



# AGRICULTURAL DITCH & GULLY EROSION FACT SHEET

LOCALLY-LED CONSERVATION - ORLEANS COUNTY DISTRICT



## Overview

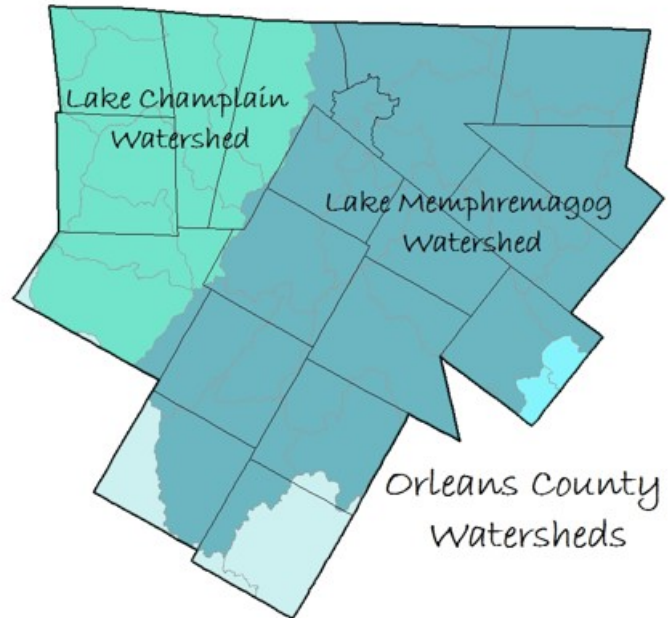
Locally-led conservation consists of a series of phases that involve community stakeholders in natural resource planning, the implementation of solutions, and evaluation of results. Locally-led conservation begins with the community itself, working through the county's conservation district.

In May of 2023, the Orleans County Natural Resources Conservation District conducted surveys and hosted a Local Work Group (LWG) in-person meeting in Newport, Vermont. LWG participants concluded that erosion and sedimentation from agricultural ditches and gullies need to be one of the priorities for a local fund pool proposal. These gullies and ditches can be a significant source of phosphorus in our watersheds and can be addressed with the use of federal USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) funds. The Memphremagog Basin Plan is our local action plan that reinforces the LWG's ditches and gullies local fund pool priority conclusion.

## FY24 Application Due Date

Applications are accepted throughout the year. To have your application considered for this funding year, submit your application in by:

**October 20th, 2023**



Program is available in all of Orleans County VT

## Conservation Practice Funding

Funding will be available for the 2024 federal fiscal year to eligible landowners through the NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) local fund pool. NRCS will provide a total of \$500,000 in financial assistance for approved conservation practices for the purpose of addressing this resource concern. Land and applicant FSA eligibility must be met to qualify for funding. For more information on EQIP, see <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/eqip-fact-sheet>

## Resource Concerns Addressed

- Bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels
- Classic gully erosion
- Nutrients transported to surface water
- Aquatic habitat for fish and other organisms
- Sediment transported to surface water



## Program Priorities

- Projects that include multiple practices, in particular biological erosion control
- Ditches/gullies that discharge directly into a blue line stream, lake, wetland, or hydrologically-connected road
- Ditches/gullies to which livestock have direct access or are located within 15 ft. of a conventionally-tilled annual crop
- Ditches/gullies with a high peak flow
- Projects that will reduce phosphorus by at least 10 kg/yr or address an active headcut
- Historically underserved applicants

## Approved Practices for NRCS Financial Assistance

Core Conservation Practices included in the local ranking pool are listed below. These practices must address at least one of the five resource concerns selected and ranked on previous page.

- 362 Diversion
- 382 Fence
- 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- 393 Filter Strip
- 412 Grassed Waterway
- 468 Lined Waterway or Outlet
- 490 Tree/Shrub site preparation
- 578 Stream Crossing
- 582 Open Channel
- 587 Structure For Water Control
- 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment



### To Apply

1. Contact the Newport USDA office at 59 Waterfront Plaza, Newport, VT to fill out a Conservation Technical Assistance Request
2. Learn about signing up to work with NRCS at [farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers](https://farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers)



### Program Contact:

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