



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

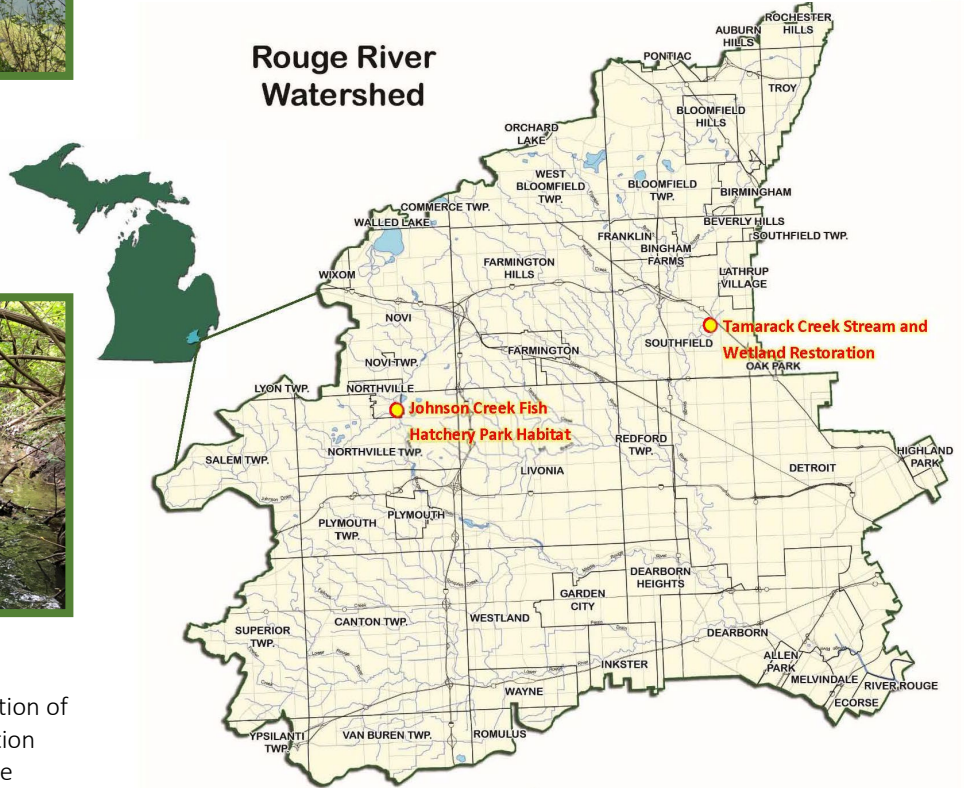
ARC 2018 EPA-Funded Grant Projects



Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Park Restoration Design, Northville - Fish and Wildlife habitat associated with Johnson Creek have been lost and impacted by sedimentation, loss or conversion of riparian vegetation, and streambank armoring, reducing its viability as a cold-water fishery; the only remaining cold water fishery in the Rouge River.



Rouge River Watershed



Tamarack Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration Design, Southfield - Restoration of Tamarack Creek is necessary in conjunction with wetland restoration to help improve hydrology and in-stream flows. Wetland restoration will repair wetland hydrology, manage invasive species, and plant native wetland plants to diversify the flora.



Funding for these projects relate directly to the RRAC List of [Rouge River AOC Projects Needed to Remove the Habitat BUIs](#) developed with grant funding from the Areas of Concern Program through the Office of the Great Lakes, MDNR.

March 2019

Submitted by:



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ARC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2018 Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) Executive Director's Annual Report summarizes the primary activities conducted by the ARC from January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, including products and outcomes from routine administration and meetings of the ARC and all its committees. It also includes results from ARC Illicit Discharge Elimination Program (IDEP) activities and public education activities, including workshops and developed products.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVICES

ARC MEETINGS, ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION

FULL ALLIANCE MEETINGS

ARC Staff supported two (2) Full ARC meetings including preparation of the agenda (under the direction of the Chair), distribution of the materials prior to meetings, facilitation of the meetings (including note-taking and tallying of votes at the meeting), and preparation/distribution of meeting summaries to members and other interested parties. Full ARC meetings were held on:

