



Schoolcraft Conservation District
100 N Cedar St, PO Box 250, Manistique, MI 49854
906-286-2890 schoolcraftcd@macd.org www.schoolcraftcd.org

Schoolcraft Conservation District COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM - 2026

The Schoolcraft Conservation District (SCD) is very excited to announce the 2026 Community Conservation Grants Program. Grants are available to the public for conservation related projects to be implemented in Schoolcraft County. SCD is anticipating awarding up to \$5,000 total to 5-7 projects across Schoolcraft County. Grants will range from \$800 - \$1,000 each. SCD seeks proposals for a variety of projects that have a direct impact on the improvement of our natural resources through hands-on educational programs or projects that directly impact the environment.

Prior to completing your application form, please review the criteria for the grant program as well as the summary of the follow-up procedures and Final Project Report required of all recipients of a Conservation Grant. Please review this information carefully as it may prove valuable when designing your project and submitting your application. In particular, please note the deadlines and signatures required for the application. Improperly complete or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. Each applicant may request up to \$1,000 in support, but SCD reserves the right to reduce the amount requested if it deems the project cost isn't justified.

The application deadline is Friday, May 1, 2026 at 4:00 pm. Late applications will not be accepted. Applications can be submitted through e-mail or dropped off in our office. All applicants will be notified if they are or are not recipients of an award no later than May 22, 2026. Awardees will receive their funds at the start of the project period and must have all funds spent by November 30, 2026. If you have any further questions pertaining to the grant application process, or would like advice or help planning your project, please email SCD District Manager, Ashley Reitter at schoolcraftcd@macd.org or call the office 906-286-2890.

Good luck and thank you for your interest in the Community Conservation Grant Program!



SCD Conservation Grant Criteria

Below is a list of criteria which must be met by applicants in order to be considered for a conservation grant. Please use these criteria to develop your grant proposal.

A submitted proposal must contain a completed application responding to each section. The total proposal should not exceed 3 pages, not including plans, sketches, pictures and letters of support. Proposals can be submitted in PDF or Microsoft Word format. **Please follow the exact order of the application below to assist with the evaluation of your submission.**

1. **Eligible applicants include:** local school districts, private landowners, Native American tribes, libraries, townships, local municipalities, non-profit organizations, lake associations, school groups, and other community groups. Groups can not have any political affiliations.

Ineligible applicants include: State and Federal government agencies, public universities and colleges, groups/organizations who reside outside of Schoolcraft County*, SCD employees and Board members.

**Unless the group is proposing a project on their own property located in Schoolcraft County.*

2. **Match Requirement:** 20% match is required for the project. Match can be in cash to the project or in-kind services to the project. 20% is the minimum requirement. More match is welcome and encouraged. Match over 20% will be considered favorable to your application. Match can be from any source including local, State, and Federal funds, but must be tracked by fund type.

3. **Proposals will be evaluated on:**

- A. The positive impact to the environment
- B. The short term and long-term goals of the project
- C. The overall feasibility of the project within the timeframe available
- D. The provisions for the maintenance of project past the initial start in the future
 - i. *i.e., School Gardens with no summer maintenance plan will not be considered.*
- E. The provisions for promotion of your project to the public

4. **Project Priorities:** The following priorities are listed in order of priority for funding. Other projects outside of these priorities can be submitted and considered.

- A. Hands-on outdoor natural resources education or service project with adults or school aged youth
- B. Establishment of pollinator garden(s), rain garden(s), natural shoreline protection, or riparian buffer (forested or native plants/grasses)
- C. Agriculture education or community/school garden expansion – *Must include education component*
- D. Natural resources educational signage for public parks, trails, walkways.
- E. Erosion Control (*Shoreline hardening such as seawall projects are not eligible*)
- F. Other

5. **Funding Restrictions:**

- A. Applicants may request up to but no more than \$1,000 for project support.
- B. Monies received may be used for conservation/education projects related to the improvement of the environment/natural resources within Schoolcraft County. Projects will be ranked on the priorities above. Other projects may be proposed, but priority will be given to projects meeting the priorities above.



