



Celebrating 80 years of conservation in Muskegon County!

Muskegon Conservation District

2018 Annual Report

It shall be the mission of the Muskegon Conservation District to conserve, restore, and protect local natural resources for the public good and for the long term stewardship of the land.



Celebrating 80 Years!

Dear Friends,

The Muskegon Conservation District turned 80 years old in 2018, continuing our legacy of conservation in Muskegon County while looking towards the future. This year was like none other, moving full tilt on varying projects conserving, restoring and protecting local natural resources. Additionally, we took on a much needed facelift of our District office including a learning center expanding our educational resources. We appreciate your direction and support as partners in conservation. We look forward to the next 80 years and the positive impact we can have on our natural world.

Thank you!

Muskegon Conservation District Staff

Staff

Dallas Goldberg
Executive Director

Chad Hipshier
Assistant Executive Director

Emily Grasch
Project Manager

Kathryn Pfister
Project Manager

E. Warren Zimostrad II
Project Manager

Luke Cotton
Water Stewardship Technician

Jordan DeVries
Produce Safety Technician

Rod Denning
Forestry Assistance Program



Dallas Goldberg, *Executive Director*

Board of Directors

E. Paul Schroeder
Chair

Nancy Frye
Vice-Chair

John Jurcich
Treasurer / Secretary

Gale Nobes
Member

Keith Ramthun
Member

2018 Quick Facts

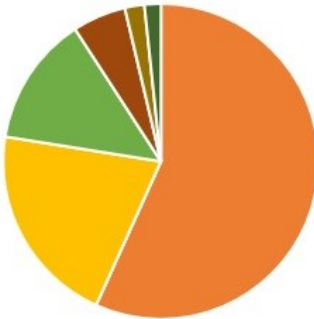
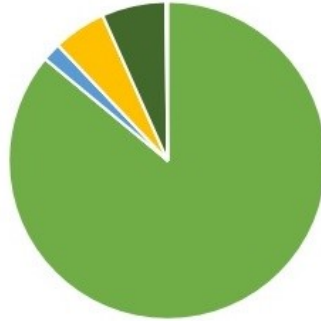
- 17,000+ trees planted throughout the county.
- Planted over 35 acres of food plots, native grasses and wildflowers.
- Treated 221,000 ft² of invasive species including Japanese knotweed, phragmites, oriental bittersweet and autumn olive in our three county treatment area.
- Presented in-school programming to 1,829 students.
- Completed a full office renovation, including the brand new Florence Kiskey Learning Center.
- Repaired over 3,500 lineal feet of eroding streambank



2018 Budget

Revenue

Grants	\$511,634	86.0%
Forestry	\$38,665	6.5%
Sales & Services	\$32,149	5.4%
Donations	\$11,161	1.9%
Other	\$1,119	0.2%
Total	\$594,728	



Expenses

District Operations	\$320,910	56.7%
Capital Outlay	\$117,469	20.8%
Conservation Materials	\$75,363	13.3%
Other	\$30,998	5.5%
Outreach	\$11,315	2.0%
Equipment	\$9,506	1.7%
Total	\$565,561	

Thank You!

The work the Conservation District completes cannot be done without support from the community. From generous donors to customers of our tree and native plant sales, the money invested into our organization goes directly to funding conservation on the ground.

In 2018, the District conducted a natural resource assessment to gather input from the community. The results of this research help to direct the work that we will complete within the next five years. You can access this report at <https://muskegoncd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/MCD-2018-Natural-Resource-Assessment.pdf>

Thank you for your support, direction and involvement in the natural resources of Muskegon County!

DNR Wildlife Habitat Grants



The District has been fortunate to receive funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for the past three years through their Wildlife Habitat Grant program. The 2016 funding was used to enhance the Muskegon State Game Area with food plots, native grasses, trees, wildflowers and

habitat bundles totaling 75 acres of improvement. Our 2017 grant award is being used to enhance five of our District properties. Work includes wetland creation, tree planting, native grass and wildflower planting, and installation of habitat boxes. Our 2018 award will be used to improve the Bass River Recreation Area with the installation of food plots, tree planting and native wildflower and grass planting.



We look forward to seeing the improvement that our grant work will provide for the countless species that inhabit these areas. We invite you to take some time to visit these project sites and enjoy the conservation in progress!

Looking Forward

Aside from our DNR Habitat Grant work, there are many other exciting projects in line for the District in 2019!

Our project calendar is slated with varying projects around Muskegon County:

- Grant work through Great Lakes Restoration Initiative planting trees along watercourses
 - Invasive species strike team out in full force this summer
 - Planting trees to reduce runoff with the West Michigan Regional Development Commission
 - Erosion and sedimentation control projects along watercourses
 - School and education outreach programming activities
 - Assessing dunes to ensure protection of threatened and endangered species through Vegetation Removal Assurances
-

Forestry Assistance Program

With roughly 48% of Muskegon County designated as forest land, managing a healthy forest is a vital part of our natural resource conservation. With this idea in mind, the District has a forester on staff as part of the state's Forestry Assistance Program. This program is offered to residents of Muskegon County to provide on-industrial private landowners with information on how they can manage their forest resources in a way that will achieve their specific goals. A woodland or forest can be managed to attract more wildlife, provide recreational areas such as nature trails, ski trails, wildlife viewing opportunities and more. Our forester serves Muskegon, Newaygo and Oceana counties, and in 2018, conducted 99 site visits, covering 7,013 acres.



If you're a forest landowner and are interested in services that the Forestry Assistance Program offers, please contact District Forester, Rod Denning at 616-920-9775, or rod.denning@macd.org.

Building Renovation

Our office may look a bit different the next time you stop in. Throughout 2018, District staff were crammed in a trailer while our office got an overhaul. The new and improved office features cubicles for staff, offices for meetings, a kitchenette, and a better use of space for daily operations.

As a result of a generous gift, our new office now includes the Florence Kiskey Learning Center. This 600ft² area will allow us to offer numerous programs to learners of all ages. We will also have displays featuring local flora and fauna, as well as being a resource for learning material of our natural world.

The improved office will be on display during an upcoming grand opening as well as our annual spring seedling sale. Look for details on both coming soon!

Partners for Stormwater

The Muskegon Conservation District is a partner in the Muskegon MS4 advisory group. This group combines the cities of Muskegon, Norton Shores, Muskegon Heights, Roosevelt Park and North Muskegon as well as the Road and Drain Commissioners with a shared goal of improving stormwater quality in the area.

In 2018, District staff were out surveying the over 200 outfalls of stormwater drains into our waterbodies checking for illicit pollution within our area. This work helps to ensure we are protecting one of our most precious resources in Michigan, our freshwater. The District has also been conducting training with our partners on varying topics regarding stormwater quality.

Additionally, our office houses a nursery of trees grown for the use of stormwater retention. These trees are planted in the MS4 communities as an effective tool of stormwater management. Trees help to filter pollutants such as heavy metals, oils and chemicals from stormwater runoff and control erosion of sediment into our waterbodies.





2018 Annual Report

4735 Holton Road
Twin Lake, MI
49457

Phone: 231.828.5097
Email: muskegoncd@macd.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/Muskegoncd
Instagram: www.instagram.com/muskegon_conservation_district