

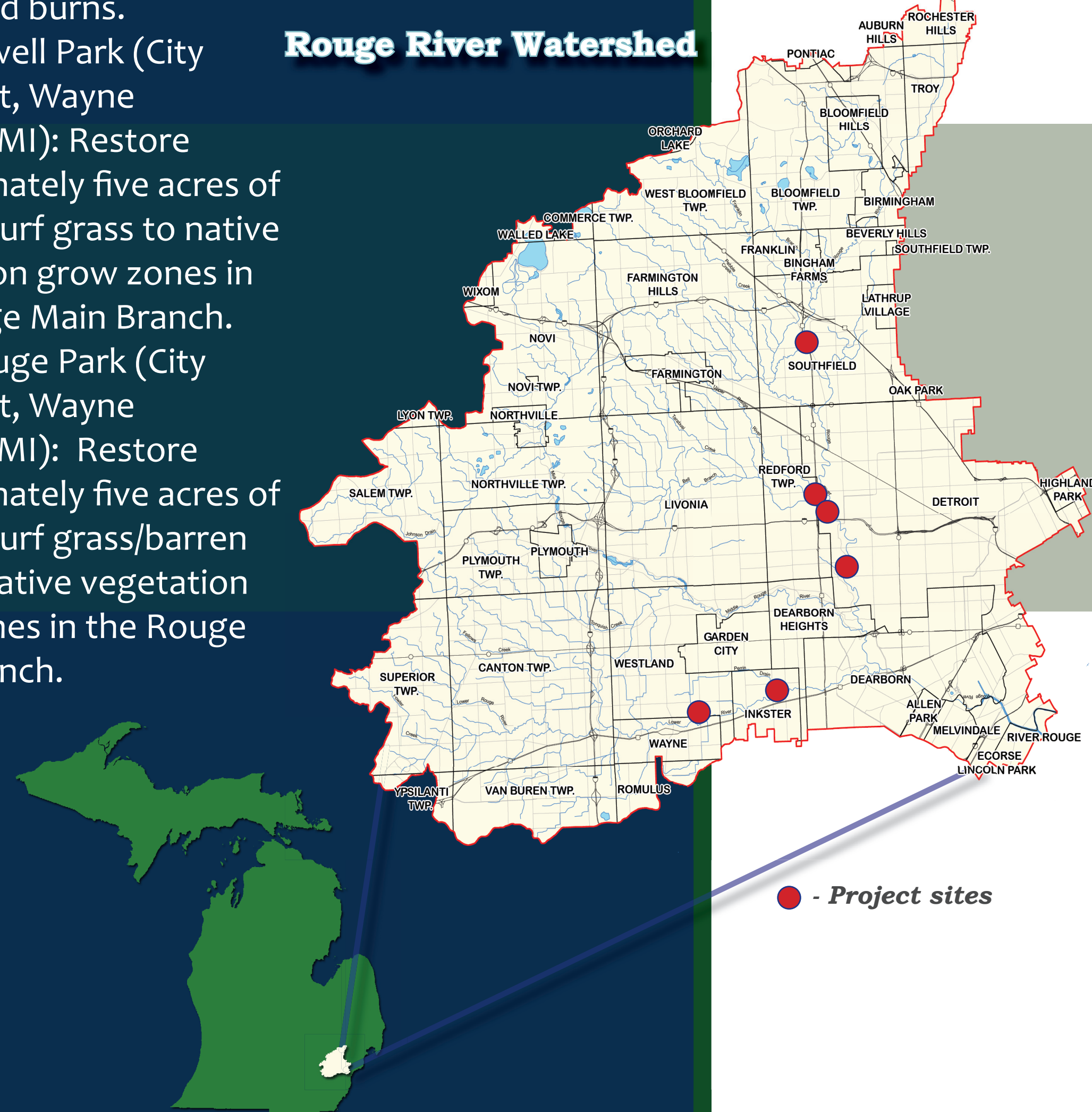
Transforming the Rouge

In 2010, the ARC received a grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to conduct Transforming the Rouge AOC from Mowed Down to Grown Up (Transforming the Rouge) which would unite the green corridors of the Rouge River, by improving, installing and enhancing riparian buffers, wetlands and upland habitat in the Rouge River Watershed.

Project activities included:

- Valley Woods Wetland Restoration (Southfield, Oakland County - MI): Restore seven acres of wetlands and the capacity of wetlands to store and retain storm water in the Rouge Main Branch.
- Lower Rouge and Upper Rouge Parkway (Wayne County - MI): Convert approximately 15 acres of managed turf grass to native vegetation grow zones in Wayne County parkland in the Rouge Upper and Lower Subwatersheds. Convert another ten acres along the Middle Rouge through controlled burns.
- Eliza Howell Park (City of Detroit, Wayne County - MI): Restore approximately five acres of mowed turf grass to native vegetation grow zones in the Rouge Main Branch.
- River Rouge Park (City of Detroit, Wayne County - MI): Restore approximately five acres of mowed turf grass/barren land to native vegetation grow zones in the Rouge Main Branch.

