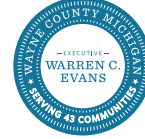


Perrin Park Habitat Restoration Design Rouge River AOC



In partnership with:



\$453,250 in grant funds have been provided by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) through the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) for design at Perrin Park in 2024.

The Perrin Park Habitat Restoration Design will:

- Create/Enhance 4 acres of habitat, including wetland/wet meadow, re-forestation and riparian areas
- Restore 700 feet of stream
- Aid in the removal of beneficial use impairments

Project Overview

Perrin Park is located along the Rouge River in the City of Westland, adjacent to Inkster Road, and is part of the Wayne County Parks Hines Park greenway system. The park is a popular community destination, offering recreational amenities for nearby residents and serving as a key location for the annual Wayne County Lightfest during the winter season.

The Rouge River watershed is a designated Area of Concern (AOC) and has three Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) associated with fish and wildlife habitat: *Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations*, *Degradation of Benthos*, and *Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat*. The Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC), the Public Advisory Council (PAC) for the Rouge AOC, in March 2016 approved a list of projects that need to be completed to remove the Rouge AOC habitat BUIs. As part of that list, habitat restoration at Wayne County's Perrin Park is considered to have a significant impact on the removal of the BUIs.

Existing Conditions at Perrin Park



Existing stream (part of the Wayne County Drain system) will be re-meandered and restored with native vegetation by seeding and planting



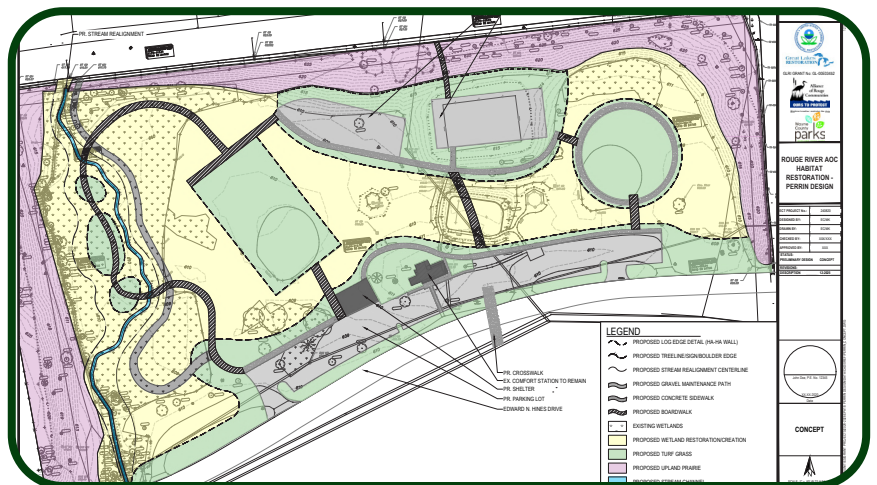
Existing wetland will be restored by treating the invasives, overseeding and planting



New wetlands will be created adjacent to the existing wetlands and will be connected hydrologically

Conceptual Design

The conceptual design includes work to restore existing wetlands, re-meander the stream on the west side of the park, and convert select turf grass areas to native planting zones. Conceptual designs in existing wetlands and riparian areas include invasive species removal and native seeding and planting. The stream will be re-meandered to create diversity of flow regimes. A portion of the maintained lawn spaces will become wetland creation areas, which involve earthwork, native seeding, planting, and addition of habitat structures. Although not funded by this project, Wayne County Parks is leading the efforts to evaluate and re-design amenity park spaces to improve recreational functions that blends well with the habitat restoration areas.



Invasive species? Wrong place, away from home...

Invasive species are not evil, they are just brought a distance away from their original homes, established themselves and displaced the local plant communities. By out-competing the resources available in the new habitat, the invasive species would disrupt the local ecosystems, cause native species to decline and ultimately reduce biodiversity. Here are some examples of the invasive species prevalent at Perrin Park.



Reed Canary Grass



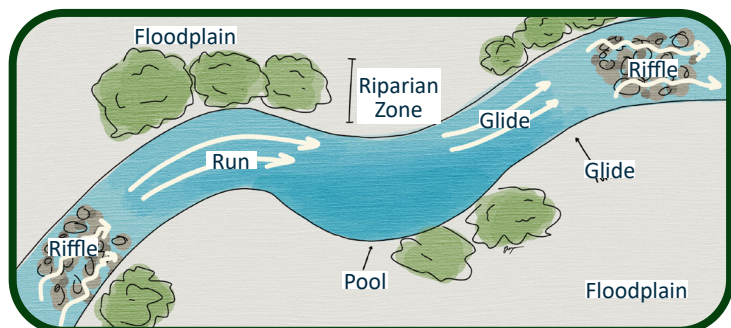
Glossy Buckthorn



Japanese Honeysuckle

Is this a ditch or a stream?

What's the difference? Why does it matter?



Healthy streams have appropriate pool-riffle sequences, which means that there is enough meandering and spacing in between the various components of the streams. In urban areas, streams are often straightened into more “ditch-like” streams, which contribute to faster flows, stronger sheer forces along the banks, worsened bank erosions and lowered water quality as nutrients don’t have time to settle and be absorbed by riparian vegetation. The reduced water quality impacts fish, macro-invertebrates, and other wildlife population’s ability to thrive. That’s why we need to restore and improve them!

So, what are your thoughts on this project?

I'm very glad that these habitat restoration projects have happened to my neighborhood. Honestly, it's like my taxes have been paid back! Now I have a bigger pool to swim in. I don't have to worry about my next meal, because the vegetation around the stream and the wetland is abundant and my kids can be nursed in between those leaves. Also, now that the stream is slowed, that means when the storms come through, more often it'll overflow outside of the channel and stay on the floodplain. It's a life-changer! There's just more wet pockets on the floodplain for us to enjoy!



For representation only.
Not the same frogs that live in Perrin Park

About the Alliance of Rouge Communities

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 stormwater 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**

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