



# GRAND TRAVERSE CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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October 2022 - December 2023



Grand Traverse  
Conservation District  
Boardman River Nature Center



# A LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Conservation District Friends,

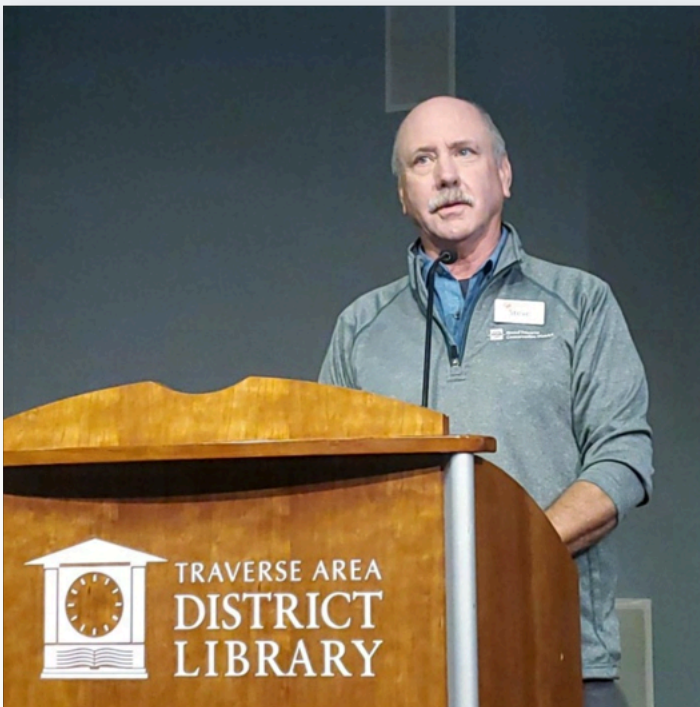
I am thrilled to report that 2023 has been a year of growth and progress for our organization. We have continued to provide educational opportunities for the community, including workshops and classes at the Boardman River Nature Center. We have also worked to restore natural areas, maintain trails and parks, and support sustainable, local agriculture. We believe that supporting local agriculture is essential to the health of our community and our environment, and we are committed to continuing this work.

To help sustain our fundraising efforts, we have established a non-profit entity called Friends of the Grand Traverse Conservation District which helped launch the “Connecting to the Future Campaign” for the Great Lakes Incubator Farm & the Ottaway Crossing Footbridge. The Incubator Farm program had a great first season, and we are poised to start the second cohort of participants. We are also gearing up for the public phase of our campaign for the Ottaway Crossing, a footbridge on the Boardman-Ottaway River that will provide an east-west crossing where the Sabin Dam formerly stood.

We are grateful for your continued support and dedication to our mission - to lead, facilitate and inspire exploration, appreciation, conservation, and restoration of our natural world. We have been working for over 80 years to provide gateways to the natural world, restore natural areas, train future generations of conservation leaders, and support sustainable, local agriculture, and we look forward to continuing our work in the years to come. We hope that you will join us in our efforts to protect and preserve our natural world.

With gratitude,

Koffi Kpachavi  
Executive Director



# A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO STEVE LARGENT

Congratulations and thank you to Steve Largent, Grand Traverse Conservation District's Conservation Team Coordinator! After 32 years of service, Steve retired this winter.

Steve has been an integral part of our community since 1988 when he started working for the City of Traverse City as a seasonal employee while attending the University of Montana. He was later hired to implement a Critical Area Treatment Plan to curb severe erosion at the 1,240-acre parcel of wildland surrounding the 191-acre Brown Bridge Pond. That work led to a three-decade-long career helping to restore and protect the Boardman-Ottaway River and its surrounding natural areas.

The Grand Traverse Conservation District is fortunate to have had Steve help shape the organization into what it is today, and the impact he made on the Boardman-Ottaway River, natural areas, and our community is everlasting.

Steve's leadership will be missed, but his teachings over the years have left the organization ready for the road ahead. Congratulations to Steve for a well-deserved retirement.





