

Annette DeMaria, P.E., PMP
Executive Director



DRAFT AGENDA – April 6, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Farmington Hills HAWK Center, Harrison Hall
29995 W. 12 Mile Rd.

Auburn Hills
Beverly Hills
Bingham Farms
Birmingham
Bloomfield Hills
Bloomfield Twp.
Canton Twp.
Commerce Twp.
Dearborn Heights
Farmington
Farmington Hills
Franklin
Garden City
Henry Ford College
Inkster
Lathrup Village
Livonia
Melvindale
Northville
Northville Twp.
Novi
Oak Park
Oakland County
Orchard Lake
Plymouth
Plymouth Twp.
Redford Twp.
Rochester Hills
Romulus
Schoolcraft College
Southfield
Troy
University of
Michigan-Dearborn
Van Buren Twp.
Walled Lake
Washtenaw County
Wayne
Wayne County
Wayne County Airport
Authority
West Bloomfield Twp.
Westland
Wixom

Cooperating Partners:
Cranbrook Institute of Science
Friends of the Rouge
Great Lakes Water Authority
Rouge River Advisory Council
SEMOG
Southeastern Oakland
County Water Authority
The Henry Ford

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Executive Director



Working together, restoring the river

DRAFT FULL ARC MEETING SUMMARY ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

November 16, 2022, 1:30pm – 3:00pm
Microsoft Teams

Auburn Hills
Beverly Hills
Bingham Farms
Birmingham
Bloomfield Hills
Bloomfield Twp.
Canton Twp.
Commerce Twp.
Dearborn Heights
Farmington
Farmington Hills
Franklin
Garden City
Henry Ford College
Inkster
Lathrup Village
Livonia
Melvindale
Northville
Northville Twp.
Novi
Oak Park
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Orchard Lake
Plymouth
Plymouth Twp.
Redford Twp.
Rochester Hills
Romulus
Schoolcraft College
Southfield
Troy
University of
Michigan-Dearborn
Van Buren Twp.
Walled Lake
Washtenaw County
Wayne
Wayne County
Wayne County Airport
Authority
West Bloomfield Twp.
Westland
Wixom

1. Welcome (Doug Moore, Chair)

a. Roll Call /Determination of Quorum - Roll call was taken. The 30 members listed below were in attendance, which was sufficient for a quorum.

ARC Member	Attended Y/N	ARC Member	Attended Y/N
Auburn Hills	Y	Oakland County	Y
Beverly Hills	Y	Oakland County Road Commission	Y
Bingham Farms	N	Oak Park	Y
Birmingham	Y	Orchard Lake	Y
Bloomfield Hills	N	Plymouth	N
Bloomfield Twp.	Y	Plymouth Twp.	Y
Canton Twp.	N	Redford Twp.	Y
Commerce Twp.	Y	Rochester Hills	Y
Dearborn Heights	N	Romulus	N
Farmington	Y	Schoolcraft College	Y
Farmington Hills	Y	Southfield	Y
Franklin	Y	Troy	Y
Garden City	N	University of Michigan-Dearborn	N
Henry Ford College	N	Van Buren Twp.	N
Inkster	Y	Walled Lake	Y
Lathrup Village	Y	Washtenaw County	Y
Livonia	Y	Wayne	N
Melvindale	N	Wayne County	N
Northville	Y	Wayne County Airport Authority	Y
Northville Twp.	Y	West Bloomfield Twp.	Y
Novi	Y	Westland	Y
		Wixom	Y

Others in attendance were: Erin Cassady - Friends of the Rouge (FOTR), Jack Cotrone, Lishba Varughese, Kathleen Sexton- EGLE, Hassan Sheikh - City of Dearborn, Chris O'Meara, Tennille Newsome, John O'Meara, Emily Levine and Annette DeMaria – ECT, John Buszkiewicz, DNR, Stephanie Petriello, OCWRDC, Erma Leaphart

b. Additions or Changes to the Draft Meeting Agenda

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

c. Approval of August 11, 2022 Meeting Summary

The motion was made by Auburn Hills, to approve the August 11, 2022 Full ARC meeting summary. The motion was seconded by Rochester Hills and passed unanimously.

2. Executive Director Report

a. MS4 Update

Annette DeMaria reported that after the last technical committee meeting, a permit application template provided by EGLE was sent to members and EGLE mentioned there should only be

Cooperating Partners:
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Friends of the Rouge
Great Lakes Water Authority
Rouge River Advisory Council
SEMCOG
Southeastern Oakland
County Water Authority
The Henry Ford

slight modifications to it. The permit applications are due on April 1, 2023 and time is included in the 2023 budget for ARC staff to provide support to communities.

Shawn Keenan asked if it was an abbreviated permit. Annette stated yes and that the reapplication process should be straightforward for most communities. However, certain sections for most communities will need to be updated.

b. GLWA Investigational Sampling Update

Annette DeMaria provided an update on the ARC/GLWA planning effort. The work has been completed and a draft sampling plan and draft budget was completed to sample across the Rouge and the Clinton River Watershed to look for sources of wastewater getting into the rivers. Annette reported after internal discussions with GLWA, that GLWA gave an option of providing the service on a contractual basis to the sanitary sewer districts or to the counties (Macomb, Oakland, Wayne). The counties were more supportive of doing the work on a county or sewer district level than through GLWA so the work can be customized per county with potential lower costs. Oakland and Macomb counties have already budgeted for the work. Annette met with Wayne County and they are supportive of the program for the area that serves the Rouge Valley Sanitary Sewer District - although it needs the approval of the District. Annette mentioned she has started discussions with the communities in western Wayne County who drain to the Western Townships Utility Authority (WTUA) system about their interest in funding. Annette is in the process of drafting a scope of work for Rouge Valley and Evergreen Farmington Sanitary Sewer Districts . to perform this work through the ARC. Hopefully, WTUA will be interested as well. Annette hopes to get IAA's signed and begin work in 2023.

Annette asked if there were any questions. Patrick with Plymouth Township asked if the sampling plan was a requirement as part of the IDEP. Annette stated it was not a requirement, but would prioritize what areas to do investigations in. This approach would be in addition to the collaborative IDEP plan.

c. Grant Status Report

John O'Meara reported there is a grant update document in this meetings packet. John report summarized as follows:

- The ARC has approximately 16 grants and 13 are with EPA. Grant funds with the projects total over \$15,000,000.
- The ARC turned in the grant for the USDA Forest Service – Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River AOC – this is for additional trees and green infrastructure for Rouge communities. Award should be announced next year. Annette reported all trees that communities requested were not included in the grant and that within the grant there was an emphasis on underserved communities. Therefore, if there were communities participating in the grant that are underserved, they were given all trees requested. Annette also stated 5 green infrastructure projects were included.
- EPA reached out to the ARC to gauge interest in applying for a grant under EPA's environmental justice initiative. The ARC is working with WC Parks, City of Inkster, and FOTR on a grant package for community connectivity/park amenities layer associated with the Colonial/Inkster Park Habitat Restoration and Venoy Park Habitat Restoration projects. This will be turned in the first of the year 2023.

d. Call for Projects

Annette reminded the members of the form that is available on the ARC's website. Tennille shared her screen and clicked the call for projects link and navigated to the form. Annette stated the form will guide members on the information needed with instructions for any environmental project that members are interested in getting grant funding for.

Annette discussed an opportunity for communities who are interested in performing stream restorations. The State has recently begun enforcing stream mitigation rules resulting in developers needing to find mitigation sites for stream restoration. Mitigation sites require a conservation easement so eliminates

County drains as potential mitigation sites (because the counties won't want to operate under an easement). The State is referring the developers to the ARC for mitigation sites.

Annette reported a good example is that Schoolcraft College reached out to the ARC four months ago and were looking to improve the stream within their campus. ARC staff came up with conceptual ideas. Approximately a few months after that, the ARC was approached by a developer who needed a stream mitigation project in the Rouge. The ARC then matched the developer with Schoolcraft and the project is now in design. Annette stated it is a great opportunity for communities in the Rouge.

3. Treasurers/Finance Committee Report

a. A/R, A/P and Profit/Loss Reports

Rebecca Runkel reviewed the A/R, A/P and profit/loss reports.

b. 2022 Member Dues

Rebecca Runkel reviewed the 2022 Member Dues that are outstanding.

c. 2021 Single Audit

Rebecca Runkel reported the 2021 Single Audit has been completed there were no instances of non-compliance.

The motion was made by Auburn Hills, to approve the 2021 Single Audit as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Northville Twp and passed unanimously.

d. Ratify E-mail Vote

Rebecca Runkel reported on the following email votes to ratify:

- 9/8/22: 22 yay 0 nay--Revisions to ARC policies and the ARC Accounting Procedures Manual to meet EPA and Office of Management & Budget compliance and become pre-award certified (PAC) until 9/12/26
- 9/26/22: 26 yay 0 nay-2022 Budget Amendment adding \$5,008,595 in grant funds for EPA10 Wilcox/Phoenix Implementation and \$810,000 in grant funds for EPA11 LTU wetland Implementation

The motion was made by Auburn Hills, to approve the ratification email votes of 9/8/22 and 9/26/22. The motion was seconded by Northville Twp and passed unanimously.

e. 2023 Budget Recommendations

Annette DeMaria reviewed the 2023 budget recommendations and spreadsheet showing the request of \$418,944 for 2023. The recommendations are consistent with the 5-year plan and includes TC4 – Permit Reapplication Support.

Annette asked if there were any questions, there were none.

The motion was made by Dearborn Heights, to approve the 2023 Budget Recommendations as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Auburn Hills, and passed unanimously.

f. 2023 ECT and FOTR Work Orders

Annette DeMaria reviewed the two Work Orders for ECT and FOTR. ECT's work order is in the amount of \$157,683 which covers TC4 and IDEP investigations. The Friends of the Rouge work order is for \$12,000 and includes a monitoring event, 1 volunteer work day and 1 rain barrel sale.

The motion was made by Rochester Hills to approve the 2023 ECT and FOTR Work Orders as presented by the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Inkster and passed unanimously.

4. Standing Committee Reports

a. Organization Committee

Chris O'Meara reported that Noel Mullett will be stepping down as Chair of the Organization Committee. Chris thanked Noel Mullett, Wayne County, for his service to the ARC as the Chair of the Organization Committee. Trisha Gabriel with Livonia volunteered to serve as Chair moving forward.

Chris also reported that the ARC Policies and Procedures were updated as part of the ARC's renewal of the EPA's Pre-Award Certification which expires on 9/12/26.

b. PIE Committee

Jacy Garrison reported the following:

- Rouge Friendly Business practices brochure is being drafted and should be out to PIE Committee for review within the next few weeks.
- Once brochure is set an ad graphic, newsletter article and traveling banner will be developed. Chris reported the vision of the new brochure will be geared towards Best Management Practices for businesses (inside, outside and under your building).
- Reminder to send Chris an email once your Rouge watershed road signs have been installed.
- Collaborative PEP and PPP are being drafted for the 2023 permit reapplication with activities starting in 2024. Planned activities were approved by the PIE Committee at the meeting on October 3.
- Remember that ARC brochures and giveaways are always available to order from the ARC website or email Tennille Newsome at tnewsome@ectinc.com.

c. Technical Committee

Karen Mondora reported the following:

- IDEP training was held on October 19 and November 9 at The HAWK Center in Farmington Hills. There will be two modules hosted by SEMCOG. Karen thanked those who participated and sent representatives from their organizations.
- TMDL sampling data collection has been completed; report is in progress.
- An illicit connection in Livonia had been identified and corrected. Additional sampling shows there is still an issue with surfactants. There will be additional work to see if there are additional illicit connections or dumping occurring.
- L1619 in Livonia - there is an investigation ongoing along with planned televising. Much of the storm drain isn't mapped.
- Beverly Hills - there is a location that no source has been identified. There will be excavation to locate a buried manhole and do additional investigating in the area.
- Holbrook Street in Plymouth - investigating a possible connection – the City is helping to televise the nearby sanitary sewer.
- Updates to the Collaborative IDEP Plan for permit reapplication is in process.
- Spreadsheet documenting dye testing status for all community buildings is in the works.

5. Report from Cooperating Partners

Friends of the Rouge

Erin Cassidy for Marie McCormick reported the following:

- Annual Elections for Board Candidates are currently going on.
- Kicked off the Yearend Appeal, \$62,000 was cleared last year.
- FOTR Brand and audit revision (logo, website and color palette) will include some changes. The new website will be live in Fall 2023.
- FOTR will go through their second round of strategic planning in Fall 2023 and their last strategic planning was adopted in 2013. The existing strategic plan is available on their website under Organizational Documents.
- Rouge River Revived panel (Rouge River Revived book) discussion to be held via Zoom on Thursday, November 17th from 7pm-8:30pm and is organized by the U of M Dearborn Environmental Center.
- The Rouge store is open and available for Spring plant and rain barrel sale preorders.

- FOTR received a grant from Sustain our Great Lakes for \$338,000 for tree planting; \$65,000 grant from Community Foundation in Southeast Michigan for cross programmatic outreach and education.
- Wrapping up their last EGLE NPS 319 grant for \$48,000 to support closing out the park rain gardens.
- FOTR is working on 2 collaborative grants with the ARC. 1) EPA AOC Environmental Justice project in Inkster Park and Venoy-Dorsey; 2) USFS Grant for Green Infrastructure coordination
- Staff: 10 full time; 5 part time; 6 independent contractors; Hiring 4 additional team members
- Erin thanked the ARC Executive Committee members for attending the FOTR office presentation and tour.

6. Report from Counties

Oakland County

Jacy Garrison reported the County's Stormwater Summit was held on October 21 at LTU with 160 attendees. Jacy stated the event was recorded and will be available on LTU's YouTube channel and if anyone is interested, she will send the link to Chris O'Meara. A second annual virtual Master Rain Gardener course in February/March of 2023 is being planned in partnership with Washtenaw County and area watershed councils, WCRC and OCWRC. Jacy will send out the information to Chris O'Meara for members to promote. Jacy mentioned that the 18th annual kids clean water calendar contest had over 700 entries with 42 schools. The calendars will be available in December with 5,500 printed. Jacy asked if you would like some calendars to distribute to let her know.

Washtenaw County

Heather Rice reported there will be a panel discussion tomorrow, November 17th 3:30-4:30pm for Community Conversations Flooding in Southeastern Michigan. The information is on the Washtenaw County Water Resources Facebook page, registration is required.

