

NEWAYGO



CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT



*“Astronomy compels the soul to look upwards and leads us from
this world to another.”*

— Plato

WHO WE ARE

NEWAYGO CONSERVATION DISTRICT - HISTORY

The Newaygo Conservation District was organized in 1949 with the purpose of improving and maintaining soil productivity and for the purpose of obtaining efficient, appropriate and economical use of the land.

Newaygo Conservation District (NCD) is an independent unit of state government which has a philosophy and commitment to the stewardship and conservation of the environment. The NCD consults with landowners to educate them in the planning and use of their land. All programs and services are available without regard to race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, family status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because of all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.

TREE NURSERY - HISTORY

In 1950 the Nursery was started. The land on which the Nursery is located was leased from the Henning family. After Ed Henning passed away Vera Henning continued the life lease of \$2,000 annually. This lease ended with the passing of Vera Henning in December of 1999 when the ownership was then transferred to the Newaygo Conservation District

Currently the District sells bare-root seedlings. Annually, approximately 500,000 trees (conifers, hardwoods, small trees and shrubs are sold to Conservation Districts throughout the State of Michigan as well as local residents. Trees grown at our Nursery are native to Michigan.

KROPSCOTT FARM ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER - HISTORY

In the summer of 1996, Earle and Mildred Kropscott of Fremont requested that the Board of Directors for the Newaygo Conservation District accept a donation of 80 acres of land. The Board of Directors accepted the Kropscott's gracious offer, which included a farm house, barn, and approximately 40 acres of virgin timber. The Kropscott's wishes for this property is that it be used for educational purposes, agricultural purposes, and scientific studies pertaining to the environment and our natural resources. The Board of Directors has honored those wishes and continued to make this property a place for everyone to utilize and visit.

The Kropscott's and the Board of Directors also had another goal and vision for this property. They have coordinated with a local retired science teacher from the Fremont Public School System, Stephen Wessling, to coordinate and erect an astronomical observatory.

The Newaygo Conservation District received a very generous Grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation in the amount of \$150,000 to renovate the existing farmhouse into a small apartment to rent as well as two state-of-the-art laboratories for educational purposes. The district hired a contractor to do the carpentry work, and the dedication and hard work of key District Conservation individuals and the Dark Sky Astronomers completed the work by October 31st. They have rented the apartment out to an individual. Various Newaygo County organizations have joined together to promote interest in the county's natural resources. Groups involved include the NCD, Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, MSU Extension, Newaygo Invasive Plant Project, NRCS and Newaygo County Parks. Keep an eye out for events and details on the NCD website at www.newaygocd.org.

OUR TEAM

LUKE COTTON – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Luke started his time with NCD in 2011 as the MAEAP Technician and has served as executive director since 2016. He grew up on a small farm on Diamond Lake north of White Cloud. He went to Grand Valley State University and received a Bachelors in Natural Resource Management. He then returned to the area and now lives on a small farm in Fremont with his wife Christine and their three boys. Luke enjoys helping others and appreciates the opportunity to help effectively manage and protect our natural resources.

DAN SHUE – NURSERY FIELD FOREMAN

Dan started as our full nursery manager in 2018. Dan is hardworking and generous and has brought to the district a wealth of knowledge and experience. Dan is a graduate of Fremont High School with a horticulture education from Newaygo County Technology Center. He was co-owner of Shue Nursery Products from 1983-1998. Dan lives in Newaygo with his wife Mary Jo and has four children.



ROSA ORTIZ-COUCKE – ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/HAP COORDINATOR



Rosa graduated from Miguel de Cervantes Bayamon Puerto Rico, attended Central University, Puerto Rico, and Muskegon Community College, Muskegon, and currently lives in Fremont with her husband and family. Rosa had provided and assisted the land growers and job seekers with workforce and services for over 15 years in Newaygo County and surrounding counites. She enjoys working in her position, because it gives her the opportunity to continue working with agricultural areas and environmental services that are essential within our county. This is of great interest to her, and she enjoys giving back to the community. Rosa also manages the Native Plant Sale and partnership with Weesies to provide our Newaygo County communities with plants native to Michigan. Rosa also oversees and manages the HAP Program through DNR that offers landowners payment and liability protection in exchange for providing hunters limited access to their property. Rosa is excellent at seeing what needs to be done and getting the job done. She loves to be outdoors whether that be hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and gardening.

