

The Alliance of Rouge Communities Grow Zones across the Watershed



Working together, restoring the river

Who is the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC)?

The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) is a voluntary public watershed entity currently comprised of 40 municipal governments (i.e. cities, townships and villages), three counties (i.e., Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw) and the Wayne County Airport Authority as authorized by Part 312 (Watershed Alliances) of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL 324.101 to 324.90106) as amended by Act No. 517, Public Acts of 2004. The purpose of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) is to provide an institutional mechanism to encourage watershed-wide cooperation and mutual support to meet water quality permit requirements and to restore beneficial uses of the river to the area residents.

What is a grow zone? A grow zone is an upland and/or riparian native planting implemented to improve water quality and wildlife habitat.



Potential water quality benefits of a grow zone:

- **Stream Bank Stabilization and Reduced Channel Erosion.** The extensive root systems of native plants hold soil in place against the eroding forces of water running over the ground, and help keep the water clean. Grow zones limit erosion by intercepting and absorbing runoff before it reaches the watershed.
- **Reduced Pollution.** Grow zones may reduce the concentration of lawn fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides, and other pollutants from reaching the watershed. Fertilizers and herbicides are not needed to maintain a native grow zone further reducing the amount of pollutants introduced into the watershed.
- **Reduced Mowing and Maintenance.** Native grow zones reduce the acreage of lawn and the amount of time needed for mowing and lawn maintenance.
- **Increased Wildlife Value.** Native grow zones create habitat by providing food and shelter for wildlife living on the land and within the water.

