



JCCD ANNUAL REPORT

A publication of the Jackson County Conservation District

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 2019

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, 2017-September 30, 2018)*

- ◆ Assistance provided to over 1,400 customers in the office and over the phone
- ◆ 25,090 trees, 540 fruit trees, 950 berry bushes and native plants, and 84 pounds of native grasses sold
- ◆ 77 volunteers contributed 431 total volunteer hours at the tree sale and special events
- ◆ Renewal of CTAI Engineer and Hunter Access Program Grants
- ◆ 2018 Scrap Tire grant received (collected 9,125 scrap tires)
- ◆ Received MAEAP grant through MDARD, and an invasive species grant (MISGP) through MDNR
- ◆ Continuation of the Adopt-A-Stream (3 collections and 2 bug ID events) and Adopt-A-Highway Programs (April and September clean-ups)
- ◆ MAEAP interview WIN 98.5 on the Farm to Family Podcast
- ◆ Appearances on JTV’s Bart Hawley Show and WCTN TV
- ◆ No-till grass grain drill rental to 8 customers, planting 56 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*
 - *Sportsman’s Expo at Jackson County Fairgrounds*
 - *Arbor Day Celebration at Potter Park Zoo*
 - *Learning Fair at Northwest Schools*
 - *Jackson County Fair*
 - *GREAT Annual River Clean-up*
 - *Outdoor Jamboree at Lake Hudson Rec Area*

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Statement of Revenues and Expenses for Year Ending September 30, 2018 (audit pending)

| <u>REVENUES</u> | <u>REVENUES (cont'd)</u> | <u>EXPENSES (cont'd)</u> |
|--|--|---|
| County Funds: | Conservation Products \$ 1,117.74 | Insurance \$ 199.77 |
| Jackson County \$ 10,000.00 | <u>Miscellaneous Income</u> \$ 2,461.50 | Mileage \$ 702.15 |
| Recycling Coordinator \$ 20,000.00 | TOTAL REVENUE \$285,690.50 | Copier Lease \$ 254.38 |
| Adopt-A-Stream \$ 7,000.00 | <u>EXPENSES</u> | Audit \$ 2,000.00 |
| Grant Funds: | Program Expenses: | Bank Charges \$ 172.41 |
| CTAI (Conservation Tech. Assistance) \$ 57,827.73 | CTAI \$ 2,968.58 | COGS \$ 7,429.21 |
| MAEAP \$ 71,018.38 | MAEAP \$ 9,724.97 | Community Promotion \$ 1,150.00 |
| MAEAP Cost Share \$ 3,000.00 | MAEAP Cost Share \$ 3,000.00 | Misc. Expenses/Fees \$ 492.00 |
| CISMA Grant \$ 30,330.56 | CISMA \$ 3,281.28 | Organization Activities: |
| HAP (Hunter Access Program) \$ 1,864.38 | HAP (Hunter Access Program) \$ 282.35 | Workshops \$ 106.46 |
| Scrap Tire Grant (MDEQ) \$ 18,721.00 | Adopt-A-Stream \$ 1,061.14 | Sprayer Clinic \$ 1,486.31 |
| Jackson Comm. Foundation \$ 4,200.00 | Recycling \$ 5,187.83 | CISMA Match \$ 590.75 |
| Local Sources: | Scrap Tire Grant \$ 18,721.00 | Fees/Dues \$ 1,025.00 |
| Earth Day \$ 5,652.28 | Tree/Native Plant Sales \$ 19,233.65 | Annual Meeting \$ 1,852.20 |
| Tree/Native Plant Sales \$ 45,214.30 | Earth Day \$ 5,652.28 | Directors' Expense \$ 130.00 |
| Recycling Income \$ 3,003.44 | Office Expenses: | Envirothon \$ 100.00 |
| Equipment Rental \$ 875.00 | Payroll & Employee Benefits \$ 174,913.53 | <u>Training</u> \$ 823.28 |
| Meetings/Workshops/Clinics \$ 3,281.20 | Employer Taxes \$ 13,757.55 | TOTAL EXPENSES \$278,689.42 |
| General Interest \$ 122.99 | Supplies/books/products \$ 2,661.34 | NET GAIN \$ 7,001.08 |

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 2018 season with several hunters reporting successful hunts.

