



CASS COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

2022 CONSERVATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Please submit by June 15th, 2022

Natural Resource Assessment Survey for Cass County:

Our Mission

Our mission is to protect and enhance Cass County's natural resources by providing educational and technical services to all landowners.

Every five years the Cass County Conservation District looks for feedback about natural resources and conservation in our county. This survey helps us prioritize resources for the most important needs identified by our residents, helping us to promote and implement voluntary conservation.

This survey can be completed online or by paper copy. For a paper copy, please contact the Cass County Conservation District at 269-445-8641 x 5 or visit cassccd.org. Completed surveys can be emailed to cassccd@gmail.com, or, mailed or dropped off at the Cass County Conservation District office at 1127 East State St Cassopolis, MI 49031. All responses will be kept anonymous. Please complete surveys by June 15th, 2022.

1. How do you live, work, or play in Cass County? *(Check all that apply.)*
- Agricultural landowner
 - Homeowner (permanent resident)
 - Property owner (no home)
 - Renter of home and / or property
 - Vacation home or 2nd homeowner
 - Vacation / visitor
2. Which natural areas do you utilize in Cass County? *(Check all that apply.)*
- Agricultural Lands
 - Beaches
 - Forests
 - Hiking / biking trails
 - Lakes (inland / Great Lakes)
 - Parks
 - Public hunting areas
 - Rivers / streams
 - Your own backyard / property
 - Do not use natural areas in the county
 - Other *(please explain)*: _____
3. Rank the land / water resources within Cass County based on the importance to the community with #1 being the most important resource:
- Agriculture / farmland
 - Forests / woodlands
 - Non-farmed lands (backyards, prairies, meadows, open lands)
 - Water (drinking water, lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands)
 - Other *(please explain)*: _____
4. Check the top three water quality (drinking water, lakes, streams, ponds, wetlands) priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:
- City / Village stormwater runoff
 - Drinking water / groundwater
 - Farmland water runoff
 - Invasive species
 - Lakes / ponds
 - Rivers / streams
 - Septic systems
 - Wetlands
 - Other *(please explain)*: _____

5. Check the top three forests / woodland priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:
- Invasive species
 - Loss due to housing, business, and farmland development
 - Sustainable forest management
 - Plant and wildlife habitat
 - Recreation / hunting access
 - Other (please explain): _____
6. Check the top three agriculture / farmland priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:
- Animal manure (best practices)
 - Farm chemicals / fertilizers (proper use and disposal)
 - Farmland preservation
 - Pollinator / wildlife habitat
 - Soil erosion / soil loss
 - Water quality / runoff
 - Water use / irrigation
 - Other (please explain): _____
7. Check the top three non-farmed lands (backyards, prairies, meadows, open lands) priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:
- Invasive species
 - Non-farmed land loss due to housing, business, and farmland development
 - Pollinator populations
 - Recreational / hunting access
 - Wetlands
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Other (please explain): _____
8. Check the top three quality of life / human behavior priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:
- Agriculture tourism
 - Household chemicals (proper use and disposal)
 - Invasive species / native plants
 - Lawn and garden
 - Land recreation (biking, hiking, hunting, etc.)
 - Parks and open spaces
 - Recycling / proper garbage disposal
 - Septic systems
 - Water recreation (boating, fishing, paddling, etc.)
 - Water runoff (rain barrels, rain gardens)
 - Other (please explain): _____

9. The Cass County Conservation District provides the following programs and services. Which are you aware of and / or have participated in? (Check all that apply.)

- Farm equipment rentals (no-till drill, seeders)
- Forestry Assistance Program
- Invasive species education
- Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)
- Recycling & waste management
- Tree seedling and native plant sales
- Wildlife / habitat planning
- Soil Erosion Sedimentation Control (SESC)

10. What additional actions, programs, and services would you like the Cass County Conservation District to add to help you, your land, and the community?

11. What is the 5-digit zip code of your home / residence or main property within Cass County?

12. Select the setting that best describes your home / property in Cass County: (Check all that apply.)

- Urban - Residential (city, village, town)
- Rural - Farm
- Rural - Residential
- Lakeshore / waterfront

13. How do you prefer to receive information on programs and services available through the Conservation District? (Check all that apply.)

- Electronic newsletter
- Email
- Facebook
- Newspapers
- Postal mail
- Website

14. Any additional comments: _____

15. Would you like to receive emails from the Cass Conservation District about the results of the survey, events, and programs? Yes / No

16. By leaving your contact information you will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card to Dussel's Farm Market. Please nicely print your name, email address, and phone number if you would like further correspondence:

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____