

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

The close of 2019 marks my second year serving as the Manager of the Washtenaw County Conservation District (WCCD). It has been a pleasure and a challenge to manage an organization that has maintained deep roots in our community for over 71 years. I first learned of the WCCD as a beginning farmer in Sharon Township, looking for trees to establish a windbreak. I was thrilled to find a source for inexpensive conservation and educational resources in our county! Years later as the Manager, I am excited to be able to continue to offer these services to beginning and established farmers, landowners and residents.

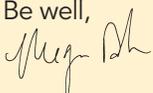
Our commitment in 2019 has been to introduce the WCCD to residents who aren't already familiar with our story and what we have to offer. A major part of this effort has been to expand our capacity to assist residents with resource concerns in urban and suburban areas, in addition to the rural communities that we have served in the past. Water quality, land use, wildlife habitat and air quality can all be improved regardless of the scale.

At our Annual Tree & Shrub distributions we offered smaller quantities of each tree species for residents with smaller acreage, making a diversity of tree & shrub species more accessible to all residents. The Annual Native Plant Expo & Marketplace hosted seventeen organizations including native plant nurseries, seed companies, nonprofit organizations and design companies, bringing out over 900 residents to learn about the benefits of choosing native plants!

The newly launched Backyard Conservation Education Series increased the conservation skills and knowledge base of our residents on range of topics. Residents participated in our introductory workshops on native planting, beekeeping, water catchment and tree planting. The Conservation Ag Field Series offered farmers and residents focused on production, an opportunity to learn and connect at the Conservation Ag Field Day at Green Things Farm.

In 2019 we worked one-on-one with over 500 residents to address conservation concerns on their properties and troubleshoot solutions. We worked with 14 farms to complete 27 verifications addressing environmental concerns on their lands. With our assistance, thousands of acres of conservation practices were applied on the land through completing contracts with our National, State and local partner organizations.

We closed out the year by submitting a request to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners to place a .019 millage on the August 2020 ballot on our behalf. A millage would establish a stable source of funding that would allow us to continue this trajectory of expanded resources, education and technical assistance. Many conservation districts in Michigan have successfully passed millages in their counties and have expanded their services as a result. We hope that 2019 has laid the groundwork to illustrate what an effective tool, if properly funded, the WCCD can be for delivering conservation services to all landowners and residents in Washtenaw.

Be well,


Megan DeLeeuw, *District Manager,*
Washtenaw County Conservation District

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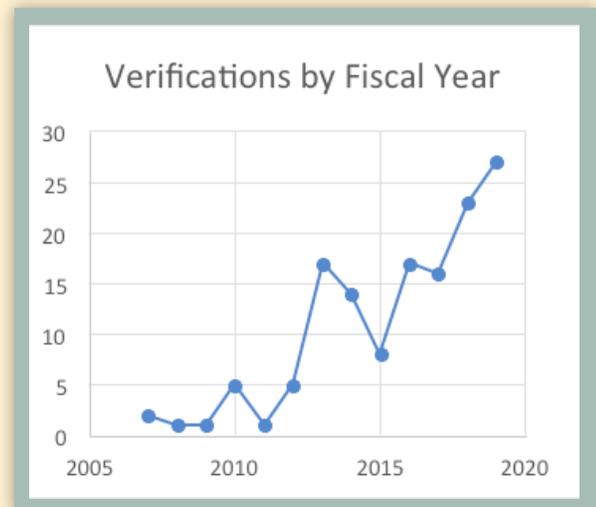


Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) 2019 Report

2019 was another record-breaking year for our (MAEAP) Program. Fourteen different farms achieved 27 verifications and re-verifications over the course of the year. Many farms were able to be verified multiple systems, including: Farmstead, Cropping, Livestock and Forest, Wetland and Habitat.

In total, over 5,194 acres were verified in the county. For some perspective this acreage is over twice the size of the City of Chelsea. Farmers and landowners participating in MAEAP were able to address over 200 points of environmental concerns on their lands this year.

One of the most popular systems to be verified in this year was the Forest, Wetland and Habitat system. This system allows landowners who may or may not farm show that they are protecting and managing their woodlots, wetlands, or prairies.

