

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

2021 was another unusual year for JCCD. The pandemic offered many challenges, but, despite locked office doors and limited time in the office, JCCD powered through yet again. The District was able to hold our tree and native plant sale fundraiser in the spring, resulting in the sale of 283 native plants, 21,040 trees and shrubs, including 575 fruit trees and 1400 berry and asparagus plants, to 327 customers. The sale was held at Keeley Park (Jackson County Fairgrounds) and was held as a drive-in pick-up event. No extra trees were offered for sale.

The District was able to participate in several educational programs throughout the year, including the Learning Fair, Earth Day in the Park, Aquatic Invasive Species Blitzes and a virtual Project RED (Rural Education Day). JCCD also was able to participate in the Jackson County Fair with an informational booth. Our Invasive Species Coordinator was also able to offer several training opportunities.

JCCD staff was able to hold two Adopt-A-Highway collections in July and September, utilizing only staff and family for the clean-ups. The District was also able to hold fall, winter and spring Adopt-A-Stream collections.

The District saw the renewal of the CTAI Engineer, MAEAP, Hunter Access Program and MISGP grants, and also received an extension to continue work on the current Invasive Species grant (MIGSP). JCCD also received a \$24,000 Scrap Tire Grant from EGLE and was able to collect 11,977 scrap passenger tires from Jackson County residents. There were 7 separate clean-ups, with 13 townships participating. Also this year, despite the loss of County funding, JCCD was able to continue the Household Hazardous Waste collection by securing a small grant from the Consumers Energy Foundation. 2 collections were held with 125 customers serviced and over 17,000 pounds of HHW collected. Also, JCCD, in partnership with Recycling Jackson, received a Rural Electronics Recycling Grant from EGLE. This grant will allow for e-waste recycling opportunities, provide outreach, and will upgrade collection facilities in Jackson County.

Another service the District provides is equipment rental. The grass-grain drill was rented by 15 customers from May to August to plant 205 acres of native grasses and wildlife habitat in Jackson County, and the tree planter was rented by 1 customer who planted over 1000 trees. Unfortunately, the tree planter fell into disrepair and was sold to a customer for scrap.

Volunteers are a very important part of the District. This year, 36 volunteers put in approximately 208 hours helping us with various projects, such as the Adopt-A-Stream Program, the tree sale, the scrap tire collection day, and the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. Their help is always greatly appreciated.



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JCCD Financials—October 1,2020 to September 30,2021 (audit pending)

REVENUES		EXPENSES		EXPENSES (cont'd)	
County Funds:		Program Expenses:		Community Promotion	\$ 626.00
Jackson County	\$ 10,000.00	CTAI	\$ 2,086.00	Misc. Expenses/Fees	\$ 0
Recycling Program	\$ 5,000.00	MAEAP	\$ 11,562.93	Organization Activities:	
Adopt-A-Stream	\$ 12,000.00	CISMA	\$ 9,095.88	Drill Maintenance	\$ 0
Grant Funds:		HAP (Hunter Access Program)	\$ 501.98	Fees/Dues	\$ 1,032.08
CTAI (Conservation Tech. Assistance)	\$ 74,000.00	Adopt-A-Stream	\$ 3,722.52	Annual Meeting	\$ 0
MAEAP	\$ 73,459.49	Recycling	\$ 14,187.00	Directors' Expense	\$ 150.00
CISMA Grant	\$ 94,297.06	Tree/Native Plant Sales	\$ 27,830.18	<u>Training</u>	\$ 425.00
HAP (Hunter Access Program)	\$ 1,992.29	Earth Day	\$ 4,623.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 330,621.98
Consumers Energy Foundation Grant	\$ 15,000.00	Office Expenses:		DIFFERENCE	\$ 14,948.16
Local Sources:		Payroll & Benefits	\$ 223,435.46		
Earth Day	\$ 4,623.33	Employer Taxes	\$ 16,041.11		
Tree/Native Plant Sales	\$ 45,329.54	Supplies/books/products	\$ 2,124.70		
Equipment Rental	\$ 2,481.00	Website	\$ 0		
HHW Per Car Fees	\$ 1,484.50	Insurance	\$ 208.92		
General Interest/Tax Disc	\$ 61.33	Mileage	\$ 621.89		
Sponsorships	\$ 500.00	Copier Lease	\$ 180.00		
Conservation Products	\$ 4,713.23	Audit	\$ 2,700.00		
<u>Miscellaneous Income</u>	\$ 1,128.37	Bank Charges	\$ 2,653.74		
TOTAL REVENUE	\$345,570.14	COGS	\$ 6,813.59		



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 2021 season with several hunters reporting successful hunts. This property has been renewed through the 2022



Adopt-A-Stream Program

- ◇ Collection events were held in February, May and September with Bug ID nights being held for both the spring and fall collections.
- ◇ There were 3 collection sites within the Upper Grand River Watershed. These sites produced a variety of insects including stoneflies, dragonflies, mayflies and much more.
- ◇ Volunteers contributed 59 hours searching for and identifying the macroinvertebrates.





