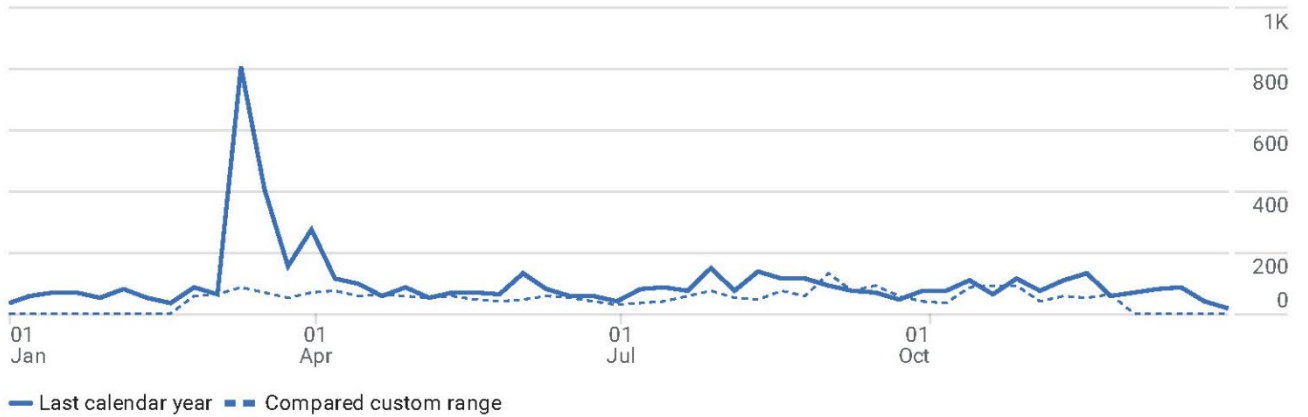


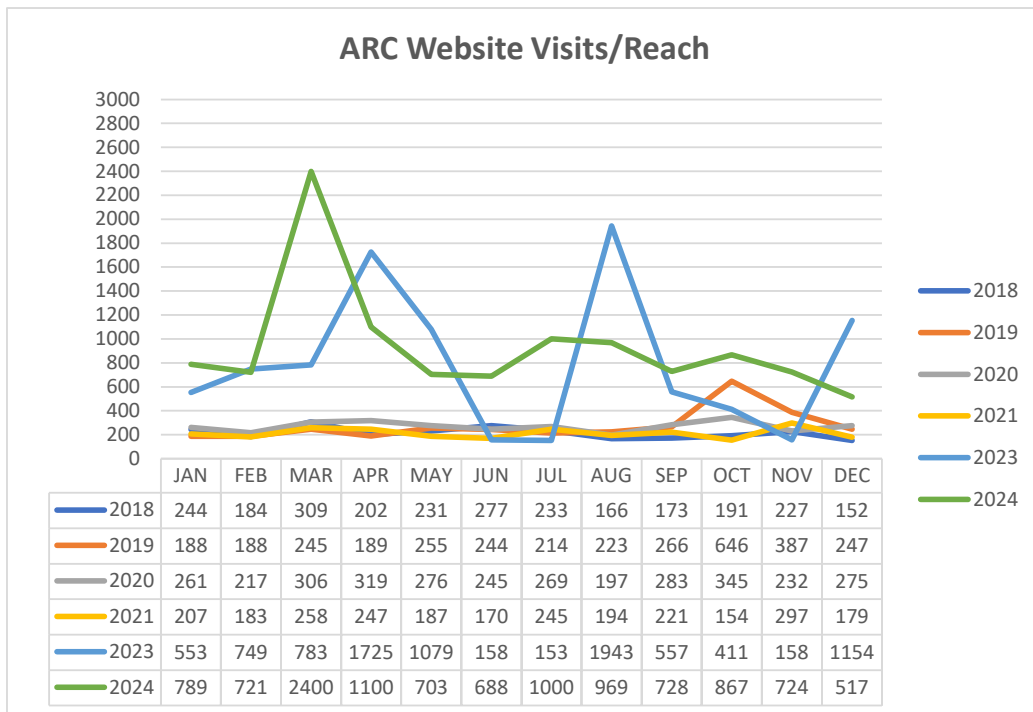
2024 ARC ELECTRONIC MEDIA REPORT

ARC WEBSITE TRAFFIC (Views)

The ARC's website had 11,206 views in 2024



*Solid line – 2024, Dashed line - 2023



*Note: In 2022 traffic information was not available because the website was moved from one hosting company to another so a full year of data was not available.