ALLISSA CONLEY – PRODUCE SAFETY TECHNICIAN



Allissa Conley is the Produce Safety Technician based out of our office in Newaygo, also covering 13 other counties with a focus on the fruit belt in Lake, Mason, Muskegon, Newaygo, and Oceana Counties. She is a graduate of Michigan State University with a BS in Wildlife Management and a minor in Sustainable Natural Resource Recreation Management. While at MSU she worked in various conservation-based research labs on campus and after school has worked in agritourism, wastewater, and as a biological science technician with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Originally from Saginaw, she currently resides in the Grand Rapids area and is enjoying living in West-Michigan.

OUR TEAM

TANNER FOWLER – MAEAP TECHNICIAN



Tanner is a Lake Superior State University graduate with a Bachelors in Wildlife Management and a minor in Geographic Information Systems. Post graduation he worked with the public as a Nuisance Animal Control Biologist before moving to Nebraska to pursue a career. He spent three years for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission as a Conservation Technician conducting a wide variety of duties including hunter access programs, habitat restorations, wildlife surveys and wildlife capture projects, including the Nebraska State University pronghorn capture and collaring project of 2020 and 2021. Prior to his role as the MAEAP Technician, Tanner worked seasonally for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a Wildlife Assistant including work on habitat improvements, wildlife openings maintenance, and food plot management and plantings. He loves to travel and explore and just be outdoors whether that be hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, or spending time with his dog. Tanner has filled the role of MAEAP Technician for Muskegon and Newaygo Counties as of January 2023. Tanner is a Muskegon area native and looks forward to working with you towards MAEAP verification or any of other resource concerns!

TERRY GRABILL – EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Terry is a life-long Newaygo County resident, graduating from Newaygo High School and teaching 30+ years in the Fremont Public School system. Terry studied at Western Michigan University and at Central Michigan University.

He has a passion for birds that started in 1988 at Central Michigan University as a student studying at the CMU Biological Station, on Beaver Island. He and his wife Andrea have developed young birders for 20 years with the groups they've brought to CMU's Biological Station and birding events down-state.



He and his wife are active in White River Community Church and Michigan birding group.

ROD DENNING – DISTRICT FORESTER

Rod Denning is the District Forester covering Oceana (his employer), Muskegon and Newaygo Counties. Rod graduated from Michigan State University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in forestry. He also holds a Masters in Geography from Western Michigan University. Rod has extensive knowledge and experience in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Forestry. He has been a delight to work with and is always ready to lend a hand when asked.



OUR TEAM

NRCS STAFF

The Fremont NRCS office works with a wide variety of landowners from livestock operations, cropping systems to small scale vegetable producers, bee keepers, forestland owners and everyone in between.

KELLY BISHOP – DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST



Kelly Bishop has worked for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service for 35 years as a soil scientist and soil/district conservationist. She has worked in several counties in the great state of Michigan, mostly along the lakeshore. She came to the Fremont Service Center in 2000 where she serves the residents of Newaygo and Muskegon counties –providing free onsite technical assistance to private landowners interested in conserving and enhancing the natural resources on their property. She has lived/worked in Michigan all her life. She has a degree in Natural Resources Management from GVSU with an emphasis in soils.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NED HUGHES – CHAIRMAN

Ned is a retired health care chief executive officer with 35+ years' experience in the health care sector. He has a Bachelor's degree in management and marketing from the University of Cincinnati, and a Masters' Degree in Health and Hospital Administration from Xavier University. He is a Life Fellow in the American College of Health Care Executives (ACHE). Ned is Chairman of Region 4 of the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and serves on its State Council. He and his wife Linda moved to Newaygo County in 1985, have two children and four grandchildren. He has been on the Newaygo Conservation Board since April of 2012.

