

**STEPS TO USING THIS GUIDE:**

**1. Find your resource type by icon:**

-  Agriculture/Pasture Grassland
-  Forest
-  Residential/Urban
-  Stream/River
-  Municipal
-  Wetland

**2. Check for the types of assistance available:**

Easement, Education, Financial, Habitat, Restoration, Labor, Publication, Tax Reduction, Technical

**3. Contact the resources that best fit your situation.**

**4. Check out our "Living in Harmony with the River, Take home messages" distributed throughout this guide.**

**Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)**

Financial/Technical



**DESCRIPTION:**

Provides cost-share to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into farming operations. Can also assist production diversification, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming.

**CONTACT:**

Natural Resource Conservation Service  
[www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA/index.html](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA/index.html)  
 For Hampshire & Hamden Counties:  
 (413) 585-1000 X3  
 For Berkshire County:  
 (413) 443-1776 X3

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

People who are engaged in agricultural production on eligible land, see: [www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA/index.html](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/AMA/index.html)  
 Or contact program official for extensive land eligibility details.

**Backyard Conservation**

Habitat Restoration/Publication



**DESCRIPTION:**

Conservation practices from agriculture adapted for the backyard setting to help improve the environment and help wildlife. Topics include: Backyard Ponds and Wetlands; Composting; Mulching; Nutrient and Pest Management; Terracing; Tree Planting; Water Conservation; Wildlife Habitat.

**CONTACT:**

Natural Resource Conservation Service  
[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?&cid=nrcs143\\_023574](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?&cid=nrcs143_023574)

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

Available free online at:  
[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?&cid=nrcs143\\_023535](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/newsroom/features/?&cid=nrcs143_023535)  
 1-888-LANDCAR  
[landcare@usda.gov](mailto:landcare@usda.gov)  
[landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov](http://landcare.sc.egov.usda.gov)

**Best Management Practices**

Technical



**CONTACT:**

Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources  
[www.mass.gov/agr/programs/bmp/index.htm](http://www.mass.gov/agr/programs/bmp/index.htm)  
 (617) 626-1773

**Better Backroads**

Publications



**CONTACT:**

[www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/dirtroad.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/dirtroad.pdf)  
[www.frcoq.org/pubs/transportation/gravelroadsfaq/roads.pdf](http://www.frcoq.org/pubs/transportation/gravelroadsfaq/roads.pdf)

The Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee works to preserve, protect and enhance the special qualities and outstanding resources of the Westfield River Watershed in concert with local communities.



**WILD & SCENIC  
 WESTFIELD RIVER  
 COMMITTEE**

*Special Thanks to the Friends of the Winooski River for inspiring and granting permission to reproduce this landowners guide.*

## Connecticut River Watershed Council

Education/Habitat Restoration/Technical/Publications



### DESCRIPTION:

We are the sole, regional independent watchdog working to protect the entire Connecticut River basin. Whether the issue is thermal pollution from power plants or mysterious leachate from an undocumented pipe—we jump right in. We work to restore fish passage, and to make sure the water gets tested in neighborhood streams; we press businesses, communities and government to meet clean water standards, and help guide development away from sensitive shores. We work across four states to protect an 11,000 acre river basin of farms and forests, rivers and marshes, urban reservoirs and tidal estuaries.

### CONTACT:

Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc.

[crwc@ctriver.org](mailto:crwc@ctriver.org)

(413) 772-2020

More contact information:

[http://www.ctriver.org/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_contact/index.html](http://www.ctriver.org/about_us/offices_and_contact/index.html)

## Conservation Districts

Education/Habitat Restoration/Technical



### DESCRIPTION:

The Franklin, Hampshire, and Hampden Conservation Districts serve landowners and communities in the Pioneer Valley in the conservation and management of natural resources; farmland, woodland, and wildlife management; and farmland preservation. Conservation Districts are state entities designated by the Massachusetts General Laws to address natural resources issues at the local level throughout the Commonwealth. There are fourteen (14) districts in Massachusetts, led by volunteer elected supervisors.

The Berkshire Conservation District provides technical assistance and education on soil, water, and related natural resources.

Municipalities, farmers, and landowners use this information to make proper land use decisions.

