

Environment and Land Use Cycle Grant Summaries 2021

Protection & Restoration

Antrim Conservation District CAKE CISMA **Granted: \$9,571**
Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CAKE CISMA) will host local volunteer workdays for improving natural areas. Restoration of the Bennett Creek will improve water quality in the Jordan River by decreasing runoff from riverbanks with the planting of native species that reduce erosion. In addition, removal of invasive species around the tributary will improve spawning habitat for prized sport fish. A tool library, including specialized tools for removing invasive species, will be implemented at the Charlevoix Conservation District, open to all county residents, empowering residents to become more active stewards of the area's natural resources.

Charlevoix Conservation District **Granted: \$4,000**
The Charlevoix Conservation District promotes natural resource protection in Charlevoix County through partnership, community outreach, and landowner support. Grant funding will help the organization with upgrading technology, making safety improvements to office space, and carrying out mission related activities such as publishing a land atlas, purchasing necessary materials for the beachgrass harvest, and conducting outreach and educational programming.

Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council **Granted: \$10,000**
Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council speaks for Northern Michigan's waters. They are dedicated to protecting the region's lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater through respected advocacy, innovative education, technically sound water quality monitoring, thorough research, and restoration actions. Funding will support general operations and will also help with the Mobile Boat Washing Station, which engaged 405 members of the public and removed invasive species from 59 boats on 11 lakes in 2020.

Sustainability

East Jordan Public Schools **Granted: \$15,000**
The EJ Solar Spark project was generated by students to install a solar array on the roof of the EJ Middle/High School. This project is true environmental education in practice. The solar array will not only generate energy to help the district reduce the amount of electricity it purchases, but it will also provide a viewing station where students can see and learn how solar energy works.

Environment and Land Use Cycle Grant Summaries 2021

Sustainability

Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities

Granted: \$3,750

Groundwork Center has supported several schools across a 10-county region with initiatives to install solar panels on their campus. Their most recent school partnership is with the East Jordan Solar Spark team at EJ Middle/High School. Groundwork will use grant funds to develop and implement solar curriculum for East Jordan K-12 students that would support and extend the impact of their solar installation to continue with future East Jordan students, as well as be useful to other schools with solar installations in the future.

Tara's Meadow Education & Retreat Center

Granted: \$1,000

Funds will be used for Phase 2 of its multi-phase Beaver Island Sustainability Initiative, which includes overarching goals to assist Islanders in enhancing local food production, clean energy initiatives, and healthy ecosystems. Specifically, Phase 2 will consist of convening key groups to draft a strategic low carbon clean energy plan and conduct an educational hands-on demonstration of small-scale food production and season extension technologies. These two objectives will help Beaver Island move closer to their goals of food, energy, and ecological sustainability.

Land Use & Green Spaces

Challenge Mountain

Granted: \$15,000

Challenge Mountain will address storm water run-off in parking areas and on the easement road at the CM Resale Store. A storm water management plan at the Resale Store will involve grading existing dirt surfaces to drain water away from the building and parking areas and toward retention ponds and/or drains which will connect to the retention ponds through underground pipe. Maintaining and improving the Resale Store facility will not only make the facility safer and more accessible but will also continue to benefit the adaptive recreational programs for friends and neighbors in the community.

Charlevoix Area Community Pool

Granted: \$5,000

The Charlevoix Area Community Pool will repave the parking lot and implement better drainage, including conducting an environmental/engineering study that will determine the best water mitigation strategies. Currently, water pools up in many places on the parking lot, including at the pool entrance, making navigation difficult and dangerous. Grant funds will be used to conduct the engineering study and repair the parking lot to ensure safety and accessibility of the pool.

Environment and Land Use Cycle Grant Summaries

2021

Land Use & Green Spaces

Charlevoix Public Schools

Granted: \$3,500

The “Roots for Rayders” program will pair kindergarten students and high school seniors together to plant trees on the Middle/High School property. Teaching students the benefits of planting trees and the correct way to plant trees will provide aesthetic and environmental benefits to the community.

Hayes Township

Granted: \$3,500

Hayes Township is moving forward with their Parks and Recreation Plan, which highlights improvements at Camp Seagull as a priority. Funding will help to create a schematic design plan for park improvements such as shore stabilization, a fishing pier, and an accessible kayak launch in the future. The schematic plan will allow the Township to phase the development and assist in the fundraising efforts to develop the park in a sustainable way for long-term economic and recreational benefits for the community.

Recreation

Peaine Township

Granted: \$6,815

For Beaver Island residents and visitors, playing pickleball and bocce ball for recreation and fitness has become increasingly popular. The demand for court time exceeds the available, existing court space. Grant funds will support the creation of dedicated, low maintenance, pickleball and bocce ball courts for residents and visitors in Peaine Township.

Raven Hill Discovery Center

Granted: \$5,000

Raven Hill Discovery Center’s mission is to provide a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts. Due to the pandemic, Raven Hill’s indoor spaces were closed to the public in 2020, but will reopen in April 2021. The grounds, with many outdoor features remained open throughout. To enhance the outdoor spaces at Raven Hill, funding will support the creation of the Connections Trail, which will allow visitors to enjoy hands-on science, history & art activities in an open-air setting.

Top of Michigan Trails Council

Granted: \$4,000

Top of Michigan Trails Council (TOMTC) advocates for and facilitates the development and maintenance of a safe, multi-use, year-round recreational trail system in Northern Michigan; and promotes the maintenance and use of these trails for the benefit of all. Support from this grant will allow TOMTC to continue building the trail network within Charlevoix County, leveraging the existing network and increasing the desirability of the county as a launching point for locals and tourists alike to access the network.