KRIS CARLSON - TREASURER

Kris is a 1981 graduate of Newaygo High School and attended Hope College and Grand Valley, for one year each. She married Max Carlson in 1982 and started dairy farming with 40 cows. They currently own a cropfarm and dairy farm with 1400 cows. Kris has four children - Laura, Erin, Lisa and Matthew - and four grandchildren. Kris enjoys the Fremont Soccer Club and coaching. She is a 4H Club leader and a Children's Church leader at River Valley Christian Church, and currently attends the Holton United Methodist Church.

DAN BRINK - SECRETARY

Dan is a graduate of Calvin College and, also attended Ferris State University for Heavy Equipment Mechanics. He works on the family vegetable farm where he grew up, east of Grant in the Rice Lake Marsh. The farm grows onions and potatoes on the land with other area growers. Dan has served on the Newaygo Farm Bureau board and now serves on the Newaygo Conservation District Board. He is married to Jewel Brink and they have two children Luke and Emma who are attending West Michigan Christian High School.

DAVID WESTENFELDER - DIRECTOR

Dave is a graduate of Fremont High School. He attended Ferris State University with a dual major of Computer Science and Business Management. Dave lives in Fremont on their family's Centennial farm with his wife Lori and their 5 children. Dave is active in the community as a youth leader for the Calvinist Cadet Corps at First Reformed Church, a 4-H Leader, and an Instructor in the US Navy Sea Cadet programs. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Newaygo County Agricultural Fair Association and the Newaygo County 4-H Council.

BRYAN KOLK - DIRECTOR

Bryan is a graduate of Ferris State University where he received a Master's degree in Criminal Justice. He served the Newaygo County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy for 32 years. He currently represents the 2nd district of Newaygo County as a County Commissioner. Bryan has worked with a number of the townships in Newaygo County with various rolls as well as having done some adjunct teaching at Ferris State. Bryan is married to Maggie and they have four adult children, Jessica, James, Audra and Brett as well as 8 grandchildren

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSURANCE PROGRAM (MAEAP) – TANNER FOWLER

Fiscal Year 2023 was a year of change for the Newaygo Conservation District (NCD) and the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP). The new MAEAP Technician, Tanner Fowler, started his position in January 2023. Throughout the year, there were lots of trainings, conferences, educational programs, and field work done to help the MAEAP program grow within Newaygo and Muskegon Counties. After a long year of trainings and experiences, Tanner is ready to “hit the ground running” and help with any and all your MAEAP related needs!



Serving as the on-farm technician to Muskegon and Newaygo counties, 53 site visits were conducted and there were 15 different verifications or re-verifications completed. There were also many on farm assistance, trainings, and educational programs conducted. Cost-share assistance was allocated to community growers to address runoff concerns, well contamination, spill kit creation, and fuel containment. This past year’s verification numbers may have been lower, but even within a transitional year, interest, engagement and partnerships were high and a main target for the year.

Working with partners and trying to build partnerships was also a main goal for the year. That was achieved from working closely with our partners at the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Michigan On-Farm Produce Safety Program, neighboring Conservation Districts, and other organizations like the Newaygo County Environmental Coalition (NCEC). Through these partnerships, we were able to help expand the connections and outreach opportunities of the NCD and MAEAP Program. This has helped to set the program up to grow and reach those that may not be aware of the program.

Tanner is looking forward to working with you or your farm in our upcoming year on your MAEAP related needs or any other environmental sustainability or conservation concerns. Cost-share dollars will still be available for the upcoming year to help you cover needs related to MAEAP verification and re-verification like secondary containment, pesticide and fuel storage, runoff concerns, and much more. If you or anyone you know may be interested in finding more information on the MAEAP Program or wanting to start the MAEAP verification process, please contact Tanner Fowler by phone or text at 231-286-1309 or by email at tanner.fowler@macd.org

FORESTRY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (FAP) – ROD DENNING

2022 marked the 11th year that the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development has funded a District Forester to work with the Forestry Assistance Program (FAP). In fiscal year 2023, 171 contacts were made to the District Forester. As a result, 117 site visits were provided covering 5,477 acres (8.5 sq. miles) throughout the three-county (Oceana, Newaygo, and Muskegon) Region 15 service area.