Jackson County Recycles



- ⇒ Updated the annual recycling guide
- ⇒ Thirteen townships and villages teamed up to hold seven scrap tire collections this year. 11,977 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 monthly newsletter articles on topics such as tire recycling, how to dispose of household hazardous waste when there are not collection events scheduled, Earth Day, local recycling opportunities, lithium battery disposal, promoting the JCCD Recycling Guide, recycling during the holidays, and recycling holiday lights.
- ⇒ The 2020 Earth Day Celebration in the Park was held on April 24th. The event was a great success thanks to our sponsors: Emmons Service Inc., MACI, Little Caesars, Granger Waste Services, Recycling Jackson, American 1 Credit Union, Jackson County Farm Bureau, the Dahlem Conservancy, Dawn Foods, Legacy Land Conservancy, and the Jackson School of the Arts.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events

In 2021, we were again able to continue our Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events thanks to the help of the Jackson County DOT and the use of their facilities. We were able to hold 2 collections in 2021.

Reservations were required to participate and each customer was charged \$20 to help offset costs. No Latex paint or electronic waste were collected at the 2021 events.

- Served 125 Jackson County residents
- Collected 17,005 pounds of HHW
- Funded by Consumers Energy Foundation. 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)

2021 JCCD Supporters and Sponsors

Jackson County Commissioners
 Jackson County
 Drain Commissioner
 MI Dept. of Ag and Rural Dev.
 MI Dept of Natural Resources
 Dept of Environment Great
 Lakes and Energy
 Consumers Energy Foundation
 Jackson County DOT
 Emmons Services
 Recycling Jackson
 MACI
 Little Caesars
 Jackson County Farm Bureau
 Legacy Land Conservancy
 Granger Waste Services
 American 1 Credit Union
 Dawn Foods
 The Dahlem Conservancy
 Jackson School of the Arts

Thank you !!



Overseeing an early morning concrete pour (above), Contractors drilling a new well for livestock use (below)



Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI)

by Alana Helin, CTAI Engineer

The Conservation Technical Assistance Initiative (CTAI) program is a partnership between the Jackson County Conservation District (JCCD), the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD), and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that aims to promote good stewardship of our land and waters by providing technical assistance to local landowners that want to address natural resource concerns on their property.

During fiscal year 2021, I made over 30 site visits and provided technical assistance for conservation practices on 35+ farms across Jackson and 8 other counties in Southeast Michigan. These practices address resource concerns related to soil erosion, soil and water contamination, animal waste storage, livestock drinking water supply, wetland restoration, and more. In Jackson County, this work resulted in approximately \$6,550 of newly obligated funding for engineered conservation practices and just over \$124,500 in certification of constructed engineering practices. With all the newly added contracts, delivered designs, and new applications, fiscal year 2022 should be just as busy!

Over this past year, I spent time working with experienced NRCS staff across the state to develop



Underground outlet from new gutters diverts runoff away from feeding areas

planning and design guidance specifically for stockwater systems which gave me the opportunity to learn even more about these practices. I was also able to continue providing guidance and training to other staff in the region.

In addition to my engineering duties, I participated in JCCD events such as the annual tree sale, the household hazardous waste and tire collections, Adopt-A-Stream, Trunk-or-Treat, and Adopt-A-Highway.



Making a friend on the farm (left), Soil investigations are performed to determine soil strength and other characteristics (right)

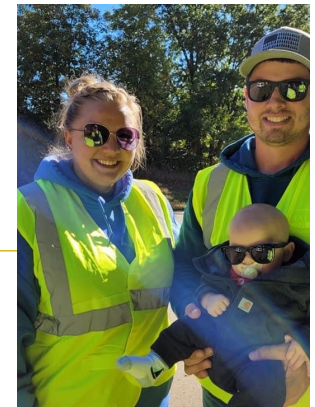
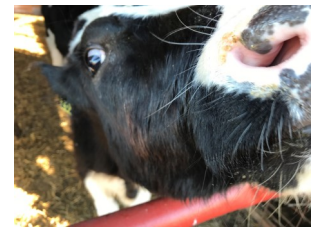


Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)



This year was another challenging year for the MAEAP program as our verifications and farm visits were down across the entire state. Despite all the obstacles of 2021, we were still able to complete over 97 farm visits, 32 on farm risk assessments resulting in 28 verifications and 239 environmental risk reductions. We were also able to partner with MSU Extension on the annual MSU Integrative Pest Management Update held at the MSU Pavilion as well as McLaughlin Farm LTD on a sustainable beef production field day. 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.