Because of the current Chronic Wasting Disease issue in Michigan, some of the money from HAP is being diverted to address this problem. It is unknown at this time whether or not the Mikelonis property will be funded beyond the 2018-2019 hunting season.



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JACKSON COUNTY RECYCLES

- ⇒ Updated the annual recycling guide and informational flyer
- ⇒ Gave a recycling presentation at the Arbor Day Celebration at Potter Park Zoo to 130 students
- ⇒ Completed recycling survey for Jackson County Residents (results given upon request)
- ⇒ Thirteen townships and villages teamed up to hold seven tire collections this year. The county-wide event collected 1,055 tires in two hours. Submitted a grant application for the 2019 Scrap Tire grant through MDEQ
- ⇒ Jackson County Recycles Facebook Page was created to increase awareness regarding recycling issues, and to promote recycling events happening in the community
- ⇒ Wrote monthly newsletter articles on topics such as Zero Waste When Spring Cleaning, Tire Recycling, Food Waste (Composting), Hazardous Waste, Pumpkin Disposal, Recycling Contamination, and Holiday Waste
- ⇒ Created a Summer Recycling Series of workshops which were held at the Meijer District Library. The three activities each focused on a different recyclable material. Programs were focused for families and children. Continue to seek other funding to improve recycling and HHW programs in Jackson County and to get students more involved in recycling
- ⇒ A Worm Composting workshop was held where participants learned about using worms to reduce food waste



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

On September 22, a Household Hazardous Waste Collection event was held at the Jackson County Fairgrounds. The following items were collected from approximately 400 customers:



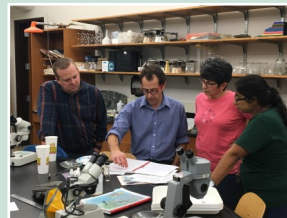
- ⇒ 31,130 pounds of hazardous waste
- ⇒ 18,700 pounds of latex paint
- ⇒ 14,000 pounds of electronic waste
- ⇒ 1,400 pounds of scrap metal



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ADOPT-A-STREAM PROGRAM

- ⇒ Collection events were held in February, May and September with Bug ID nights being held for the spring and fall collections.
- ⇒ There were eight collection sites within the Grand River Watershed. These sites produced a variety of insects including stoneflies, dragonflies, mayflies and much more.
- ⇒ Ten of our 31 volunteers were new to the program this year. Volunteers contributed over 100 hours searching for and identifying the macroinvertebrates.
- ⇒ We continue to educate people at outreach events about water quality and the Adopt-A-Stream program.



Adopt-A-Stream and Bug ID night



by Jeremiah Swain, *MAEAP Technician*

MAEAP projects completed during FY-2018 :

- 9 new farms verified in 19 different systems
- 100+ risk reductions
- Regional Sprayer Clinic with 40+ attendees
- MAEAP Booth at conferences and shows
- 2 well water sampling events
- Precision Ag Field Day



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Natural Resources Conservation Service

A word from your local USDA-NRCS representative:

Hello fellow conservationists,

I am happy to report it's been another productive year providing technical and program assistance to the Jackson County community. Whether it's helping connect customers to local and regional resources or helping plan, design, and install conservation projects, we have accomplished a tremendous amount of work throughout the area. Recent studies have attempted to place a monetary value on conservation investments and the dividends they accrue over time. Some conservative estimates point to returns of around \$4.00 for every \$1.00 spent! In an age of growing concern over fiscal responsibility, these figures demonstrate something we can all agree is a benefit to taxpayers and land stewards alike, not to mention a significant benefit to our local economy.

In 2018, over 40 practices were completed with program assistance in Jackson County, representing over a hundred thousand dollars in conservation infrastructure. By improving the landscape, we're also helping mitigate the costs associated with potential hazards such as soil and nutrient loss, impairment of waterbodies, and the spread of invasive species.

