VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 2016-2026

Whether you know us as the Van Buren Conservation District, "VBCD," or simply "the District," we've been caring for Van Buren County for over 80 years. In 2016, Van Buren County voters approved a 0.1000 mill, 10-year levy.

The millage funding allowed the VBCD to get more conservation on the ground these last 10 years than ever before. Check out a snapshot of what we've accomplished together.

VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT

STEWARDING, PROTECTING, MANAGING, AND RESTORING

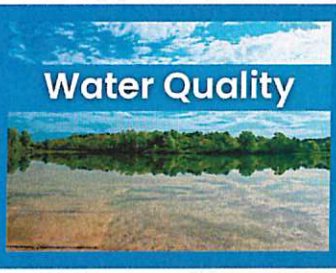
Our **farms** | Our **water** | Our **soil** | Our **wildlife** | Our **materials** | Our **forests**

Recycling

- 85,000+ tires recycled
- 540,000+ LBS. electronics recycled
- 8,000+ HOUSEHOLDS with new/improved services
- 155,000+ LBS. hazardous waste safely disposed
- 70 recycling & waste collection events

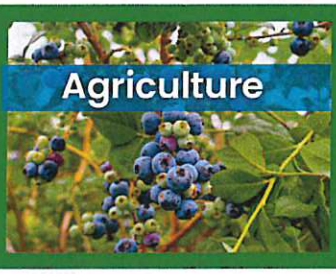
RESOURCE RECOVERY

Water Quality



- 12 YEARS monitoring water health
- 19,000+ acres of cover crops
- 54,000+ GALLONS runoff prevented due to planting trees & shrubs
- 2 MILLION+ LBS. of sediment saved from lakes & rivers
- 5 community cleanup events

Agriculture



- 57,000 GUIDES promoting local food and local recreation
- 22 EVENTS focused on farmers
- 60 YEARS staff experience

Promoting Stewardship MAEAP Protecting the Environment

- $5.5 MILLION+ accessed by farmers for conservation projects

Habitat & Species

- 145,000+ SEEDLINGS sold at Tree Sales for wildlife and air quality
- $310,000+ accessed by landowners for wildlife projects
- 6 YEARS of invasive species management

Van Buren Conservation District

MILLAGE RENEWAL

A ballot proposal to renew the Van Buren Conservation District millage at 0.0989 mill to fund conservation programs. More information is available at www.VanBurenCD.org/about/millage

Election Day: August 4, 2026

Election details including early voting, absentee voting, and more is available at https://www.michigan.gov/sos/elections

Our mission is to promote the conservation of natural resources through partnerships, providing public education, demonstrations, and technical assistance while working together for future generations.

Our vision is thriving communities; sustainable farms; stewarded natural resources; and healthy, connected people.

Millage Questions

What is on the ballot?

A renewal millage proposal for the Van Buren Conservation District (VBCD) millage, previously voter-approved in 2016 at 0.1000 mill. This millage proposal is at 0.0989 mill for a period of 10 years, 2026 through 2035 inclusive.

Who does the VBCD serve?

All of Van Buren County. We work closely with County government, local municipalities, and local organizations to help folks implement conservation and protect the environment for a cleaner, healthier, and economically stronger Van Buren County.

If the renewal passes, what would the cost to the average homeowner be?

The estimated cost to a household owning a $100,000 (State Equalized Value $50,000) home would be $4.95 per year. To calculate your tax, find your property's taxable value, divide it by 1,000, then multiply it by 0.0989.

What has the VBCD done with the millage funding?

Millage funding has allowed the VBCD to:

- offer stable programs and services
- successfully compete for large, locally-focused grants
  - provide matching funds
  - leverage other funds for larger reimbursement-based projects we could not have without the millage funding
- hire and retain qualified staff
- increase resident and landowner access to state and federal funds

What does the VBCD focus on?

The concerns of Van Buren County, surveyed every 5 years. Our work impacts:

- water quality
- soil health & agricultural production
- forests, wetlands, & native habitats
- recycling & materials management
- invasive and native species

What if the renewal passes?

If the millage proposal passes, the millage will be levied at a reduced amount than was previously levied. The VBCD will continue to provide programs and services and improve and plan for the future.

What if the renewal fails?

Current millage funding expired at the end of 2025. Without a renewal, the VBCD would lose about 25% of its funding, necessitating a reduction in staff, programs, services, and educational resources.