

A couple is walking away from the camera on a dirt path that winds through a dense, green forest. The woman on the left is wearing a light-colored long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, and the man on the right is wearing a dark jacket and jeans. They are holding hands. The path is surrounded by tall grasses and various trees, creating a canopy overhead. The lighting is bright and natural, suggesting a sunny day.

Let's Be Friends



Grand Traverse
Conservation District

www.natureiscalling.org

Excuse me, have we met?

Chances are, we have— while buying fresh fruit at an Old Mission farm stand, hiking the trails behind the Grand Traverse Commons, paddling the Boardman River—or it may have been when you and your kids took a class at the Boardman River Nature Center.

We are the Grand Traverse Conservation District. Like an old good friend, we've been a part of this community for over 70 years, quietly working to conserve the natural resources that sustain the economy and culture of this beautiful area.

What are we doing here in your hands? We're on a mission to make new friends and rekindle relationships with old ones.

So, let's be *Friends*. Not to worry, we're low maintenance, but the places we protect and people we serve are high priority. Which is why we need your help, to continue our important work as caretakers of the rivers, lakes, farmlands and forests of this great region.

Learn more here, or feel free to stop by our home at the Boardman River Nature Center on Cass Road, three miles south of Traverse City. Our hearts and minds are always open to new friends and ideas—and our back door is wide open to the natural world. See you there!



Grand Traverse
Conservation District

Get to know us.

We are the area's insiders on the out-of-doors. Here is what we do:

Boardman River Stewardship

If you enjoy recreating in, on or around the Boardman River then we've been your friend for over 20 years! The River's journey to Lake Michigan is changing dramatically, but we'll be there at every bend and stretch working to restore, monitor and safeguard access to this up north treasure. Whether we're planting trees, building trails, or removing invasive species you can rest assured that the Boardman River is in good hands.



Parklands Management

Whether you live in the area or just like to visit, chances are you've spent some time on the more than 3000 acres of public parklands that we manage in Grand Traverse County. An early morning hike in the Grand Traverse Commons, a weekend walk through Hickory Meadows, or a day of adventure at the Natural Education Reserve—these are just a handful of outdoor experiences provided and cared for by us.



Nature Education

Our children truly are our most important allies in building a prosperous and sustainable future. Through programs like the Grand Traverse Stewardship Initiative, Peepers and Nature Day Camp we partner with teachers, parents and community leaders to empower and inspire our young people to care for the natural world. Field trips, school programs or family adventures—we're your source for nature learning and discovery.



Sustainable Agriculture

If you love Michigan and eating local, then we may just be the best friend you never knew you had. We've been supporting farmers for over 70 years and today we're leading the charge to keep our area farms sustainable and our local bounty safe. For example, by helping farmers reduce fertilizer and pesticide use, we're supporting our local farm economy and keeping your rivers and lakes clean and enjoyable.



Boardman River Nature Center

Our headquarters is an exciting gateway to the natural world. In addition to hands-on exhibits, rental facilities, and ongoing classes, the Nature Center welcomes you directly into the Natural Education Reserve and seven miles of riverside hiking trails, kayak launches and local fishing holes. Our expert staff and tireless volunteers are on hand to share their passion and knowledge of the Nature Center and its surroundings. It's where all our friends hang out—we hope to see you there!



“I used to think that nature was sometimes scary, or just really boring. But after that field trip I found out that nature can be exciting and adventurous.”



Twenty-five is all it takes.



We truly hope that upon learning more about us and our good work, you will deepen your commitment to helping us continue to inspire exploration, appreciation and conservation of our natural world here in the Grand Traverse region.

Become a Friend of the Grand Traverse Conservation District!

For a \$25 gift*, you will receive these benefits:

- Early registration for summer camps and other programs
- Special discounts on programs and merchandise
- A friendship card and Conservation District branded gift
- Recognition in our annual report
- A subscription to our newsletters
- The satisfaction of knowing you are making a difference

