

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

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on 2025, we are thankful for the progress made in preserving and enhancing the natural and agricultural resources of Washtenaw County. This year has been shaped by perseverance in the face of funding uncertainty, strengthening of partnerships to build resiliency, and continued dedication to our mission of the wise use of our local natural resources.

Like many entities that rely on grant funding, our staff and Board faced unprecedented challenges this past year. Yet with the support of our community, partners, and stakeholders, we still achieved meaningful impacts that will benefit generations to come. As you'll read here, we improved water quality and soil health through MAEAP, SHIP, and Farm Bill programs; expanded conservation education, outreach, and access to materials through the NPEM, Tree Sales, Rain Barrel & Composter Sales, Tool Bank, and SCHG; and strengthened connections and mentorship through MIFarmLink and TOPP. All these efforts support a more sustainable future.

Our accomplishments this year are a testament to the collective action of farmers, landowners, conservationists, volunteers, and local government agencies. Whether through innovative conservation practices, enhancing habitat for wildlife, or advocating for land preservation, we have worked tirelessly to help Washtenaw County's natural landscapes and farms thrive.

We are excited to share the highlights of 2025 in this report, and we invite you to join us in 2026 through our "Pathways to Support Conservation" (pg. 9) as we continue to promote the sustainable use of our natural resources. We have opportunities to volunteer, donate, partner, sponsor an event, or join our Board of Directors or a committee! Together, we can continue to make a positive and lasting impact on our local environment, economy, and quality of life for all who call Washtenaw County home.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to this important work. We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and collaboration.

With sincere gratitude,



Maegen Gabriel, Vice-Chair

Washtenaw County Conservation District

## GO PAPERLESS NEXT YEAR

To receive a digital copy of our Annual Report rather than a paper copy, use the QR code or call or office to request the change.

CONNECT WITH US [washtenawcd.org](http://washtenawcd.org) | 734-302-8715



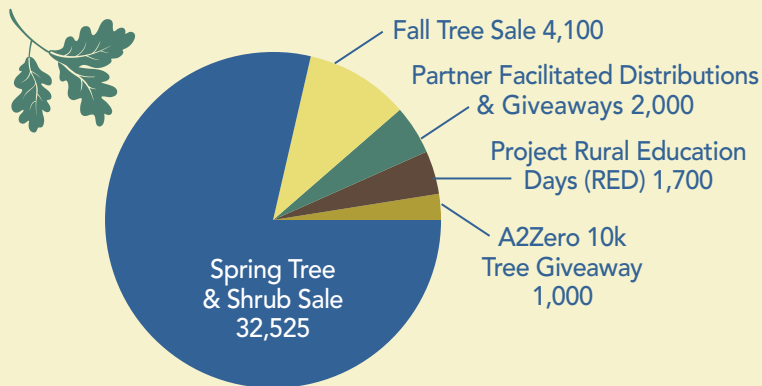
Photo by Paul Michael Peters

## INSIDE this issue

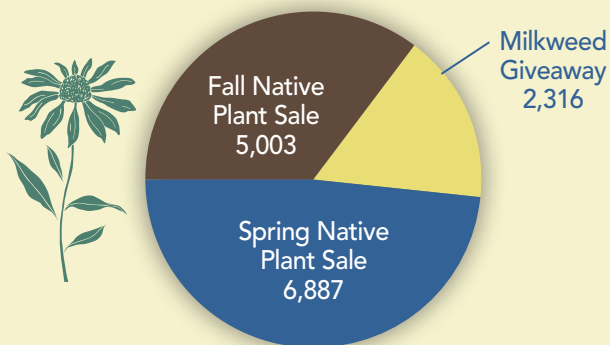
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# 2025 BY THE NUMBERS

## 41,325 Tree & Shrub Seedlings Distributed



## 14,206 Native Plants Distributed



### Rain Barrel SALES



## Tree Sale Partnerships

- The MDNR Forest 2 MI Faucet program provided \$5,000+ discounts on 2,576 riparian seedlings through partnerships with the Huron River Watershed Council & Legacy Land Conservancy.

- We supported these partners' tree giveaways and planting projects:

- City of Dexter
- Chelsea Area Garden Club
- Saline Farmers Market
- Ann Arbor Township
- City of Ypsilanti
- St Andrews School



## Rain Barrels Distributed

96

Totes Distributed 10

Composters Distributed 5

## NPEM Highlights

We hosted **2,486 attendees** at the Native Plant Expo and Marketplace (NPEM)! The event had **42 vendors**, including local businesses, non-profits, and local government organizations, as well as **15 native plant nurseries** which sold over **10,800 plants**. The event also had a fun "Nature Kids" activity area, a Speaker Stage featuring educational presentations, an Early Bird hour for eager shoppers, and 4 delicious food trucks!

