

JCCD Annual Report

Our mission is to promote wise land use decisions, based upon the capability of the natural resources of Jackson County, through technical assistance and education.



JCCD Activities Summary

2023 was a great year for JCCD. The District held our tree and native plant sale fundraiser in the spring, resulting in the sale of 410 native plants, 26,085 trees and shrubs, including 720 fruit trees and 2,250 berry and asparagus plants, to 412 customers. The sale was held at Keeley Park (Jackson County Fairgrounds) and was held as a drive-in pick-up event. There were a few extra trees offered for sale. Sales increased by 20% from 2022 due to the introduction of online sales.

The District was able to participate in several educational programs throughout the year, including Project RED, Earth Day in the Park, the Learning Fair, Birds Blooms and Butterflies Festival, and the Jackson County Fair where JCCD and the JLW CISMA had a shared informational booth. The JLW CISMA was able to hold several mobile boat washes and was also able to offer several training opportunities within Jackson County. JCCD staff was able to hold two Adopt-A-Highway collections in April and September, utilizing only staff for the clean-ups. The District was also able to hold fall, winter and spring Adopt-A-Stream collections.

JCCD saw the renewal of the CTAI Engineer, MAEAP, Hunter Access Program and MISGP grants. The Conservation District also received extensions to continue work on 2 previous Invasive Species grants from EGLE and a federal GLRI grant. The District also received a \$30,000 Scrap Tire Grant from EGLE and some County funding and were able to collect almost 11,000 scrap passenger and agricultural tires from Jackson County residents. There were 11 separate clean-ups, with 16 townships participating. Also this year, with the receipt of County funding, JCCD was able to continue the Household Hazardous Waste Program. Three collections were held with 338 customers serviced, and 48,477 pounds of HHW collected.

Another service the District provides is equipment rental. The grass-grain drill was rented by 14 customers from November 2022, to September 2023 to plant 144 acres of native grasses and wildlife habitat in Jackson County.

Volunteers are a very important part of the District. This year, 47 volunteers put in approximately 328 hours helping us with various projects, such as the Adopt-A-Stream Program, the tree sale, the scrap tire collection day, the household hazardous waste and the ag tire collection. Their help is always greatly appreciated.



Inside this issue

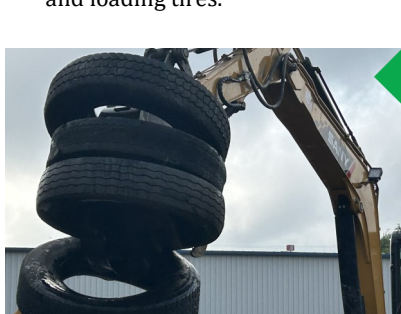
- JCCD Financials 2
- Hunter Access Program 2
- Adopt-A-Stream Program 2
- Jackson County Recycles..... 3
- Household Hazardous Waste..... 3
- Scrap Tire Collections 3
- CTAI 4
- Adopt-A-Highway.....4
- MAEAP 5
- Earth Day 5
- NRCS..... 6
- JLW CISMA..... 7
- Staff and Board 8
- Legislative Day.....8



Jackson County Recycles



- ⇒ Sixteen townships and villages teamed up to hold 10 scrap tire collections and almost 11,000 total tires were collected county-wide.
- ⇒ The Jackson County Recycles Facebook Page and websites were utilized to increase awareness regarding recycling issues, and to promote recycling events happening in the community. Recycling themed Facebook posts had over 35,000 views this year.
- ⇒ Wrote newsletter articles on recycling topics; fielded calls and inquiries on recycling opportunities in the county; offered holiday light recycling after the holidays; promoted Recycling Jackson events.
- ⇒ JCCD, with funding from Jackson County, was able to hold 2 ag tire collection days in FY23. 48 farmers were able to properly dispose of 3 semi trailer loads of agricultural tires. Thanks to Fitzgibbons Fleet Fabricators for the use of their lot and to Michigan SANY for the use of their equipment for unloading and loading tires.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

In 2023, thanks to funding from Jackson County, we were able to continue our Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events. This funding, and the help of the Jackson County DOT and the use of their facilities and forklift, made it possible to hold 3 collections in 2023.

Reservations were required to participate and each customer was charged \$20 to help offset costs.

