

**DECENNIAL COMMITTEE REPORT-**

**PUTNAM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE  
WITH DECENNIAL COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT**

**(For County Only)**

**1. Unit of government submitting this report:**

**NAME OF DISTRICT: PUTNAM COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Note: Any local government that levies a tax, other than a municipality or county must file this report. Sec 50 ILCS 70/10(B-5)

**II. Information about our District**

- A. We are located in Putnam County. There are 4 townships in our county and only 1 Conservation District.
- B. The population of our County is 5,638, as of the 2020 census.
- C. The district employs 2 full-time employees and has 5 appointed Trustees.
- D. Our annual budget for 2023 is \$435,974.00 General Fund and \$300,000.00 from construction loan funds.

**III. Information about our committee**

**A. Committee Members:**

Executive Director:	Kristen Pantenburg
Trustee:	Dan Kotecki
Trustee:	Janet Rodda
Trustee:	Will Duke
Trustee:	Ron Bluemer
Trustee:	Mike Schrowang
Resident:	Raymond Pantenburg
Resident:	David Rodda

Note: Per 50 ILCS 70/10(b), the committee membership must include all elected or appointed members of the district board (Supervisor and Trustees) and two residents appointed by the Supervisor. The residents can be Clerk, Collector or Assessor, if you have one, or other residents of the County, but these officials are not required to be on this Committee. The Supervisor may appoint more than two residents if deemed appropriate.

- B. Dates our Committee Met (50 ILCS 70/20)
- First (Organizational) Meeting  
(must occur prior to June 10, 2023): May 17, 2023
- Second Meeting: June 21, 2023
- Third Meeting: September 20, 2023

IV. Programs and Services offered by our District

CAMPING  
 SAETY PROGRAMS (Hunter Safety)  
 WILDLIFE EDUCATIONAL CAMPS  
 NATURE CAMPS  
 HORSE TRAILS AND CAMPING  
 BOY SCOUT CAMPING  
 EAGLE SCOUT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS  
 WEDDINGS/PARTIES, SHELTER RENTAL  
 SCHOOL YOUTH CROSS COUNTRY MEETS HELD ON SITE  
 NATIONAL ICE BOAT RACING HELD AT OUR SITE  
 FISHING  
 FISHING PROGRAMS  
 FFA STATE MEET HELD AT OUR SITE  
 WORK WITH SCHOOLS BUILDING HABITATS FOR BIRDS  
 NATURE CRAFT WORKSHOPS  
 GENERAL INFORMATION ON SITE ISSUES  
 DISTRICT FACEBOOK PAGE

V. Social Service Agreements

A. We partner with the following not for profits to offer social services:

<u>Entity:</u>	<u>Service Provider</u>
1. PC SCHOOLS 535	CROSS COUNTRY TEAM
2. BOYS SCOUT TROOP 1093	EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT
3. PC PUBLIC LIBRARY	ASTRONOMY PROGRAM
4. ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY	TICK RESEACH
5. IDNR	HUNTER SAFETY
6. MARSHALL PUTNAM TRAIL RIDERS	HORSE TRAIL ENHANCEMENT

7. PUTNAM CO ROTARY CLUB

AFTERGLOW DONATION

- B. Our residents have benefitted from these agreements in the following ways: Our youth have been helped with recreation and advancement within their sponsored program. Residents have more riding possibilities throughout the year with trail enhancement. PC athletes have an adequate natural area to conduct meets. Residents are offered more quality programs by partnering with other entities.

Awards and Recognitions

Our District has received the following awards, distinctions, and recognition:

- a. IPARKS, outstanding service awards the last 20 years.
- b. IAPD, outstanding service awards in youth and site programs the last 25 years.

VI. Intergovernmental Agreements

Entity: 1. PC Public Library Hennepin 2. PC SCHOOLS 535, XC	Services Offered: Astronomy Program Providing a safe course when no other area is available within our County
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- B. Our District efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way:  
 We are able to reach a wider audience with programs as our limited staff is unable to meet all the program needs of our residents. The XC team from Henry IL and Putnam County both use the facility to practice a host meets. This gives us more exposure to local residents.

VII. Review of laws, Policies, rules and Procedures, District Training Materials, and other Documents

We have reviewed the following, non-exhaustive list of laws, policies, training materials, and other documents applicable to the Putnam County Conservation District to evaluate our compliance and to determine if any of the foregoing should be amended.

- VII. What Have We Done Well? PC Conservation District strives to continue to be accountable to the tax payers of our County. As a Special District within the State of Illinois we fall within the cracks at times but we pride ourselves for our fiscal responsibility, with not only local tax dollars, but State tax dollars. With limited staff, we are still able to manage effectively 2 parks with a total acreage of 745 acres. Our day camps, nature programs and working with youth groups so they can continue to recognize the importance of natural areas is much needed and worthwhile. We keep our operating costs well below other entities that have similar descriptions as us. Which in turn allows more access to our events and sites.

IX. What Inefficiencies Did We Identify/ What Are Our Next Steps?

In reviewing our OMA Training, we have come to realize that all Trustees have lapsed with getting the certification in a timely manner. We have all discussed the importance of the OMA Officer and will be more diligent with all training going forward.

X. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

Improve communication with our County Officials, residents, youth and special interest groups relating to the district.

In preparing this report, we reviewed several studies on Special Districts with in our State and their efficiency. These studies show that:

- That out of the 5 Conservation Districts with in the State, many serve with programs and site usage more than the 3 largest parks in the State. Budget restrictions and overages hit State Parks more that all of the Conservation Districts combined. PC has the lowest Taxing Levy of all and it has been that way since established in 1966.
- Grant opportunities are not as wide spread in smaller communities so general funding is used more.

XII. Our committee's recommendations regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency:

To address the concerns found in this report and continue to build on our strengths

Submitted by: Kristen Pantenburg, Executive Director and Supervisor Chair, Conservation District Decennial Efficiency Committee for Putnam County Conservation District

Date December 13, 2023