

WHO IS WCCD?

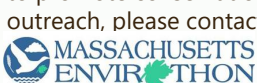
WCCD is one of 13 conservation districts in Massachusetts, and one of nearly 3000 throughout the US. The districts are a division of state government that were established in the 1930's during the dust bowl in response to the menace of soil erosion and severe drought. Congress created the districts and the Soil Conservation Service (now USDA NRCS) to provide landowners with techniques to conserve and protect their natural resources. Now, like many others across the country, WCCD provides leadership and technical assistance on a variety of conservation issues locally, using a partnership-based approach to connect public and private resources to identify and address natural resource concerns at the grassroots level.

A Partnership-Based Approach...

WCCD works with local partners to promote local sustainable agriculture, land preservation and conservation, soil health, and water quality. Together we can accomplish more! **A few key partners over the last few years include:**

- **USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service**
- **Ma Association of Conservation Districts**
- **National Association of Conservation Districts**
- **MA Exec Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**
- **Massachusetts Envirothon Program**
- **Greater Quabbin Food Alliance**
- **Growing Places**
- **Central Mass Grown**
- **Regional Environmental Council (REC Worcester)**
- **Mass Audubon**
- **Worcester County Land Trusts**
- **Worcester County Agricultural Commissions**
- **Worcester County League of Sportsman's Clubs**
- **Massachusetts State Grange**

If you represent a local organization or community group that would like to partner on an event or to promote conservation technical assistance and outreach, please contact us!



Natural Resources Conservation Service

JOIN US

WCCD welcomes prospective board members to shape and volunteer for our programs. Please contact us if you are interested in getting involved. Consider joining us for our open monthly board meeting every third Wednesday!

District Supervisors

Tristan Lundgren, Sterling, **Chairman & State Commission Rep**

Scott Davis, Rutland, **Co-Chair**

Jenny Stimson, Rochdale, **Treasurer/Supervisor**

Susan Phinney, Sterling, **Supervisor**

Joseph Smith, Phillipston, **Supervisor**

Hannah Lipper, Holden, **Supervisor**

Joshua Soojian, Leominster, **Supervisor**

Tom Ashton, Leominster, **Associate Supervisor**

Kathryn Zichelle Sullivan, Holden, **Assoc Super**

Steve LaRivee, Fitchburg, **Associate Supervisor**

Staff

Jennifer Mason, Sterling, **Administrator**

Nat Bickford, Worcester, **Conservation Planner**

Jem Mix, Bolton, **Spring Plant Sale Coord**

Funding Sources

- **National Association of Conservation Districts Outreach and Technical Assistance Grant**
- **EEOEA Conservation District Innovation Grant Programs**
- **WCCD Income (Fee for services- Soil Sampling, Spring Plant Sale, Fall Bulb Sales and Workshops)**

Contact Us

Worcester County Conservation District

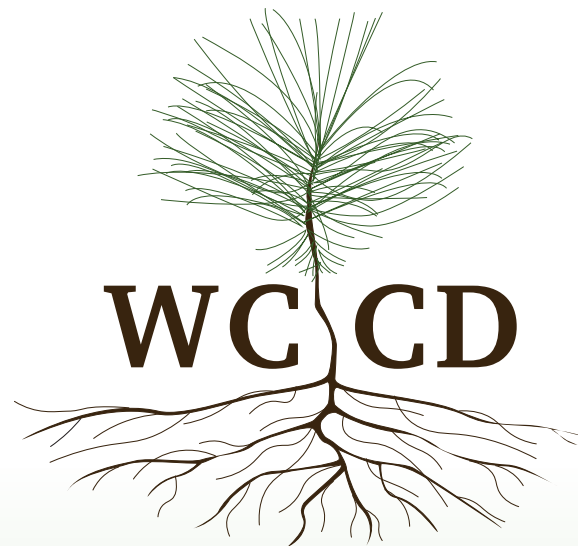
52 Boyden Road

Medical Arts Building, Holden, MA

01520

508-829-4477 ext. 5

worcesterconservation.org



Worcester County Conservation District

is made up of local volunteers helping farmers and forest landowners protect their soil and water resources.

WE PROVIDE a local voice guiding the use of federal financial and technical assistance to landowners for conservation planning, the application of conservation practices and distribution of materials to educate students, landowners, local citizens and communities about conservation issues.



Spring Tree, Shrub, Plant and Fall Bulbs Sale

The Worcester County Conservation District holds a spring sale that includes offerings of native perennials, bare root evergreen and deciduous tree seedlings, ornamental and native shrubs, fruit trees, raspberries, grapes, asparagus crowns, and Massachusetts grown bare root strawberries. A fall bulb sale is also offered and includes seed garlic and ornamental bulbs that are easily naturalized and great for pollinators. Orders can be placed online at www.worcesterconservation.org on a prepaid basis. All items are reasonably priced and well suited for reforestation, wildlife habitat improvement and restoration, and landscape ornamentation. All proceeds from this sale go to finance various activities and District programs.

PROGRAMS



Workshops & Webinars

WCCD offers in-person workshops and webinars on a variety of topics related to soils, water quality, gardening, landscaping, farming, and forest management. We also have webinars available on our YouTube Channel. Please reach out if you are interested co-organizing an event or hiring us as a speaker.



Massachusetts Envirothon

The first Envirothon in Massachusetts began in 1987 and was held on district property, Buck Hill Conservation Center in Spencer, with five participating teams. Though it has grown substantially, our partnership continues to play an important role. We provide outreach and assistance to Worcester County teams, and we volunteer as judges at the event. Our Administrator sits as Treasurer of the Steering Committee.



Annual Scholarship Program

Every spring we offer scholarships to high school seniors entering college the following fall who plan to major in Natural Resource Conservation, Environmental Science, or a Related Agricultural Major. See our website for application details and dates.

SERVICES



Soil Testing

We can test your soil for nutrients, contaminants, organic matter, and pH whenever the ground is not frozen. Samples are collected according to the UMass Soil Testing Lab protocols. We handle the sampling, drying, and mailing. We'll follow up with recommendations for your land based on test results. \$50 for first site visit (includes first soil sample), \$35 per sample thereafter.



Technical Assistance for Landowners

Our conservation planner can assist your efforts to understand & improve your soil, start composting, implement conservation practices on your farm, control invasive species, start a vegetable garden, create a wildflower or rain garden, survey fish & wildlife, or create habitat on your land.



Conservation Planning for Farmers and Forest Owners

Our planner can work with the Holden USDA NRCS office to create a conservation plan for your property and help you apply to federal conservation assistance programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) or the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).