ARC FACEBOOK ACCOUNT

- The ARC created 26 Facebook posts and shared 13 partner posts for a total of 39
- The Facebook page had a reach of over 22,500 in 2024
- The Facebook page had a total of 595 followers in 2024, this is an increase of 230 from 2023
- The Facebook page has a total of 504 likes in 2024, this is an increase of 71 from 2023

ARC FACEBOOK POSTS

2024 Posts

2/27/24

Habitat improvements are coming soon to Wilcox and Phoenix Lake in [City of Plymouth](#), [Plymouth Township](#) and [Northville Township - Government](#)! The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) is excited for these projects in [Wayne County Parks](#) which will create and enhance habitat in and around each lake through placement of substrate used for fish spawning, shoreline stabilization, habitat structure installation, dredging (Wilcox Lake only), treatment and removal of invasive species, and native plantings. As temperatures improve, workers will mobilize to begin invasive species treatment and site preparation so that construction can begin this spring. This effort is part of the ARC's "Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration - Wilcox/Phoenix Implementation" project funded by a grant from the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#), Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Grant# GL-00E03267-0). For more information visit <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/wilcox.html>

3/6/24

The ARC's 35 member communities are being represented by the ARC's Executive Director in Washington DC for [#GreatLakesDay](#) this week starting with the [Great Lakes Commission](#) meeting and ending with the Congressional Breakfast later this week. The ARC's Executive Director, John O'Meara, will be discussing and supporting important issues to the Great Lakes, particularly the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) that has funded many restoration projects within the Rouge River Watershed! Learn more about the ARC at www.allianceofrougecommunities.com

3/6/24

The Alliance of Rouge Communities funds two [Friends of the Rouge](#) volunteer monitoring events, the Winter Stonefly Search which is held in January and the below Spring Bug Hunt scheduled for April 20, 2024. Come out and get involved with your Rouge River!

3/8/24

let's hear your voice about our Rouge River Watershed and other waters of the Great Lakes in a poll developed by the [IJC - International Joint Commission](#).

ijc.org

Now Online: 2024 Great Lakes Regional Poll | International Joint Commission

3/11/24

Join us for an update on the Rouge River Area of Concern (AOC) Habitat Restoration at Wilcox and Phoenix Lakes, public meeting scheduled for 3/28/24

3/18/24 - **BOOSTED**

Spring is here (well maybe not this week . . .) but we are getting ready for warmer weather and greener grass. Remember to sweep excess fertilizer off sidewalks and paved areas. This helps keep the fertilizer

from going down the storm drain and directly to the Rouge River. For more ways to protect water quality in the Rouge River visit www.allianceofrougecommunities.com

3/26/24

“What is that thing?” As you pass by [Wayne County Parks](#) Wilcox Lake in [City of Plymouth](#), you may notice a new fixture. This is a floating barge, which will be used to support dredge equipment removing excess sediment from the lake. The dredge process will likely take several months, after which the barge will be removed. The dredging of excess sediment will create a deeper pocket, favored by resident fish populations. This effort is part of the ARC's “Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration - Wilcox/Phoenix Implementation” project funded by a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant from the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#), (Grant# GL-00E03267-0). For more information visit <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/wilcox.html>

3/27/24

Don't forget to come learn more about the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funded activities happening at both Wilcox Lake and Phoenix Lake! Public meeting scheduled for Thursday 3/28 at 7:00 p.m. at [City of Plymouth](#).

3/27/24

ICYMI: The Wayne County Department of Public Services has scheduled four household hazardous waste collection events in 2024, the first of which is on Saturday, April 6, in Belleville. For more information, call 734-326-3936.