**Special thanks to our sponsors and partners, in particular:**

Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner's Office, Huron River Watershed Council, U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum, Natural Community Services, Adapt Landscapes & Adapt Community Supported Ecology, Wright's Renovations, and River Raisin Watershed Council.

**More details available at: [NativePlantExpo.com](https://NativePlantExpo.com)**





# Educational Events Recap

In 2025, the WCCD was pleased to offer **13 educational opportunities** for area residents and farmers, attracting nearly **250 participants**. We also enjoyed interacting with more than **500 attendees** at co-hosted events, partner events, and conferences. These opportunities included:

- **Agroforestry 101** – An introduction to Agroforestry practices like wind-breaks, and silvopasture at Whitney Farmstead.
- **Fireman's Park Tree Planting** – Volunteers learned how to properly plant ball and burlapped trees to increase air quality, manage stormwater, provide habitat, and beautify the park in Superior Township.
- **How to Assess, Manage, & Preserve Your Land** – A traveling presentation with a collective of partner organizations. Online resources are available at [washtenawcd.org/landtoolkit](http://washtenawcd.org/landtoolkit).
- **Washtenaw Conserved Farm Tour** – A tour of three working farms that have leveraged Washtenaw County millage dollars for land preservation or natural resource management.
- **Washtenaw Field Day** – Held at Gateway Farm in Plymouth focused on regenerative orchard production and strategic water management, including a rain garden demonstration.



As part of the Forest to Mi Faucet initiative, the WCCD produced a video exploring the important connection between trees & drinking water. View it by scanning the QR code.



Did you miss an event in 2025? Check out our YouTube channel to view some of our past events: [youtube.com/@wccd](https://youtube.com/@wccd)

To stay up to date with future educational programming visit our website and sign up for our monthly e-newsletter. Join us in 2026 for more great events!

## Milkweed Giveaway Recap

Thanks to a reoccurring \$5,000 donation, over **1,032 attendees** at the Native Plant Expo and Marketplace (NPEM) received **2,316 free plants of various milkweed species** (*Asclepias* spp.), which is critical for the lifecycle of the endangered Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus Plexippus*). Look for the return of this giveaway in 2026 at the NPEM, likely with new plant species to support even more pollinators!

Curious where the milkweed was planted?  
See the map at [washtenawcd.org/milkweedgiveaway](http://washtenawcd.org/milkweedgiveaway)





# 2025 School and Community Habitat Grant



The WCCD's School and Community Habitat Grant (SCHG) supports schools and community groups in obtaining native plants and creating wildlife habitats. Since its inception in 2021, the program has awarded over **\$26,000 in consultation and plant materials to 21 awardees.**

We'd like to thank all the community members who stepped up to make their community a better place and applied for the SCHG. This year the grant committee selected four 2025 awardees:

1. Milan Middle School, Milan
2. Life After Incarceration Transition and Reentry, Ypsilanti Township
3. Scio Village Condo Association, Scio Township
4. Webster Natural Features Committee, Webster Township



## For Further Information on SCHG

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

On our webpage you will find examples of previous SCHG projects and details on the upcoming application period set to start in early 2026. You can also donate directly to the SCHG to increase its impact. Thank you to all the volunteers, and community members who make SCHG an ongoing success!

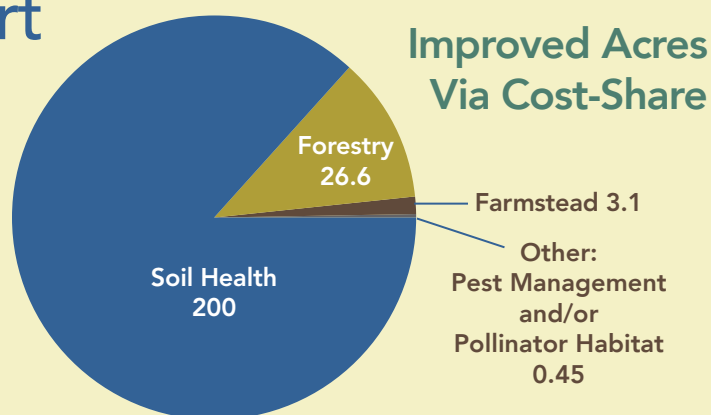
# Farmer Cost-Share Report



Since its launch in 2021, WCCD's Farmer Cost-Share has supported a wide range of conservation practices, including more than 700 acres of cover crops and over 32 acres of pollinator habitat. The program has assisted almost 50 producers and landowners in advancing their conservation goals while reducing environmental risks.

In 2025, the program **assisted 9 producers and landowners.** Notably, one project included **soil testing on 200 acres of row crops** to determine

optimal nutrient application—resulting in cost savings for the farmer and reduced nutrient runoff into local waterways. Several other projects benefited **over 26 acres of forestland** through invasive species control, timber thinning, forestry



mulching, food forest establishment, and the development of a comprehensive Forest Management Plan.

