



Working together, restoring the river

Rouge River Watershed Plan Update Public Participation Plan

ARC MEMBERS

- Allen Park
- Auburn Hills
- Beverly Hills
- Bingham Farms
- Birmingham
- Bloomfield Hills
- Bloomfield Township
- Canton Township
- Commerce Township
- Dearborn
- Dearborn Heights
- Farmington
- Farmington Hills
- Franklin
- Garden City
- Inkster
- Lathrup Village
- Livonia
- Melvindale
- Northville
- Northville Township
- Novi
- Oakland County
- Oak Park
- Orchard Lake
- Plymouth
- Plymouth Township
- Pontiac
- Redford Township
- Rochester Hills
- Romulus
- Southfield
- Superior Township
- Troy
- Van Buren Township
- Walled Lake
- Washtenaw County
- Wayne
- Wayne County
- Wayne County Airport Authority
- West Bloomfield Township
- Westland
- Wixom
- Ypsilanti Township

ARC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James W. Ridgway

c/o Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.

719 Griswold, Suite 1040, Detroit MI 48226

Telephone: (313)963-6600 Fax: (313)963-1707 E-mail: jridgway@ectinc.com

STAFF

Kelly Karl

Zachare Ball

Demetria Janus

Chris O'Meara

c/o Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc.

719 Griswold, Suite 1040, Detroit MI 48226

Telephone: (313)963-6600 Fax (313)963-1707 E-mail: jridgway@ectinc.com

GOALS

1. To create awareness among members of the public about the condition of the Rouge River Watershed and its seven subwatersheds.
2. To educate the public about the watershed management plan goals and objectives.
3. To establish a process by which members of the public, who affect or are affected by the Rouge River, may participate in the development of the Rouge River Watershed management plan.
4. To ensure that all interested stakeholders can review and comment on the draft Rouge River Watershed Management Plan.

OBJECTIVES

1. Within the Rouge River Watershed, define whom the ARC and its SWAGs should invite to participate in the watershed management planning effort. The ARC predicts that these invitees include, but will not be limited to:
 - Public agency representatives, such as planning commissions and parks and recreation boards;
 - Individual homeowners or homeowner associations;
 - Elected officials;
 - Rouge River RAP Advisory Council;
 - Riparian landowners;
 - Educational Institutions, such as Lawrence Technical University, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Henry Ford Community College and Cranbrook Educational Community and public and private schools
 - Stewardship Organizations, such as Friends of the Rouge, Friends of Wayne County Parks, League of Women Voters, Friends of Rouge Park, SOCWA volunteers, Oakland Plus, and the Dearborn Heights Watershed Stewards Commission.
 - The Media, and,
 - Industry and business representatives, such as Ford Motor Co. and Denso
2. Develop a mechanism for communication between the ARC, the Rouge SWAGs and these groups and individuals during the development of the Watershed Management plan.
3. Develop a mechanism for regularly reaching out to all members of the general public to allow for any interested party to participate in the planning process.
4. Create a process for acknowledging and incorporating dissenting opinions into the subwatershed planning process.

SCOPE OF PLAN

Education, Outreach, and Facilitated Review

The ARC will utilize its website, e-mail notifications, SWAG meetings, ARC communities' websites, and facilitated evening workshops/presentations at different locations within the Rouge River Watershed to educate the public and solicit their input on the Rouge River Watershed Management Plan. Rouge SWAG representatives may attend other public meetings to promote involvement in the subwatershed planning effort. In addition, the ARC will utilize press releases and web sites to notify the public of subwatershed planning efforts. The SWAG proposes the following plan to comply with permit requirements:

ACTION ITEM TO BE COMPLETED	APPROXIMATE DATE OF COMPLETION
Create a list of individuals or organizations who will be sent detailed ARC mailings, invited to attend public meetings and invited to provide feedback on the subwatershed plan.	March, 2008
Review Process and list of stakeholders with ARC Public Involvement and Education Committee.	April, 17, 2008
Develop Stakeholder Survey that can be distributed at public meetings and other public events to solicit input for planning.	April, 2008
Hold three public presentations in different locations around the watershed to explain planning process, discuss goals and objectives and seek input. Solicit feedback on goals. Provide Displays presenting information on the subwatershed and planning process will be included. Distribute Surveys. Create transcript of meetings for submittal to MDEQ.	<p>June 12: Riverside High School, Warren and Beech Daly, Dearborn Heights</p> <p>June 23: Plymouth Township Hall, 9955 N. Haggerty Road, Plymouth Twp.</p> <p>June 24: Costick Center, 28600 Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills</p> <p>(Tape for community cable TV.)</p>
<p>Focused Stakeholder Committees</p> <p>Rouge Business Roundtable</p> <p>Rouge Education Roundtable</p>	<p>Each Roundtable will meet at least twice: First meeting slated for May, 2008. Representatives will see a presentation about the Rouge Watershed Management Plan update at the first meeting; 2nd meeting will be to discuss and comment on the draft plan.</p>
Provide electronic copies of draft watershed management plan to ARC members, their review and for display in ARC community locations, such as city clerk's offices, libraries and other city offices. Provide copies to Rouge stewardship groups for review and comment.	September 2008
Present draft watershed management plan at annual Rouge 2008 event at University of Michigan-Dearborn to update individuals on subwatershed plan progress and to solicit feedback. Develop maps and other posters to concisely display information on subwatershed goals, management alternatives and recommended plan for the public review. Solicit written comments on plan.	September, 2008 (Tape for local cable stations)
Public review of plan	September-October, 2008
<p>ONGOING TASKS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates on ARC website and community websites. • Distribution of survey at public meetings, on the ARC website and other locations • Draft plan on ARC website and other websites where appropriate. 	

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN APPROVAL

This Public Participation Plan was approved by a majority of the ARC members at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 6, 2008.

Submitted by: _____
James W. Ridgway, Executive Director
Alliance of Rouge Communities