

# ROUGE RIVER AREA OF CONCERN (AOC) CONCRETE CHANNEL HABITAT RESTORATION

## LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), is requesting engagement with landowners along the channelized section of the Rouge River to develop conceptual plans for ecosystem restoration. Building upon the restoration work that has been ongoing for 20+ years in the area, this current initiative will continue the effort to restore the river ecosystem and environment, without diminishing the effectiveness or function of the original Federal Flood Control Project (concrete channel). This informational flyer serves to initiate the conversations with adjacent landowners to explore restoration options that are compatible with any future goals they may have for their properties. This work is funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

This restoration effort was chosen for its potential to vastly improve habitats near the river, species diversity and water quality within this area of the Rouge River. The EPA and the USACE are working in partnership with a large and diverse stakeholder group that provides an opportunity to collaboratively restore an important previously neglected part of the ecosystem in southeast Michigan. Additionally, with the construction of the concrete channel, in the 1970s, fish migration has been impeded. This restoration effort will provide “resting areas” for fish and other species, similar to rest areas for people along a highway, as they migrate through the concrete portion of the Rouge River. The sites identified below are possible locations for these future restoration activities. The project team will be reaching out to the landowners to schedule a meeting and/or a site visit to your property to learn more about current uses of the sites, future land use plans, and ways to collaborate in this restoration effort.

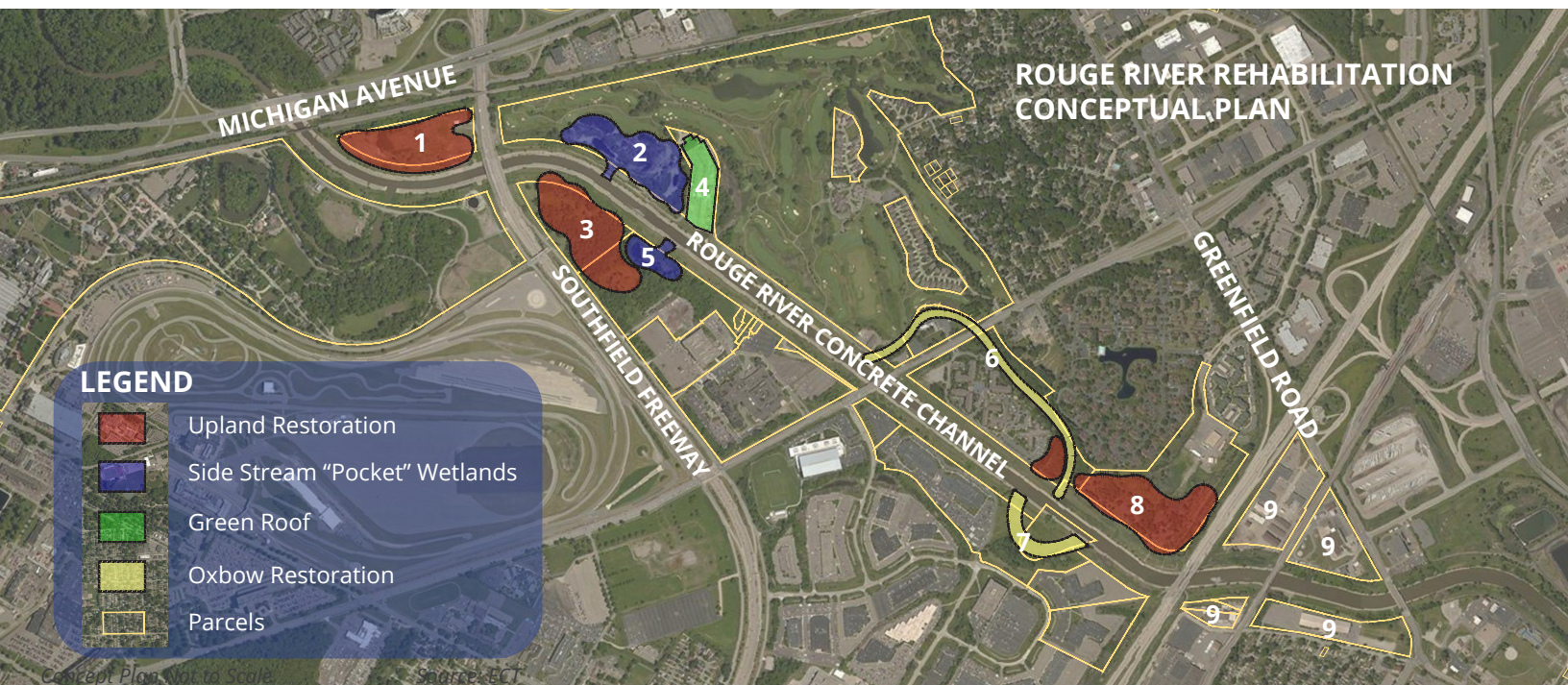


US Army Corps  
of Engineers®



Photo credit: Wayne County

Rouge River concrete channel.