A major focus of the FAP, is the administration and promotion of the Qualified Forest Program (QFP). In FY 2023, 25 landowners were verified for the QFP totaling 5.9 sq. miles of property. The program provides a property tax exemption for private landowners who actively manage their woodlots for the production of forest products. The goal of the program is to promote active forest stewardship of local woodlots, and to provide forest products to Michigan’s forest products industry.

Site visits were down 17% compared to last fiscal year, and QFP verifications were about the same as last year. Many places in the County are experiencing “oak decline” where mature oak trees are dead and dying primarily due to the past years of Spongy moth defoliation that caused other secondary insects and disease issues to take advantage of the stressed trees.

If you’re a forest landowner and are interested in services that the Forestry Assistance Program offers, please contact District Forester, Rod Denning at 616-920-9775, or rod.denning@macd.org.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

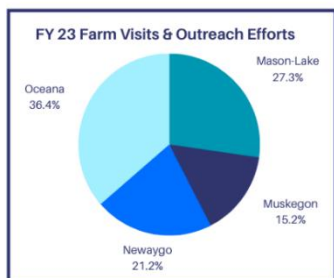
PRODUCE SAFETY – ALLISSA CONLEY

The Michigan On-Farm Produce Safety (MIOFPS) Program is a collaborative effort between Conservation District Produce Safety Technicians, MSU Extension, and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) to educate and assist fruit and vegetable growers on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Rule.

The role of a Produce Safety Technician is to be a free, voluntary, and confidential resource for growers to have at their fingertips to help them alleviate any produce safety risks that they may have on their farm. Some of the programs offered include: the Produce Safety Risk Assessment (PSRA), On-Farm Readiness Review (OFRR) to prep for inspections, presenting PSA Grower Trainings, and any other technical assistance that will help the grower to reach higher standards of safety no matter the size of the farm. Growers who complete a PSRA are eligible to receive a certificate that they can display at their farm or at the farmers market, as well as receive logo usage to use wherever and however they want to further help market their fresh and safely grown, local produce.

Produce Safety Technicians along with MSU Extension also write a monthly produce safety newsletter and record a podcast called *Produce Bites* where they discuss timely produce safety topics throughout the growing season as well as highlight growers who have benefitted from the program and working with the MIOFPS team.

With an official year under my belt, I went on 34 farm visits in my coverage area and around the state to assist growers and learn more about my role. These visits included conducting Produce Safety Risks Assessments with growers, shadowing on MDARD produce inspections, farm field days, On-Farm Readiness Reviews, and more.



I am grateful for the team in my office and at my other district offices as they have been supportive and always willing to help me spread the word about the produce safety program. Because of these partners I was able to speak about the program with growers at 9 educational events or workshops across the 5 districts, with additional events in Mecosta, Isabella, and Midland counties.

Going forward I am excited to have cost share dollars available to growers for fiscal year 2024. With these funds I am hoping to help growers pay for things like attending the PSA Grower Training, handwashing supplies, harvest bin liners, water lab tests, wash-pack equipment, wildlife traps, etc. If you are looking for any advice or assistance related to general produce safety or complying with the Produce Safety Rule, I would love to assist you and can be reached at 989-295-5661 or allissa.conley@macd.org.

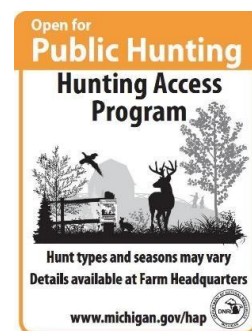


HUNTER ACCESS PROGRAM (HAP) – ROSA COUCKE

Michigan's Hunting Access Program (HAP) was originally created in 1977 to increase public hunting opportunities in southern Michigan where 97 percent of the land base is privately owned. HAP is one of the oldest dedicated private lands public access programs in the nation. HAP provides access to quality private hunting lands with a focus in agricultural regions and disease management areas. Providing more hunting opportunity is critical for attracting new and retaining current hunters and supporting Michigan's strong hunting tradition.

