



MAY CONSERVATION UPDATE

Your Source for Conservation News in Washtenaw County



Trillium Flower on the trail of Washtenaw County Park Sharon Mills

A Millage to Help Fund the WCCD

By Megan DeLeeuw, District Manager

On April 22nd, the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners voted to approve placing a millage question on the August 4th ballot on behalf of the WCCD. The .02 mil, 6-year levy would raise an estimated \$348,109 for the Conservation District annually. **The estimated cost to a household of an assessed value of \$100,000, would be \$2.00 per year.**

The WCCD has been without general operating support for over a decade. Millage funds would be used to:

- **Provide adequate staffing to create a stable organizational infrastructure.** Sale and grant revenue do not provide sufficient funding for indirect expenses to adequately fund the infrastructure necessary to support the management our current and future programs.
- **Provide matching funds for competitive grants.** The WCCD does not have an income stream that provides funds that can be used as matching funds necessary to secure competitive grants. Many funding opportunities for conservation work in the county have been lost due to lack of matching funds.
- **Provide funds for existing and expanded programming.** The WCCD is working to assist more landowners and residents with their conservation needs to improve conservation on the ground. Creation of additional programs to help address those needs will be possible through millage dollars.

How does WCCD currently serve residents?

The WCCD assists residents and landowners with the **conservation, management** and **wise use** of natural resources in Washtenaw County through:

- **Trees, plants & tools for Conservation:** Over 7.1 million trees and plants that have been planted as a result of WCCD's work since the 1950's contributing to conservation work such as reforestation, soil erosion reduction & water quality improvement, habitat restoration, naturalization projects. The Native Plant Expo & Marketplace is the largest event in SE Michigan showcasing native plant resources and education and is part of the WCCD's expanded efforts.
- **Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP):** MAEAP is an innovative, non-regulatory, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities

voluntarily prevent or minimize agricultural pollution risks. These practices protect our region's surface and ground waters and promotes responsible stewardship of our natural resources.

- **Conservation Education:** The WCCD provides seasonal educational workshops on how to implement conservation on the ground through both Backyard Conservation Education Series for home conservationists and the Conservation Ag Field Series for farmers. Workshop topics are selected through annual input from residents and include topics such as: tree planting and care, restoring native habitat, natural lawn and garden care, water catchment, no-till farming, rotational grazing, invasive species removal and more.
- **JLW Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA):** The JLW CISMA works across a three-county region (Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw) to provide education, outreach and some mitigation assistance around invasive species (e.g. Stiltgrass, Japanese knotweed, Frogbit, etc) that threaten the health of our natural areas.
- **Community-wide hub for conservation resources:** The WCCD serves as a one-stop location for conservation information through our website, site-specific assistance from Conservation experts on how to address needs, planning assistance for various programs and connecting residents and landowners to local, state and federal cost-share opportunities.

The Friends of the Washtenaw County Conservation District, a newly formed ballot initiative group independent of WCCD, will be conducting outreach related to the WCCD ballot initiative. Hannah Bradshaw, an Associate Director with the WCCD, is serving as the Campaign Coordinator and Treasurer for the group. If you are interested in helping with this effort, please contact Hannah at friendsWCCD@gmail.com, 734.645-8760. Read more about the Friends of the WCCD on Facebook @FriendsWCCD. Please contact Hannah for donations to assist with mailings and online outreach.

Accessing Native Plants & Contractors

The Second Annual Native Plant Expo & Marketplace was cancelled due to COVID-19 but for those of you who did not pre-order native plants, there is still opportunities to connect with Native Plant Nurseries in Michigan!

Many Nurseries have developed pre-ordering by phone or website and curbside pick-up options. The Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office put together a great guide for ordering directly from nurseries. Visit their website for more details and contact information: <https://www.washtenaw.org/3097/23418/Order-plants>

The WCCD also has posted links to nurseries as well as a link to a Native Plant and Habitat Contractor's List: www.washtenawcd.org.

Important Reminder for Customers that Pre-Ordered Fruit Trees, Native Plants or Fish: The WCCD, in partnership with the Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office, will be distributing pre-ordered fruit trees, native plants and fish stock during the last week in May. If you have not received an e-mail or mailed notice regarding pick-up details, please check your spam box. Check the website for updates or contact the District Manager, Megan DeLeeuw, with questions (contact below).



[In My Backyard](#)

Part 7: My Goals

I'm back on track this month and as I promised a few months ago, here are my



goals for my yard. I'll give a short explanation for each to disclose my reasoning behind each.

Order Rain Barrels & Accessories Now

Re-stocked on May 8th!

All rain barrels, accessories can be pre-ordered now. Pick-up from the District office (7203 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103) **must be arranged with the Manager: megan.deleeuw@macd.org**. We ask for 24 hours to have the barrel ready for pick up!



Order Rain Barrels & Accessories

Farmer-Led Conservation Group

Who are we?

A farmer-led, nonprofit group dedicated to improving the health of our land and water.

What do we do?

- Connect farmers together and to local resources to increase conservation on the farm
- Offer information on best management practices (BMPs)
- Share funding information for BMPs and other conservation practices
- Participate in working groups and listening sessions
- Offer field trips to demonstration farms and Lake Erie

How do I get involved?

- Reach out to our Farmer Leaders
- Talk to your local Conservation District or MAEAP Technician
- Visit our website
- Attend an event



We work in the River Raisin Watershed, located within the Western Lake Erie Basin.



Farmer-Led Watershed Conservation
Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB)

Farming in the

Meet other farmers dedicated to Conservation! The Farmer-Led

River Raisin Watershed?

Conservation Group (FLC) meets on a call monthly to discuss promoting conservation practices, share funding opportunities, plan education and working group sessions and more!

Washtenaw County Conservation District

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734.718.5506
MEGAN.DELEEUW@MACD.ORG

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