

# Community REPORT

***Our mission is to assist residents with the conservation, management and wise use of natural resources in Washtenaw County.***

When I meet people, it's very rewarding to describe to them the work of the Washtenaw County Conservation District (WCCD), a unique local unit of government established in 1948. Our mission is to assist residents with the conservation, management, and wise use of natural resources in Washtenaw County, and we do that through a growing variety of events, projects, and programming.

This 2023 report outlines great strides made by the WCCD toward goals outlined in both the Resilient Washtenaw and the WCCD 2026 Strategic plans.

- Trees play a critical role in both the Resilient Washtenaw Plan and our 2026 Strategic Plan. In 2023 we sent 45,505 trees and shrubs home to be planted by residents in their communities.
- During the Fourth Annual Native Plant Expo & Marketplace, the WCCD and partners engaged 2,250 attendees and in partnership with SE Michigan native plant nurseries, distributed over 21,000 native plants. See page 6 for more on this event.
- In 2023 we launched MiFarmLink, a website and project dedicated to protecting Michigan farmland by shepherding it into the hands of new and existing farmers. For a full list of MiFarmLink successes in 2023 see page 9.
- Our farmer programs team also worked directly with farmers and residents to apply over 2,500 acres of conservation practices on the ground in the form of cover crops, buffer strips, pollinator habitat, and more. See pages 4 and 5 for more on our farmer programs successes.
- The WCCD is able to contribute to our combined ambitious climate and conservation goals partly due to the countywide millage passed by 76% of voters in August 2020. For every \$1 levied from county taxpayers in 2023, the WCCD secured an additional \$1.16 from outside sources. In 2024, we project to secure \$1.64 for every \$1 levied.



As we start an exciting new year, we want to hear from you! Make sure to visit page 12 (back cover) to take our survey. Share your feedback on what your resource concerns are and how we can improve our services.

Sincerely,

Shannon Brines  
Acting Chair

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# 2023 BY THE NUMBERS



## 2023 WCCD Outcomes

### TREE & NATIVE PLANT SALES TOTALS:

Spring Tree & Shrub Sale – total trees/shrubs (bare root) • **38,380**

Spring Native Plant Sale – total plants • **21,973**

Fall Tree Sale – total trees (bare root) • **7,125**

Fall Native Plant Sale – total plants • **5,803**

**Total Trees & Shrubs Distributed • 45,505**  
(Total includes seedling donations and partnerships)

Rain Barrels Distributed **187**

Totes Distributed **18**

Composters Distributed **9**

## NPEM Highlights

In 2023, we hosted the largest Native Plant Expo & Marketplace (NPEM) yet, with **31 vendors** including **10 native plant nurseries**, local businesses, nonprofits, and local government.

New to the event, we hosted food trucks, an educational speaker stage, and a fun festival atmosphere! We counted over **2250 attendees** during the four-hour event, shattering the previous year's count of 1600.

The event included our Spring Native Plant Pre-sale distribution of **400 orders totaling 13,282 plants**, and **2,888 milkweed plants** were given away to attendees (see page 3 for additional details).

### Special thanks to our sponsors and partners:

Huron River Watershed Council,  
Washtenaw County Water  
Resources Commissioner's Office  
Natural Community Services.





# 2023 Educational Events Recap

In 2023, the WCCD hosted **12 educational opportunities** for the general public and **9 for farmers**, attracting nearly **500 participants** and generating close to **1,000 views** on our YouTube channel. The events covered a variety of topics in multiple formats, including webinars, hands-on workshops, in-person seminars, and informal meetings, located in different areas of the County. We also enjoyed interacting with over **550 attendees** at **15 events** which we co-hosted with partner organizations or at which we presented. A few of the highlights included:

- **How to Assess, Manage, and Preserve Your Land** traveling presentation with partner organizations making the rounds to every Township in the County – online resources coming soon!
- **Restoring Nature with Prescribed Fire** webinar event detailing why and how prescribed burns are done safely with David Borneman
- Multiple friendly **Coffee & Conservation** meetings aimed at bringing farmers together to learn from one another and share techniques and practices at various farms, such as: Zilke Vegetable Farm in Milan, Blue Barn Meadows in Ann Arbor, and Rustic Roots Farm in Dexter
- **Do You Need an Arborist or a Forester?** webinar answering submitted questions to our assembled panel of experts
- A festive **Washtenaw Field Day** at Noble Organic Farm in Saline where farmers learned about soil health, viewed a demo of alternative pest management technology, and perused vendors



**Did you miss out on a great event in 2023? It might be on our YouTube channel! Visit [youtube.com/@wccd](https://youtube.com/@wccd) to see our video library or use the QR code (at right).**

**Visit our website to sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter to stay in the know on upcoming events at [washtenawcd.org](https://washtenawcd.org) or check the "Events" tab. We hope to see you in 2024!**

## Butterfly Milkweed Giveaway Recap

Thanks to a **\$5,000 donation** from two individuals with a long history in conservation, the WCCD had the unique opportunity to offer free milkweed plants (*Asclepias spp.*) at the NPEM! The migratory monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), an iconic and charismatic indicator species which recently received the globally endangered status, depends on milkweed as a larval host plant.

**2888 plants given to 951 residents!**

### IMPACT | GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

- 33% from Ann Arbor
- 27% from other Washtenaw county cities
- Remaining balance from 80 cities/towns across Southeastern Michigan and Ohio

***If you're interested in supporting these types of programs, please contact Doug Reith, Resource Specialist at [doug@washtenawcd.org](mailto:doug@washtenawcd.org).***





## 2023 School and Community Habitat Grant

The WCCD's School & Community Habitat Grant (SCHG) assists with the establishment of native plants and the creation of wildlife habitat. Since its inception in 2021, the program has provided almost **\$10,000 in consultation and plant materials to 11 awardees** and helped to coordinate over **270 hours of volunteer effort**.

