

Michigan Conservation Districts



Michigan House of Representatives
House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural
Development, and Natural Resources

Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan

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Michigan's 75 Conservation Districts are:

Units of government of the State providing soil, water and plant management assistance to working landowners and citizens to conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan.



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Origin of Conservation Districts

- 1935 – Federal Soil Conservation Service established
- 1937 – Michigan passed Soil Conservation District Law Act 297, P.A. 1937.
- Created by a vote of the people, and governed by a locally elected five-member board, to provide conservation programs assistance to their local community.



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Michigan Conservation Districts



Local Districts provide the boots on the ground. Directing and delivering Federal, State and local programs to address soil, water and plant issues on private lands.

Farmers + Landowners receive conservation assistance:

- Technical
- Financial
- Educational

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The Conservation Partnership



Local:

Michigan Conservation Districts

State:

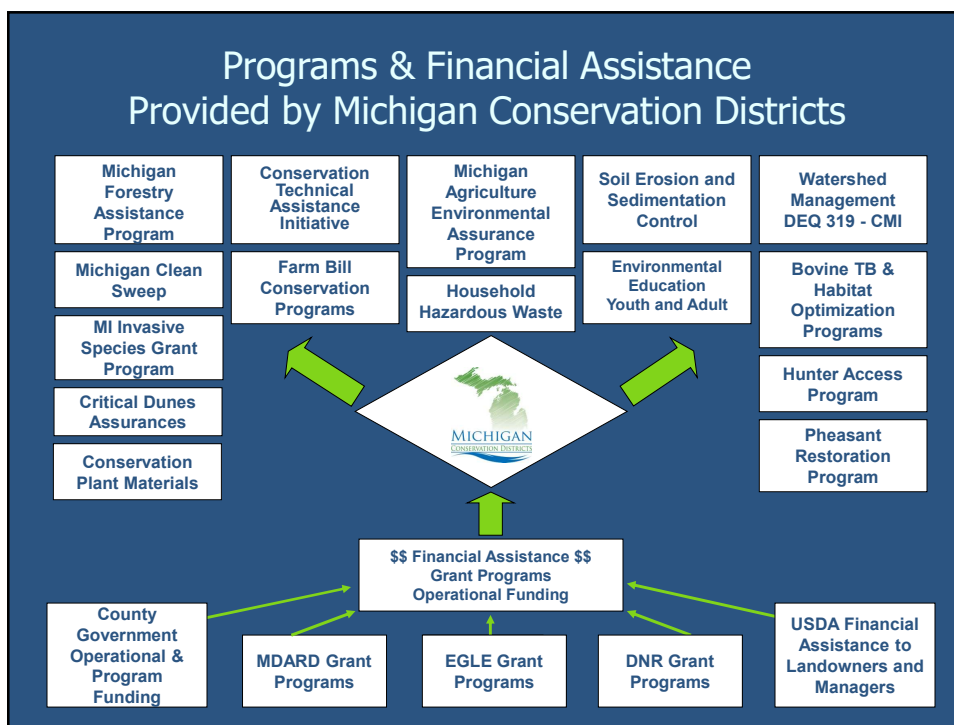
Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD)

Federal:

USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

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Programs & Financial Assistance Provided by Michigan Conservation Districts



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Federal Programs Delivered by Michigan Conservation Districts



- Farm Bill Conservation Title – Average \$25M in cost share funds
- Funds are directly passed through to farmers and landowners – 100%
- CDs provide technical assistance one on one with farmers and landowners to help implement conservation practices
- Voluntary programs locally driven by Conservation Districts



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State Programs Delivered by Michigan Conservation Districts

- Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program
 - 42 MAEAP Grants to 37 Conservation Districts
 - 1-2 MAEAP techs for entire Upper Peninsula.
- Forestry Assistance Program
 - 19 Grants to 19 Conservation Districts
 - Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District
- Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative
 - 24 CTAI Grants to 18 Conservation Districts
 - 20 technicians jointly funded between NRCS and MDARD.
- State funded technicians sometimes cover multiple counties, and admin support only goes to the district who employs the technician.
- All of this is done without core funding!