### CONTACT:

[www.pioneervalleyconservation.org](http://www.pioneervalleyconservation.org)

[www.berkshireconservation.org/](http://www.berkshireconservation.org/)

Hampshire and Hampden Counties: (413) 586-5440 x117

Berkshire County: (413) 443-1776

### ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:

Landowners and communities

## Conservation Commissions

Education



### DESCRIPTION:

Conservation Commissions are charged with cataloging the natural resources of their municipalities and advising other commissions such as planning and zoning as to impacts on the natural environment. In some communities they have funds and volunteer resources to help with restoration and protection projects.

### CONTACT:

See your Town Clerk's office or visit your town's website to obtain contact information for your community's Conservation Commission.

[www.maccweb.org](http://www.maccweb.org)

### ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:

All Landowners

## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Financial/Habitat Restoration/Technical



### DESCRIPTION:

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by undertaking additional conservation activities; and improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

### CONTACT:

[www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new\\_csp/](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/new_csp/)

Barbara Miller

State Resource Conservationist

413-253-4380

[barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov](mailto:barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov)

### ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:

CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land in all 50 states and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands areas. The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location.

~ Living in Harmony with the River ~

### Take Home Message # 1

In times of high water rivers try to reclaim their old floodplains. That's why it's a good idea to NOT build in a floodplain. In fact, many towns prohibit building in a floodplain.

**Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)**

Habitat Restoration/Technical



**DESCRIPTION:**

When providing assistance, NRCS focuses on the sound use and management of soil, water, air, plant and animal resources. NRCS helps clients manage their resources in a way that prevents resource degradation, ensures sustainability, allows for productivity and respects the client's needs. Conservation planning can make improvements to livestock operations, crop production, soil quality, water quality, hayland, forestland and wildlife habitats. The process also integrates ecological and economic considerations in order to address private and public concerns. The success of conservation planning depends upon the voluntary participation of clients. The planning process used by NRCS is based on the premise that clients will make and implement sound decisions if they understand their resources, natural resource problems and opportunities as well as the effects of their decisions.

**CONTACT:**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
[www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cta](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cta)  
 Contact your local field office for more information.

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

When it's available, all landowners are eligible for technical assistance.

~ Living in Harmony with the River ~

Take Home Message # 2

The more you harden the banks, the faster the water will flow. In times of high water, this causes damage downstream in the form of erosion that can cut our banks, and deposition that can deposit sand, gravel, or even boulders

**Division of Ecological Restoration**

Habitat Restoration/Education/Technical/Publications



**DESCRIPTION:**

The mission of the Division of Ecological Restoration is to restore and protect the Commonwealth's rivers, wetlands and watersheds for the benefit of people and the environment. DER coordinates

ecological restoration to improve habitat for fish and wildlife and to restore important ecosystem services that benefit the quality of life for all Massachusetts citizens.

**CONTACT:**

Department of Fish and Game  
[www.mass.gov/dfwele/der](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/der)  
 (413) 579-3015

**RESOURCES:**

Eb and Flow newsletters:  
<http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/der/newsletters/>

**Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**

Financial/Technical



**DESCRIPTION:**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. In addition, a purpose of EQIP is to help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal and local environmental regulations.

**CONTACT:**

Natural Resource Conservation Service:  
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip>  
 email: [diane.petit@ma.usda.gov](mailto:diane.petit@ma.usda.gov)

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY**

Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on the land may participate in EQIP.

**Farm and Ranch Land Protection Program (FRPP)**

Easement



**DESCRIPTION:**

The Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) provides funds to purchase the development rights to farmland, preserving productive farmland for agricultural use. Working through existing programs, USDA joins with state, tribal or local governments to acquire conservation easements from landowners. USDA provides up to 50 percent of the fair market easement value.

**CONTACT:**

Natural Resource Conservation Service  
[www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/FRPP/index.html](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/FRPP/index.html)

Barbara Miller ~ State Resource Conservationist - Massachusetts  
413-253-4380 ~ [barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov](mailto:barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov)

Participating landowners may own a maximum of 1,000 acres, (or up to 5,000 acres with a special waiver)

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

To qualify, farmland must be part of a pending offer from a state, tribe or local farmland protection program; be privately owned; have a conservation plan; be large enough to sustain agricultural production; be accessible to markets for what the land produces; have adequate infrastructure and agricultural support services and have surrounding parcels of land that can support long-term agricultural production. Depending on availability of funds, proposals must be submitted by a government entity to the NRCS State Office during the sign-up period.

