



Van Buren Conservation District  
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## Black River Watershed Project Implementation Phase

April 2006 – March 2009  
DEQ tracking code 2005-0108

The Van Buren Conservation District has received a three-year grant from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality that will work towards implementing portions of the Black River Watershed Management Plan.



The Black River Watershed encompasses approximately 287 square miles in Allegan and Van Buren Counties. The Black River flows into Lake Michigan in South Haven. Primary water quality concerns in the watershed are erosion and sedimentation, nutrient loading, and development issues. Other issues include channelization of streams, loss of wetlands, and runoff from development sites.

Primary activities in this phase of the project include:

- Reduce runoff and restore and stabilize eroding streambanks at Lion's Park, Bangor
- Reduce runoff and restore and stabilize eroding streambanks at Bloomingdale Park
- Work with communities to reduce polluted stormwater (mark 250 storm drains with "Don't Dump –Drains to Waterway" message)
- Identify and improve failing septic systems (provide grants to 10 watershed residents to pay for septic inspections)
- Promote agricultural residue management practices (no-till/mulch-till)
- Perform a master plan/zoning ordinance review and update for four communities
- Develop targeted outreach campaign focusing on promoting land protection
- Support efforts to protect prime farmland from development
- Hold ongoing watershed workshop series targeting agricultural producers
- Hold "municipal summit" workshops on Low Impact Development techniques and "smart growth," planning and zoning
- Provide scholarships for watershed residents to take MSU online watershed management courses

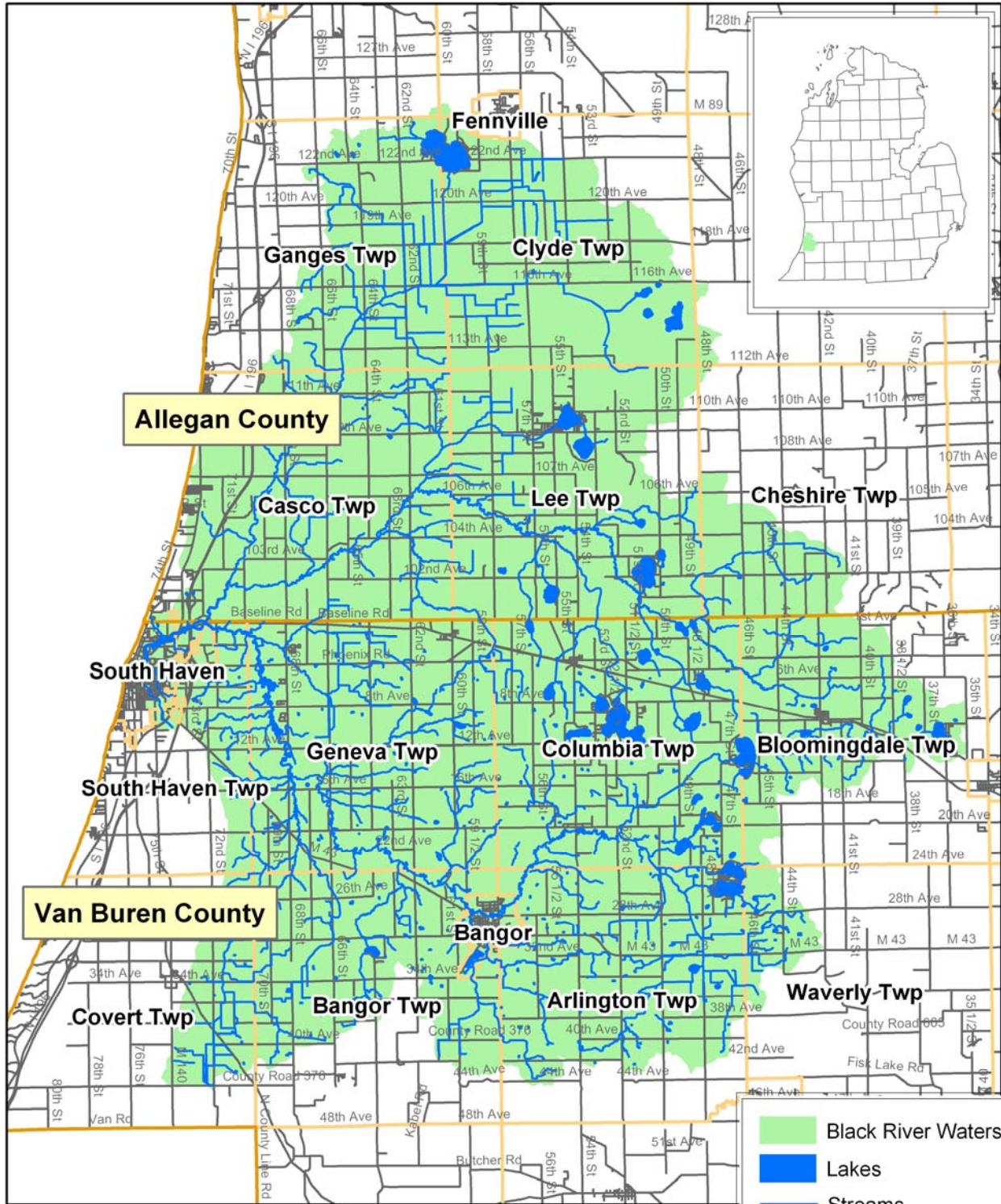
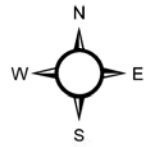
Local involvement and support is crucial to the success of this project. If you would like to participate, please contact:

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[www.vbco.org/blackriver\\_2.asp](http://www.vbco.org/blackriver_2.asp)



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# Black River Watershed



Allegan County

Van Buren County

- Black River Watershed
- Lakes
- Streams
- County boundary
- Township boundary
- Roads



Created by Erin Fuller, Van Buren Conservation District, May 2006