ALGER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

INTRODUCING OUR FIRST SEASONAL PRINT NEWSLETTER!

Prefer to stay up to date more often online? Sign up for our monthly e-newsletter:

Spring Events!

APRIL

4/17 - 4/23	Earthfest; Munising Library and other locations all week.
4/20	GAME NIGHT: “Every Tree for Itself” & Hot Dog BBQ; Au Train Township Hall, 5:30-7PM
4/29	**Last** Spring Conservation Book Club; Munising Public School Library, 6-7PM

MAY

5/3	Garden Workshop; Chatham Community Garden, 12pm (noon)
5/9	Annual **Tree Sale** and Pie Tasting Contest; Munising , 9AM-12PM Grand Marais 2-3PM
5/20	Community Food System Planning; Trenary Community Center, 4-7PM
5/29	Stream Monitoring; Dexter Creek, 9AM

JUNE

6/5	Stream Monitoring; Scott Creek, 9AM
6/7	Garden Workshop; Chatham Community Garden, 12pm (noon)
6/29	Wildflower Sale; Munising Farmers Market, 4:00-7PM
TBD	Lake Monitoring; Slowfoot and Deer Lake, Time TBD

You can also find our calendar of events with more details on our website at www.algercd.com

ALGER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GROWING TOGETHER: New Project to Listen to our Residents and Connect Resources

At its core

Growing Together is about reducing food insecurity and increasing access to healthy local foods while building community with those already doing this work and those that want to join in. This new program is our effort to strengthen the local food system. Building on the idea that *when food grows closer to home, and more people know how and where to grow and share it, everyone eats better.*

We have an e-newsletter too. To subscribe to it, please visit www.algercd.com/monthly-newsletter

What is a community-based food system?

It is the entire *network that grows and moves food through our community*: farms, farmers, backyard gardens, school greenhouses, trucks, groceries, pantries, kitchens, neighbors sharing recipes… everyone and everything that feeds us.



To left: The 7 components of a community -based food system ringed by the benefits these systems make possible.

Graphic provided by Michigan State University Extension.

Alger County's food system has many community leaders and organizations working within its system to provide food where it's needed, with what our residents want most. We're talking about those running community meals, food pantries, after-school meal programs, community gardens, and more.

Manager's Note

Welcome to the first issue of our print newsletter. We're excited to share our latest project and learn how best we can serve you.
Thank's for reading!
Eryn Grupido, District Manager

We see your efforts to build this system up and want to help by connecting with each other and dreaming up what we need to fill in the gaps and keep your efforts running strong into the future.

How can we help?

By listening first. We're looking for information on what you want to eat or learn more about, places to grow, members to garden, and the best way for food to reach you. *We invite **you,** residents of Alger, to share your ideas, concerns, and hopes about local food.*

This project is supported by the:

MICHIGAN HEALTH ENDOWMENT FUND

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund works to improve the health and wellness of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of healthcare, with a special focus on children and older adults. You can find more information about the Health Fund at mihealthfund.org.

IF you're a resident, business, non-profit, local organizer, or anybody that eats in Alger. Please, take the survey on the next page to share your dreams on food access or programming and let us know if you want to join us in planning a stronger food system for our county today.

You're also invited to join us this growing season at the Chatham Community Garden as we develop that space more, harvest, and share whatever bounty this growing season brings us!

Shop the 2026 Tree Sale!

Anything else to know?

Over the next two years, we'll be organizing gatherings for community food system planning in throughout the county, attending the Munising farmers market, and continuing our garden workshops in Chatham. By this project's end, we aspire to see greater connectivity between our local food system programs and educational resources, greater overall communication, and create a plan that will ensure our food system will outlast us all.

Get involved and stay up to date on activities:

We will keep you posted as the program unfolds with quarterly newsletters like this, on our social media accounts, and in our e-newsletter.



If you want to speak directly with us about anything, please contact **District Manager Eryn Grupido** at:

(906) 387-2222 **OR**

algerfoodsystem@macd.org

ALGER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEM SURVEY

Hello and thank you for taking your time to read our newsletter! The following information will give you more background on what information the survey will be gathering and what to expect. Please take your time to read it all before you decide whether to follow the QR code or visit our website and complete this survey. You can also stop by our office and complete it in person if desired.

The survey will take approximately 10 -15 minutes. Your participation is entirely voluntary and appreciated! You may skip any question you do not feel comfortable answering, except for which township you are in. All answers are anonymous, however if you would like to be contacted about anything in this survey or if you state you would like to volunteer etc., please fill out the contact information section and a district staff member will reach out to you.

The survey is divided into 4 sections. **Section 1** is to help us understand your role in our food system and what knowledge you already have about it. **Section 2** will further help us understand your relationship to gardening, growing or finding your food through alternative means than shopping, and what interest you have in learning more about these topics. It will also inform us on your use of community gardens or desire for changes to your local garden, if there is one. **Section 3** is meant to understand the usage and knowledge of assistance programs related to food access and your interest in such programs or other food system activities. Finally, **Section 4** is all about you! This is where you can share your demographic and contact information if you want to. Since we are planning for the uniqueness of each township, that is the only question we have required to be answered.

Remember, all answers are anonymous except for your contact information if provided. Your contact information will not be shared with anyone outside our staff without your permission and you may request us to remove your contact information at any time.

Your responses will help inform us about your experience and strengthen our decision making process as we pursue new programs and long-term planning across Alger County, specific to your townships. We will also be hosting in-person feedback events at various locations in the county from this spring and on through summer of 2027.

You're invited to join these events to provide your feedback in person, ask any questions you have, or take the survey in person. Events will be announced here, in our e-newsletter, and on local bulletin boards. The first one will be held in Trenary and focus on Mathias Township at the Trenary Community Center.

TAKE THE SURVEY HERE!

Or visit our office in the courthouse. You can also learn more on our website at www.algercd.com/food-systems

THANK YOU!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email us at algerfoodsystem@macd.org

Thank you!