# CONSERVATION

For over thirty years, the Grand Traverse Conservation District, through its Parklands program, has provided technical and natural resource management services for local municipalities and property owners across Grand Traverse County. Using sound land management practices and sustainable trail construction techniques, staff work diligently to protect habitat while providing safe access to natural areas that make this region so special. In 2023, District staff achieved several noteworthy milestones managing over 2,500 acres of public parklands in the Grand Traverse region.

## **Recreation**

On Grand Traverse County's Natural Education Reserve, District staff removed an aging boardwalk along the lower Sabin loop trail and replaced it with over 250 ft. of newly constructed boardwalk designed to provide a safe crossing through wetlands and seeps. This is the first of three boardwalk sections to be replaced on the west side of Sabin bottomlands as plans are underway to continue updating aged infrastructures in 2024.







At the Joint Recreational Authority's (The Charter Township of Garfield & City of Traverse City) Hickory Meadows, staff rerouted and modified several sections of trails to reduce erosion and promote greater sustainability. Signage development and trail modifications are also underway at the newly acquired Hickory Forest property in preparation of an official trail opening in 2024.

At the City of Traverse City's Brown Bridge Quiet Area, District staff designed and installed a custom fabricated handrail to facilitate safe access on steps leading to Brown's Footbridge. Brown Bridge also became the first of nine sites around Traverse City at which an artistic steel sculpture was installed in honor of Anishinaabe culture through the Kchi Wiikwedong Anishinaabe History Project.





## Habitat

In 2023, over 7,000 native trees and shrubs were planted over the course of the growing season across public parklands with the help of contractors, volunteers, and local students. The establishment of native plants not only provides shelter and food for wildlife, but it also increases the absorption of carbon in our atmosphere countering the effects of a trending warming climate. In addition, roots help stabilize soils and enhance stormwater uptake, thereby reducing the potential for erosion, surface run-off, and sedimentation. Excessive input of sediment into our waterways can choke out gravel spawning beds that are vital for the reproduction of many cold-water fish species that the Boardman-Ottaway River is known for.

Of that 7,000, approximately 5,000 native trees and shrubs were planted along the Boardman-Ottaway River to continue restoration efforts within the exposed bottomlands after the removal of Brown Bridge (2012), Boardman (2017), and Sabin (2018) Dams. Considered the largest dam removal and river restoration project in state history, over 70,000 trees and shrubs have been planted since restoration process began in 2013. As natural plant succession evolves within the open bottomlands, it is critical to foster the establishment of native plants while controlling high priority invasive species.

Invasive species tend to be early colonizers on disturbed sites and form monocultures that crowd out and suppress native plant growth. Controlling high priority invasives is an integral component in the management of healthy and diverse habitats. District staff collaborate with partners at the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network to prioritize treatment sites for highly invasive species across our managed parklands.

**7,000**

total native trees & shrubs were planted across public parklands in 2023

**70,000+**

native trees & shrubs have been planted since restoration efforts began in 2013

**5,000**

of the total 7,000 native trees & shrubs were planted along the Boardman - Ottaway River in this year

**1,000+**

volunteer hours were recorded in 2023 on restoration efforts within our managed parklands







## Engagement

In 2023, over 1,000 volunteer hours were recorded on restoration efforts within our managed parklands with approximately 200 volunteers assisting at multiple District-led workbee events. In addition, District staff worked with educators across the community to facilitate environmental stewardship opportunities for students. Greenspire High School students planted approximately 400 native seedlings at Medalie Park and aided in the removal of invasive species in support of wildlife habitat, groundwater uptake, and shoreline stabilization. The Au Sable Institute's Restoration Ecology for Young Students Program hosted multiple school groups at Brown Bridge Quiet Area where they planted native grass and pollinator plugs to enhance species diversity along the banks of the Boardman-Ottaway River.



# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Grand Traverse Conservation District Environmental Education programming provides a gateway to the natural world to children, families, and adults. In facilitating the exploration and study of the outdoors, District programming seeks to empower individuals to play a personal role in environmental stewardship and inspire future generations of conservation leaders. In 2023, the Grand Traverse Conservation District offered the following programming:

- Weekly adult-accompanied programs
- Weekly drop-off programs
- Nature Education for Students and Teachers (NEST) field trip programming
- Community programming for all ages (workshops, hikes, etc.)
- Nature Day Camp (summer camp programming)

**13,000**

people visited the Boardman River Nature Center or attended District events in 2023

**2,200**

students, teachers, and staff visited from 27 schools and organizations during NEST Field Trips







Since 2008, the Grand Traverse Conservation District has welcomed over 121,000 visitors to the Boardman River Nature Center, including over 13,000 children, families, community members, and school groups in 2023, our most successful year to date. Of those 13,000 visitors, 2200+ students, teachers, and assistants visited from 27 schools and organizations – 20% of all TCAPS students visited the District in 2023. Over the past year, Miranda Fraley and Aspen Schupbach have filled Paige MacKinnon’s and Rachel Blevin’s shoes as our new Education Specialist and Environmental Educator, respectively. Both Miranda and Aspen look forward to delivering creative programming opportunities and impactful experiences that connect the community with the natural world. Miranda and Aspen have already welcomed over 4,200 visitors through their programming.



## Reflections from a 2023 Nature Day Camp Parent:

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“Thank you so very much for hosting a wonderful day camp! Our camper is sad to be finished for this year but is excited to return next summer! We are thrilled to have participated in Nature Day Camp. For our camper, you have fostered an appreciation for nature and fueled a love of being outdoors. Our kiddo gets home from camp and plays in the dirt in our backyard! Her screen time is down dramatically compared to last summer, and we have Nature Day Camp to thank. Well done!”





# AGRICULTURE

## Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program

The Grand Traverse Conservation District works hand-in-hand with over 100 local farmers to conserve our natural resources while providing for healthy, safe, high-quality agricultural products through the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). MAEAP is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and commodities prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks.

This voluntary verification program helps farms become compliant with relevant state and federal environmental laws and regulations, as well as align with the Right-to-Farm Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices.

Lauren Shaffner joined the Grand Traverse Conservation District as the new MAEAP Technician in November of 2023.

Lauren grew up on a family farm in Saginaw, Michigan where she worked with her family to cultivate thousands of acres of land.

Lauren pursued an environmental sustainability degree at Michigan State University which piqued her interest in atypical farming methods. In her first few months as the MAEAP Technician at the District, Lauren connected with the Grand Traverse community by attending educational conferences and learning about what it means to be a farmer in Northern Michigan.



Lauren attended the Pollinate 2023 conference which her predecessor, Sam Wolfe, was an integral part of organizing and learned about the agricultural landscape in this region. In December, she attended the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts Conference which gave her the opportunity to learn from peers and set goals for the first year on the job - this includes verifications, continuing successful pesticide container and tire recycling events, and becoming a dependable resource for farmers. Lauren is looking forward to creating foundational relationships with farmers. With Lauren's lifelong background in agriculture and her extensive agricultural education, she is well-equipped to serve the farmers of Grand Traverse and Antrim counties while keeping sustainability at the forefront of her work.





## Produce Safety

Produce Safety may seem to be out of place in conservation districts, however, health and agriculture are intertwined. Produce Safety is a branch of food safety, but produce safety doesn't take place in industrial kitchens or intensively monitored processing facilities – produce safety takes place on farms.

The Produce Safety Rule (PSR) was signed into law in 2011 as a component of the Food Safety Modernization Act and was intended to switch the focus from reactive to proactive. Previously, inspectors primarily reacted to outbreaks via investigations after outbreaks were reported, and it was not required to have recurring inspections of produce operations. This is in stark contrast to food and retail licensing, which both require annual inspections by health inspectors. Raw consumed produce is arguably a higher risk than cooked food served at a restaurant, because consumers often eat the fruits and vegetables raw. Cooking or processing are the primary methods to reduce the likelihood of illness if there are invisible contaminants present on the produce.

