

Michigan Conservation Districts



Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan

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Michigan's 75 Conservation Districts are..



Units of government that provide soil, water and plant management assistance to citizens in conserving their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan.

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The Origin of Conservation Districts

- 1935 – Federal Soil Conservation Service Established
- 1936 – Federal Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936
- 1937 – Michigan passed Soil Conservation District Law Act 297, P.A. 1937.



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Michigan Conservation Districts

Created by a vote of the people to provide conservation programs assistance to the community.



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Michigan Conservation Districts



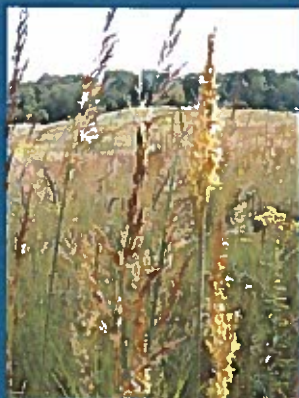
Local elected Board members and staff, providing the boots on the ground. Directing and delivering federal, state and local programs to address soil, water and plant issues on private lands.

Providing Farmers and Landowners with Assistance:

- Technical
- Financial
- Educational

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The Conservation Partnership



Local:

Michigan Conservation Districts

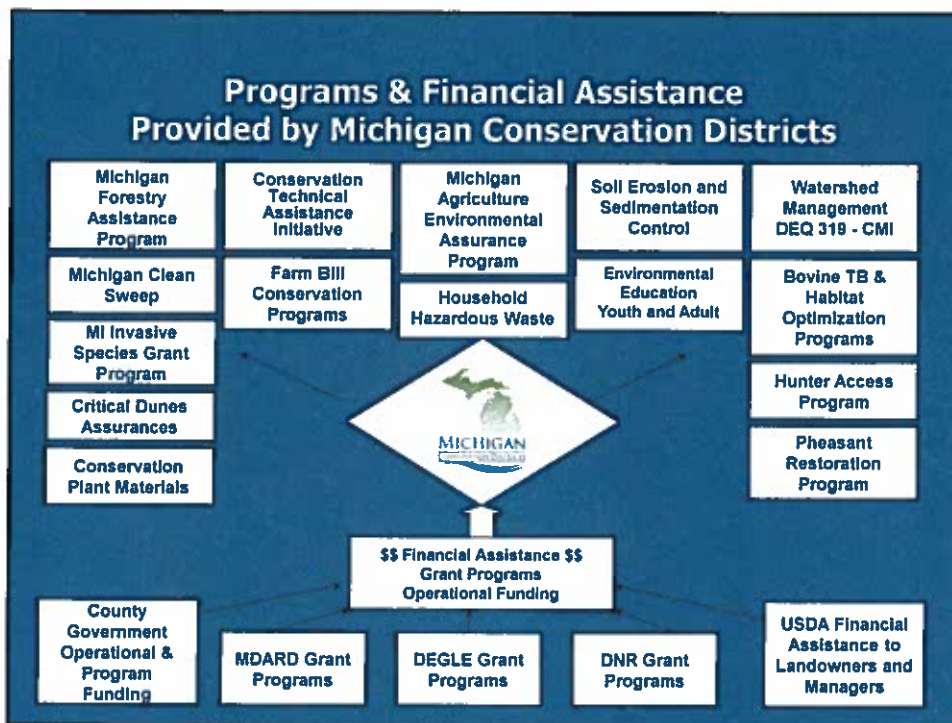
State:

Michigan Department of
Agriculture and Rural
Development

Federal:

USDA Natural Resource
Conservation Service

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How Michigan Conservation Districts Work

- Identify county soil, water and plant issues
- Utilize state and federal programs to address identified issues
- Provide financial, technical and educational assistance to farmers and landowners



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Federal Programs Delivered by Michigan Conservation Districts



- Farm Bill Conservation Title – Average \$20M in cost share funds
- Funds are directly passed through to farmers and land owners – 100%
- CDs provide technical assistance one on one with farmers and landowners to help implement conservation practices
- Locally driven – bringing financial and technical assistance to address local soil, water and plant concerns



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State Programs Delivered by Michigan Conservation Districts

- Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
- Forestry Assistance Program
- Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative
- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Pheasant Restoration Initiative
- Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program
- MDEGLE 319 Program
- Michigan Clean Sweep
- Bovine TB & Habitat Optimization Programs
- Hunter Access Program



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Conservation Districts Provide Real Conservation to the Land



