Court Order Changes (COC)
- Assessments
- Right-of-Ways
- Watershed Boundary



Program Service Areas Continued..

Technical Assistance

Tax Ditch Organization Services

We assist Tax Ditch Organizations by providing engineering specifications & recommendations for tax ditch management and maintenance:

- Provide Design Specifications for Tax Ditch Features
- Perform Maintenance Inspections of Tax Ditch and Right-of-Way
- Stake Out & Inspection of Approved Tax Ditch Work
- Prepare Permit Applications
- Assist With the Update of Operation & Maintenance Plans
- Evaluate Tax Ditch Flooding Concerns or Blockages



Program Implementation

We provide assistance with the following activities as described under the Tax Ditch Law and the management of our Program:

Tax Ditch Organization Support

- Clearinghouse for Tax Ditch Organization Records
- Jump Start Existing Tax Ditch Organizations
- Assist in the Formation of New Tax Ditches
- Update and Process Tax Ditch Assessment Values for Counties

Conservation District Support

- Maintains Database of Tax Ditch Organizations in Compliance
- Maintains & Updates Tax Ditch Officer Database
- Disbursement of \$3921 Cost Share Funds to Support Tax Ditch Maintenance

Education & Outreach

- Professional Training for Tax Ditch Officers
- Attendance at Virtual or Live Outreach Events
- Public Accessible Online Websites or Applications

Landowner Services

We assist landowners by providing minimum design specifications & guidance for modifying tax ditches:

- Residential or Development Plan Review for Tax Ditch Impacts
- Stake Out & Inspection of Approved Features
- Provide Permit Guidance
- Evaluate Tax Ditch Flooding Concerns or Blockages