In the 3rd round of the SCHG, we received ten completed applications for projects located in four municipalities. Our grant committee selected four organizations' projects to be awarded a total of about \$7,000 in consulting services and plant materials in 2024.

- Allen Elementary, Public School in City of Ann Arbor – **Allen Community Native Habitats**
- Leslie & Science Nature Center, Non-profit in City of Ann Arbor – **Expanding & Improving Pollinator Gardens at LSNC**
- Georgetown Commons South Condominium Assoc., HOA in City of Ann Arbor – **GCS Winthrop Rain Garden**
- Tappan Middle School, Public School in City of Ann Arbor – **Tappan's 3 R's Garden Project: Rainwater Runoff Reducers!**

### Past Habitat Grant Awardee installations:

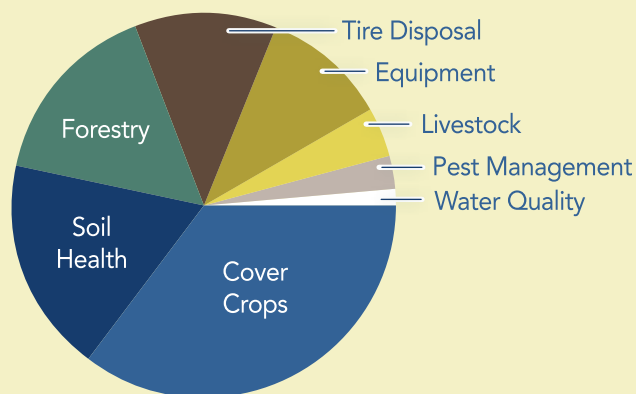
[washtenawcd.org/schg](https://washtenawcd.org/schg)

Past SCHG awardees and their project descriptions are available on our website. In 2023, all four of the 2022 Habitat Grant awardees finalized planting their projects and provided their reports. They included two non-profits, a municipality community center, and a public school. They received almost \$5,500 in consulting services and plant materials from the WCCD as well as an outpouring of community support in donations of time, materials, and skill!

## Farmer Cost-Share Program Report

The WCCD launched a farmer cost-share program in 2021 to assist Washtenaw producers in implementing best management practices on their property. In 2023, twelve applications were approved, assisting a diverse group of producers with addressing resource concerns in their operations. Best management practices such as soil testing, cover crops, forestry management plans and pasture establishment were some of the practices approved for funding and supported through millage dollars.

### 2023 Farmer Cost-Share Practices



The Cost-Share Program will continue in fiscal year 2024 with applications accepted quarterly instead of monthly. This change is a result of the popularity of the program and the need to take more time to properly assess incoming applications. The remaining deadlines in 2024 include: January 1st, April 1st and July 1st. Please visit [washtenawcd.org](https://washtenawcd.org) to fill out a form online today!



# 2023 MAEAP Summary

The Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks such as overapplication of fertilizers, applying fertilizers/pesticides too close to open water or wetlands, manure storage issues, etc. Reducing these risks can increase the productivity of the farm, while also protecting the environment for us all. This is especially important in Washtenaw County, which lies in the Great Lakes drainage basin.

MAEAP had another successful year in Washtenaw County and continues to grow in popularity! A total of 22 verifications were completed by the WCCD on 12 farms and properties



totaling approximately 2,750 acres, and several of the farms were new to the program. Although farm operations are still the heart of MAEAP, many landowners are also realizing the importance of proper stewardship of their forest and wetland habitats by participating in the Forest Wetland Habitat (FWH)

System of MAEAP. The FWH System made up a large proportion of the new Assessments, Verifications and Risk Reduction Practices, and this is a testament to the work being done by landowners of all sizes, stepping up and developing plans to protect habitats on their property.

**For more information contact Paul Buzzard, MAEAP Technician, paul@washtenawcd.org, 313-282-0786.**

## Equipment & Tool Rental Program: New & Improved "Lending Library"

During our first full year renting out the Truax No-Till Grass Drill for conservation cover crops and restoration plantings, there were seven renters of the drill which planted 65 acres: 31 acres pasture, 30 acres cover crop, and 4 acres pollinator planting. Additionally, the WCCD purchased a Tree Seedling Transplanter, capable of planting 300 seedlings / hour. It was rented three times and planted over 1050 tree seedlings.

We launched a new Lending Library website in spring of 2023, allowing residents to easily browse and reserve the No-Till Drill, Tree Transplanter, books, and 20 hand tools including tools for

soil testing, herbicide application, invasive removal, pruning, and planting. The Herbicide Application tools are offered in collaboration with the JLW Cisma. With the new online system and outreach, resident participation doubled from 2022!

**The tools and equipment in the Lending Library are available to borrow or rent throughout the year.**

**For more information, visit [wccd.myturn.com](http://wccd.myturn.com).**

**For reservation support or questions, contact the WCCD Resource Specialist, Doug Reith at 734 302-8713 or [doug@washtenawcd.org](mailto:doug@washtenawcd.org).**

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**56 Total Residents borrowing tools**

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**94 Total hand tool loans**

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# 2024 Spring Tree, Shrub & Native Plant Sales

Your purchases support conservation work by the WCCD.

Trees and plants are intended for conservation use: reforestation, soil erosion control, windbreaks, privacy screens, landscape naturalizing, and wildlife habitat improvements.