The possibility of contaminating raw consumed produce needs to be proactively monitored. Produce grown on farms is grown most often outdoors which makes fully eliminating contamination hazards an almost impossible task. The PSR is aware of the difficulties involved in preventing contamination of produce, which is why the rule emphasizes risk assessment and hazard analysis. Farms are not expected to fit into perfect narrow boxes, as a farm in Michigan looks different from a farm in Arizona. Farm operations are encouraged to maintain produce safety to their best abilities.

The Grand Traverse Conservation District's Produce Safety Technician Breanna Hannula provides free on-farm education and resources to produce growers of any size to aid them in navigating the Produce Safety Rule, or simply to achieve greater standards of produce safety. Throughout the year, Breanna attended conferences, presented to growers, and promoted the Michigan On-Farm Produce Safety Program. This program is a collaboration between Michigan conservation districts, Michigan State University Extension, and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development who all work together to make produce safety as accessible and easy to understand as possible.



## Great Lakes Incubator Farm

Across the river from the Boardman River Nature Center is the site of GTCD's newest program – The Great Lakes Incubator Farm. Located on Grand Traverse County's historic Meyer Farm property, the Great Lakes Incubator Farm is an active land-based agricultural program that fosters the growth and development of new and beginning farmers in Northwest Lower Michigan.

The program lowers common barriers that typically deter individuals from starting a farming operation by giving them the opportunity and flexibility to create an agricultural business and gain expertise as they grow. By cultivating new producers in this region, the program aims to: aid in the succession of local farmland, create a local farming model based on principles of regenerative agriculture, build resilience in our local food economies, and create a lasting culture of health and wellness.





Over the last year, the Great Lakes Incubator Farm saw significant achievements in property and infrastructure development, program establishment, and sustainable farming practices. Led by District staff and volunteers, the Grand Traverse Conservation District installed a well, an 8 ft. deer fence to keep crops safe, a 30 x 96 ft. Nor'Easter hoop house to extend the growing season, a root-vegetable washer, and a road sign, all of which significantly improve the farm's capabilities. Staff also designed and built a 3-tiered nursery growing system that the first cohort of farmers utilized for propagating many of the crops that were grown at the farm. Additionally, various land management practices have been successfully implemented, including the expansion of a pollinator garden planted by high school students from the NorthWest Education Career Tech Center, cover cropping the agricultural fields, conducting surveys of the pond, and restoring tractors and equipment donated by the Meyer Family, to enhance the sustainability of operations.



Program development efforts yielded positive results, as the District recruited and retained five farmers in the first year of this program. Moreover, the District is actively engaged in recruiting another cohort of five farmers for the second year. To ensure the success of the farmers in the program, over 70 hours of extensive education and training were provided to the team of farmers, including seven hours of lessons and lectures, four hours of business development training, 30 hours of field production education, 21 hours of tours, conferences, and workshops, and eight hours of farm visits and tours. This comprehensive approach aims to equip the cohort with the necessary skills and knowledge to thrive in sustainable agriculture.

In line with the District's commitment to sustainable practices, farmers successfully adhered to organic farming practices for vegetables, flowers, and herbs. Furthermore, farmers learned the importance of regenerative practices such as broadforks, no-till drill for cover cropping, and incorporating biochar and organic amendments to enhance soil health and ecosystem resilience. These efforts are integral to the District's mission of promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing agriculture's impact on the environment.





The Grand Traverse Conservation District is honored to be a part of a growing network of partnerships and collaborations with organizations such as The Father Fred Foundation, a charity helping to support local food systems. Additionally, partnerships with Interlochen Center for the Arts, the Michigan Small Business Development Center, MSU Extension, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, Larry Dyer of Holistic Management International, and Nic Welty, owner of 9Bean Rows, have been instrumental in advancing the Great Lakes Incubator Farm's initiatives and expanding its reach.

Looking ahead, through the Great Lakes Incubator Farm, the District remains dedicated to contributing to a more sustainable and resilient agricultural sector.





