



SEPTEMBER 2021 CONSERVATION UPDATE

Your Source for Conservation News in Washtenaw County

Volunteer at the 2021 Fall Tree and Native Plant Sale!



Join us to volunteer at Washtenaw County Conservation District's Annual Fall Tree and Native Plant Distribution! We need your help on Thursday, September

30th and Friday, October 1st. Thursday shifts will be mainly sorting plants while Friday shifts will be a mix of sorting and distributing. Snacks, instructions, and any tools needed will be provided. Please feel free to bring a pair of gardening or work gloves; extras will be available. If you have any questions, please reach out to hannah@washtenawcd.org or call 734.302.8715.

Washtenaw County Conservation District is monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and is following local, state, and federal guidelines. Updates will be made to this volunteer opportunity as necessary. Masks and distancing will be required.

There will be a volunteer training on Zoom on **Monday, September 27th at 5 p.m.** for those who sign up to volunteer. Attendance is highly encouraged. More details will be sent out to those who register to volunteer.

Are you volunteering? Just bring home your plant order after your shift. For everyone else, plants are ready to be picked up Friday Oct 1, 1:00-6:00 p.m.

Sign Up to Volunteer!



Free Well Water Testing

8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. September 16, 2021

WCCD Office, 705 N. Zeeb Road, Suite 201, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

WCCD will be offering free well water testing on September 16th at the WCCD office. Can't make it? Don't worry, there will be a second well water testing day on Saturday, November 6th! Be sure to read the sample taking instructions as the test is only as reliable as the sample collected!

Download Instructions and
Information Sheet

Bring your water sample and sample information sheet to the WCCD office to be tested for nitrates and nitrites. Download the sample information sheet and instructions for taking a good water sample below. Contact MAEAP technician Nick Machinski at nick@washtenawcd.org or [734.302.8711](tel:734.302.8711) with any questions.

*Please note, this service is meant for well water only. Please do not bring city water as it is tested regularly.



Welcome New WCCD Board Director



Welcome Matt Nolan! Matt has been appointed to fill a vacancy on the board of directors for a term ending in January 2022. Contact Matt at board@washtenawcd.org.

Matt grew up in a Midwestern family that spent the bulk of their free time hiking, biking, camping, fishing, and enjoying the fruits of conserved land. This led him to pursue degrees in

Conservation Biology and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin (go Badgers), and to spend his early professional life working at a conservancy that promoted and monitored easements throughout the state. He ultimately found his calling as a teacher, and has spent most of the past 15 years working in that field as a naturalist, outdoor educator, garden educator, and classroom teacher in Washington, California, Nevada, Wisconsin, Portugal, and Michigan.

He has primarily sought to use gardening and other direct experiences and service projects (e.g. raising and releasing salmon via the Michigan DNR) to build appreciation for and knowledge of the natural world in young people, and to “plant the seeds” of conservation in their lives. He was honored to accept the Tree Conservationist of the Year Award in 2019 on behalf of Emerson School for the work they have done there to establish a Food Forest and Permaculture-style garden on a previously degraded corner of the property.

Matt is excited to work to use the results of the 2021 Resource Assessment to support and promote conservation in the county. When not teaching or learning the ropes at WCCD, he is likely to be found working hard with his wife Jyl and 3 young boys (Finnegan, River, and Aldo) on their blossoming food forest and garden in Dexter Township, or out enjoying the many beautiful natural areas that Washtenaw County has to offer.

Interested in becoming more involved with the WCCD Board of Directors? An Associate Director Position might be for you! [Visit this page for more information](#) or contact hannah@washtenawcd.org with any questions.



JLW CISMA Survey

The Jackson Lenawee Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (JLW CISMA) is



seeking input from the Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw community to determine what invasive species people are familiar with, species they are currently managing, and the types of educational opportunities they would like to see offered by the JLW CISMA. The JLW CISMA's purpose

is to prevent, detect, eradicate and control invasive species in the area, create a strategic plan for reducing the threat of invasive species, and provide outreach/educational opportunities for local citizens and stakeholder groups. The following survey will take approximately three to five minutes to complete, and we hope you will forward it to others within the Jackson, Lenawee, and Washtenaw County region. Please copy and paste this link into your browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LGXWXS6> or click [here](#). Questions? Find out more on the JLW CISMA website or contact Dr. Shikha Singh atshikha.singh@macd.org or 517.395.2089.



Congrats to the Winners of our Resource Assessment Survey Drawing!