- ◆ June 20, 2018, Community Room, Lathrup Village
- ◆ November 19, 2018, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Bloomfield Hills

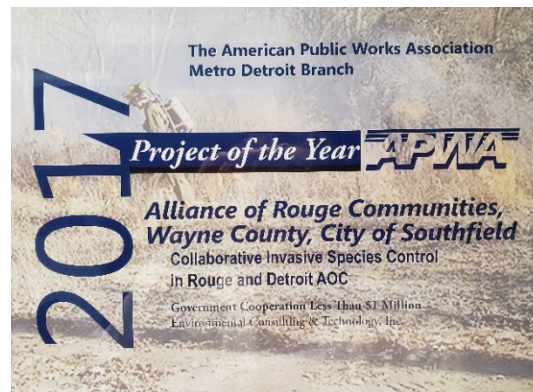
[Full ARC meeting summaries](#) can be found on the ARC's website.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee discusses and approves items in advance of full ARC meetings including development and amendments to budgets and contracts. ARC Staff supported four (4) Executive Committee meetings including (under the direction of the ARC Officers) preparation of the agenda, distribution of the materials prior to the meetings, facilitation of the meetings (including note-taking and documenting recommendations considered and actions taken), and meeting summary preparation (a summary was not prepared for the 12/19/18 holiday meeting) and distribution. This subtask also included ongoing support services for the committee outside of the regular meetings. ARC Executive Committee Meetings were held on the following dates:

- ◆ April 19, 2018, Southfield Parks & Recreation
- ◆ June 20, 2018, Lathrup Village Community Room
- ◆ November 13, 2018, Southfield Parks & Recreation
- ◆ December 19, 2018, Canton

[ARC Executive Committee meeting summaries](#) can be found on the ARC's website.



FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Finance Committee, supported by ARC Staff, developed and administered the annual budget and work plan. ARC Staff prepared monthly financial reports, mailed dues invoices to members, collected dues, submitted various grant reimbursement requests and paid the ARC's bills. ARC Staff facilitated one (1) Finance Committee via conference call on April 19, 2018. This included preparing the agenda, distributing materials prior to the meeting, and preparing/distributing a meeting summary to appropriate parties. ARC Staff also provided 2019 budget recommendation material through email for review prior to the November Executive Committee meeting on November 9, 2018.

ADMINISTRATION AND ADVOCATE

Administration

ARC Staff provided administrative oversight of the ARC day-to-day activities, staff, consultants and contractors, and external relationships with other agencies, organizations, and individuals to meet the goals of the ARC.

ARC Staff worked with ARC Leadership to prepare the Request for Qualifications for Executive Director Services and Operational & Technical Support Services contract which was bid in the fall of 2018 with the new, five-year contract starting in 2019. ARC Staff worked with Farmington Hills to put the RFQ out for bid and provided the scoring sheets for the RFQ review committee.

The 2017 ARC annual report was completed and submitted to the ARC in March 2018.

Advocate

ARC Staff promoted the ARC as the advocate for the Rouge River Watershed, served as the primary spokesperson for the ARC, responded to requests for information and sought opportunities to promote ARC awareness. ARC Staff served as the ARC primary liaison to the general public, all members, including both formal and informal interaction with government officials, legislators and staff on a regular basis.

Materials distributed in 2018 included all meeting materials for the ARC Executive Committee, the Full ARC, the Public Involvement and Education, Technical, and Finance Committees and all special meetings. Staff also distributed materials related to permit discussions with MDEQ and flyers for upcoming events.

ARC Staff researched SEMCOG's Regional Showcase Award as a potential award that the ARC could apply for. The award focuses on projects that make a significant contribution to the vision of a connected, thriving region of small towns, dynamic urban centers, active waterfronts, diverse neighborhoods, agricultural land, and parks, trails and natural areas.

ARC Staff applied for the Vision Award from the National Water Quality Monitoring Council. The award is presented to a group that has demonstrated extraordinary vision and cooperation in the field of water quality monitoring on a local or regional level to enhance the management and protection of aquatic resources.