# FORESTRY

The Forestry Assistance Program of the Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Benzie Conservation Districts provides in-office and on-site technical assistance to landowners at no charge. This program provides the following services to these Districts:

- Identification of forest diseases and insects, and their control options
- Advice on the selection and planting of trees and shrubs for reforestation, windbreaks, and wildlife habitat enhancement
- Information on state and federal forestry cost-share and property tax incentive programs
- Recommendations for improving woodlots for timber production, wildlife habitat, or recreation



Ellie Johnson finished up her second year as District Forester for Grand Traverse, Leelanau, and Benzie counties. Serving as a free resource for private landowners, Ellie offers technical assistance such as one-on-one site visits with forest owners in addition to conducting educational events for the community. This past fiscal year, Ellie conducted 166 unique site visits with landowners who collectively own 5,583 acres of northwest Michigan's woodlands. 55 of those visits were within Grand Traverse County and included 2,213 acres of northern dry hardwoods, cedar swamps, inland lake shorelines, and open fields. She also had 141 follow-up contacts with landowners as part of ongoing projects from the prior year. Assistance ranges from oak wilt and hemlock woolly adelgid concerns to reforestation practices and songbird habitat.

With the help of numerous local partners, Ellie conducted 48 educational events where she connected with 1,066 attendees. These events varied in audience and topic, with some geared towards the general public while others were focused on supporting natural resource professionals.

Throughout the year, she met with garden clubs concerned about tree health, guided hikes on tree identification and forest management, and hosted multiple webinars, including the popular Winter Webinar series. This year, Ellie also held her first field day at a private landowner's property, a Women Owning Woodlands workshop with multiple guest speakers and passionate attendees.



Ellie was awarded Conservation Technician of the Year by the Conservation District Employees of Michigan (CDEM) at last December's Michigan Association of Conservation Districts' (MACD) Fall Convention. She also served as Michigan Society of American Foresters (MSAF) Secretary and represented Michigan's chapter in the House Society Delegates meeting at the national convention held in Sacramento this past October, voicing the concerns and ideas of the organization's 300+ members. With MSAF leadership support, Ellie created a mentorship program between members and student chapters to encourage more connection between current and future foresters. She was featured in articles published by Michigan Forest Association's quarterly newsletter Michigan Forests, National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) Forestry Notes publications, and local media outlets like Northern Express, Record-Eagle, Leelanau Enterprise, and MLive, and was a special guest alongside certified arborist Bo Burke on WTCM's Vic McCarty's Show this past summer.



# NORTHWEST MICHIGAN INVASIVE SPECIES NETWORK

After establishing and growing with the Grand Traverse Conservation District for over ten years, the Northwest Michigan Invasive Species Network (ISN) became a nonprofit in 2023. ISN received their 501(c)3 status from the IRS in the spring and became a fully independent organization by the end of the year.

ISN also had its first detection of hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) in Frankfort this past year. This microscopic invasive insect finds itself a place at the base of a hemlock needle, where it can insert a sucker mouthpiece and steal nutrients from the tree. A prolific spreader, it takes about 5 – 10 years to cause death in a hemlock, however, this allows time for treatments. Partners from Mason-Lake Conservation District journeyed north, where they helped ISN conduct detailed surveys and treatments throughout the year in attempts to contain this infestation, along with numerous other organizations in a true testament of working across boundaries.

**763**

Acres Surveyed

**262**

Acres Treated

**90**

Volunteers

**170**

Volunteer  
Hours

**57,166\***

HWA Inches  
Treated

\*HWA metrics are recorded as "inches treated," which refers to the diameter at breast height (DBH) of each tree that is treated.





By the end of September 2023, Mason-Lake, ISN, and other partners had treated over 7,000 hemlocks in the immediate infestation area. Unfortunately, since that first detection, several more detections have been discovered in the Frankfort area. It's suspected that a large vehicle may have brought the original infestation into Crystal Downs by brushing against a hemlock overhanging the road, after brushing against an infested hemlock elsewhere. ISN is asking that landowners, especially in the Frankfort area, keep an eye out for HWA.

Additionally, ISN's Go Beyond Beauty program gained 12 new community participants and 1 new Nursery. ISN also had their most successful Japanese Barberry Trade-Up Days where 683 invasive barberries were traded in for coupons to participating Go Beyond Beauty businesses over three events in Benzie, Grand Traverse, and Manistee counties - double the amount collected in 2022.