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- C. Monies received may NOT be used for equipment totaling over \$200, travel (*bus rental for a project can be included*), salaries, fringes, overhead, permitting, or for projects required by legal order. An accounting of all monies must accompany the Final Project Report.
- i. *Speaker fees may be considered on a case-by-case basis and should be approved by SCD before submitting your application.*

6. Activity Requirements

- A. Any activities that include planting must use native species. If planting is proposed in application a species list must be included in the application and approved by SCD – feel free to contact the SCD office if you need help.
- B. Establishment of pollinator gardens, rain gardens, natural shoreline protection, riparian buffers, or erosion control projects can be implemented on public or private property. Landowner permission is required if the project is on property not owned by the applicant. Applications must include pictures with an area measurement of the work area(s).
- C. Erosion control projects should utilize natural methods as much as possible and be approved by SCD before the project is started. SCD will not fund seawalls or stone walls, however stones can be utilized within the overall project.
- D. Projects that include research/experimental aspects will not be considered for funding

7. Reporting Requirements:

- A. A written Final Project Report of the work completed, including pictures, is required of all grant recipients. This report (see the following Final Project Report outline) should be submitted no later than December 30, 2026, to SCD. The report should have no less than 10 good quality photos that may be used on the SCD website, social media, and in SCD publications to showcase our grant projects. The report and photos need to be submitted electronically to SCD at schoolcraftcd@macd.org.

8. Publicity Notice:

- A. All publicity generated for and received by the project must acknowledge the Schoolcraft Conservation District (SCD) as the funder or partial funder. All signs/published materials associated with the project are required to include the SCD logo and acknowledgment of SCD as a funder of the project. All projects are required to include a permanent project sign about the project and acknowledging SCD as the funder with the SCD logo. All permanent signage needs to be approved by SCD before printing.
 - **Suggested funding acknowledgement:** *This project was funded by the Schoolcraft Conservation District*

9. Application Submission:

- A. **Application materials are due to SCD by 4:00 pm May 1, 2026.** Application materials and all other supporting documents should be emailed to: schoolcraftcd@macd.org or dropped off in our office at 100 N Cedar St, Manistique. Applicants will be notified by email when their application is received. If you do not receive an email that SCD received your application within 24 hours of submission please call us at 906-286-2890. **Late Applications will not be accepted.**



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SCD Conservation Grant Application

Please review the Conservation Grant Criteria before completing this application. Applications should not exceed 3 pages, not including the location map, drawn plan, pictures and letters of support.

Your application should follow the order of the information below exactly.

Please note – *The questions listed below each topic are provided to clarify the information we are requesting.*

Grant Title: _____

Grant Applicant Organization: _____

Organization mailing address:

Grant Coordinator Name: _____ Phone: _____

Grant Coordinator Email: _____

Amount requested from Schoolcraft Conservation District: _____

Match Provided (20% minimum): _____

Total dollar amount of grant (Grant + Match): _____

Has your organization *ever worked with SCD before?*

If so, how? :

Project Description - Explain the goals of the project, the direct deliverables, and how those actions meet the focus of the grant. How did this project become a priority for you? How does this project fit into your overall plan or mission? How does this project positively impact the environment on and off your location?

Project Timeline – Explain the timeline of the project. Bullets or a table may be used here. Be very clear as the timeline of the project is short and the project must be complete by November 30, 2026. Include the goals in the timeline and when they will be complete.



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How will the project benefit the public and the environment? Even if the project is completed on private property the project should benefit the public in one way or another. The applicant should provide why this project is important to the public and how it benefits the public.

Who will maintain the project after its completion? If this is an education project, what do you expect the outcomes to be for those who participate in the program? - *Think beyond the first year or two*

Why should we fund your project over others? What makes your project important and relevant to the Schoolcraft Conservation District and its mission?

How will your project be promoted to the public? Provide details about how you will promote your project to the public during the grant timeframe and past the project timeline. *Remember to include the permanent signage in your budget!



