
Name of Organization: Antrim Conservation District

Type of Organization: Other

Contact Information: Mrs. Janet Person

Executive Director

106 Depot

Bellaire MI 49615

Phone: (231) 533 - 8363 **Extension:**

Fax: (231) 533 - 6388

E-Mail: jperson192@aol.com

Project Title: Lake Michigan Erodes in Antrim County

Project Category: Habitat (Ecological) Protection and Rest

Rank by Organization (if applicable): 2

Total Funding Requested (\$): 38,742 **Project Duration:** 1 Years

Abstract:

To correct five public access sites that are high traffic areas contributing tons of sediment to Lake Michigan on a yearly basis. These sites have been band-aided over the last few years, but we propose to use new biological techniques to stabilize the banks forever. These methods will stop the erosion and keep the individual townships and grantors from spending money time after time on temporary measures, not meant to hold for a duration of years. We will also be using new techniques such as rain gardens to show how native plants and environmentally sensitive areas can blend and protect our access to the lakes.

Geographic Areas Affected by the Project

States:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois | <input type="checkbox"/> New York |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> Pennsylvania |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Minnesota | <input type="checkbox"/> Ohio |

Lakes:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior | <input type="checkbox"/> Erie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Huron | <input type="checkbox"/> Ontario |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> All Lakes |

Geographic Initiatives:

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greater Chicago | <input type="checkbox"/> NE Ohio | <input type="checkbox"/> NW Indiana | <input type="checkbox"/> SE Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake St. Clair |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|

Primary Affected Area of Concern: Not Applicable

Other Affected Areas of Concern:

For Habitat Projects Only:

Primary Affected Biodiversity Investment Area:

Other Affected Biodiversity Investment Areas:

Problem Statement:

Antrim County has a population of 12,000 permanent residents which doubles in the summer time and is one of the fastest growing regions in the state. With the increase of the use of public access sites, we also have an increase of sediment and various other nutrients, bacteria and chemicals contributed by human impact. Many communities and townships do not have the physical and financial resources to provide adequate upkeep or to police the area where you find garbage, oil cans, pampers, etc, on a majority of sites. With improved access and education we will make great strides in prohibiting hundreds of tons of sediment from entering our Great Lakes and adjoining bodies of water.

Proposed Work Outcome:

We propose to improve public access sites on the shoreline of Lake Michigan. The improvements will consist of five major items. We will utilize, in addition to rock biological engineering practices to compliment the erosion work and make it more aesthetically pleasing or natural. In this proposed work, all parking area will be graded away from the lake and we will work to construct the rain gardens in these areas. All methods are essential due to the hundreds of visitors to these highly visible sites every year.

1. First we will focus on correction of the erosion problem along the banks and shoreline. Rock rip-rap will be installed with 6 to 48 inch rock along the average high water mark. The rock will help eliminate sediment entering Lake Michigan.
2. Vegetation will then be planted along banks. Green belts consisting of low growing shrubs and bushes will stabilize the soil and provide habitat, food source, and travel routes for a variety of animal species.
3. Parking lots will be improved to provide convenient accessibility to the public property. They will also be graded away from the lake. Fencing will be installed where needed to eliminate any disturbance of vegetation and soil on the lake shore by vehicles.
4. Stairs may be needed to provide controlled foot traffic in areas where the vegetation is disturbed and causing erosion into the lake.
5. The final item is the installation of a sign explaining the project and educating the public on the importance of protecting our resources for future generations to enjoy. We also will develop a program to have individual groups or landowners "Adopt a Public Access Site" and maintain it for future seasons. Funding credit will be placed on the signs along with partner collaboration.

As a result of this project an estimated reduction of soil loss on the public access sites would be reduced by 450 tons of sediment along with improved fisheries resources, recreational activities and reduce maintenance of public access sites.

The project will provide clear and lasting benefits to the fisheries of the Great Lakes and their users. The project will also strengthen partners and broaden partnerships among state, county and other groups involved in the project.

Projects will have a measurable outcome. Erosion stabilization will be obvious once the vegetation is established on the slopes. The improvements on the parking lot and other accommodations for the public will greatly improve public access to Lake Michigan. The reduction of soil, nutrients, and other chemicals into the lake will improve lake quality.

This project does not represent all new efforts in the Great Lakes region. This project is site specific to improve public access sites. The benefits of the projects are not site specific and help to improve the water quality for a large area.

Work plans:

Project funding will be used to provide financial assistance to the applicant for materials to be used for restoration and improvement of public access sites to Lake Michigan. Existing staff will carry out the duties as necessary to implement the BMP's.

The workplan consists of five access sites that are seriously eroding due to foot traffic and runoff from sloping lots. Green belts will be established along the access sites to improve erosion control and animal habitats. Rock will be placed where needed to control bank erosion. Improvements on parking lots will provide convenient access to anglers, recreationists and proper diverting of water into retention areas. Fences will be placed where needed to limit any traffic along the slope disturbing vegetation. Stairs will be installed where needed to provide controlled foot traffic. Final touches to the sites consist of topsoil and seed with mulch to correct any disturbed areas from machinery. A sign will be placed at the site explaining the importance of the work and the problems corrected. The final product will reduce any maintenance and correct the abundance of erosion entering Lake Michigan.

Project Milestones:	Dates:
Map out plans for each of the 5 sites	07/2000
Acquire Township permission	07/2000
Apply for MDEQ permits	07/2000
Materials on site	09/2000
Start erosion work	09/2000
Finish site work/outreach prog.	05/2001
Put together display materials	06/2001
Final report and project wrap up	07/2001

Project Addresses Environmental Justice

If So, Description of How:

Project Addresses Education/Outreach

If So, Description of How:

With the "Adopt a Public Access Site" Program it will broaden the awareness of our public access sites and the needs associated with them. It will also give community residents, young and old, a place to volunteer and actually get involved in their preservation. We will work with local schools and try and get a classroom in each of the 6 districts to work on one site.

Project Budget:

	Federal Share Requested (\$)	Applicant's Share (\$)
Personnel:	13,120	4,040
Fringe:	2,500	0
Travel:	700	310
Equipment:	4,860	2,340
Supplies:	1,150	350
Contracts:	0	0
Construction:	13,112	25,000
Other:	500	250
Total Direct Costs:	35,942	32,290
Indirect Costs:	2,800	1,300
Total:	38,742	33,590
Projected Income:	0	0

Funding by Other Organizations (Names, Amounts, Description of Commitments):

We have a commitment from the Antrim County Road Commission for the use of some of their equipment and their engineering skills.

We have a MI Dept. of Corrections crew from Camp Pugsley who will do the work.

We have a contract with Torch Lake Township for some funds and in kind help.

Description of Collaboration/Community Based Support:

The Executive Director is also the Vice Chairperson of the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed Initiative. This group is a basin wide organization that helps collect success and coordinate regional projects. This project will be shared region wide through this organization encompassing the entire Grand Traverse Bay Watershed. Our Soil Erosion Office implements a highly successful media campaign which includes local newspapers, monthly radio, and TV spots. All these media contacts reach over 1,000,000 listeners a year.

Additionally the Director is President of Michigan Conservation District Employees and will have the perfect opportunity to spread the Adopt a Public Access Site Program State wide and as President of the North Central Region can take that opportunity region wide. The program will be tried locally and state wide and fine tuned for national publicizing. This will reach thousands as there are over 3000 conservation districts nationwide, each with their own landowner base.