- Served 338 Jackson County residents
- Collected 48,477 pounds of hazardous waste
- Funded by Jackson County. Other services were provided by the Jackson County DOT and Emmons Services.

Scrap Tire Collections

TIRES COLLECTED:

- 2,016 (Grass Lake, Norvell, Napoleon)
- 2,006 (Tompkins, Rives, Henrietta)
- 1,600 (Hanover, Concord Pulaski)
- 2,837 (County-wide)
- 800 (Leoni)
- 1,969 (Springport)
- 749 (Sandstone, Spring Arbor)

Adopt-A-Highway

JCCD employees cleaned its stretch of M-50 between Wells Road and Napoleon Road in April and September, with a rain-out in July. 48 bags of trash were collected on this 1.9 mile stretch of road.



Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI)

by Alana Helin, CTAI Engineer

□ Invited to co-instruct the Watering Systems for Livestock Training at the NRCS-MI State Office for both sessions in July. Tech was told this was the first time a CTAI employee was asked to instruct that level of training.

□ Promoted technical collaboration by continuing to host monthly Area 4 South Team Work Days for the nearby engineering and technical staff. Tech also created a CTAI MS Team chat available to staff of any CTAI discipline across the state.

□ Provided formal and informal training to field office staff on topics such as livestock pipelines, engineering soils investigations, and surveying.

□ Completed 2 IEs and assisted on 2 others, resulting in \$23,808 of obligated funds for engineering practices in Lapeer County and \$328,665 in Washtenaw County.

□ Made 25+ in-person site visits to 11 farms across 3 counties in SE Michigan for pre-construction meetings, field office support/training, planning, construction inspections, etc.



□ Completed as-builts for 13 practices resulting in \$19,223 of certified funds in Jackson, \$187,062 in Washtenaw, and \$30,101 in Ingham.

□ Provided varying degrees of technical assistance for over 70 conservation practices on 20 farms in 10 counties in SE Michigan.

□ Nominated for, and received, the CDEM Technician of the Year

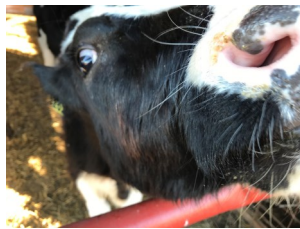


Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)

MAEAP is a program designed to develop and promote a proactive environmental assurance program targeted to the agricultural industry, which ensures that producers are engaging in cost-effective pollution prevention practices and are in compliance with environmental regulations. This program is voluntary, confidential and non-regulatory and works with every size farm no matter the commodity.

The 4 systems available for verification are livestock, farmstead, cropping and forest, wetland and habitat.

This year was another challenging year for the MAEAP program as we had several people in the tech position. This year we spent \$3,000 in cost share money towards practices like soil sampling, well water testing, and spill kits to help local farms work towards MAEAP verification.



Earth Day in the Park— 2023

Earth Day in the Park was a huge success this year! Under the leadership of Earth Coordinator Abby Fitzgibbons, JCCD had a record 21 vendors attend the event. Despite the chilly weather, guests were able to kayak the fishing pond, get their faces painted, enjoy live animals, take home free flowers and tree seedlings, listen to music by Kevin Nichols and so much more!

A special thank you to the title sponsors for this event: MACI, Emmons Services and The Grate Haus. Other sponsors included: Jackson County Farm Bureau, Legacy Land Conservancy, Dahlem, Fitzgibbons Fleet Fabricators, American 1 FCU, and Greenstone Farm Credit Services.





United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

By Jeff Lolkus, Jackson County District Conservationist

Throughout 2023, NRCS continued to expand its' programs within Jackson County. Over \$500,000 in new funding was secured for conservation projects and almost 100 practices were installed. We have been fortunate to increase our local workforce to include Soil Conservationist Casey White and anticipate a Soil Conservation Technician will be joining our team very soon! These positions will be key toward keeping projects on schedule and delivering the historic levels of funding that have been allocated through the Inflation Reduction Act. We are hopeful that the additional funding levels will help us meet the growing demand for conservation within our communities!