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Budget

(Not included in your page limit)

Please provide a detailed budget for your project including a description of any matching funds that will be used specifying how much and who is providing the financial support.

- You may add additional lines as needed. If needed the budget can be attached as a separate document
- Permanent signage with SCD logo and acknowledgement is required for all projects

2026 SCD Conservation Grant Budget				
Grant Funds Requested		Grant Match - 20% Required		
Equipment - Max \$200		Source	Description	Amount
Description	Amount			
Supplies & Materials				
Description	Amount			
Travel - Bus rental ONLY				
Description	Amount			
Other				
Description	Amount			
Total	\$0.00	Total	\$0.00	
		Grant Funds Requested	\$0.00	
		Grant Match Provided	\$0.00	
		Grant Total (Grant funds + Match)	\$0.00	

Please explain any budget items that may need additional information:



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Additional Information for Application

(Not included in page limit)

1. On a separate attachment include a simple sketch of the project, photos and any other information that will help us visualize what you will accomplish/where you are working.
 - *Education projects should provide a detailed plan and topics with the number of students/public impacted and number of hours of education provided instead of a sketch*
 - *Give the specific county and address*
 - *Include a North arrow in the drawing*
 - *Show where the project is located on the property*
 - *Show location for specific plants/plant groupings*
 - *Where is the water, road, paths, buildings?*
 - *Drawing needs to provide context and content. Pictures of the site are helpful in showing the site, but are not an acceptable substitute for a drawing.*

2. On a separate attachment include a drawing of what educational signs (if any) will look like, the size of the sign, and topics must be provided.

3. The following should also be included as attachments as supporting documents:
 - Statement of permission to use the land being considered. Public land needs permission from principal/superintendent, park director, executive director, or another authorizing official.
 - Letters of support from the target community. At least two letters from people outside the project leadership but knowledgeable of the project's goals showing administrative support and community support.
 - Projects on private property should include a letter of support from the landowner or a letter from your technical assistance provider who recommended the project



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Project Authorization/Authentication

I understand that the awarding of grants and their amounts shall be the sole discretion of the Schoolcraft Conservation District Board or its designees. I also understand that all applications, reports, and pictures become the property of SCD. Should this project be awarded funding, SCD has the right to disseminate the project application, or an abbreviated description thereof, the final report, its underlying concepts, and/or ideas. If awarded a grant, I agree to abide by all SCD criteria governing its grant program and will acknowledge this funding source in all publicity and/or publications resulting from the project.

I further agree that if awarded I must complete the project by November 30, 2026 and to submit a final report on the project by December 30, 2026 and that the final report will include a detailed accounting of all funds expended, with receipts.

The Schoolcraft Conservation District, its sponsors and/or any of its agents/officials, shall assume no responsibility or liability for claims of damage of any kind to property or for claims of injury to any person in connection with a grant.

Project Coordinator Signature _____ Date _____

I have reviewed the completed application and wholeheartedly support this project (School Superintendent, Principal or Organization President).

Official's signature _____ Date _____

Printed name _____ Title _____

Application must be received by Friday, May 1, 2026.



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SCD CONSERVATION GRANT FINAL PROJECT REPORT

Due December 30, 2026

As follow up to our funding and in order to help future grantees improve their overall success, the Schoolcraft Conservation District requests a Final Project Report by December 30, 2026. In addition to answering the questions below, please provide photo documentation from before, during and after the project implementation.

- A. List your goals from the original proposal and describe your success with each goal.
- B. List specifics on how SCD funding was spent.
- C. What were your biggest challenges?
- D. What are the plans for maintaining the project for the coming years?
- E. How has the project impacted the environment and/or the public?
- F. Detailed budget breakdown of each expense with a copy of the receipt for each purchase.
- G. Attach copies of any publicity given to the project.
- H. **Please separately attach at least 10 good photos (More is better!) of the project, especially of the installation and end result. They can be photos used in the report PDF, but should be separate .jpg, .gif or .png files so we can use them in our own documents.**