A final note I would like to add is that although conservation is a goal we all strive for, it's important to recognize that we can never totally achieve it. It takes constant management to balance the needs of today with the shifting priorities and opportunities that lie ahead. This should not be taken as a bleak outlook, but rather as a realistic view of the need for involvement across all levels of society to sustain our incredible natural systems. From the earliest stages of grade school to the largest institutions of government, we all have a very important part to play. This simple fact also highlights the significance in gathering here now to celebrate all that we have been able to accomplish so far. For those here today, I thank you for your continued commitment to protecting our resources and I commend you all for doing what you do every day. Conservation is not always the easiest path, but it is the right one.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Lolkus".

Jeff Lolkus
District Conservationist
Jackson, MI

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CONSERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE INITIATIVE (CTAI)

The Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI) program helps to provide conservation and engineering assistance to landowners 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 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 2018, 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. Since joining the team in July, Alana has worked to close three contracts and has been involved in the design, inspection, and evaluation of the practices listed above.

Along with providing technical assistance for conservation practices, the Jackson County CTAI engineer also supports and engages in JCCD events such as the annual tree sale, household hazardous waste collection, and other activities that promote a more sustainable and environmentally aware community. Alana enjoyed taking part in the yearly tire collection, Adopt-A-Stream collection and identification, and the G.R.E.A.T. river clean-up.

Jackson County is excited to be involved with the CTAI program and the positive impact it has on its local and neighboring communities.








Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area - Annual Summary for 2018

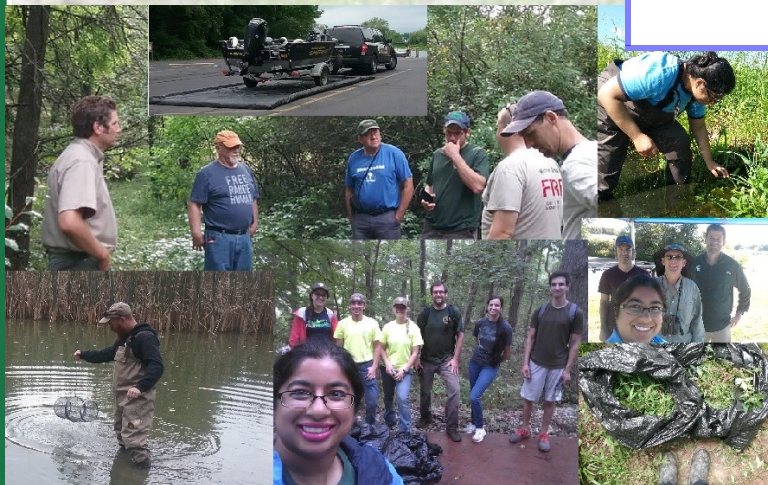


The JLW CISMA received funding from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program to begin management and education activities related to invasive species. Since March 15th, the CISMA has organized and/or participated in the following activities and achieved the below milestones:

- Participated in several MSU boat washes and boater outreach activities, attended county fairs in Jackson and Lenawee Counties, visited Lumen Christi Highschool, had booths at youth oriented fairs and jamborees, organized seminars and meetings for local organizations, fielded numerous calls/in person visits/emails related to invasive species management (*989 active contacts*)
- Created and maintained a significant online social media presence where our content reached *50,242* people's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and/or YouTube accounts
- In the process of finalizing the strategic management plan
- JLW CISMA personell performed *9.25 hours* of mechanical treatment for Parrot feather and Japanese stiltgrass
- Created *four handouts* such as activity sheets, flyers and informational postcards
- *Received supplemental funding* for Japanese stiltgrass management
- Provided guidance to residents on management of Phragmites and Japanese knotweed
- Have *two videos* in circulation that discuss the importance of invasive species
- Currently have *21 partner organizations*

Number of Social Media Posts and Audience Reach Between March and December 2018

| |  |  |  |
|------------------------|---|---|---|
| | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram |
| Number of Posts | 70 | 65 | 36 |
| Passive Reach | 27,261 | 21,446 | 502 |



JCCD WELCOMES.....