Native plants are species that have evolved and existed in this region prior to European settlement, which are adapted to local soils and climate, provide sustenance, and shelter to wildlife, and preserve biodiversity.

## TO PLACE AN ORDER

Orders can be made with the attached forms or directly on the WCCD store website: [store.washtenawcd.org](http://store.washtenawcd.org)  
Payment is accepted by check or credit card online.

To submit your pre-order on paper, remove and complete the "2024 Spring Tree & Shrub Sale Order Form" and/or the "2024 Spring Native Plant Sale Order Form". Submit the form/s with FULL PAYMENT (check or money order), including SALES TAX to the WCCD office by the pre-order deadlines. No phone orders accepted.

Order early for best availability. Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis while the limited inventories last. The WCCD reserves the right to cancel orders and refund payments due to supplier issues or other reasons beyond our control.



For all questions regarding Tree, Shrub and Native Plant pre-orders, please contact:

Doug Reith  
[doug@washtenawcd.org](mailto:doug@washtenawcd.org)  
734-302-8713

For questions on the Native Plant Expo & Marketplace, please contact:

Bridget Mitchell  
[bridget@washtenawcd.org](mailto:bridget@washtenawcd.org)  
734-302-8715

## TREE & SHRUB SALE

Store Opens (Pre-Order): Jan. 2nd  
Paper Forms Deadline: Feb. 19th  
Online Store Deadline: March 18th

### Pick Up Dates

Friday, April 26th 1p.m.-6 p.m.  
Saturday, April 27th 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

### Location

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds  
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road,  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(3 miles south of I-94, Exit #175).

### Extra Trees & Shrubs

Any extra trees will be sold on Saturday, April 27th starting at 10 a.m. at the Farm Council Grounds.

## NATIVE PLANT SALE

Store Opens (Pre-Order): Feb. 19th  
Paper Forms Deadline: March 11th  
Online Store Deadline: March 18th

### Pick Up Date

Saturday, June 1st, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Location

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds  
5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(3 miles south of I-94, Exit #175).



All pre-sale plants are from Designs by Nature or Wildtype, and will be ready for pick-up during the Native Plant Expo & Marketplace on Saturday, June 1st. The 2024 Native Plant Expo & Marketplace will feature native plant nurseries, native seed companies, landscaping companies, nonprofit organizations and others. **Additional plants, seeds, and services will be available for purchase during the event.**

**2024 Rain Barrel Sales** The WCCD will reopen preorder sales for Rain Barrels, 275 Gallon Rain Totes, Tumbling Composters, and supplies on January 2nd, 2024. The first distribution pickup date will be Monday, March 25th, followed by distributions in June and September. Pre-orders must be made in advance of the pick-up dates, details will be posted on the WCCD website.



## WASHTENAW COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2024 SPRING TREE & SHRUB PRE-ORDER FORM

**PICK-UP DATES:** Friday, April 26, 1-6 PM & Saturday, April 27, 9-11 AM

**Paper Forms Deadline:** Feb. 19

**LOCATION:** Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor, MI, 48103

**Online Store Deadline:** March 18

**NAME:**

**PHONE:**

**ADDRESS:**

**EMAIL:**

Fill out this form, or (preferred) shop online at [store.washtenawcd.org](http://store.washtenawcd.org) for more plant information & pictures!

CONIFER SEEDLINGS	AGE	SIZE	25	50	100	200	500		QTY	COST
Cedar, Red - <i>Juniperus virginiana</i>	2	6-12"	\$27	\$47	\$85	\$150	-			
Pine, White - <i>Pinus strobus</i>	2	5-10"	\$20	\$30	\$50	\$90	\$200			
Pine, Red - <i>Pinus resinosa</i>	2	6-12"								
Spruce, Black Hills - <i>Picea glauca</i> 'Densata'	2	6-12"								

CONIFER TRANSPLANTS	AGE	SIZE	1	10 *	30	50	100	200	QTY	COST
Cedar, White - <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	4	24-36"	\$12	\$100	\$200	\$300	-	-		
Larch, American - <i>Larix laricina</i>	4	24-36"	\$8	\$66	\$100	\$140	-	-		
Fir, Balsalm - <i>Abies balsamea</i>	2	8-14"	\$5	\$35	\$60	\$80	\$125	\$220		
Fir, Concolor - <i>Abies concolor</i>	3	8-14"								
Pine, White - <i>Pinus strobus</i>	3-4	8-18"								
Spruce, Norway - <i>Picea abies</i>	3	10-16"								

\* Mix & match Conifer Transplants, choose:  
(in multiples of 10 only, excluding White Cedar & American Larch)

Any 3 bundles of 10 for \$60,  
Any 5 bundles of 10 for \$80,  
Any 10 bundles of 10 for \$125,  
Any 20 bundles of 10 for \$220!

**TOTAL**

QTY COST

DECIDUOUS HARDWOODS	SIZE	1	25 *	50	100		QTY	COST
Chestnut, American - <i>Castanea dentata</i>	18-24"	\$12	\$120	Chestnut: Limit 25 per customer.				
Hickory, Shagbark - <i>Carya ovata</i>	18-24"	\$8	\$80	\$140	\$250			
Hophornbeam, Eastern - <i>Ostrya virginiana</i>	18-24"	\$5	\$40	\$70	\$130			
Oak, Chinkapin - <i>Quercus muehlenbergii</i>	18-24"							
Birch, River - <i>Betula nigra</i>	18-24"							
Poplar, Tulip - <i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>	18-24"							
Maple, Sugar - <i>Acer saccharum</i>	12-18"							

\* Mix & match Hardwoods, choose:  
(in multiples of 25 only, excluding Chestnut & Shagbark Hickory)

Any 2 bundles of 25 for \$70,  
Any 4 bundles of 25 for \$130!