Heather also reported they are partnering with Oakland County for their online Master Rain Gardener program for 2023. The Master Rain Gardener handbook has been updated and is available online with links provided for rain barrels, etc. Information can be found at: www.therouge.org/mrg

7. Report from EGLE

Kathleen Sexton reported the Clean Watershed Needs Survey is a nationwide survey from EPA and are asking communities to submit their capital improvement plans to help determine allocation of funds to help improve water infrastructure. The survey closes February 2023. The link to the survey is: [Clean Watershed Needs Survey \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/cleanwatershed)

Annette DeMaria asked what the duration of the next permit will be. Kathleen stated they are typically on a 5-year permit cycle.

Jack with EGLE reported they are waiting for proposals for their 319 implementation grant. There were no proposals received within the Rouge watershed but would like to see them for next year regarding nonpoint source. Jack also wanted to remind members to be on the lookout for the watershed council grants. The RFP will be expected to be out early next year.

8. Opportunity for Public Comment

There were no public comments.

9. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

10. Summary of Actions of the Full ARC

- The motion was approved for the August 11, 2022 Full ARC meeting summary
- The motion was approved for the 2021 Single Audit as presented by the Finance Committee
- The motion was approved for the ratification of email votes from 9/8/22 and 9/26/22

- The motion was approved for the 2023 Budget recommendations as presented by the Finance Committee
- The motion was approved for the 2023 ECT and FOTR Work Orders as presented by the Finance Committee

11. Adjourn

The motion was made by Auburn Hills, to adjourn the Full ARC meeting. The motion was seconded by Dearborn Heights and passed unanimously.

ARC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2022 Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) Executive Director's Annual Report summarizes the activities conducted by the ARC from January 1, 2022, to December 31, 2022, including products and outcomes from routine administration and meetings of the ARC and all its committees. It also includes results from ARC Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP) activities and public education activities, including workshops and developed products.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVICES

ARC MEETINGS AND ADMINISTRATION

FULL ALLIANCE MEETINGS

ARC Staff supported three (3) Full ARC meetings including preparation of the agenda (under the direction of the Chair), distribution of the materials prior to meetings, facilitation of the meetings (including notetaking and tallying of votes at the meeting), preparation of E-votes, and preparation/distribution of meeting summaries to members and other interested parties.

[Full ARC meeting summaries](#) can be found on the ARC's website.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee discusses and approves items in advance of full ARC meetings including development and amendments to budgets and contracts. ARC Staff supported three (3) Executive Committee meetings including (under the direction of the ARC Officers) preparation of the agenda, distribution of the materials prior to the meetings, preparation of E-votes, facilitation of the meetings (including note-taking and documenting recommendations considered and actions taken), and meeting summary preparation and distribution. This subtask also included ongoing support services for the committee outside of the regular meetings.

[ARC Executive Committee meeting summaries](#) can be found on the ARC's website.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance Committee, supported by ARC Staff, developed and administered the annual budget and work plan. ARC Staff prepared monthly financial reports, budget amendments, mailed dues invoices to members, collected dues, submitted grant reimbursement requests and paid the ARC's bills. ARC Staff facilitated two (2) Finance Committee meetings on March 18, 2022, and October 25, 2022, and prepared the agenda, distributed materials regarding budget amendments and the annual budget recommendations for review prior to the November Executive Committee meeting.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

ARC Staff provided administrative oversight of the ARC day-to-day activities by staff, consultants, contractors, and external relationships with other agencies, organizations, and individuals to meet the goals of the ARC.

2022 Activities included:

- 💧 The 2021 ARC annual report was completed and submitted to the ARC in March 2022.

- ◆ The ARC was awarded federal grants in 2022 and because the total amount of the award was more than \$200,000, the EPA was required under EPA Order 5700.8 to review the ARC's systems for controlling and managing federal funds. This review was an assessment of the ARC's administrative and financial systems' ability to manage our awards in accordance with Federal Regulations, Uniform Grants Guidance, EPA guidelines and OMB Circulars. In September 2022, to ensure adherence to 2 CFR 200 guidelines, the ARC was officially pre award certified (PAC) as of 9/13/22 with an expiration date of 9/12/26. ARC Staff updated or created the below listed policies and procedures to receive the PAC:
 - Accounting procedures
 - Conflict of interest policy
 - Personnel policy
 - Timekeeping policy
 - Procurement policy
 - Property management policy
 - Record retention policy
 - Travel policy

FINANCIAL SERVICES

ARC Staff provided accounting services in accordance with the ARC's Accounting Procedures Manual including processing of payables and receivables.

2022 Activities included:

- ◆ ARC Staff attended the following EPA webinars: April 28, 2022 – EPA Grants Competition Process, May 5, 2022 – EPA Grants Developing a Budget, May 10, 2022 – EPA Grants Financial Management, and September 22 – EPA Grants Complying with EPA Assistance Agreements.
- ◆ ARC Staff provided monthly reports for the ARC Treasurer and ARC members from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.
- ◆ ARC Staff provided necessary staff to meet the separation of financial duties and responsibilities documented in the ARC's Accounting Procedures Manual so that no Executive Director Staff member has sole control over cash receipts, bank reconciliations, accounts payable, mail or other accounting functions.
- ◆ ARC Staff maintained separate general ledger accounts as required by funding source regulations.
- ◆ ARC Staff maintained financial records and files as required by the ARC Accounting Procedures Manual including grants and vendor contracts.
- ◆ ARC Staff submitted all required information for grant reimbursement requests and grant reporting.
- ◆ ARC Staff assisted and provided information for the 2021 Single Audit, financial statement and taxes.
- ◆ ARC Staff worked with both the Finance and Executive Committee to develop the 2023 ARC Budgeting Package which included a 2% increase in dues along with an adjustment from the finalized 2020 Census.
- ◆ ARC Staff prepared monthly financial reports, mailed dues invoices to members, collected dues, submitted various grant reimbursement requests and paid the ARC's bills.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCATE

ARC Staff promoted the ARC as the advocate for the Rouge River Watershed, served as the primary spokesperson for the ARC, responded to requests for information and sought opportunities to promote ARC awareness. ARC Staff served as the ARC primary liaison to the general public, all members, including both formal and informal interaction with government officials, legislators and staff on a regular basis.

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

2022 Activities included:

- ◆ ARC Staff provided project information for EPA's website on various ARC restoration projects.
- ◆ ARC Staff received a call regarding setting up a tour and press event for the Michigan Attorney General for August 15, 2022. The event did not happen, but ARC Staff actively prepared for it working with ARC members until it was cancelled by the Attorney General's Office.
- ◆ ARC Staff forwarded a request from EGLE to ARC member communities to complete a survey through the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS), hosted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which helps determine resources needed to improve wastewater, storm water, decentralized, and nonpoint source systems.
- ◆ ARC Staff organized a presentation by EGLE on the Clean Water Plan Wastewater Fund.
- ◆ ARC Staff attended the AOC Conference on May 24-26, 2022.
- ◆ ARC staff organized and provided EPA and EGLE staff a tour of EPA funded ARC projects July 27-28, 2022.
- ◆ ARC staff attended the Michigan Natural Resources Commission meeting August 11, 2022



EPA/EGLE tour of restoration projects

STATEWIDE PUBLIC ADVISORY COUNCIL (SPAC)

- ◆ ARC Staff attended SPAC meetings on January 20, 2022, June 14, 2022, and October 11-12, 2022.
- ◆ ARC Staff attended SPAC Habitat Subcommittee meetings on March 9, 2022, May 23, 2022, and October 3, 2022.
- ◆ ARC Staff promoted and attended the April 26, 2022, all PAC meeting Michigan's Areas of Concern Program: Past, Present, and Future.
- ◆ ARC Staff supported RRAC at their 2022 meetings including January 11, 2022, May 9, 2022, July 21, 2022, and October 18, 2022.

ORGANIZATION PARTICIPATION

2022 Activities included:

- ◆ ARC Staff participated in the One Water Public Education Campaign that is being led by SEMCOG. The campaign provides a regional public education strategy, led by local stakeholders, that provides common water resource messaging in southeast Michigan focused on stormwater, wastewater and drinking water. The messaging encourages water resource stewardship, encourages adoption of best management practices, and supports long-term investment in infrastructure.
- ◆ ARC Staff participated in the GLWA Watershed Hub work group and full group meetings to advance water quality monitoring in the region. The ED gave several presentations on the proposed investigational sampling framework and anticipated costs.
- ◆ ARC Staff continued to participate in the Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water work group.
- ◆ The ARC received the following awards for their restoration projects: American Public Works Association (APWA) MI Chapter 2022 Environmental Project of the Year award for Tamarack



APWA Tamarack Creek project award

Creek Restoration; Detroit Metro Chapter of AWP 2022 Environmental Project of the Year for Tamarack Creek Restoration; Michigan Recreation & Park Association 2021-2022 Landscape Design Award for the Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Project.

- ◆ The ARC received a Certificate of Excellence for the exemplary performance and valuable contributions that the ARC has made to the preservation, restoration and stewardship of Michigan's natural environments and wildlife from the Michigan Natural Resources Commission.
- ◆ The ARC received the Michigan Award in 2022 from Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. for the ARC's Tamarack Creek Restoration project.
- ◆ ARC Staff collaborated with consultants from the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds to share best practices for permit compliance and to discuss opportunities for collaboration of some activities to reduce costs to both organizations.
- ◆ ARC Staff promoted the Friends of the Rouge Winter Stonefly Search (1/22/22), Spring Bug Hunt (4/23/22) and Fall Bug Hunt (10/15/22) on the ARC website and Facebook.
- ◆ ARC Staff promoted and attended the State of the Strait Conference May 11, 2022, to ARC member communities.

MEMBER AND GENERAL PUBLIC REQUESTS

2022 Activities included:

- ◆ ARC Staff participated in WXYZ coverage of the ARC's GLRI funded Lower Rouge River Habitat Restoration project which included an interview with John O'Meara, ARC Restoration Manager on May 9, 2022.
- ◆ ARC Staff provided project information for a June 29, 2022, article on the Tamarack Creek Restoration Project published in C&G *Newspapers*.
- ◆ ARC Staff provided project information for the July 14, 2022, Detroit Free Press article "A small, troubled, Henry Ford-created lake in Wayne County is getting a makeover."
- ◆ ARC Staff responded to an email from a Plymouth Twp. resident regarding potential projects for their Master Plan process. ARC staff responded and copied the member community's representatives.
- ◆ The ARC did not receive any FOIA requests from January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.
- ◆ ARC Staff forwarded various emails from residents to community representatives for follow-up.
- ◆ ARC Staff promoted Friends of the Rouge volunteer and monitoring activities and Rouge Rescue events on the ARC website and Facebook.
- ◆ ARC Staff promoted Oakland County's Regional Stormwater Summit that was held on October 21, 2022, at Lawrence Tech.
- ◆ ARC Staff promoted Oakland County's 18th annual Kids' Clean Water Calendar Contest.
- ◆ ARC Staff promoted the Rouge River Water Festival held at the Cranbrook Institute of Science.



ARC Staff interviewed as part of WXYZ coverage of the ARC's GLRI Lower Rouge habitat restoration project

PURSUIING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

The Executive Director staff applied for the following grants in 2022 on behalf of the ARC:

- ◆ EPA Environmental Justice - Rouge River AOC Environmental Justice was submitted by ARC Staff. At the request of EPA in January 2023, the request was broken up into 5 applications with the first 2 resubmitted in January 2023. Those 2 submissions were Rouge River AOC Environmental Justice – Inkster Park 1 (\$5,685,000) and Inkster Park 2 (\$5,250,000) (award pending).

- ◆ EGLE AOC GLRI Grant - ARC Rouge River Area of Concern PAC Support (awarded 2/27/23 to the ARC \$154,500)
- ◆ USDA Forest Service GLRI Forest Restoration grant – Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River AOC (\$299,250 award pending)
- ◆ ARC Staff developed grant and support information for a USEPA Direct Funding for Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration LTU wetland habitat implementation. (awarded to the ARC \$810,000).
- ◆ ARC Staff developed grant and support information for a USEPA Direct Funding for Rouge River AOC habitat restoration Wilcox/Phoenix implementation. (awarded to the ARC \$5,008,595).

Additional grant activities include:

- ◆ ARC Staff provided support information for a NOAA Partnership application that was submitted by the Friends of the Detroit River.
- ◆ ARC Staff encouraged the members to submit project ideas that can potentially be used as stream mitigation sites by developers. Through this program, Schoolcraft College can restore a portion of the Bell Branch in Livonia in cooperation with a developer.
- ◆ ARC Staff prepared various letters of support for partners applying for grants.
- ◆ ARC Staff updated information to maintain the ARC's status in the Federal government's System for Award Management (SAM), Grants.gov and with the DUNS number. These are required to be current and renewed annually to apply for federal grants.
- ◆ ARC Staff researched and surveyed ARC Members seeking their input in determining the scope of the ARC's application for various grant applications throughout 2022.
- ◆ ARC Staff prepared a letter to GLWA in support of the Southeast Michigan Regional Monitoring Program. ARC staff worked with regional partners (GLWA, Counties, DWSD and SEMCOG) to develop a regional monitoring plan and budget to identify storm drains being impacted by unknown sources of sewage. The plan has received widespread support from the counties (Macomb, Oakland, Wayne) and the sanitary sewer districts in the Clinton and Rouge River watersheds.

ARC Staff reviewed the following grants and either assisted an ARC Member in preparing it, forwarded them to individual communities to consider applying for or recommended that the ARC not apply:

- ◆ ARC Staff reviewed the MDNR Michigan Spark Grant and forwarded the funding opportunity to ARC member communities.
- ◆ ARC Staff attended the informational webinar on January 25, 2022, for the Sustain our Great Lakes grant opportunity. The ARC did not submit an application.
- ◆ ARC Staff attended the informational webinar on August 4, 2022, for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund 2022-2023 grant opportunity. The ARC did not submit an application.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING FACILITATION

Staff support was provided for two (2) Technical Committee meetings on February 18, 2022, and October 3, 2022. Topics in February included IDEP findings, investigation priorities from communities, progress report information, and an update on Post Construction Standards acceptance. In addition, the work plans for IDEP investigations conducted by [ECT](#) and [Wayne County](#) were approved by the Technical Committee. Topics in October included information about what to expect from an EGLE audit,

collaborative plan updates, work plan recommendations for 2023, and the tool that SEMCOG is developing for tracking Post Construction reporting metrics.