And thank you to all who filled out the survey! We are still looking to contact two drawing winners whose names start with P or H. Double check your email to see if this might be you, we would love to get your gift card to you soon!

- Liz A.
- Valisa B.
- Devin F.
- Veronica H.
- Jody M.
- Rob M.
- Jim S.
- Liz W.



USDA Organic Certification Cost-Share

Organic producers and handlers can now apply for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification.

Applications for the [Organic Certification Cost Share Program](#) (OCCSP) are due Nov. 1, 2021.

OCCSP provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic

certification under the USDA's National Organic Program. Eligible producers include any certified producers or handlers who have paid organic certification fees to a USDA-accredited certifying agent during the 2021 and any subsequent program year.

Producers can be reimbursed for expenses made between Oct. 1, 2020 and Sept. 30, 2021 including organic certification application fees, inspection costs, fees related to equivalency agreement and arrangement requirements, travel expenses for inspectors, user fees, sales assessments and postage.

Organic farmers and ranchers may apply through their local FSA county office.



LAST CALL! CLOSING SEPT 18TH!

2021 Fall Tree Sale

Pick-Up Friday, October 1st from 1-6 p.m.

Washtenaw County Farm Council Grounds

The District's Fall Tree is still open! Fall can be a great time for planting, as the cooler temperatures and moist soil allow for ideal root establishment.

Six types of conifer seedlings are available - be sure to check them out before the sale closes on **September 18th!** Contact Doug Reith, WCCD Resource Coordinator, with any questions. [\(734\) 302 8713](tel:7343028713), doug@washtenawcd.org.

[Shop for Trees Here](#)

Upcoming Events

Rain Garden Tour

**Sunday,
September 12th
from 2 to 4 p.m.**

912 Robin Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Long-time Master Gardener and Master RAIN Gardener Barb Tiews' newest rain garden - is shaped like a

Well Water Testing

**Thursday,
September 16th
from 8 a.m. to
4:30 p.m.**

WCCD Office, 705 N. Zeeb Road, Suite 201, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Bring your water sample and sample information sheet to the

Free Plant Swap!

**Sunday,
September 19th
from 1 to 2 p.m.**

Rec & Ed Office parking lot, Pioneer High School, 1515 S 7th St, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Join Washtenaw County Water Resource's Master Rain Gardeners

raindrop! This small rain garden solved a big basement problem and the project scale is small enough that anyone can visualize how it might work in their own yard. Everyone welcome! *Learn more about rain gardens [here](#).*

WCCD office to be tested for nitrates and nitrites. Download the sample information sheet and instructions for taking a good water sample [here](#). Contact MAEAP technician Nick Machinski at nick@washtenawcd.org or [734.302.8711](tel:734.302.8711) with any questions.

for a Plant Swap! What rain garden plants do you have to share and what empty spots you have to fill? Okay to come empty-handed. Always plenty of plants! *Learn more about rain gardens [here](#).*

Volunteer at the Fall Tree & Native Plant Sale

Thursday, September 30th and Friday, October 1st

Washtenaw County Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI

[Register here on VolunteerWashtenaw!](#)

Contact hannah@washtenawcd.org or 734.302.8715 with any questions.

Fall Sale Plant Pick-Up

Friday, October 1st from 1 to 6 p.m.

Washtenaw County Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI

Don't forget to pick up pre-ordered plants! Contact doug@washtenawcd.org with any questions.

Soil Drive

November 15th - 19th

WCCD Office, 705 N. Zeeb Road, Suite 201, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Stay tuned for more details!

Local Government Updates

- [Northfield Township Land Preservation Committee](#) will be meeting on **Monday, September 13th at 6 p.m.** at the Northfield Township Public Safety Building at 8350 Main Street, Whitmore Lake, 48189. Agendas and minutes can be found [here](#).
 - [Salem Township Land Preservation and Conservation Board](#) will be meeting on **Tuesday, September 21 at 7 p.m.** at the Salem Township Hall, 9600 Six Mile Road, Salem, MI 48175
 - [Dexter Township Open Space and Land Preservation Committee](#) will be meeting on **Thursday, October 7th at 8 p.m.** at Dexter Township Hall, 6880 Dexter-Pinckney Rd, Dexter, MI 48130.
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Washtenaw County Conservation District

Website: www.washtenawcd.org

705 N. Zeeb Rd

Suite #201

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

734.302.8715

info@washtenawcd.org

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