**Farm Service Agency**

Financial/Technical



**DESCRIPTION:**

Farm Service Agency is equitably serving all farmers, ranchers, and agricultural partners through the delivery of effective, efficient agricultural programs for all Americans.

**CONTACT:**

USDA Farm Service Agency  
<http://www.fsa.usda.gov>  
Berkshire County: (413) 443-1776 X2  
Hampshire County: (413) 585-1000 X2  
Hampden County: (413) 585-1000 X2

**Farm Stewardship Program**

Technical

**DESCRIPTION:**

If you are a woodland owner and would like to know more about your woodland and how to manage it, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's Forest Stewardship Program can help you. This educational non-regulatory program is designed to help landowners protect the inherent ecosystem values of their forest. Recognizing the public benefits of good stewardship on private forest land, the Massachusetts Forest Stewardship Program (MFSP) supports and encourages private forest landowners' efforts to manage, enjoy, and care for their land using a long-term approach.

**CONTACT:**

Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation  
[www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/steward.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dcr/stewardship/forestry/service/steward.htm)  
Contact Your Service Forester: 1 800 783-2311

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

Individuals, joint owners, groups and associations, non-profits, long term lease holders, and corporations without publicly traded stock are all eligible. Owners principally engaged in the primary processing of raw wood products are not eligible. There is no minimum acreage, except that properties of less than 10 acres are not eligible for Forest Stewardship Plan preparation cost-sharing.

**Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)**

Easements/Financial/Technical



**DESCRIPTION:**

The Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) is a voluntary conservation program that emphasizes support for working grazing operations, enhancement of plant and animal biodiversity, and protection of grassland under threat of conversion to other uses. Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses of the land while retaining the right to conduct common grazing practices and operations related to the production of forage and seeding, subject to certain restrictions during nesting seasons of bird species that are in significant decline or are protected under Federal or State law. A grazing management plan is required for participants.

**CONTACT:**

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
**Thomas Akin** ~ Conservation Agronomist  
413-253-4365 ~ [thomas.akin@ma.usda.gov](mailto:thomas.akin@ma.usda.gov)  
**Barbara Miller** ~ State Resource Conservationist  
413-253-4380 ~ [barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov](mailto:barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov)

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

Privately owned land; eligible agricultural land. Contact program official for extensive land eligibility details or visit website listed above.

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**Take Home Message # 3**

Many property owners who experience erosion use solutions such as rip rap (Rubble and chunks of rock and concrete) or gabions (cages filled with soil, sand, or rock) to harden the banks and slow down water flow. But there are better options! Consider using native plants which will make the river bank more stable, slow down the water and lessen impact more naturally.

## Land Trusts

Education/Financial/Technical



### DESCRIPTION:

The Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition is a voluntary association of land trusts founded to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and information, to increase the effectiveness of Massachusetts land trusts in working with the state legislature and environmental agencies, and to promote high professional standards. The Coalition has played a crucial role in supporting key conservation legislation and has become an important networking resource for the state's land trusts. MLTC counts over 130 organizations as Members and Friends, land trusts as well as watershed associations, open space committees, and advocacy groups.

### CONTACT:

Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition  
 Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition: (978)-443-2233  
[www.massland.org](http://www.massland.org)  
 Email: [info@massland.org](mailto:info@massland.org)

### ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:

Local land trusts can inform landowners of eligibility requirements.

technical assistance. State biologists are currently working with private landowners to enhance and protect important habitats across the Commonwealth.

### CONTACT:

Mass Wildlife  
[http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/grants/lip/lip\\_home.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/habitat/grants/lip/lip_home.htm)  
**Mike Sawyers**  
 DFW Landowner Incentive Program Coordinator  
 508-389-6387  
[Michael.Sawyers@state.ma.us](mailto:Michael.Sawyers@state.ma.us)

### ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:

Lands must provide habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species and significant natural communities.

## Mass Acorn

Education



### DESCRIPTION:

ACORN (A CoOperative Resource Network) is an interactive website designed for landowners and others interested in forests in the Westfield and Deerfield River Watersheds in Western Massachusetts. This site is focused on providing information about your land, your landscape and the community of western Massachusetts. The aim is to engage you as a landowner, add to your knowledge of your land and its natural surroundings and to foster communication among landowners.