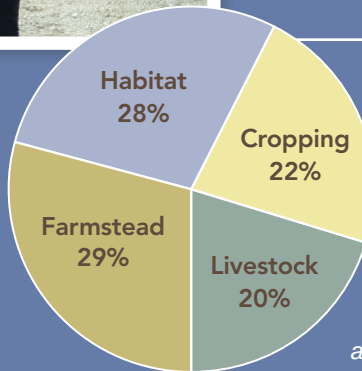
The program is shifting to a single annual application deadline on December 1, 2025, providing participants with more time to implement their projects. However, if you missed the deadline, we encourage you to contact WCCD—additional assistance options may be available.

# Conservation Technical Assistance Summary

WCCD administers the Michigan Agricultural Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) as well as the new Regenerative Agriculture Program (RAP) in Washtenaw County. MAEAP is an innovative, proactive program that helps farms of all sizes and all commodities voluntarily address 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 is especially important in Washtenaw County, which lies in the Great Lakes drainage basin. 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. In 2025, a total of **11 reverifications and 12 new verifications** occurred on **9 farms and properties** totaling approximately **2,000 acres**.



Similarly, RAP encourages an active approach to land management by restoring and safeguarding healthy soils. This new program assessed and tested the biological health of soils in three areas at **4 farms**. The collected data will inform management plans on how to improve the soil biology and structure through practices such as conservation tillage and cover crops.



## 2025 Risk Reductions (N=85)

*A risk reduction practice identifies and prevents potential pollution, such as testing soils for Phosphorous levels and erecting fencing to limit livestock access to water bodies.*

For more information visit [washtenawcd.org/maeap](https://washtenawcd.org/maeap) or contact Paul Buzzard, MAEAP Technician, [paul@washtenawcd.org](mailto:paul@washtenawcd.org), 734-302-8715

## Introducing the "Washtenaw Tool Bank Collective"

Our free tool lending library has grown and has a new and improved website! Together with Growing Hope Urban Farm (Ypsilanti), we now offer **over 80 tools** for both conservation and small-scale agriculture and gardening! New tools include: 6 loppers (donated by U-M SEAS), 3 sod cutters (2 donated by Washtenaw County Water Resources), soil pH tester, fruit tree grafted, and bag seeder.

The Stewardship Network, in collaboration with the Lily Pad Fund for Nature, funded: a wheel hoe & standing soil blocker

(pick-up at Growing Hope); a mattock hoe, shrub grubber chain, and tree girdler (pick-up at WCCD); and more PullerBears for future tool banks!

We continue to offer tractor implement rentals including our Tree Seedling Transplanter and a No-Till Seed Drill, and some unique herbicide application tools in collaboration with the JLW Cisma. Our tool banks enable residents to engage with land stewardship via accessible resource sharing and education.



To borrow or rent tools, visit: [tools.washtenawcd.org](https://tools.washtenawcd.org)  
For reservation support or questions, contact us at 734-302-8713 or [tools@washtenawcd.org](mailto:tools@washtenawcd.org)



# 2026 Spring Tree, Shrub & Native Plant Sales

*Your purchases support conservation work by the WCCD. Thank you!*

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

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



## TO PLACE AN ORDER

*Orders can be placed in two ways:*

**1) Online at [store.washtenawcd.org](https://store.washtenawcd.org):** Payment is accepted via check or credit card. This is the preferred ordering method and provides up-to-date inventory of each product.

**2) Enclosed paper forms:** Remove and complete the "2026 Spring Tree & Shrub Sale Order Form" and/or the "2026 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 supplies last. The WCCD reserves the right to cancel orders and refund payments due to supplier issues or other reasons beyond our control.

**For questions regarding plant pre-orders, please contact our Resource Specialist at: [orders@washtenawcd.org](mailto:orders@washtenawcd.org) or 734-302-8713. For questions on the Native Plant Expo & Marketplace, please contact us at 734-302-8713 or [expo@washtenawcd.org](mailto:expo@washtenawcd.org).**

## SPRING TREE & SHRUB SALE

Pre-Sale Opens: January 2

Paper Forms Deadline: February 23

Online Store Deadline: March 23

### Pick Up Dates

Friday, April 24, 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 25, 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 25 starting at  
10 a.m.**

## SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

Pre-Sale Opens: February 23

Paper Forms Deadline: March 9

Online Store Deadline: March 23

### Pick Up Date

Saturday, June 6, 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 nurseries and will be ready for pick-up during the Native Plant Expo & Marketplace (NPEM) on Saturday, June 6. The NPEM will feature native plant nurseries, native seed companies, landscaping companies, non-profit organizations and others. **Additional plants, seeds, and services will be available for purchase during the event.**



**2026 Rain Barrel & Composter Sales** Pre-order sales for Rain Barrels, 275 Gallon Rain Totes, Tumbling Composters, and supplies will re-open on January 2, 2026. The first distribution pick-up date will be Monday, March 23. Pre-orders must be made in advance of the pick-up date. After March, orders may be picked up from the office or other distributions in June or September, details will be posted on the WCCD website.



