



# Shiawassee Conservation District

## Your Land, Your Water ~ Your Michigan

1900 S. Morrice Road • Owosso, MI 48867 • (989) 723-8263, Ext. 3 Winter/Spring 2024

*Shiawassee Conservation District*

### Open House & Elections

Thursday, April 4, 2024

2:00 PM—4:00 PM

Election closes at 4:00 PM, election results immediately following.

Shiawassee Conservation District, 1900 S. Morrice Road, Owosso

Shiawassee Farmer Network

### Continue the LOCAL Conservation CONVERSATION

Next meeting dates and location:

**February 21 & March 19**

9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Farmer Leaders Michelle and Jake Glass  
8580 Lehring Rd, Durand

**REQUEST TO RECEIVE  
EMAIL UPDATES**

[shiawasseeCD@macd.org](mailto:shiawasseeCD@macd.org)  
(989) 723-8263 x3

- ▶ Join the Shiawassee Farmer Network and collaborate with farmers in your community who know the challenges you face on your farm.
- ▶ Learn from farmer-driven discussions and guest speakers who are experts in their agriculture and conservation fields.
- ▶ Earn MAEAP Phase 1 and RUP credits.

RSVP appreciated, but not required. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact the Shiawassee Conservation District.

### Wildlife Habitat Workshop

**Saturday, March 23, 2024**

9:00 PM—12:00 PM, Location to be Determined

More information will be available soon.

Check the District website or call for details and to RSVP.

### CSP Program Benefits Forestland Owners

Forestry plays a crucial role in Michigan's economy and environment. The state's vast forested areas provide benefits such as timber production, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, and clean air/water. However, unmanaged, these forests face challenges, including invasive species, forest stand degradation, wildfires, and unsustainable logging practices. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) aims to address these challenges by providing financial and technical assistance to landowners and agricultural producers to expand existing conservation efforts on their forest land.

CSP encourages the expansion and/or adoption of conservation practices that promote sustainable forestry management. In Shiawassee County, common forest management practices implemented through CSP include forest stand improvement, brush management, and invasive species control. By implementing conservation practices, landowners can enhance the resilience of their forests to climate change, reduce the risk of forest fires, and improve the quality of timber produced. These practices also help to protect and restore wildlife habitat, ensuring the long-term viability of Michigan's diverse plant and animal species.

In addition to environmental benefits, CSP provides economic incentives for landowners. Through financial assistance, landowners can offset the costs associated with

*Continued on page 5*



Scan the QR code for District event details.  
[www.shiawasseeccd.org](http://www.shiawasseeccd.org)

If you need accommodations to participate in any District events, please contact the Shiawassee Conservation District at (989) 723-8263, ext. 3 two weeks prior. USDA is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

## Trees: Water Quality Guardians

Trees play a pivotal role in improving water quality. There are many ways you can support these amazing plants that protect our planet's most precious resource.

Trees function as natural filters by capturing and absorbing pollutants from the soil with their extensive root systems. When established next to water, trees protect against polluted runoff. Their network of tree roots reduce erosion and stabilize shores and banks by binding the soil. Trees not only capture sediment from runoff, but they also moderate water temperatures and provide habitat.

Trees play a part in nutrient cycling by absorbing nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus from the soil. This helps reduce issues such as algal blooms in water bodies. Trees also release water vapor into the atmosphere through transpiration. This part of the water cycle increases

oxygen levels in surface water and helps aquatic ecosystems.

You can play a role in improving water quality by planting trees. These green additions act as a natural defense by reducing water pollution and fostering a healthier environment. Adopting sustainable practices in your gardening or landscaping is equally essential. Prioritize existing tree cover and be mindful of choices such as the use of fertilizers or pesticides.

Raising awareness about the importance of trees for water quality can begin in your own community. Share your knowledge with neighbors through conversations that highlight the functions of trees. Leave a lasting impact right from your doorstep by helping others understand what it means to the environment to plant a tree.

Recognize yourself as a tree steward by understanding the crucial

role of trees. Show off your appreciation of trees as they perform their duties of water quality guardians. Trees are truly remarkable as they ensure a healthier and more sustainable environment for generations to come.

### How Trees Benefit Water



- Shade helps to keep water cooler.
- Stabilize stream banks.
- Reduce flooding & flood damage.
- Filter pollutants before they reach the water.

