

Natural Resource Assessment Survey
Otsego Conservation District

The Otsego Conservation District's mission is to assist the people of Otsego County in the wise use and management of their natural resources for a healthy environment and sustained economic growth.

Every five years, the Otsego Conservation District (OCD) 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.

1. Which natural areas do you utilize in Otsego 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)*: _____

2. Rank the land / water resources within Otsego County based on the importance to the community with #1 being the most important resource:

- Agriculture / farm land
- Forests / woodlands
- Non-farmed lands (backyards, prairies, meadows, open lands)
- Water (drinking water, lakes, rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands)
- Other *(please explain)*: _____

3. 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)*: _____

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4. Check the top three forests / woodland priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:
- Invasive species / Pest (insects)
 - Loss due to housing, business, and farmland development
 - Sustainable forest management
 - Plant and wildlife habitat
 - Recreation / hunting access
 - Other (*please explain*): _____
5. 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*): _____
6. Check the top three non-farmed lands (backyards, prairies, meadows, open lands) priorities we should focus on in the next 5 years:
- Invasive species / Pest (insects)
 - Non-farmed land loss due to housing, business, and farmland development
 - Pollinator populations
 - Recreational / hunting access
 - Wetlands
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Other (*please explain*): _____
7. 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*): _____

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

- Forestry Assistance Program
- Forest & Wildlife Management
- Recycling / Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Day Program
- Tree & Shrub seedling sale
- Native Plant Nursery
- Otsego County Soil Erosion and Shoreland permitting program
- Demonstration Garden and Conservation Forest
- Art in the Garden Festival
- Conservation Day Camp
- Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)

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

10. Select the setting that best describes your home / property in Otsego County: *(Check all that apply.)*

- Urban - Residential (city, village, town)
- Rural - Farm
- Rural - Residential
- Lakeshore / waterfront
- Agricultural land owner
- Home owner (permanent resident)
- Property owner (no home)
- Renter of home and / or property
- Vacation home or 2nd home owner
- Vacation / visitor

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

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

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

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13. Any additional comments:

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

15. Please nicely print your name and email address if you would like further correspondence:

Name: _____ Email: _____

This survey can be completed online or by paper copy. For a paper copy, please contact the OCD at 989732-4021 or visit www.otsegocd.org. Completed surveys can be emailed to posburn@otsegocountymi.gov, or mailed or dropped off at the OCD office at 800 Livingston Blvd., Ste 4A, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

All responses will be kept anonymous. Please complete surveys by January 29, 2022