



**ANTRIM CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

*Serving Antrim County since 1944*

*ACD Board of Directors: Bryan Smith, chairperson;  
Zach Gosnell, vice chair; Caitlin McSweeney-Steffes, treasurer;  
and directors Randy Johnson and Adrienne Wolff*

# 2021 Highlights & Services

The Antrim Conservation District helps people discover more about natural resources from our district office and out in the field.

Events like Farm Field Days, classes, meetings, and other gatherings help the public learn about the ACD and the services we provide to protect and conserve the land, water, and wildlife habitat in Antrim County.



## In the Classroom

Children's educational programming brings kids and parents into the ACD to learn more about everything from pollinators to pollution. All ages and stages are welcome at the Antrim Conservation District.



## In the Field

From working with tribes to survey wild rice planting sites, to planting research gardens, to holding events on local farms, the ACD team is active in the field and making a positive impact in the county by providing education, outreach, and technical services.

## Small Farm Support

The ACD works to help small farmers in Antrim County. We support farm markets with promotions, offer educational programs, and give referrals to agricultural and other service providers in order to help our small farmers learn more about the opportunities available to them to help their farms succeed.



## Native Plant & Tree Sales

Our annual Tree & Seedling Sale helps landowners in Antrim county get more trees established on their property. New in 2021, the first in-house native plant sale sold out in just a few minutes!



**FORESTRY: 320 private and public landowners received conservation advice or on the ground assistance through the forestry department.**  
 The forestry department at the ACD provides technical consultation and services for county parks, natural areas, public forest lands, private landowners, community groups, schools, municipalities, and non-profit organizations in Antrim County. The ACD forester manages all county owned forest lands to ensure sustainable growth and the effective investment return and management of timber in Antrim County.

**SOIL EROSION: 300 soil erosion control permits issued.**

The State of Michigan requires all counties in the state to implement a soil erosion control program. Anyone performing earth work within 500' of a river, lake, or stream, or who is creating an earth change on over an acre in size, requires a soil erosion control permit prior to securing any other permit. Keeping sediment and the pollutants it carries out of our waterways is critical to keeping the Chain of Lakes watershed clean. Protecting property investments, preserving fish and wildlife habitats, and working to achieve high water quality occurs through the ACD soil erosion program.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE:  
 71,201 pounds of HHW collected.**

Household Hazardous Waste events are provided to county residents for the collection and proper disposal of hazardous household items such as oils, paints, chemicals, lightbulbs, poisons, and other hazardous products. These materials, if not disposed of properly, often end up being poured down household drains or dumped illegally. The importance of collecting these materials before they pollute our land and water is the critical and ongoing goal of the hazardous waste program.



*A big thank you to all our loyal and dedicated Volunteers!*

**RECYCLING: 2,912,800 pounds of recycling collected.**

The recycling program is funded through a milage appropriation voted in and supported by local tax payers. Like HHW, the goal of the ACD recycling program is to collect recycling before needlessly placed in landfills or dumped illegally in the county. There are eight sites in Antrim County that the ACD maintains throughout the year. The ACD collects e-waste and household batteries throughout the year at the office during regular hours.

**CAKE-CISMA: 459 sites surveyed, 278 treatments performed.**

The Antrim Conservation District is the fiduciary and administrator for the Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area that serves Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska and Emmet counties. CAKE-CISMA services are offered to help public and private landowners learn about invasive species management and to offer low or no cost treatment options in the four county region.

**2021 FUNDING & EXPENSES**

Funding \$598,927

Expenses \$581,554

County Allocation	\$348,412
Contracts	\$ 47,218
Grants	\$154,878
Sales/Fees	\$ 46,120
Donations	\$ 1,785

General Operations	\$ 76,692
Programs	\$ 70,953
Wages/Insurance	\$433,909
<i>(6 full time, 4 part time staff)</i>	

## The Antrim Conservation District provides:

Services that are tailored to meet the needs of local people, local properties, and local natural resources.

Site-specific inspections for your property that are designed to help you achieve your land use and conservation goals.

Partnership agreements that allow for free or low-cost services that make it more affordable for you to take actions that make our water, soil, air, land, and wildlife habitats healthier.

Technical expertise for conservation management.

### Some examples of ACD services include:

- Native tree and plant sales
- Habitat restoration and enhancement
- Management of household hazardous waste and recycling
- Forestry, soil erosion, and invasive species technical assistance
- Partner networking and collaboration
- Conservation and environmental outreach
- Small farm support
- Educational programming
- Wildlife DNR referrals
- EGLE referrals

### Reasons to contact the ACD:

Conservation districts are trusted partners that work collaboratively with people to help them responsibly and efficiently manage their natural resources. Conservation districts have a personal investment and interest in improving the quality of life in their communities. Conservation staff live where they work and have firsthand knowledge of the natural resource issues and challenges faced by their fellow community members. Conservation districts are the repositories of natural resource expertise, knowledge, education, who are dedicated to the conservation and protection of county land, water, and wildlife.

ACD staff, services, and programs make an important environmental impact in Antrim county and beyond. Every day our staff and board strive to make improvements to bring solid practices and professionalism to the public and private sectors we help. We serve with pride and look forward to the future which continues to protect and promote the conservation and informed usage of Antrim county's natural resources.

***CURRENT STAFF INCLUDE: Melissa Zelenak, Executive Director; Mike Meriwether, Forester; Bethany Truckey, Office Assistant; Ron Oyer, Recycling Officer; Kyle Williams, Soil Erosion Officer; and Lindsey Bona-Eggman, CAKE Coordinator***



**2022 NEW PROGRAM LAUNCH:  
CLEAN & HEALTHY WATER**  
*Supporting and promoting  
partnerships, education,  
programs, research, and action  
to help keep Antrim County water  
clean and healthy.*