The ARC received the Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association Project of the Year in the category of Governmental Cooperation for the Collaborative Invasive Species Control in the Rouge and Detroit River AOC.

ARC Staff prepared a letter to GLWA to invite them to be a Cooperating Partner.

Governmental Activities

ARC Staff worked with Senator Stabenow's office to determine if the Senator would be able to attend an event at one of the Rouge River AOC restoration projects including the Oxbow or Henry Ford Estate Fishway. After discussions, an event in 2018 was not going to fit the Senator's schedule but would be scheduled for 2019.

Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC)

ARC Staff participated in the 2018 AOC Conference May 15-17, 2018 and presented a poster on the ARC's habitat restoration efforts.

ARC Staff prepared a letter of support from the Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC) supporting Friends of the Rouge's grant request to the state for funds to complete the Volunteer Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring, more specifically the 2018 Spring and Fall "Bug Hunts" and Winter Stonefly Search.

Organization Participation

Jim Ridgway, ARC Executive Director, continue to serve on the USEPA Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB) and the Science and Information Subcommittee until his term ended in 2018. He advocated for ARC communities as well as all communities within the Great Lakes basin. The GLAB supports the EPA and all other federal agencies in their efforts to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

Jim Ridgway served as the WEF Stormwater Innovation Subcommittee Co-chair until his term ended in December of 2018.

ARC Staff participated in meetings for the One Water Public Education Campaign that is being led by Cranbrook with support from SEMCOG and Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA). The campaign will result in a regional public education strategy, led by local stakeholders that provides common water resource messaging in southeast Michigan focused on stormwater, wastewater and drinking water. The messaging will seek to foster water resource stewardship, encourage citizens to adopt best management practices and support long-term investment in infrastructure. As part of the campaign, Cranbrook will develop a brand and coordinate the distribution of materials to the local media. ARC Staff provided input on the public education topics that are a priority for the ARC as part of the stormwater permit. It is anticipated that the campaign will help the ARC implement the public education plan.

ARC Staff participated in GLWA's wastewater master plan watershed committee on behalf of the ARC. Input was provided on various topics including: GLWA's draft goals; water quality data being collected by the ARC; and a summary of the ARC's approach to the stormwater permit requirements. ARC Staff provided CDM (GLWA's contractor) a draft copy of the 2017 monitoring report for discussion purposes. GLWA recognizes that there are *E. coli* problems throughout the watershed, not just in CSO areas, so they are discussing the best approach to solving water quality issues.

ARC Staff met with MDEQ to discuss removing Ingelsol Creek from the impaired waters list based on the most recent dissolved oxygen concentrations.

ARS Staff met with the Grand Valley Metro Council to share MS4 permit experiences.

Member and General Public Requests

ARC Staff had the ARC's banner display at the Farmington Hills Earth Day Celebration on April 22, 2018.

The ARC supported RRAC who received a request from the Westland Public Library who was hosting a recruitment fair for volunteers for the Holiday Nature Preserve. ARC Staff provided general ARC information, watershed protection materials along with giveaways like the pet waste containers and kneeling pads.

ARC Staff met with the City of Lathrup Village to discuss the purpose of the ARC and the benefits of membership with the new City Administrator.

ARC Staff prepared a summary of the benefits of ARC membership and met with the City of Livonia on May 31, 2018 to discuss these benefits to justify the importance of their involvement with the ARC. After these meetings Livonia decided to remain an ARC member.

ARC Staff received an email from Brian Jensen from the Allegheny Conference on Community Development (Pittsburgh) requesting a meeting to discuss the ARC's activities. The organization works with a nonprofit that has been involved in the Pittsburgh region with the Allegheny County Sanitary Authority, the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority, the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, 81 suburban communities and various other stakeholders on responses to our EPA consent decree on waste/stormwater management. Mr. Jensen learned of the Rouge River Watershed Management Plan and ARC and had been thinking about how watersheds in the Pittsburgh region might learn from the ARC in addressing CSO/SSO/MS4/TMDL/flooding issues in an integrated, collective manner. Both Jim Ridgway and Annette DeMaria talked and met with Mr. Jensen and provided several educational and technical materials with him.

