



# Antrim Conservation District

*2022 Annual Report  
to the Antrim County Board of Commissioners*

*Melissa Zelenak, Executive Director*

*Mike Meriwether, Forester*

*Kyle Williams, Soil Erosion Officer*

*March 2, 2023*

## ***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 property that is designed to help achieve land use and conservation goals**

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

**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.**

***The ACD Board of Directors: Bryan Smith, Chairman; Zach Gosnell, Vice Chairman; Caitlin McSweeney, Treasurer; Randy Johnson, Director; Adrienne Wolff, Director***

***The ACD Team: Melissa Zelenak, Executive Director; Mike Meriwether, Forester; Ron Oyer, Recycling Officer; Kyle Williams, Soil Erosion Officer; Lindsey Bona-Eggeman, CAKE Coordinator; Bethany Truckey, Office & Program Assistant***

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.

Helping people discover more about natural resources from our district office and out in the field is always our goal. Events, classes, meetings, individual consultations 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.

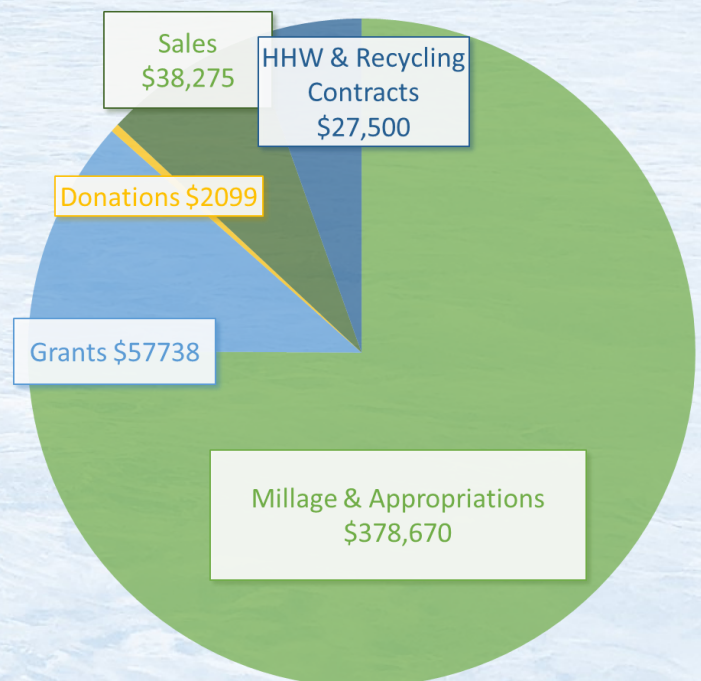
Children's educational programming brings kids and parents into the ACD to learn more about everything from pollinators to pollution. All ages and stages are welcome at the Antrim Conservation District.

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. In 2022 we began the process to assist market vendors with SNAP and Double Up Bucks receiving to ensure farm fresh food is provided and able to reach those needing food assistance in the county.

Trees, seedlings, and native plant sales help landowners in Antrim county get more trees established on their property. New in 2021, the Fall native plant sale sold out in just a few minutes, in 2022 double the inventory sold out in minutes as well.

#### ***New & Ongoing Programs***

- *Farmer Resource Fair*
- *Snap & Double Up Bucks processing for farm markets*
- *Trees for Kids, Make a Memory*
- *Home Composting*
- *Pollinator Preservation and Protection*
- *Clean and Healthy Water*
- *Lake Leaders Summits, Healthy Lakes Landscaping, Stream Monitoring, Invasive Species Boat Washing Weekends, and Special Education & Outreach Events*



**2022 Funding**

**FORESTRY: 324 private and public landowners received forestry assistance.** 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: 290 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: 50,914 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.

**RECYCLING: 2,157 tons 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.

**2022 Funding \$543,329**

**2022 Expenses \$530,728**