IDEP FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

Consistent with the Rouge River Collaborative IDEP Plan, illicit discharge investigations were conducted in Oakland and Wayne counties.

IDEP FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

ARC Staff conducted investigations for Oakland County in the city of Beverly Hills and assisted Wayne County with investigations in Livonia and Inkster. The written findings of each investigation were provided to each community and summarized in the [2022 IDEP Investigation Summary](#).

Wayne County Department of Public Services, Environmental Services Division (ESD) conducted advanced investigations in the cities of Plymouth and Livonia and are detailed in the [2022 Wayne County IDEP Services Report](#).

TMDL DATA COLLECTION

ARC staff conducted sampling in accordance with the ARC's Collaborative Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plan requirements. This included completing DO monitoring in Johnson Creek for two months, screening 83 outfalls for E. coli, and sampling 28 instream sites for suspended sediment. More information about this can be found in the 2022 Rouge River Water Quality Assessment Report.

IDEP TRAINING

ARC Staff promoted and assisted SEMCOG with four training courses. The IDEP Alert Observer training held on October 18, 2022, was attended by 45 people in person and 120 people via Zoom. The IDEP Investigator training held on October 18, 2022, was attended by 25 people. The IDEP Alert Observer training held November 10, 2022 was attended by 20 people in person and 30 people via Zoom. The IDEP Investigator training held on November 10 was attended by 25 people. ARC Staff also updated the Investigator training slide presentation and presented at the SEMCOG training.

MS4 PERMIT

2022 Activities include:

- ◆ ARC Staff shared Oakland County's Phase II MS4 Biennial Stormwater Progress Report "Summary for Community Use" with ARC members.
- ◆ In March 2022, ARC Staff prepared for the member communities the 2020-2021 Collaborative IDEP Progress Report and the 2020-2021 Collaborative PPP/PEP Progress Report for use in their permit reporting.
- ◆ ARC Staff provided guidance for completing and submitting Progress Reports and ARC Staff developed a template for the EGLE MS4 Progress Report for member communities to use.
- ◆ ARC Staff contacted EGLE regarding extending the Collaborative PPP and PEP plans through the end of the current permit cycle. The extension was approved and instead of ending 9/30/22 they are extended until 10/1/23.
- ◆ ARC Staff informed member communities on the Notice of Class Action Lawsuit-Monsanto Company. Several large west coast communities filed a class action lawsuit against Monsanto Company for manufacturing PCBs which resulted in impairments to the environment. The class

action group includes all Phase I and II MS4 entities (CVT, counties, etc.) that have PCB-impaired waters. The Rouge has PCB impairments; therefore ARC members are part of the class action.

- ◆ ARC Staff shared an online tool developed by SEMCOG to help track the Post Construction Stormwater Mgt metrics required by EGLE for your stormwater permit. The tool will be helpful in future permit negotiations with EGLE.
- ◆ ARC Staff held a joint Tech/PIE meeting to review the draft 2024 MS4 Reapplication Collaborative Plans on October 3, 2022.
- ◆ ARC Staff communicated with EGLE throughout the year on member community permits.
- ◆ ARC Staff supported communities during EGLE permit audits.
- ◆ ARC staff compiled Stormwater Management Plans for several communities and posted them to the ARC's website to meet the public notice requirement of the PPP.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & EDUCATION (PIE) COMMITTEE

MEETING FACILITATION

Staff support was provided for one (1) PIE Committee meeting on October 3, 2022. Topics included updating the Collaborative PPP and PEP for the next permit cycle beginning in 2024. ARC Staff supported the PIE Committee with regular email communications regarding PIE activities including scope and budget changes and review of new public education materials and messages.

PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS

ARC Staff made various public education materials available to ARC members through the ARC website during 2022. Several items were restocked in 2022 including pet waste containers, fertilizer clips and various printed materials. ARC Staff surveyed ARC Members prior to creating new public education items to determine the topic. New items in 2022 included a brochure, display banner, social media graphic and newsletter article which focused on Best Management Practices for Businesses in the Rouge River watershed. More than 7,000 items were distributed to member communities and at various community events and workshops. Distribution details are included in the [PIE Materials Distribution Report](#). Listed below are descriptions of the public education items and any specific activities in 2022.

When it Comes to Chemicals – Change is a Good Thing!

This tri-fold brochure focuses on changing chemical use to help protect water quality in the Rouge River. It provides information on changing to a chemical alternative, changing how you use chemicals and changing how you dispose of chemicals. The brochure also provides valuable links to southeast Michigan County's HHW collection events. A total of 230 copies were sent filling requests in 2022.

Watershed Wisdom for Homeowners – Healthy Habits for Clean Water Brochure

The Watershed Wisdom for Homeowners brochure educates the public about healthy habits for clean water. The brochure has been distributed to members, realtors and homeowners' associations within the Rouge River watershed. A total of 400 copies were sent filling requests in 2022.

Protect Water Quality All Season Long! Posters

ARC members posted these in support of their permit requirements in facilities, libraries or other buildings that the general public frequent. Posters are also distributed to the general public at community events. A total of 24 copies were sent filling requests in 2022.

Have a Business in the Rouge River Watershed?

ARC staff created a new brochure in 2022 for Business Owners which educates business owners that are in the Rouge River watershed on best management practices that can be incorporated to protect water quality inside, outside and under their business. The brochure was created in 2022 with distribution beginning in January 2023.

ARC Public Education Brochure

This flyer is used to educate the public about the ARC and its activities.

ARC Member Brochure

The ARC Member Brochure was distributed to ARC member communities with their membership invoices. The brochure describes the ARC, member benefits, projects and committees. It is also distributed to other interested communities and organizations wanting to learn about the ARC.

Waterfront Wisdom Brochure

A booklet for riparian homeowners in the Rouge River Watershed. The publication was originally published by the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office Environmental Team.

Detention Pond Maintenance Manuals

A guidebook for private owners in southeast Michigan to educate them on the maintenance of detention ponds.

Black-Eyed Susan Seeds and Tip Card

Black-eyed Susan seed packets are distributed to the general public along with a tip card which educates them on the benefits of native plants.

Value of Trees

The Value of Trees tip card educates the general public on the benefits of planting native trees.

Protect the Rouge River at Home – Dispose of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Properly

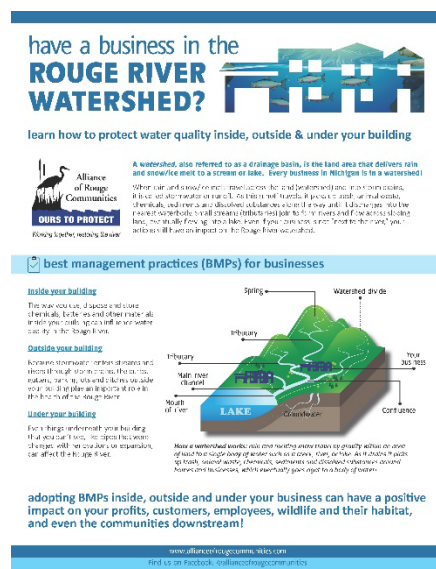
The FOG brochure educates the public on the proper disposal of fats, oils and grease in the house. Brochures were also distributed at member public events, the Great Lakes Restoration event and also as part of seedling giveaways at additional events.

Additional Rouge Grant and SEMCOG Printed Pieces

The ARC has a limited supply of SEMCOG printed material and continues to distribute those when requested.

Bookmarks

The bookmarks publicize the ARC and promote Rouge Friendly tips to the public.

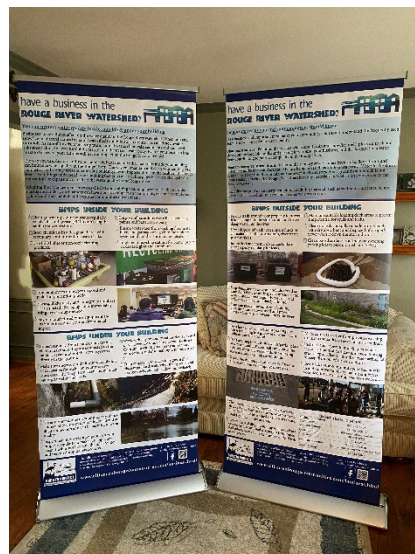


New business BMP brochure

ARC BANNERS

As part of the Collaborative PEP the ARC committed to creating static display banners throughout the permit cycle. Below are the banners that have been previously created and continue to be rotated throughout the watershed (see [Banner Report](#)) where ARC member communities sign up to host the banners at one of their facilities for 2 weeks at a time.

- ◆ *ARC General Banners* (3 sets) - focuses on the connection of the MS4 to area waterbodies and the potential impacts discharges could have; the importance of pollution prevention and watershed restoration and stewardship; reporting illicit discharges; promoting proper disposal practices; identify and promote facilities for collection or disposal of household hazardous wastes; septic system maintenance; proper application and disposal of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; proper disposal practices for grass clippings, leaf litter and animal; benefits of green infrastructure; and methods for managing riparian lands to protect water quality.
- ◆ *Chemicals – Change is a Good Thing* - focuses on changing to a chemical alternative, changing how you use chemicals and changing how you dispose of chemicals. It also provides links to southeast Michigan County's HHW collection events.



Banners created in 2022 for businesses in the Rouge River watershed.

2022 Activities included:

- ◆ ARC staff created a new set of banners in fall, 2022, which educates business owners that are in the Rouge River watershed on best management practices that can be incorporated to protect water quality inside, outside and under their business. These banners will be available for reservations to ARC member communities starting in 2023.

COMMUNITY ARTICLE /AD GRAPHIC

ARC Staff have created articles that ARC members can use in their community newsletters or magazines along with an ad graphic on the same topic that can be used on websites and social media. Previously created articles and ad graphics have been posted to the ARC's website and Facebook account. The previously created articles/ad graphic topics include:

- ◆ *Brine Instead of Rock Salt to Protect Water Quality!*
- ◆ *What Is a Watershed & What Does It Have to Do with Me?*
- ◆ *When it comes to household chemicals – change is a good thing!*
- ◆ *Let's all dispose of fats, oils & grease (FOG) properly.*

2022 Activities included:

- ◆ ARC staff created a new article and ad graphic in 2022 titled [Business Owners – protect water quality inside, outside & under your building!](#)



Ad graphic created in 2022 for businesses in the Rouge River watershed.

GIVEAWAYS

Pet Waste Containers

Pet waste containers promote clean water with the message “*In the Bag, Not the River*”. The ARC restocked these in 2022 through our partnership with the One Water Campaign.

Fertilizer Clips

Fertilizer clips with the ARC logo and the phrase: “Fertilize Sparingly and Caringly.” These were restocked in 2022 with an order of 5,000 additional clips.

Jar Opener

The message on the jar opener includes “If you live here (state of Michigan), you live in a watershed” and lists several activities that the public can do to help protect water quality in the Rouge River. 5,000 jar openers were ordered and 100 of each were distributed to ARC members for giveaways in their facilities that the public visit in 2022.

Community Vehicle Magnets

A vehicle magnet was designed with the message “If you live here (state of Michigan), you live in a watershed” to help educate people that we all live in a watershed. After surveying ARC members, a limited number of communities allow magnets on their vehicles, however there was enough interest to order 500 of them with 60 distributed in 2022.

ARC WEBSITE & SOCIAL MEDIA

ARC Staff continued adding additional information and content to the ARC’s website at www.allianceofrougecommunities.com, providing more information for the general public on what they can do to help protect water quality and promotes the ARC’s restoration activities in the watershed. The website continues to provide ARC members valuable information to assist with meeting their stormwater permits while providing educational information on the Rouge River Watershed. In 2022 ARC Staff focused on developing individual pages for each of the ARC’s grant-funded restoration projects. The ARC website was moved from one hosting company to another in 2022 so unfortunately the visitor statistics are either not available or incomplete and will not be reported this year. It is assumed that with the addition of many new pages there was an increase in visitors in 2022 from the 3,679 visitors in 2021.



Dedicated website pages for ARC restoration projects

ARC Staff initiated a [Facebook account](#) for the ARC at the beginning of 2016. Facebook posts included educational messages and photos to educate the public on ways to protect the Rouge River along with promoting ARC and partner events and volunteer opportunities. ARC Staff added 57 posts to the ARC Facebook and encouraged ARC member communities to Like and Share the ARC’s posts. The ARC’s Facebook account had 317 followers and 266 total page likes with a page reach of 18,447 at the end of 2022. ARC Staff also respond to public comments and questions received on the ARC Facebook account or forwarded them to ARC member representatives when necessary.

Details on the traffic and posts on the ARC's website and Facebook can be found in the [Electronic Media Report](#).

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

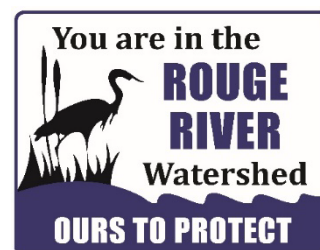
The 2022 PIE outreach activities including workshops, workdays and presentations and promoting various Friends of the Rouge events. The detailed report is provided in the [Promoted & Hosted Workshop-Volunteer Report](#). The ARC also promoted Cooperating Partners events including Friends of the Rouge.

Additional 2022 Activities included:

- ◆ Upon request, ARC Staff provided a presentation to the Kiwanis Club of Colonial Plymouth on July 14, 2022, on water quality stewardship.
- ◆ ARC Staff coordinated the locations for FOTR rain barrel sales in Southfield and Livonia in 2022.
- ◆ The ARC conducted a water quality survey in 2022 and received more than 3,600 responses. The survey compared the public's opinion on the water quality changes in the Rouge River which will help determine our future public education activities.
- ◆ The ARC received a request from the Huron River Watershed Council to share its process in preparing the water quality survey in preparation of producing their own survey.
- ◆ ARC Staff mailed ARC brochures at the request of a resident of Farmington Hills.

WATERSHED SIGNAGE

In 2022 ARC Staff worked with the ARC communities, the Road Commission for Oakland County and outside vendors to design, fabricate, distribute, and install 144 of the Rouge Ours to Protect watershed signs. ARC Staff got quotes for fabrication of the signs. ARC Staff surveyed member communities on their ability to install the signs with their own staff and whether they needed posts for the signs to minimize costs of installation. ARC Staff worked with both Oakland and Wayne County to get permits to cover all communities. Both Oakland and Wayne Counties provided in-kind services for the permitting process. ARC Staff mapped and marked all sign locations at each site. For those communities that did not have staff to install the signs either the Road Commission of Oakland County or an outside vendor installed their signs. ARC staff delivered all signs/posts to each community or provided to the outside installers. ARC Members have until spring 2023 to install their signs. All signs installed by outside vendors have been completed.