Shelly Stusick, Go Beyond Beauty Specialist, conducted and attended many events throughout the year as a speaker, including the Native Plant Expo in Ann Arbor this past June with over 2,000 attendees. Some other notable moments in 2023 were her NotMISpecies webinar (offered by EGLE) and two MLive articles highlighting or mentioning Go Beyond Beauty.

Statewide, two official partnerships were solidified, creating two new Go Beyond Beauty Hubs - Central Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) and Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet Counties CISMA. With this achievement, Go Beyond Beauty is now offered in 15 Michigan counties.

*If you suspect you've seen HWA, please contact ISN's Invasive Species Specialist, Zach Seguin at [zseguin@habitatmatters.org](mailto:zseguin@habitatmatters.org).*





# THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS



Over 65 Greenspire High School students volunteered approximately 195 total service hours at Medalie Park to remove invasive species and plant native seedlings along the shoreline to help restore the natural native buffer by stabilizing banks, improving stormwater uptake, and creating healthy habitat for wildlife.

A small group of six hardworking volunteers contributed over 20 hours to help construct boardwalk pods and cut deck boards for the replacement of a dilapidated boardwalk slated for replacement on the Natural Education Reserve.

Over 30 volunteers celebrated Earth Day by planting native trees and shrubs which will provide greater shade relief, water uptake, and soil stabilization as part of restoration efforts within the Boardman-Ottaway River valley, equating to over 120 hours of volunteer time.

Our Conservation Team collaborated with Traverse City Light and Power on a volunteer community planting workbee along the Grove Street utility corridor at which approximately 20 volunteers participated and nearly 600 native shrubs were planted.

The Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies coordinated three days of environmental stewardship through their Restoration Ecology for Young Students (REYS) program by planting 1,500 native wildflowers and grasses within Brown Bridge Quiet Area along the Boardman-Ottaway River.

Our friends at the Boardman River Clean Sweep (BRCS) assisted District staff by helping remove dock sections within the Boardman-Ottaway River that had washed away from upstream properties following major rains. Five dock sections were used at the DNR recycling site.

A small volunteer group from SEEDs assisted District staff in the removal of an old boardwalk within the Rec Authority property at the Historic Barns Park. With their help, 150 ft. of boardwalk was removed in just half a day.

Friends and Nordic volunteers of Hickory Meadows prepped for winter groomed trails by helping staff prune tree limbs along the flagged trail and assisting with mowing a path for the snow groomer.



13 MSU students helped haul away thousands of pounds of old boardwalk lumber from a preexisting boardwalk located on the Natural Education Reserve in an area with difficult equipment access.

At Hickory Meadows, five volunteers contributed over 30 hours by helping water newly planted trees during periods of summer drought. The native trees were planted to help create a natural vegetation buffer between the Hickory Meadows trails and the Hickory Hills parking lot.

The Boardman River Nature Center's native demonstration gardens were maintained by eight volunteers contributing a total of 51.5 hours over a span of 12 workbee events. The demonstration gardens showcase our region's native plants and pollinators while providing landscaping learning opportunities through the design and maintenance of these native beds.

The Trail Steward Program provided the public an opportunity to maintain and monitor all of the parklands under the management umbrella of the Grand Traverse Conservation District. The District appreciates all the time and effort put into the trails to create a safe and enjoyable recreational experience for all.

In the month of October, the District held two planting events at Brown Bridge Quiet Area. With 36 attendees the first day dedicating over 130 hours and 39 attendees on the second day with over 140 hours, these volunteers worked hard to help restore the banks of the Boardman-Ottaway River.

During Mother's Day weekend, approximately 20 volunteers assisted in planting seedlings and pulling invasive garlic mustard across Hickory Meadows property. These dedicated volunteers put in over 50 hours to make the recreational experience at Hickory Meadows more enjoyable for future generations.

The annual Jim Vaneenaam Memorial Outing at East Creek Reserve brought in six volunteers, including three Rotarians, to help install a new gate and several trail marking posts, dispose of old dilapidated fencing and make improvements to the creek crossing portion of the Shore-to-Shore equestrian trail that traverses through the property.