**TOTAL**

QTY COST

WILDLIFE SHRUBS	SIZE	1	25 *	50	100		QTY	COST
Paw Paw, Common - <i>Asimina triloba</i>	18-24"	\$6	\$60	\$110	-	unsexed		
Dogwood, White Flowering - <i>Cornus florida</i>	12-18"	\$5	\$45	\$80	\$140			
Hazelnut, American - <i>Corylus americana</i>	18-24"							
Serviceberry, Alleghany - <i>Amelanchier laevis</i>	18-24"							
Spicebush - <i>Lindera benzoin</i>	18-24"							
Viburnum, Nannyberry - <i>Viburnum lentago</i>	18-24"							
Winterberry - <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	12-18"							unsexed

\* Mix & match Wildlife Shrubs, choose:  
(in multiples of 25 only, excluding Paw Paw)

Any 2 bundles of 25 for \$80,  
Any 4 bundles of 25 for \$140!

**TOTAL**

QTY COST





LARGER TRANSPLANTS	SIZE	1	5	QTY	COST
Buckeye, Ohio - <i>Aesculus glabra</i>	2-3'	\$12	\$50		
Hackberry - <i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	2-3'	\$12	\$50		
Oak, Pin - <i>Quercus palustris</i>	2-3'	\$12	\$50		
Redbud - <i>Cercis canadensis</i>	2-3'	\$12	\$50		
Sycamore - <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	3-4'	\$12	\$50		

FRUIT TREES	Height	Min. Caliper	Rootstock	NOTES	PRICE	QTY	COST	
Apple, CrimsonCrisp	5-6'	5/8-3/4"	G-890	Cross-pollination required	\$28			
Apple, Enterprise	5-6'	5/8-3/4"	G-890			good storage		
Apple, Freedom	5-6'	5/8-3/4"	G-890			disease resistant		
Apple, GoldRush	5-6'	5/8-3/4"	EMLA 111			disease resistant		
Apple, Liberty	5-6'	5/8-3/4"	EMLA 111			winter-hardy		
Cherry, Bing	5-6'	3/4"	Krymsk 6	Self-fertile, hardy, vigorous				
Nectarine, Fantasia	5-6'	3/4"	Seed	Self-fertile, good for canning				
Peach, Canadian Harmony	5-6'	3/4"	Seed	Self-fertile, hardy & productive				
Pear, Blake's Pride	5-6'	5/8-3/4"	OHxF 87	Partially self-fertile, productive				

BERRY PLANTS		5	10	25	QTY	COST
Blueberry, Highbush - <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Root Cutting + 1 year, 12-18"	\$20	\$35	\$75		
Raspberry, 'Prelude' - <i>Rubus sp.</i>	Early ripening red, bare root	\$15	\$25	\$55		

TREE & SHRUB PACKETS	Each packet includes 10 seedlings, sized 12-18". All are native species. Species may vary depending on nursery availability.	PRICE	QTY	COST
Deerfood Packet	Hazelnut, Chinkapin Oak, Persimmon, Domestic Apple, Coralberry	\$28		
Wetland Packet	Spice Bush, Pussy Willow, River Birch, Button Bush, Nannyberry	\$30		
Riparian Packet - <i>WCCD Special!</i>	Hackberry, Yellow Birch, American Larch, Pin Oak, American Elm	\$38		
Nut Packet	Hazelnut, Northern Pecan, Butternut, Black Walnut	\$28		
Wild Berry Packet (sized 6-12")	Elderberry, Shadblow Serviceberry, Flowering Raspberry, Red Mulberry	\$28		

PLANTING AIDS	EACH	10	30	50	100	QTY	COST	
Weed Mats - includes 4 staples per mat	\$3	\$25	\$65	\$110	\$200			
Marking Flags - fluorescent orange on 36" wire	-	\$3	-	\$12	\$20			
Tree Shelter - 58", includes 74" fiberglass stake	\$10	For protection of hardwood / single stems						
Tree Stakes - 74" fiberglass stake	\$4	For use with tree shelters						
Root Dip - 2 oz bag	\$2.50	Creates hydrogel dip for about 2000 seedlings						
Fertilizer Tablets - 10 gram tablet	\$0.33	20-10-5 (N-P-K), use only as needed						
Plantkydd Repellent - 1 Qt. Liquid Spray \$25 -- 1 Lb. Soluble Powder \$33 -- 3.5 Lb. Shaker Jug \$33								

Double check both sides. **\*\*Don't forget to calculate sales tax!**

OFFICE USE ONLY	Rec'd by: _____
ORDER # _____	
Date Rec'd: _____	\$ Rec'd: _____
CK # _____ Cash _____ CC _____ Bal. Due: _____	
Refund / Notes:	

<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	
<b>ADD 6% SALES TAX</b>	**
<b>TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION</b> Round up to support local Habitat Projects	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

Your purchases support conservation work by the Washtenaw County Conservation District. Thank you.

**PAYMENT METHODS:** Check or Money Order payable to: Washtenaw County CD. Credit Card accepted online.

- Drop off or Mail form with payment to: Washtenaw County CD, #201, 705 N. Zeeb Rd Ann Arbor, MI 48103
- Preferred: Order online with credit card or check: [store.washtenawcd.org](http://store.washtenawcd.org) - includes photos & species info!