HAP provides financial incentives to private landowners who allow hunters access to their lands. Using funds from a USDA/VPA-HIP federal grant, the DNR has significantly expanded the number of acres and properties available within the HAP program. HAP lands are privately owned lands for which the landowners have agreed to allow public access. All hunters are responsible to know and understand the rules of the program, as well as rules of each property and state and federal regulations. Please treat these privately owned lands with respect.

Within Newaygo County the NCD has enrolled and manages 2 HAP sites with a total of 214 acres for the fiscal year 2022-2023 Hunting Seasons. This has been a very successful program, helping first time hunters, youth and other individuals that may not have another opportunity to hunt or otherwise enjoy the outdoors. For more information on HAP in Newaygo County contact Rosa at (231)225-3072 or rosa.coucke@macd.org.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

NCD NURSERY

With favorable conditions this spring, we were able to start lifting by mid-March. This gave our excellent, but small, crew time to get a jump start on getting ahead on grading and counts. We were successful in being ready for every district and retail order that were scheduled for pickup dates, which helped make a less stressful season for sure. In all for the spring "23" lift, N.C.D. served 31 districts, receiving 169,540 plants. Retail customers, receiving 25,786 plants for a total of 195,326. Fall harvest went well, with just myself and one other employee processing orders. 14 districts totaling 25,161 plants and 15 retail for 1409 plants totaled 26,570 for fall sales, bringing a combined total of 221,896 plants sold for the year. We had one reported injury this spring from an employee taking a fall and injuring their hip. To my knowledge, to date, they are healed and doing well.



In trying to incorporate organic matter into the soil, annual rye was sown on approximately 4.5 acres in the fall of "22" with great results in germ. This was plowed down before seed heads could establish in June. Also, Buckwheat was sown for a cover crop on a small plot in an effort to curb weed control. Sorghum Sudan grass was also planted in an area for tillage. All of these varieties have a phytotoxic element that is supposed to suppress weeds but yet enhance the soil for seedlings.

A Jang seeder was purchased, through grant monies, by manager Symon Cronk. This seeder has roller dies that efficiently control and meter a variety of seed for planting. It not only helps with the density and spacing but also saves countless hours of labor from planting by hand. It was used to sow a variety of seed that needed to be put in mid summer and worked very well, and is now being used for fall planting.

Many varieties of seed have been collected from the nursery this season, ie: Arrowwood, Elderberry, Ninebark and Nannyberry. Off property Hazelnut and Walnuts have been a bumper yield, so they are being planted in large amounts this year.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead! To contact our nursery call (231)652-7493 or email ncd.nursery@macd.org.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

On May 13, 2023, from 8am to 1pm we had an outstanding attendance of over 100 people at our Native Plant Sale at the Newaygo County fairgrounds. We ran out of some of the plants within 2 hours after the sale started. Total sales for the event came to \$6475.32 in native plants. We also sold some trees from our nursery for a total of \$570 trees. We had good support staff whose help made it more successful. Thanks to our team Allissa Conley, Tanner Fowler, and Symon Cronk for sharing their time and expertise at this community event, it was much appreciated. Special thanks to Sally Wagoner for the Native Plant presentation that was given to our customers. Customers were also very pleased with the quality of the plants, thanks to the supplier Weesies Brothers Farms Inc. It was a great sale, and we hope to see you there this year! For more information on Native Plants in Newaygo County contact Rosa at (231)225-3072 or rosa.coucke@macd.org.