Watershed sign



Sign installation location marked with pink paint and flag



New watershed sign installed in Canton

ARC GRANT PROJECTS STATUS – March 2023

ARC CURRENT GRANTS

EGLE PAC Support Grant 2023-2025

- Received EGLE grant contract and returned for execution from State.
- FOTR will start monitoring efforts.
- PAC meeting to be held in April.

EPA Wayne County Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage

- Partial opening of the fishway was done in August. Full opening will occur in late July 2023.
- Pedestrian barriers will be in place at the maintenance bridge through this August.
- Contractor will begin vegetation maintenance for season in April.

Nankin Lake Restoration

- Sediment removal from the site is complete.
- In lake structural habitats have been installed (boulder clusters, aggregate spawning areas, etc.)
- Bank stabilization has been installed.
- East parking staging area site restoration has begun.
- Additional seeding is being placed this spring along with trees.
- Full Site restoration to be completed late spring 2023.

EPA Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery and Tamarack Creek Restoration Implementation

Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Restoration

- Contractor will install aquatic and replacement plants this spring
- Vegetation maintenance will occur over this growing season.

Tamarack Creek Restoration

- Contractor will install aquatic and replacement plants this spring.
- Vegetation maintenance will occur over this growing season.
- Contractor will perform invasive species follow ups this spring.
- Contractor will install required fencing early summer.

EPA Seeley Creek Habitat Restoration

- Bidding and contract award was completed this winter.
- Contractor has initiated site work with the intent of main site activities being completed early summer.

EPA Colonial & Venoy Restoration

Colonial Restoration

- All main work has been completed and contractor has punch list items to correct late spring.
- Vegetation maintenance will be conducted in 2023.

Venoy Restoration

- All main work has been completed and contractor has punch list items to correct late spring.
- Vegetation maintenance will be conducted in 2023.

EPA Wayne County Parkland Implementation

- ARC turned in and EPA is processing, a EPA Grant budget amendment request based on the bids/contracts for the Sherwood, Lower Rouge, Bell, and Lola projects. This will also request a time extension to complete the start and complete the Riverview project.

Sherwood Restoration

- Construction has been completed, with exception of punch list items to be worked on late spring.
- Vegetation maintenance will be completed in 2023.

Bell Restoration

- All grading, structural work and seeding was completed last fall. Punch list items to be completed late spring 2023.
- Site plantings to be done in Spring 2023.
- Vegetation maintenance will be completed in 2023.

Lola Restoration

- All grading, structural work and seeding was completed last fall. Punch list items to be completed late spring 2023.
- Site plantings to be done in Spring 2023.
- Vegetation maintenance will be completed in 2023.

Lower Rouge

- Log Jam removals complete
- Reforestation installation work to be completed in April 2023.
- Follow up reforestation inspections/maintenance this fall.

Riverview Restoration

- Anticipation of construction bidding April 2023.
- Contractor on under contract in mid-June 2023.
- Main site heavy construction anticipated to be done this year with vegetation follow up in early 2024.

EPA LTU Wetland Habitat Restoration Design and New Implementation Grant

- EGLE permit application received.
- Construction bids received March 2023.
- Contractor on under contract in May 2023 with construction beginning late spring 2023

EPA Wilcox/Inkster/Phoenix Restoration Design & New Wilcox/Phoenix Implementation

Wilcox Lake Restoration

- Design and technical specifications are at 100%
- EGLE permit application to be submitted in October and public noticed in March 2023.
- EPA Implementation grant received by ARC.
- Construction bid documents to be completed March 2023 with bidding in April 2023.
- Contractor on under contract in mid-June 2023 with construction starting shortly thereafter.

Phoenix Lake Restoration

- Design and technical specifications are at 100%
- EGLE permit application to be submitted in October and public noticed in March 2023.
- EPA Implementation grant received by ARC.
- Construction bid documents to be completed March 2023 with bidding in April 2023.
- Contractor on under contract in mid-June 2023 with construction starting shortly thereafter.

Inkster Restoration

- Design is at 50%
- EGLE permit application to be submitted in summer 2023.
- EPA grant application for Implementation anticipated late summer/early fall 2023.

USDA Forest Service – Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River AOC

- Extension granted by USDA
- Forest Service planning to tour sites on March 30, 2023
- Communities in process of acquiring trees for planting
- Some communities decided not to plant so redistribution of some trees to others
- Green Infrastructure design and implementation underway

Regional Investigational Monitoring Work Plan for Southeast Michigan

- Complete.

ARC GRANT APPLICATIONS

USDA Forest Service – Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River AOC. ARC turned in a new grant application for additional trees and green infrastructure for Rouge communities in November 2022. Award notification should be any day.

EPA Environmental Justice Underserved Communities – ARC working with WC Parks, City of Inkster, and FOTR submitted 3 grant packages (approximately \$17 million) for community connectivity/park amenities layer associated with the Colonial/Inkster Park Habitat Restoration and Venoy Park Habitat Restoration projects. EPA is expected to let the ARC know about status by April 2023.

NFWF Sustain Our Great Lakes - Rouge River AOC – WC Parkland Habitat Restoration Protection.

ARC turned in a new grant pre-proposal for invasive species work at former GLRI funded habitat restoration sites in Wayne County Parks. The ARC was not selected to submit a full proposal.



*Celebrating
Our Accomplishments*

*Celebrating
The Future in Southeast Michigan*

***September 22, 2023, 8 a.m.-noon
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, MI***

The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) is excited to host the fourth summit, similar to the events in 2013, 2016 and 2019, celebrating the restoration accomplishments that have occurred in southeast Michigan's river systems over the past several years. U. S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (invited) and Gary Peters (invited) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (invited) will speak on the importance of continuing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding into the future. This event is being held at The Henry Ford (THF), one of the country's leading historical museums and a project partner in restoration on the Rouge River. Southeast Michigan is home to 6 Areas of Concern (AOCs); the Rouge River, the Detroit River, the Clinton River, the River Raisin, the Saginaw River and the St. Clair River. Although not an AOC, the Huron River and Kawkawlin River are other major river systems in the area. Finally, connected to southeast Michigan through Lake Erie and also an AOC, is Ohio's Maumee River.

Each of the areas will display some of their successful restoration efforts emphasizing some of the larger-scale, GLRI-funded (EPA, NOAA, USDA-FS, etc.) projects that have recently been completed. Participants will be given a chance to walk around and see, in detail, all the different types of restoration that have been accomplished. In addition, participants will have a chance to engage with and learn from those individuals working on the projects.

Each of the river systems will participate in a virtual tour hosted by Teresa Seidel (invited), Director, Water Resources Division, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). This has been a great success at previous summits and allows those attending to tour all the exciting projects in southeast Michigan without leaving their seat!

The keynote speaker is yet to be determined, but the anticipated topic will be environmental justice.

Representatives of the two main funding arms U. S. EPA and NOAA will provide an overview of where we are globally and locally in restoration efforts in their minds and what they see on the horizon.

The State of Michigan will provide a summary of the state's involvements and their next objectives.

The audience for this event will be the officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and public citizens that have led the efforts for restoration in the region. To be invited: EPA project managers, NOAA and USDA-FS project managers, congressional members, state officials, local officials, NGOs, and the press.



www.allianceofrougecommunities.com

11:39 AM

03/29/23

Alliance of Rouge Communities
A/R Aging Summary
 As of March 29, 2023

	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	> 90	TOTAL
Bloomfield Township	0.00	0.00	20,980.00	0.00	0.00	20,980.00
EPA-ASAP	57,088.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	57,088.27
Livonia	0.00	0.00	36,504.00	0.00	0.00	36,504.00
MDEQ SAW Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Northville Township	0.00	0.00	14,000.00	0.00	0.00	14,000.00
Redford Township	0.00	0.00	15,189.00	0.00	0.00	15,189.00
USDA Forest Service	18,000.00	0.00	663.94	0.00	0.00	18,663.94
Wayne County Airport Authority	0.00	0.00	3,002.00	0.00	0.00	3,002.00
Wayne County DOE	470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	470.00
Wayne County Parks	0.00	0.00	0.00	109,550.22	0.00	109,550.22
TOTAL	75,558.27	0.00	90,338.94	109,550.22	0.00	275,447.43

11:40 AM

03/29/23

Alliance of Rouge Communities
A/P Aging Summary
As of March 29, 2023

	<u>Current</u>	<u>1 - 30</u>	<u>31 - 60</u>	<u>61 - 90</u>	<u>> 90</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
City of Bloomfield Hills	0.00	4,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,500.00
city of Novi	0.00	5,250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,250.00
Environmental Consulting & Technology, In	57,208.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	57,208.27
TOTAL	<u>57,208.27</u>	<u>9,750.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>66,958.27</u>

11:41 AM

03/29/23

Accrual Basis

Alliance of Rouge Communities

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense		
Income		
47200 · Program Income		
4794 · 2023 ARC Membership Dues	180,079.00	350,412.00
Total 47200 · Program Income	180,079.00	350,412.00
48000 · Grants		
48610 · GLC Grants	0.00	51,500.00
60665 · WC EPA1 HFE Fishway	470.00	50,000.00
60667.1 · EPA4-Implement Tam/Johnson Crk	20,012.12	587,000.00
60667.2 · EPA5-Seeley Creek Hab Res	3,669.90	600,000.00
60667.5 · EPA7-WC 5 Parks Implementation		
6067.1 · EPA7A - Lower Implementation	200.00	
6067.2 · EPA7B - Sherwood Implementation	1,046.91	
6067.3 · EPA7C - Bell Implementation	11,579.34	
6067.4 · EPA7D - Lola Implementation	12,399.00	
6067.5 · EPA7E - Riverview Implementatio	630.00	
60667.5 · EPA7-WC 5 Parks Implementation - Other	0.00	2,237,250.00
Total 60667.5 · EPA7-WC 5 Parks Implementation	25,855.25	2,237,250.00
60667.6 · EPA6 Colonial and Venoy		
60667.3 · EPA6A-RR AOC Venoy	1,472.50	300,000.00
60667.4 · EPA6B-RR AOC Colonial	1,183.75	300,000.00
60667.6 · EPA6 Colonial and Venoy - Other	0.00	0.00
Total 60667.6 · EPA6 Colonial and Venoy	2,656.25	600,000.00
60670 · FS4 20-22 Reduce Runoff	18,000.00	197,402.00
60672 · EPA9 - Wil/Pho/Ink Design		
60672.1 · EPA9A - Wilcox Design	22,729.60	47,333.34
60672.2 · EPA9B - Phoenix Design	7,734.48	47,333.33
60672.3 · EPA9C - Inkster Design	2,521.25	47,333.33
60672 · EPA9 - Wil/Pho/Ink Design - Other	0.00	0.00
Total 60672 · EPA9 - Wil/Pho/Ink Design	32,985.33	142,000.00
60674 · EPA10-Wil/Pho Implementation		
60674.1 · EPA10A - Wilcox Implementation	3,860.00	1,616,740.14
60674.2 · EPA10B - Phoenix Implementation	0.00	2,740,737.51
60674 · EPA10-Wil/Pho Implementation - Other	0.00	0.00
Total 60674 · EPA10-Wil/Pho Implementation	3,860.00	4,357,477.65
60675 · EPA11-LTU Implementaion	18,965.38	650,000.00
60676 · SPAC12 - RRAC Facilitation	0.00	51,500.00
Total 48000 · Grants	126,474.23	9,524,129.65
Total Income	306,553.23	9,874,541.65
Expense		
60400 · ARC Awards and Grants		
60410 · Executive Director Services		
60410.2 · 101 Program Support	7,455.60	62,000.00
60410.3 · 102 MGT Admin & Financial	7,243.75	60,901.00
60410.4 · 103 Funding - grants	5,390.00	10,000.00
Total 60410 · Executive Director Services	20,089.35	132,901.00
60420 · Public Involv. & Education Com.		
60420.1 · PIE1-Col PEP/PPP Annual act.	6,159.77	51,280.00
60420.2 · PIE2-Col PEP/PPP 5yr activities	9,000.00	12,410.00
Total 60420 · Public Involv. & Education Com.	15,159.77	63,690.00
60430 · Technical Committee		
60430.5 · IDEP Investigations	2,878.72	40,000.00
60430.7 · TC4 Permit Reapplication Suppor	27,383.03	117,683.00
60432.1 · TC1-Col IDEP/TMDL annual	3,122.50	20,800.00
60432.2 · TC2-storm sewer IS/Dye/Repo 5yr	72.50	1,820.00
60432.3 · TC3-Collaborative TMDL permit	4,295.00	17,300.00
Total 60430 · Technical Committee	37,751.75	197,603.00
Total 60400 · ARC Awards and Grants	73,000.87	394,194.00

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03/29/23

Accrual Basis

Alliance of Rouge Communities

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual

January through December 2023

	Jan - Dec 23	Budget
60665.1 · EPA6 - Colonial and Venoy		
606658 · EPA6A-RR AOC Venoy	1,472.50	300,000.00
606659 · EPA6B-RR AOC Colonial	1,183.75	300,000.00
60665.1 · EPA6 - Colonial and Venoy - Other	0.00	0.00
Total 60665.1 · EPA6 - Colonial and Venoy	2,656.25	600,000.00
606651 · WC EPA1 HFE Fishway	470.00	50,000.00
606655 · EPA5-Seeley Creek Hab Restor.	3,669.90	600,000.00
606656 · EPA4-Implement Tam/Johnson Crk	20,012.12	587,000.00
606660 · EPA7 WC 5 Park Implementation		
6066.1 · EPA7A - Lower R Implementation	200.00	
6066.2 · EPA7B - Sherwood Implementation	1,046.91	
6066.3 · EPA7C - Bell Crk Implementation	11,579.34	
6066.4 · EPA7D - Lola Implementation	12,399.00	
606660 · EPA7 WC 5 Park Implementation - Other	0.00	2,237,250.00
Total 606660 · EPA7 WC 5 Park Implementation	25,225.25	2,237,250.00
606661 · FS4 20-22 Reduce Runoff	18,000.00	197,402.00
606663 · EPA9 - Wil/Phoe/Ink Design		
60666.2 · EPA9A - Wilcox Design	22,729.60	47,333.34
60666.3 · EPA9B - Phoenix Design	7,734.48	47,333.33
60666.4 · EPA9C - Inkster Design	2,521.25	47,333.33
606663 · EPA9 - Wil/Phoe/Ink Design - Other	0.00	0.00
Total 606663 · EPA9 - Wil/Phoe/Ink Design	32,985.33	142,000.00
606667 · EPA11 - LTU Implementation	18,965.38	650,000.00
606668 · EPA10-Wilcox/Phoenix Implement		
60666.5 · EPA10A - Wilcox Implementation	3,860.00	1,616,740.14
60666.6 · EPA10B - Phoenix Implementation	0.00	2,740,737.51
606668 · EPA10-Wilcox/Phoenix Implement - Other	0.00	0.00
Total 606668 · EPA10-Wilcox/Phoenix Implement	3,860.00	4,357,477.65
606669 · SPAC12 - RRAC Facilitation	0.00	51,500.00
62100 · Contract Services		
62110 · FC1-Accounting Fees	0.00	20,500.00
62140 · FC1-Legal Fees	0.00	1,000.00
65120 · FC2-Insurance - D&O	0.00	1,500.00
65121 · Mailbox and web hosting fee	0.00	1,750.00
Total 62100 · Contract Services	0.00	24,750.00
Total Expense	198,845.10	9,891,573.65
Net Ordinary Income	107,708.13	-17,032.00
Net Income	107,708.13	-17,032.00