**Refund Policy:** Plants and products will be delivered in good condition; any issues or concerns should be reported within a week of pick-up. Orders must be cancelled 14 days prior to the pick-up date will receive a refund. Refunds for customer canceled or adjusted orders will be the full refund amount minus the credit card fees (~3%). No refunds will be given on orders not picked up. If unable to personally pick up an order, customers are responsible to make other arrangements to retrieve their order on the pick-up date.

Please contact the WCCD Resource Specialist for questions: (734) 302-8713, [orders@washtenawcd.org](mailto:orders@washtenawcd.org)







# WASHTENAW COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## 2024 SPRING NATIVE PLANT PRE-ORDER FORM

<b>PICK-UP DATE:</b> Sat. June 1st, 9am-1pm at the Native Plant Expo & Marketplace	<b>Pre-sale Opens:</b> February 19
<b>LOCATION:</b> Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103	<b>Pre-sale Ends:</b> March 18

*Native plants are species that have evolved and existed in this region prior to European settlement, are adapted to local soils & climate, provide sustenance & shelter to wildlife, and preserve biodiversity. Shop online to pre-order these and more from other nurseries on our website: [store.washtenawcd.org](http://store.washtenawcd.org) The Native Plant Expo & Marketplace offers even more onsite plant sales from many nurseries too!*

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>PHONE:</b>
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	<b>EMAIL:</b>

COMMON NAME	BOTANICAL NAME	SIZE	PRICE EA	* see reverse side for single species plug flats	QTY	COST
<b>GRASSES &amp; SEDGES</b>						
Bottlebrush grass	<i>Elymus hystrix</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	* available in plug flat		
Prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	* available in plug flat		
Sweet grass	<i>Hierochloe odorata</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Muskingum Sedge	<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
<b>WILDFLOWERS</b>						
Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	* available in plug flat		
Big Leaf Aster	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Blue False Indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Blue Stem Goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Blue Vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Blue Wood Aster	<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Butterfly milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	* available in plug flat		
Cardinal Flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	* available in plug flat		
Compass plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Foxglove beard tongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Great Blue Lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Hairy Beardtongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Lead Plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
New England Aster	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	* available in plug flat		
Northern Blazingstar	<i>Liatris scariosa</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Prairie dock	<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Prairie smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Purple Coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	* available in plug flat		
Rattlesnake master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Rose Mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Showy Coneflower / Black Eyed Susan	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Showy goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Sky blue Aster	<i>Symphotrichum oolentangiense</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
White turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Wild Blue Iris	<i>Iris versicolor</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Wild Columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	* available in plug flat		
Wild Petunia	<i>Ruellia humilis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	-		
Woodland Sunflower	<i>Helianthus divaricatus</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.00	* available in plug flat		



SINGLE SPECIES PLUG FLATS: WILDFLOWER or GRASS	COST	Species requested: *	QTY	COST
Please indicate <u>one</u> species per plug flat. A full flat includes 38 2" plugs of one species. * Only the indicated species are available as plug flats.	\$90			

<b>GARDEN KITS: Each kit is made up of a full flat of 38, 2" plugs. Includes layout for 4'x10' plot.</b> Mix of 10-15 species per kit. <b>**Specific species will vary depending on availability. **</b>		EACH	QTY	COST
Butterfly Garden kit	Black Eyed Susan, Butterfly Weed, Columbine, Sand Tickseed, Pale Purple Coneflower, Mountain Mint, Wild Petunia, Tall Sunflower, Spiderwort, Prairie Blazingstar, Ironweed, Early Sunflower, Rock Harlequin, Showy Goldenrod, Compass Plant, Western Sun, Gray Coneflower **	\$90		
Grass Garden Kit	Big Bluestem, Bottlebrush Grass, Canada Wild Rye, Indian Grass, June Grass, Little Bluestem, Prairie Dropseed, Side Oats Grama, Sweet Grass, Switch Grass **	\$90		
Monarch Way-Station Garden Kit	Spirea, Sand Tickseed, Black Eyed Susan, Northern Blazing Star, Butterfly Weed, Wild Petunia, Roundleaf Ragwort, Tall Sunflower, Camroy Sunflower, Prairie Sage, Hoary Vervain, Pale Agoseris, Prairie Blazing Star, Swamp Milkweed, Claspng Milkweed, Showy Goldenrod, Smooth Blue Aster, Stiff Goldenrod, Thimbleweed **	\$90		
Pollinator Garden Kit	Tall Sunflower, Showy Cone, Sand Tickseed, Pale Purple Coneflower, Butterfly Weed, Hairy Beardtongue, Boneset, Giant Yellow Hyssop, Gray Cone, Thimble Weed, Wild Petunia, Showy Goldenrod, Skyblue Aster **	\$90		
Rain Garden Kit	Mountain Mint, Hibiscus, Blue Vervain, Spiderwort, Iris, Button Bush, Joe Pye Weed, Boneset, Ironweed, Swamp Milkweed, Riddell's Swamp Aster, Prairie Blazingstar **	\$90		
Shade Garden Kit	Columbine, Thimbleweed, Big Leaf Aster, Joe Pye Weed, Bottlebrush Grass, Spikenard, Spiderwort, Boneset, Purple Meadow Rue, Clematis, Bluestem Goldenrod, Heart Leaf Aster **	\$90		
Shoreline Garden Kit	Awl Fruited Sedge, Monkey Flower, Cardinal Flower, Sweet Flag, Mountain Mint, Marsh Blazingstar, Bottle Gentian, Swamp Milkweed, Joe Pye Weed, Boneset, Blue Lobelia, Smooth Swamp Aster, Brown Fox Sedge, Swamp Goldenrod, Turtlehead **	\$90		
Wildflower Garden Kit	Black Eyed Susan, Butterfly Weed, Columbine, Compass Plant, Gray Coneflower, Hairy Beardtongue, Hoary Vervain, Ironweed, Nodding Wild Onion, Wild Petunia, Prairie Alum Root, Prairie Blazing Star, Pussy Toes, Rock Harlequin, Spiderwort, Showy Coneflower, Stiff Goldenrod, Purple Coneflower, New Jersey Tea **	\$90		

