

Background

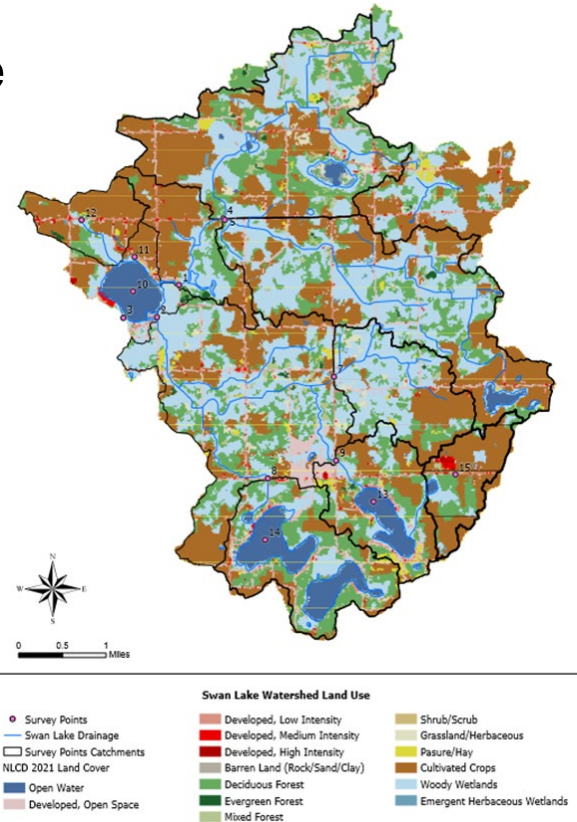
- Dust Bowl and the “epidemic of soil erosion” in the 1930’s
- 1935 Soil Conservation Service founded (now Natural Resources Conservation Service)
- 1937 - 1945 Soil Conservation Districts form as local NRCS partner



What Do We Do?

Conservation planning for any land use, at any scale

- MAEAP (Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program)
- Watershed management plans
- Forestry Assistance Program
- Invasive species management



What Do We Do?

Financial assistance for conservation implementation

- Direct funding through grant programs
- Assistance with outside program applications



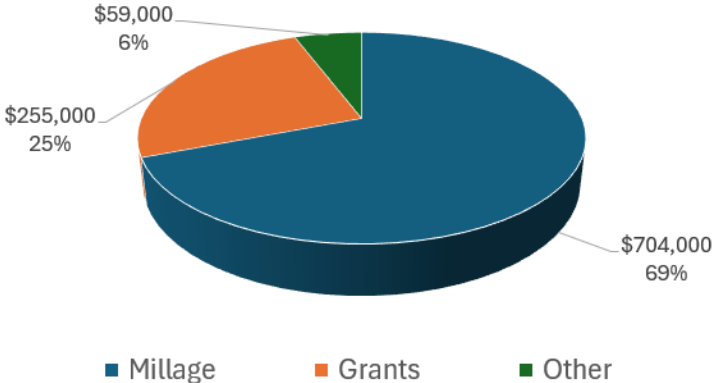
What Do We Do?

Conservation education and demonstrations



Current Funding

- Grants: \$200,000 - \$350,000
 - Includes State operational funds of \$40,000
- Sales and services: \$20,000 - \$35,000
- Interest: \$25,000



Fiscal Year	Millage Revenue
2022	\$536,000
2023	\$608,000
2024	\$680,000
2025	\$704,000
2026	TBD
2027	TBD

Millage-Funded Work To-Date

Primary expenses

- Capacity building: facility, vehicle, equipment
- Administrative staff and operational expenses
- Educational staff and programming
- Invasive species management staff
- Water quality monitoring



Upcoming Work

- Park development in the City of Allegan
- Conservation equipment rent and loan program
- Farmland preservation program development
- Expand direct landowner services - small wetland delineations, invasive species treatment and planning, planting services
- Community micro-grant program

Why Maintain Millage Funding

- Operational funds are necessary for:
 - Job stability between grants
 - Staff capacity to maintain financial controls
 - Fund development and proposal development
 - Professional development
- Matching funds for grants
- Flexibility to meet local needs
- Preliminary data collection and planning