25 volunteers spent over 16 hours on some of the hottest days of the year helping staff construct a 30 x 96 ft Nor'Easter hoop house to extend the growing season at the Great Lakes Incubator Farm.





30 volunteers assisted with hikes and activities for our Nature Education for Students and Teachers (NEST) field trip programs - 43 schools and 2,445 students visited the Boardman River Nature Center and Great Lakes Incubator Farm for these programs.

15 volunteers assisted with our largest NEST program to-date where they welcomed 551 students, teachers, chaperones, and school staff from Long Lake Elementary School.

12 volunteers assisted with our second largest NEST program to-date where they worked with 228 students, teachers, chaperones and school staff from Clague Middle School of Ann Arbor, Michigan.

13 volunteer organizations and resource professionals assisted with newly piloted camp experiences as part of Nature Day Camp programming. These volunteers spoke to campers each week about the work they do.

Education volunteer Josh Jacobson assisted with two lantern lit hikes and five NEST field trips programs throughout the year.

Volunteers Laura and Sheila consistently joined staff in assisting with Peepers programs in 2023.

Two volunteers dedicated full days in June and October to collect invertebrate data from Grasshopper Creek at Brown Bridge Quiet Area to help determine and monitor water quality levels of the Boardman-Ottaway tributary.

17 volunteers contributed over 50 hours of time during our 2023 Native Plant Sale where over 2,000 native plants were sold to the community.

Over 30 volunteers dedicated over 160 hours packing native bare-root tree and shrub seedlings during our Annual Native Seedling Sale.

Our dedicated docents volunteered hundreds of hours staffing the Boardman River Nature Center. A very special thank you to Chris Deyo, Don Flegel, Susan Galligan, Phil Jarvi, Marcella Massa, Mary Beth Sellers, Lori Thorpe, and Kathie Wiley,

Phil Jarvi dedicated 91 hours of volunteer time throughout the year.

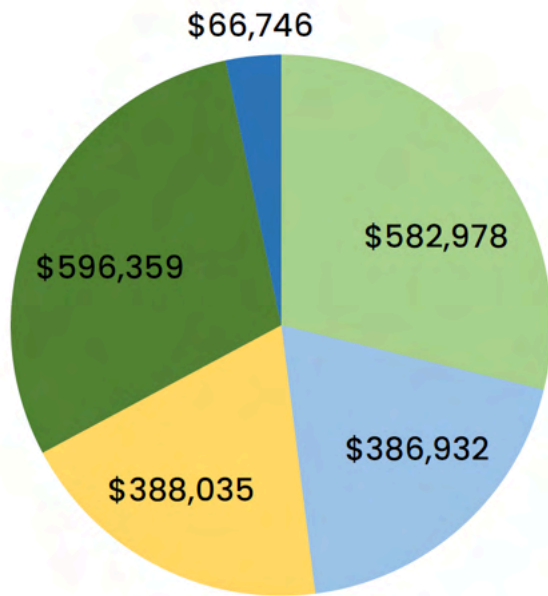
The Grand Traverse Conservation District extends a special "Thank You" to our dedicated Board Members: Andy Blodgett, Ashley Drake, Jan Engle, Doug Leonhardt, Jacqueline Olson, Dario Primo, and Dr. Thomas Wertz