### POTENTIAL SITE ACTIVITIES KEY

1. Upland Restoration on Edison Institute Property
2. "Pocket Wetlands" & Side Stream Restoration on ClubCorp NV VII, LLC Property
3. Upland Restoration on Edison Institute & Ford Motor Company Properties
4. Green Roof on the Hubbell-Southfield Combined Sewer Overflow Structure
5. "Pocket Wetlands" & Side Stream Restoration on Ford Motor Company Property

6. Oxbow Restoration on Beaumont Health Services, ClubCorp NV VII, LLC & Dearborn Congregational United Church of Christ Properties
7. Oxbow Restoration on Ford Motor Company Property
8. Upland Restoration on Ford Motor Company & Beaumont Health Systems Properties
9. Potential Unidentified Restoration Activities

\*Note Wayne County is an Additional Property Owner on all Potential Sites Under Consideration



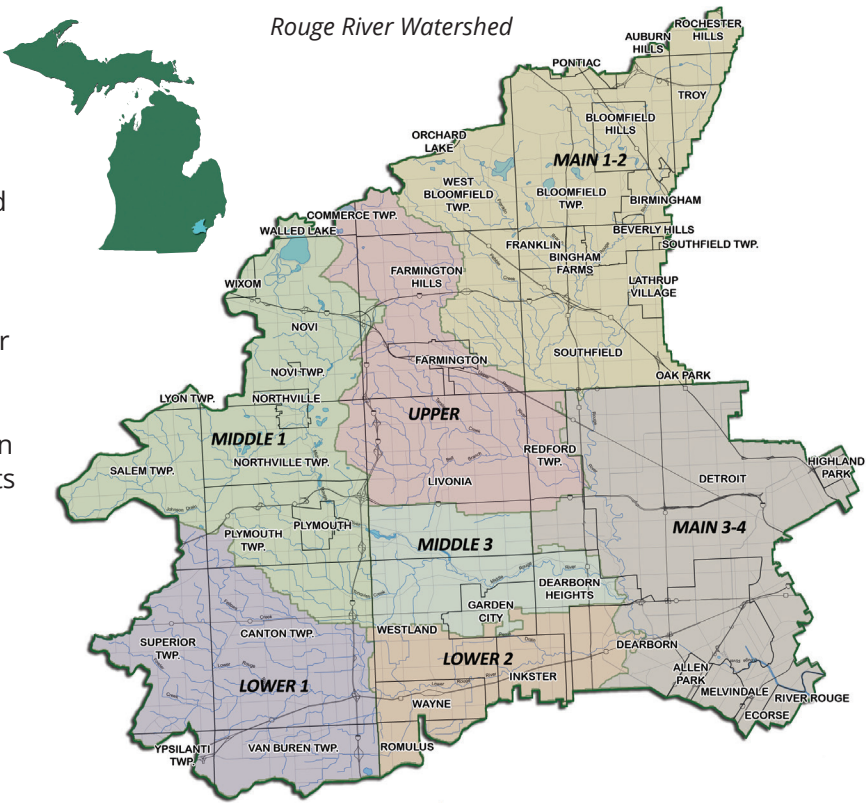
# HISTORY OF THE PROJECT

The Rouge River watershed covers approximately 466 square miles, encompassing 48 different municipalities. There are four major tributaries of the river (Main, Upper, Middle, and Lower) with 126 total river miles and numerous tributaries, as well as more than 400 lakes, impoundments, and ponds. The watershed is in one of the oldest urban and most industrialized areas in southeast Michigan, which has been a major contributor to its degradation since industrialization. Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement of 1987, the Rouge River was formally designated an Area of Concern (AOC) and was assigned nine Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs), or impairments to be targeted for restoration under the AOC program. This project will address the loss of fish and wildlife habitat and degradation of fish and wildlife populations BUIs.

The Rouge River Flood Control Project completed by the USACE in 1978 provides flood control for southwest Detroit, Dearborn, Allen Park and Melvindale. Though hydraulically efficient, the river's connection to adjacent habitat is severely limited, impacting the biodiversity within this corridor and inhibiting fish migration.

In 1998, a group of 12 local, state and federal agencies and several influential stakeholders combined forces to create a vision for sustainable development along the most downstream segment of the Rouge River, known as the "Rouge Gateway". The Rouge Gateway Master Plan, completed in April 2001, established guidelines and an overarching vision for the restoration of wetlands, river shoreline, and fish and wildlife habitat while identifying restoration and protection potential within the Gateway corridor. This current effort that is being initiated is intended to act in concert with the established Rouge River Gateway Master Plan.

Project Partners:



Restored oxbow at The Henry Ford along the Rouge River concrete channel.



Conceptual upland wetland planned at some sites along the Rouge River concrete channel.