## Big Year for Shiawassee County's First MAEAP Verified Farm

Shiawassee County's first farm verified in the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) had a big year in 2023. Eickholt Seed Farm attained MAEAP Verification in 2006, becoming the inaugural farm in Shiawassee County to do so. The farm has since been reverified five times, most recently in 2023, which serves as a testament to their unwavering dedication to safeguarding the environment against potential hazards.

Eickholt Seed Farm operates a 1,350 acre row crop farm in northern Shiawassee County. To uphold their MAEAP verification, they store and manage fuel, pesticides, and fertilizers to minimize environmental risks from their farmstead. They also follow a nutrient management plan, minimize pesticide drift, and maintain all required farm and crop records.

"With more awareness at every

level of the vital importance of conservation and sound environmental practices, we remain committed to the importance of the MAEAP program," David Eickholt, Eickholt Seed Farm owner and operator states. "We want to continue the example of good stewardship, as the future of agriculture and the next generations of Eickholt Seed Farms will rely on and require it."

MAEAP is a voluntary program that helps farmers reduce pollution risks through education, risk assessments, and implementing risk reduction practices on the farm. MAEAP covers all facets of the farm through its four systems: Farmstead, Cropping, Livestock, and Forest/Wetland/Habitat. A farm begins their journey with a free and confidential farm assessment with a Conservation District technician. If a farm is found to be meeting all risk reductions in a

system, they can choose to become MAEAP verified. Farmers who become MAEAP verified have voluntarily met state and federal environmental regulations and Michigan Right to Farm guidelines. While becoming MAEAP verified is not an easy task, it can benefit you and your farm in many ways.

Are you proud of your farm and its commitment to the environment? Consider becoming a MAEAP verified farm. Becoming verified in one or more systems shows your dedication to protecting the environment and grants you regulatory benefits and access to financial assistance. The Shiawassee Conservation District offers conservation planning services, including farm assessments. These services are confidential and free. To learn more about MAEAP or to schedule a free farm assessment, contact the Conservation District.

SPRING 2024 TREE SALE ORDER FORM

Shiawassee Conservation District

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone-Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only

Order #

Date Received

Processor

TRANSPLANTS		Size	Age*	5	10	25	50	100	QUANTITY	TOTAL	
CONIFERS	Balsam Fir	12-22"	P+2	\$20.00	\$38.00	\$90.00	\$175.00	\$320.00			
	Norway Spruce	15-24"	2-1	\$20.00	\$38.00	\$90.00	\$175.00	\$320.00			
	White Cedar	10-16"	2-1	\$20.00	\$38.00	\$90.00	\$175.00	\$320.00			
	White Pine	10-16"	2-1	\$20.00	\$38.00	\$90.00	\$175.00	\$320.00			
	White Spruce	15-24"	2-1	\$20.00	\$38.00	\$90.00	\$175.00	\$320.00			
BARE ROOT SEEDLINGS		Size	Age*	5	10	25	50	100	500	QUANTITY	TOTAL
CONIFERS	Norway Spruce	9-15"	2-0	\$6.50	\$12.50	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$300.00		
	Red Cedar	10-16"	2-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Red Pine	6-14"	2-0	\$6.50	\$12.50	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$80.00	---		
	White Pine	6-14"	2-0	\$6.50	\$12.50	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$300.00		
	White Spruce	9-15"	2-0	\$6.50	\$12.50	\$25.00	\$40.00	\$80.00	\$300.00		
DECIDUOUS	Bitternut Hickory	12-18"	2-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Black Cherry	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Bur Oak	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Red Oak	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Sugar Maple	12-18"	2-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Swamp White Oak	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Sycamore	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	White Oak	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
SHRUBS	Black Elderberry	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Highbush Cranberry	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Mapleleaf Viburnum	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Nannyberry	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Thimbleberry	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Winterberry	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
	Witch Hazel, Common	12-18"	1-0	\$15.00	\$27.00	\$65.00	\$125.00	\$220.00	---		
SINGLE LARGE TREES		SIZE								QUANTITY	TOTAL
DECIDUOUS	Basswood	4-5'		\$25.00							
	Northern Catalpa	3-4'		\$15.00							
	Paper Birch	4-5'		\$20.00							
	Red Maple	4-5'		\$20.00							
	Tulip Poplar	4-5"		\$20.00							
*Age: <b>1st number:</b> years grown in seedling bed, P=1 year grown in plug container										SUBTOTAL	

\*Age: 1st number: years grown in seedling bed, P=1 year grown in plug container  
2nd number: years grown in transplant bed

Subtotal

Please complete payment information on reverse.