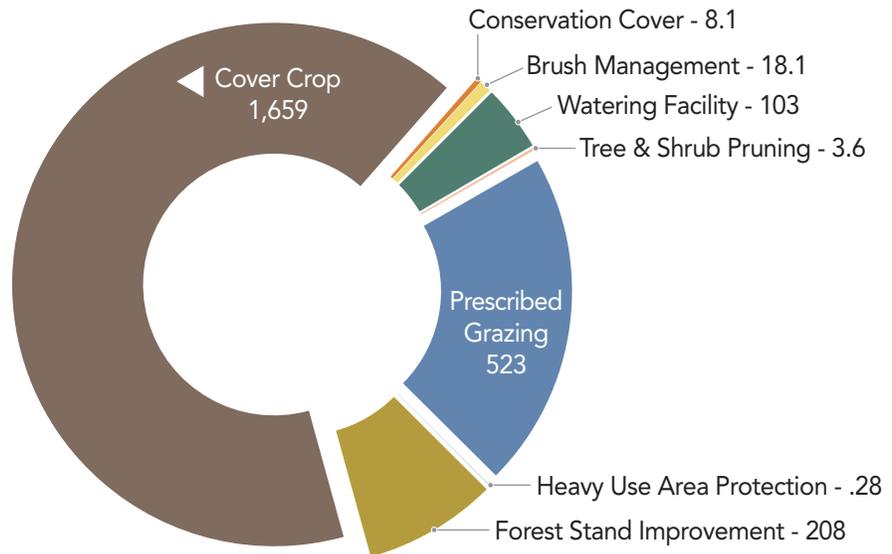


Natural Resources Conservation Service

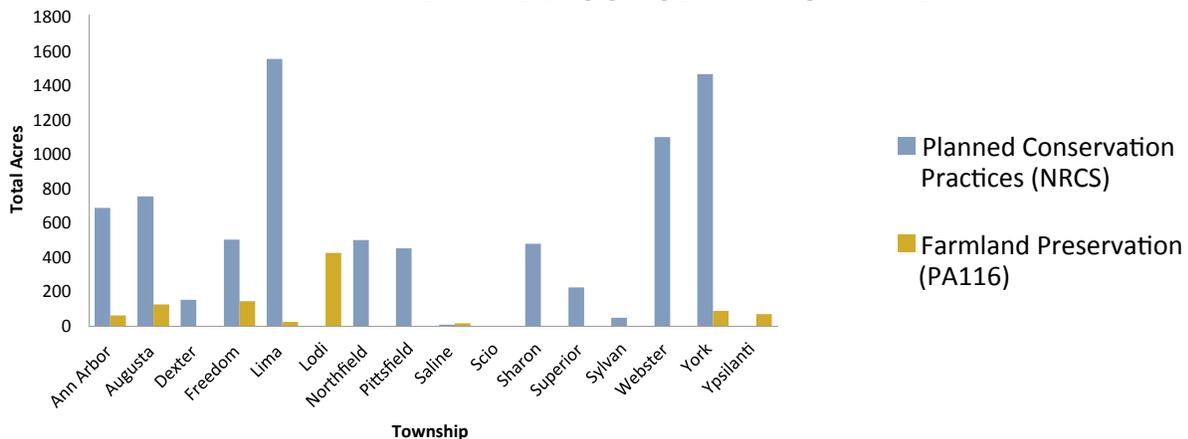
The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Ann Arbor Field Office works very closely with the WCCD to apply conservation on the land. The NRCS Ann Arbor Field Office coordinates 2018 Farm Bill Programs, completing conservation plans for landowners, and awarding financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Assistance Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). WCCD staff assists NRCS in connecting Washtenaw landowners to these programs and working through the application and implementation process.

2019 was the busiest year on record for the NRCS Ann Arbor Field Office, resulting in 27 contracts across Washtenaw County. Washtenaw applied 2500 acres of cover crops, conservation cover, brush management, high tunnel construction, prescribed grazing and more. More than 7,900 acres of conservation practices were written into Conservation Plans and will be applied in 13 townships in our county. Once implemented, thousands of acres of conservation practices will improve surface and ground water quality, soil health, wildlife habitat and overall improved resource management.