## WASHTENAW COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2026 SPRING TREE & SHRUB PRE-ORDER FORM

**PICK-UP DATES:** Friday, April 24, 1-6 PM & Saturday, April 25, 9-11 AM

**Paper Forms Deadline:** Feb. 23

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

**Online Store Deadline:** March 23

**NAME:**

**PHONE:**

**ADDRESS:**

**EMAIL:**

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

All seedlings & transplants are bare-root, unless otherwise specified, and must be planted ASAP after pick-up.

CONIFER SEEDLINGS	AGE	SIZE	25	50	100	200	500		QTY	COST
Pine, Red - <i>Pinus resinosa</i>	2	6-12"	\$30	\$48	\$72	\$124	\$274			
Pine, White - <i>Pinus strobus</i>	2	6-12"								
Spruce, Black Hills - <i>Picea glauca</i> 'Densata'	2	9-12"								

CONIFER TRANSPLANTS	AGE	SIZE	1	10 *	30	50	100	200		QTY	COST
Cedar, White - <i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	4	10-16"	\$6	\$42	\$72	\$98	\$170	\$300			
Fir, Balsam - <i>Abies balsamea</i>	3	18-30"									
Fir, Fraser - <i>Abies fraseri</i>	4	10-16"									
Pine, White - <i>Pinus strobus</i>	4	12-18"									
Spruce, Norway - <i>Picea abies</i>	4	12-18"									
Spruce, White - <i>Picea glauca</i>	3	10-16"	\$8	\$62	\$108	\$138	\$250	N/A			

\* Mix & match Conifer Transplants, choose:

(in multiples of 10 only, excluding White Spruce)

Any 3 bundles of 10 for \$72,  
Any 5 bundles of 10 for \$98,  
Any 10 bundles of 10 for \$170,  
Any 20 bundles of 10 for \$300!

**TOTAL**

**QTY** **COST**

DECIDUOUS HARDWOODS	SIZE	1	25 *	50	100		QTY	COST
Coffeetree, Kentucky - <i>Gymnocladus dioica</i>	18-24"	\$7	\$60	\$90	\$160			
Poplar, Balsam - <i>Populus balsamifera</i>	18-24"							
Oak, Black - <i>Quercus velutina</i>	18-24"	\$6	\$50	\$80	\$150			
Birch, Paper - <i>Betula papyrifera</i>	18-24"							
Cherry, Choke - <i>Prunus virginiana</i>	18-24"							
Maple, Sugar - <i>Acer saccharum</i>	18-24"							
Pecan, Northern - <i>Carya illinoensis</i>	18-24"							

\* Mix & match Hardwoods, choose:

(in multiples of 25 only, excluding Coffeetree & Balsam Poplar)

Any 2 bundles of 25 for \$80,  
Any 4 bundles of 25 for \$150!

**TOTAL**

**QTY** **COST**

WILDLIFE SHRUBS	SIZE	1	25 *	50	100		QTY	COST
Alder, Speckled - <i>Alnus incana</i> ssp. <i>rugosa</i>	18-24"	\$6	\$52	\$92	\$154			
Buffaloberry, Russet - <i>Shepherdia canadensis</i>	12-18"							
Chokeberry, Black - <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i>	18-24"							
Elderberry, Red - <i>Sambucus pubens</i>	18-24"							
Hazelnut, American - <i>Corylus americana</i>	18-24"							
Nannyberry - <i>Viburnum lentago</i>	18-24"							
Serviceberry, Dwarf - <i>Amelanchier spicata</i>	12-18"							
Winterberry - <i>Ilex verticillata</i>	18-24"							

\* Mix & match Wildlife Shrubs, choose:

(in multiples of 25 only)

Any 2 bundles of 25 for \$92,  
Any 4 bundles of 25 for \$154!

