



Alliance  
of Rouge  
Communities

## OURS TO PROTECT

Working together, restoring the river

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## ARC Seasonal Poster Campaign

### PROTECT WATER QUALITY ALL SEASON LONG!

**What's a Watershed?**  
We all live in a watershed - an area of land that drains to a common body of water, such as a lake, river or stream (and even groundwater). Understanding the watershed concept is important because it allows us to comprehend how we can have an impact on water quality far beyond our own back door.

**Learn the Difference**  
**What is Stormwater?**  
Stormwater is water that originates during rain events and snow/ice melt and travels over land or through storm drains, catch basins or pipes (called outfalls) and ends up untreated in our rivers, streams and lakes.

**What is Wastewater?**  
Wastewater is water that has been used in the home, in a business, or as part of an industrial process and is treated before it is released back to the environment.

**Use less salt by shoveling early and often to protect the Rouge River. If you do need salt, choose an environmentally-friendly alternative.**

**Attend a Friends of the Rouge Winter Monthly Search close to your community to help gauge the health of the Rouge River.**

**Pick up after your pet even in the winter to prevent the bacteria from washing into storm drains and straight to the Rouge River when the snow starts to melt.**

**This winter, plan a rain garden to include Michigan native plants which**

**Use your local car wash to keep your car clean. When the buildup on your car melts, it sends thousands of gallons of oil and other pollutants to the storm drain which end up in the Rouge River.**

**Waterize your rain**

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**Plant a variety of native species around detention ponds which will enhance water quality, minimize algae blooms and encourage wildlife habitat.**

**Pick up after your pet to prevent the bacteria from washing into drainage ditches and storm drains which go straight to the Rouge River.**

**Waterfront property owners should plant trees, shrubs, taller grasses and wildflowers between the shoreline and road areas to**

**Use slow release, phosphorus-free fertilizer and don't fertilize right before it rains or along any body of water to help protect the Rouge River.**

**Dispose of your boat waste properly. Keep bilges clean with absorbent sponges or pads, and inspect boats and trailers for plant debris and zebra mussels.**

**Keep storm drains clear of debris to prevent storm sewer blockages and minimize the amount of pollution entering**

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**Use your local car wash because washing your car at home sends the road salt, oil and other pollutants to the storm drain which end up in the Rouge River.**

**Install a rain garden which traps and filters sediment and pollution and naturally cleans the water before it reaches the Rouge River.**

**Pick up after your pet to prevent the bacteria from washing into drainage ditches and storm drains and straight to the Rouge River.**

**Use a broom to sweep fertilizer and grass clippings back onto your yard so it doesn't wash into the storm drain and the Rouge River.**

**Don't feed the geese because the concentration of droppings adds excess nutrients and harmful bacteria to the Rouge River.**

**Plant Michigan native plants to slow runoff and provide added filtration before entering the Rouge River.**

**Don't pour chemicals down storm drains which lead to the Rouge River. Instead recycle them at a household hazardous waste collection event.**

**Install a rain barrel to capture rainwater for your garden or to use in your home. It will prevent downspouts from direct runoff into gardens.**

The Alliance of Rouge Communities, or ARC, is a non-profit organization consisting of local municipalities, counties, educational institutions and stewardship groups working together to improve the Rouge River. The ARC is funded by membership dues from local governments and supported by grants. The ARC and its partners work cooperatively to meet water quality requirements mandated by the state's stormwater permit and to restore beneficial uses, such as canoeing, fishing and other recreational activities, to the Rouge River.

For more information visit: [www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com)

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**Plant a tree to provide a natural filter to the Rouge River and to reduce stormwater runoff, flooding and siltation.**

**Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar before putting in the trash to prevent blockages in sewer pipes which can send sewage back into homes or out of manholes into streets and the Rouge River.**

**Report illegal dumping to the Rouge River to your local municipality to prevent contamination in our groundwater supply.**

**Use non-toxic cleaning alternatives such as white vinegar, baking soda and hydrogen peroxide to reduce the amount of harmful chemicals entering the Rouge River.**

**Attend a workshop on native landscaping or septic system maintenance to learn how you can protect the Rouge River or volunteer at a bug hunt or Rouge Rescue with Friends of the Rouge in your community.**

**Don't put "disposable wipes" down a drain or toilet, they do not dissolve and will cause blockages in sewer pipes.**

**When winterizing your pool, spa, or fountain allow the chlorine to dissipate for several days before draining it to a landscaped area not a storm drain which leads to the Rouge River.**

**Match your lawn care to the season. Use a natural fertilizer when the grass is growing from yard water entering the Rouge River.**

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March, 2017

Submitted by:

**ECT** Environmental  
Consulting &  
Technology, Inc.

2200 Commonwealth Blvd., Suite 300  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

# ARC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2016 Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) Executive Director's Annual Report discusses the primary activities conducted by the ARC from January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, including routine administration and meetings of the ARC and all of its committees. It also includes results from ARC Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP) activities and public education activities, including workshops and developed products.

## ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

### OC1A: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVICES

#### **A. 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 note-taking and tallying of votes at the meeting), and preparation/distribution of meeting summaries to members and other interested parties. ARC meetings were held on:

##### March 17, 2016, Summit on the Park, Canton

The resolution in support of the new non-profit entity, which would merge FOTR and the ARC, was read. The motion directed ARC staff to proceed with preparing the documents and support information required to further consider the merger of the ARC and the FOTR into a single, new non-profit entity that could continue the activities of both entities. Prior to executing the final authorization to form the new entity, the Full ARC developed a list of activities/services that it anticipates will be provided.

##### July 13, 2016, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills

ARC Staff gave a presentation on using green infrastructure to support urban habitat. In addition, budget amendments and contract amendments were made to the 2016 budget. The ARC was awarded a 2016 PAC support grant for RRAC facilitation.

##### November 15, 2016, City Hall, Wixom

New officers were elected for 2017 through 2018 which included Brandy Siedlaczek, Chair; Doug Moore, Vice-Chair; and Jill Rickard, Treasurer. The 2017 budget was presented and approved. The ARC will assist on two Wayne County EPA direct awards to construct the HFE Dam Fishway along with the Rouge Oxbow Restoration Phase 3. ECT's contract was extended through December 31, 2017. In addition, budget amendments and contract amendments were made to the 2016 budget.

Full ARC meeting summaries can be found at:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/arcmeetings.html>

#### **B. 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, facilitation of the meetings (including note-taking and documenting recommendations considered and actions taken), and meeting summary preparation (a

summary was not prepared for the Officers meeting) and distribution. This subtask also included ongoing support services for the committee outside of the regular meetings.

Agendas and meeting summaries are available on [www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com). ARC Executive Committee Meetings were held on the following dates:

*March 8, 2016, Southfield Parks & Recreation*

ARC Staff provided an update regarding the Erb Foundation grant to investigate merging the FOTR and the ARC into a new nonprofit organization. The committee recommended a resolution to the Full ARC authorizing ARC staff to proceed with preparing documents and support information needed to further consider the merger of the ARC and the FOTR into a single, new non-profit entity that will continue the activities of both entities. The resolution included various “exit ramps” throughout the effort in case one party chose to discontinue the merger investigation.

*June 22, 2016, Southfield Parks & Recreation*

The FOTR-ARC merger investigation awaits FOTR’s initiation of the transitioning process which was delayed by the absence of an Executive Director at FOTR.

A budget amendment was approved to add the grant received from the MDEQ Office of the Great Lakes under the AOC program to facilitate the Rouge River AOC PAC Support – Facilitation, Habitat & Fish project. This grant provides funding to coordinate activities of the Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC), development of the projects needed to delist the habitat BUI. It also provides funding for fish species surveys within the Rouge River.

The Nominations Committee sought volunteers to serve as officers for the 2017-2018 2-year term.

*October 12, 2016, Southfield Parks & Recreation*

The ARC partnered with Friends of the Detroit River on a NOAA Regional Partnership grant submittal which was awarded in February 2016. The grant provides funding for conducting listed habitat projects within the two AOCs as determined by EPA and NOAA. Work on potential Rouge projects would not begin until late 2017 or 2018. A budget amendment was approved and forwarded to the Full ARC.

Wayne County received a grant from EPA to complete three Rouge AOC habitat list projects, for which they are the majority landowner. The projects include: 1) construction of the Henry Ford Estate Dam Fishway; 2) the Rouge Oxbow Phase 3 construction; and 3) the Nankin Lake Restoration. The design and permitting for both the HFE Fishway and the Oxbow projects was completed. ARC Staff was requested to prepare the bid documents and provide construction oversight. The Nankin project will be put out to bid by Wayne County. A budget amendment was approved and forwarded to the Full ARC.

It was announced that West Bloomfield Township would rejoin the ARC as a member beginning in 2017.

ECT requested its second contract extension under the current 2013 contract which allows for the potential of up to three, one-year extensions.

The 2017 Budget Recommendations were presented.



The Nominations Committee recommended the officers slate for 2017-2018 as Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield as Chair; Doug Moore, Livonia as Vice-Chair; and Jill Rickard, Northville Twp. as Treasurer. In addition any nominations from the floor would be considered.