NCRS CONTRACTED CONSERVATION ACRES BY PRACTICE FY19



FY19 PLANNED CONSERVATION AREA



1st Annual NP Expo & Marketplace: **17** vendors, **900** participants, **6,700** native plants distributed into the community

Fall Tree & Native Plant Distribution: Engaged **110** residents and **4** volunteers, distributed **4,700** trees and **1,127** native plants.



The Spring Tree & Shrub Distribution: Engaged **613** residents and **20** volunteers, distributed over **32,000** trees and shrubs into Washtenaw County

One-on-one technical assistance: **512**



Rain barrels distributed/Gallons delivered from storm water: **32** barrels /**38,336** gallons rainwater annually.



The WCCD hosted resource distributions in 2019.

Washtenaw County Conservation District 2019 Overview

The WCCD serves as a hub of conservation resources and education. In 2019 we assisted residents with problem solving and connecting to resources on everything from woodlot management, invasive species identification, crop planning, native planting, beginning farmer resources and more.

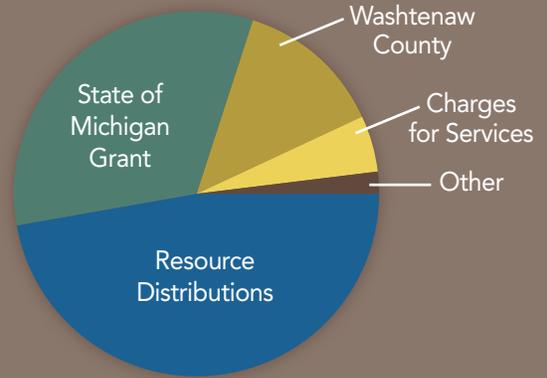
In 2019 we launched two education series focused on conservation for all residents

- 4 Backyard Conservation Workshops:
 - Introduction to Native Planting / 33 attendees
 - Introduction to Beekeeping / 42 attendees
 - Rainwater Harvesting for All Buildings / 11 attendees
 - Planting and Maintaining Trees / 21 attendees
- 2 Farmer-Focused Conservation Ag Events:
 - Farmer-Led Conservation Workshop / 24 attendees
 - Conservation Ag Field Day at Green Things Farm / 47 attendees



◀ **CO₂ diverted as result of resource distros:**
2,052,288 lbs. of CO₂

Washtenaw County Conservation District 2019 Financials



REVENUE

State of Michigan Grant	76,500
Washtenaw County	30,000
Resource Distributions	108,754
Charges for Services	11,837
Other	5,544
Total	232,635



EXPENSES

Staff	\$115,241
Resource Distributions	\$55,887
Other	\$40,896
Total	\$212,024

2020 Spring Tree, Shrub & Native Plant Distributions



Your purchases support conservation work by the Washtenaw County Conservation District. Trees and plants are intended for conservation uses: reforestation, soil erosion control, windbreaks, screens, landscape naturalizing and wildlife habitat improvements. It is unlawful for these trees, shrubs and other plants to be resold with the roots attached, in accordance with the Insect Pest and Plant Disease Act, P.A. 189 of 1931.

TREE & SHRUB SALE

Pre-Order deadline March 20th

Pick up dates:

Friday, April 17th • 1-6 p.m.

Saturday, April 18th • 9-10:30 a.m.

Location

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

Extra Trees & Shrubs

Any extra trees will be sold on Saturday, April 18th starting at 10 a.m. at the Farm Council Grounds. You will need to obtain a number card prior to the sale of extra trees during the tree pick-up times on Friday and Saturday.

NATIVE PLANT EXPO & MARKETPLACE

Pre-order deadline April 18th

Plants sold as pre-orders are from Designs by Nature exclusively and will be picked up during the Native Plant Expo and Marketplace.

Over 17 native plant nurseries, native seed companies, landscaping companies, nonprofit organizations and more will be participating in the 2020 Expo. Additional plants, seeds and services will be available for purchase during the event.

Expo Date

Saturday, May 30th • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Location

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

UPCOMING DATES

72nd WCCD Annual Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor 48103

Keynote speaker: Gabriela Quinlan, PhD candidate at Michigan State University on Michigan's Native Bees. Michigan is home to a huge diversity of native, wild bees. Come hear about their fascinating life history, learn some tips for identifying bees in your backyard, and learn ways you can support these communities.

