



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

ALPENA-MONTMORENCY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Michigan's Conservation Districts are county-level units of government that provide natural resource management services that help citizens conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan. There are 75 conservation districts statewide with diverse, ever-changing programs adapted to each county's natural resources needs.

The Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District (AMCD) serves as a gateway for citizens of Alpena and Montmorency County to access local, state, and federally administered conservation programs and services. Our mission is to serve, educate, and advise the people of both counties and advocate for the restoration, conservation and preservation of natural resources.

SERVICES

Soil Testing

Soil tests through A&L Great Lakes Laboratories designed for lawn, garden, food plot, and agricultural applications are available at AMCD. Staff provide guidance to local landowners on soil sample collection, test selection, test result interpretation, and soil amendment recommendations. Our team processed **126** soil tests for FY23.

Grain Drill Rental

Landowners in Alpena, Montmorency, Presque Isle, and Alcona counties can rent AMCD's Great Plains No-Till Grain Drill. No-till drill applications include food plots, conservation cover, and pasture planting. This year, **13** landowners rented the no-till drill to plant **430** acres of crops.

PROGRAMS

Deer Habitat Improvement Program (DHIP)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)'s DHIP aims to mitigate agricultural and forest regeneration damage caused by white-tailed deer. Habitat improvement projects include food plots, wildlife opening creation, rehabilitation, existing opening maintenance, conifer plantings, and tree plantings. Hunters fill out a survey reporting deer harvest and views, and TB test all harvested deer. A primary goal of the program is to harvest more does than bucks.

In FY23, AMCD disbursed **\$45,000** in DHIP funds to **21** landowners for projects covering **389** acres. There were **181.5** food plot acres (**134.5** acres maintained and **47** new plots). Plantings included **405** soft mast, **376** hard mast, and **14,965** conifer trees.

Wildlife Risk Mitigation Project (WRM)

The WRM Project from the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD) assists farmers in creating a biosecurity plan for their farms to minimize the risk of their cattle contracting bovine tuberculosis (TB). This is particularly important in Alpena and Montmorency counties, part of the Deer Management Unit (DMU) 452. DMU 452 has a higher incidence of bovine tuberculosis (TB) infection in free-ranging white-tailed deer compared to the surrounding areas.

In FY23, AMCD disbursed **\$440,314** across **16** cattle farm fencing projects in Alpena, Montmorency and Presque Isle counties. In total, **57,700** feet of 8-foot tall fencing was installed to protect cattle herds.

Contact

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Staff

- Charlie Doan—District Manager
- Dr. Greg Corace—FAP Forester
 - Kaylie Landrum—MAEAP Technician
- Hollie Fitzpatrick—Admin Assistant

Board Members

- Jim Chapman—Chair
- Amy Lewis—Director
- Jeremy Werth—Director
- William Houston—Director
 - Ed Skarbek—Director

Board meetings are typically every third Thursday of the month at the Alpena office or Brush Creek Mill in Hillman.

PROGRAMS (CONT.)

Hunting Access Program (HAP)

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)'s HAP is a **\$6000** grant that provides public access to private lands for hunting. The purpose of this program is to increase hunting opportunities, and reduce agricultural losses and disease transmission associated with white-tailed deer. Enrolled landowners receive an annual payment based on acres, hunting options, and type of land-cover. The MDNR's MI-HUNT mapping application features HAP site locations. AMCD performs habitat evaluations, handles landowner contracts, posts signs, and maintains self service boxes.

There are **16** properties enrolled (**12** in Alpena and **4** in Montmorency) with a total of **2,211** acres. Hunters visited these properties **181** times and hunted deer, turkey, and waterfowl.

Forestry Assistance Program (FAP)

The Michigan Forestry Assistance Program is a **\$73,000** grant installed in local conservation districts to increase the number of family forests that are managed under a sustainable forest manage-

ment plan. The mission of the Forestry Assistance Program (FAP) is to, "Support family forest owners in realizing the economic, social, and ecological sustainability of their forests." To promote the missions of FAP and AMCD, Dr. Greg Corace:

- Works with landowners to help them assess their land and assist in formulating their land ownership goals to make informed forest management decisions
- Promotes the Qualified Forest Program (QFP)
- Facilitates the interaction between consulting foresters and landowners
- Conducts outreach with an emphasis on contemporary principles of forest ecology and management as they relate to ecological sustainability

In FY23, FAP conducted:

96 Landowner Site Visits (21,779 acres),
14 QFP Enrollment Verifications (3,543 acres)
62 Private Sector Referrals (8,202 acres)
76 Public Sector Referrals (23,986 acres)
15 Mngt Plan Referrals (2,363 acres)
9 Timber Harvests (980 acres),