ARC Executive Committee meeting summaries can be found at:  
<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/arcmeetings.html>

#### **C. ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Organization Committee held no scheduled meetings during the reporting period.

#### **D. 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, mailed dues invoices to members, collected dues, submitted various grant reimbursement requests and paid the ARC's bills. ARC Staff facilitated three (3) Finance Committee meetings by preparing the agenda, distributing materials prior to the meetings, and preparing/distributing meeting summaries to appropriate parties. The Finance Committee held meetings on February 25, 2016, June 15, 2016 and October 4, 2016 in Canton.

#### **E. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Staff support was provided for three (3) Technical Committee meetings on March 14, 2016, April 29, 2016 and October 28, 2016. Topics included the ARC's Collaborative IDEP, Oakland and Wayne County's IDEP work performed under the 2016 budget and review of the MDEQ's comments on the ARC's Collaborative IDEP. Activities included preparation of the agenda (under the direction of the Technical Committee Chair), distribution of the materials prior to the meeting, facilitation of the meeting (including note-taking and record of actions taken.)

ARC Staff provided additional support services for the committee outside of regular meetings.

#### *Participation in IDEP Work Group*

There were no meetings of the IDEP Work Group in 2016.

#### **F. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION (PIE) COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Staff support participated in one (1) regular meeting on December 6, 2016, with activities that included preparation of the agenda (under the direction of the PIE Committee Chair), distribution of the materials prior to the meeting, facilitation of the meeting (including note-taking and record of actions taken). Staff provided ongoing support services for the committee outside of regular meetings. Topics of the meeting included reviewing the MDEQ comments on the Collaborative PPP and PEP along with reviewing and refining our PIE activities for 2017.

ARC Staff provided additional support services for the committee outside of regular meetings.

#### **OC1B: ADVOCACY AND ADMINISTRATION**

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.

Materials distributed in 2016 included all meeting materials for the ARC Executive Committee, the Full ARC, the Public Involvement and Education, Technical, Organization, and Finance Committees and all special meetings. Staff also distributed materials related to permit discussions with MDEQ, watershed management planning documents and flyers for upcoming events.

The Executive Director and staff participated in the following outreach activities:

#### Reorganization Investigation Committee Meetings

There were no meetings held in 2016 on the Reorganization Investigation of the ARC and FOTR because the Executive Director of FOTR resigned late in the process. No new director was hired in 2016.

ARC Staff attended a July 27, 2016 webinar titled “Better Together! Lessons Learned from a Local Conservation Organization Merger” in support of the potential merger between the ARC and FOTR.

#### Governmental Activities

The ARC Executive Director participated in the Lake Erie portion of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 2012 Lake Wide Management Annex which requires cooperation of the many governmental partners and the public to look at each Great Lake individually and to develop a Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP) for each lake that will address all environmental stressors in the way most appropriate for that particular lake. This binational agreement targets many of the significant environmental issues impacting the lakes, including nutrient discharges, AOCs, and the introduction of aquatic invasive species.

The ARC’s Executive Director forwarded the newly introduced HB 5991 introduced in the Michigan State House by Representative Mike McCreedy. If passed this would allow “local units of government to adopt water utility ordinances and create stormwater management utilities.” It addresses some of the challenges established by the Headlee Amendment and the Bolt Decision. He informed ARC Members that it is a long way from passage, but is a useful starting point.

#### Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC)

ARC staff attended the SPAC reception March 1, 2016 and AOC Conference March 2 -3, 2016. At these events ARC staff interacted and discussed the Rouge River Watershed with participants. Participants included Federal, State, Regional, and local government officials and NGOs. Topics of discussion included stormwater controls and green infrastructure and the Rouge River AOC Habitat list. The AOC habitat list was developed through RRAC with the ARC providing assistance. ARC staff met with federal and state agency members to review the projects on the list and help set prioritization for funding.

#### Organization Participation

Jim Ridgway continues to serve on the USEPA Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB) and the Science and Information Subcommittee in 2016. He advocated for ARC communities as well as all communities within the Great Lakes basin. The GLAB supports the EPA and all other federal agencies in their efforts to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

The ARC Executive Director served on the Great Lakes Clean Communities Advisory Board.

The ARC Executive Director has also supported the Great Lakes Protection Fund project for Private Financing Green Infrastructure and has supported the inclusion of Southfield and Farmington Hills on the advisory board.

In 2016 the ARC Executive Director continued to support the Great Lakes Protection Fund project on Integrated Water Resources Management program which includes efforts in Oakland County.

#### Member and General Public Requests

In June, ARC staff conducted a survey of ARC members regarding native vegetation management activities as part of a possible increase to their ARC dues or as an option to purchase ala cart with their membership. There was some interest but not enough to continue with the possible service. ARC Staff may conduct the survey again in the future.

