

West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

We're here to serve you, whether it is with your forest or farm land, invasive weeds, livestock management, grant funding, habitat restoration, or urban gardens. We are a municipal agency, governed by an elected board of directors. We serve private landowners in our district, which covers over 80,000 acres in Multnomah County, west of the Willamette River including all of Sauvie Island.

Conservation Districts were established by the federal government after the devastation of the Dust Bowl in the early 1930s, allowing each community to make decisions about the unique set of issues in their own backyards and watersheds.

For information about District policies, goals and strategic planning, contact District Manager Dick Springer at (503) 238-4775, ext. 106; dick@wmswcd.org.

Photo by Angie Moore.



Conserve and protect soil and water resources for people, wildlife and the environment.



West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District

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Conservation Plans

A conservation plan is a tool to help you, the landowner, operate profitably while protecting natural resources. It's free of charge and voluntary. You make all the decisions and implement the plan. WMSWCD conservation professionals work with you to develop individual plans that meet your needs and those of the ecosystem. Conservation plans can increase your property value and save you money as your land becomes more productive.

Farms & Livestock

WMSWCD provides technical support for both organic and non-organic farm operations to reduce the use of fertilizers, install pollinator hedgerows, improve soil quality and production, decrease pests, improve irrigation and achieve organic certification. The District encourages locally produced products. We work with local farmers markets, food groups and agencies to make the connection between growers and consumers.

We also provide free technical assistance to district residents who own and/or manage cattle, horses, sheep, llamas and other animals. We help you write conservation plans to improve land productivity and animal health. Issues include pasture, mud and manure management, over-winter areas for livestock and horses, and the establishment of trails and watering facilities away from natural streams.

For more information about farming and livestock issues, contact Rural Conservationist Scott Gall at (503) 238-4775, ext. 105; scott@wmswcd.org.

Forestry

If you own wooded property in West Multnomah County, you are providing a home to wildlife. Our experts offer free technical advice on wildlife health and habitat, and the eradication of invasive weeds such as English ivy, Japanese knotweed, and garlic mustard, which can kill trees and native plants. A District conservationist can also identify ways to improve your woods, such as planting trees, protecting a creek or wetland, or increasing your land's profitability.

For information about forestry issues, contact Forest Conservationist Michael Ahr at (503) 238-4775, ext. 109; michael@wmswcd.org.

Healthy Streams

The Healthy Streams program provides full funding and technical assistance for streamside restoration that improves water quality and wildlife habitat. Target areas include canals and ditches on Sauvie Island and Rock, Abbey, and McCarthy creeks in the West Hills.

The goal is to restore riparian areas by removing invasive weeds and installing native plants. Benefits include decreased erosion and sedimentation and improved wildlife habitat.

For information about the Healthy Streams program, contact Senior Conservationist Kammy Kern-Korot at (503) 238-4775, ext. 108; kammy@wmswcd.org.

Invasive Weeds & Native Planting

Invasive weeds, such as English ivy and garlic mustard, harm watersheds by displacing native plants, degrading wildlife habitat and negatively affecting timber and agriculture production. On the other hand, native plants are less expensive to maintain and use less water, fertilizers and pesticides. WMSWCD can identify invasive weeds and options for eliminating them as well as recommend native plants to replace them. The District also offers regular Multnomah Weed Watcher trainings.

If you live in a rural area and would like help with native or invasive plants, please contact Rural Conservationist Scott Gall at (503)238-4775, ext. 105; scott@mwsxcd.org. If you have an urban property, contact Urban Conservationist Mary Logalbo at (503) 238-4775, ext. 103; mary@wmswcd.org.

Outreach & Education

We provide media and consumer outreach and education on a wide range of farming, forestry, gardening, wildlife, restoration and conservation topics. WMSWCD helps fund class field trips by Sauvie Island Center for elementary schools, covering topics such as soil composition, clean watersheds, and the Grow Lunch Garden program where children plant and harvest their

own gardens. WMSWCD staff is currently working on the Chapman Elementary School Vegetable Garden with parents and school staff to develop integrated curriculum that meets state benchmarks.

For information about outreach and communications, contact Communications Coordinator Carolyn Lindberg at (503) 238-4775, ext. 101; carolyn@wmswcd.org. For information about education programs, contact Erica Stokes at (503) 238-4775, ext. 100; erica@wmswcd.org.

We host workshops throughout the year on topics such as invasive weeds, native plants, septic system maintenance, horse and livestock mud and manure management, woodland restoration and market incentives. Some workshops are held on site and involve tours of natural areas so that you can experience restoration practices first hand. For information about workshops, visit our web site calendar at www.wmswcd.org.

Sauvie Island

WMSWCD was established almost 70 years ago under the name Sauvie Island Soil Conservation District. The District provides funding and technical assistance on restoration projects, farm and agriculture issues, invasive weeds, native plants and oak habitat protection. WMSWCD partners with the Oregon State Parks Division to restore and protect Wapato Greenway State Access Area.

Sturgeon Lake, connected to the Multnomah Channel and Columbia River, is one of the premier natural and biologically significant aquatic and wildlife habitats in the state. An 18-mile levee, built in 1949 to prevent flooding, severely restricted natural water flow, increasing sedimentation and greatly reducing aquatic habitat function. WMSWCD is working with a number of public and private agencies on a feasibility survey to halt or reverse sedimentation and restore water flow to this important ecosystem.

For information about programs on Sauvie Island contact Rural Conservationist Scott Gall at (503) 238-4775, ext. 105; scott@wmswcd.org.

Urban Programs

WMSWCD offers several urban programs in response to pressure from population growth, urbanization and changing environmental regulations. You may, for instance, join with your neighbors on a large scale streambank restoration project or be interested in improving wildlife passages through forests, streams and trails. WMSWCD forms strategic partnerships with public and private organizations working in the city on conservation initiatives.

For information about urban programs, contact Urban Conservationist Mary Logalbo at (503) 238-4775, ext. 103; mary@wmswcd.org.

Financial Help

Finding funding may make the difference in accomplishing your restoration projects. WMSWCD offers two grant programs and a program to fund streamside restoration:

- FISH-Financial Incentives for Sustainable Habitats
- CARE-Conservation Assistance and Restoration
- Healthy Streams Program

FISH provides financial support to conservation projects, education and community events that promote natural resource conservation in the District. CARE provides funds for specialized technical expertise and is available for landowners already working with the District. Healthy Streams provides full funding for restoration and technical assistance. Other federal, regional, state and local grants are also available to land owners and managers and we will help determine the best source for your project.

For information about our FISH Grant Program, contact Urban Conservationist Mary Logalbo at (503) 238-4775, ext. 103; mary@wmswcd.org. For information about our CARE Grant Program, contact Rural Conservationist Scott Gall at (503) 238-4775, ext. 105; scott@swswcd.org.