



## **POLICY**

### **DESIGNATION OF COOPERATING PARTNERS**

#### **Background**

Article II B 2 of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) Bylaws provide for the recognition of Cooperating Partners as follows:

#### **ARTICLE II**

##### **B. Membership of the ARC**

##### *2. Cooperating Partners*

The ARC encourages the involvement of non-profit organizations, other public agencies or entities, businesses, and residents who share a common interest in protection and restoration of the Rouge River. Those who provide their time, services, expertise or other resources toward the common goal of protection and restoration of the river will be recognized as non-voting, *Cooperating Partners*.

This ARC policy establishes the process and criteria for consideration and formal designation of ARC Cooperating Partners.

#### **Nomination**

The ARC Organization Committee shall review nominations for designation of ARC Cooperating Partners received from any ARC member, or from any non-profit organization, public agency or entity, business or resident who wish to be designated as an ARC Cooperating Partner. The ARC Organization Committee shall consider each nomination based upon the criteria established in this policy and make a recommendation to the ARC Executive Committee.

#### **Formal Designation**

The full ARC membership at a regularly scheduled meeting shall consider the recommendations of the Executive Committee or additional recommendations for Cooperating Partners supported by at least two members based upon the criteria established in this policy. By a majority vote at a full membership meeting the ARC shall officially designate Cooperating Partners.

## **Criteria for Designation**

### ***Non-Profit Organization, Local and Regional Public Agencies or Entities***

Non-profit organizations including informal groups or associations and those with 501 c3 designation under the U.S. tax code, and local/regional public agencies and entities not otherwise eligible for membership in the ARC may be considered for designation as a ARC Cooperating Partner if it has the following:

- Goals and objectives related to the improvement of the Rouge River and its watershed consistent with those of the ARC;
- Demonstrated a commitment of time, services, expertise or other resources for activities intended to protect, restore, or improve the management of the Rouge River and its watershed to benefit the residents of the region; and
- Expressed an interest in a cooperative working relationship with the ARC in achieving common goals

### ***State and Federal Agencies***

State or federal agencies that are not members of the ARC and who participate with the ARC in its activities, or provide financial or technical support to the ARC shall be recognized as contributing Cooperating Partners and appropriately recognized in reports and other ARC publications related to their support and participation.

### ***Individuals and Businesses***

Individuals and businesses may be considered for designation as a Cooperating Partner by

- Special recognition of specific one-time project or continuing activities that demonstrate exemplary stewardship of the Rouge River. Such recognition shall be on an annual basis in a special category that would recognize outstanding contributions of an individual or business to the restoration of the Rouge River through the presentation of an appropriate award commemorating the ARC's appreciation.
- Placement on an ARC Cooperating Partners Honor Role recognizing individuals and businesses that make uncompensated contributions of technical, financial or other direct support of ARC sponsored activities or programs during the previous year. Placement on the ARC Honor Role of Cooperating Partners would be would occur at the last annual meeting in each year at which the contributions of individuals and businesses in direct support of the ARC would be formally acknowledged.

## **Tenure of Designation of Cooperating Partners**

### ***Non-Profit Organization, Local and Regional Public Agencies or Entities***

The ARC Organization Committee shall annually review the status of designated cooperating partners based upon the criteria established under this policy and recommend any changes to the Executive Committee for formal action by the full ARC membership.

### ***State and Federal Agencies***

The state and federal agencies once designated shall be recognized as contributing cooperative members as long as they continue to participate in ARC activities or provide financial or technical assistance.

### ***Individuals and Businesses***

The annual recognition of individuals or businesses as Cooperating Partners or placement on the honor role of contributing Cooperating Partners is a one time event that will be appropriately recognized by the ARC for the twelve month period following the designation and acknowledged for a contribution during a specific year.

### **Acknowledgement and Involvement of Partners**

In addition to the specific annual recognitions cited above, the ARC will, where appropriate, acknowledge the Cooperating Partners in its publications, and public outreach efforts. Cooperating Partners are encouraged to also indicate that they are ARC Cooperating Partners where their activities or public outreach focus on Rouge River efforts of common interest.

The ARC will seek to involve Cooperating Partners in planning and implementing ARC programs, projects or activities where a common interest is served and joint actions are mutually beneficial. Likewise, Cooperating Partners will be encouraged to involve the ARC in similar ways with their programs, projects or activities.

By mutual consent, the ARC and individual Cooperating Partners may jointly submit grant applications for projects that serve both; or otherwise assist one another in support for specific programs or activities.