

# Natural Resource Assessment Survey for Alpena and Montmorency Counties

Our mission is to encourage stewardship and sustainable use of local natural resources by providing leadership, information, and technical assistance for the people of Alpena & Montmorency Counties

Every five years the Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District gathers feedback about natural resources and conservation in our counties. Because the natural world changes, and the science that guides conservation actions changes, a survey such as this needs to be done periodically. Moreover, “conservation” in anthropogenic (human caused) agricultural systems differs from “conservation” in natural ecosystem types (e.g., forests). Consequently, this survey helps us prioritize resources across a range of ecosystem types for the most important needs identified by our residents, helping us to promote and implement voluntary conservation and meet the needs of our community.

1. Which county do you associate with more?

\_\_\_\_\_ Montmorency

\_\_\_\_\_ Alpena

2. How do you live, work, or play in your county? *(Check all that apply.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Agricultural landowner

\_\_\_\_\_ Homeowner (permanent resident)

\_\_\_\_\_ Forest / woodland landowner (no camp/home)

\_\_\_\_\_ Waterfront landowner (no camp/home)

\_\_\_\_\_ Renter/leasee of camp and/or home and / or property

\_\_\_\_\_ Forest vacation home or camp

\_\_\_\_\_ Waterfront vacation home or camp

3. Which ecosystem types do you utilize in your county? *(Check all that apply.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Agricultural lands

\_\_\_\_\_ Beaches/shorelines

\_\_\_\_\_ Forests

\_\_\_\_\_ Lakes (inland / Great Lakes)

\_\_\_\_\_ Rivers / streams

\_\_\_\_\_ None

\_\_\_\_\_ Other *(please explain)*: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which developed natural areas do you utilize in your county? *(Check all that apply.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ Hiking/biking/horse trails

\_\_\_\_\_ Parks

\_\_\_\_\_ Public hunting areas

\_\_\_\_\_ Public boat launches/fishing areas

5. Rank the land / water resources within your county based on the importance to the community with #1 being the most important resource:
- Agriculture / farmland
  - Forests / woodlands
  - Non-farmed or forest lands (e.g., backyards, prairies, meadows, open lands)
  - Water (drinking water, lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands)
  - Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_
6. Check the top three water quality (drinking water, lakes, streams, ponds, wetlands) threats and/or related priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:
- City / Village stormwater runoff
  - Maintain drinking water / groundwater quality
  - Reduce farmland water runoff
  - Manage invasive and/or exotic species
  - Maintain healthy lakes / ponds
  - Maintain healthy rivers / streams
  - Promote effective septic systems
  - Conserve wetlands
  - Promote conservation-related science education/outreach
  - Maintain native biodiversity
  - Reduce landscape fragmentation/parcelization
  - Mitigate for climate change effects
  - Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_
7. Check the top three forests / woodland threats and/or related priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:
- Manage invasive and/or exotic species
  - Forest fragmentation/parcelization due to housing, business, and farmland development
  - Promote forest conservation-related education/outreach
  - Maintain native biodiversity
  - Conserve wetlands
  - Reduce negative effects of white-tailed deer browse
  - Mitigate for climate change effects
  - Promote recreation / hunting access
  - Other (*please explain*): \_\_\_\_\_
8. Check the top three agriculture / farmland priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:
- Animal manure (best practices)
  - Farm chemicals / fertilizers (proper use and disposal)
  - Farmland preservation
  - Pollinator / wildlife habitat
  - Soil erosion / soil loss
  - Water quality / runoff
  - Water use / irrigation

Promote biodiversity  
 Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

9. Check the top three non-farmed lands (backyards, prairies, meadows, open lands) priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:

Invasive and/or exotic species  
 Non-farmed land due to housing, business, and farmland development  
 Enhance pollinator populations  
 Promote recreational / hunting access  
 Conserve wetlands  
 Promote biodiversity  
 Mitigate for climate change effects  
 Promote conservation-related education/outreach  
 Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

10. Check the top three quality of life / human behavior priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:

Promoting agriculture tourism  
 Managing household chemicals (e.g., proper use and disposal)  
 Managing invasive and/or exotic species  
 Promoting biodiversity  
 Manage lawn and garden  
 Promote land recreation (e.g., biking, hiking, hunting, etc.)  
 Manage [parks and open spaces  
 Promote recycling / proper garbage disposal  
 Improve septic systems  
 Promote water recreation (e.g., boating, fishing, paddling, etc.)  
 Manage water runoff (e.g., rain barrels, rain gardens)  
 Mitigate for climate change effects  
 Promote conservation-related science education/outreach  
 Other (please explain): \_\_\_\_\_

11. The Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District provides the following programs and services. Which are you aware of and / or have participated in? (check all that apply.)

Farm equipment rentals (no-till drill, seeders)  
 Forestry Assistance Program (FAP)  
 Invasive species, biodiversity, climate change education  
 Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)  
 Hunting Access Program (HAP)  
 Deer Habitat Improvement Plan (DHIP)  
 Tree seedling and native plant sales  
 County plat book production and sales  
 Soil testing

12. Select the setting that best describes your home / property in Alpena or Montmorency County:  
(Check all that apply.)

- Urban - Residential (e.g., city, village, town)
- Rural - Farm
- Rural - Residential
- Lakeshore / waterfront
- Forested hunting property

13. How do you prefer to receive information on programs and services available through the Conservation District? (Check all that apply.)

- Electronic newsletter
- Email
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Newspapers
- Twitter
- Radio
- Postal mail
- Website

14. What additional actions, programs, and services would you like the Alpena-Montmorency Conservation District to add to help you, your land, and the community?

15. What is the 5-digit zip code of your home / residence or main property within Alpena or Montmorency County? \_\_\_\_\_

16. Any additional comments or recommendations:

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**(OPTIONAL)** By leaving your contact information you will be entered into a drawing for a 20-Pack bundle of Coniferous trees. Please legibly print your name and email address.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: You can either bring your completed survey with you when you pick up your tree order or drop it off at our office at 1900 M-32 W, Alpena. Or you can scan the completed survey and e-mail it to [AMCD@MACD.ORG](mailto:AMCD@MACD.ORG). Thank you!