One highlight from last year was working with the environmental team at Fort Custer Military Training Center to get their over 7,500 acre facility verified in the Forest, Wetland, and Habitat System. Again we look forward to returning to some sort of "normal" next year and increasing the overall participation of the program.



"We look forward to returning to some sort of "normal" next year and increasing the overall participation of the program."

NRCS and JCCD Welcome Shivonne Marshall

As a Detroit native, I found love for the South during my undergraduate studies back in 2013 at Alcorn State University in Lorman, MS. Like many other freshmen students, I was undecided about choosing a major at the time. After talking with a few professors, my interests were steered toward agriculture. Four years later, I received my B.S. in Agriculture Science in May of 2017. Upon graduation, I was offered a fulltime position with Tyson Foods Company in Nacogdoches, TX. At Tyson, I served as a Managers Associate for a year. With a strong desire to further my education, I decided to attend graduate school at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, where I obtained a M.S. in Urban Forestry in May of 2021.



(continued on page 8)



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

By Jeff Lolkus, Jackson County District Conservationist

2021 was another busy year for the Jackson Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Here is a brief snapshot of just some of this year’s activities:

- Over 100 new practices were funded for future implementation, totaling over \$250,000 in federal investment on over 1,400 acres.
- 54 practices from previous contracts were installed, with over \$340,000 of cost-share disbursed. 6,000+ acres of land benefitted from these efforts.
- NRCS conservation program obligations have increased to over \$1.5M in active contracts with over 60 local farmers and landowners.
- We were fortunate to bring on a new Soil Conservationist to assist in these efforts. Please welcome Shivonne Marshall as you see her around the county!
- **2021 Newly Adopted Practices**

Practice	Amount
Cover crops	1,402 acres
Nutrient management	403 acres
No-till	414 acres
Fence (rotational grazing)	11,305 lin. Feet
Forest management plans	3 no.
Pollinator plantings	34.2 acres
High tunnel systems	3,360 sq. feet
Invasive brush control	5.0 acres
Livestock pipeline (grazing)	1,905 lin. Feet
Prescribed burning	15.2 acres





The JLW CISMA is approaching its four year anniversary of providing invasive species education, outreach, survey and management activities in the tri-county region! Funding from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program allowed us to assist folks by providing free equipment rentals, perform free site visits and continue early detection and rapid response efforts for species like European frog-bit, Japanese stiltgrass and red swamp crayfish. We also began surveying for new watchlist species, namely mile-a-minute weed. The year ended on a positive note as we were notified that our federal grant application for tree of heaven survey and removal was accepted. Please read on for a summary of our work and efforts for this year!

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 four bags of stiltgrass in Lenawee County. We assisted DNR in removing red swamp crayfish, and learned how to tag them for a telemetry study!



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.



Social Media Campaign



-  @JLWCISMA
-  @JLW_CISM
-  @JLW_CISM

	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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Steve Law.....Vice-Chairman
- Steve Noble.....Treasurer
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- Lori Fitzgibbons.....District Manager
- Jeremiah Swain.....MAEAP Tech
- Shikha Singh.....CISMA Manager
- Alana Helin.....CTAI Engineer
- Jim Bales.....Program Manager
- Jeff Lolkus...NRCS District Conservationist
- Shivonne Marshall.....NRCS Soil Con.

Shivonne Marshall (continued from page 5)

Throughout my graduate career, I found some of my greatest joys and passions, came from being outdoors in nature, gardening, and protecting the environment. As I looked for different volunteer opportunities that catered my interests, I was guided to Baton Roots Community Farm, an urban farm that provided organic produce to all residents of East Baton Rouge at no cost. Starting off as a volunteer, I was then offered a full-time position as the Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator and Youth Manger for the farm.

With determination to continue making the best life for my 1year old son, Ivan, and myself, I applied for a position with NRCS with hopes to be able to move back home closer to my loving parents. Gratefully, I was offered a Soil Conservationist position in Jackson, MI; without a doubt, I accepted. Working with NRCS has been an amazing experience thus far. Not only am I able to serve my community daily, but I'm constantly gaining new knowledge about sustainable agriculture and different conservation practices that conserve and improve our environment and the world we live in. Moving forward, I look forward to what my new career path with NRCS has in store for me!

Welcome to the Jackson Field office, Shivonne!!!!

Jackson County Conservation District

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