



CONSERVATION CORNER

A publication of the Jackson County Conservation District

2017 ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

JANUARY 2018
SPECIAL EDITION

For the past year, JCCD has continued to work hard to carry out its mission of “promoting wise land-use decisions, based upon the natural resources of Jackson County, through technical assistance and education.”

JCCD Activities Summary (October 1, 2016-September 30, 2017)

- ◆ Assistance provided to over 1000 customers in the office and over the phone.
- ◆ 25,890 trees, 528 fruit trees, 635 berry bushes, 44 pounds of native grasses, 430 native plants sold.
- ◆ 62 volunteers contributed 356 total volunteer hours at tree sales and special events.
- ◆ Renewal of CTAI Engineer and Hunter Access Program Grants
- ◆ 2017 Scrap Tire grant received (10 events, collecting 10,230 scrap tires)
- ◆ Received a Jackson Community Foundation grant to fund a community recycling survey
- ◆ Continuation of the Adopt-A-Stream (2 collections and 1 bug ID event) and Adopt-A-Highway Programs (July event)
- ◆ 4 interviews on 970 AM Talk Radio Ag Show
- ◆ TV Interview for Hazardous Waste Collection, 3 appearances on JTV’s Bart Hawley Show
- ◆ No-till grass grain drill rental to 6 customers, planting 34 acres of native grasses and wildlife habitat
- ◆ Participation in planning and carrying out special events in Jackson County:
 - *Earth Day Festival at Cascades Park*
 - *Project RED (Rural Education Day)*
 - *Community Garden Plant Sale*
- ◆ Participation in special events in Jackson County:
 - *JAXPO*
 - *Arbor Day Celebration at Potter Park Zoo*
 - *Learning Fair at Northwest Schools*
 - *Jackson County Fair*
 - *Every Kid in the Park*
 - *GREAT Annual River Clean-up*

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Statement of Revenues and Expenses for Year Ending September 30, 2017 (audit pending)

REVENUES		EXPENSES		EXPENSES (cont'd)	
County Funds:		Program Expenses:		Website	\$ 107.40
Jackson County	\$ 10,000.00	CTAI	\$ 2,005.24	COGS	\$ 6,982.55
Recycling Coordinator	\$ 20,000.00	HAP (Hunter Access Program)	\$ 386.75	Community Promotion	\$ 980.06
Adopt-A-Stream	\$ 7,000.00	Adopt-A-Stream	\$ 1,409.32	Misc. Expenses/Fees	\$ 104.42
Grant Funds:		Recycling	\$ 5,187.83	Organization Activities:	
CTAI (Conservation Tech. Assistance)	\$ 64,999.46	Scrap Tire Grant	\$ 20,496.00	Workshops	\$ 0.00
HAP (Hunter Access Program)	\$ 1,993.55	Tree/Native Plant Sales	\$ 19,138.61	Educational Supplies	\$ 0.00
Scrap Tire Grant (MDEQ)	\$ 20,536.00	Earth Day	\$ 2,997.83	Fees/Dues	\$ 1,025.00
Jackson Comm. Foundation	\$ 800.00	Office Expenses:		Annual Meeting	\$ 2,101.51
Local Sources:		Payroll & Employee Benefits	\$ 102,523.25	Directors' Expense	\$ 18.00
Earth Day	\$ 2,997.83	Employer Taxes	\$ 8,003.25	Envirothon	\$ 100.00
Tree/Native Plant Sales	\$ 42,358.08	Supplies/books/products	\$ 1,363.21	<u>Training</u>	<u>\$ 743.07</u>
Recycling Income	\$ 1,403.44	Insurance	\$ 272.19	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$180,667.88
Equipment Rental	\$ 605.00	Mileage	\$ 1,016.78	NET GAIN	\$ -2,428.93
Meetings/Workshops	\$ 2,110.00	Copier Lease	\$ 333.95		
General Interest	\$ 87.86	Audit	\$ 2,500.00		
Conservation Products	\$ 655.00	Bank Charges	\$ 871.66		
<u>Miscellaneous Income</u>	<u>\$ 2,692.73</u>				
TOTAL REVENUE	\$178,238.95				

HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM



JCCD has 1 property currently enrolled in the HAP Program for a total of 300 acres. The Mikelonis property is located in northern Jackson County and Southern Ingham County. This property was very well utilized during the 2017 season with several hunters reporting successful hunts.