Common Practices by Land Use	
CROPLAND	Cover Crops
	Residue Management
	Nutrient Management
	Filter Strips
	Field Borders
FARMSTEAD	Heavy Use Area Protection
	Roof Runoff Structure
	Waste Storage Facility
ASSOCIATED AG. LAND	Tree Plantings
	Native Prairie Plantings
	Brush Management
PASTURELAND	Prescribed Grazing
	Fence
	Livestock Pipeline
	Watering Facility
FORESTLAND	Forest Stand Improvement



2023 By The Numbers:	
New funding	\$540,293
Cost-share disbursed	\$252,204
Practices installed	88
Active contracts	58
Practices scheduled	189
Open obligations	\$1,210,892



From top to bottom right: understory burn, tree planting, cover crop mix, fencing, cereal rye, high tunnel and strip till. Photos by Jeffrey Lolkus, NRCS.



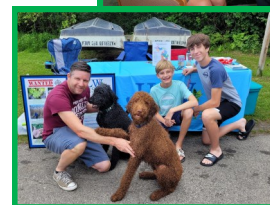
Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area



The JLW CISMA is approaching its sixth year of providing invasive species education, outreach, survey, and management activities in the Jackson, Lenawee, and Washtenaw County region! Funding from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative allowed us to survey and manage for invasive species, and provide training opportunities to increase local capacity. This year saw the appearance of three high profile forest pest species (hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), box tree moth and beech leaf disease), resulting in a year of learning and new partnerships to meet these new challenges! This brief summary includes survey, management, and outreach efforts during the 2023 fiscal year (October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023).

Education & Outreach

Education and outreach is an integral part of invasive species prevention and management! Our program and social media campaign assisted residents, local governments, non-profit organisations and other partners in being able to identify and report watchlist species, decontamination tips and expertise in how to manage species. During the fiscal year, we were able to provide 125 outreach opportunities reached 4570 people (via seminars, attending community events, responding to phone calls or emails). Seventy-six of those opportunities were direct engagements, that resulted in 1916 people being reached either face-to-face, phone or virtual seminar.

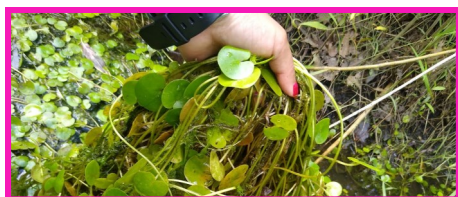


Survey & Treatment

Approximately 2050 acres of land and water were surveyed by JLW CISMA staff with some assistance by state agencies, partners, and residents. We surveyed for European frog-bit, red swamp crayfish, Japanese knotweed, Japanese stiltgrass, mile-a-minute weed and other species. Through small grants programs, contracted treatment, partner and JLW CISMA staff time, we were able to perform management activities on 26 acres of land, treating just under 10 acres of stiltgrass at Watkins Lake, removing seven garbage bags full of garlic mustard and spotted knapweed at Waterloo Recreation Area, and

Future Activities

We were recently awarded a GLRI grant to map large clusters of tree of heaven, remove them from Hidden Lake Gardens, and work with grant partners to host outreach activities. Continued survey and monitoring efforts are planned for European frog-bit, red swamp crayfish and mile-a-minute weed. Please contact us if you are interested in us giving a presentation at your next meeting, classroom or community event! We have the capability to do both in-person or virtual events.



-  @JLWCISMA
-  @JLW_CISM
-  @JLW_CISM

Social Media Campaign

	Posts (#)	*Passive Impressions
Facebook	181	19,354
Twitter	129	22,497
Instagram	83	14303

** Passive impressions are number of people who have been exposed to posts*

If you have questions, please contact Dr. Shikha Singh at shikha.singh@macd.org or (517) 395 - 2089. Or visit our website: www.jlwcisma.weebly.com

2023 Legislative Day at the Capitol

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jill Yoxheimer.....Chairperson
- Steve Law.....Vice-Chairman
- Steve Noble.....Treasurer
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- Nathan Drumhiller.....Member

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- Lori Fitzgibbons.....District Manager
- Joselyn Ralph.....MAEAP Tech
- Shikha Singh.....CISMA Manager
- Jeff Lolkus...NRCS District Conservationist
- Casey White.....NRCS Soil Conservationist



Board Vice-Chairman Steve Law and District Manager Lori Fitzgibbons attended the 2023 Legislative Day in May and were able to sit down and speak with Senators Sue Shink (below), and Jonathan Lindsey, and State Representatives Schmaltz, Lightner, Conlin, and Rheingans to answer questions and advocate for Conservation Districts in Michigan.



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