## Spring 2024 Tree Sale Order Form - Page 2

	ITEM	DESCRIPTION	COST EACH	QUANTITY	TOTAL
SEED MIXES	Switchgrass Blend	1 pound of seed in each package	\$24.00		
	Bird & Butterfly Wildflower Seed	1 ounce package, sows 125 square feet	\$5.00		
	Deer Resistant Wildflower Seed	1 ounce package, sows 250 square feet	\$5.00		
	Pollinator Wildflower Seed	1 ounce package, sows 200 square feet	\$5.00		
	Tree Flag	4x5" red flag on a 30" wire stake	\$0.30		

TOTAL BACK

TOTAL FRONT

SUBTOTAL (BACK + FRONT)

6% TAX

HANDLING FEE \$4.00

DONATION

GRAND TOTAL

SCAN ME



Visit [www.shiawasseeccd.org](http://www.shiawasseeccd.org) for:

- » Tree/shrub descriptions
- » See mix descriptions
- » Ordering instructions and details
- » Tree/shrub planning instructions

### PAYMENT TYPE

☐ CHECK

☐ VISA/MasterCard

☐ CASH

Check Number:

CARD NO - Visa or MasterCard:

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD:

EXP. DATE:

SECURITY CODE:

ZIP CODE:

## SPRING 2024 TREE SALE - ORDERING & PAYMENT DETAILS

**Supplies are limited and orders will be filled as they are received. Order by April 1, 2024. Please call the District office for availability at (989) 723-8263 Ext 3.**

Place your order by:

- **Phone.** Call the District office at (989) 723-8263 ext. 3 to place your order with VISA/MasterCard.
- **Mail.** Call the District office for availability and send the completed order form with full payment to: Shiawassee Conservation District, 1900 S. Morrice Rd, Owosso MI 48867.
- **In Person.** Order forms can be accepted at the District office. It is important to call ahead to ensure staff will be in the office to assist you.

Payment can be made by VISA/MasterCard, check, or cash

**Orders will be available to pick up at the Shiawassee County Fairgrounds, Draft Horse Barn:**

- **Thursday, April 25 from 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM**
- **Friday, April 26 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

**Please review the 2024 Spring Tree Sale Policy on page 5 of this newsletter or on the District webpage for important information.**

The Shiawassee Conservation District offers bare-root trees and shrubs for conservation plantings, wildlife habitat, erosion control, and general reforestation. The species offered are grown in our climate to best meet the conditions that they will be planted in.

## 2024 Spring Tree Sale Policy

- The final date to order is April 1, 2024. There will be no refunds or cancellations after this date. There may be a \$25 service charge for any substitutions or cancellations made before April 1 by the customer. There will be no charge when only additions are made.
- Orders not picked up will not be refunded.
- The Shiawassee Conservation District reserves the right to cancel orders and refund payments due to reasons beyond their control. Substitutions made by the nurseries are beyond the District’s control.
- Add orders carefully. Any errors \$10 and under will be considered a donation to the District’s general fund.
- All returned checks will be subject to a \$35 fee.
- We do not guarantee survival. Our liability ceases when seedlings are picked up. It is unlawful for these trees, shrubs and other plants to be resold with the roots attached in accordance with the Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act. PA 189 of 1931 as amended.
- All plant material has been found to be in compliance with the National Plant Board standards of pest freedom. MDARD Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division, License/Certificate NCI000670.

**ORDER PICKUP**  
Shiawassee County Fairgrounds Draft Horse Barn  
Thursday, April 25, 9 AM - 7 PM  
Friday, April 26, 9 AM - 4 PM

Contact the Shiawassee Conservation District with any questions about the Tree Sale, including order pick-up inquiries.  
(989) 723-8263 Ext. 3

### CSP Benefits Forestland Owners *Continued from pg. 1*

implementing conservation practices. USDA has increased the minimum annual payment for participating in CSP to \$4,000. The increase addresses challenges faced by small scale, underserved, and urban producers and improves equity in the program by making participation more financially beneficial for smaller operations.