20 Media Occurrences

16 Forestry Outreach Events (2,848 attendees)

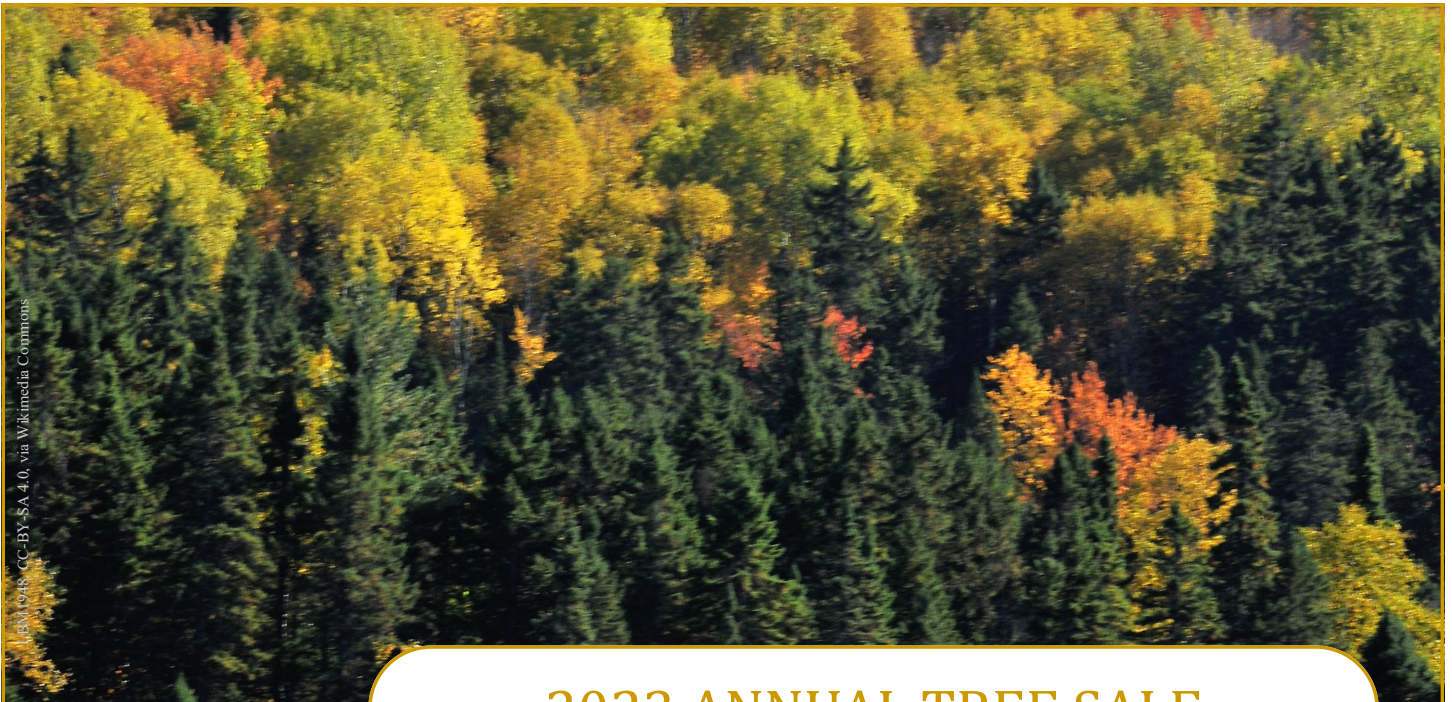
Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)

The Michigan agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is a **\$78,000** grant providing a voluntary and confidential program that provides technical assistance and financial incentives to farms of all sizes and commodities to prevent or reduce agricultural pollution risks. Farmers complete three phases to achieve MAEAP verification in a system.

Systems include, Cropping, Farmstead, Livestock, and Forests, Wetlands & Habitat. Our MAEAP technician works with farmers in Alpena, Montmorency, Presque Isle, and Alcona counties.

In FY 23, MAEAP conducted:

5 new farms enrolled in MAEAP
33 technical assistance actions
40 risk reductions
\$1645.00 in cost share assistance
2 Phase 1 events
1 Education/Outreach event



2023 ANNUAL TREE SALE

The AMCD contributes to local reforestation and biodiversity by featuring a selection of native woody plants, shrubs and planting supplies. In FY23, more than **350** customers purchased **50,000** seedlings resulting in a total of **\$75,000** in tree sales.