



# Rouge River Area Of Concern (AOC) Public Advisory Council Support

In partnership with:



\$75,000 in grant funds provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to support RRAC activities.

## The Rouge River AOC Public Advisory Council Support project will:

- Provide Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC) general business activities
- Continue development of project descriptions from the Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Projects List
- Conduct macroinvertebrate sampling
- Conduct fish sampling

The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) received grant funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) through the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) to support the activities of the Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC). The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) of 1978 between the United States and Canada established 43 Area of Concerns (AOCs) within the Great Lakes watershed and 14 in Michigan, including the Rouge River. The GLWQA requires the development of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for each AOC. A RAP notes problems in the AOC, identifies the causes and sources of pollutants of concern, and determines what actions are needed to correct the problems and to prevent future ones. It also lists potential "use impairments" - undesirable conditions that restrict how the water resource can be used.

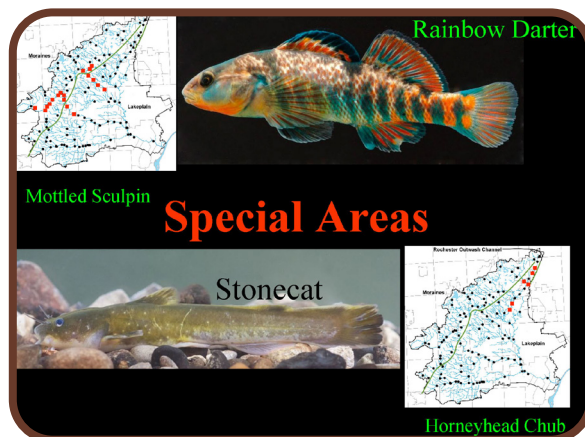
The mission of the RRAC is to assist in the attainment of the goals of the RAP by enhancing public awareness and education concerning RAP issues, providing a mechanism for the participation of all interested parties, seeking broad-based support for the RAP update, assisting in implementation of the Rouge RAP, and independently evaluating progress toward the goal of restoring designated uses and delisting the Rouge River watershed as an AOC.

## Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) Fish & Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring

FOTR completed an extensive fish survey of the entire watershed between 2011 and 2016. This project will continue to further characterize the Rouge fish community by filling in the data gaps with additional surveys in areas with low diversity. FOTR developed and received EGLE approval of a Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) for fish and benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring prior to sampling. FOTR will collect data on fish at 20 sites in the spring/summer 2020 and spring/summer 2021. FOTR will also oversee volunteers in collecting benthic macroinvertebrate data in Fall 2020 and 2021 at a minimum of 25 sites.



FOTR and volunteers conducting macroinvertebrate monitoring which helps gauge water quality.

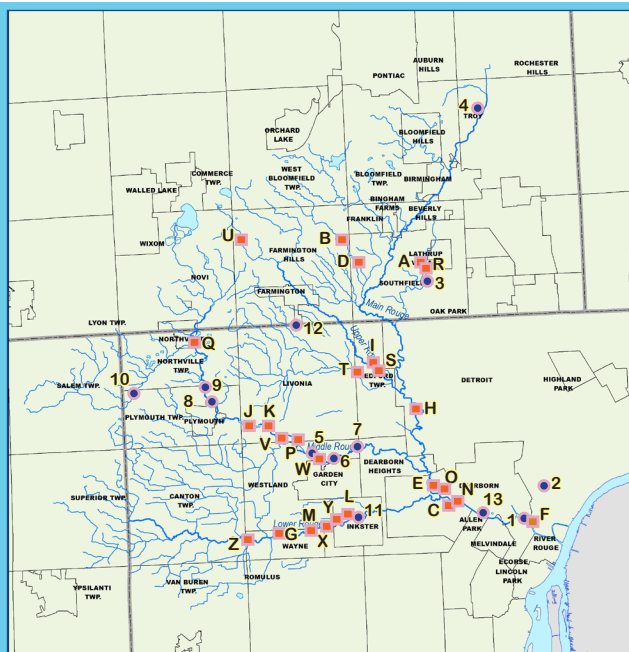


Fish monitoring results in the Rouge River Watershed conducted by FOTR.

For more information about other ARC activities visit our website at:  
[www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com)

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In 2008, the RRAC developed the Delisting Targets for Fish and Wildlife Habitat & Population Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) for the Rouge River AOC. In 2014, RRAC formally began development of the Rouge River AOC Habitat Restoration Projects List. This list includes projects that have been completed and those that will need to be completed in order to achieve the associated goal of fish and wildlife habitat and fish and wildlife populations BUIs removal. This list was approved by both the State of Michigan and the USEPA in 2018 and is being used to prioritize future funding for removal of the AOC's habitat-related BUIs. This project allows the RRAC to expand project descriptions and concepts for several projects on the list.



A photograph of a gravel driveway leading through a grassy field towards a dense line of trees under a cloudy sky. The driveway is made of light-colored gravel and runs straight from the foreground into the distance. On either side of the driveway is a green, grassy field. In the background, there is a thick line of trees, including some tall, thin trees and some shorter, bushier ones. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The entire image is framed by a dark brown border.

A photograph of a lush, green wetland or marsh area. In the foreground, there are various flowering plants, including purple and pink blossoms. The middle ground is filled with dense green vegetation and tall grasses. In the background, a dense forest of tall trees is visible under a cloudy sky. The image is framed by a dark, rounded border.



Alliance  
of Rouge  
Communities

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*Working together, restoring the river*