Shiawassee County landowner and forester Ben Schram works closely with the Shiawassee Conservation District

to plan for and implement conservation practices on his land. He and his wife Chelsea are currently enrolled in CSP. When asked what initially got him interested in CSP, Ben responded “We had recently completed all the conservation practices outlined in our conservation

plan and EQIP [Environmental Quality Incentives Program] contract. We wanted to do more to protect water quality and benefit pollinating insects. CSP was a logical option, especially because of the generous financial assistance associated with

**“Owning woodlands costs money. There are constant pressures on converting ours' and others' family forests to other land uses, like traditional agriculture or building developments. The money we receive from CSP helps relieve those pressures because it pays to keep forests as forests.”**

improvement practices on their property. We asked Ben how he thought CSP had directly benefited their forested land and/or forestry throughout Michigan and he responded with, “Our forest and adjacent habitats are certainly in better shape since participating in CSP.


participation in the program.” Ben and Chelsea are presently struggling with woody invasive species and increasing biodiversity within their woods. Due to these struggles, they are currently implementing brush management and forest stand

We have been able to reinvest these funds into combating woody invasives and increasing biodiversity. Our forest is more resilient to a changing climate and the next catastrophic bug, as well as providing a more diverse long-term food source for our beekeeping business. Owning woodlands costs money. There are constant pressures on converting ours' and others' family forests to other land uses, like traditional agriculture or building developments. The money we receive from CSP helps relieve those pressures because it pays to keep forests as forests.”

Nearly 11 million acres, or 57% of Michigan’s forested land is privately owned. Management decisions on these lands have important impacts on the environment. The Shiawassee Conservation District offers free and confidential conservation planning assistance to help landowners make those decisions. For more information on conservation planning and CSP, contact the Shiawassee Conservation District office.