The Conservation District is currently seeking other interested property owners to enroll in this program and is promoting the program through event displays, newsletter articles, mailers and radio interviews.



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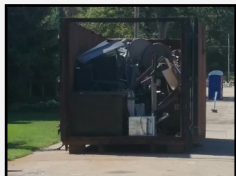
JACKSON COUNTY RECYCLES

- ⇒ Created second annual recycling newsletter, updated informational flyer
- ⇒ Applied for, and was awarded, a Jackson Community Foundation Grant
- ⇒ Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event held at Jackson County Fairgrounds on September 23
- ⇒ Several recycling themed articles in Grass Lake Times and Brooklyn Exponent (Recycling Contamination, Electronics Recycling, Battery Recycling, Compostable To-go Packaging, Tire Recycling, Plastics Recycling)
- ⇒ 10 Tire Clean-up events, over 10,000 tires collected (applied for 2018 Scrap Tire Grant)
- ⇒ Recycling presentation to 250 local elementary school students at Every Kid in the Park in August
- ⇒ Created a recycling survey for Jackson County residents
 - Survey administered via email, JCCD newsletter subscribers, events. Currently working on mailer.
 - Continue to record and analyze collected results
- ⇒ Continue to seek other funding to improve recycling and HHW programs in Jackson County



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

On September 23, a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event was held at the Jackson County Fairgrounds, The following items were collected from over 700 customers:



- ⇒ 59,494 pounds of hazardous waste (39,667 pounds collected in 2016)
- ⇒ 37,230 pounds of latex paint (18,354 pounds collected in 2016)
- ⇒ 39,150 pounds of electronic waste (25,352 pounds collected in 2016)
- ⇒ 5,460 pounds of scrap metal (4,960 pounds collected in 2016)

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ADOPT-A-STREAM PROGRAM

- ⇒ Collection events held in October and February. The May event was cancelled due to severe weather and high water levels.
- ⇒ Very diverse types of “bugs” found in local streams, including stoneflies, mayflies, dragonflies and many others. All streams monitored scored “good-excellent”.
- ⇒ 22 volunteers contributed over 76 hours searching for and identifying the macroinvertebrates found in the river.
- ⇒ Expanding the program to include classroom instruction and fieldtrips



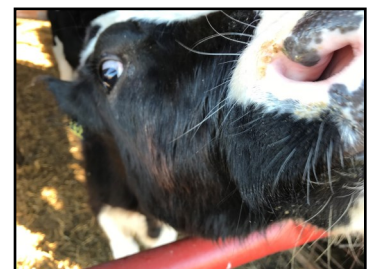
Winter Stonefly Hunt 2017



by Jeremiah Swain, MAEAP Technician

Projects completed during FY-2017 under MAEAP included:

- 9 new farms verified in 6 different systems
- 100+ risk reductions
- Regional Sprayer Clinic with 50+ attendees
- MAEAP Booth at conferences and shows
- 4 well water sampling events



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U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service



Establishment of pasture planting

2017 COMPLETED PRACTICES		
<u>Practice Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Conservation Cover	26	ac
Cover Crop	4,212	ac
Fence	4,000	ft
Pasture Planting	23	ac
Brush Management	2	ac
High Tunnel	6,800	sq ft
Wetland Restoration	58	ac



Water pipeline installation for livestock



Rotational grazing of cattle



Cover crop in standing corn



High tunnel system for extending the growing season

-Approximately \$239,000 cost-shared through USDA programs in 2017
-Approximately \$261,000 received in 2017 for future projects on 14 different farms



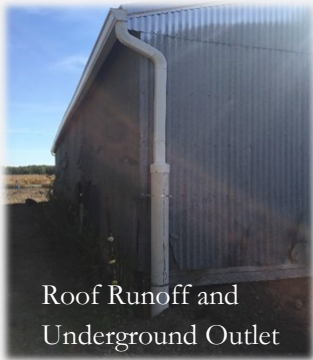
Cover crop air seeder

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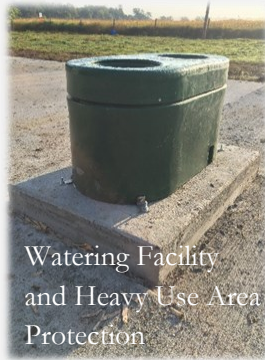
CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE (CTAI)

The Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI) program helps to provide conservation and engineering assistance to land-owners in an effort to remediate natural resource concerns and preserve surrounding resources. Jackson County’s CTAI engineer works jointly with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and the Jackson County Conservation District (JCCD) to help provide environmental benefits throughout Jackson County and six neighboring counties in Southeast Michigan. The CTAI engineer is responsible for completing site surveys and evaluations, designing conservation practices, and inspecting the construction and implementation of the conservation practices.

