

ROUGE RIVER COLLABORATIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/INVOLVEMENT PLAN (PPP)



Prepared by:



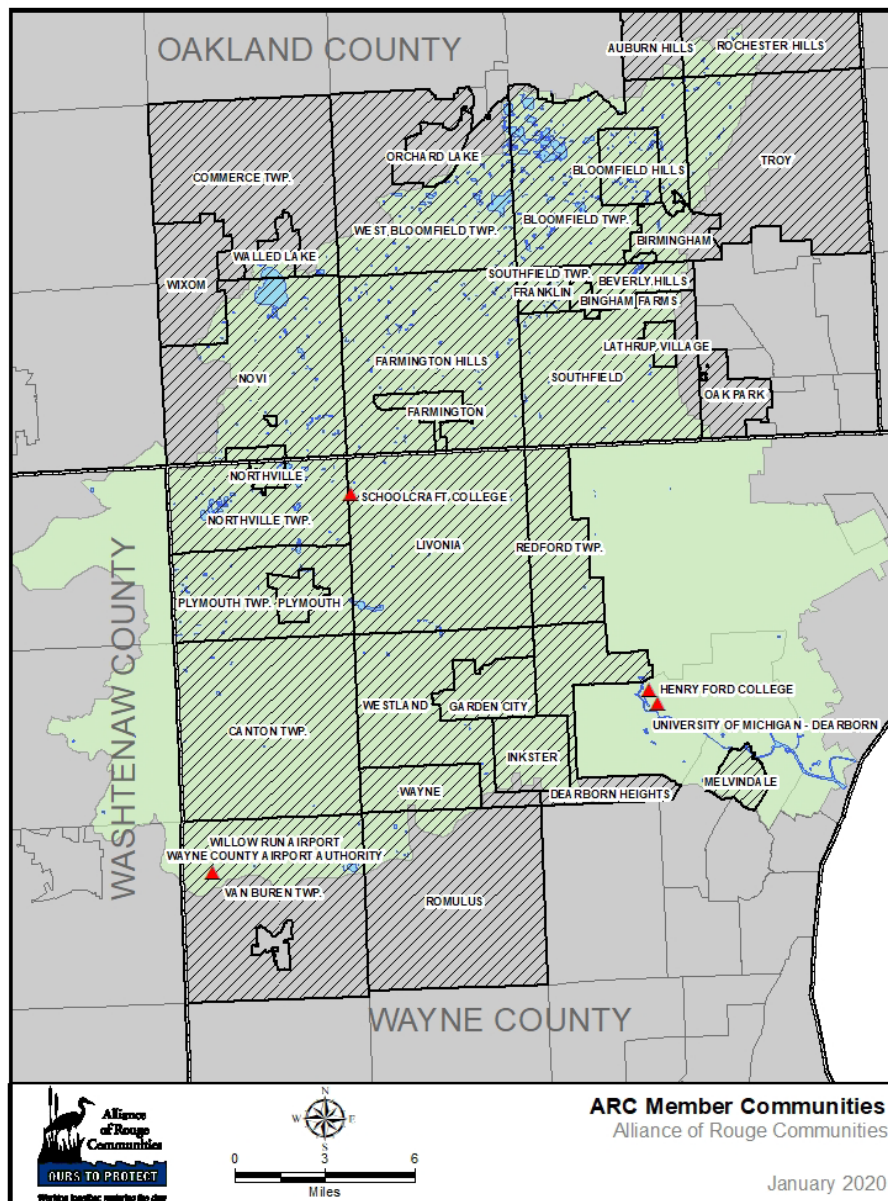
46036 Michigan Ave., Suite 126
Canton, MI 48188
www.allianceofrougecommunities.com

March 2023/Revised January 2025

INTRODUCTION

The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC), a 501(c)(3) organization, is a voluntary public watershed entity currently comprised of municipal governments, counties, schools, and cooperating partners (see Figure 1) as authorized by Part 312 (Watershed Alliances) of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL 324.101 to 324.90106) as amended by Act No. 517, Public Acts of 2004. The purpose of the ARC is to provide an institutional mechanism to encourage watershed-wide cooperation and mutual support to meet water quality permit requirements and to restore beneficial uses of the Rouge River to the area residents.

Figure 1: ARC Members



The Rouge River Collaborative Public Participation Plan (PPP) presents the watershed wide approach being used to allow the public to comment on ARC member stormwater management plans (SWMP). This plan was developed by the ARC through its Public Involvement and Education Committee (PIE) in response to the requirements of the State of Michigan’s Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. More specifically, this plan addresses the Public Participation/Involvement Program element of the permit.

This plan will be implemented collaboratively by the ARC participating communities and partners through September 30, 2031. The list of permittees participating in this Plan include:

Beverly Hills, Village of	Livonia	Wayne
Bingham Farms, Village of	Melvindale	Westland
Birmingham	Northville	West Bloomfield Twp.
Bloomfield Hills	Northville Twp.	Oakland County*
Bloomfield Twp.	Novi	University of Michigan-Dearborn*
Canton Twp.	Oak Park	Washtenaw County*
Dearborn Heights	Orchard Lake Village	Willow Run Airport (Wayne County Airport Authority)
Farmington	Plymouth	Wayne County
Farmington Hills	Plymouth Twp.	Wixom
Franklin, Village of	Redford Twp.	<i>*Participating but this plan is not part of their pending permit application.</i>
Garden City	Schoolcraft College	
Henry Ford College	Southfield	
Inkster	Troy	
Lathrup Village	Walled Lake	

The Rouge River Watershed communities have long realized that the public must be engaged in order to have successful restoration activities in the Rouge River watershed. Public involvement and education have been the foundation of Rouge River restoration activities since the inception of the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project in 1992 and continues today through the ARC and its members.

SECTION A – PURPOSE

This plan establishes the procedures for the ARC’s Public Participation/Involvement Program. The procedures include a description of the opportunities for the public to participate, comment, and become involved with the implementation of ARC member Stormwater Management Plans (SWMPs).

SECTION B – PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AND COMMENT

The approved SWMPs will be made available to the public via the ARC website and links on each community’s websites throughout the permit cycle. The public will also be informed through the ARC’s and community’s social media that the plans are available for review and comment. The ARC will be identified as the point of contact to receive public comments. The ARC will survey its members regarding any local public notice requirements and will meet them as appropriate.

SECTION C – MEASURABLES

The ARC staff will compile and track comments from the public by documenting the commenter’s name, date, and synopsis of the comment. ARC staff will document SWMP posting dates on both the ARC and community’s websites along with recording links to the SWMP documents and collaborative plans. ARC staff will document dates that the public was invited to participate in implementation and review of the SWMP. This information will be reported in progress reports for the Collaborative PPP that will accompany the permittees’ individual progress reports. The Collaborative PPP progress report is anticipated to be completed by February 28 every two years beginning in 2026. Each report will cover activities conducted in the previous two calendar years.

SECTION D – PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

Links to the SWMPs will be available on both the community’s website and the ARC’s website and will be available for public comment throughout the permit cycle. Specifically, the ARC and its members will invite the public to participate in the implementation and periodic review of the SWMP at least 4 times during the permit cycle. This will be advertised on the ARC website and links on the community’s websites. The ARC will also use social media to promote the public’s involvement and will periodically request partners to invite the public to participate in the implementation and periodic review of the SWMP during the permit cycle.