3/28/24 - **BOOSTED**

Do you know where the rainwater goes once it trickles into a storm drain? If you guessed into the Rouge River - you are correct! In addition, any debris picked up from your driveway or chemicals that get dumped down it end up in the same place! Keep your storm drains clear and never dump anything down it. Learn more at www.allianceofrougecommunities.com

4/25/24

Rouge River Watershed residents in Washtenaw County - here is your opportunity to dispose of your household hazardous waste properly. Things accepted include old tires, chemicals like paint and fertilizer and even TV's and furniture. Visit the site below to make your appointment to do your part to protect water quality! For more info visit: www.allianceofrougecommunities.com.

4/29/24

Major milestone alert! A permit application has been submitted to the State for the Inkster Park restoration project in [City of Inkster - City Hall](#). This project in [Wayne County Parks](#) will create and enhance habitat in the Rouge River floodplain through creation of wetlands, treatment and removal of invasive species, restoration of a storm drain in the park, and native plantings. This effort is part of the ARC's Wilcox, Inkster, Phoenix Habitat Design grant funded by the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#), Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Grant# GL-00E02997-0). For more information visit: <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/inkster.html>

6/4/24

The dredging work at Wilcox Lake in the [City of Plymouth](#) and [Plymouth Township](#) is nearing completion! Approximately 6,100 cubic yards of mucky sediments have been removed from Wilcox Lake to create a deeper pocket, favored by resident fish populations. This effort is part of the ARC's "Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration - Wilcox/Phoenix Implementation" project funded by a grant from the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#), Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Grant# GL-00E03267-0). For more information visit <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/wilcox.html>

6/5/24

Report Illegal Dumping - You are the eyes and ears in your community! If you see someone dumping anything in the river, on the side of the road or even down the storm drain on your street, report it to your community's pollution hotline (or Michigan's Pollution Alert System - 800-292-4706). Things that should be reported include: dumping to lakes, rivers or streams; unusual discharges from pipes; foul odors; or even a large number of dead fish in waterways. For more information visit <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/illdump.html>

6/25/24

If you are out and about in the Rouge River Watershed, check out Nankin Lake in [Livonia Community](#) and [City of Westland - Administration](#). The below picture was taken recently and marks a year after major construction activities have been completed under an [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant to [Wayne County Parks](#). The lake was dredged, and sandy substrate was installed to create spawning areas for fish and other aquatic life. While native shrubs and grasses planted along the shoreline continue to grow, please keep only to designated access points for the lake. For more info on the project visit <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/nankinlake.html>

7/12/24

Shoreline improvements are underway at Wilcox Lake in the [City of Plymouth](#) and [Plymouth Township](#), largely in the form of "sticks and stones." Habitat logs, some with rootwads still intact, will provide basking locations for turtles and cover for fish and other aquatic life. Limestone slabs hold habitat logs in place and will allow park users to access the lake without contributing to shoreline erosion. In other locations, protected areas have been constructed, which will be the future home for aquatic plantings.

This effort is part of the ARC's "Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration - Wilcox/Phoenix Implementation" project funded by a grant from the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#), Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Grant# GL-00E03267-0). For more information visit <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/wilcox.html>

7/13/24

After being planted a year ago, native grasses, shrubs, and trees are thriving in created wetland areas at Colonial Park (top photo) in the [City of Inkster - City Hall](#) and [City of Westland - Administration](#) and Venoy-Dorsey Park (bottom photo) in the [City of Wayne-Administration](#). Both of these are in [Wayne County Parks](#). A reminder: please stay out of habitat areas as native plants continue to establish themselves. This work is part of the Colonial Park and Venoy Park Habitat Restoration Project that was awarded to the Alliance of Rouge Communities through a [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#), Great

Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant (Grant GL-00E02830). For more information visit:

<https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/colonial.html>

7/14/24

After being planted a year ago, native grasses, shrubs, and trees are thriving in created wetland areas in [Wayne County Parks](#) at Sherwood Park (top picture) in the [City of Westland - Administration](#), Bell Creek Park, and Lola Valley Park (bottom picture) in the [Charter Township of Redford](#). A reminder: please stick to gravel paths and mowed turf areas as native plants continue to establish themselves. The habitat restoration project, being conducted by the Alliance of Rouge Communities, is funded under a grant from the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) (GL-00E02896-0). For more information visit:

<https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/sherwood.html>

7/15/24

Construction is underway at Riverview Park – also known as Levan Knoll – in [Wayne County Parks](#) in [Livonia Community](#). This habitat restoration project includes the creation of new wetlands along the Middle Rouge River, and connection of existing wetland features. These wetlands will provide habitat for amphibians, birds, and pollinators while providing stormwater storage and filtration to aid in the reduction of damaging flood flows within the river itself. The project is being conducted by the Alliance of Rouge Communities and is funded under a grant from the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) (GL-00E02896-0). For more information visit:

<https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/riverview.html>

7/30/24

A huge congratulations to ARC Member [Wayne County, Michigan](#) who was recognized with the [SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments](#), 2024 Regional Showcase Award for the Ford Fair Lane Estate Fishway project that restored habitat and created recreational opportunities in the Rouge River through a grant from a [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant (GL-00E02040-0). Watch the video about the project below and learn more about the project at: <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/hfepassage.html>

8/8/24 - **BOOSTED**

The [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#), in partnership with [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Headquarters](#) (USACE), is developing the design plans for ecosystem restoration along the Rouge River concrete channel that runs through [City of Dearborn Government](#), [City of Allen Park - Government](#) and [City of Melvindale](#), Michigan. Join the project team to learn more about this exciting design at our kick-off community meeting scheduled for September 4, 2024, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the [Dearborn Baptist Church](#) located at 16350 Rotunda Dr., in Dearborn. Building upon the restoration work that has been ongoing for 20+ years in the area, this current initiative will continue the effort to restore the river ecosystem and environment, without diminishing the effectiveness or function of the original Federal Flood Control Project (concrete channel). This design project is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through the framework of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). For more information visit:

<https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/concretechanne...>

9/10/24

A special thank you to [Senator Debbie Stabenow](#) (left) and Congresswoman [Debbie Dingell](#) (right) shown here with ARC Executive Director, John O'Meara, for helping the ARC celebrate the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#) GLRI-funded Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Park restoration on Friday morning. The restored Rouge River can be seen in the background (left). The project restored the stream and pond to provide habitat for valuable fish and wildlife, improved fish passage between the pond and stream, and improved water quality within the Rouge River watershed. Learn more about the project at: <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/johnson.html>

9/26/24

If you were unable to attend the kickoff public meeting on 9/4/24 for the Rouge River Concrete Channel Restoration Design project that runs through [City of Allen Park - Government](#), [City of Dearborn Government](#) and [City of Melvindale](#) you can view the recording below. A special thank you to [Dearborn Baptist Church](#) for hosting the meeting and recording it! This exciting project is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through the framework of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). For more information about the project and future meetings visit the project website at: <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/concretechanne...>

10/31/24

You can help reduce flooding and protect water quality at home! Visit <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/steward.html> Slow Rainfall to Help Us All! Help reduce flooding in the Rouge River watershed

11/5/24

As part of the ARC's "Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration - Wilcox/Phoenix Implementation" project funded by a grant from the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#), Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (Grant# GL-00E03267-0). Aquatic plantings were installed in shallow water littoral zones around Wilcox and Phoenix Lake (in [City of Plymouth](#), [Plymouth Township](#) and [Northville Township - Government](#)) to create lacustrine wetland habitat for waterfowl feeding, fish spawning and nursery habitat, and nutrient sequestration. Ten unique plant species will be planted: bulrush, pickerel weed, common arrowhead, hardstem bulrush, softstem bulrush, American bur reed, floating leaf pondweed, yellow pond lily, white water lily and sago pondweed. Bright flags have been strung over planting areas to deter waterfowl and protect these native plantings while their roots establish. For more information visit <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/wilcox.html>