ARC Staff coordinated with the City of Farmington Hills to respond and forward information to a citizen who was looking for a list of certified engineers that can provide inspections of detention ponds. ARC Staff mailed the citizen copies of the ARC's Detention Pond maintenance manual.

ARC Staff attended the City of Romulus' Eco-Fair for Earth Day on April 23, 2016 which was attended by the general public. The ARC had a display table at the event which included information on the ARC and the Rouge River watershed.

ARC Staff forwarded a citizen concern to Oakland County regarding a large blockage in the Rouge River along 13 Mile and Telegraph Roads. Oakland County's Drain Maintenance staff responded that they would refer the resident to the city, village or township or to the state for assistance because the area is not a county-maintained drain.

ARC Staff received a request for access to water quality sampling data (primarily sediment and nutrients) in the Rouge River watershed from Rebecca Muenich, a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Michigan working on a project to model the entire Huron-Erie Corridor in order to better understand the sources of nutrients to Lake Erie and how to better address them. ARC Staff coordinated with Wayne State to locate Rouge data within the RWQIMS and their contact information was forwarded to the U of M researcher.

ARC Staff received a request from a resident for a poster "Use Your Head, You Live in a Watershed" that was created by Wayne County under the Rouge Project. The request was forwarded to Wayne County and they sent the resident copies of the poster.

#### Storm Water Permit Activities

ARC Staff promoted and supported Oakland County who hosted the Illicit Discharge Elimination and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping Program training on October 13, 2016 at no charge. Topics included dry weather screening activities and detecting, investigating and eliminating illicit discharges to your MS4, as well as fleet and facility maintenance, materials storage yards, maintenance of stormwater management systems and grounds maintenance. Roughly 100 people attended the training.

ARC Staff shared information on a SEMCOG Winter Maintenance Workshop with ARC Members which included several equipment demonstrations and suppliers of winter maintenance equipment, materials, and services to learn more about the latest technology, techniques and products for managing ice and snow.

#### Partnership Activities

ARC Staff planned, organized and staffed the second Great Lakes Restoration Celebration event on October 21, 2016. The event was hosted by the ARC at The Henry Ford at no cost to members. The

event celebrated the restoration efforts in Southeast Michigan and was attended by more than 120 federal, state and local elected officials along with watershed organization representatives in Southeast Michigan. The event included informative displays by southeast Michigan watershed organizations that have received grants through the GLRI and other federal funding agencies. A 75-page color book was created that highlighted grant funded projects within the Clinton, St. Clair, Rouge, Detroit, Saginaw, Maumee and Raisin Rivers. Welcomes were done by Patricia Mooradian, President of The Henry Ford and Brandy Siedlaczek, Chair of the ARC. Jon Allan, Director of the Office of the Great Lakes did a Great Lakes Virtual Tour which interviewed representatives from the local groups receiving the grant funds and then gave the State's perspective. A keynote address was given by David Ullrich, Chair - Great Lakes Advisory Board and Executive Director - Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative. A federal perspective was given by John Catena - Northeast and Great Lakes Regional Supervisor, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center along with Rose Ellison, Project Manager, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO). In support of the event Senator Stabenow prepared a video to share at the event. Then event was attended by both Congresswoman Dingell and Congressman Levin who provided remarks on the restoration activities in southeast Michigan. At the close of the event a tour was given of The Henry Ford's Oxbow which the ARC was awarded a NOAA grant to design the connection from the Oxbow to the channelized portion of the Rouge River and which Wayne County was awarded direct funding through the USEPA in 2016.



**Great Lakes Restoration celebration hosted by the ARC at The Henry Ford**

ARC Staff prepared an abstract submissions for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Green Infrastructure Conference that is planned for May 2017.

ARC Staff participated and reported on ARC activities at the SEMCOG Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water meeting held on March 4, 2016 and May 10, 2016. Topics of discussion included MDOT Stormwater Management Framework, green infrastructure and AOC habitat projects in Southeast Michigan.

ARC Staff attended an October 26, 2016 SEMCOG University on Updating Codes and Ordinances to Support Green Infrastructure Implementation.

The ARC did not receive any FOIA requests from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016.

#### **OC1C: FINANCIAL SERVICES**

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

Treasurer and ARC members from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016. 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 2015 financial audit and taxes.

ARC Staff worked with the Finance Committee to develop and administer the annual budget and work plan. ARC Staff prepared monthly financial reports, mailed dues invoices to members, collected dues, submitted various grant reimbursement requests and paid the ARC's bills.

