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## VBCD Newsletter

The mission of the Van Buren Conservation District (VBCD) is to promote the conservation of natural resources through partnerships, providing public education, demonstrations, and technical assistance while working together for future generations.

VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
**TREE SALE**

VAN BUREN  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

[VANBURENCD.ORG/SHOP](http://VANBURENCD.ORG/SHOP)

**Tree Sale Pick-up**

Tree Sale Order Pick-up and Leftover Sale days are almost here!

If you pre-ordered your seedlings, we're excited to see you soon for pick-up! During the dates and times, head over to your selected pickup location. You will also receive an email with information.

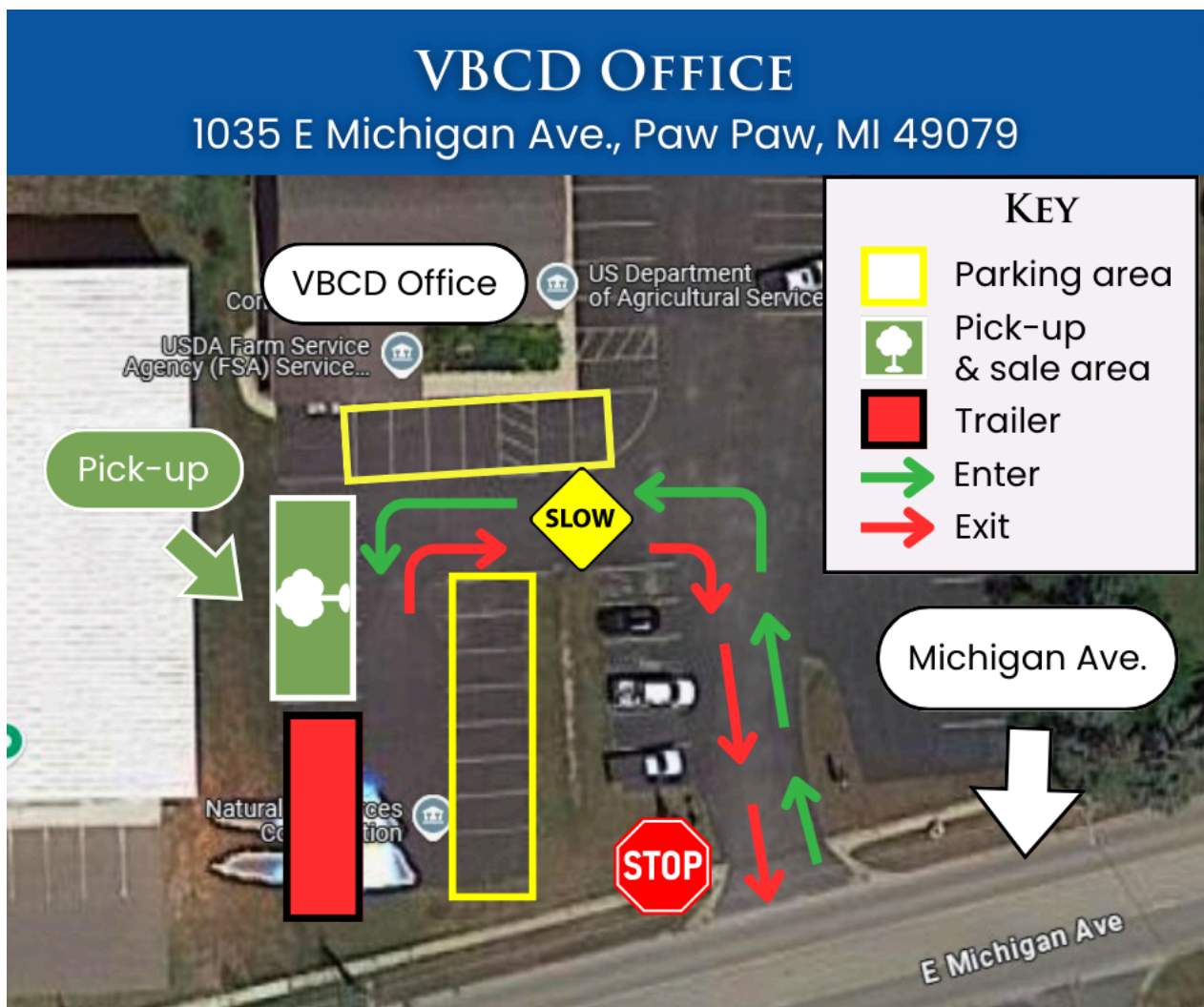
Didn't place a pre-order? No worries! We will have leftover stock for sale at each location across the dates and times.