NRCS- KELLY BISHOP

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Michigan provides conservation technical and financial assistance to our state's agricultural producers and private forestland owners on a voluntary basis. We support one of the nation's most diverse agricultural economies while helping producers and landowners protect the Great Lakes and our state's soil, water, plants, wildlife and other natural resources. NRCS provides landowners with free technical assistance, or advice, for their land. Common technical assistance includes resource assessment, practice design and resource monitoring. Our planner will help you determine if financial assistance is right for you.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

In partnership with Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, Trout Unlimited and Grand Valley State University the Muskegon River Watershed plan is being updated. NCD's part (now completed) in the project was an agricultural survey of the watershed that helped determine predominant cropping practices and identify opportunities to reduce runoff into the tributaries of the Muskegon.

Another partnership is with the Kimball Lake Association, Newaygo County Drain Commissioner and MSU Extension. In this project NCD is helping identify risks to the quality of Kimball Lake watershed tributaries and work with local land-owners to adjust management practices and implement land use changes in a way that can be mutually beneficial. This project is ongoing and we are looking forward to seeing the impact to the watershed in 2024.

Finally, in partnership with Muskegon River Watershed Assembly, Muskegon River Cleanup Co. LLC. and local volunteers we hosted a Muskegon River cleanup event in August which resulted in the removal of 1846 beverage containers, 63 flip flops, 30 pounds of lumber, 3 1/2 gallons of broken glass, 13 vapes, 8 lighters, 2 fish poles, 3 float tubes, a propane tank, and 2 cell phones. The effort included 329 volunteers and 2,632 hours of volunteer time.



NO-TILL DRILLS

It was a slower year for our no-till drills. Our smaller Truax drill planted a total of 43 acres while our larger John Deere grain drill planted 33 acres for a total of 76 acres. No-till drills are a great way to minimize soil disturbance, limit organic matter loss and promote soil health. NCD offers these drills for rental to area farmers and landowners. Which drill you use depends on the size of your tractor and what you are planting.

John Deere 750

Machine Width - 20 ft Drilling Width - 10.5 ft
Minimum HP - 85 hp Spacing - 7.5 in

Recommended for:

Wheat, barley, oats, rye, peas, buckwheat, sorghum, alfalfa, rape, millet, flax, Sudan grass, soybeans, clovers, birdsfoot trefoil, timothy, red top, Kentucky blue, fescue, navy beans, canary, orchard grass, etc.



Truax Flex II

Machine Width - 8.5 ft Drilling Width - 5.5 ft
Minimum HP - 40 hp Spacing - 8 in

Recommended for:

Wheatgrass, sideoats grama, wheat, oats, soybeans, smooth brome, cave-in-rock, switchgrass, alfalfa, clover, birdsfoot trefoil, timothy, red top, big and little bluestem, etc.

For more information on drill rentals call (231)225-3072 or email us at

newaygocd@macd.org.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2022

KROPSCOTT FARM ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

With funding from the Fremont Area Community Foundation and in partnership with Grant Public Schools, an environmental education curriculum was developed throughout 2022 and 2023. The Gerber Foundation also provided funding to assist schools with student transportation.

There are 14 current offerings including lessons that cover subjects such as water and soil chemistry and quality, exploration with stereo and compound microscopes, understanding wildlife interactions with humans and each other, owl pellet dissection and more. Terry continues to work on curriculum development and coordinates student trips to Kropscott. Over 1,400 students have visited Kropscott over the course of the year with over 1,000 hours donated by our dedicated volunteers!

Another exciting project at Kropscott is the partnership with Nate Ayers (West Michigan Agroforestry Partnership), the Savanna Institute and associate board member Andy Morren (High Pointe Genetics). Throughout 2023 trees were planted on 5 acres of pasture land to demonstrate alley cropping, silvopasture and windbreaks. Despite the dry conditions in the early summer, most of the trees survived and are growing well.

With funding provided by Magna Mirrors in Newaygo we were able to host seasonal community outreach events at Kropscott. This year we were able to offer a variety of activities for the community including scavenger hunts, rock/pumpkin painting, environmental games, wagon rides, Native American heritage, nuts and seeds, and snowshoeing.