**TOTAL**

**QTY** **COST**



LARGER TRANSPLANTS	SIZE	1	5		QTY	COST
Basswood, American - <i>Tilia americana</i>	2-3'	\$12	\$50			
Oak, Red - <i>Quercus rubra</i>	2-3'	\$12	\$50			
Paw Paw, Common - <i>Asimina triloba</i>	2-3'	\$12	\$50	unsexed, seed propagated		
Serviceberry, Saskatoon - <i>Amelanchier alnifolia</i>	18-24"	\$12	\$50			
Sycamore - <i>Platanus occidentalis</i>	2-3'	\$12	\$50			

FRUIT TREES	Height	Min. Caliper	Rootstock	NOTES	<i>bare-root transplants</i>	PRICE	QTY	COST
Apple, CrimsonCrisp	5-6'	5/8"	EMLA 7	Cross-pollination required	good storage	\$29		
Apple, Enterprise	5-6'	5/8"	EMLA 7		Disease resistant			
Apple, Freedom	5-6'	5/8"	G-890		Disease resistant			
Apple, GoldRush	5-6'	5/8"	EMLA 7		winter-hardy			
Cherry, Bing	5-6'	3/4"	Krymsk 6	Self-fertile, hardy, vigorous				
Nectarine, Fantasia	5-6'	5/8"	Bailey	Self-fertile, good for canning				
Peach, Canadian Harmony	5-6'	5/8"	Bailey	Self-fertile, hardy & productive				
Pear, Asian 'Juicy Jewel'	5-6'	5/8"	OHxF 87	Cross-pollination recommended				
Pear, Blake's Pride	5-6'	5/8"	OHxF 87	Cross-pollination recommended				

BERRY PLANTS		5	10	25	QTY	COST
Blackberry, 'Chester' - <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> 'Chester'	Cell plug (from tissue culture)	\$38	\$64	\$124		
Blueberry, Lowbush - <i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	Root Cutting + 1 year, 12-18"	\$28	\$48	\$98		
Raspberry, 'Boyne' - <i>Rubus idaeus</i> 'Boyne'	Winter hardy, bare root	\$20	\$32	\$64		

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	\$30		
Wild Berry Packet (sized 6-12")	Elderberry, Allegheny Serviceberry, Flowering Raspberry, Red Mulberry	\$30		
Wetland Packet	Spice Bush, Pussy Willow, River Birch, Button Bush, Nannyberry	\$36		
Nut Packet	Hazelnut, Northern Pecan, Butternut, Black Walnut	\$41		
Edible Landscape (mixed sizes)	Highbush Blueberry, Red Currant, Serviceberry, Paw Paw	\$41		

PLANTING AIDS	EACH	10	30	50	100		QTY	COST
Weed Mats - includes 4 staples per mat	\$3	\$25	\$65	\$110	\$200			
Marking Flags - fluoresent orange on 36" wire	-	\$4	-	\$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						
Plantskydd Repellent: 1 Qt. Liquid Spray \$25 ----- 1 Lb. Soluble Powder \$35 ----- 3.5 Lb. Shaker Jug \$35								

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>	
Add on or 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 canceled 14 days prior to the pick-up date to 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 for making 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

# 2026 SPRING NATIVE PLANT PRE-ORDER FORM

**PICK-UP DATE:** Sat. June 6, 9am-1pm at the Native Plant Expo & Marketplace

**Pre-sale Opens:** February 23

**LOCATION:** Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103

**Pre-sale Ends:** March 23

*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](https://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	\$6.25	-		
Little Bluestem	<i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	* available in plug flat		
Prairie dropseed	<i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Sweet grass	<i>Hierochloa odorata</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Muskingum Sedge	<i>Carex muskingumensis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
<b>WILDFLOWERS</b>						
Bergamot	<i>Monarda fistulosa</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	* available in plug flat		
Big-leaf aster	<i>Eurybia macrophylla</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Blue false indigo	<i>Baptisia australis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Blue-stem goldenrod	<i>Solidago caesia</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Blue vervain	<i>Verbena hastata</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Blue wood aster	<i>Symphyotrichum cordifolium</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Butterfly milkweed	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	* available in plug flat		
Cardinal flower	<i>Lobelia cardinalis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	* available in plug flat		
Compass plant	<i>Silphium laciniatum</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Foxglove beard tongue	<i>Penstemon digitalis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Great blue lobelia	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Hairy beardtongue	<i>Penstemon hirsutus</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Lead plant	<i>Amorpha canescens</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
New england aster	<i>Symphyotrichum novae-angliae</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	* available in plug flat		
Northern blazingstar	<i>Liatris scariosa</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Prairie golden alexander	<i>Zizia aurea</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Prairie dock	<i>Silphium terebinthinaceum</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Prairie smoke	<i>Geum triflorum</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Purple coneflower	<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	* available in plug flat		
Rattlesnake master	<i>Eryngium yuccifolium</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Rose mallow	<i>Hibiscus moscheutos</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Showy coneflower / Black eyed susan	<i>Rudbeckia fulgida</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Showy goldenrod	<i>Solidago speciosa</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Sky blue aster	<i>Symphyotrichum oolentangiense</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Southern blue flag iris	<i>Iris virginica</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
White turtlehead	<i>Chelone glabra</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		
Wild columbine	<i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	* available in plug flat		
Wild petunia	<i>Ruellia humilis</i>	4 1/2" pot	\$6.25	-		