**Dates & Times**

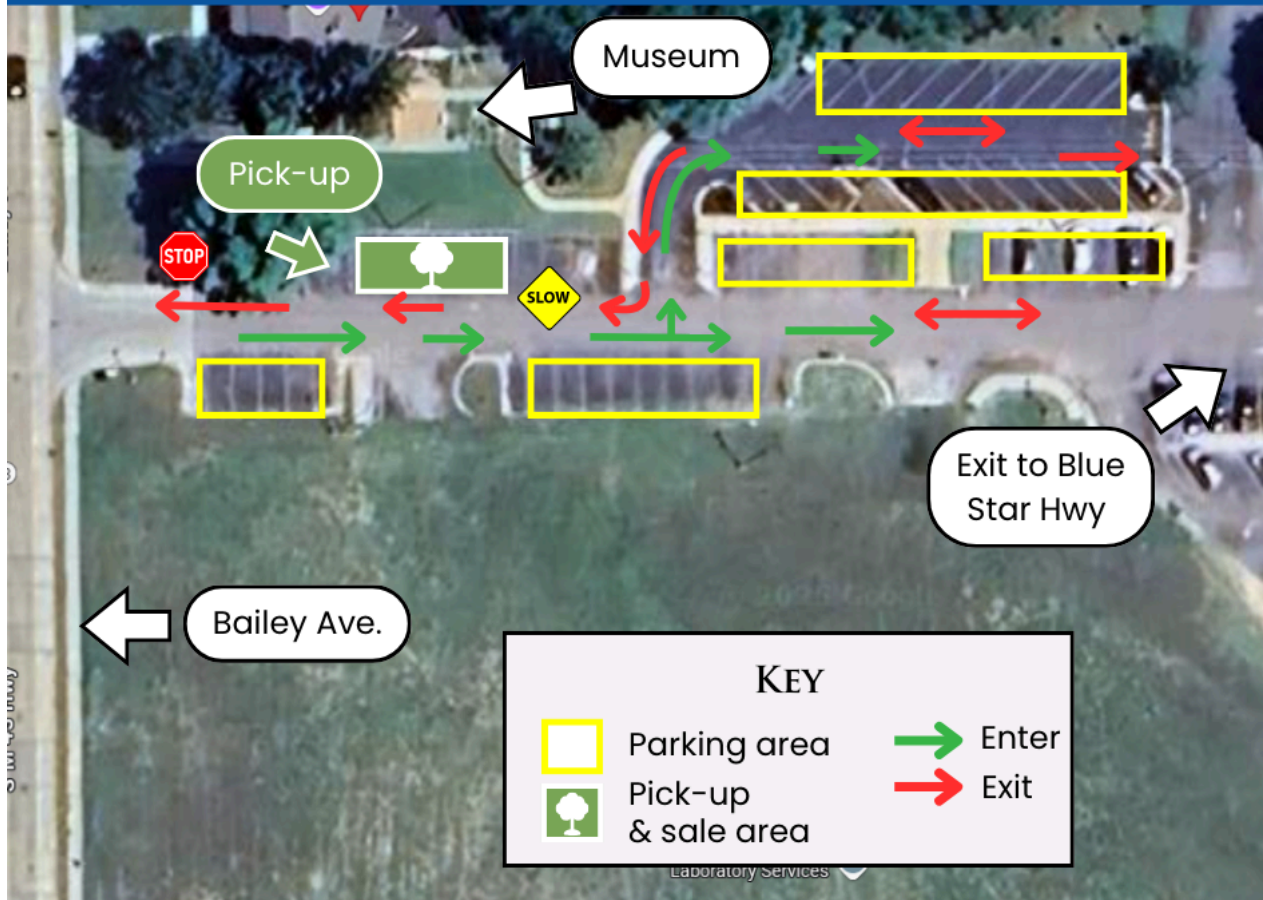
- Friday, April 10 | 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM
- Saturday, April 11 | 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

**Locations** (check out the maps below)

- 📍 Van Buren Conservation District Office | 1035 E Michigan Ave., Paw Paw, MI 49079
- 📍 Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum | 903 S Bailey Ave., South Haven, MI 49090



903 S.Bailey Ave., South Haven, MI 49090



### Planting Trees for Clean Water

The Van Buren Conservation District and Michigan Lakes and Streams Association are excited to continue work this spring on a grant project to plant 4,900 trees and shrubs around six inland lakes in southwest Michigan. This "Planting Trees for Clean Water" project will reduce runoff and improve the quality of water in our lakes and streams, as well as provide wildlife habitat near Round, Gravel, and Eagle Lakes in Van Buren County and Harwood, Birch, and Baldwin Lakes in Cass County.

Private property owners on these six lakes who are interested in having trees planted on their property at no cost are encouraged to reach out today. A brief interest form is available at <https://tinyurl.com/lakestrees2026>. For more information, contact Erin Fuller at the Van Buren Conservation District, 269-218-0199 or [watershed@VanBurenCD.org](mailto:watershed@VanBurenCD.org).

This project is made possible by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant through the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

[Tree Interest Form](#)



Lesser celandine is a small, early season invasive species. It grows and spreads quickly in wet forests along rivers and streams. Because it grows earlier than our native spring wildflowers, it can create a blanket that prevents native plants like ramps and wildflowers from growing.