Alliance of Rouge Communities **DRAFT 2023 Budget**

ORIGINALLY APPROVED: 11/16/2022
AMENDMENTS:

2023 Anticipated Dues from Communities \$350,412
Rollover funds from 2022 (estimate) ⁽³⁾ **\$234,010**
Total ARC Dues Available **\$584,422**
2023 ARC Activities Budgeted **\$418,944**
2023 estimated balance (estimated 2024 rollover) \$165,478

TOTAL 2023 ARC FUNDING \$584,422
TOTAL 2023 OUTSIDE FUNDING **\$9,465,152**
TOTAL 2023 FUNDING \$10,049,574
TOTAL 2023 ACTIVITY COST (Committee & Grants) **\$9,884,096**
TOTAL 2023 ESTIMATED BALANCE (ALL SOURCES) \$165,478

Note ⁽³⁾: in 2019 \$50,000 was put aside for future use to meet sampling requirements and is not included on this budget.

Proposed ARC Budget Items		Activity Cost	Funding Source						Other Source/Match	"Provider" Using Budget (1)
			ARC Dues							
Organization Committee										
OC1	Executive Director Operational Services									
	101-Program	\$ 62,000	\$ 62,000						ED	
	102-Management	\$ 60,901	\$ 60,901						ED	
	103-Fundraising	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000						ED	
	ARC Operations - Direct Expenses	\$ 1,750	\$ 1,750						ARC	
Organization Committee Total		\$ 134,651	\$ 134,651							
Finance Committee										
FC1	Accounting/Legal Services	\$ 21,500	\$ 21,500						Outside vendor	
FC2	ARC Insurance	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500						Outside vendor	
Finance Committee Total		\$ 23,000	\$ 23,000							
ARC Operational Services Total		\$ 157,651	\$ 157,651							
Public Education and Involvement Committee										
PIE1	Collaborative PEP/PPP Annual permit activities	\$ 29,780	\$ 29,780						ED	
	Watershed Monitoring	\$ 9,000	\$ 9,000						FOTR	
	Printing	\$ 12,500	\$ 12,500						ARC/SEMCOG	
PIE2	Collaborative PEP/PPP -5yr Permit Cycle activities	\$ 8,250	\$ 8,250						ED	
	Permit Cycle Support	\$ 4,160	\$ 4,160						ARC/FOTR	
PIE Committee Total		\$ 63,690	\$ 63,690					\$ -		
Technical Committee										
TC1	Collaborative IDEP Plan annual permit activities	\$ 20,800	\$ 20,800						ED	
	IDEP Investigation	\$ 40,000	\$ 40,000						ED	
TC2	Storm Sewer GIS/Facility Dye Testing/Reporting 5yr Permit Cycle	\$ 1,820	\$ 1,820						ED	
TC3	Collaborative TMDL Plan permit activities	\$ 17,300	\$ 17,300						ED	
TC4	Permit Reapplication Support	\$ 117,683	\$ 117,683						ED	
Technical Committee Total		\$ 197,603	\$ 197,603	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Total Amount Requested by All Committees		\$ 418,944	\$ 418,944	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
Grants (2)		Activity Cost	ARC Match Dues	SPAC or State	USFS	EPA	Wayne County	Other Source/Match	Outside Funding	
WCEPA1	HFE Dam Fishway Implementation thru 9/23/23 (total authorized \$493,000)	\$50,000	\$0				\$50,000			
EPA4	Rouge AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation - Tamarack/Johnson thru 4/01/23 (total award \$3,367,559)	\$587,000	\$0			\$587,000				
EPA5	Rouge AOC Seeley Creek Habitat Restoration thru 9/30/23 (total award \$815,000)	\$600,000	\$0			\$600,000				
EPA6 (A&B)	Rouge River AOC Colonial & Venoy Habitat Restoration thru 12/31/24 (total award \$1,834,000)	\$600,000	\$0			\$600,000				
EPA7	Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Implementation - Wayne Co. Parkland thru 12/31/23 (total award \$4,222,090)	\$2,237,250	\$0			\$2,237,250				
EPA9	Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Design - Wilcox/Phoenix/Inkster Habitat thru 2/3/23 (total award \$785,100)	\$142,000	\$0			\$142,000				
FS4	USDA FS Reducing Runoff in the Rouge River AOC thru 5/30/25 (total award \$261,780 & inkind match \$65,445)	\$197,402	0		\$193,402			\$4,000	FOTR volunteer match	
EPA10	Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration – Wilcox/Phoenix Habitat Implementation (total award \$5,008,595)	\$4,350,000	0			\$4,350,000				
EPA11	Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration – LTU wetland Habitat Implementation (total award \$810,000)	\$650,000	0			\$650,000				
SPAC12	PAC Support RRAC Facilitation & Monitoring thru 12/31/25 (total award \$154,500)	\$51,500		\$51,500						
Total Other Grants:		\$9,465,152	\$0	\$51,500	\$193,402	\$9,166,250	\$50,000	\$4,000		
TOTAL OUTSIDE FUNDING				\$51,500	\$193,402	\$9,166,250	\$50,000	\$4,000	\$9,465,152	

TOTAL ARC DUES AVAILABLE \$584,422
TOTAL ACTIVITIES BUDGETED **\$418,944**
Available Unallocated ARC Budget (total income minus total ARC Dues budget) \$ 165,478

Notes

- (1) ED - Executive Director Services, WC - Wayne County, OC - Oakland County, FOTR - Friends of the Rouge, SEMCOG.
(2) Dollar amounts may be adjusted throughout the year as they are estimates of what will be spent during the budget year.
(3) In 2019 \$50,000 was put aside for future use to meet sampling requirements and is not included on this budget.

Budget Amendments/Adjustments

FC1 Adding SPAC12, total award is \$154,500 with \$51,500 planned for the 2023 budget with the remaining in increments of \$51,500 for 2024 and 2025.



Working together, restoring the river

ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES FINANCE COMMITTEE

2023 BUDGET AMENDMENT: Finance Committee Amendment FC1

REQUEST DATE: March 17, 2023

LINE ITEM: SPAC12 EGLE RRAC 2023-2025 Support Grant

COMMITTEE MAKING REQUEST: Finance Committee

BACKGROUND: The ARC has been given a grant from EGLE (AREA OF CONCERN GLRI GRANT AGREEMENT-attached) to support the RRAC. This grant is funded with Federal Funding. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) title is Great Lakes Program and the CFDA number is 66.469. The federal grant number is GL001E02481. This grant will continue general business activities of RRAC, web site updates, Rouge dashboard updates, social media support, member recruitment, conduct macroinvertebrate sampling, and sampling for fish in the Rouge River AOC.

The total compensation for this scope of services is \$154,500. The ARC will be reimbursed by EGLE for 100% of this cost with no match requirement.

DESCRIPTION OF ANTICIPATED ACTIVITIES: ARC Staff and Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) will provide the following activities.

Task 1 – RRAC Facilitation

- **RRAC Logistics** - ARC staff will facilitate and support the activities of the RRAC. This will include the planning and facilitation of 4 per year (12 total over grant period) regular RRAC meetings, preparation and distribution of meeting agendas and summaries, prepare and submit reporting (progress and financial status), communicate as needed with EGLE and EPA, and other activities needed for the RRAC to fulfill its mission as a public advisory group.
- **Web Site** - ARC staff will continue maintaining the RRAC web page. This will also include adding additional content to the website based on the habitat work being done within the AOC and adding meeting information.
- **Rouge Dashboard Updating** - An interactive dashboard was developed under a previous grant. This dashboard allows for an easy understanding of the location and status of projects and supports watershed restoration, in an easy-to-understand geospatial format for use by the general public and agencies. The dashboard takes a comprehensive view of watershed restoration efforts. This will continue to be maintained and updated with projects that are happening. Maintenance only will occur in year-1 with maintenance and additional information provided in years 2 & 3.

Task 2 – PAC Business

- **Social media support** - boosting support to share on FOTR's social media
- **RRAC member recruitment activities** - includes targeted recruitment, skills matrix, asset mapping. leverage support for FOTR staff time to engage in targeted recruitment, development of recruitment welcome package (welcome letter/description/information about how to become a member etc.). Goal of bringing in 2 - 4 new active members annually. This work will begin in year two after background development and initial DEI work completed.

- EJ-DEI Support Work – Coordination with SPAC EJ-DEI subcommittee to implement EJ-DEI goals into the Rouge PAC. Activities include coordination of contractor support/contract amendment, coordination of trainings and IDI's with contractor to support 1 training a year (Trainings might include: implicit bias; gatekeeping or others specifically tailored to the Rouge PAC) and up to 15 IDIs(Intercultural Development Inventory) and IDI review and creation of IDP Intercultural Development Plan) with guidance from the FOTR DEI subcontractor)

Task 3 - Monitoring

- **Develop and submit QAPP** - FOTR will develop a QAPP for benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring and fish surveys based on the previously approved QAPPs for both. It will be submitted for approval and revised to meet reviewer specifications prior to any survey work.
- **Fish Monitoring** - FOTR will conduct fish sampling using seine nets at 20 sites in the spring/summer 2023, 2024, 2025. Analysis of the fish community and how it relates to restoring the fish BUIs.
- **Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring** - FOTR will utilize trained volunteers and staff to collect benthic macroinvertebrate data at a minimum of 25 stream sites in the Spring and Fall of 2023, 2024, 2025 following the QAPP for sampling.
- **Reporting** - FOTR will compile all benthic macroinvertebrate and fish data and provide a report to RRAC, the ARC, EGLE, volunteers and on the FOTR website.

Task 4 - Project Outcomes and Deliverables

This project will advance the goals/objectives of RRAC, ARC and FOTR by creating a more robust RRAC, better defining the projects needed for habitat restoration, and restoring the Rouge River. The anticipated outcomes/deliverables for this project are:

- Improved communication with EPA, EGLE, RRAC, ARC and general public on the habitat impairments in the watershed and opportunities for restoration
- More robust RRAC membership participation
- Additional opportunities for grant funding

RATIONALE: The 2023 budget must be adjusted to reflect this additional funding.

BUDGET: This amendment adds the EGLE RRAC 2023-2025 Support Grant Project (total award is \$154,500) budget line to the 2023 ARC Budget with funding of \$51,500 anticipated for 2023 and the remaining amount in increments of \$51,500 in each of the budget years 2024 and 2025. No match is required.

PERSON/AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION: Work will be completed by the ARC Staff and Friends of the Rouge (FOTR).

WORK ORDER No. 2023-2 EGLE RRAC Support Grant – **UPON AGREEMENT SIGNATURE**

This Work Order, when approved and signed, supplements the Master Services Agreement effective January 1, 2019, between Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc., and its Affiliates* (Consultant) and the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC). Except as modified herein, all requirements of this basic Agreement remain in force.

The ARC has been given a grant from EGLE (AREA OF CONCERN GLRI GRANT AGREEMENT-attached) to support the RRAC. This grant is funded with Federal Funding. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) title is Great Lakes Program and the CFDA number is 66.469. The federal grant number is GL001E02481

PARAGRAPH I--SCOPE OF SERVICES

ECT as ARC staff will be responsible for the two tasks associated with the grant below and in accordance with the grant conditions:

Task 1 – RRAC Facilitation

- **RRAC Logistics** - ARC staff will facilitate and support the activities of the RRAC. This will include the planning and facilitation of 4 per year (12 total over grant period) regular RRAC meetings, preparation and distribution of meeting agendas and summaries, prepare and submit reporting (progress and financial status), communicate as needed with EGLE and EPA, and other activities needed for the RRAC to fulfill its mission as a public advisory group.
- **Web Site** - ARC staff will continue maintaining the RRAC web page. This will also include adding additional content to the website based on the habitat work being done within the AOC and adding meeting information.
- **Rouge Dashboard Updating** - An interactive dashboard was developed under a previous grant. This dashboard allows for an easy understanding of the location and status of projects and supports watershed restoration, in an easy-to-understand geospatial format for use by the general public and agencies. The dashboard takes a comprehensive view of watershed restoration efforts. This will continue to be maintained and updated with projects that are happening. Maintenance only will occur in year-1 with maintenance and additional information provided in years 2 & 3.

