

# CANTON NEWS UPDATE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Canton's River Day Plays Host to Multiple Celebrations

**May 10, 2011, Canton, MI** – Multiple celebrations are scheduled to take place during Canton's June 4 River Day event as Canton celebrates 25 years of river cleaning efforts, the grand re-opening of the Lower Rouge River Recreational Trail and the grand opening of the newly restored I-275 Metro Trail. The event will take place rain or shine from 9 am – 2 pm at the Lower Rouge River Trailhead located at Michigan Avenue and Morton Taylor Road and volunteers of all ages including residents, students, and scout troops are encouraged to participate.

Although most of the activities will take place at the trailhead, a special restoration project has been planned at Heritage Park. The following is a list of activities and locations:

- **Heritage Park Restoration Project:** From 9 am – 2 pm, Canton staff will be working with volunteers to help establish "grow zones" around Heritage Park ponds. Volunteers are needed to help plant shrubs and seed with wet meadow wildflowers and grass along the banks of the ponds. All volunteers should come dressed for the weather; jeans and boots are recommended. Registration will begin promptly at 9am at the clock tower located in front of the Heritage Park Pavilion. Scout troops planning to participate need to call Canton's Public Works Division in advance at 397-1011.
- **Group Bike Ride:** A special group bike ride up to the Cherry Hill Rest Stop for the I-275 Metro Trail grand opening will also take place. The ribbon cutting ceremony at the rest stop is scheduled for 10:30 am., so all bike riders must check in at the trail head by 9:30 am to ride to the ribbon cutting.
- **Free Raptor Demonstrations:** Leslie Science Center will be on site demonstrating their Raptors Program, including an up-close look at a Bald Eagle. All raptors used in the program have come through the River Raisin Raptor Center. Having suffered permanent injuries and unable to survive in the wild, these non-releasable wild birds have been trained to help their wild relatives by educating people about the issues facing raptors today. The free demonstrations are scheduled to take place at the trailhead at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 am.
- **Children's Mountain Biking 101:** The Michigan Scholastic Cycling Association will be at the trailhead to provide basic bike and helmet fitting advice, and will also take groups of parents and children on a guided tour of the trail system. Participants can bring their own bikes or there will be bikes available to ride for no charge from the Michigan Scholastic Cycling Association.
- **Birdhouse Building:** As in past years, a birdhouse-building tent will be set up for children of all ages to build their own birdhouses out of donated wood.

In addition to the above mentioned activities, multiple give-aways will also be held from 9 am – 2 pm and participants will receive a River Day t-shirt, light breakfast and a hot dog lunch. Please note, breakfast and lunch will both be served at the trailhead and food will be limited to a first come first served basis.

This year's River Day event is hosted by Canton Township and sponsored by; Friends of the Rouge, Absopure, Chet's Rent All, Heavenly Hot Dogs and WTUA. For more information or to pre-register for the

event, please call 397-1011.

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