Tree/Shrub Descriptions					
	Variety	Height	Shade*	Site Conditions	Notes
Conifers	Balsam Fir ( <i>Abies balsamea</i> )	 40-85'	●	Can grow in poorly-drained swamps to well-drained uplands.	Needles are persistent, aromatic, do not shed readily; common Christmas tree.
	Norway Spruce ( <i>Picea abies</i> )	50-85'	●	Prefers moist, fertile soils; does not thrive on dry or sand-gravelly soils.	Winter cover for wildlife; shallow root system in clay or poorly-drained soils.
	Red Cedar ( <i>Juniperus virginiana</i> )	 30-50'	○	Well adapted for most soils; found in well drained, sandy, gravelly soils in open areas.	Excellent wildlife value, providing food, protective cover & nesting cover.
	Red Pine ( <i>Pinus resinosa</i> )	 65-100'	○	Prefers well-drained, dry, very acidic, sandy soils of outwash plains & gravelly ridges.	Provides cover & food for deer, small mammals, & songbirds.
	White Cedar ( <i>Thuja occidentalis</i> )	 30-50'	●	Grows on wide variety of soils; common in cool, moist, nutrient-rich sites.	Foliage & twigs eaten by deer; fruit eaten by birds; good for screens & hedges.
	White Pine ( <i>Pinus strobus</i> )	 65-100'	○	Adaptable to most soils; prefers well-drained, sandy soils.	Great for windbreaks; soft needles; a preferred deer-food.
	White Spruce ( <i>Picea glauca</i> )	 50-85'	●	Able to establish on wet sites; can grow on moderately-moist soils.	Winter cover for wildlife; can grow on edges of swamps, rivers, lakes, etc.
Deciduous	Basswood ( <i>Tilia americana</i> )	 60-80'	●	Occurs on rich, mesic sites such as lower slopes, river bottoms; well-drained soils.	Prolific nectar producer & is valued by honeybees.
	Bitternut Hickory ( <i>Carya cordiformis</i> )	 50-80'	○	Grows best on fertile, moist soils, cool sites & mesic hardwood forests	Dense root system provides good soils stability; wildlife eat nuts but are bitter for human consumption
	Northern Catalpa ( <i>Catalpa speciosa</i> )	 30-50'	○	Grows on most mineral soils including dry upland soils.	Planted in urban areas; green seedpods are 10-24" long in summer, dark brown in fall.
	Paper Birch (Canoe) ( <i>Betula papyrifera</i> )	 40-65'	○	Grows on a variety of soils, & best in well-drained acidic, sandy or silty loam.	Striking coloration; snowshoe hare & deer browse; food for birds & small mammals.
	Black Cherry ( <i>Prunus serotina</i> )	 40-65'	○	Prefers moist, well-drained soils; does not do well in very wet or very dry sites.	Clusters of white flowers in early spring; berries provide food for wildlife.
	Bur Oak ( <i>Quercus macrocarpa</i> )	 60-80'	○	Does well in most soil types; prefers well draining to moist soils but not flooded.	Fringed caped acorns are eaten by squirrels, ducks, & other wildlife.
	Red Maple ( <i>Acer rubrum</i> )	 50-70'	●	Well adapted to most soil and site conditions.	Seeds provide food for wildlife; leaves brilliant red in fall; flowers early in spring.
	Red Oak ( <i>Quercus rubra</i> )	 65-100'	○	Characteristic of mesic forests on moist, cool, well-drained sites.	Provides cover, nesting sites, & food for variety of birds & mammals.
	Sugar Maple ( <i>Acer saccharum</i> )	 60-100'	●	Prefers moist, well-drained soils; fertile soil to clay.	Beautiful fall colors; main source of maple syrup; a preferred food for deer.
	Swamp White Oak ( <i>Quercus bicolor</i> )	 50-70'	○	Tolerant of poorly-drained soils; often in floodplains, swamps, & stream edges.	Acorns are eaten by squirrels, ducks, & other wildlife.
	Sycamore ( <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> )	 60-100'	○	Moist soils, especially near rivers, flood-plains, etc; also open, moist upland sites.	Flood-tolerant; fast-growing; bark flakes off giving trunk interesting appearance.
	Tulip Poplar ( <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i> )	 50-100'	○	Best on moderately moist, deep, well drained, loose textured soils.	In magnolia family; fragrant greenish-yellow, tulip-like flowers May-June.
	White Oak ( <i>Quercus alba</i> )	 60-85'	○	Found on many soil types; best on coarse, deep, moist, well-drained soils.	Fairly drought resistant after established; food for wildlife; great ornamental tree.
Shrubs	Black Elderberry ( <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> )	 4-12'	●	Well drained, slightly acidic soils along streams; gray forest soils; muck soils.	Flowers in June-July; edible fruit September-October; berries are excellent wildlife food.
	Highbush Cranberry ( <i>Viburnum opulus</i> )	 8-15'	○	Tolerates a wide range of soil types, also tolerates occasional flooding.	Produces flat-top clusters of showy white flowers and red berries which birds enjoy.
	Mapleleaf Viburnum ( <i>Viburnum acerifolium</i> )	 4-6'	●	Best in well-drained, moist soils, with partial shading; however, tolerant of acidic soils, dry sites, & deep shade.	Attractive clusters of white flowers late spring to summer; birds eat the berry-like drupes; red, pink, or purple foliage in fall.
	Nannyberry ( <i>Viburnum lentago</i> )	 13-22'	○	Grows on wide variety of soil conditions; characteristic of mesic and wet-mesic sites.	Creamy-white flowers early to mid May; red/blue fragrant edible berry.
	Thimbleberry ( <i>Rubus parviflorus</i> )	 3-8'	●	Tolerates a wide range of conditions, best in moist, nutrient-rich soils with good drainage	Fragrant white flowers; large start-shaped leaves; thornless; attract pollinators
	Winterberry ( <i>Ilex verticillata</i> )	 5-15'	○	Low, moist, cool, basic or acidic habitats with high water tables.	Small greenish or yellowish-white flowers; red berries in fall/winter; wildlife food.
	Witch Hazel, Common ( <i>Hamamelis virginiana</i> )	 8-20'	○	May be found in rich deciduous forests, but more often in sandy dry forest and savanna with oak, hickory, aspen or pine.	Winter shrub that produces yellow flowers from October to November.

\*Shade Tolerance: ○ Shade Intolerant; ○ Moderately Shade Tolerant; ● Shade Tolerant; ● Very Shade Tolerant

 Native to Michigan



## Rooted in Well Being: The Importance of Green Spaces

Green spaces, such as parks, trails, and community gardens, play an important role in connecting nature and urban life. Let's learn about their environmental benefits, impact on community well-being, and ways we can maximize their presence.

### What are green spaces, and what can be done to support our own personal green spaces?

Green space are areas dominated by vegetation including parks, forests, and community gardens. Personal property such as home gardens and yards can also be green spaces. These spaces contribute to a healthier and more sustainable environment by serving as a counterbalance to the development of many urban areas.

Growing a garden or incorporating green elements into our yards enhances the aesthetic appeal of our home and plays a vital role in creating a more sustainable and vibrant living environment. We can enhance our personal greenspaces by planting trees. Studies have shown that well

landscaped properties with mature trees tend to attract higher property values making it a rewarding and beneficial investment.

