



Environment & Land Use Cycle Grant Summaries 2022

Protection and Restoration

Antrim Conservation District, DBA CAKE CISMA

Granted: \$2,000

Purple loosestrife is an invasive wetland plant that can cause significant ecological and economic damage. Left untreated, this plant will overtake habitat and outcompete native aquatic plants, lowering biodiversity. CAKE CISMA will purchase Galerucella beetles, an insect that feeds on the invasive plant, to release at two locations: Sportsman's Park in East Jordan and the northern half of Six-Mile lake.

Conservation Resource Alliance

Granted: \$75,000 over three years

CRA is replacing three road crossings - Jordan River Road, East and West over the Jordan River, and Fuller Road over Deer Creek. The engineered design for the new crossings calls for full-spanning timber bridges that will be bundled under one contract and implemented over three years (2022 to 2024). Bundling the crossings together allows for cost savings on many fronts and is an efficient use of dollars, time, and management for all involved. The project will improve the overall health of the river and its surrounding habitat by restoring full passage for aquatic species at all life stages, opening a total of 12 miles upstream and 20 miles downstream. The new crossings also will drastically reduce erosion by eliminating 25 tons of sediment each year that currently enters the stream.

Lake Charlevoix Association

Granted: \$26,501

Communities surrounding Lake Charlevoix have a long history of working together. Because of its deep-water connection with the Great Lakes, Lake Charlevoix's water level fluctuates with Lake Michigan. During the convergence of recent high water levels (peaking in 2020) and ongoing development pressure, there has been an increase in shoreline hardening practices and challenges to maintaining a shoreline protection zone. Lake Charlevoix Association, in collaboration with Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and LIAA, will work to reinvigorate the commitment local governments have made to the protection of the Lake Charlevoix Watershed. This team will reconvene the Lake Charlevoix planning community to determine goals and priorities, as well as recommend specific actions for protecting and preserving Lake Charlevoix for the future.

Protection and Restoration

Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy

Granted: \$5,000

Walloon Lake Association & Conservancy will install a permanent, solar-powered boat wash station at the Sumner Road Boat Launch on Walloon Lake (in Bay Township). The station is referred to as a CD3 system - "Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose," which is the nationally accepted best practice for boat washing. The goal is to stop the spread of aquatic invasive species in Walloon Lake and the transfer of invasives to other lakes. It also provides boaters the opportunity to abide by Michigan State law that requires boaters to ensure watercraft and trailers are free from aquatic organisms, including plants.

Sustainability

East Jordan Public Schools

Granted: \$8,500

The garden program at East Jordan Elementary School (EJES) began five years ago. EJPS will purchase composting stations for both the elementary school and the middle/high school to continue the garden revitalization and expansion. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 20% of waste in landfills is food; the EJES cafeteria produces at least 30 pounds of food waste weekly. The new composting system will take food that would otherwise be wasted and convert it into fertile soil for the garden, while educating students around the process of composting. Students will learn about reducing waste, strengthening soil, decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the need for pesticides, and building stronger food systems.

Tara's Meadow Education & Retreat Center

Granted: \$5,000

Tara's Meadow will continue its vital environmental work to "Think Global, Act Local." Their Beaver Island Sustainability Initiative (BISI) aims to provide a regional model of sustainability by lowering the carbon footprint on BI through conservation and renewable energy strategies; local food systems; and restoration of healthy ecosystems. Their efforts focus on planning and action steps that engage broad segments of the local population. Funding will support events and programs involving youth mentorship.



Land Use, Green Space, and Recreation

Charlevoix Township

Granted: \$8,000

Last summer, Charlevoix Township repaired the surface of the tennis courts at Shanahan Field, which were being destroyed by nearby trees cracking and heaving the surface. The trees were removed, the surface repaired, and additionally, two pickleball courts were added due to the increasing popularity of the sport. To finish the job, the courts are in need of screening material to block wind, sun, and visual distractions for players. Funding will help the township purchase necessary screening to complete the tennis and pickleball court renovations.

Little Traverse Conservancy

Granted: \$2,724

LTC owns and manages over 22,000 acres of land. Nearly 90 miles of trail is open to the public for non-motorized recreation, including 29 miles of trails in Charlevoix County that need mowing for accessibility. Additionally, LTC staff use drone technology to document and promote new property acquisitions, create maps, and identify changes on conservation easements. Funds will help purchase a new brush mower and a drone, which will increase LTC's ability to promote, protect, and provide access to land in Charlevoix County.

Raven Hill Discovery Center

Granted: \$5,000

The Solar SMART exhibit will encourage visitors to explore the Science Mathematics And Related Technologies (SMART) of solar energy through an outdoor display at the Center and a portable solar learning kiosk that will travel to area schools. Demonstration solar panels will allow people to develop a better understanding of solar energy, including the pros and cons of different directions, angles, panel types, inverters, and installations for maximum efficiency in converting sunlight to energy.

Wilson Township

Granted: \$5,000

Over the last few years, Wilson Township has been improving Fall Park for the community to enjoy. They paved a walkway to Deer Lake, dredged silt from the channel to improve safety, and are working steadfastly toward an overall goal of making everything in the park ADA compliant. This year they plan to pave the parking lot and grant funds will help them put in a basketball hoop and half court. Automatic lights will allow the basketball court to be used any time.