The ARC Executive Director participated in a research project with a Michigan State University graduate student. The purpose of the research study was to understand the perceived value of water quality as a forest ecosystem service and its importance for fair policies or management of these services. The research team wanted to understand the ARC's guiding principles and behavior regarding water quality and the connections between the ARC and other organizations in the area.

ARC Staff responded to a member request from Lathrup Village regarding funding options to assist communities and/or residents with maintenance of the ditches and culverts.

ARC Staff responded to a request from the City of Livonia for illicit discharge education for a business that was washing out latex paint cans in their parking lot and entering the catch basin. ARC staff provided educational materials to the City.

ARC Staff responded to a request from Redford Township who received an email from an environmental teacher at Thurston High School who was looking for educational involvement regarding stormwater issues for the class. ARC Staff provided our contact information to the Township to pass along to the teacher but did not hear from the teacher in 2018.

ARC Staff responded to questions from the City of Southfield asking if ARC Staff were aware of individual communities that enforce their ordinance for septic system or have a septic inspection program.

Partnership Activities

ARC Staff participated in the Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water meetings held on October and December 2018. The purpose of these meetings was to provide a forum for stormwater permittees

to discuss regulatory changes, public education, technical and training needs for the stormwater permits.

ARC Staff had a display at the Cranbrook Institute of Science “Spring into Science” event on April 4 and 5 which was attended by 3,539 people. The display included activities that the public can do at home to protect water quality in the Rouge River. ARC Staff also distributed education materials along with giveaways promoting protecting the protection of water quality.

ARC Staff prepared Cooperating Partner invitations to the Great Lakes Water Authority and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

ARC Staff responded to a request from Friends of the Rouge to update the ARC’s summary of watershed restoration efforts for their 319 grant application to install pervious pavement at the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Center (PARC).

ARC Staff worked with SEMCOG to plan a pollution prevention and IDEP training sessions which were held in October at Schoolcraft Community College. This included revising the IDEP Tip Card with new phone numbers.

ARC Staff participated in the development of the Southeast Michigan Water Resources Plan being led by SEMCOG. This included:

1. Development of a case study on the benefits of water quality monitoring for use in the Plan.
2. Supply of graphics and a narrative for the Henry Ford Fishway project for inclusion in the Plan.
3. Participation in several Task Force meetings to determine the goals and objectives of the Plan.
4. Drafting a summary of accomplishments in the watershed which was incorporated into the Plan.
5. Presentation to the Task Force on October 24, 2017 on how the ARC has is addressing permit requirements and restoring the watershed using various sources of funding from multiple partners.

The ARC did not receive any FOIA requests from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

ARC Staff provided accounting services in accordance with the ARC’s Accounting Procedures Manual including processing of payables and receivables. ARC Staff provided monthly reports for the ARC Treasurer and ARC members from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. ARC Staff provided necessary staff to meet the separation of financial duties and responsibilities documented in the ARC’s Accounting Procedures Manual so that no Executive Director Staff member has sole control over cash receipts, bank reconciliations, accounts payable, mail or other accounting functions. ARC Staff maintained separate general ledger accounts as required by funding source regulations. ARC Staff maintained financial records and files as required by the ARC Accounting Procedures Manual including grants and vendor contracts. ARC Staff submitted all required information for grant reimbursement requests and grant reporting. ARC Staff assisted and provided information for the 2016 Yellow book audit, financial statement and taxes.

ARC Staff worked with both the Finance and Executive Committee to develop the 2019 ARC Budgeting Package which included a 2% increase in dues along with a 5-year budget.

ARC Staff prepared monthly financial reports, mailed dues invoices to members, collected dues, submitted various grant reimbursement requests and paid the ARC's bills.

PURSUING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

ARC Staff attended a webinar presented by the U. S. Forest Service regarding the 2018 U. S. Forested Service GLRI request for grant applications. The ARC has received several grants through this program to mitigate the Emerald Ash Borer impacts in the watershed.

