

Toolkits and Guides for Local Governments to help Protect Inland Lakes and Wetlands & Inland Lake Education Courses

Prepared by: Van Buren Conservation District

1. "Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes: A Toolkit for Local Governments" & "Protecting Michigan's Wetlands: A Guide for Local Governments"

For local government officials and/or pro-active lakefront property owners searching for detailed information and sample ordinances to help guide their local lake protection initiatives, an on-line resource is available on the VBCD website, <https://vanburencd.org/programs-services/inland-lakes>. Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes: A Toolkit for Local Governments is a comprehensive guide focused on providing resources to help support and foster the important role of local governments in protecting our inland lakes.

Part I of the toolkit focuses on understanding specific goals and connecting them with specific local options that can help achieve those goals. Case studies from different communities are also highlighted within this publication to illustrate how they achieved their goals. The tools contained in this book will help your municipality reach a variety of goals related to the inland lakes in your community.

Part II of the toolkit consists of an extensive on-line resource that provides a myriad of examples of local lake protection ordinances from different communities, support materials to help local municipalities implement changes, and related agency and organization contact information. The site also provides viewers with the opportunity to download Part I of the toolkit, as well as the companion publication entitled Protecting Michigan's Inland Lakes: A Guide for Local Governments.

1. "Protecting Michigan's Wetlands: A Guide for Local Governments" [https://www.watershedcouncil.org/uploads/7/2/5/1/7251350/wetland\\_ebookfinal.pdf](https://www.watershedcouncil.org/uploads/7/2/5/1/7251350/wetland_ebookfinal.pdf)

1. MSU Extension Introduction to Lakes online course  
Michigan is blessed with more than 11,000 inland lakes and each provides unique recreational, scenic and environmental benefits. These inland lakes are complex ecosystems and are often negatively impacted by both the people that live near them as well as the water that drains into them. Frequently, local communities struggle to protect and manage inland lakes in a way that incorporates the best available knowledge and resources. Concerned citizens, decision makers, local leaders, resource professionals and lakefront property owners can learn about inland lake management and protection by enrolling in the MSU Extension Introduction to Lakes online course.

Registration: Registration is now open. An Early Bird rate of \$95 is available through December 12, and regular registration (\$115) will be

available through January 8. Register now for Introduction to Lakes Online<[https://www.canr.msu.edu/introduction\\_to\\_lakes\\_online/](https://www.canr.msu.edu/introduction_to_lakes_online/)>

\*\*You can find many more great resources on the MI Lake and Stream Association website [www.mymlsa.org](http://www.mymlsa.org)<<http://www.mymlsa.org>> and the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership website <http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org>.

AJ Brucks  
Executive Director

Van Buren Conservation District  
1035 E. Michigan Ave. Paw Paw, MI 49079  
(269) 657-4030 x5  
[www.VanBurenCD.org](http://www.VanBurenCD.org)<<http://www.vanburencd.org/>>  
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