### CONTACT:

<http://massacorn.net/>  
 Use interactive map on website to find a Land Trust, Service Forester, Private Forester or Conservation Organization for your town: <http://massacorn.net/localcontact>

## Massachusetts Keystone Project

Education/Publication



### DESCRIPTION:

The Keystone Project invests education and reference materials in important, keystone people. These Keystone Cooperators make a significant conservation difference at the local level by transferring information and ideas to landowners and decision-makers.

### CONTACT:

University of Massachusetts Amherst ~ UMass Extension  
[www.masskeystone.net](http://www.masskeystone.net)  
 Paul Catanzaro ~ 413.545.4839 ~ [cat@umet.umass.edu](mailto:cat@umet.umass.edu).

### ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:

All Massachusetts landowners

## Massachusetts River Alliance

Education/Technical

~ Living in Harmony with the River ~

### Take Home Message # 4

Dispose of waste properly. Disposing any types of material in or along the river, even if it's grass clippings or weeds from your garden can harm streamside vegetation and water quality. It also may be in violation of local state or federal regulations. Never dispose of antifreeze, oil, paint, solvents, detergents or other chemicals anywhere near the river. Consequences of improper disposal can be far-reaching.

## Landowner Incentive Program (LIP)

Easements/Financial/Technical



### DESCRIPTION:

The DFW Landowner Incentive Program is a partnership that provides private landowners interested in developing and maintaining wildlife habitat on their property with financial and

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Alliance's mission is to protect and restore rivers across the Commonwealth. A related goal is to strengthen, connect, and empower individuals and organizations working to protect rivers in our state. The Alliance has both individual and organizational members. They also welcome individuals, families, and businesses.

**CONTACT:**

[www.massriversalliance.org](http://www.massriversalliance.org)

Julia Blatt, Executive Director ~ [juliablatt@massriversalliance.org](mailto:juliablatt@massriversalliance.org)

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

All Massachusetts residents

## Mass Woods

Education



**DESCRIPTION:**

Our goal is to provide accurate information to woodland owners when they need to make two critical decisions: 1) the potential sale of timber and 2) deciding the future of the land. MassWoods.net features an interactive map to direct landowners to local professionals to help them with their decisions. Service foresters and licensed foresters are listed to help landowners with their decisions about forest management. Land trusts, estate planning attorneys, certified financial planners, certified public accountants, and appraisers are listed to help landowners with their decisions about the future of their land.

**CONTACT:**

<http://masswoods.net/>

Paul Catanzaro ~ (413) 545-4839

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

All landowners

**RESOURCES:**

Chapter 61 current use tax programs:

<http://masswoods.net/index.php/landowner-programs/ch61programs>

## National Resource Conservation Service

Education/Publication



**DESCRIPTION:**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the people of Massachusetts to improve and protect their soil, water and other natural resources. For decades, private landowners have voluntarily worked with NRCS specialists to prevent erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable agriculture.

**CONTACT:**

<http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov>

Hadley Field Office: serving Hampshire and Hampden Counties  
(413) 585 -1000 X3

Pittsfield Field Office: serving Berkshire County  
(413) 443-1776 X3

**ELIGIBILITY:**

All landowners

## Partners for Fish and Wildlife

Financial/Habitat Restoration/Technical



**DESCRIPTION**

The Division of Habitat and Resource Conservation provides national oversight for a number of Fish and Wildlife Service programs, implemented at the field level, that promote the protection, conservation, and restoration of our Nation's fish and wildlife resources. The activities implemented under these programs focus on maintaining quality of fish and wildlife habitats

**CONTACT:**

US Fish and Wildlife Service

[www.fws.gov/partners/](http://www.fws.gov/partners/)

(603) 223-2541 X14

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

Any privately-owned land is potentially eligible; most applicants are agricultural producers.

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Take Home Message # 5

If you experience NEW kinds of damage (either erosion or deposition) that did not used to happen even in times of high water, check upstream to see if there has been a change that might have contributed--a new culvert or bridge, clearing of vegetation along the banks, rip-rap or other bank-hardening, etc. Living along a river always involves a compromise--if you want to be able to cross the river on a bridge, for example, you have to accept that the bridge will have some impact on the river's flow.