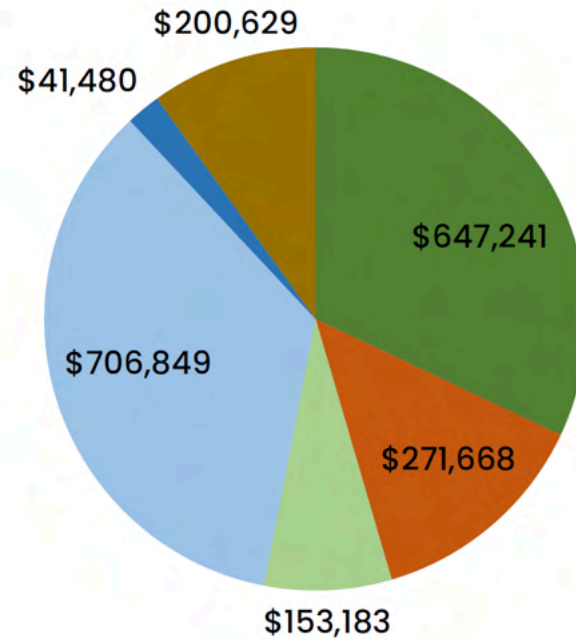







# YOUR INVESTMENT






## Income



## Expenses



	Federal & State Grants	\$582,978	28%
	Conservation & Education Services	\$386,932	19%
	Contributions and Donations	\$388,035	19%
	Millage	\$596,359	29%
	Native Seedling/Plant Sales/Other	\$66,746	5%
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,021,050</b>	<b>100%</b>

	District Operations	\$647,241	32%
	Invasive Species (Federal Grant)	\$271,668	13%
	MAEAP/Food Safety (State Grant)	\$153,183	7%
	Conservation & Education & GLIF	\$706,849	34%
	Seedling/Plant Sales	\$41,480	4%
	Investments in Fund Balance	\$200,629	10%
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,021,050</b>	<b>100%</b>



# THANK YOU, DONORS AND CONTRIBUTING FOUNDATIONS & PARTNERS

October 2022 – December 2023

## **Gifts of \$20,000 or more**

Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa Indians  
Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation  
The Carl A. Lemcool Memorial Foundation  
The Oleson Foundation  
Paul Tousley  
US Department of Agriculture

## **Gifts of \$10,000 – \$19,999**

Anonymous  
Harvey Calcutt  
Donald & Marylou Coe  
Grand Traverse Fruit Growers Council  
Judith Groleau  
Michael & Anne Groleau  
Traverse City Track Club

## **Gifts of \$5,000 – \$9,999**

Beers Family Foundation  
Mack & Lorraine Beers  
August A. Busch III Charitable Trust  
Consumers Energy  
The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City  
Paul & Lory Utz

## **Gifts of \$2,500– \$4,999**

DTE Energy  
Michigan State University – Volunteer River Clean-Up Program  
Traverse City Tourism  
Sharon Vance

## **Gifts of \$1,000 – \$2,499**

Anderson Family Charitable Fund  
Earthen Ales  
Kenneth & Janet Engle  
Michael Foley  
Great Lakes Forge Inc.  
James Heffner & Donna Hagan  
Keep Michigan Beautiful Foundation  
David & Jane Lawrence  
David Mathews  
North West Michigan Farm Bureau  
Mike Schaeffer & Debby Page  
Michael & Barbara Rodenberg  
The Art & Mary Schmuckal Family Foundation  
Tom's Food Markets  
Jack Williams

## **Gifts of \$500 – \$999**

Anonymous  
Baird Foundation, Inc.  
Rebecca Baker  
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John & Lynn Collins  
Martin Easling  
Jeff Graft  
Harvey's Foundation  
Stephen & Summer Hennessy  
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Tracey Lev-Ary  
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Order of the Eastern Star – Traverse Bay Area Chapter 147  
Karl Pearson  
Grace Rudd  
Marie Schwartz  
Heather Shaw  
Rebecca Teahen & Ben Purdy  
Marti VanEenenaam-Iwanicki and Tom Iwanicki  
Karen Wachs  
Larry & Jamie Warbasse

## **Gifts of \$1 – \$499**

Anonymous (8)  
Peter & Bernadette Albers  
Edward Crippen & Frances Alfs  
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Judith A. Arnold  
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Richard & Patricia Austin  
Anna & John Bachman  
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Melia Carter  
Dan Casey  
Matt Chapman  
Terry & Josephine Clark  
Ann "Sam" Clark  
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Jeffrey Cook  
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Suzanne Cox  
Elsie Dakota  
Thomas Dayton  
Allen Decker  
Laura DeGabriele



# THANK YOU, DONORS AND CONTRIBUTING FOUNDATIONS & PARTNERS

October 2022 – December 2023

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Autumn Droste  
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