Before



After



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State Operations Funding

- Michigan: \$0
- Illinois: \$7.5M
- Indiana: \$1.8M
- Ohio: \$10.4M
- Minnesota: \$14.7M
- Missouri: \$1.14M; \$40M cost share
- Oklahoma: \$9M



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Current Michigan Conservation District Funding

- Grant driven
- Sales and services provide minimal funds
- Significant variability in local government support
- Quality of Life Agency grants provide small percentage for administration
- USDA-NRCS Farm Bill funds directly delivered to land owners
- No state operations funding since 2009



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FY2020 Program Pilot Budget Request

“Securing the Future for Michigan Conservation Programs Delivery”

Goal: Identification of top soil, water and plant issues from the local perspective and the financial resources needed to address them through Michigan’s 75 Conservation District delivery system.



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Securing the Future for Michigan Conservation Programs Delivery

Pilot Outcomes:

- Identification and prioritization of soil, water and plant issues from the local community perspective
- Identification of programs and technical resources needed
- Development of a statewide business plan that identifies priority soil, water and plant issues, existing programs and additional financial and technical resources needed to address them



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Michigan Conservation Districts

Conservation districts are local, special-purpose units of government, governed by five-member boards made up of elected directors

Michigan conservation districts identify and address natural resource issues within their communities. They provide technical and financial assistance to land owners and managers with funds made available through the federal, state and local governments, as well as some other funding sources.

Federal, State and Local Programs Delivered and Managed by Conservation Districts:

- Federal Farm Bill Conservation Title Programs
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant Programs
- U.S. Forest Service Cooperative Weed Management Areas
- Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative
- Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
- Forestry Assistance Program
- Michigan Clean Sweep
- Michigan Pheasant Restoration Program
- Michigan Hunter Access Program
- Dam Management Grant Program
- Habitat Incentives Program
- Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative
- MI Invasive Species Grant Program
- Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Programs
- Household Hazardous Waste Programs
- Resource Recovery, Recycling Programs
- Working Lands Conservation, Soil Health Programs
- Farmland and Open Space Preservation Programs
- Targeted Programs for Local Conservation Issues
- Environmental Education for Adults & Youth
- Critical Dunes Assurances
- Regional Conservation Partnership Programs: MI/IN St. Joseph River Watershed Conservation Partnership; Tri-State Western Lake Erie Basin Phosphorus Reduction Initiative
- Watershed Management Plan Management & Implementation of Nonpoint Source Control Projects
- Conservation Plant Material Programs: Wildlife Habitat, Reforestation, Windbreaks and Natural Shorelines



Michigan conservation districts are the local providers of natural resource management services that help our citizens conserve their land and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan.

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Michigan Conservation Districts: Your Natural Resource 'Resource'!

Michigan conservation districts target available programs, resources and financial assistance to address natural resource issues within their communities. Programs and assistance include: Surface and Groundwater Resources; Non-point Source Pollution; Agriculture; Nutrient Management; Forestry; Wildlife Habitat; Soil Health; Invasive Species; Conservation Plant Materials; Community Recycling; Urban Conservation; Conservation Education; and additional programs that address specific natural resource issues.



Federal Farm Bill

Michigan conservation districts are the local delivery point for Farm Bill programs and provide local leadership, administrative and technical assistance in support of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

In FY2016, \$21.7 million in cost sharing was provided to Michigan's farmers and landowners to directly address natural resource issues. All \$21.7 million went to farmers and landowners who matched those dollars implementing conservation and provided more than \$43 million in direct economic impact in rural communities. Through the rule of one dollar circulating through a local economy seven times, more than \$301 million in indirect rural economic impact occurred.

Michigan Conservation Districts ...

- Are the local partner in the Conservation Partnership, a formal agreement with USDA-NRCS, MDARD and Michigan conservation districts to secure a robust system of conservation program delivery to citizens.
- Are the primary local delivery vehicle for Quality of Life Agencies' private lands programs.
- Are not receiving state financial support for operations.
- Are funding operations primarily from grant-based revenue sources.
- Are primarily co-located with NRCS (49 of the 75 conservation districts).
- Provide unique, confidential, one-on-one technical assistance to private landowners in all 83 counties.
- Are distributors of Farm Bill program funds. *(All Farm Bill dollars are provided to farmers and landowners.)*

Michigan Conservation District Accounts ...

- Are supported by counties and townships through financial, programmatic and facility support valued at \$2 million in FY2016.
- Received \$500,000 in in-kind support from the USDA NRCS and \$1.2 million in other federal support.
- Received more than \$9.7 million from state grant programs in FY 2016 *for landowner technical assistance.*