ARC Staff updated information to maintain the ARC's status in the Federal government's System for Award Management (SAM) and on Grants.gov . Both need to be current and renewed annually in order to apply for federal grants.

Two ARC Staff (J. O'Meara and C. O'Meara) and the ARC's Grant Representative (T. Faas) took the required *EPA Grant Management Training for Non-Profit Applicants and Recipients* to be eligible for EPA direct funding.

ARC Staff researched and surveyed ARC Members seeking their input in determining the scope of the ARC's application for various grant applications throughout 2018.

ARC Staff reviewed the following grants and either assisted an ARC Member in preparing it, forwarded them to individual communities to consider applying for or recommended that the ARC not apply:

- ◆ National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Southeast Michigan Resiliency Fund
- ◆ EPA direct funding to Wayne County for four sites: Lola Valley Park Wetlands, Bell Creek Park Wetlands, Sherwood Park Wetland, and Lower rouge River Habitat Restoration

The Executive Director staff applied for the following grants in 2018 on behalf of the Alliance of Rouge Communities:

- ◆ SPAC AOC Grant (\$28,690) to facilitate the RRAC, development of habitat project descriptions and for FOTR to survey the Rouge fish community and compiling data. (awarded to the ARC)
- ◆ ARC Staff developed grant and support information for a USEPA Direct Funding (\$583,220) grant to the ARC for the design of two Rouge AOC habitat restoration projects: Tamarack Creek Stream and Wetland Restoration and Johnson Creek Fish Hatchery Park Restoration. (awarded to the ARC)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING FACILITATION

Staff support was provided for one (1) Technical Committee meeting on March 22, 2018. Topics included the ARC's Collaborative IDEP, Oakland and Wayne County's IDEP work performed under the 2017 budget and Oakland and Wayne County's 2018 scopes were approved. The status of the outfall and storm sewer GIS data collection effort was reviewed with data collection complete for 20 of 29 communities. MDEQ's comments on the permit applications were summarized. The Collaborative TMDL negotiations with MDEQ were reviewed. Activities included preparation of the agenda (under the direction of the Technical Committee Chair), distribution of the materials prior to the meeting and facilitation of the meeting (including note-taking and record of actions taken.)

IDEP FIELD INVESTIGATIONS

ARC Staff reviewed and commented on OCWRC's and WC's 2018 IDEP Work Plans and brought them to the Technical Committee for approval. ARC Staff prepared IAAs for both counties and facilitated execution of them.

Oakland County IDEP Field Investigations

Consistent with the Rouge River Collaborative IDEP Plan, illicit discharge investigations were conducted in 2018 on multiple Oakland County storm drains within the Rouge River Watershed. Investigations were conducted by the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner (WRC) as follow up to potential illicit discharges identified in 2014 and investigative work conducted in 2015. No new illicit connections were discovered in 2018, but one drain (US-16) was eliminated from requiring further investigations. . Investigations will continue in 2019 on four other drains (Fracassi, 8 Mile Road, and Claude H. Stevens 3 and 4). A summary of illicit connections and additional suspect illicit discharge sources along with recommended follow-up actions are summarized in the final report.

Wayne County IDEP Field Investigations

Consistent with the Rouge River Collaborative IDEP Plan, illicit discharge investigations were conducted in 2018 by Wayne County Department of Public Services, Water Quality Management Division (WQMD). With the assistance of the City of Plymouth, dye testing identified three more illicit connections (total of 5 in 2017 and 2018 combined) that were subsequently corrected by the City. Subsequent sampling in three areas revealed that additional illicit connections may be still present.

Field screening was also conducted by WQMD in three of the priority areas located in Canton, Van Buren and Superior townships to narrow down the location of the potential illicit connections. The results didn't not reveal any illicit connections and these areas are no longer a priority for the ARC.

IDEP Training

ARC Staff and WQMD promoted and assisted with the IDEP Investigator training on April 12, 2018 which was sponsored by Wayne County and hosted by Rochester Hills. The workshop was attended by 56 people, including 41 ARC member communities.