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State Programs Delivered by Michigan Conservation Districts

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
- Pheasant Restoration Initiative
- Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program
- EGLE 319 Program
- Michigan Clean Sweep
- Bovine TB & Habitat Optimization Programs
- Hunter Access Program



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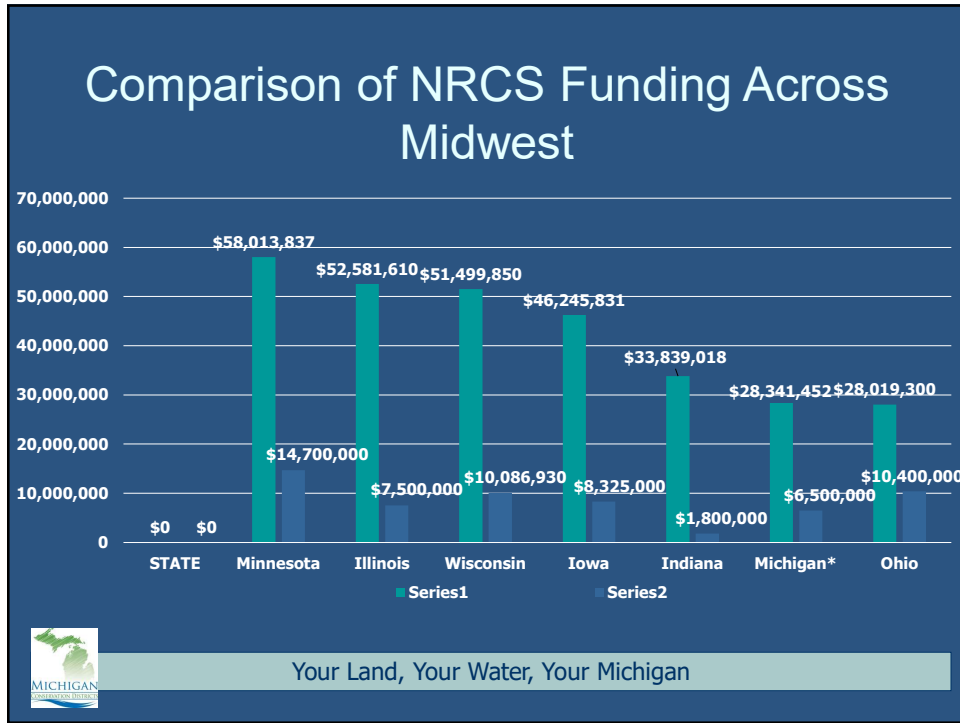
Current Michigan Conservation District Funding

- 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 landowners
- Private Foundations
- No state core funding since 2009



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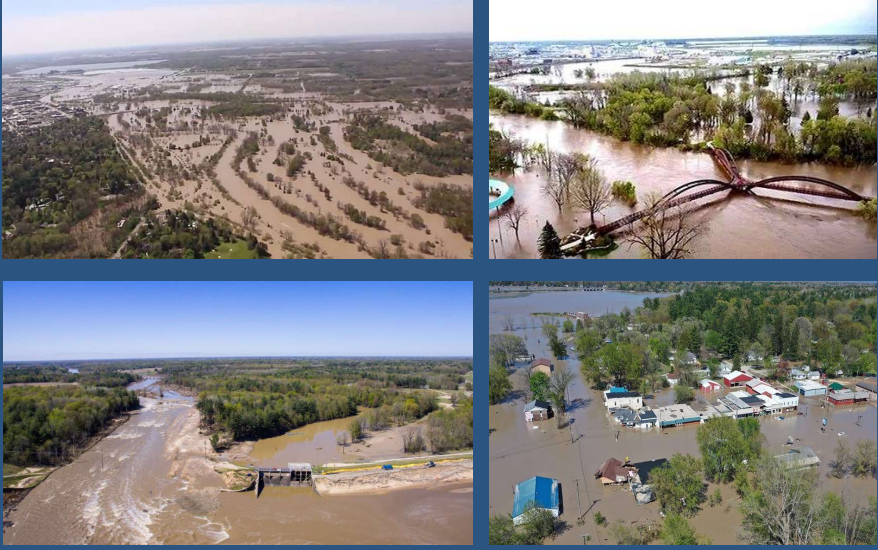
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Estimated \$338 Million in Damages



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FY2022 Program Budget Request

“Securing the Future for Michigan Conservation Programs Delivery”

Provide core funding of \$3 million for all 75 Conservation Districts (\$40,000 per District)

Purpose: Identification of 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

Outcomes:

- Identify programs and technical resources needed to address the local issues
- Implement district resource assessments to assist landowners
- Increases district capacity to leverage funding from other sources (i.e. NRCS Farm Bill, Private Foundation Dollars, and County Governments)



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