*Don't forget to calculate sales tax!*

OFFICE USE ONLY	Rec'd by: _____
ORDER # _____	
Date Rec'd: _____	\$ Rec'd: _____
CK # _____ Cash _____ CC _____ Bal. Due: _____	
Refund: _____	

<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	
<b>ADD 6% SALES TAX</b>	
<b>TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION</b>	
Round up to support local School & Community Habitat Projects	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

**Your purchases support conservation work by the Washtenaw County Conservation District. Thank you!**

**PAYMENT METHODS:** Check or Money Order payable to: Washtenaw County CD. Credit Card accepted online.

- Drop-off or mail form with payment to: Washtenaw County CD, #201, 705 N. Zeeb Rd., Ann Arbor, MI 48103
- Preferred: Order online with credit card or check: [store.washtenawcd.org](http://store.washtenawcd.org) - includes photos & species info!

**Refund Policy:** Plants and products will be delivered in good condition; any issues or concerns should be reported within a week of pick-up. Orders must be cancelled 14 days prior to the pick-up date will receive a refund. Refunds for customer canceled or adjusted orders will be the full refund amount minus the credit card fees (~3%). No refunds will be given on orders not picked up. If unable to personally pick up an order, customers are responsible to make other arrangements to retrieve their order on the pick-up date.

Please contact the WCCD Resource Specialist for questions: (734) 302-8713, [orders@washtenawcd.org](mailto:orders@washtenawcd.org)





# 2023 Watershed Work

The WCCD has been significantly engaged in two watershed projects in 2023: Ottawa Stony North Watershed Management Plan (OSN) and Saline River Headwaters Buffer Easement Pilot Project. In partnership with Monroe Conservation District (MCD), and LimnoTech (a local environmental consultant), the WCCD staff continued to make progress on field data collection. The steering committee established for the project, and composed of township, city and county officials, met quarterly to review and assess findings in real time. Several focus groups were also held to gather specific feedback and understand the needs of various groups within the watershed (i.e. farmers, water resource employees, residents). With data collection completed, the plan will be drafted using the data and feedback collected. A final draft will be submitted to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) in spring of 2024 with the intention to apply for implementation funding for the plan in autumn of 2024; allowing the practices and actions suggested in the watershed management plan to be implemented in the community.



The Saline River Headwaters Buffer Easement Pilot project aims to pay landowners for a twenty-foot easement along any drain, stream or waterway. The WCCD contacted dozens of landowners within the watershed in 2023. A few acres are set to be enrolled in the project but won't be planted until spring of 2024. If the project is successful, an expanded footprint could see a similar project take place in the Western Lake Erie Basin.

## JLW CISMA Recap

The Jackson Lenawee Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (JLW CISMA) is an invasive species focused organization that operates in those three counties. Funding from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative allows the JLW CISMA to survey and manage invasive species, assist residents in identifying unknown flora and fauna; provide training opportunities to partners, non-profit organizations, and local staff; and create a variety of educational materials aimed at invasive species identification and prevention.

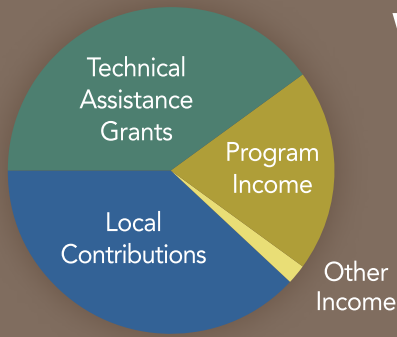


In 2023 the JLW CISMA completed 115 engagement opportunities including events, seminars, training sessions, phone support, etc.) where the JLW CISMA spoke to 1309 people directly. The JLW CISMA has been able to reach 65,237 people through 508 passive efforts (such as email, social media, mailings etc.), survey over 500 acres of land and identify beech leaf disease, hemlock woolly adelgid.



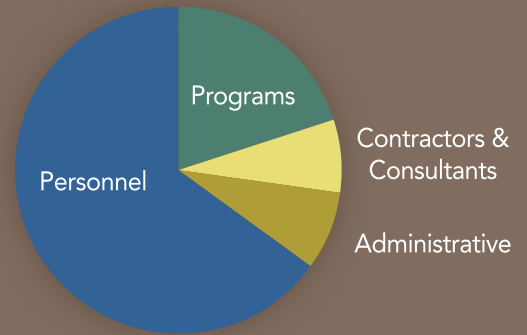
***For questions or concerns related to invasive species, sign up for our monthly newsletter, suggestions for native plant use, or inquiring about having our staff speak at your event, please contact the JLW CISMA Coordinator via email at [shikha.singh@macd.org](mailto:shikha.singh@macd.org) or phone 517-395-2089!***

# WCCD 2023 Financials\*



## REVENUE

Technical Assistance Grants . . . . .	\$392,291
Local Contributions . . . . .	\$423,596
Program Income . . . . .	\$203,506
Other Income . . . . .	\$21,308
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$.1,040,701</b>