Rouge River Watershed



From Mowed Down to Grown Up



Valley Woods Wetland Restoration

- The phragmites were chemically treated and partially excavated which created open water habitat diversity as well. Two herbicide applications were completed (fall 2011 and spring 2012).
- The open wetland area was burned and re-vegetated with a diverse assortment of native species and wetland seeding and plugs. A controlled burn was conducted to provide optimum conditions for the establishment and restoration of native wetland vegetation. Cooperation from the community and local businesses allowed for this, the first controlled burn, to be conducted within Southfield.
- Two ditches in the south west area of the site were filled and their outlets were stabilized with riprap resulting in a restored hydrology within the wetland.
- Two segments of a storm water outfall ditch in the northeast area of the site were filled with two rock “check dams” to slow erosive velocities.



Prescribed burn at Valley Woods Wetland.



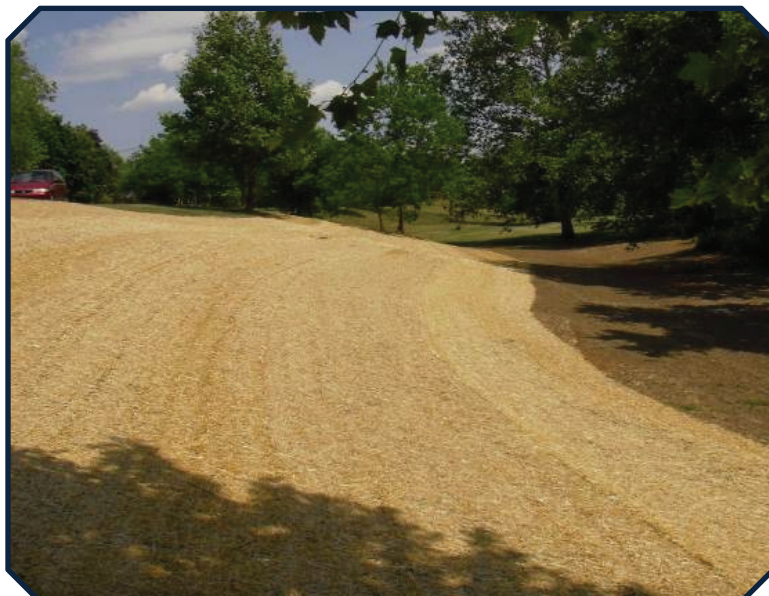
Ditch fill being smoothed at Valley Woods Wetland.



Restored Valley Woods wetland in Southfield.

Lower Rouge and Upper Rouge Parkway

- At Lola Valley Park in Redford, 8.8 acres of riparian turf grass was converted to native plant grow zone. Lola Valley Park has approximately 1.5 miles of the Upper Rouge River flowing through 58 acres of riparian parkland owned by Wayne County.
- Along the Lower Rouge Parkway 6.6 acres of turf grass was converted to native plant grow zone at Venoy Park (4.0 acres) and adjacent to the Inkster CSO basin (2.6 acres). Approximately 15 miles of the Lower Rouge River flows through the Lower Rouge Parkway.
- There was also restoration on 10 acres of existing grow zones on Wayne County Parks property within the Rouge River AOC.



Areas seeded at Lola Valley Park.



Venoy Park grow zone.



Inkster CSO Basin grow zone.

Eliza Howell Park and River Rouge Park

- Approximately five acres of prairie was restored in Rouge Park.
- Five acres of turf grass and native plants was restored to native vegetation grow zones in Eliza Howell Park.
- Controlled burns were conducted in both parks.
- Seed installation was completed by students in both parks.
- Because of the close proximity to homes and businesses, public outreach and education was provided to Detroit neighborhood organizations through public meetings, workshops and fact sheets.
- Maintenance conducted with the help of local residents, by Greening of Detroit at Eliza Howell Park and FOTR at Rouge Park.



Detroit Murphy Middle School students seeding at Eliza Howell Park in Detroit.



Controlled burn at Rouge Park in Detroit.



Eliza Howell Park grow zone.

Benefits and Results in the Rouge River



Increased focus on the benefits of native areas and habitat - Students visit River Rouge Park grow zone to view progress.



Increased butterflies and birds - Black Swallowtail on butterfly milkweed in Rouge Park grow zone.



Increased wildlife - Deer at restored Valley Woods Wetland.



Praying mantis and stoneflies observed - both indicators of a healthy ecosystem found in three of the project locations.