



Rouge Oxbow Restoration Project Phase III Design

In partnership with:



\$256,272 in grant funds provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

The Rouge Oxbow Restoration Project will:

- Restore a connection to the Rouge River for benthic macro-invertebrates, amphibians, birds, fish and small mammals.
- Provide benefit to bass, channel catfish and bowfin by the creation of lacustrine habitat.

The Rouge Oxbow Restoration Project, which is being completed in phases, is located at The Henry Ford adjacent to the Rouge River in Dearborn, Michigan. The main objective of the Rouge Oxbow Restoration Project is to enhance the ecological viability of the Oxbow channel and the Rouge River while providing interpretive and educational opportunities.

The initial phase provided restoration of the Oxbow wetlands similar to riverine wetlands common in southeast Michigan rivers. The channel is surrounded by three acres of submergent and emergent wetland systems that provide habitat for various fish and aquatic species. As part of another phase, the eastern end of the Oxbow was opened back up to the river and this current phase funded by a NOAA grant to the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) will start the process of providing the final open cut to the river. The past and proposed modifications to the riverbank include bioengineering techniques, riparian habitat creation, and slope stabilization. Of equal importance is the construction of appropriate hydraulic structures at the Oxbow channel inlet and outlet that breach the existing earthen berm (behind the concrete-lined channel) and provide an open hydraulic connection that can withstand the high velocities associated with flood flows and will contain the 100-year storm. These “open cuts” restore a connection for benthic macro-invertebrates, amphibians, birds, fish and small mammals. Benefits to bass, channel catfish and bowfin will be provided by the development of the created lacustrine habitat.

The ARC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization consisting of local municipalities, counties, educational institutions and stewardship groups working together to improve the Rouge River. Founded in 2005, 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 storm water permit and to restore beneficial uses, such as canoeing, fishing and other recreational activities, to the Rouge River. That means better water quality for less cost to its members!



For more information about this project and other ARC activities visit our website at:

www.allianceofrougecommunities.com

Phase I - Oxbow restoration
Phase II - Eastern cut to Rouge River
Phase III - Design of western cut to Rouge River