In fiscal year 2017, the CTAI program was able to address and remediate resource concerns relating to soil erosion and compaction, soil and water contamination, drainage water management, animal waste storage, chemical handling and containment, water supply and storage for livestock, and wetland restoration. Along with providing technical assistance for conservation practices, the Jackson County CTAI engineer also supports and engages in JCCD events that include the yearly tree sale, Learning Fair, G.R.E.A.T. river clean-up, household hazardous waste collection day and other events that promote a more sustainable and environmentally aware community. Jackson County is excited to be involved with the CTAI program and the positive impact it has on its local and neighboring communities.



Roof Runoff and
Underground Outlet



Watering Facility
and Heavy Use Area
Protection



Livestock Pipeline

JCCD WELCOMES NEW CTAI ENGINEER, MITCH REED

Hi my name is Mitch Reed and I am the new CTAI Engineer at the Jackson County Conservation District. I grew up in Northern Michigan, where I learned to enjoy the outdoors through hunting, fishing, camping and annual canoe trips down the AuSable River. I instantly knew that I wanted to pursue a career that involved both working within, and improving upon, the environment and all it has to offer. After high school, I attended Michigan State University, where I graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Engineering and a B.S. in Environmental Biology/Microbiology. My time at Michigan State allowed me to grow both personally and professionally. I enjoyed the classes, professors and all the experiences MSU had to offer, which only helped to assure that I was meant to work in the environmental field. My previous job was with the wildlife department of the U.S. Forest Service. I was responsible for conducting field surveys for sensitive species, while also being a tour guide for the Kirtland’s Warbler, a recovering species that summers in only specific areas of Northern Michigan. While my main duties were within the wildlife department, I also worked within the fire department, where I was able to eventually head out West and fight wildfires in Nevada, Idaho and Montana. Those were tremendous experiences of comradery and teamwork that I will never forget. Although I enjoyed working within the wildlife department, I always wanted to pursue a career in engineering. I am beyond excited and ready to start a new chapter in my life as the CTAI Engineer for the Jackson County Conservation District.



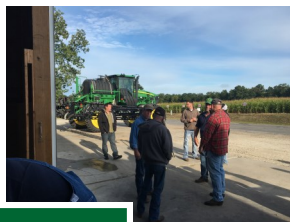
JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2017 ANNUAL REPORT IN PICTURES...



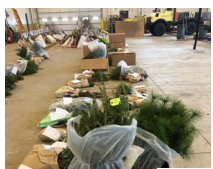
Arbor Day
Celebration At
Potter Park Zoo



Sprayer Clinic



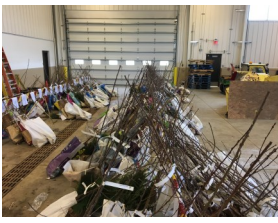
Household Hazardous
Waste Collection



Spring
Tree Sale



Learning Fair



Scrap Tire
Collection



Project RED



2017
Conservation
District
Annual
Meeting



G.R.E.A.T.
River Clean-up



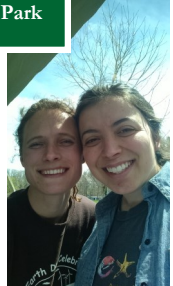
Fall
Adopt-A-
Stream



Earth Day
in the Park



Spring and Fall
Adopt-A-
Highway



MAEAP



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YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER, YOUR MICHIGAN



Visit our website:
www.jacksoncd.org



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The Jackson County Conservation District (JCCD) is a locally elected nonpartisan entity of state government, whose purpose is to promote wise land use decisions, based upon the capability of the natural resources of Jackson County, through technical assistance and education.

JCCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kenny Price, *Chairman*

Greg Sanford, *Vice-Chairman*

Steve Noble, *Treasurer*

R. James Stovall, *Member*

Jill Yoxheimer, *Member*

JCCD Board meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 8:00 am at the JCCD office and are open to the public.

All Jackson County Conservation District programs and services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.