### **OC1D: COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

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

ARC Staff attended a workshop, "Great Lakes Communications," on April 29, 2016 that was held in Detroit by Healing Our Waters – Great lakes Coalition. The workshop focused on ways to communicate your message across various avenues including social media.

ARC Staff had discussions with the City of Detroit regarding membership in the ARC. No decision was made by the city in 2016.

ARC Staff provided membership information to West Bloomfield Twp. and attended the October 10, 2016 Board of Trustees meeting. The Board voted to approve ARC membership beginning in 2017.

The 2015 ARC annual report was completed and submitted to the ARC in March, 2016.

ARC Staff initiated a Facebook page for the ARC in 2016. During 2016 ARC Staff posted 14 public education messages and photos to educate the public on ways to protect the Rouge River.



**ARC Facebook Page**

### **OC1E: PURSUING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES**

ARC Staff attended a webinar presented by the Forest Service – Northeastern Area Grants on April 14, 2016 titled "How to Complete an Application Package for Grants and cooperative Agreements Workshop". The webinar discussed correctly completing Federal Assistance application packages which



will dramatically reduce errors and in turn provide a smooth application process with a quick turnaround.

ARC Staff attended a webinar presented by the MDEQ titled “Michigan Areas of Concern Program Fiscal Year 2016 Public Advisory Council Support Grant Management Webinar” on July 25, 2016. The webinar covered an overview of the grant agreement and reporting requirements.

ARC Staff researched and surveyed ARC Members seeking their input in determining the scope of the ARC’s application for various grant applications throughout 2016. The Executive Director staff applied for the following grants in 2016 on behalf of the Alliance of Rouge Communities:

- ◆ ARC Staff assisted Wayne County in preparing information for USEPA Direct funding (\$6.5 Million to Wayne County) for the construction of the Henry Ford Estate dam fishway, the construction of the Oxbow Phase 3 restoration and the Nankin Lake restoration. (awarded to Wayne County)
- ◆ SPAC AOC Grant (\$29,945) to facilitate the RRAC and for FOTR to characterize the Rouge fish community by completing surveys of the Upper and Main Rouge and compiling data. (awarded to the ARC)
- ◆ US Forestry Service Grant (\$150,000) to inspect installed GI throughout the Rouge River Watershed, identify sites for enhancement, and design and implement of maintenance/enhancement activities. (not awarded)
- ◆ NOAA Environmental Literacy Grant (\$350,000) to design a real-time notification and public outreach regarding reducing CSOs in southeast Michigan. (not awarded)
- ◆ ARC Staff partnered with Friends of the Detroit River (FDR) on a grant submitted by FDR to NOAA for the Great Lakes Habitat Restoration Regional Partnership grant program. This regional partnership will enhance the Rouge and Detroit River AOCs’ ability to continue the momentum necessary to conduct projects to restore fish and wildlife habitat that will benefit southeast Michigan and the entire Great Lakes region. The federal agencies will determine the projects and funding on an annual basis. (awarded to FDR)

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

### A. TC3: IDEP INVESTIGATIONS

ARC Staff reviewed and commented on OCWRC’s and WC’s 2016 IDEP Work Plans and brought them to the Technical Committee for approval. ARC Staff prepared IAAs for both counties and facilitated execution of them.

#### Oakland County IDEP Field Investigations

Consistent with the Rouge River Collaborative IDEP Plan, illicit discharge investigations were conducted in 2016 on multiple Oakland County storm drains within the Rouge River Watershed. Investigations were conducted by the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner (WRC) as follow up to potential illicit discharges identified in 2014 and investigative work conducted in 2015. To date these investigations have identified 3 illicit sanitary connections, 2 suspect failed septic systems and 8 additional suspect connections to be evaluated as potential illicit discharge sources on four (4) County Drains. A summary of illicit connections and additional suspect illicit discharge sources along with recommended follow-up actions are summarized in the final report.

### Wayne County IDEP Field Investigations

Consistent with the Rouge River Collaborative IDEP Plan, illicit discharge investigations were conducted in 2016 by Wayne County Department of Public Services, Water Quality Management Division (WQMD). The source identification work within the City of Plymouth identified five specific street segments with suspected illicit discharges that will be televised in 2017. Residential dye testing will be performed at select homes based on the results of the televising.

Field screening was also conducted in three of the priority areas to narrow down the location of the potential illicit connections. The results suggest that additional sampling should be conducted in Plymouth, Canton, Van Buren and Superior townships.

### IDEP Training

ARC Staff promoted and assisted with the regional IDEP Prevention/Good Housekeeping Program training on October 13, 2016 which was sponsored by the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioners Office. Almost 100 people attended the workshop.

