

## WHO IS WCCD?

**W**CCD 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**
- **Massachusetts Association of Conservation Districts**
- **Massachusetts Envirothon Program**
- **University of Massachusetts Extension**
- **Greater Quabbin Food Alliance**
- **Growing Places**
- **Central Mass Grown**
- **Regional Environmental Council**
- **Mass Audubon**
- **Worcester County Land Trusts**
- **Worcester County Agricultural Commissions**
- **Worcester County League of Sportsman's Clubs**
- **Massachusetts State Grange**
- **Grow Native MA**

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!



**REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL**



## JOIN US

WCCD is always looking for 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  
Joe Smith, Phillipston  
Hannah Lipper, Holden  
Joshua Soojian, Leicester  
Steve La Rivee, Fitchburg  
Tom Ashton, Leominster  
Dakota-Rae Westveer, Holden

### Staff

Jennifer Mason, Sterling  
**Administrator, Secretary & Treasurer**  
Jen Burt, Worcester  
**Plant Sale Coordinator**  
Bethany Nichols, Acton  
**Program Manager, Healthy Soils**  
Georgia Albanese, Worcester  
**Conservation Planner**

### Funding Sources

- EEOEA Funded Grants-Basic/Innovative and HSAP
- NACD Technical Assistance Grant
- WCCD Plant Sales

### Contact Us

Worcester County Conservation District  
52 Boyden Road  
Holden, MA 01520  
508-418-3649  
worchesterconservation.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.



## Annual Plant Sales Spring and Fall

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](http://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.



### 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 University of Maine Soil Testing Service. 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 during the same visit.



### 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. \$50 for first site visit (includes a soil sample, if desired).



### 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-change to create a resource management plan for your property.