



MONROE
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

1137 South Telegraph Road
Monroe, Michigan 48161
734.241.8540 Ext 5 WWW.MonroeCD.org

Monroe Conservation District CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM

(Revised 7-26-2023)

The Monroe Conservation District (MCD) is offering grants to the public for conservation related projects to be implemented in Monroe County. MCD seeks proposals for a variety of projects that have a direct impact to the improvement of our natural resources through hands on education programs or projects that directly impact the environment.

Private Landowner/ Community grants will be awarded up to \$600 and Ag Conservation grants will be awarded up to \$1,200. All projects are awarded at a 75% cost-share rate meaning all project totals must include 25% match by the applicant (can be in the form of cash, in-kind services, materials, labor etc).

Prior to completing your application form, please review the criteria for the grant program. Please review this information carefully as it may prove valuable when designing your project and submitting your application. Please note the deadlines and signatures required for the application. Incomplete or ineligible applications will not be considered for funding.

Applications must be received by the first Tuesday of each month to be considered for review during the regular scheduled board meeting and awarded that same month. All applicants will be notified regardless of the outcome no later than the first of the following month.

Awardees will receive their funds once final reports have been submitted and practices have been verified by Conservation District staff. **All projects must be completed by September 15, 2024.**

If you have any further questions pertaining to the grant application process, please call 734.241.8540 ext. 5.

Thank you for your interest in the Conservation Grant Program.



Monroe Conservation District Conservation Grant Criteria

Below is a list of criteria which must be met by applicants to be considered for a conservation grant. Please use these criteria to develop you grant proposal.

Private Landowner/ Community Mini Grants (awards up to \$600):

The following priorities are listed for funding. Other projects outside of these priorities can be submitted and considered.

- A. Hands on outdoor natural resources education or service projects (for adults or youth).
- B. Establishment of pollinator garden(s), rain garden(s), or riparian buffer (forested or native plants/grasses)
- C. Agriculture education or community/school garden expansion (must include education component)
- D. Erosion Control
- E. Natural resources educational signage for public parks, trails, walkways
- F. Land Management Plan/ Forest Management Plan (and actives outlined in the plan for habitat improvement)
- G. Invasive Species Control
- H. Other conservation related activities that benefit the Conservation District coverage area.

Ag Conservation Mini Grants (awards up to \$1,200):

The following priorities are listed for funding. Other projects outside of these priorities can be submitted and considered.

- I. Nutrient Management (Variable Rate Fertilizer Application, grid/zone sampling, application equipment)
- J. Cover Crops
- K. Erosion Control (grassed waterway, filter strips, windbreak)
- L. Drainage Water Management (control structure)
- M. Equipment to allow for improved conservation practice implementation (planting green, planting into no-till fields, inter-seeding cover crops).
- N. Other conservation related activities that benefit the Conservation District coverage area (ex: well closure, replace fuel tank to meet MAEAP standards)

A submitted proposal must contain a completed application responding to each section.

1. **Eligible applicants** include local School Districts, private landowners, libraries, townships, local municipalities, non-profit organizations, school groups, College and University students, small businesses, and community groups.
Ineligible applicants include state and federal government agencies, public universities and colleges, groups/organizations who reside outside of Monroe County. MCD employees and board members, large businesses/corporations. Projects that include research/experimental aspects.
2. **Match Requirements:** 25% match is required for the project. Match should be calculated as a percentage of the funds requested for the project completion. Match can be cash contributed to the project or in-kind services to the project.



3. Proposals will be evaluated on:

- A. The positive impact to the environment (scale and scope will be evaluated).
- B. The short term and long-term goals of the project.
- C. The overall feasibility of the project within the timeframe available.
- D. The provisions for the maintenance of the project past the initial start in the future.
i.e., school gardens with no summer maintenance plan will not be considered.
- E. The provisions for promotion of your project to the public.

4. Funding Restrictions:

- A. Monies received may be used for conservation/education projects related to the improvement of the environment/natural resources within Monroe County. Projects will be ranked on the priorities above. Other projects may be proposed, but priority will be given to projects meeting the priorities listed.
- B. Monies received may NOT be used for equipment totaling over \$200 (*private landowner/community mini grants), travel (*bus rental for a project can be included*), salaries, fringes, overhead, permitting, or for projects required by legal order. An accounting of all monies must accompany the Final Project Report.
- C. Practices within the Ag Conservation grant category are not eligible for funds if it has been implemented on the specific field being enrolled within the past 3 years OR funded through any other cost-share program.

5. Activity Requirements:

- A. Any activities that include tree/ wildflower plantings must use native species when possible. If planting is proposed in an application a species list must be included in the application project narrative and approved by MCD. All practices including plantings will consist of a 1-year status check to confirm adequate establishment. If MCD review results in the conclusion that the practice has not been properly implemented or maintained fund repayment may be required.
- B. Establishment of pollinator gardens, rain gardens, natural shoreline protection, riparian buffers, or erosion control projects can be implemented on public or private property.
- C. Erosion control projects should utilize natural methods as much as possible and be approved by MCD before project is started. MCD will not fund seawalls.

6. Reporting Requirements:

- A. A written Final Project Report of the work completed, including pictures, is required of all grant recipients. This report will be submitted to MCD using the template provided with the project Award Letter no later than **September 15, 2024**. The report should include photos that may be used on the MCD website, social media, and in MCD publications to showcase our grant projects.

7. Publicity Notice:

- A. All publicity generated for and received by the project must acknowledge MCD. All signs associated with the project should also include the MCD logo and acknowledgment of MCD as a supporter of the project.

8. Application Submission:

- A. **Application materials are due to MCD by the first Tuesday of each month to be considered for review by the board at the regular meeting and awarded that same month.** Application materials and all other supporting documents can be emailed to: monroecd@macd.org or mailed/dropped off to the MCD office. Applicants will be notified by email when their application is received. If you do not receive an email that MCD received your application, please call us at 734.241.8540 Ext 5.



MCD Conservation Grant Application

(Revised 7-26-2023)

Please review the Conservation Grant criteria before completing this application.

Grant Applicant (Organization/ Farm) Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Primary Contact

Name: _____ Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Mini Grant Category (Circle): Private Landowner/ Community **AG**

If applicant is not the landowner and is applying for structural practices to be installed a landowner signature is required.

Landowner Name: _____ Signature: _____

Project Details:

Amount requested from MCD: \$ _____

Match provided (25% minimum): \$ _____

Total Project Cost (amount requested + match): \$ _____

Have you/your farm/organization ever worked with MCD before? (circle) YES / NO

If so, how? _____