## EXPENSES

Administrative . . . . .	\$59,751
Programs . . . . .	\$186,480
Personnel . . . . .	\$593,643
Contractors & Consultants . . . . .	\$74,639
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$.914,513</b>

\*Unaudited FY23 Financial Report

## Staff (contact info available at [www.washtenawcd.org](http://www.washtenawcd.org))

Megan DeLeeuw, Executive Director

Paul Buzzard, Conservation Technician (MAEAP)

Matt DeJonge, Conservation Technician (NRCS)

Jill Dohner, MiFarmLink Specialist

Molly Eassa, Executive Assitant

Megan Phillips Goldenberg, MCSFP Specialist

Nick Machinski, Conservation Specialist

Dru Mark-Wilson, Outreach Coordinator

Bridget Mitchell, Outreach Coordinator

Doug Reith, Resource Specialist

Summer Roberts, Community Forester

Deborah Shad, Finance Administrator

## Board of Directors

Shannon Brines,  
Acting Chair

Hannah Weber,  
Treasurer

Matt Nolan,  
Secretary

Howard Sias,  
Director

Maegen Gabriel,  
Associate Director

Tom Shanahan,  
Associate Director

**Finance Committee:** Hannah Weber, Chair of committee and Treasurer of the Board of Directors; Wayne Oliver, Volunteer Committee Member

**Human Resource Committee:** Matt Nolan, Chair of committee and Secretary of the Board of Directors; Jennifer Watson, Volunteer Committee Member

## Director Elections 2024 • Voting & Voter Registration

All residents of the Washtenaw County Conservation District (Washtenaw County) who are of legal age and have demonstrated residency by one (1) piece of identification may vote by casting 1 ballot at the annual meeting on January 18th, 2024, 5:30pm-8:30pm at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198.

Residents may also vote by requesting an absentee ballot by mail, or filling out a ballot at the WCCD office starting Monday, December 5th, 2023 until the deadline: January 18, 2024 at the annual meeting.

### Two director positions are up for election:

- 1 year term (Serving remainder of an existing term through 1/16/2025)
- 4-year term (full term through 1/21/2027)





# Stabilizing the Future of Michigan Agriculture

Often, heirs of legacy farmers do not want to enter agriculture, while new generation farmers rarely inherit land and struggle to find affordable parcels close to market centers. To slow the loss of Michigan’s farmland, it’s necessary to bridge the gap between farmland owners and seekers. The Washtenaw County Conservation District (WCCD) has partnered with Ottawa County to launch MiFarmLink, a website and farmer support program administered by the WCCD that connects farmland owners with farmland seekers. MiFarmLink provides detailed listings of agricultural land for sale as well as information on succession planning, mentorship, and support services. With nearly 50 examples of farm links across the country, this way of passing land onto its next steward is not a new idea. MiFarmLink builds on this model to bring together Michigan farmers to keep farmland in cultivation.



## Bridging the Gap Between New and Legacy Farmers

With approximately 1,200 farms on 180,000 acres, strong local markets and multiple food and farm business support organizations, Washtenaw County is the ideal place to pilot Michigan’s first farm link program. Additionally, the county has numerous publicly funded farmland preservation organizations that together have placed over 12,000 acres in permanent conservation easements. These easements pay farmers for the development rights to their land, which is approximately 75% of its market-rate value. This allows farmers to get equity out of their land while retaining title and ensures that the land will be preserved forever. If these landowners do decide to sell, their land is significantly less expensive to buy, making it more accessible to new farmers. Our mission is to “Protect Michigan farmland by shepherding it into the hands of new and existing farmers who can support a healthy, equitable and sustainable food system that honors agriculture as the foundation of strong communities”. By making farmland easier to find, and by providing outreach and support services to help pass land and knowledge between experienced and new farmers,

we will increase the diversity and resilience of the agricultural industry, farming communities, and families. Our goal is to create a successful program in Washtenaw that can be replicated across the state.

### 2023 Accomplishments

- Creation of a website in order to link farmers in Washtenaw county and expand into greater Michigan
- Facilitated two ‘links’ connecting retiring farmers to new farmers
- 17 new properties listed
- 18 new landowners assisted
- 47 new land seekers assisted

*With many thanks to the MiFarmLink Advisory Committee: Becky Huttenga, Trilby MacDonald, Lauren Marquardt, Koffi Kpachavi, Hannah Weber, Julius Buzzard, Barry Lonik, Kathy Sample, TC Collins, Tiara Williamson, Jae Gerhart, Adam Dietrich, Shiloh Maples, Rosebear Schneider, and Dolores Perales*

**Please contact Jill Dohner for more information on MiFarmLink: [jill@washtenawcd.org](mailto:jill@washtenawcd.org).**

# 76TH ANNUAL MEETING

January 18th, 2024, 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Ypsilanti Freighthouse, 100 Market Pl, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Join us in celebrating 76 years of conservation work in Washtenaw County at the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. The evening will feature a keynote presentation by **Naim Edwards, Director of MSU Urban Ag Center**, who will speak about urban agriculture and community resilience. He will also discuss how cities were designed and that it is not always aligned with well-being. He will highlight his work in Detroit and how edible forests can play a role in addressing various community needs.