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

<b>GARDEN KITS:</b> Each kit is made up of a full flat of 38, 2" plugs. Includes layout for 4'x10' plot. 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, Clasping 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!*

<b>OFFICE USE ONLY</b> ORDER # _____  Date Rec'd: _____ \$ Rec'd: _____ CK # _____ Cash ____ CC ____ Bal. Due: _____ Refund: _____	Rec'd by: _____
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<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 canceled 14 days prior to the pick-up date to 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 for making 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)





# SHIP Sets Sail

In 2025, WCCD, along with neighboring Monroe, Lenawee and Hillsdale Districts, partnered with the Michigan Department of EGLE to launch the Soil Health Investment Program (SHIP). The program, funded by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant, brought **several million dollars to Michigan's portion of the Western Lake Erie Basin**, enabling farmers to strengthen their nutrient, soil health, and water management strategies. With rising fertilizer costs and growing environmental concerns, producers are increasingly aware of the need to apply nutrients only where they are truly required. However, achieving this level of precision demands extensive soil testing and costly equipment.

SHIP helps bridge this gap by offsetting the financial burden of adopting advanced technologies and adjusting management practices. In Washtenaw County, **8 farmers are conducting intensive soil sampling across more than 2,000 acres of cropland**. Several participants have already used program funds to modernize equipment, allowing them to apply fertilizer with far greater accuracy. SHIP also supports a range of



*Harvestable buffer along Paint Creek*

conservation practices, including planting cover crops, reducing tillage, and installing grassed waterways to limit soil and nutrient runoff, and harvestable buffer strips. So far, **more than 11.5 acres of harvestable buffers** have been installed.

With **over \$300,000 awarded** in Washtenaw County thus far, SHIP is making substantial progress in improving agricultural sustainability. We look forward to building on this success in 2026.

## NRCS Recap

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is the USDA's primary private lands conservation agency providing technical assistance and cost-share to support landowners in addressing natural resource concerns. The WCCD partners with NRCS to provide one-on-one consultation with landowners and drive impactful stewardship through the: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP).

In 2025, the NRCS office and WCCD's Natural Resource Technician collectively **obligated \$756,551 in funding** and **enrolled 845 acres** in conservation across the county. The WCCD technician **supported more than 45 applicants** through enrollment, site visits, conservation planning, and implementing conservation practices.

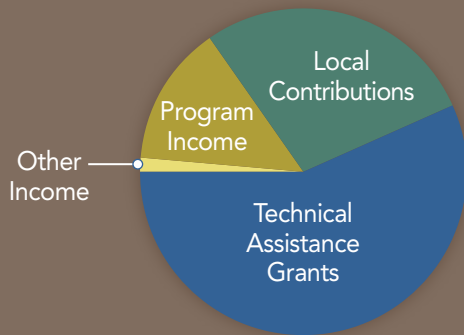
This ongoing partnership improves access to Farm Bill technical assistance and cost-share dollars and helps farmers and landowners put practical, long-term conservation into action throughout Washtenaw County. Key practices include establishing pollinator habitat, planting cover crops, constructing high tunnels, adopting conservation tillage, and improving forest management. Together, these efforts protect soil, water, and wildlife while strengthening the resilience and productivity of local farms, ensuring that our working lands remain healthy and sustainable for generations to come.



Program	Acres	Contract Dollars
EQIP	65	\$240,478
CSP	599	\$73,593
ACEP	181	\$442,480

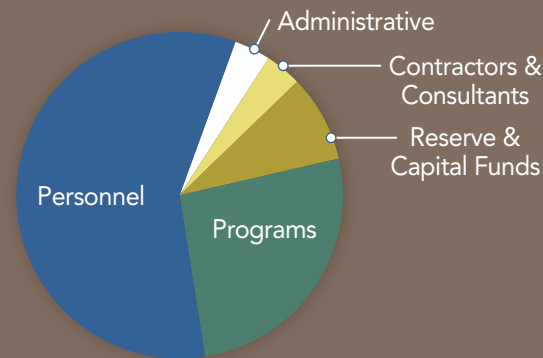


# WCCD 2025 Financials\*



## REVENUE

Technical Assistance Grants . . . . .	\$906,808
Local Contributions . . . . .	\$453,041
Program Income . . . . .	\$220,748
Other Income . . . . .	\$22,024
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$.1,602,621</b>



## EXPENSES

Administrative . . . . .	\$55,628
Programs . . . . .	\$419,554
Personnel . . . . .	\$931,176
Contractors & Consultants . . . . .	\$60,037
Reserve & Capital Funds . . . . .	\$136,226
<b>Total . . . . .</b>	<b>\$.1,602,621</b>

\*Financials are for fiscal year 2025 (10/01/2024 - 09/30/2025) and have not yet been audited.

