



Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

3001 Coolidge Road, Suite 250
East Lansing, Michigan 48823
Phone: (517) 324-4421, Fax: (517) 324-4435
www.macd.org

"Your Land, Your Water, Your Michigan"

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For more information contact:

Ann Cool

Communications Associate

Michigan Association of Conservation Districts

ann.cool@macd.org

Natural Resource Reports from Greening Mid-Michigan Project now available!

Charlotte, Michigan. The Eaton Conservation District, Eaton County Parks, and Eaton County Community Development have been integral partners on the Greening Mid-Michigan Project.

The first phase in this project is the Potential Conservation Area (PCA) report and was completed by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory. The PCA report, titled "Significant Natural Features in the Tri-County Region: Providing Ecological Information for a Green Infrastructure Plan" is intended as a resource for community planning and water resource protection. In Eaton County, there are 729 sites, totaling 54,507 acres identified as potential conservation areas. This represents 14.7% of the total area in the County. Some of the areas that ranked highly were near the Battle Creek River, Thornapple River, and many other sites in Eaton County.

Phase II has recently been completed. This report describes Natural Communities, Rare Plant Diversity, Rare Terrestrial Animals, and an Aquatic Biodiversity Assessment for the tri-county region.

To view either of the reports, visit: www.greenmidmichigan.org.

Phase III will begin in the fall and is the Green Infrastructure Mapping and Public Engagement phase. This phase will include regional focus groups, with three focus group meetings to be held in Eaton County.

To date, the groups have secured over \$90,000 in funding through a combination of county departments, state, and private funding. The GMMP will serve stakeholders on many levels. For example, local and county governments can utilize natural resource information provided by the GMMP to supplement their Comprehensive Plans or Park and Recreation Plans. Private stakeholders can also access the information to help shape their habitat and development priorities. In this way, the GMMP will serve as an invaluable tool for agencies and groups in the mid-Michigan area in identifying valuable natural areas and networks.

"In order to make decisions about Land use and conservation priorities, we needed to have the tools and the science that ranked the county's natural resources. Now that we have worked with MNFI to compile the data into a cohesive regional report, we can make knowledgeable decisions." said Andrea Stay, Executive Director, Eaton Conservation District. More information will be coming as the project progresses. Questions can be directed to Andrea at (517) 543-5848 X 5 or andrea.stay@mi.nacdnet.net.

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Greening Mid-Michigan Partners

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission	Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
Lansing Economic Area Partnership, Inc	Natural Resource Conservation Service
Eaton Conservation District	Clinton Conservation District
Eaton County Parks	Clinton County Ag Preservation Board
Eaton County Community Development	Clinton County Green Space Commission
Ingham County Ag Preservation Board	Ingham County Parks
Greater Lansing Regional Committee for Stormwater Management	

The Eaton Conservation District is a local unit of State Government established in Eaton County in 1946. The mission of the Eaton Conservation District is to promote and encourage cooperation with other individuals, groups, organizations, or agencies in an organized effort to conserve and improve the natural resources in Eaton County.

Eaton Conservation District is also a member of the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD). MACD is a non-profit organization that represents the interests of Michigan Conservation Districts and works to strengthen Districts through leadership, information and representation at the state level. [Michigan's 79 Conservation Districts](#) are the local providers of natural resource management services that help our citizens conserve their lands and our environment for a cleaner, healthier, economically stronger Michigan.

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