

Other Technical Support from NRCS

Soils

The NRCS-NJ Soils Staff provide technical support, including testing for changes in soil properties for the EQIP Soil Health Initiative and other Farm Bill conservation programs. As part of their support to field office staff, New Jersey soil scientists are use Electromagnetic induction (EMI) to assess for compaction. They also utilize a portable X-ray Fluorescence (pXRF) to screen soil for lead and other trace metals, and have screened sites for underserved urban customers at 20 community and school garden sites. FY 2018 technical soils assistance also included onsite investigations for our partners at the N.J. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as workshops/training sessions/lectures to Rutgers University, the County College of Morris, Duke Farms, the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA), and Brooklyn College.



3 HAM MLRA Soil Survey Office in Hammonton, NJ

The Coastal Zone Soil Survey (CZSS) is a major focus of the MLRA Soil Survey office. High population density in coastal areas brings commerce, pollution, and development that stresses coastal and near-shore ecosystems. The CZSS provides scientific baseline data useful to help manage, conserve, and sustain near shore areas and shallow-sub tidal ecosystems, vitally important for restoration efforts as well as aquaculture. A few CZSS projects completed by the soil survey office include: the development of a new soil series for barrier island landscapes within the Northern Tidewater Area, which includes New Jersey, Maryland, and Delaware, aimed at enhancing the understanding of the soil geomorphology within these areas for aiding in storm protection; two county wide CZSS projects, Cumberland County NJ and Sussex County DE, which updated both the spatial delineation and the linked soils information for survey map units along the Delaware Bay. Tidal marsh areas were found to be severely eroded, including hundreds of thousands of acres along the coast; this newly enhanced data can target and protect these fragile areas. The Hammonton Soil Survey office, in partnership with University of Maryland, also published the first Subaqueous Soil Survey in a portion of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland, which includes 6 new subaqueous soil series, which will be used for shellfish and subaquatic vegetation restoration efforts in subaqueous landscapes throughout the Northern Coastal Plain Area in all three states.



Cape May Plant Materials Center in Cape May Court House, NJ

The Cape May Plant Materials Center (NJPMC) serves the northeast region, covering nine states. Cape May PMC staff provide plant solutions for natural resource conservation concerns pertaining to coastal shorelines, sand dunes, mined lands/critical areas, and coastal grassland habitat. The Center's technical products in FY2018 include:

Plant Guides - Virginia saltmarsh mallow (*Kosteletzkya virginica*) Plant Guide and Beach plum (*Prunus maritima*) Plant Guide;

Posters - *Developing Coastal Grassland Technologies for Ecosystem Restoration in a Changing Climate* and *Landscape and Revegetation Success of Native Species Following Chemical and Mechanical Treatment of Phragmites australis*;

Final Study Report - Monarch Germplasm seaside goldenrod (*Solidago sempervirens*) direct seeding trials.



The Cape May PMC 2018 Annual Report is online: <https://go.usa.gov/xmw6W>.

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov

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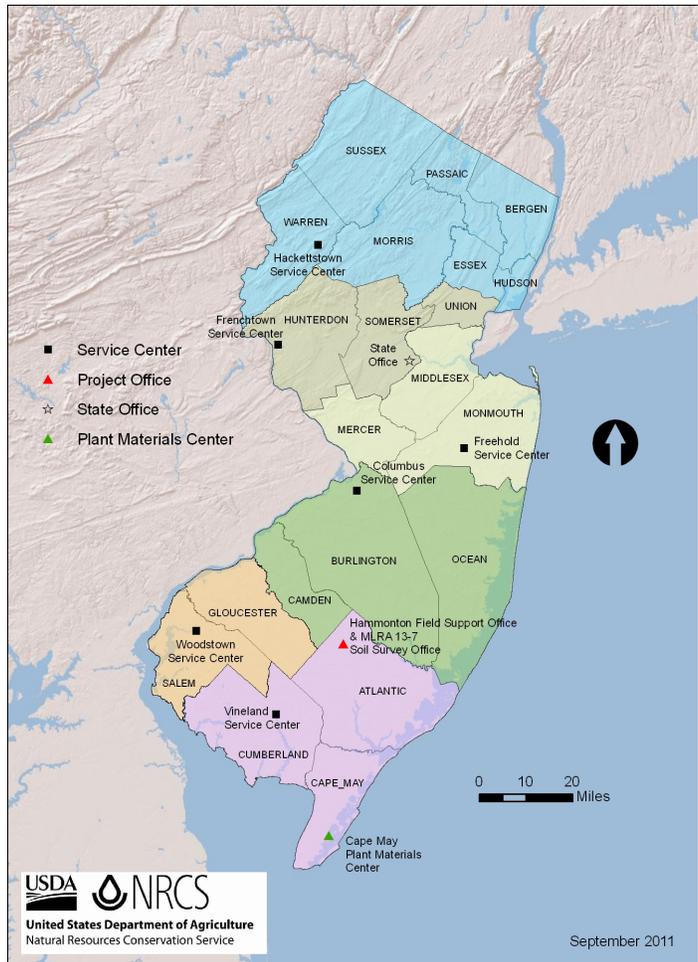
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the opportunity to serve New Jersey,
helping people help the land!