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

Nick Machinski, *Conservation Specialist*  
 Paul Buzzard, *Conservation Technician (CTAP/MAEAP)*  
 Kristen Sutter, *Natural Resource Technician (NRCS)*  
 Jill Dohner, *MIFarmLink Specialist\**  
 Kim Williams-Guillén, *TOPP Specialist*  
 Alex Cacciari, *TOPP Specialist*  
 Matthew DeJonge, *Community Forester*

Doug Reith, *Resource Specialist*  
 Walker Whitehouse, *Seasonal Staff*  
 Deborah Shad, *Finance Administrator*  
 Megan Phillips Goldenberg, *Development Manager*  
 Summer Roberts, *Executive Director*  
 \*Moved to Michigan Association of Conservation Districts on 10/1/2025

## Board of Directors

Shannon Brines, *Chair*  
 Maegen Gabriel, *Vice-Chair*  
 Hannah Weber, *Treasurer*  
 Brandon Henes, *Secretary*  
 Patricia Denig, *Staff Liaison*

Board meetings are open to the public and, unless otherwise noted on our website, typically occur on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at 705 N. Zeeb Rd, Ann Arbor, MI. Virtual attendance option is also available.

### Finance Committee

Hannah Weber  
 Wayne Oliver  
 Sara Farley

### Human Resources Committee

Stephanie Benedict  
 Patricia Denig

## Director Elections 2026 Voting & Candidates

All residents of the Washtenaw County Conservation District (Washtenaw County) who are of legal age and have demonstrated residency by 1 piece of identification may vote by casting 1 ballot at the Native Plant Expo and Marketplace (NPEM) on June 6th, 2026, 9:00am-1:00pm at Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48103.

Residents may also vote by requesting an absentee ballot, or filling out a ballot at the WCCD office starting Monday, April 20th, 2026 until the deadline: 4:30pm on June 5th, 2026.

**Two 4-year term director positions are up for election.** Candidate profiles will be available at [washtenaw.org/board-of-directors](http://washtenaw.org/board-of-directors) by April 20th, 2026. Interested in running? Visit the website and reach out to [ExecutiveDirector@washtenawcd.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@washtenawcd.org) or 734-302-8715 with questions.



## Michigan Farm Link (MIFarmLink) Has Moved!



MIFarmLink has transitioned to a statewide entity under the Michigan Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) and is now connected to all 75 MI Conservation Districts! While at WCCD, we conducted farmer exit interviews and consultations, added Regional Representatives, partnered with MSUE on a land access and transfer survey, and established SE MI as a leader in land-linking and mentorship. In 2026 and beyond, we're planning advanced farming webinars, partnerships with agricultural real estate professionals, expanded mentorship opportunities, and new tools and templates for farm succession planning—because every farmer needs a plan!

Learn more at [mifarmlink.org](https://mifarmlink.org) or contact [info@mifarmlink.org](mailto:info@mifarmlink.org)

### Looking Back: Piloting the Program at WCCD

- Hosted over 655 farm seekers
- Created 12 successful farm links
- Listed 94 available farm properties
- Welcomed over 150,000 website visits

## Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP):



WCCD completed its 3rd year as a partner on the Michigan TOPP. This cooperative agreement, part of the USDA's Organic Transition Initiative, is part of a nation-wide effort to expand organic agriculture

knowledge and marketing, and bolster the industry supporting organics.

The Michigan TOPP team is a partnership of statewide organizations including Michigan State University, MSU Extension, Michigan Food and Farming Systems, Grand Traverse Conservation District, Keep Growing Detroit,

Crosshatch Center for Art and Ecology, The Real Organic Project and Organic Seed Alliance.

In 2025, WCCD's TOPP team participated in the **coordination of 40 farmers** from Southeast Michigan, pairing certified organic farmer mentors with transitioning farmer mentees, for a total of **800 hours of paid farmer-to-farmer learning and skill sharing**. They also helped to coordinate **3 on-farm field days**, **6 webinars**, and **2 conference panels** statewide, addressing farmer and educator needs around organic agriculture.



Learn more at: [washtenawcd.org/farmers/topp](https://washtenawcd.org/farmers/topp)

## Pathways to Support Conservation

This year, the WCCD launched "Pathways to Support Conservation" to showcase how community members can help sustain local conservation—through donations, sponsorships, volunteering, and partnerships.

Community support keeps our programs strong and stable, especially when other funding sources are uncertain. Your contributions help ensure continued access to trees, native plants, workshops, and on-farm assistance for residents and landowners across Washtenaw County.

Learn more and get involved: [washtenawcd.org/support](https://washtenawcd.org/support)





## — SAVE THESE DATES —

### Annual Celebration - Trialing a New Format

This year, to encourage greater participation in elections while ensuring time to recognize our awardees, partners, and volunteers, we're hosting two events:

#### Annual Meeting & Elections

will take place at the Speaker Stage during the NPEM on June 6, 2026. Time TBA.

