

The Program

The Michigan Conservation Stewards Program is made up of a group of citizens who share a passion for and want to conserve Michigan's unique natural resources. Participants earn Conservation Stewards Program Certification by fulfilling the following:

- ❖ Completion of the core curriculum (40 hours of in-class learning and training).
 - ❖ 40 hours of approved volunteer conservation service within one year.
- 8 hours of advanced training and 40 hours of volunteer conservation service are required for annual recertification.



"The most useful thing about CSP for me was networking and finding others with my interests and passion about the environment as well as the professionals in the field... I ended up with knowledge across the board. This has helped me to fill in the missing pieces of knowledge regarding the environment as well as encouraging me to be involved."
- 2007 CSP participant

Program Partners

Thanks to ITC Transmission and Farm Bureau for their generous support.



MSU Extension

MSUE Fish & Wildlife, Water and Forestry Area of Expertise Teams

Oakland County

Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services

Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources

MSU Dept. of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies

Michigan Natural Features Inventory

Oakland County Parks & Recreation

Oakland County Water Resource Commissioner's Office

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Michigan Conservation Stewards Program

A great opportunity to learn about conservation and natural science in a community context and assume leadership roles through volunteering time, knowledge, and skills as Conservation Stewards

Oakland County



Introduction

The Michigan Conservation Stewards Program (CSP) is a collaborative effort among community-based volunteers, conservation organizations / agencies, and educational institutions throughout Michigan.

This collaboration provides a statewide network of dedicated, well-prepared volunteer Conservation Stewards who understand, promote, support, actively contribute to or lead significant conservation management activities on public and private lands.

These volunteers take part in informed, scientifically based conservation and resource management. Together volunteers work to sustain healthy ecosystems across Michigan.

“The best people in their fields are teaching this. Where do you get an opportunity to learn from people like that? How else will you get the information to the average citizen?” – 2006 Michigan Conservation Stewards Program Participant



Volunteer Conservation Service

CSP participants have the opportunity to earn volunteer hours through a local service project that begins during the training and involves a variety of conservation organizations and agencies, and educational institutions.

Program Instructors

Instructors are faculty and staff from:

- MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources
- MSU Extension
- Michigan Natural Features Inventory
- Michigan DNR, DEQ and other state agencies
- Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services
- Oakland County Parks & Recreation
- Conservation organizations & conservancy groups

Class Schedule

Weekday evening sessions are held 6-9 pm. **Saturday** field experience sessions are from 9 am - 4 pm.

- **Introduction & Conservation Heritage**
- **Ecological Foundations**
- **Making Choices to Manage Our Natural Resources**
- **Forestland Ecosystems and Management**
- **Grassland Ecosystems and Management**
- **Terrestrial Field Experience**
- **Wetlands Ecosystems and Management**
- **Lake and Stream Ecosystems and Management**
- **Aquatic Field Experience**
- **Volunteering & Expo Night**
- **Capstone Project and Commencement**

Location & Directions

Monday classes are held at Oakland County Executive Office Building Conference Center, 2100 Pontiac Lake Rd., Waterford.

The Saturday sessions will be held at MSUE Tollgate Education Center, Indian Springs Metropark's Environmental Discovery Center, and Oakland County Independence Oaks Park.

Details for the first session will be sent with your confirmation letter. Other details will be given in class.



County Contact

MSU Extension - Oakland County
Phone: 248-858-0887 Fax: 248-858-1477
Email: smithlin@oakgov.com

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by calling Linda Smith at 248-858-0887 at least three weeks before the start of the program to make arrangements. Requests received after this date will be accommodated if possible.

How to Register

Complete the application form and submit with payment payable to MSU Extension to:

MSU Extension Oakland County
North Office Building - 26 East
Attn: CSP
1200 N. Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341-0416

Obtain an application online at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/oakland>
OR

Call MSU Extension - Oakland County 248-858-0887 to request a form by mail.

COST: \$250 per participant covers materials, notebook, Saturday lunches, snacks and park permits when required. This price may be subject to change.

DEADLINE TO REGISTER:
3 weeks before the first class

SPACE IS LIMITED!
Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

CANCELLATION POLICY:
Registration fee will be fully refunded if requested no later than 3 weeks before the first class.

No refunds will be issued after this date.

Conservation Stewards Program Attendance Policy

Participants are strongly encouraged to attend **all** sessions. The sessions provide a total of 40 instructional hours.

Participants may miss up to 6 hours (two evening sessions or one weekend session) and still receive their Provisional Certificate of Completion for the Michigan Conservation Stewards training program. Before submitting your application materials and payment, please check your calendar to be sure you are able to adhere to this attendance policy.

If you know there are sessions you will not be able to attend, it might be possible for you to make up those sessions through the CSP program being offered through other MSUE County offices.

Participants missing more than 6 hours of instructional time will not be eligible to become a Michigan Conservation Steward.