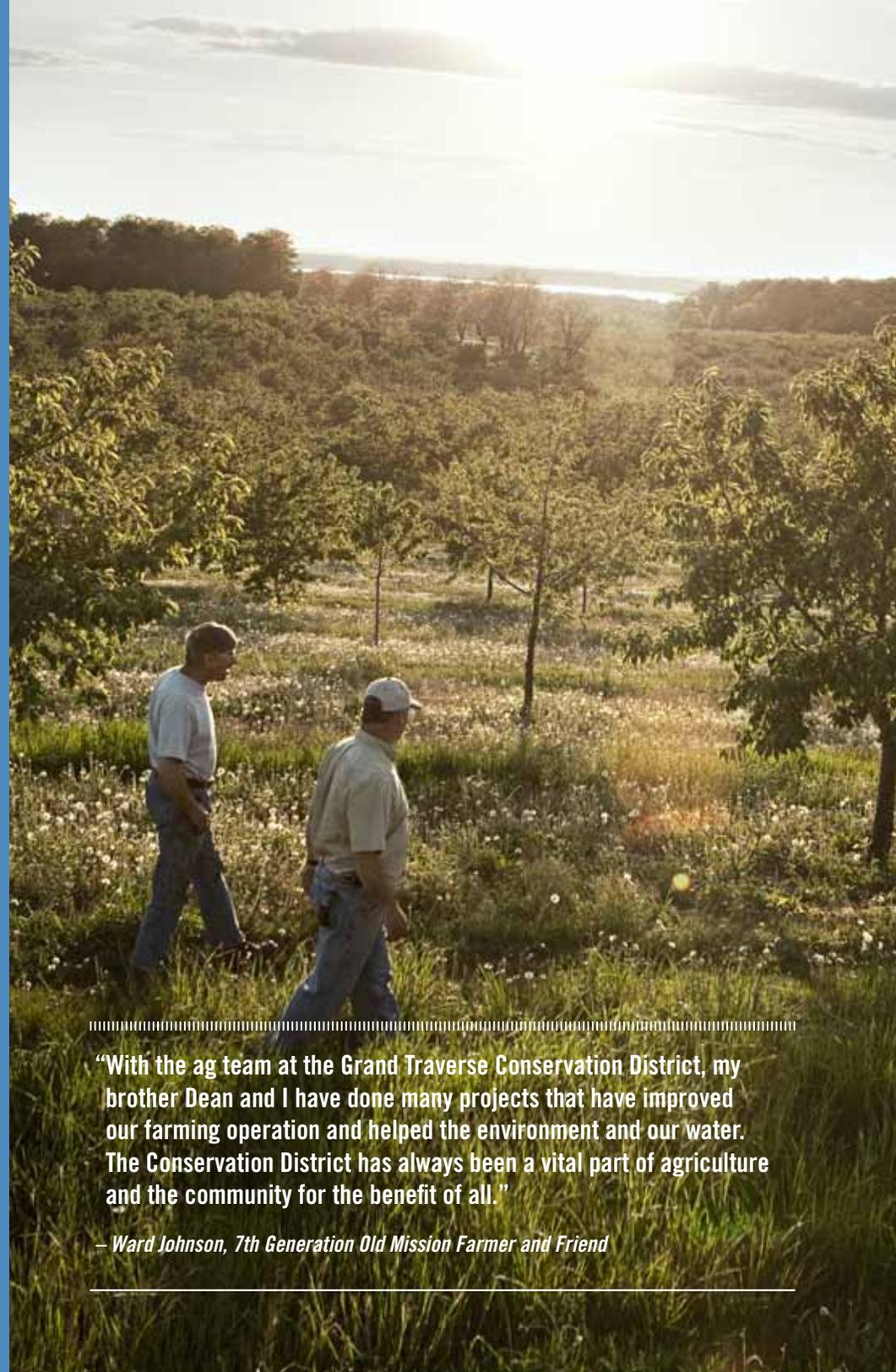
Want to give more?
Our Prosperity Fund
offers the opportunity
to give any amount.

Simply check the box on
the remittance envelope
and add the amount you
wish to give.

Or make a gift online at:
www.natureiscalling.org.



*Gifts to the The Grand Traverse Conservation District are tax deductible under section 170(c)(1) of the IRS code. We operate much like a traditional non-profit with less than 5% of our revenue coming directly from local, state or federal appropriations. Your gift is critical to our success.



“With the ag team at the Grand Traverse Conservation District, my brother Dean and I have done many projects that have improved our farming operation and helped the environment and our water. The Conservation District has always been a vital part of agriculture and the community for the benefit of all.”

– Ward Johnson, 7th Generation Old Mission Farmer and Friend

GALLOUP'S SLIDE INN
MADISON RIVER MOUNTAINS



“The Boardman is where I learned to fish for trout; where I learned to canoe rivers; where my definition of what makes a river beautiful formed, developed, and matured. It’s impossible to exaggerate how important this river has been to me as a writer and a human being.”

– Jerry Dennis, Writer and Friend

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