Lesser celandine is new to Southwest Michigan, so if you see lesser celandine, report it to [MISIN.msu.edu](http://MISIN.msu.edu) or us - your local CISMA. Early detection and rapid response are key to managing invasive species!

#### Identification:

- ☘ Low-growing (generally 3 to 6 inches but up to 12 inches)
- 🌸 Small (1 inch wide,) bright yellow flowers with 8 to 12 petals.
- 📺 Shiny, dark-green leaves are kidney- or heart-shaped and often borne in a central rosette.
- 🌿 Grows in moist forests before trees leaf out (in March/April); the entire plant disappears by the end of May.

Message us, email [InvasivesEd@VanBurenCD.org](mailto:InvasivesEd@VanBurenCD.org), or give us a call 269-633-9044

Photo by: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)

[Report to MISIN](#)



**Materials Management Planning Demystified**


VBCD's Kalli is working with our southwest Michigan neighbors on our Materials Management Plan.


Materials management planning is a program designed to guide the management of counties' materials, with an emphasis on sustainable practices and safe disposal options.

As we work on planning to meet our communities' needs you, too, can share your thoughts and engage with our budding plan. Join us as we guide our future recycling and waste services.


There are two opportunities to join - we look forward to seeing you!


### **Almena Township Hall**

 27625 County Road 375, Paw Paw, MI 49079

 April 23, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

### **Geneva Township Hall**

 62127 County Road 380, Bangor, MI 49013

 May 20, 2026 | 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

[Demystify Common Myths Blog](#)



## Recycling Facility Tour

Have you ever wondered what happens when your recycling is hauled away? Join the VBCD to see firsthand!

You have two opportunities to tour a recycling facility with the VBCD! We'll provide a bus and you bring your questions. We'll head to Elkhart to Recycle Works where all the recycling in southwest Michigan is sorted. VBCD's Kalli is excited to share where our recycling goes and why recycling right is important. Donovan Kelley, Facility Manager will join to show us around.

### **RSVP Required, space is limited!**

📅 April 29, 2026 | 8:45 AM - 1:00 PM

📅 June 24, 2026 | 8:45 AM - 1:00 PM

📍 Meet at Community Mental Health parking lot | 801 Hazen St., Paw Paw, MI 49079

[click here to register](#)

## Mark Your Calendars!

- Tree Sale order pickup & leftover sale | Friday, April 10 & Saturday April, 11 | [VanBurenCD.org/shop](https://VanBurenCD.org/shop)
- VBCD Board Meeting | Wednesday, April 22 | [VanBurenCD.org](https://VanBurenCD.org)

## MAY

- Electronics Recycling Event - Porter Township | Tuesday, May 5 | [VanBurenCD.org](https://VanBurenCD.org)
- Electronics Transfer Station Host Drop-off - Decatur | Saturday, May 9 and Saturday, May 16 | [VanBurenCD.org](https://VanBurenCD.org)
- Memorial Day - office closed | Monday, May 25
- VBCD Board Meeting | Wednesday, May 27 | [VanBurenCD.org](https://VanBurenCD.org)
- VBCD at the Decatur Night Market | Friday, May 29

## JUNE

- Recycle Roundup - Paw Paw | Saturday, June 6 | [VanBurenCD.org](https://VanBurenCD.org)
- Electronics Recycling Event - City of Bangor | Wednesday, June 10 | [VanBurenCD.org](https://VanBurenCD.org)
- Electronics Transfer Station Host Drop-off - Bangor | Saturday, June 13 and Saturday, June 20 | [VanBurenCD.org](https://VanBurenCD.org)
- Juneteenth National Independence Holiday | Friday, June 19 | office closed
- VBCD Board Meeting | Wednesday, June 24 | [VanBurenCD.org](https://VanBurenCD.org)
- Materials Recovery Facility Public Tour | Wednesday, June 24 | [VanBurenCD.org](https://VanBurenCD.org)

[Click Here for the Full VBCD Calendar](#)





The VBCD staff is working in the office and from home. You can find staff emails and phone numbers on our website [VanBurenCD.org/About](https://VanBurenCD.org/About) under "Meet Our Staff".

The Van Buren County USDA Service Center hours are 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. Please note that we remain a field office with a hybrid work setup, so if you are hoping to meet with one of us specifically, please contact us ahead of time to set up an appointment.

Photo Caption: **Van Buren Conservation District Board & Staff, 2025**

Left-to-right, third row back: Joey Pietrogallo, Lucas Hartman, Grace Bianchi, Gabriel Francisco, Kyle Mead, Colleen Forestieri, Alex Florian, Erin Fuller

Second row middle: Abbie Bristol, Jena Johnson, Jacob Diljak, Emilly Hickmott, Jan Petersen, Lia Will, Kim Sinclair, Kalli Marshall

Front row: Bill VanTassel, Paulette Rybarski, Ron Klein, Carl Druskovich

# VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Van Buren Conservation District

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