### **Deliverables:**

Wayne County Work Plan:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/general/Final%20WCDPS%20ARC%202016%20IDEP%20Wrk%20plan.pdf>

Wayne County IDEP Report:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/technical/WC%202016%20IDEP%20Report.pdf>

Oakland County Work Plan:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/technical/ARC-OC%202016%20IDEP%20Scope%20of%20Work.pdf>

Oakland County IDEP Final Report:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/technical/OCWRC%202016%20IDEP%20Final%20Report.pdf>

IDEP Training list of attendees:

[http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/general/10\\_13\\_2016\\_Training\\_Sign\\_In\\_Sheets.pdf](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/general/10_13_2016_Training_Sign_In_Sheets.pdf)

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & EDUCATION (PIE) COMMITTEE**

### **A. PIE1: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CAMPAIGN**

#### Workshops

Five (5) workshops were held in partnership with Friends of the Rouge and Wayne County in 2016. ARC Staff assisted in planning and attended and supported the workshop:

**Healthy Lawn Care Workshop:** A total of 35 people attended two (2) workshops to learn the benefits of healthy lawn care practices at their home. They were in September, 2016 at the following locations:

- September 27, 2016, Farmington Hills
- September 29, 2016, Plymouth

Surveys conducted at the workshops showed that participants thought the workshops were a valuable experience.

**Native Plants and Pollinator Workshop:** A total of 28 people attended two (2) workshops to design and learn the benefits of native plants as pollinators. They were held in October, 2016 at the following locations:

- October 4, 2016, Livonia
- October 12, 2016, Garden City

**Septic System Maintenance Workshop:** The ARC presented a workshop on September 7, 2016 hosted by Bloomfield Township at Cranbrook Institute of Science regarding septic system maintenance. The two-hour workshop was attended by twenty-three (23) people and the survey results showed that the workshop was well received.



### Green Schools

As part of the ARC 2016 Green Infrastructure Education Campaign, Wayne County's Water Quality Management Division (WQMD) coordinated the purchase of 30 (thirty) trees for recognized Michigan Green Schools in the ARC. The tree species offered were all native to Michigan and included eastern red bud, sugar maple and tulip. The trees were 1.5 inch caliper and depending on the variety, 7'-10' in height. WQMD offered the trees to eighty-one (81) schools that were new to the Green School program or held an Evergreen status during the 2016 program. These schools were located in the Oakland and Wayne County portions of the Rouge River watershed. The thirty trees went to 19 Oakland County schools and 11 Wayne County schools.

### **Deliverables:**

Wayne County 2016 Green Schools Report:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/general/2016%20ARC%20Green%20School%20Tree%20Summary%20Final.pdf>

## **B. PIE2: PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS**

ARC Staff made various public education materials available to ARC members through the ARC website during 2016. More than 12,400 items were distributed to member communities and at various community events and workshops. ARC Staff distributed various public education materials which are documented in this section.

### Bookmarks

ARC staff developed bookmarks to publicize the ARC and promote Rouge Friendly tips to the public. 150 bookmarks were distributed to two (2) ARC member communities and agencies and over 1,300 were used at ten (10) ARC member community events including Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County,

Septic System Workshop, Healthy Lawn Care and Pollinator Workshop and the Great Lakes Restoration event. Bookmarks were also distributed as part of seedling giveaways at the events listed below:

- ◆ Farmington Hills Earth Day – 200 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ City of Romulus Eco Fair – 100 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Inkster Cleanup – 50 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Canton Household Hazardous Waste – 300 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Farmington Hills Health and Wellness – 200 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Bloomfield Hills – 200 pieces for seedlings



#### Pet Waste Containers

ARC staff developed pet waste containers to be distributed to ARC members which promote clean water with the message *In the Bag, Not the River*. During 2016, 1,250 were distributed to eight (8) member communities and 250 were used at six (6) ARC member community events including the SPAC Conference, Farmington Hills Earth Day, Septic System Workshop, Healthy Lawn Care and Pollinators Workshop and the Great Lakes Restoration event.

#### Fertilizer Clips

The ARC developed fertilizer clips with the ARC logo and the phrase: *Fertilize Sparingly and Caringly* to distribute at public events. More than 90 clips were distributed to three (3) member communities and over 450 were distributed at the SPAC Conference, Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County, Septic Workshop, Healthy Lawn Care and Pollinators Workshops, Farmington Hills Earth Day and the Great Lakes Restoration Event.