**Rain Garden Projects**

Technical

**DESCRIPTION:**

Technical assistance and information on designing and installing rain gardens to manage storm runoff and improve water quality

**CONTACT:**

Massachusetts Watershed Coalition

[www.commonwaters.org](http://www.commonwaters.org)

Ed Himlan, Executive Director

(978) 534-0379 ~ [mwc@commonwaters.org](mailto:mwc@commonwaters.org)

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

All Massachusetts residents! See website for information.

<http://www.commonwaters.org/billion-gallons-a-year-campaign/bgy-homeowners>

~ Living in Harmony with the River ~

**Take Home Message # 6**

Leave fallen logs, woody material, and plant life in the river. Fallen logs can create natural protection for stream banks by slowing the current and allowing sediment to deposit. This can provide new places for vegetation to grow which stabilizes the stream bank. Fallen trees, logs, and plant material also offer important cover and food for fish and wildlife.

**Smart Growth/Smart Energy Tool Kit**

Education/Publication

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Toolkit provides easy access to information on planning, zoning, subdivision, site design, and building construction techniques that can make smart growth and smart energy a reality in your community. The materials are designed to increase understanding of smart growth/smart energy tools and policies, as well as how to customize and apply the techniques to suit local circumstances. The Commonwealth encourages communities to adopt and implement these smart growth/smart energy measures in order to realize the

many environmental, fiscal, and social benefits of smarter energy and smarter land use.

**CONTACT:**

Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)

[www.mass.gov/envir/smart\\_growth\\_toolkit](http://www.mass.gov/envir/smart_growth_toolkit)

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

Landowners, small scale contractors/builders and municipalities seeking information on low impact development practices.

**River and Stream Continuity Project**

Education/Habitat Restoration/Technical/Publications

**DESCRIPTION:**

The River and Stream Continuity Project began in the year 2000 with a startup grant from the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative. The University of Massachusetts took the lead in convening a group of people from a variety of agencies and organizations who were concerned about the impact of road-stream crossings (culverts, bridges, fords) on fish and other aquatic organism passage. In 2005, three of the organizations/agencies that were key players in initiation and implementing the project joined to create the River and Stream Continuity Partnership. Founding members include: UMass Extension (UMass), Massachusetts Riverways Program (MA Dept. Fish and Game), and the Nature Conservancy. Members of the Partnership have made a commitment to ongoing implementation of the River and Stream Continuity Project, including updates and revisions to the MA River and Stream Crossing Standards, coordination and implementation of volunteer assessments, management of the Continuity database, and projects to upgrade or replace substandard crossing structures.

**CONTACT:**

<http://www.streamcontinuity.org/index.htm>

**Trout Unlimited**

Financial/Habitat Restoration/Labor/Technical

**DESCRIPTION:**

The mission of Trout Unlimited (TU) is to protect, restore, and conserve coldwater resources and the watersheds on which they depend.

**CONTACT:**

<http://www.ma-ri-tu-council.org/>

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

All landowners

**University of Massachusetts**

Education/Technical

**DESCRIPTION:**

Technical and education assistance, research and pilot projects for home/garden, agriculture, and forestry. Soil testing service. Promotes practices that are research-based and environmentally sound.

**CONTACT:**

[www.extension.umass.edu](http://www.extension.umass.edu)

**ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:**

All Massachusetts residents

the Westfield River Wild and Scenic Advisory Committee, Westfield Environmental Center at Westfield State College, the Hilltown Land Trust, and the MA Dept. of Conservation and Recreation's Service Forestry and Forest Stewardship programs. The goal of the partnership is to work with residents and landowners in the watershed by providing and collecting information on invasive species, and join together to eradicate existing infestations of invasive plants and to prevent new ones.

**CONTACT:**

[wrwisp@gmail.com](mailto:wrwisp@gmail.com)

(413) 268 - 8219

**RESOURCES:**

[http://www.thetrustees.org/hci/library/WISP\\_Invasives\\_Management.pdf](http://www.thetrustees.org/hci/library/WISP_Invasives_Management.pdf)

**Westfield River Environmental Center (WSU)**

Education/Technical

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Westfield River Environmental Center at Westfield State College supports research, education, and outreach activities related to study of the environment, especially within the Westfield River Watershed. The Environmental Center was established in the Spring of 2005 through a collaboration among faculty, staff, and administration at the college.