Catered diner by Moveable Feast, cost is \$12 per person. Event will include local conservation awards ceremony and door prize drawing.

- Conservation Farmer of the Year 2019: Billy and Mike VanRiper of Dottie O'Dairy Ranch
- Small or Beginning Conservation Farmer of the Year 2019: Nate and Jill Lada of Green Things Farm
- Tree Conservationist of the Year 2019: Matt Nolan of Emerson Elementary School



**RSVP for Annual Meeting and Workshops with Megan DeLeeuw
at megan.deleeuw@macd.org or 734.761-6721, ext. 5.**

TO PLACE AN ORDER

Remove and complete the "2020 Spring Tree & Shrub Order Form" and/or the "Spring 2020 Native Plants Pre-Order Form" from the center of this catalog and submit with FULL PAYMENT (check or money order), including SALES TAX to the District Office by the order deadlines listed below. Orders can also be placed directly on the District website using credit card: www.washtenawcd.org. No phone OR in-person orders accepted. Please contact Megan DeLeeuw with any questions (contact below). Inventories are limited and orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis while supplies last. Order early for best availability. The District reserves the right to cancel orders and refund payments due to crop failures or other reasons beyond our control.

REFUND POLICY

Trees, shrubs and plants will be delivered in good condition. The District does not guarantee survival of trees and plants. District liability ends after trees or plants are presented to the buyer at pick up. Orders cancelled 10 days prior to order deadline will receive a full refund. No refunds will be given on orders not picked up. If unable to pick up pre-orders during sale days, arrangements MUST be made prior to the sale dates. The WCCD has very limited office space for storage and will make few exceptions for pick up outside of sale dates. Contact Megan DeLeeuw for special arrangements at 734.205.1219, megan.deleeuw@macd.org.

SCHOOL & COMMUNITY HABITAT GRANT FUND!

Donate directly to help Schools and Communities Plant Trees, Shrubs and Native Plants!

The Washtenaw County Conservation District (WCCD) School and Community Habitat Grant is designed to assist schools and communities establishing wildlife habitat! Grants will be awarded in the form of tree, shrub and native plant material through the WCCD distributions. Grant fund availability is dependent on donations made to the WCCD for this purpose and grant selections will be made based on donations collected through May 30th. Schools and nonprofit community groups may apply for tree & plant material as well as design assistance through April 24th. Awardees will be announced in June for planting in fall 2020.

To donate to the grant fund directly, add your donation to your tree order form (line provided on the form), mail a check to our office or donate directly on our website: www.washtenawcd.org.

Pollinator Gardens Workshop

Wednesday, March 3rd • 6-8 p.m.
Location TBA.

Vern Stephens of Designs By Nature LLC will discuss the benefits of pollinator gardens, site selection, site prep, species selection, installation, management and maintenance. Cost is \$10 per person.



Spring Tree & Shrub Distribution

Friday, April 17th • 1-6 p.m.

Saturday April 18th • 9-10:30 a.m.

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds

5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor 48103

Second Annual Native Plant Expo & Marketplace

Saturday, May 30th • 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd, Ann Arbor 48103



Washtenaw County Conservation District

7203 Jackson Rd.
Ann Arbor MI 48103-9506
(734) 205-1219
www.washtenawcd.org

Volunteer for the WCCD!

Visit our website to sign up: www.washtenawcd.org/get-involved or email megan.deleeuw@macd.org

ADDITIONAL EVENTS



**Native Plant Expo & Marketplace Keynote speaker:
Brenda Dziedzic, author of *Raising Butterflies in the Garden*
As part of the Native Plant Expo & Marketplace.**

Saturday, May 30th • 10 a.m.

Washtenaw County Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor Saline Rd

Free to the public!



Exploring Organic Production and Alternative Crops ►

Tuesday, February 18th • 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor Saline Rd

Join organic bean and corn industry representatives, and a Michigan based USDA organic certifier to discuss the process of and benefits of transitioning from traditional field crops to certified organic. Learn about alternative small/ niche grain options. *Free lunch to follow workshop.*