Deliverables:

- RRAC meeting summaries and agendas
- Up to date & additional information on website
- Updated Rouge River dashboard

PARAGRAPH II--COMPENSATION

The maximum cost of this Cost Reimbursable Work Order is \$54,500.00. The Costs shall be further broken down by Sub Task (see Task 1) as follows:

	Task Activities	Year 1 - 2023	Year 2 - 2024	Year 3 - 2025	TOTAL
TASK 1					
ARC	RRAC Logistics	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$36,000.00
	Web Site	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$13,500.00
	Rouge Dashboard	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$5,000.00
TASK 1 TOTAL		\$17,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$54,500.00
TASK 2					
FOTR	Social Media	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$4,500.00
	RRAC Recruitment		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000.00
	EJ-DEI	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$3,000.00
	EJ-DEI Subcontractor	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$10,500.00
TASK 2 TOTAL		\$6,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$24,000.00
TASK 3					
FOTR	Fish Monitoring	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$42,000.00
	Fish Monitoring -UofM Student	\$4,000			\$4,000.00
	Benthic Monitoring	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000.00
TASK 3 TOTAL		\$28,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$76,000.00
TOTAL REQUEST		\$51,500	\$51,500	\$51,500	\$154,500

PARAGRAPH III--SCHEDULE

The services in this Work Order shall be completed no later than December 31, 2025.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING & TECHNOLOGY, INC.
and its AFFILIATES***

By _____

Its _____

Date _____

ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

By _____

Title _____

Date _____

WORK ORDER No. FOTR-2023-2 EGLE PAC Support Grant - **UPON AGREEMENT SIGNATURE**

This Work Order, when approved and signed, supplements the Master Services Agreement effective January 1, 2017 between Friends of the Rouge (CONTRACTOR) and Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC). Except as modified herein, all requirements of this basic Agreement remain in force.

The ARC has been given a grant from EGLE (AREA OF CONCERN GLRI GRANT AGREEMENT-attached) to support the RRAC. This grant is funded with Federal Funding. The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) title is Great Lakes Program and the CFDA number is 66.469. The federal grant number is GL001E02481.

PARAGRAPH I--SCOPE OF SERVICES

FOTR staff will be responsible for the tasks associated with the grant below and in accordance with the grant conditions:

Task 2 – PAC Business

- Social media support - boosting support to share on FOTR's social media
- RRAC member recruitment activities - includes targeted recruitment, skills matrix, asset mapping, leverage support for FOTR staff time to engage in targeted recruitment, development of recruitment welcome package (welcome letter/description/information about how to become a member etc.). Goal of bringing in 2 - 4 new active members annually. This work will begin in year two after background development and initial DEI work completed.
- EJ-DEI Support Work – Coordination with SPAC EJ-DEI subcommittee to implement EJ-DEI goals into the Rouge PAC. Activities include coordination of contractor support/contract amendment, coordination of trainings and IDI's with contractor to support 1 training a year (Trainings might include: implicit bias; gatekeeping or others specifically tailored to the Rouge PAC) and up to 15 IDIs(Intercultural Development Inventory) and IDI review and creation of IDP Intercultural Development Plan) with guidance from the FOTR DEI subcontractor)

Task 3 - Monitoring

- Develop and submit QAPP - FOTR will develop a QAPP for benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring and fish surveys based on the previously approved QAPPs for both. It will be submitted for approval and revised to meet reviewer specifications prior to any survey work.
- Fish Monitoring - FOTR will conduct fish sampling using seine nets at 20 sites in the spring/summer 2023, 2024, 2025. Analysis of the fish community and how it relates to restoring the fish BUIs.
- Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring - FOTR will utilize trained volunteers and staff to collect benthic macroinvertebrate data at a minimum of 25 stream sites in the Spring and Fall of 2023, 2024, 2025 following the QAPP for sampling.
- Reporting - FOTR will compile all benthic macroinvertebrate and fish data and provide a report to RRAC, the ARC, EGLE, volunteers and on the FOTR website.

Deliverables:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • List of social media posts | • Benthic macroinvertebrate and fish report |
| • QAPP for benthic macroinvertebrate and fish monitoring | • EJ Report |
| | • Recruitment Package |

PARAGRAPH II--COMPENSATION

The maximum cost of this Cost Reimbursable Work Order is \$100,000. The Costs shall be further broken down by Sub Task (see Task 2 and Task 3) as follows:

	Task Activities	Year 1 - 2023	Year 2 - 2024	Year 3 - 2025	TOTAL
TASK 1					
ARC	RRAC Logistics	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$36,000.00
	Web Site	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$13,500.00
	Rouge Dashboard	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$5,000.00
TASK 1 TOTAL		\$17,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$54,500.00
TASK 2					
FOTR	Social Media	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$4,500.00
	RRAC Recruitment		\$3,000	\$3,000	\$6,000.00
	EJ-DEI	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$3,000.00
	EJ-DEI Subcontractor	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$10,500.00
TASK 2 TOTAL		\$6,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$24,000.00
TASK 3					
FOTR	Fish Monitoring	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$42,000.00
	Fish Monitoring -UofM Student	\$4,000			\$4,000.00
	Benthic Monitoring	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$30,000.00
TASK 3 TOTAL		\$28,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$76,000.00
TOTAL REQUEST		\$51,500	\$51,500	\$51,500	\$154,500

PARAGRAPH III--SCHEDULE

The services in this Work Order shall be completed between January 1, 2023 and December 31, 2025.

FRIENDS OF THE ROUGE

By _____

Marie McCormick

Title Executive Director

Date _____

ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

By _____

Doug Moore

Title Chairperson

Date _____

By _____

Annette DeMaria

Title Executive Director

Date _____


ARC MEMBER 2024 DUES INCREASE

Community/County	2023 Dues	2024 2% increase	2024 Dues
Canton Twp.	\$36,687	\$734	\$37,421
Dearborn Heights	\$12,026	\$241	\$12,267
Garden City	\$8,200	\$164	\$8,364
Inkster	\$7,424	\$148	\$7,573
Livonia	\$36,504	\$730	\$37,235
Melvindale	\$3,727	\$75	\$3,802
Northville	\$2,195	\$44	\$2,239
Northville Twp.	\$14,000	\$280	\$14,280
Plymouth	\$2,911	\$58	\$2,969
Plymouth Twp.	\$13,484	\$270	\$13,754
Redford Twp.	\$15,189	\$304	\$15,492
Romulus	\$2,781	\$56	\$2,837
Van Buren Twp.	\$8,694	\$174	\$8,868
Wayne	\$6,374	\$127	\$6,501
Westland	\$25,818	\$516	\$26,335
Wayne County	\$0	\$0	\$0
Auburn Hills	\$368	\$7	\$376
Beverly Hills	\$3,733	\$75	\$3,808
Bingham Farms	\$834	\$17	\$850
Birmingham	\$4,209	\$84	\$4,293
Bloomfield Hills	\$3,386	\$68	\$3,453
Bloomfield Twp.	\$20,980	\$420	\$21,399
Commerce Twp.	\$725	\$15	\$740
Farmington	\$3,557	\$71	\$3,628
Farmington Hills	\$32,957	\$659	\$33,616
Franklin	\$1,933	\$39	\$1,972
Lathrup Village	\$1,547	\$31	\$1,578
Novi	\$23,044	\$461	\$23,504
Rochester Hills	\$2,530	\$51	\$2,581
Southfield	\$23,877	\$478	\$24,354
Troy	\$5,886	\$118	\$6,004
Walled Lake	\$991	\$20	\$1,010
Wixom	\$747	\$15	\$762
Oakland County	\$0	\$0	\$0
West Bloomfield Twp.	\$16,765	\$335	\$17,101
Oak Park	\$196	\$4	\$200
Orchard Lake	\$149	\$3	\$152
Henry Ford Community College	\$994	\$20	\$1,014
University of Michigan-Dearborn	\$994	\$20	\$1,014
Schoolcraft College	\$994	\$20	\$1,014
WCAA	\$3,002	\$60	\$3,062
TOTAL	\$350,412	\$7,008	\$357,420




Working together, restoring the river

RESULTS OF THE 2022 WATER QUALITY CHANGES IN THE ROUGE RIVER SURVEY



WATER QUALITY CHANGES IN THE ROUGE RIVER 2022 SURVEY
www.allianceofrougecommunities.com
 contact us at: info@allianceofrougecommunities.com
 or 734-272-0291

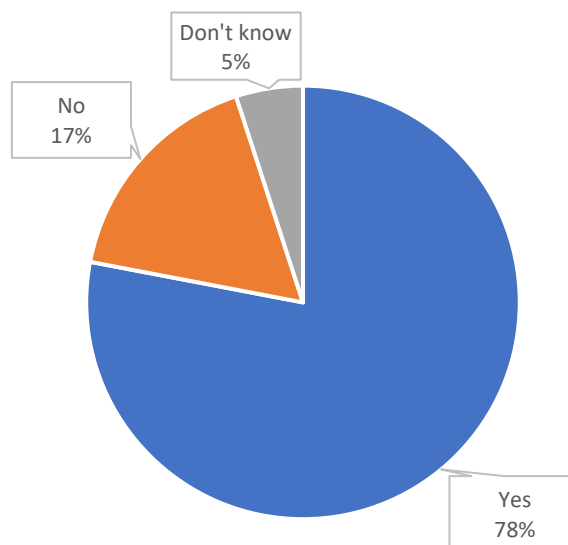
* Do you live in a watershed? 


☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know

Progress bar: 25% complete


Prev Next

Do You Live in a Watershed?





WATER QUALITY CHANGES IN THE ROUGE RIVER 2022 SURVEY
www.allianceofrougecommunities.com
 contact us at: info@allianceofrougecommunities.com
 or 734-272-0291

* Where does the rain water running off your property drain to? 

☐ A river, stream or lake
☐ A wastewater treatment plant
☐ Don't know

Progress bar: 25% complete

Prev Next

March 2023



RESULTS OF THE 2022 WATER QUALITY CHANGES IN THE ROUGE RIVER SURVEY

INTRODUCTION

The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC), a 501(c)(3) organization, is a voluntary public watershed entity currently comprised of 35 municipal governments (i.e. cities, townships and villages), three counties (Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw), Henry Ford College, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Schoolcraft College and cooperating partners (i.e. other organizations) 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 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 Rouge River to the area residents.

The ARC members' NPDES permits for stormwater discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4) included a Collaborative Public Education Plan (PEP). As part of the Collaborative PEP the ARC conducted a public awareness survey from May 31, 2022, until August 31, 2022, to evaluate changes in public awareness and behavior as it relates to the Rouge River. This report summarizes the results of that survey and compares some of the responses to similar questions in surveys done in 1993 by the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project, 1999 by the University of Michigan and most recently 2017 by the ARC.

METHODOLOGY

In May 2022, ARC Staff developed an online survey using SurveyMonkey which received 3,096 responses to a 28-question survey. The intent of the survey was to 1) ascertain residents' current attitudes and knowledge about the Rouge River and its watershed, 2) explore changes in attitudes and knowledge that have occurred since similar surveys conducted in 1993, 1999, and 2017 and 3) determine if any modifications should be made to the Collaborative PEP to address ineffective implementation.

The average time required to complete the survey was 9 minutes. The ARC promoted the survey on the ARC website and boosted it on Facebook where it had a reach of 11,300. The ARC also shared the link at stewardship workshops in 2022 which focused on public awareness of the Rouge River and water quality issues and encouraged participants to take the ARC's survey.

Appendix A presents the survey questions and the responses, by percentage of total responses to each. Appendix B shows the comparison between the 2017 and 2022 surveys which were both completed through SurveyMonkey.

The comparisons presented in this report are based on the 3,096 responses with 63% of responses from Wayne County, 24% from Oakland County, 11% from Washtenaw County (see Figure 1) and 2% outside the Rouge River Watershed with 55% of them living at their current residence for 4-6 years and 19% at their current residence for 10 or more years.

FINDINGS

Issues of Concern

Survey respondents were asked which of five **issues (crime, health care, quality of the environment, schools and unemployment) they view as the biggest problem facing their local community right now**. Overall health care was the biggest problem expressed most often, followed by quality of the environment and crime. Figure 2 presents the overall results. Quality of the environment was the issue of concern for both Washtenaw and Oakland County and for Wayne County health care was the biggest issue of concern with quality of the environment second.

Figure 1: Survey Participation by County

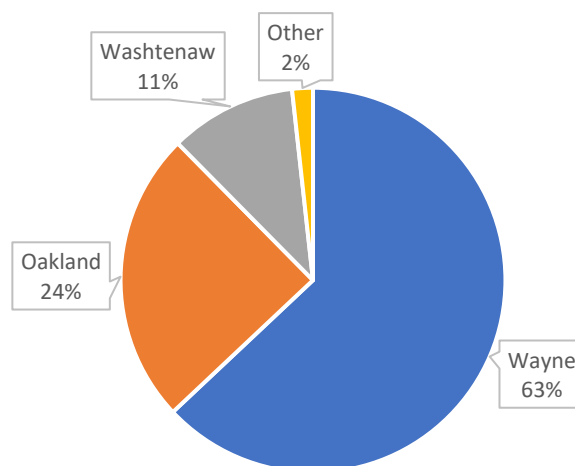
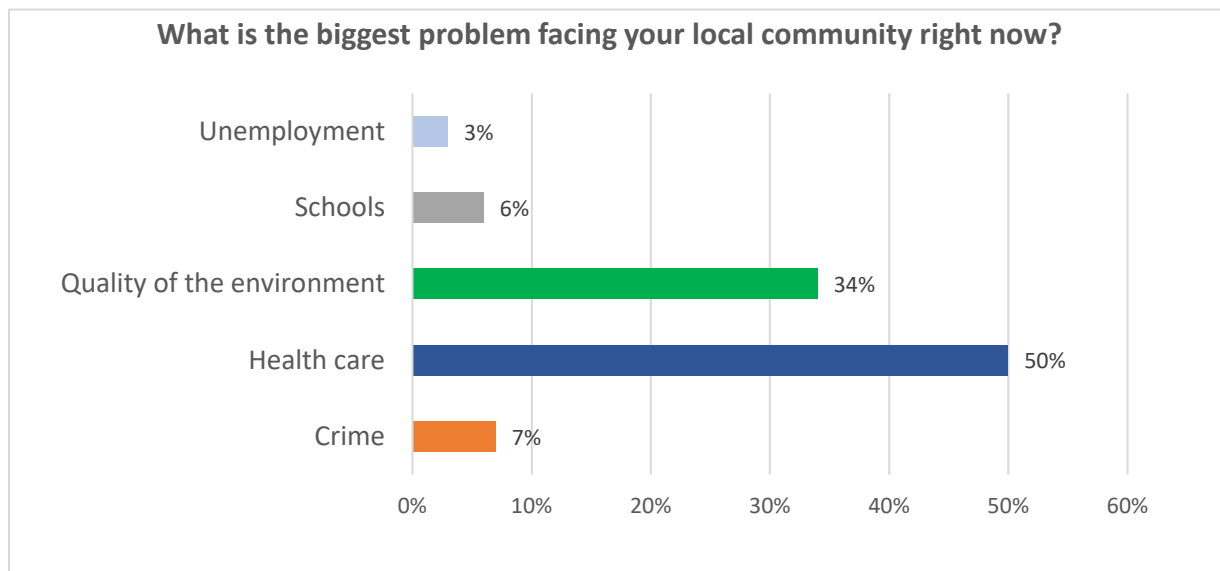


Figure 2: Overall Issues of Concern



River: Knowledge and Use

Knowledge

Several questions were asked on the public's general knowledge of watershed concepts.

