MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION of CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

P.O. Box 477, Flint, MI 48501
616-279-7662

executive.director@macd.org
www.macd.org

Why Conservation Districts?

Conservation Districts are special-purpose units of state government, established in 1937 to protect and preserve Michigan's extraordinary natural resources. With 72% of Michigan's land privately owned, Conservation Districts provide non-regulatory, voluntary services that empower communities to be responsible stewards of the land. Michigan's resources are unmatched: the state holds 20% of the world's fresh water, anchors a $125 billion agricultural sector with the second-highest agricultural diversity in the nation, and supports a rich variety of native plants and forested lands.

Statewide Conservation District Impact

Conservation Districts provide significant impact in every community they serve across all 83 counties. Programs support agriculture, forested land, watershed and wetlands, native plant habitats, and more!

4,805,913 trees and plants distributed in the last 3 years

4,822 municipal meetings attended

531 Programs Many with cost share

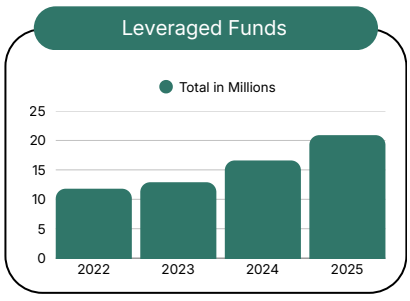
320 full-time staff

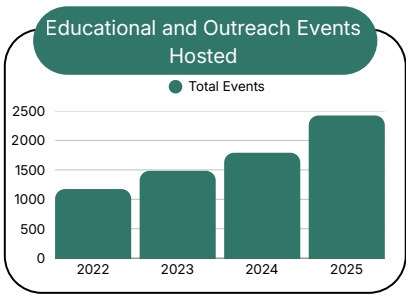
$78 million ROI

(Represents both state grants and federal farm bill contracts)

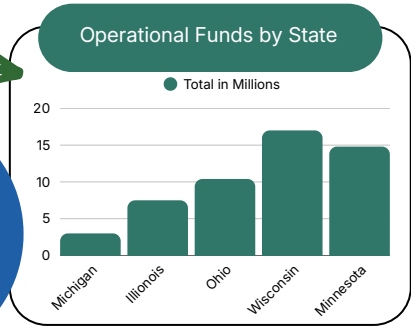
Why Operational Funds

Operational funding gives Districts the stability to grow and serve their communities, and the results of the last four years prove it works. But demand still outpaces capacity. Without additional investment, Michigan risks leaving Federal dollars on the table, weakening local economies, and leaving communities without the conservation support they need.





Michigan is lagging behind our neighbors



We Need Your Support!

The Need: Conservation Districts require $13 million in operational funding — enough to secure a full-time District Manager, full-time Technical Staff, and benefits at every District, building lasting local capacity. This gives communities both economic and environmental results.

The Solution: Continue to allocate $3 million in operational funds. Allocate $5 million in matching funds as a new directed line item within MDARD's budget. $5 million matching funds can come from county and municipal governments and community match dollars. This model incentivizes local investment, with each District receiving up to $173,333 annually.

We need your support. Sign our letter today to champion increased operational funding for Conservation Districts.