The meeting will also include a presentation on our work at the WCCD, awards for key community leaders – a Distinguished Service Award, Small or Beginning Farmer Award, Tree Conservationist Award, Conservation Farmer Award, and Volunteer of the Year Award – and a snapshot of upcoming programming. Dinner will be provided by Angel Food Inc. Tickets are \$20 each, RSVP is required. Tickets may be purchased at our online store: [washtenawcd.org/annualmeeting](http://washtenawcd.org/annualmeeting)



## 2023 Awardees

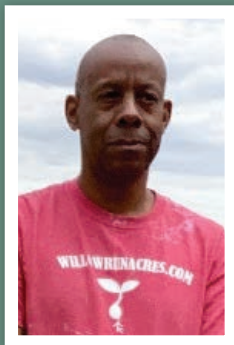
### Conservation Farmer of the Year: Tom Shanahan

Tom Shanahan exemplifies a commitment to conservation agriculture on his centennial farm alongside his wife and two children in Lyndon Township.



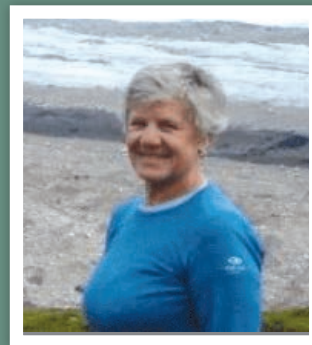
### Tree Conservationist of the Year: The Family of Dean & Jane Wilson

In the early 1950s Dean & Jane Wilson (deceased) began a tradition of planting trees every year that has continued for generations and among multiple family members' properties throughout Washtenaw County.



### Beginning and/or Small Conservation Farmer of the Year: Takunia "T.C." Collins

Takunia "T.C." Collins is the founder of Willow Run Acres, with sites in Ypsilanti and Superior Townships, endeavoring to teach gardening and farming practices to all skill levels and ages with the goal of enriching mind, body, and soul.



### Volunteer of the Year: Helen Peters

Helen Peters, of Ann Arbor Township, has demonstrated outstanding commitment to community involvement and the mission of conservation.



### OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARDS: Recognizes outstanding commitment and service to the Washtenaw County Conservation District.

**Howard Sias**, WCCD Board Director from 1999-2023

**Jill K. Dohner**, WCCD Board Director from 2013-2023





# UPCOMING EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

**Interested in upcoming educational events?** On our website, sign-up for our monthly e-newsletter to stay informed or check the "Events" tab periodically to pre-register for events, so we can save you a spot! We hope to see you in 2024!

- "How to Assess, Manage, and Preserve Your Land: Ypsilanti Township" on January 11, 2024 at 6pm
- "WCCD's School & Community Habitat Grant Q&A Webinar" on April 3, 2024 at 3:30 pm (will also be recorded)
- Solar Energy Presentations with U-M Graham Sustainability Institute in Winter/Spring 2024
- "Meet Your Forester" events in Spring/Summer 2024

## Celebrating Our Volunteers

The Washtenaw County Conservation District has a growing community of dedicated volunteers to assist us in several events throughout the year! Volunteers are an invaluable part of the work we do at the WCCD.

### Volunteer with WCCD!

For more information, please visit our website [washtenawcd.org/get-involved](https://washtenawcd.org/get-involved) to join our volunteer email list. The next opportunity to volunteer will be for the Spring Tree & Shrub Distribution, April 18th-27th. Volunteers help set-up, sort plants, prepack orders, and provide customers with their orders. It's a fun way to learn about plants and meet the community of growers! Later in the year, we rely on support from our volunteers during the Native Plant Expo & Marketplace and the Fall Tree & Native Plant Distribution.



**As an added bonus:** Volunteers receive early access to pre-sales and can pick-up their order at the end of their shift. Please note, some shifts happen before we have plants, so those volunteers are welcome to return to pick-up their plants early.

**Questions?** Call Dru, our Volunteer Coordinator at 734-302-8715 to sign up for shifts or to change your existing shift times.

**By the Numbers:** 279 Total Volunteers • 5,000 Total Hours

## 2023 VOLUNTEER BY THE NUMBERS

This year we decided to gather our volunteers' feedback and comments through post-event surveys. This has allowed us to improve each experience for all volunteers.

- 31% Signed-up for more than 1 event
- 82 Post-Event Survey Responses
- 82% of Volunteers Responded 5/5 Overall Experience

## TESTIMONIALS

### Spring Tree & Shrub Distribution

"I am a returning volunteer and had lots of fun meeting new people, dancing to the music when there was a chance, and talking about native plants to learn more!"

### Native Plant Expo & Marketplace

"As a first-time volunteer at this event, I appreciated all of the information on what to expect. It helped me be prepared and have a positive experience. It was really well organized-- thank you!"

### Fall Tree & Native Plant Distribution

"This is the third time volunteering with this group. Each time I find the energy level enthusiastic, well organized, and very pleasant for worthwhile cause."

**GOT IDEAS? TELL US!** Is there a specific speaker you'd like to hear? An important natural resource topic to address? A piece of equipment that would help you manage your property? A natural resources contractor (arborist, nursery, soil lab, etc.) you'd like to recommend? Compliments or complaints? Let us know by using the QR code or visiting [washtenawcd.org/annualsurvey](https://www.washtenawcd.org/annualsurvey). *As thanks, you can enter to win one of three \$10 gift cards to our sales!*



## ADDITIONAL EVENTS

### Spring Tree & Shrub Distribution

Friday, April 26th and Saturday April 27th

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Ann Arbor 48103

*See the preorder forms enclosed in this newsletter or preorder online on our website starting January 2nd, 2024.*



### 5th Annual Native Plant Expo & Marketplace

Saturday, June 1st • 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Ann Arbor 48103

The Native Plant Expo & Marketplace features several native plant nurseries, seeds companies, native landscaping companies, and non-profit conservation organizations. Abundant plants, seeds, and services will be available for in-person shopping.



*For information on all programming and events please visit: [washtenawcd.org](https://www.washtenawcd.org)*