Overall, when asked **do you live in a watershed?** 78% of respondents said yes, 17% said no, and 5% did not know as shown in Figure 3. The County breakdown is shown in Table 1.

Figure 3: Do You Live in a Watershed?

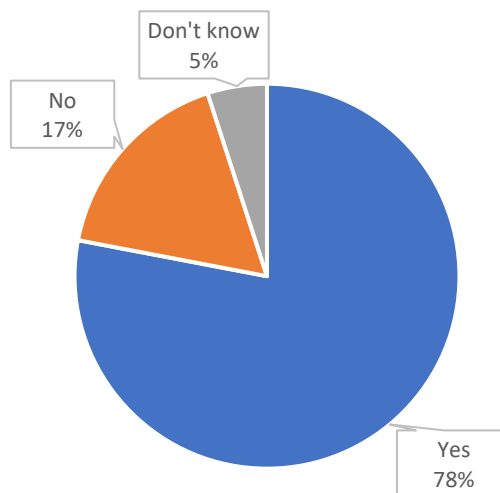


Table 1: County Breakdown for Do You Live in a Watershed?

County	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW
OVERALL	78%	17%	5%
Wayne	81%	16%	3%
Oakland	73%	19%	8%
Washtenaw	69%	18%	13%

The survey asked **where does the rainwater running off your property drain to?** Since some of the watershed is served by combined sewers which drain to wastewater treatment plants, those responses from combined sewer areas (Detroit, Redford Twp, Birmingham and Dearborn) were filtered out for this question. However, it should be noted that this resulted in a less than 1% change in the results. 50% of the overall respondents said the rainwater drained to a wastewater treatment plant. 45% said the water drains to a river, stream or lake. 5% said they didn't know where the rainwater drained to. The County breakdown is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: County Breakdown for Where Does the Rainwater Running off Your Property Drain To?

County	RIVER/STREAM/LAKE	WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT	DON'T KNOW
OVERALL	45%	50%	5%
Wayne	42%	55%	3%
Oakland	51%	40%	9%
Washtenaw	51%	40%	9%

The survey asked **how familiar are you with the Rouge River Watershed and its network of rivers and streams running throughout southeast Michigan.** The majority of respondents, 66%, stated they were somewhat familiar with the Rouge River with 24% stating they were very familiar and 9% reporting that they were not very familiar with the Rouge River watershed and its tributaries.

Use

The survey also gauged respondents use of public areas that included a river or stream. Most respondents (96%) reported **using or visiting a park or other place with a river or stream running through it.** Biking and walking/running/jogging are the number one and two uses respectively, with

canoeing, boating or tubing in the river a close third. Other activities that were not answer options but were written in were invasive species removal and community volunteer and monitoring activities.

Flooding, Water Quality and Pollution Sources

Flooding

When asked ***to rate the significance of the damage related to high flows including flooding of property or stream bank erosion in the Rouge River in the area where they live*** most respondents, 51% felt that high flows cause somewhat significant damage while 23% felt that the damage from high flows in the Rouge River was not very significant. The remainder of the respondents felt it was very significant (14%), not a problem (9%) and 4% did not know if the damage was significant where they live.

The majority of respondents (39%) felt the flooding of the Rouge River and the related problems are the same as five years ago.

Water Quality

The majority (64%) of respondents believe that ***over the past fifteen (15) years the water quality of the Rouge River is*** either ***much better*** (13%) or ***slightly better*** (51%) as seen in Figure 4. 17% of the respondents felt the water quality is ***the same*** and 16% of the respondents felt the water quality in the Rouge River was ***slightly worse*** and 3% felt it was ***much worse***.

When asked if poor water quality caused polluted swimming areas, contaminated fish, loss of desirable fish species, reduced beauty of lakes or streams, reduced quality/availability of water recreation activities or lower property values respondents top three causes were:

1. Loss of desirable fish species
2. Reduced beauty of lakes or streams
3. Contaminated fish

These top three were followed by:

4. Reduced quality/availability of water recreation activities
5. Polluted swimming areas
6. Lower property values

Respondents were asked ***how they rate the water quality of the Rouge River*** overall and for various activities. 48% of respondents felt that the overall water quality of the Rouge River was fair with 39% rating it as good and 13% rating it as poor. Table 3 shows the results for the other activities.

Figure 4: Over the Past 15 Years the Water Quality of the Rouge River is

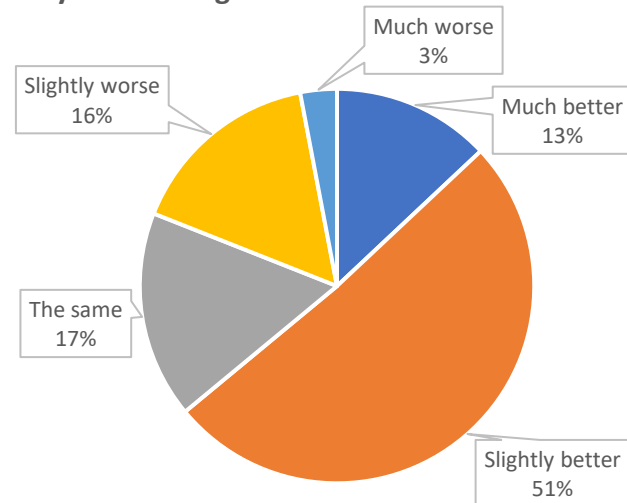


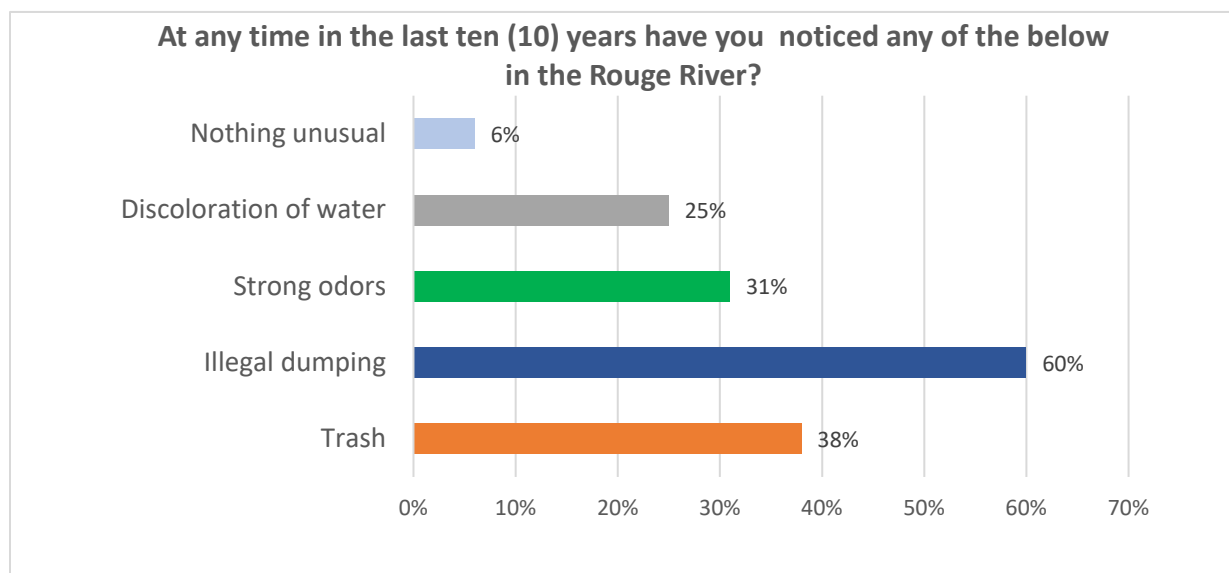
Table 3: How Would You Rate the Water Quality of the Rouge River?

WATER QUALITY FOR	GOOD	FAIR	POOR
Overall	39%	48%	13%
Canoeing/kayaking/boating	36%	46%	18%
Eating locally caught fish	30%	43%	28%
Swimming	29%	43%	28%
Picnicking and family activities	33%	47%	19%
Fish habitat	32%	45%	23%
Scenic beauty	34%	47%	18%

Pollution Sources

When asked if ***at any time in the last ten (10) years you have noticed trash, illegal dumping, strong odors or discoloration in the Rouge River*** the majority of respondents reported that they noticed illegal dumping in the river (see Figure 5).

Figure 5: Pollution of the Rouge River



When asked to ***compare the problems in their area to the sources of water quality pollution across the country*** respondents top two problems were:

1. Droppings from geese, ducks and other waterfowl
2. Chemicals, oils, fertilizers and other polluting materials that are found on the surface of parking lots, streets, farms and lawns washed into the river by rain

The ***problems caused by stormwater runoff (rain events & snow/ice melt) in the Rouge River*** were rated by the respondents as somewhat significant (58% of respondents), followed by not very significant

(17% of respondents). In addition, 14% considered stormwater runoff very significant, 7% considered it not a problem and 4% responded that they did not know if stormwater runoff was a significant problem.

Public Involvement and Information

Individual Actions

Respondents were asked ***if they have changed their actions affecting the Rouge River***. Half or more than half of respondents reported that they changed the type, amounts or application of lawn and garden fertilizers, pesticides or other chemicals; that they take used motor oil, antifreeze, batteries or other household hazardous materials to recycling facilities; that they reduced the use of detergents or other chemicals for home car washings; that they pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly; that they stopped disposing of any waste material into catch basins and storm drains; that they have installed a rain barrel; disconnected downspouts from storm drains to allow roof runoff to seep into the ground; and that they have installed a rain garden.

Education and Information

The survey presented several phrases encouraging stewardship of the Rouge River and asked respondents if they have seen or heard any of them. The top three phrases seen or heard were:

1. Help keep our rivers clean
2. Storm drains aren't garbage cans
3. Rouge River, ours to protect

When asked ***what you consider the most important things to educate the public on*** the overall respondents top five were:

1. How to apply and dispose of pesticides/herbicides/fertilizers
2. Impacts of businesses and industries on stormwater runoff
3. How to handle pet waste
4. Connection of the storm sewer system to local waterbodies
5. How to report illegal dumping

The majority of Wayne, Oakland and Washtenaw County responders (59%) ranked how to apply and dispose of pesticides/herbicides/fertilizers as the most important thing to educate the public on. The second most important thing to educate the public on in Wayne County was how to handle pet waste. In Oakland County the second most important thing to educate the public on was the connection of the storm sewer system to local waterbodies. Finally in Washtenaw County the second most important thing to educate the public on was the impacts of businesses and industries on stormwater runoff.

When seeking information about water quality respondents stated the below top five avenues:

1. Internet (59%)
2. Television (31.7%)
3. Newspapers/magazines/newsletters (31.6%)
4. Billboards (30%)
5. Brochure/fact sheet (26%)

Priorities

The ARC survey asked respondents **how much they would spend to improve the water quality in the Rouge River annually through local taxes or fees**. Overall, 98% of respondents said they were willing to pay something to improve water quality in the Rouge River. 46% of respondents said they would be willing to pay \$5-\$10 a month, 41% said they would be willing to spend \$10-\$20 a month, 11% said \$1-\$4 a month and 2% said they did not want to pay.

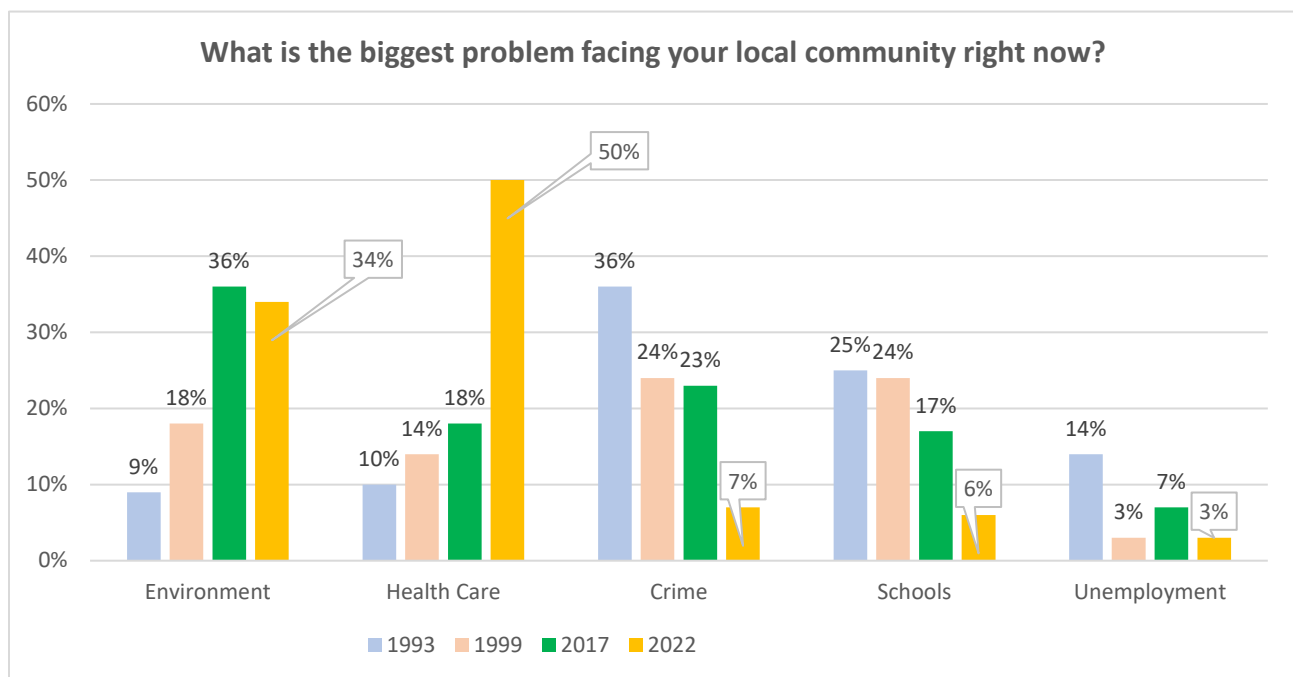
COMPARISONS WITH FINDINGS FROM OTHER SURVEYS

Issues of Concern

The 2017 and 2022 ARC surveys were structured to show trends in similar questions in relationship to both the 1993 Rouge Project public opinion telephone survey, and the 1999 University of Michigan mail survey. The average age of the 1999 survey respondent was 30-60 and the average age of the 2017 respondent was similar with 36% aged 30-45 and 27% aged 46-59. The ARC's 2022 survey's average age was 30-45 with 55% of respondents. However, 29% of the 2022 survey respondents were age 19-29.