STEPHEN WESSLING OBSERVATORY

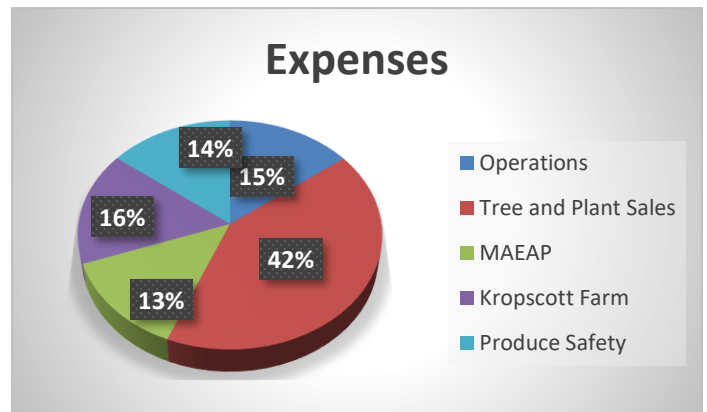
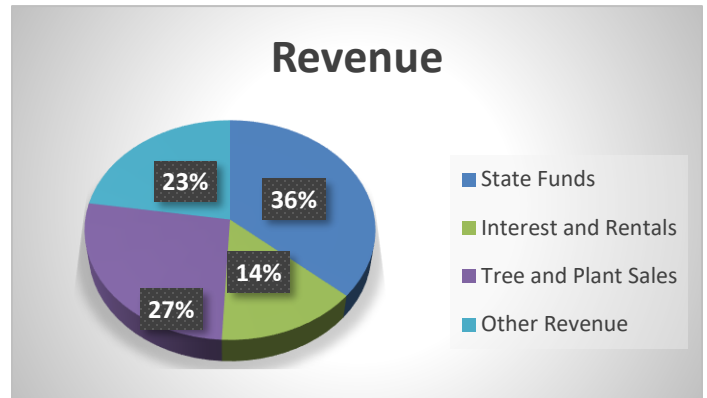
In 2004 the Newaygo Conservation District applied for and received a \$100,000 grant from the Fremont Area Community Foundation and \$30,000 from The Gerber Foundation to construct an astronomical observatory to be built on the Kropscott property. On June 30, 2004 a groundbreaking ceremony was held and 65 people attended as the unveiling of the planned Stephen F. Wessling (SFW) Observatory was presented by the Newaygo Conservation District Board of Directors. Construction began on July 19, 2004 with anticipated completion by September 20, 2004. Construction was completed in October 2004 with a ribbon cutting ceremony including Earle and Mildred Kropscott in the summer of 2005. In conjunction with the Kropscott Farm Environmental Center, SFW Observatory's goal is to provide local area amateur astronomers the opportunity to observe and study the amazing universe in which we live.

The SFW Observatory has been open to the public during the months of May through October each and every year. During these months two or more monthly scheduled events are open to the public and hosted by the Newaygo County Dark Sky Astronomers (NCDSA). Dates and times can be located on the website at www.newaygocd.org Established in 2005, the Newaygo County Dark Sky Astronomers (NCDSA) provide local area astronomers the opportunity to explore the universe. The NCDSA welcomes members of all ages and interest levels, from the first-time astronomer to the serious observer.

FINANCIAL

FY21-22 Financial Statements

REVENUE	
State Funds	\$196,570
Charges for Services	\$0
Interest and Rentals	\$77,916
Tree and Plant Sales	\$143,657
Other Revenue	\$121,973
Total Revenue	\$540,116
EXPENDITURES	
Operations	\$80,423
Tree and Plant Sales	\$229,929
MAEAP	\$73,500
Kropscott Farm	\$88,710
Produce Safety	\$80,070
Total Expenditures	\$552,632
BUDGET BALANCE	(\$12,516)



Newaygo Conservation District

940 Rex Street, Fremont MI, 49412

Tel 213-924-2060 ext. 5

Email newaygocd@macd.org

Website newaygocd.org



Newaygo Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer and service provider.