### Why are green spaces important to the environment?

» Air Quality Improvement: Green spaces function as natural air purifiers by absorbing pollutants and releasing oxygen. The abundance of plants, particularly trees, helps lessen the negative effects of pollution and contributes to cleaner and fresher air.

» Improving Albedo: Greenery has a higher albedo, or reflectivity, compared to concrete or asphalt. This means that trees reflect a significant amount of sunlight, resulting in a reduction of temperature in urban areas.

» Carbon Sequestration: Trees and other plants absorb carbon dioxide during photosynthesis, playing a crucial role in sequestering carbon and lessening the impacts of our changing climate.

» Rainwater Management: Green spaces act as natural sponges by absorbing excess rainwater and preventing runoff. This helps to reduce flooding and soil erosion.

### How do green spaces contribute to community well-being?

Green spaces help to deal with the mental fatigue of modern living. Access to green spaces has been linked to improved mental health, reduced stress levels, and enhanced overall well-being. Nature walks, outdoor activities, and simply spending time in a green environment have proven benefits for physical and mental health. Tree cover contributes directly to lowering stress. Green spaces also serve as communal meeting points, encouraging social interactions and community bonding. Parks become hubs for events, picnics, and recreational activities, creating a sense of unity among residents.

### How can we maximize our green spaces?

Incorporate green spaces by planting trees. Create a backyard haven that enhances aesthetic appeal while contributing to a healthier local ecosystem. Additionally, support and engage in community activities such as tree planting events or tree sales.

The core of well-being and community vitality is rooted in our green spaces. Beyond their environmental benefits, green spaces nurture physical and mental health. By understanding the significance of green spaces and doing our part to protect them, we are investing in a healthier environment and growing the communities that define our shared human experience.

## CREP Protects Water and Improves Wildlife Habitat

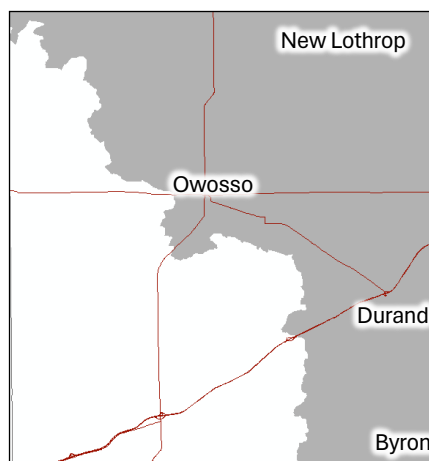
The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) gives landowners financial and technical incentives to install conservation practices that protect water quality and enhance wildlife habitat. Cropland located within the Saginaw Bay Watershed may be eligible for this voluntary program.

Practices that can be considered include grass plantings, windbreaks, riparian buffers, and filter strips.

CREP is just one of several conservation programs offered in Shiawassee County. Conservation planning is the first step in learning what opportunities are available. The Shiawassee Conservation District offers free and confidential conservation planning services and can connect producers and landowners to those opportunities.

Contact the Conservation District office to learn more.

Saginaw Bay Watershed in Shiawassee County



Coming Soon!  
**Shiawassee County  
2024 Plat Book**

Details released later this year.



**Shiawassee Conservation District**  
1900 S. Morrice Road  
Owosso, MI 48867

Nonprofit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Owosso, MI  
Permit No. 87

**CURRENT RESIDENT or**

## 2024 SPRING TREE SALE INFORMATION INSIDE!

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs). Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**YOUR LAND, YOUR WATER  
YOUR MICHIGAN  
MAKE A LONG-LASTING,  
POSITIVE IMPACT ON  
MICHIGAN'S NATURAL RESOURCES.  
NO RESOURCE IS TOO SMALL  
OR TOO LARGE.**

*conservation*

*www.shiawasseeccd.org*

**SHIAWASSEE CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**Directors:** Tom Braid, Chair  
Duane Leach, Vice Chair  
Amanda Martindale, Treasurer  
Larry Lee, Director  
Michelle Glass, Director

**District Staff:** Melissa Higbee, Executive Director  
Donna Kanan, Conservation Specialist  
Thomas Wert, Conservation Specialist  
Andrea Wendt, Conservation Specialist  
Danner Molnar, Conservation Specialist  
Echo Prafke-Marson, Conservation Specialist

**NRCS Staff:** Tina Tuller, District Conservationist  
Greg Lienau, Soil Conservation Technician  
Emily Schaefer, Soil Conservationist  
Brendan Montie, CRP Specialist