



Van Buren Conservation District May 2024 Program Update

Submitted by Emily Hickmott, Executive Director

May kept the Conservation District staff busy much like April did! We continued offering recycling services, held an on-the-farm demonstration and work day, and collected macroinvertebrates from local streams to monitor water quality. Staff will be in Lansing on June 4 visiting our legislators and speaking about conservation district work and environmental focuses.

Big announcement! We were fortunate to receive another EGLE Scrap Tire Recycling grant this year, and in addition to our one-day collection events, we are pleased to announce that we have partnered with local townships to offer three year-round drop-off sites. More details at the end of this update!

Recycling Collections: Details and tire sign-up available at:

<https://vanburencd.org/van-buren-county-recycling-collections/>. Please encourage folks to sign up their tires ahead of time! June and July Collections are:

- Recycle Roundup Collection** | June 15, 2024 | 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Van Buren Community Mental Health | 801 Hazen Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079
- Passenger & Semi Tire and Electronics Collection** | June 26, 2024 | 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Keeler Township Hall | 64151 Territorial Rd., Hartford, MI 49057
- Large Tire & Business Tire Collection** | July 15, 2024 | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM | Van Buren County Buildings & Grounds | 753 Hazen Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079
- Large Tire & Business Tire Collection** | July 16, 2024 | 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM | Van Buren County Buildings & Grounds | 753 Hazen Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079

Program Updates:

- **Ag Conservation/Water Quality Projects** (*Erin Fuller, Colleen Forestieri, Carlie Southland*) - In April, the Ag & Water Quality Team continued a variety of outreach and education activities, including presentations to the Van Buren ISD's Ag & Natural Resources classroom and demonstrations at the Paw Paw Middle School's Salmon in the Classroom release event.
- **SWxSW Corner CISMA (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) Team** (*Abbie Bristol, Alex Florian, Jena Johnson*) - The CISMA team spent April wrapping and selling trees, burning Butterfield Drain, and networking with various audiences. April was the final stretch of talking to folks and preparing systems and supplies for the field season.
- **Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP)** (*Kyle Mead*) - April wasn't as productive on paper as March was. In April, Verifications that had been scheduled with Josh Appleby, MDARD needed to be canceled due to his response to an Avian Flu outbreak somewhere else in the state. Those verifications were rescheduled for May but will include a new assessment that was done in April. The specialist assisted with Tree Wrapping/Sale as well as the Prescribed burn on the West side of Butterfield Drain.
- **National Association of Conservation Districts (NRCS) Technical Assistance** (*Lucas Hartman, Gabriel Francisco*) - This year, our two conservation technicians helped to plan and conduct a ~30 acre controlled burn on VBCD owned wildlife property "Butterfield Drain". VBCD staff was joined by other conservation districts, and USDA agency partners to help effectively and safely conduct the

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burn. NACD funded staff also contributed time to the VBCD's 75th annual tree seedling sale, helping to accomplish reforestation goals.

- **Outreach** (*Jacob Diljak*) -Our Team completed the VBCD's 75th Annual Tree Sale! 19,400 seedlings were sold or donated - that's equivalent to 125 acres of forest! Collection season has started and we look forward to providing folks with services throughout the warmer months! Van Buren County Food, Farm, & Fun Guides reached Michigan Welcome Centers.
- **Resource Recovery & Recycling** (*Kalli Marshall, Jacob Diljak*) - April was a busy month for the recycling program as reporting for grants were due and collection season officially began. In a single week, Jacob and Kalli visited South Haven for two days of large tire collection events and ended the week in Decatur for the community clean up event. The month concluded with Kalli attending training at the Michigan Recycling Coalition Conference.



VAN BUREN CONSERVATION DISTRICT YEAR-ROUND TIRE DROP-OFF

Free Tire Drop off May - October for Van Buren County Residents at 3 locations!



To use this service please respect the following rules:

 Passenger and semi tires only

 Bring a valid ID

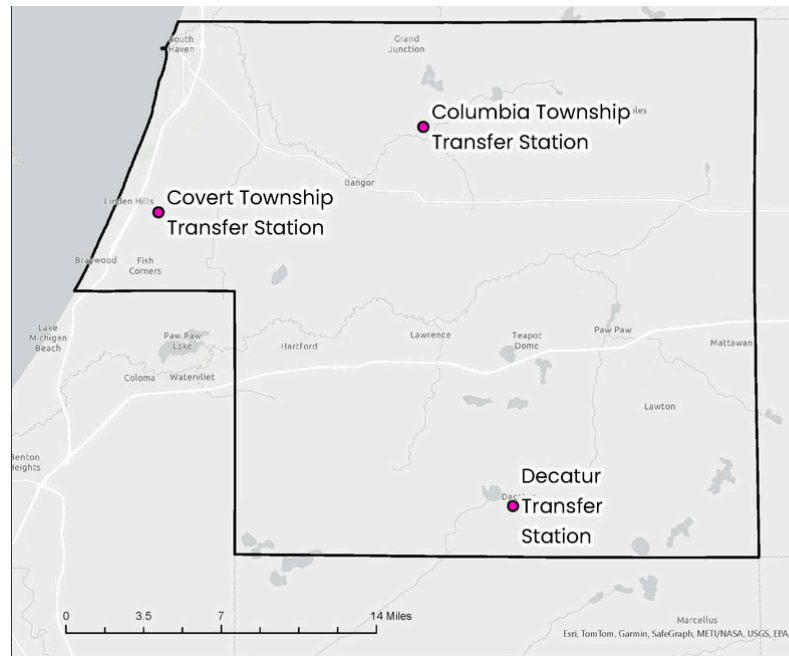
Show you are a Van Buren County Resident or landowner and eligible for the free service

 Businesses cannot drop off tires with this program

 Only 10 tires per resident address accepted per day

Locations:

- Columbia Township Transfer Station | 18868 52 ½ St., Grand Junction | Open 1st Sunday of the month and Saturdays from 9 AM until 5 PM
- Covert Township Transfer Station | 1 ¼ miles west of M-140 Hwy On 34th Ave. | Open Saturdays 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Village of Decatur Transfer Station | 300 W Beers St., Decatur | Hours TBD



Funding for this service is made possible by Michigan Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Scrap Tire Grants.



If you have any questions regarding tire disposal or recycling in general, please call 269-633-9314 or email ResourceRecovery@VanBurenCD.org