ARC Staff and WQMD also participated in an IDEP Investigator training on October 9, 2018 which was sponsored by SEMCOG. There were 66 attendees including 35 representing ARC member communities.

ARC Staff also participated in a Pollution Prevention Training held on the same day. Fifty-five people attended including 46 representing ARC member communities.

Deliverables:

- ◆ [Wayne County Work Plan](#)
- ◆ [Wayne County IDEP Report](#)
- ◆ [Oakland County Work Plan](#)
- ◆ [Oakland County IDEP Final Report](#)
- ◆ [IDEP Training list of attendees](#)

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & EDUCATION (PIE) COMMITTEE

MEETING FACILITATION

No meetings were held in 2018, however, ARC Staff supported the PIE Committee with regular email communications regarding PIE activities including scope and budget changes and review of new public education materials and messages.

PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS

ARC Staff made various public education materials available to ARC members through the ARC website during 2018. Several items were restocked in 2018 including fertilizer clips, pet waste containers, seasonal posters and various printed material. More than 19,490 items were distributed to member communities and at various community events and workshops. The various types of materials and giveaways are described below, and the quantity distributed are included in the PIE Materials Distribution Report.

Deliverables:

- 💧 [PIE Materials Distribution Report](#)

Bookmarks (1,875 distributed)

The bookmarks publicize the ARC and promote Rouge Friendly tips to the public. Bookmarks were also distributed as part of seedling giveaways.

Pet Waste Containers (4,200 distributed)

Pet waste containers promote clean water with the message *In the Bag, Not the River*.

Fertilizer Clips (1,925 distributed)

Fertilizer clips with the ARC logo and the phrase: *Fertilize Sparingly and Caringly* to distribute at public events.

ARC Public Education Brochure (1,860 distributed)

This flyer is used to educate the public about the ARC and its activities. ARC Public Education Brochures were also distributed as part of seedling giveaways.

ARC Member Brochure (55 distributed)

The ARC Member Brochure was distributed to ARC member communities with their membership invoices. The brochure explains the ARC, member benefits, projects and committees. It is also distributed to other interested communities and organizations wanting to learn about the ARC.

Homeowners Brochure

Originally this brochure was to be finalized and printed in 2018, however, in order to provide the SAW Grant match the ARC budget was suspended and delayed the development and printing of this brochure to 2019.

ARC Banners

To meet the activities in the Collaborative PEP, ARC staff designed 3 sets of 3 educational banners with varying messages that will meet the Collaborative PEP. Topics included: The connection of the MS4 to area waterbodies and the potential impacts discharges could have; the importance of pollution prevention and watershed restoration and stewardship; reporting illicit discharges; promoting proper disposal practices; identify and promote facilities for collection or disposal of household hazardous wastes; septic system maintenance; proper application and disposal of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers; proper disposal practices for grass clippings, leaf litter and animal; benefits of green infrastructure; and methods for managing riparian lands to protect water quality. ARC member communities signed up to host the banners at one of their facilities for 1-2 weeks at a time.



ARC's retractable banners displayed in Westland

The following communities displayed the banners for two weeks at their facilities in 2018:

- ◆ Village of Beverly Hills
- ◆ Farmington
- ◆ West Bloomfield Twp.
- ◆ Henry Ford Community College
- ◆ Bloomfield Twp.
- ◆ Westland
- ◆ Northville Twp.
- ◆ Dearborn Heights
- ◆ Redford Twp.
- ◆ Walled Lake

The ARC banners were also used at the following community events:

- ◆ City of Novi Spring Palooza on 4/6/18
- ◆ Farmington Hills Earth Day on 4/22/18
- ◆ Cranbrook Institute of Science "Spring into Science" on 4/4/18 and 4/5/18
- ◆ Farmington Founders Festival 7/18
- ◆ Bloomfield Twp. Open House on 10/14/18

Kneeling Pads (470 distributed)

A garden kneeling pad with the slogan "Plant it for the Rouge River!" that promotes the use of native trees and plants. The kneeling pad has the slogan, ARC logo and website on one side and has a list 10 suggested native trees and plants to use in your yard to help protect water quality.