#### ARC Public Education Brochure

This flyer is used to educate the general public about the ARC and its activities. 50 brochures were distributed to one (1) member community and over 1,400 were used at eleven (11) ARC member community events including SPAC Conference, Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County, Septic System Workshop, Healthy Lawn Care and Pollinator Workshops and the Great Lakes Restoration event. Brochures were also distributed as part of seedling giveaways at the events listed below:

- ◆ Farmington Hills Earth Day – 200 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ City of Romulus Eco Fair – 100 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Inkster Cleanup – 50 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Canton Household Hazardous Waste – 300 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Farmington Hills Health and Wellness – 200 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Bloomfield Hills – 200 pieces for seedlings

#### ARC Member Brochure

In 2016 the ARC Member Brochure was distributed to ARC member communities with their membership invoices. The brochure explains the ARC, member benefits, projects and committees. It is also distributed to other interested communities and organizations wanting to learn about the ARC.

#### Fish Float

Staff developed a floatable key ring with the slogan "Catch me on the Rouge River!" More than 60 key chains were distributed during 2016, including the Septic System Workshop, SPAC Conference and the Great Lakes Restoration Event.



### Value of Trees

Staff distributed 150 copies of the Value of Trees flyer to two (2) member communities and over 1,100 were used at eight (8) ARC member community events including Healthy Lawn Care and Pollinator Workshops and the Great Lakes Restoration event. Fliers were also distributed as part of seedling giveaways at the events listed below:

- ◆ Farmington Hills Earth Day – 200 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ City of Romulus Eco Fair – 100 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Inkster Cleanup – 50 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Canton Household Hazardous Waste – 300 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Farmington Hills Health and Wellness – 200 pieces for seedlings
- ◆ Bloomfield Hills – 200 pieces for seedlings

### Waterfront Wisdom Brochure

ARC Staff developed 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. 190 brochures were distributed to four (4) ARC member community events which include The City of Romulus Eco Fair, Master Gardeners of Western Wayne County, Septic System Workshop and Healthy Lawn Care and Pollinator Workshops.

### Detention Pond Maintenance Manuals

100 Detention Pond Maintenance manuals were distributed to Oakland County and 190 were distributed at ARC member community events including the City of Romulus Eco Fair, Septic System Workshop and Healthy Lawn Care and Pollinator Workshops.

### Additional Rouge Grant and SEMCOG Printed Pieces

The ARC also distributed the following items that were printed by Wayne County or SEMCOG and were given to ARC Staff for distribution:

- ◆ A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems – 90 pieces to two (2) ARC member community events
- ◆ Clean Up After Your Pet tip card – 240 pieces to four (4) member communities
- ◆ Save Water tip card – 240 pieces to four (4) member community
- ◆ Help Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains – 200 pieces to three (3) member communities
- ◆ Fertilize Sparingly & Caringly – 380 pieces to four (4) member communities
- ◆ Carefully Store & Dispose of Household Cleaners, Chemicals and Oil – 240 pieces to four (4) member communities
- ◆ Practice Good Car Care tip card – 240 pieces to four (4) member communities

### Seedlings

A total of 200 white pine seedlings and 850 white spruce seedlings were prepared and distributed at ARC member events. Staff developed labels, tree planting instructions and packaged the information for the events. Staff designed and ordered materials and distributed materials to ARC members.

Seedlings were distributed at the following events:

- ◆ Farmington Hills Earth Day – 200 (white pine)
- ◆ City of Romulus Eco Fair – 100 (white spruce)



- ◆ Inkster Cleanup – 50 (white spruce)
- ◆ Canton Household Hazardous Waste – 300 (white spruce)
- ◆ Farmington Hills Health and Wellness – 200 (white spruce)
- ◆ Bloomfield Township Rouge Rescue event – 200 (white spruce)



**Tree seedlings at Bloomfield Twp. Rouge Rescue**

#### *Protect Water Quality All Season Long! Posters*

Staff designed and developed four (4) seasonal posters in 2016 with specific activities that the general public can do at home during the spring, summer, fall and winter to help protect water quality. A total of 250 of each seasonal poster were ordered. 900 posters were distributed to all 36 ARC Member communities and 5 cooperating partners giving each member and partner 5 (five) posters of each season. It was suggested that ARC members post these in support of their permit requirements in facilities, libraries or other buildings that the general public frequent. 100 posters were also distributed at the Great Lakes Restoration celebration event.

#### **C. PIE3: WEBSITE MAINTENANCE**

Staff performed design, writing, editing and general maintenance of the ARC website ([www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com)).