Since the 1993 and 1999 surveys, there continues to be an overall decline in concern for crime, schools and unemployment. Health care and the environment continue to be a concern for the majority of those that responded to the 2022 survey as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Issues of Concern



River: Knowledge and Use

Knowledge of the Rouge River watershed and its network of rivers and streams did not change much from 1993 to 1999 but use of nearby parks with rivers or streams running through them had risen. This suggested that despite park use being up, not all residents associated the streams and rivers running

through them with the Rouge River Watershed. Like the 1999 and 2017 survey, the 2022 survey showed an increase with 24% of respondents were very familiar with the Rouge River Watershed. The 2017 survey showed that 56% of respondents were either very or somewhat familiar with the watershed and its network of rivers. The 2022 survey showed a vast increase from this with 90% of the respondents being very or somewhat familiar with the watershed and its network of rivers.

In addition, the results of the 2022 survey show a similar pattern with 96%, an increase from 85% in 2017 and 69% in 1999, of respondents saying they had visited a park with rivers or streams running through them. In 1993 and 1999 picnicking was ranked highest with walking/running/jogging ranked second. In 2017 walking/running/jogging is ranked highest with picnicking second and biking a close third which supports the continued development and use of trails running along the Rouge River. The 2022 survey shows the continued use and benefit of the trails being developed along the Rouge River with biking and walking, running or jogging the top two uses of the river or parks. In 2022 canoeing, boating or tubing in the river was a close third which shows removing log jams and dams along the Rouge River is a benefit to both the habitat and humans.

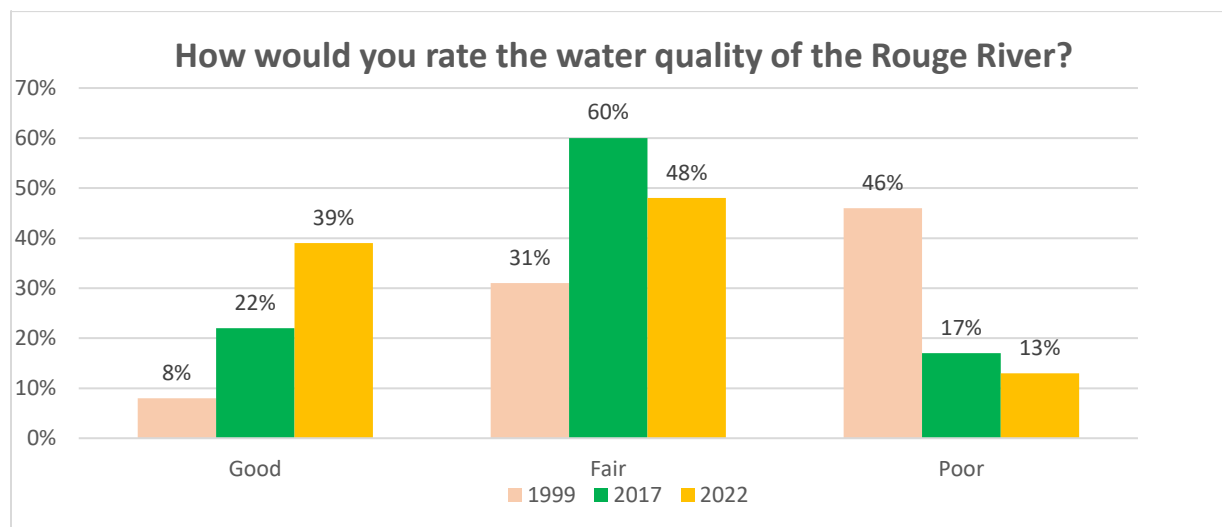
In 1999 18% and in 2017 37% of respondents felt the damage related to high flows was somewhat or very significant. This trend continued in the results from the 2022 survey with 65% of respondents feeling that the damage related to high flows was somewhat or very significant.

16% of respondents in 1999 and 32% of respondents in 2017 felt that over the past five years the flooding of the Rouge River and the related problems are slightly or much better. The 2022 survey showed that 41% of respondents felt that over the past five years the flooding of the Rouge River and the related problems are slightly or much better.

Water Quality and Pollution Sources

In 1999 respondents rated the overall water quality of the Rouge River as poor, in 2017 respondent's opinion of water quality in the Rouge River improved with the majority rating the water quality fair as shown in Figure 7. The results from the 2022 survey show that even though the majority of respondents still are rating the water quality fair the number of people rating it as good is increasing.

Figure 7: Overall Rating of Water Quality in the Rouge River



The majority of the 1999 and 2017 survey respondent's perception of the water quality of the Rouge River is that it has stayed the same over the last 15 years (the 1999 survey asked over the last 5 years). The 2022 survey shows that the majority (56%) of respondents felt that the water quality of the Rouge River over the last 15 years is slightly better and 10% felt that it was much better. This continues to support the overall water quality rating improvement from poor (1999) to fair (2017 and 2022). It also supports that people are seeing the improvements in the watershed with the continued increase in those rating the overall water quality as good. As shown in Figure 7.

Table 4 shows the survey results for the top three major pollution sources from the 1993, 1999, 2017 and 2022 surveys. As stated in the 1999 survey comparisons to the 1993 survey, stormwater was not cited as a major problem. The trend shows stormwater continues to be a concern.

Table 4: Which sources of water quality pollution are a problem in your area?

1993	1999	2017	2022
1. Business and industry	1. Business and industry 2. CSOs 3. Stormwater	1. Stormwater 2. Illegal dumping 3. Bird droppings	1. Bird droppings 2. Stormwater 3. Soil erosion

In 1999 74% and in 2017 61% of respondents rated the significance of problems caused by stormwater runoff as either somewhat or very significant. In 2022 72% rated the significance of problems caused by stormwater runoff as either somewhat or very significant.

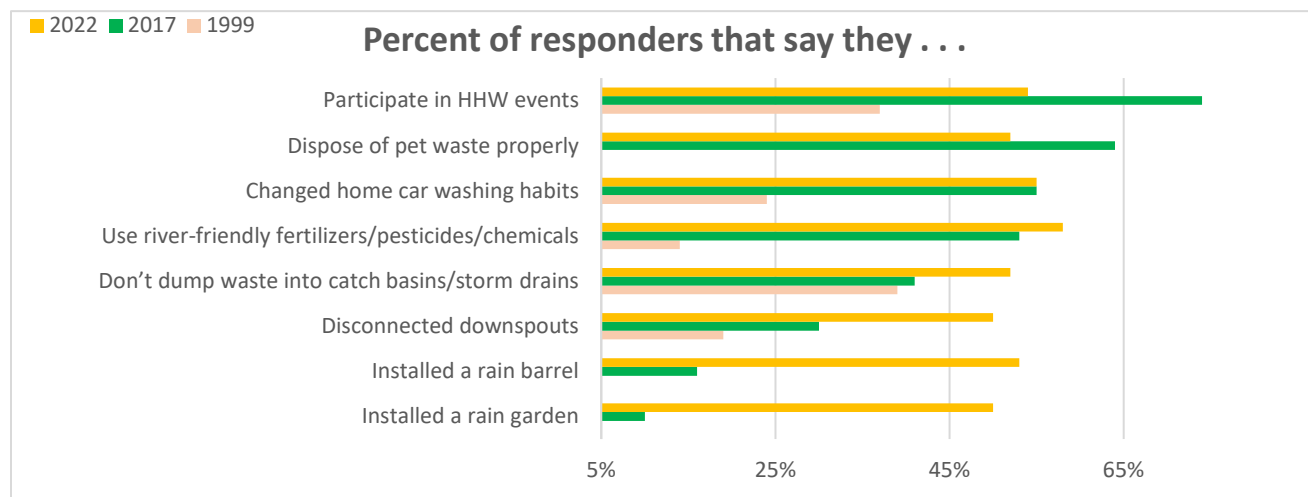
Public Involvement

When comparing the 1999 and 2017 results to the 2022 results for the top three phrases seen or heard by survey respondents encouraging stewardship of the Rouge River the responses correspond to the educational messages being promoted during those years. In 1999 the top three phrases included "our actions affect the Rouge River", "storm drains aren't garbage cans" and "use your head, you live in a watershed". The 2017 top three phrases included "help keep our rivers clean", Rouge River, ours to protect" and "drains to river (painted message on storm drains)". The top three phrases seen or heard from the 2022 survey were "Help keep our river clean", "storm drains aren't garbage cans", and "Rouge River, ours to protect".

In 1999 the top three ways survey respondents were likely to seek information about water quality were television, radio and newspapers/magazines/newsletters (note that in the 1999 survey internet was not an option.) In the 2017 survey respondents stated that the top three ways were the internet, brochure/fact sheet and newspapers/magazines/newsletters respectively. The 2022 survey may reflect the fact that our audience has grown younger with more respondents aged 19-29. The top three ways to receive information were the internet, television, and newspapers/magazines/newsletters in that order.

Figure 8 shows the 1999, 2017 and 2022 activities that responders reported doing at home that improve water quality and benefit the environment. The results show that more than 50% of respondents report doing many of the activities with an overall increase in most activities.

Figure 8: Citizen Activities Supporting Water Quality Increased from 1999 to 2017

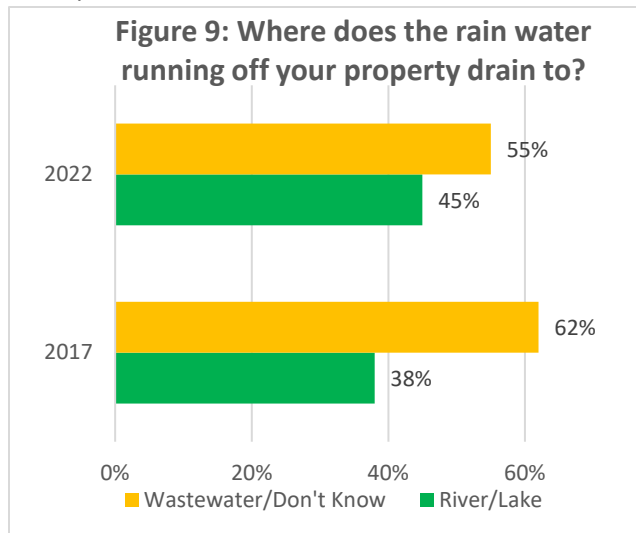


CONCLUSIONS

The overall results of the 2022 survey suggest that the ARC's focus should be to continue to educate the public on watershed and stormwater concepts and what they mean, encouraging activities the public can do to help protect the Rouge River, and promoting restoration projects and the continued improvement of water quality in the Rouge River.

The review of the data from the 2022 public opinion survey and comparisons with the 1993, 1999 and 2017 surveys lead to several additional conclusions detailed below.

- The ARC audience has grown younger with the majority of respondents being between the age of 19 and 45. This supports the positive effect of the ARC's expansion of its website and Facebook.
- Even though the percentage of people that know they live in a watershed has increased from 32% in 2017 to 78% in 2022, the confusion remains on where the rainwater running off their property goes. With 55% in 2022 saying it goes to a wastewater treatment plant or that they don't know and 45% saying it goes to a river, stream or lake (see Figure 9).
- The number of people that believe that the water quality of the Rouge River is good has increased. This was also consistent when the majority of respondents felt that over the past 15 years the water quality of the Rouge River was either much better or slightly better. With



continued messaging the next survey could show the majority of people rate the water quality good!

- The number of people that are taking active measures to improve water quality has increased dramatically from 2017 to 2022. More people are focusing on what they can do at home to protect water quality including not disposing of any waste material into a catch basin or storm drain, disconnecting downspouts. In addition people continue to install rain gardens and rain barrels which were not items surveyed in the 1999 survey.
- In the 2022 survey, the number of people very familiar with the Rouge River and its tributaries increased from the 2017 survey.
- 2022 respondents ranked stormwater as the #2 major source of water quality pollution. In 2017 respondents ranked stormwater as #1 and in 1999 it was #3. The question choice was stated as “chemicals, oils, fertilizers, and other polluting materials that are found on the surface of parking lots, streets, farms and lawns washed into the river by rain” (the word stormwater not used). Then when asked “How significant would you rate the problems caused by stormwater runoff (rain events & snow/ice melt) in the Rouge River?” 74% of 1999 respondents felt the problems were somewhat or very significant (who ranked stormwater #3) and in 2017 when respondents ranked stormwater #1, only 61% felt the problems caused by stormwater were somewhat or very significant. 2022 results showed that 72% felt the problems caused by stormwater were somewhat or very significant. In addition, when respondents were asked “Where does the rainwater running off your property drain to?” (the word stormwater not used again) most respondents in 2017 and 2022 didn’t know (see Figure 9). Educating the public on what the different words mean should continue to be an important focus moving forward along with the connection between rainwater and the river. 2022 data shows that the ARC’s message is making progress; more people knew rainwater goes to a river, stream, or lake.
- The 2022 survey shows that respondents felt that water quality of the Rouge River improved in specific areas including: for canoeing/kayaking/boating; for eating locally caught fish; for swimming; for fish habitat; and for scenic beauty. This is a good indicator that the sharing of the restoration activities being completed through EPA GLRI funding on the ARC’s website and Facebook are having a positive effect. This was also an increase from the 2017 survey results.
- The 2022 survey supports that citizens understand more now, compared to 2017, about the significance of the damage related to high flows in the Rouge River and feel that improvements are being made to control the high flows.
- When comparing the 2017 and 2022 top three phrases seen or heard by survey respondents encouraging stewardship of the Rouge River it becomes clear that citizens are retaining the educational messages. The top messages in the 2022 survey are consistent with the ARC’s current public education campaigns.
- Continued internet and social media efforts are important as 59% of the people surveyed in 2022 said they use the internet when seeking information about water quality. The survey also showed that 30% feel billboards are a good way to learn about water quality. This supports the ARC’s planned billboard campaign which begins in 2024.
- The 2022 survey continues the trend from 2017 that the respondents support spending money through local taxes or fees to improve the water quality in the Rouge River.