Key Chains (100 distributed)

A boat float key chain with the slogan "Prevent Invasive Species in the Rouge River!" with the message to wash your boat & remove plants & aquatic animals after every use. The keychain also includes the ARC logo and website address.



Waterfront Wisdom Brochure (310 distributed)

A booklet for riparian homeowners in the Rouge River Watershed. The publication was originally published by the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office Environmental Team.

Detention Pond Maintenance Manuals (310 distributed)

A guidebook for private owners in southeast Michigan to educate them on the maintenance of detention ponds.

Black-Eyed Susan Seeds and Tip Card (1,725 distributed)

Black-eyed Susan seed packets are distributed to the general public along with a tip card which educates them on the benefits of native plants.

Value of Trees (1,860 distributed)

The Value of Trees tip card educates the general public on the benefits of planting native trees.

Tree Seedlings

Tree seedlings were not distributed in 2018.

Protect the Rouge River at Home – Dispose of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Properly (2,111 distributed)

The FOG brochure educates the public on the proper disposal of fats, oils and grease in the house. Brochures were also distributed as part of seedling giveaways at additional events.

Community Article /Ad Graphic

ARC Staff promoted the ad graphic titled *Brine Instead of Rock Salt to Protect Water Quality!* On the ARC Facebook account. The ad included a make-at-home recipe for brine.

Protect Water Quality All Season Long! Posters (216 distributed)

ARC members posted these in support of their permit requirements in facilities, libraries or other buildings that the general public frequent. Posters are also distributed to the general public at community events.

Additional Rouge Grant and SEMCOG Printed Pieces

The following items printed by Wayne County or SEMCOG are distributed by the ARC:

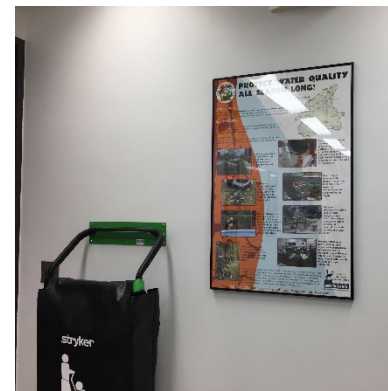
- ◆ A Homeowner’s Guide to Septic Systems (111 distributed)
- ◆ Clean Up After Your Pet tip card (175 distributed)
- ◆ Storm Drains (75 distributed)
- ◆ Fertilize Sparingly & Caringly (200 distributed)
- ◆ Carefully Store & Dispose of Household Cleaners, Chemicals (161 distributed) and
- ◆ Practice Good Car Care tip card (225 distributed)

ARC SOCIAL MEDIA

ARC Staff initiated a Facebook account for the ARC at the beginning of 2016. During 2018 the ARC added 25 posts to the ARC Facebook and encouraged ARC Member Communities to Like and Share the ARC’s posts. These posts included educational messages and photos to educate the public on ways to protect the Rouge River along with promoting ARC and partner events and volunteer opportunities. The ARC’s Facebook account has 77 followers.



Washtenaw County Road Commission Managing Director, Roy Townsend, passing out black-eyed seed packets at their Touch a Truck event.



Fall poster displayed at the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner’s Office

WEBSITE MAINTENANCE

Staff performed design, writing, editing and general maintenance of the ARC website (www.allianceofrougecommunities.com).

ARC Staff worked with Wayne County to transfer the domain name “rougeriver.com” which was used by the Rouge Project from Wayne County to the ARC for possible use in the future for public education.

Articles, videos or information published on the “Rouge in The News” section of the website, promoted on Facebook or distributed to members through email in 2018 include:

- ◆ Detroit River back on the Recreational map, Detroit Free Press, April 26, 2018
- ◆ Tamarack Creek Slated for Restoration Project, Southfield Sun, December 2018
- ◆ Restoration of Fish Passage at the Henry Ford Estate Dam – Rouge River Area of Concern, November 2018
- ◆ Dredging the Lower Rouge River Old Channel to Begin in 2019, October 2018
- ◆ News Release by U. S. Army Corps of Engineers: Environmental cleanup to remove sediment, debris in Lower Rouge River will begin soon
- ◆ This Week in Dearborn with Mayor O'Reilly - Fishway Project at The Henry Ford Estate Video, August 3, 2018
- ◆ The Contaminated Rouge River Gets Cleaned Up IJC GLC, July 3, 2018
- ◆ Rouge River fish to get exclusive freeway at Ford's Fair Lane estate, Detroit Free Press, July 3, 2018
- ◆ The Michigan Water Quality Quiz, Detroit Free Press, September 10, 2018
- ◆ More Success in the Rouge river AOC: Oxbow Restoration Phase 3, GLRI, November 28, 2018

Activities and events published on the “Activities and Events” section of the website, the ARC’s Facebook page or through email in 2018 include:

- ◆ Henry Ford Estate project construction updates
- ◆ Tamarack Creek/Johnson Creek project writeups
- ◆ FOTR frog & toad survey events
- ◆ FOTR Work Days
- ◆ IDEP training
- ◆ FOTR spring bug hunt
- ◆ FOTR Rouge Rescue
- ◆ FOTR Fall bug hunt
- ◆ FOTR Fundraising events
- ◆ FOTR winter stone fly events

Documents that were added to the ARC website, Facebook or emailed to members in 2018 include:

- ◆ ARC Executive Directors 2017 Annual Report
- ◆ Full ARC agendas, handouts and meeting summaries
- ◆ Executive Committee agendas, handouts and meeting summaries
- ◆ FOTR Winter Stone Fly report
- ◆ FOTR Frog and Toad Survey results
- ◆ FOTR Spring Bug Hunt report
- ◆ FOTR Annual Report on Activities
- ◆ Oakland and Wayne County ARC IDEP Reports
- ◆ Oakland and Wayne County ARC work plans
- ◆ State Court of Appeals Binns-DAART vs DWSD Ruling
- ◆ DO Monitoring Sampling Plan
- ◆ Draft Collaborative TMDL
- ◆ Comparing Alternative Methods of Assessing Stormwater Fees for Three Example Communities in the Rouge River Watershed
- ◆ 2017 Public Awareness Survey Report

- ◆ IDEP Training attendance
- ◆ Revised IDEP Tip Card
- ◆ 2017 ARC PIE Workshop Attendance and Surveys
- ◆ 2017 ARC PIE Newsletter Articles and Ad Graphics
- ◆ Wayne County Green Schools Report
- ◆ Oakland County Phase II Stormwater Biennial Progress Report Summary for Community Use (10/1/15 - 9/30/17)

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

The 2018 PIE outreach activities were substantially reduced or suspended for ARC Staff and Wayne County to cover the repayment required for the SAW grant match that was determined to be ineligible. ARC Staff transferred funds from several budget items, including PIE, to meet the required match under the SAW grant. Wayne County continued their efforts with Green Schools and worked with FOTR on bug hunts.

Friends of the Rouge Workday

FOTR planned and led a growzone maintenance workday on August 30, 2018 at Newburgh Pointe in Livonia which was attended by 17 participants.

Annual Report

Strong partnerships are necessary to establish and enhance local and regional outreach with communities, other non-profits and governmental agencies to educate and inform the public about key issues within the Rouge River Watershed and change behaviors that directly affect the health of the Rouge River Watershed. In the course of its work, FOTR promotes activities and attends a variety of local and regional meetings to build partnerships and promote Rouge River activities.

The FOTR developed an annual report for January 1 through December 31, 2018 that will assist ARC members in fulfilling their stormwater permit requirements. The report includes the Frog and Toad Survey, Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring, Fish Monitoring, Rouge Education Project (REP), River Restoration, and Rouge Rescue and local and regional outreach efforts. Information includes meeting or event dates; workshop dates; number of volunteers attending each event; residency of volunteers, REP Schools, number of students per school, number of teachers per school, monitoring locations for each school; a list of dates, locations for REP workshops and a list of schools that participated and a list of organizations that outreach efforts were done.

Deliverables:

- ◆ [FOTR Annual Report](#)
- ◆ [Wayne County Annual Report](#)