In 2009, a no mow “grow zone” was installed with funding from Alliance of Rouge Communities.
Gateway Greenway Phase 1

Wayne County Segment: Completed 2005
Dearborn Segment: Completed
Future Dearborn Greenway

Kingfisher Bluff restoration moved from concepts ...

Bank stabilization and overlook deck at Kingfisher Bluff
…..to reality

• Stabilized the stream bank at Kingfisher Bluff to eliminate this area as a source of excessive sediment to the Rouge River.
• Created scenic overlook and installed interpretive signage to educate the public about the Rouge River.
• Constructed a short walkway to the Gateway Trail that connects to the Rouge Parkway and continues to Michigan Avenue.
• Installed best management practices to manage storm water from the adjacent campus parking area.

UM-D Efforts

• Co-Chair, Rouge Gateway Partnership
• Environmental Interpretive Center one of first Gateway Master Plan projects completed
  • Grow zone added in 2009
  • Annual Rouge Rescue site
  • Many other activities

Grow Zone photos courtesy Alliance of Rouge Communities/ECT
Phase 1
Oxbow Wetland Restoration:
• Construction Completed 2002
• Additional features added 2004

Phase 2
Combined sewer overflow (CSO) removal:
• Ongoing

Phase 3
Open water connections to the Rouge River
• Connection at east end completed by Ford Motor Company and other partners
• Installed storm water management features as part of Proving Ground improvements
The USACOE Mainstem Restoration Project provides riparian & aquatic habitat to barren river banks. It creates 3,600 linear feet of off channel habitat for fish to rest and forage. Side-stream wetlands also support habitat for other species such as mammals, amphibians, insects and birds. Restablishes community’s connection with the river’s edge. Offers educational and recreational opportunities to the public. Does not adversely impact the integrity of the flood control project.
• The Allen Park Greenway is a project of the City of Allen Park in cooperation with the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative. When completed, Allen Park Greenways will connect residents and visitors to parks, schools, shopping areas and neighboring communities.

• Currently, trail users can access greenways near the Fairlane Green shopping center or Champaign Park using existing sidewalks. At Fairlane Green, they can travel the greenway path around ponds and through forested areas adjacent to local retailers. At Champaign Park, trails meander through the park between Allen Park High School and Pelham Road.
  • Segment Area 5 completed in 2001
  • Funding is in place to construct Segment Area 2.

Ford Motor Company Projects – Former Clay Mines/Fairlane Green

• 1 million square feet of green building retail & recreational center

• 43-acre park and 3.5 miles of trails
  • 2/3 of site to remain as undeveloped green space

• Bio-swales & wetland ponds

• Green screens, hedgerows and prairie-style landscaping

• Recycled-content materials comprise 23% of all building materials used and 2/3 of the construction waste was recycled.

• 2,000 permanent jobs

• Phase I opened 2006 and is the nations first retail development to receive Gold certification through the U.S. Green Building Council’s (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program

Photos courtesy MDEQ
Melvindale and Dearborn Projects

Dearborn DPW Yard Storm Water Management Project
- Installed rain gardens in parking area
- Relocate storage piles to enclosed areas
- Direct remaining storm water to swirl concentrator
- Wetland detention area along river

Photos courtesy Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge except jogger photo courtesy Hamilton Anderson

Ongoing Pollution Control Projects

- Dearborn Heights:
  - Phase I program complete
  - Phase II: Flows from 3 add'l outfalls routed to existing Phase I CSO basin
  - Phase II: Currently revising CSO Control Program
- Dearborn: Currently revising CSO Control Program
- Melvindale: 1-million gallon SSO storage tank completed 2006
- Allen Park: SSO Outfall Closure and Wet Weather Pump Station
- Detroit:
  - Baby Creek screening and disinfection facility operational in 2007
  - Construction of Oakwood District sewer improvements underway
  - Upper Rouge Tunnel design underway
Ford Motor Company Projects

- New Visitor Center and view to green roof opened spring 2004
- Wildflower planting near Rouge Steel
- Miller Road plantings becoming established

Photos courtesy Ford Motor Company

In 2011, Friends of the Rouge and the Detroit-Wayne County Port Authority, with funding assistance from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, removed 18 abandoned boats (including removal of gasoline from 3) fuel from the oxbow channel around Fordson Island.

Photos courtesy Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge
• Master Plan complete
• First phase, Patton Park to Lapeer Park, completed fall 2008
• Next phase underway, along Vernor Highway from Woodmere Drive to Dix Road

Connections to the Detroit River

- Historic Fort Wayne
- DeGuerre Park
- DeGuerre Park Gateway
- DeGuerre Park Gateway Greenway
- Willow Greenway
- Fort Street Access Corridor
- DeGuerre, McCreary, and Irving Forts
- River Rouge Trail
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Mexicantown International Welcome Center  

- Dedicated August 22, 2008  
- Completed by the State of Michigan, City of Detroit and the Mexicantown community  

Located in southwest Detroit near the Ambassador Bridge, the new center welcomes millions of visitors and tourists who contribute more than $17 billion annually to the state's economy  

Progress Toward Increased Recreation Goal

Photos courtesy Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge except as noted

Photo courtesy Hamilton Anderson

Friends of the Rouge Rouge Kayak Tour  
September 29, 2007  
17 Kayaks, 1 Canoe
Progress Toward Ecosystem Restoration

Dissolved oxygen concentrations in the Main Rouge at Plymouth Road have improved 0.12 mg/L per year
➤ Standards are being met over 95% of the time

In 2010, Stoneflies were found for the first time in the Main Branch
➤ Stoneflies are sensitive indicators of healthy streams

Many other indicators of ecosystem health improvements

Photos courtesy Sally Petrella, Friends of the Rouge except as noted

Corporate Investment in Rouge Gateway Area

• Ford Motor Company: Founding Gateway Partner
  • Rouge Manufacturing Facility
  • Fairlane Green
  • Many others
• Marathon: expansion and investment in Rouge refining facility
• SeverStal North America: remediation and investment in their steel plant within the historic Rouge site
• Edward C. Levy Company: Founding Gateway Partner
• Detroit Economic Growth Corporation: infrastructure improvements in Springwells Industrial Park
• Honeywell: Sediment assessment with EPA Great Lakes Legacy Act
• DTE Energy: alternative energy investments
• Many others
A barren, 200-foot expanse of broken concrete and metal, in place to stabilize the shoreline at DTE Rouge Plant…

….replaced by natural shoreline that creates a thriving habitat for fish and other wildlife species, will develop as the native plants grow, bloom and bear fruit.

- 10,000 square feet of wildflowers planted
- Nesting enhancements implemented for Peregrine Falcon habitat

Photos courtesy DTE

Southwest Detroit Riverfront

- Clark Park
- Ambassador Bridge
- Riverside Park
- Detroit News
- Port District
- Motor City Intermodal Terminal
- Mistersky Power Plant
- Revere Copper & Brass Site
- Fort Wayne
- Springwells Subdivision
- U.S. Steel (Zug Island)

Neighborhoods

- Patton Park
- Baby Creek Screening and Disinfection Facility
- Fordson Island
- DWSI
- Oakwood Pump Station
- Fort Street Bridge
Rouge River Gateway Master Plan Update: 2011