CISMA COORDINATOR, SHIKHA SINGH

Shikha Singh is the coordinator for the Jackson-Lenawee-Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (JLW CISMA). Shikha is originally from London, Ontario and has been working on Great Lakes issues for the past 14 years. She completed her bachelors degree at the University of Western Ontario and came to Michigan State University to complete her graduate work in the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. Her masters research focused on water quality in the Grand River. Her dissertation research explored what local governments were doing to address water conservation issues, invasive species, and outreach and education tactics used to inform their constituents of environmental issues. Her background also includes working with invasive species management, sustainability, teaching/outreach and environmental education. Some of her hobbies include playing soccer, running and cooking international foods.



PROGRAM MANAGER, NICOLE VANDERPLOEG

I grew up in West Michigan where I often visited, beautiful Lake Michigan. My love for nature blossomed when I was young, and become more prominent as I got older. My family would usually take family trips to parks in Michigan, but also outside of the state which sealed my desire to make a career involving the outdoors. I attended Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in Recreation Parks & Leisure Services, which lead me to working with the National Park Service as a seasonal National Park Ranger for 4 years. As a Park Ranger I would educate and connect visitors to the resource in attempt to grow a sense of appreciation for the natural world. I worked at 4 different parks and my most recent placement was located at Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. After four years I decided to explore and get out of a seasonal lifestyle, which lead me to the Jackson Conservation District. I am very excited to get out and educate the community on the resources and ways to help the environment.



CTAI ENGINEER, ALANA HELIN



Hi everyone! My name is Alana Helin and I'm the new CTAI Engineer at the Jackson County Conservation District. I grew up in rural Southwest Wisconsin and spent most summers on the Mississippi or a lake up north. The importance of water resources in my life and my interest in science led me pursue a career that would combine the two. I graduated with a B.S. in Environmental Engineering from University of Wisconsin-Platteville and a M.S. in Civil Engineering from University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. At UW, I became involved with Engineers Without Borders and traveled with them to Ghana, West Africa. That trip gave me the travel bug and I quickly followed up with trips to Panama, France, and Italy. I have previously held an Environmental Engineering position with John Deere Dubuque Works and was a mentor for the Odyssey of the Mind. Most recently, I worked internationally for Biome Environmental Trust with a focus on local lakes and wetlands in Bangalore, India. If you can't already tell, I enjoy traveling, trying different foods, and learning new things across a variety of subjects. I am incredibly excited to explore Michigan, especially the Jackson area, and look forward to working alongside you all!

JACKSON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2018 ANNUAL REPORT IN PICTURES...



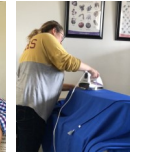
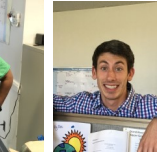
Fall Adopt-A-Highway



Paper Recycling Workshop



Staff Pics



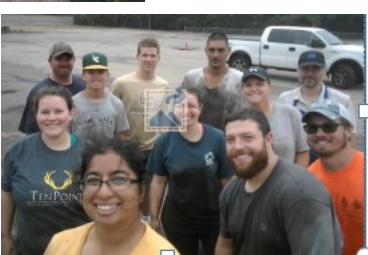
Adopt-A-Stream and Bug ID



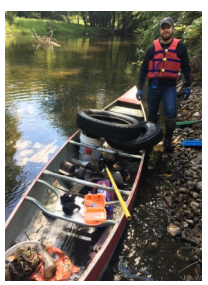
2018 JCCD Annual Meeting



Scrap Tire Collection



Winter Stonely Hunt



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



Household Hazardous Waste Collection



MAEAP Regional Sprayer Clinic and Precision Ag Field Day



JAXPO





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YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER, YOUR MICHIGAN



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www.jacksoncd.org



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Jeffrey Lolkus, *NRCS District Conservationist*
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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.