



# Van Buren Conservation District

## June 2026 Report

**Annual Meeting** - Please plan to join us at our annual meeting on Friday, July 17 at the Lawrence Village Park to celebrate the conservation work we accomplish together, honor awardees, and share a locally-sourced breakfast. All are invited to attend, and the program will be offered both at 8:30 AM and at 9:30 AM to aim to accommodate folks' schedules in the morning. You can find more details at [VanBurenCD.org/News](https://VanBurenCD.org/News)

**Conservation District Millage Renewal Proposal** - The Van Buren County Board of Commissioners approved ballot language to place a renewal millage proposal for the Van Buren Conservation District millage on the August 4, 2026 primary ballot. This millage proposal is at 0.0989 mill for a period of 10 years, 2026 through 2035 inclusive.

**Recycling Facility Tour** - As Materials Management Planning continues in our region, Project Manager Kalli Marshall continues to offer opportunities to learn more and influence the planning process. Don't miss the recycling facility tour on June 24!

**VBCD Newsletter** - Our subscriber newsletter is now available on our website at [VanBurenCD.org/News](https://VanBurenCD.org/News) and will be attached to these update emails going forward. We hope this helps you stay connected. As always, reach out anytime with questions, ideas, and concerns.

*Emilly Hickmott*

Emilly Hickmott, Executive Director

### **Upcoming Events** (details available on [our website](#))

- Recycle Roundup - Paw Paw | Saturday, June 6
- Electronics Recycling Event - City of Bangor | Wednesday, June 10
- Electronics Transfer Station Host Drop-off - Bangor | Saturday, June 13 & Saturday, June 20
- Juneteenth National Independence Holiday | Friday, June 19 | office closed
- Presentation at Covert Park Beach & Campground | Saturday, June 20
- VBCD Board Meeting | Wednesday, June 24
- Materials Recovery Facility Public Tour | Wednesday, June 24
- Independence Day Holiday observed | Friday, July 3 | office closed



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### Program Updates

**Resource Recovery & Recycling** (*Kalli Marshall*) – April was a month for celebrating the environment. April kicked off with the VBCD annual Tree Sale. For Earth Day, Kalli joined the South Haven Chamber of Commerce for the Earth Day Cleanup on the Kal-Haven Trail. We held the first Materials Management Planning (MMP) Demystified where we engaged with the MMP goals and gathered feedback from attendees. The month concluded with a tour at Recycle Works in Elkhart, Indiana with a group of the public to see the recycling sort process in person.

**Agriculture & Water Quality Team** (*Erin Fuller and Colleen Forestieri*) – Much of April was dedicated to working with landowners around six inland lakes in Cass and Van Buren Counties to plant trees on their lakefront properties. This project is funded by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant through the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Nearly 200 new native trees and shrubs are slated to be planted through this project in May 2026. This planting will reduce runoff and improve the quality of water in our lakes and streams, as well as provide wildlife habitat.

**Invasive Species SWxSW Corner CISMA Team** (*Alex Florian and Jena Johnson*) – In April 2026, the CISMA Team of the VBCD strengthened relationships with partners such as Liberty Hyde Bailey Museum, BCK CISMA, and DCOSA by dedicating time to assist them in conducting outreach/field work for the people they serve. We also completed a public report that will be made available to the public regarding our experiences working with Hydrilla over the last few years. We made progress on grant deliverables, prepped for the new Strike Team crew to start in May, and assisted with the VBCD's Annual Tree Sale. Lastly, we attended a training for our upcoming eDNA project work, coordinated with a subcontractor assisting us with RC this year, officially received our MISGP funding for the year, and provided expertise during meetings with partners.

**Conservation Technical Assistance Program: MAEAP and Regenerative Agriculture Programs** (*Kyle Mead*) – The CTAP Technician has been working to schedule reverifications for producers that were re-assessed during the winter months as well as attending training and fellow technician field days to further education. The technician has exceeded his reverification goal for the fiscal year that ends September 30.

**Natural Resource Technical Assistance** (*Gabriel Francisco*) – Grant funding decisions for natural resource technical assistance from the National Association of Conservation Districts has been delayed to summer 2026. The Van Buren Conservation District continues to utilize millage funding to support landowners with land use concerns and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.