**CONTACT:**

<http://envcenter.westfield.ma.edu/>

Bob Thompson (Director) ~ [rthompson@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:rthompson@westfield.ma.edu) ~(413) 572-8255

**RESOURCES:**

Westfield River Watershed Monitoring Stations:

<http://envcenter.westfield.ma.edu/monitoring-stations>

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## Take Home Message # 7

Manage livestock grazing and apply fertilizers wisely. Grazing livestock can reduce important stream bank vegetation causing soil to break down and cause erosion problems. If you must graze livestock near the river, rotate them to different areas to reduce impact. Also, use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers with extreme care. Even small amounts of yard and garden chemicals can be extremely toxic to aquatic organisms.

**Westfield River Invasive Species Partnership (WISP)**

Education/Habitat Restoration/Publication

**DESCRIPTION:**

Called the Westfield Invasive Species Partnership (WISP), the idea was born from the concern of Trustees' Regional Ecologist Julie Richburg, who saw that the watershed was beginning to experience rapidly spreading populations of invasive plants such as Japanese knotweed and garlic mustard. The plants were firmly established in certain areas, but had not yet reached others. The time to act to keep these species and other new ones on the way from spreading was now, and it required a larger focus area than the property of any single landowner or organization. The partnership now includes representatives from The Nature Conservancy, Mass Audubon, the New England Wildflower Society,

**Westfield River Watershed Association**

Habitat Restoration/Labor/Education/Technical

**DESCRIPTION:**

The Westfield River Watershed Association was established in 1953 to protect and improve the natural resources of the Watershed, as well as to expand recreational and other land use opportunities for people's enjoyment and for sound ecology.

**CONTACT:**

[www.westfieldriver.org](http://www.westfieldriver.org)

Mike Young: (413) 562-8498

## Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee

Habitat Restoration/Education/Labor/Technical



### DESCRIPTION:

Through this locally-initiated designation, community members, municipal officials, conservation organizations, federal and state agencies have come together to manage and protect this national treasure. Members of the Wild & Scenic Westfield River Committee lend their eyes, ears and voices for the river. Serving as liaisons to their respective communities and organizations, members raise awareness about the Westfield River and its resources, and advocate for their preservation and protection.

### CONTACT:

<http://wildscenicwestfieldriver.org>

(413) 579-3015

[coordinator@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org](mailto:coordinator@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org)

[volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org](mailto:volunteer@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org)

[chair@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org](mailto:chair@wildscenicwestfieldriver.org)

~ Living in Harmony with the River ~

Take Home Message # 8

Check your septic system. Make sure it is functioning properly. Bacteria and dissolved nutrients from poorly functioning septic systems pollute the river and may threaten human health.

## Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Easements/Financial/Habitat Restoration/Technical



### DESCRIPTION:

Protects, restores, and enhances wetlands; enrolled lands are mostly high-risk agricultural lands located in flood prone areas. Offers an opportunity to establish long-term and wildlife conservation through easements and cost-shared restoration.

### CONTACT:

Natural Resource Conservation Service

Amherst State Office: (413) 253-4350

[www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp)

### ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:

Land must be restorable and suitable for wildlife habitat. Includes farmed and grazed wetlands, degraded forested wetlands, riparian lands and land adjacent to wetlands. Other requirements apply. See website for more details.

## Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

Financial/Habitat Restoration/Technical



### DESCRIPTION:

The Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program that provides technical and financial assistance to people who want to improve fish and wildlife habitat or restore natural ecosystems on their land. NRCS will provide compensation for part of the cost of establishing and maintaining conservation practices that are necessary for enhancing and improving wildlife habitat and restoring natural ecosystems.

### CONTACT:

Natural Resource Conservation Service

[www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip)

Hadley Field Office: serving Hampshire and Hampden Counties

(413) 585 -1000 X3

Pittsfield Field Office: serving Berkshire County

(413) 443-1776 X3

### ELIGIBILITY/AVAILABILITY:

Privately owned, non industrial lands, including agricultural and forestland not already enrolled in other programs. Call your local office for details.