11/6/24

Excavation is nearing completion for the creation of new wetland features at Riverview Park – also known as Levan Knoll – in [Wayne County Parks](#) in the [Livonia Community](#). While this wetland is visible from Hines Drive, most are tucked back in the forested areas of the park to the south. These wetlands will provide habitat for amphibians, birds, and pollinators while providing stormwater storage and filtration to aid in the reduction of damaging flood flows within the Middle Rouge River. The project is being conducted by the Alliance of Rouge Communities and is funded under a grant from the [U.S. EPA Region 5 \(Great Lakes Region\)](#) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) (GL-00E02896-0). For more information visit: <https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/riverview.html>

ARC REPOSTS AND SHARES PROMOTING WORKSHOPS/PRESENTATIONS, VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES/MONITORING

2024 Reposts

1/26/24

River Raisin Watershed Council

[oeSptrodsn0 ff6hf4h55ucaf6r4ah1Jya51276n2af,m0u20c8fa1gu6 96](#) ·

We are so excited to announce we will be hosting two beekeeping courses, taught by Don Warner and Janet Tucker from [River Raisin Beekeepers Club](#)!

This class taught in within [Tecumseh](#) Michigan in the AJ Smith House on [City of Tecumseh Parks and Recreation](#) campus.

Register today for classes at: <https://www.riverraisin.org/upcoming-events>

Don't let financial constraints stop you from taking our classes! Apply for a scholarship at:

<https://forms.gle/fP8Dd4DmGtHtaSMFA>

1/26/24

Washtenaw County Conservation District

[oeSptrodsn0 ff6hf4h55ucaf6r4ah1Jya51276n2af,m0u20c8fa1gu6 96](#) ·

The snow might no longer be fresh, but still fresh on our minds are all challenges getting around on the icy and snowy roads!

Here's an idea: Plant a Living Snow Fence!

<https://www.michigan.gov/.../Roa.../Living-Snow-Fence.pdf...>

Strategically planted windbreaks have many benefits along your home and roads:

reduced snow drift,

safer roads & less to plow,

beautiful landscape aesthetics,

increased wildlife habitat,

greater privacy,

noise reduction,

and even carbon sequestration!

Plenty of species we offer in the Spring Tree & Shrub sale will make for a great living fence.

Pre-order this weekend, pick-up April 26-27, while supplies last!

<https://store.washtenawcd.org/.../2024-spring-tree-shrub...>

4/8/24

What an awesome improvement for our Rouge River Watershed [Friends of Rouge Park](#)! Great work and great people! Overwhelmed by the 230 people who came out and are just about finished planting 100 trees! [The Greening of Detroit #FSUrbanConnections](#)

4/29/24

More great things coming for the Rouge River! Thank you to all working on this important project.

We just announced that dredging will soon start in the Lower Rouge River Area of Concern near Detroit. Contaminated sediments in the channel are toxic to invertebrates, fish, and other wildlife. They also present risks to human health and the environment. <https://www.epa.gov/.../epa-announces-84-million-great...>

5/6/24

Drinking Water Week Webinar

May 7, 2024, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Know Your Drinking Water: The Safe Drinking Water Act and You
(Virtual, Free)

Join us for an informative webinar during Drinking Water Week as we celebrate 50 years of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Learn all about the SDWA and how it affects the water we drink. Find out who helps make the SDWA rules and makes sure they're followed. Discover simple things you can do to make sure there is healthy drinking water in your home. Our team of water professionals from around the state will share useful information and answer your questions. Don't miss this chance to learn more about why clean drinking water is so important! Webinar link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/.../WN_InOuClSIS_iTLFm3M-SEyQ...

8/2/24

If you live in the Rouge River Watershed you may have a septic system - attend this free webinar to learn about your system and how to maintain it to protect water quality! Learn more at

<https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/septic.html>

Michigan's residents rely on over 1.3 million septic systems to treat the wastewater generated in their homes. Proper septic system use and routine care are vital to protecting public health and preserving our highly valued groundwater, lakes, streams, and waterways. Learning about septic systems can help you avoid costly repairs.

The Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy's (EGLE) Onsite Wastewater Program is kicking off SepticSmart Week [<https://www.epa.gov/septic/septicsmart-week>] with this 1-hour webinar, which will be recorded. While this event is targeted to homeowners served by a septic system, all interested persons are welcomed to attend. Webinar attendees will learn about:

- * the basics of septic systems,
- * septic system operation and maintenance tips, and
- * a quick overview of Michigan's Septic Replacement Loan Program.

You'll leave this webinar with access to educational materials and a boost in your ability to manage your septic system. Mark your calendar and register today!

The SepticSmart program is a nation-wide initiative to share information on the proper care and maintenance of septic systems and encourage public stewardship in caring for these systems. For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/septic> .

Do your Part – Be SepticSmart!

REGISTER HERE: https://us06web.zoom.us/.../WN_pNTJvqgjTkKL39Uk4bmlCA...

8/21/24

Get involved and help keep our Rouge River healthy and happy!

Once a month during the summer, the Friends of the Rouge get together to maintain the Merriman Hollow Park Area on Hines Drive. They would love to have you volunteer to help their efforts to make the area pleasing to all visitors.

This Saturday the group will be working on cleaning up the area around the comfort station. This will include weeding, picking up trash, and other activities. If you are able to volunteer, come to the Hollow at 9am on Saturday. Be sure to dress appropriately for outdoor work and bring gloves, gardening tools, sunscreen, bug spray, and something to drink. If you have any questions, you can call 734-637-1284 or go to www.therouge.org.

8/27/24

Rouge River Watershed residents in Wayne County - get with the environmental program and get to the Household Hazardous Waste Collection event!

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection event will take place on Saturday, August 31, 2024 from 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM.

9/13/24

The Detroit River Public Advisory Council is hosting Community Forums (10/2, 10/16 & 10/24) for the public to learn more about the Detroit River Area of Concern (AOC), past AOC projects, and gather input on what future habitat restoration projects should look like. The forums will allow the community to ask questions and discuss future visioning for the Detroit River. The goals of the Community Forums are to provide opportunities to openly share community needs, visions, and help collaborate with the public in future restoration efforts.

10/4/24

Look at you Detroit River! Just amazing [Friends of the Detroit River!](#)

Sugar Island, a 33-acre island in the lower Detroit River between Grosse Ile and the Canadian border, was once home to an amusement park in the 1930s is now overgrown with shrubs and trees. The island's south end has experienced severe erosion, resulting in a 10-15 foot clay cliff and significant loss of shoreline and old-growth trees.

Sugar Island underwent a habitat restoration project led by the Detroit River Public Advisory Council and the Friends of the Detroit River. This project included constructing five sheltering shoals to protect the southern shoreline, creating a 10-acre calm area for native vegetation and aquatic life, and implementing various habitat features to support wildlife. This restoration effort, which wraps up a broader \$50 million investment in habitat restoration in the Detroit River area, aims to address and mitigate the ecological damage caused by over 200 years of human impact.

"This is the perfect example, and embodiment, of the mission of the US Fish and Wildlife Service . . . 'to work with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.' This is certainly a project we would not have been able to complete without all the amazing partners." - Steve Dushane, Deputy Refuge Manager, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge

[#detroitriver](#) [#habitatrestoration](#) [#sugarisland](#) [#friendsofthedetroitriver](#)

11/11/24

Looking to learn more about the Area of Concern (AOC) projects in the Rouge Watershed? The RRAC (Rouge River Advisory Council) has created a dashboard just for you! Visit:

<https://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/dashboard.html>

On this Dashboard, you can click pins on the map to get more information on each project. You can also view the projects by category, including CSO Control and Wetland Restoration.

This project was created with funding provided through an AOC Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant.

12/12/24

It might be cold outside - but the Rouge River still needs you! Get involved in the [Friends of the Rouge](#) 2025 Stonefly Search to help determine the water quality in the Rouge River!