Articles or information published on the “Rouge in The News” section of the website or distributed to members through email in 2016 include:

- ◆ Michigan’s Aquatic Invasive Species Newsletter, MDEQ & MARD along with a comprehensive website on existing and potential invasive species threatening Michigan’s natural resources.
- ◆ Battling pollution's legacy in metro Detroit's 'Areas of Concern' waterways, Kirk Haverkamp, Issue Media Group, March 24, 2016



**Oakland County facility displaying the ARC’s seasonal poster**

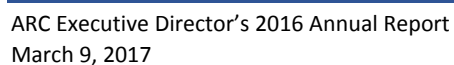
Activities and events published on the “Activities and Events” section of the website or through email in 2016 include:

- ◆ FOTR frog & toad survey events
- ◆ Septic System Maintenance Workshop
- ◆ Native Plants and Pollinator Workshop
- ◆ Healthy Law Care Workshop
- ◆ 2016 AOC conference at U of M-Dearborn
- ◆ IDEP and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping Program training
- ◆ FOTR spring bug hunt
- ◆ FOTR Rouge Rescue
- ◆ FOTR Fall bug hunt
- ◆ FOTR Fundraising events
- ◆ FOTR winter stone fly events
- ◆ Various state grant programs

- ARC Executive Directors 2015 Annual Report
- Full ARC agendas, handouts and meeting summaries
- Executive Committee agendas, handouts and meeting summaries
- FOTR Winter Stone Fly report
- FOTR Frog and Toad Survey results
- FOTR Spring Bug Hunt report
- FOTR Annual Report on Activities
- ARC Green Schools Summary
- Oakland and Wayne County Progress Report Summary
- Oakland and Wayne County ARC work plans
- Draft SAW Collaborative plans (IDEP, PEP, PPP and TMDL)

### Billboard Campaign

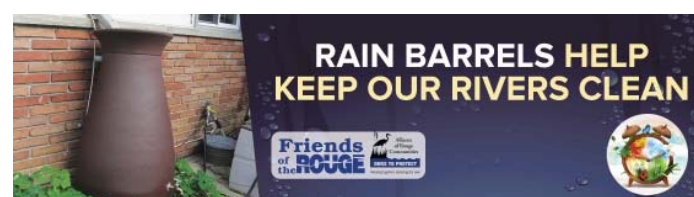
The below map and table shows the location of the billboards:





Intersection Where Sign is Located	Community Location
M-14 & Sheldon Rd.	Plymouth Twp.
Southfield Fwy. & Paul	Detroit
I-275 Fwy. & 10 Mile Rd.	Farmington Hills
2 signs at Ford Rd & Hix	Westland
2 signs at I-75 Fwy. & Auburn Rd.	Auburn Hills
I-275 Fwy. & Tyler Rd.	Van Buren Twp.
2 signs at I-96 Fwy. & Wixom Rd.	Wixom
Coolidge Hwy. & 14 Mile Rd.	Royal Oak
2 signs at I-75 Fwy. & Goddard Rd.	Allen Park

The billboards focused on the clean water messages which reinforced the tips in the ARC seasonal posters which member communities have posted in their facilities. The billboard messages included:





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

ARC Staff developed a new FOG brochure at the request of ARC Members with 5,000 printed in 2016. A total of 4,475 pieces were mailed to forty (40) member communities and partners and 90 pieces were distributed at two (2) member community events. This brochure was ranked high in a survey of new public education pieces that members considered most important to educate the public on. The brochure included information about the impact, examples, negative effects, costly results of FOGs. It discussed things to avoid and what the public can do at home to prevent the damage of fats, oils and grease to the Rouge River and their home. It also gave an introduction the ARC.

**E. PIE5: FRIENDS OF THE ROUGE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP AND REPORTING**

*Workshops*

FOTR worked with the ARC to present two (2) Healthy Lawn Care workshops and two (2) Native Plants and Pollinator workshops described above.

*Annual Report*

Strong partnerships are necessary to establish and enhance local and regional outreach with communities, other non-profits and governmental agencies to educate and inform the public about key issues within the Rouge River Watershed and change behaviors that directly affect the health of the Rouge River Watershed. In the course of its work, FOTR promotes activities and attends a variety of local and regional meetings to build partnerships and promote Rouge River activities.

The Friends of the Rouge developed an annual report for January 1 through December 31, 2016 that will assist ARC members in fulfilling their stormwater permit requirements. The report includes the Frog and Toad Survey, Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring, Fish Monitoring, Rouge Education Project (REP), River Restoration, and Rouge Rescue and Local and Regional Outreach efforts. Information includes meeting or event dates; workshop dates; number of volunteers attending each event; residency of volunteers, REP Schools, number of students per school, number of teachers per school, monitoring locations for each school; a list of dates, locations for REP workshops and a list of schools that participated and a list of organizations that outreach efforts were done.

**Deliverables:**

2016 FOTR Annual Report

[http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/general/FOTR\\_2016\\_ARC\\_Annual\\_Report.pdf](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/general/FOTR_2016_ARC_Annual_Report.pdf)