#### Conservation Celebration

to honor 2025's Awardees will occur 6-9pm on March 12, 2026 at The Kitchen at Jolly Pumpkin in Dexter.

Both events will include a brief overview of WCCD's accomplishments as well as priorities for the year ahead.

More details will be posted at [washtenawcd.org/events](https://washtenawcd.org/events)

## 2025 Awardees

### Volunteer of the Year: Karen Mills

Karen has been a consistent volunteer for years, and her friendly presence and humor always elevates the experience for all. She was also likely the first ever to volunteer everyday of all three major plant sales in 2025, even doing three 3-hour shifts in one day!



### Beginning and/or Small Conservation Farmer of the Year: Robbin Pott

Co-founder of Pott Farms, a regenerative hemp farm in Willis, MI, Robbin leads an on-farm training program for young adults overcoming poverty and trauma.

A certified Soil Food Web consultant, she also offers Living Soil Services, providing soil biology testing, education, and biologically-active compost amendments.



### Tree Conservationist of the Year: TTUF Team

The Tree Town Urban Forest Team (TTUF) demonstrates community stewardship through advocacy and education centered on planting native trees, utilizing an ecosystem-based approach, and protecting the urban forest well into the future.



### Conservation Farmer of the Year: Brad and Mitchell Bristle

The brothers grow corn, soybeans and wheat in western Washtenaw County while

also raising cattle. They incorporate cover crops, filter strips, and precision agricultural technology to farm more sustainably.





## JLW CSIMA Recap

The Jackson, Lenawee Washtenaw Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (JLW CISMA) is an invasive species focused organization covering three counties. Funding from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program, Department of Natural Resources, Jackson County and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative allows us 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. This year, the JLW CISMA held three free training sessions and tabled at native plant expos in Jackson, Lenawee and Washtenaw. The JLW CISMA had **over 1,380 active impressions**, **over 70,600 passive impressions** (email, social media, mailings etc.), **surveyed 307 acres**, and **performed management activities on almost 4 acres**.



To discuss invasive species or native plants, sign-up for our [monthly newsletter](#), or inquire about having our staff speak at your event, please contact Dr. Shikha Singh via email at [shikha.singh@macd.org](mailto:shikha.singh@macd.org) or 517-395-2089.

## Celebrating Our Volunteers

*We have a growing community of dedicated volunteers that assist us in several events throughout the year! Volunteers are an invaluable part of the work we do at WCCD.*

### Volunteer with WCCD!

Visit our website [washtenawcd.org/get-involved](http://washtenawcd.org/get-involved) to join our volunteer email list. The next opportunity to volunteer will be for the Spring Tree & Shrub Distribution, April 24th-25th. Volunteers help set-up, sort plants, prepack orders, and provide customers with their orders. It's a fun way to learn the plants and meet other enthusiasts in the community! Later in the year, we rely on volunteer support for the Native Plant Expo & Marketplace, Fall Tree & Native Plant Distribution, and Tractor Tire Drive.

**As an added bonus:** Volunteers have 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 the plants, so those volunteers are welcome to return early to pick-up their plants.

**Questions?** Call us at 734-302-8715 if you need assistance signing up for shifts online or if you'd like to change your existing shift times.

### 2025 Volunteer Numbers

Volunteers' feedback and comments have allowed us to improve each experience!

- 260 Total Volunteers
- 1,091 Total Hours

### Spring Tree & Shrub Distribution

*"I have been a volunteer for this event or the Plant sale for years. I always find these events very well organized and the employees very helpful and encouraging. I learn such a lot about plants and trees and have met lots of great people."*



## WCCD EVENTS

### Spring Rain Barrel Sale & Distribution

**Monday, March 23, 2026, 12 - 4pm**

WCCD Office, 705 N. Zeeb Rd (back parking lot), Ann Arbor, MI 48103

*Online sales open January 2nd, 2026 this is the first available opportunity for pick-up. Colors and quantities are limited!*

### Spring Tree & Shrub Distribution

**Friday, April 24 from 1 p.m. – 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 25 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.**

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

*See the preorder forms enclosed in this newsletter or preorder online starting January 2nd, 2026.*

### 7th Annual Native Plant Expo & Marketplace

**Saturday, June 6 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

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

Features native plant nurseries, seeds companies, landscaping companies, and non-profit conservation organizations in a festival-like atmosphere with music and food trucks. Abundant plants, seeds, and services will be available for in-person shopping. *More info at [NativePlantExpo.com](http://NativePlantExpo.com)*

*For information on all services, programming, and events, please visit: [washtenawcd.org](http://washtenawcd.org)*

