

## Rouge River Area of Concern Five Year Vision



### Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) Status

Based on new information gathered by stakeholders, the following BUIs will be removed:

- Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption
- Fish Tumors and Other Deformities
- Degradation of Fish and Wildlife Populations

### Major Projects

- Wayne Road and Danvers Pond dam removals will be recognized as significant and successful projects.
- Fish Passage at the Henry Ford Estate Dam will be in the planning and design phases, if determined beneficial to the Area of Concern (AOC).
- The Great Lakes Legacy Act (GLLA) Lower Rouge River Old Channel project will be in the final stages of sediment removal.
- The GLLA Lower Rouge River Main Channel project will be in the final stages of the remedial investigation feasibility study.
- Funding for concrete channel reduction and side channel green infrastructure (wetland) projects will be secured and out to bid.

### Wastewater System Improvements

- As part of its Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ)-approved combined sewer overflow (CSO) control plan, the City of Detroit will be implementing its CSO Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) within the watershed. The Puritan First Flush Facility will be built and operating.
- Wayne County's Rouge Valley and Oakland County's Evergreen-Farmington short-term corrective action plans (STCAPs) will be completed with noticeable water quality improvements being realized.
- Local community CSO/sanitary sewer overflow corrective action plans will be clearly established and underway.

### Financial

- Rouge River Watershed communities and counties will be utilizing storm water utility funds to sustain and expand their collaborative public education plan (PEP), illicit discharge elimination plan (IDEP) and green infrastructure (GI) activities. This includes adequate resources to sustain Friends of the Rouge's (FOTR's) Rouge Education Project, Rouge Rescue, and Volunteer Environmental Monitoring (Benthics and Amphibians) programs.
- Sanitary sewer funds will also be routinely used by the communities and the counties for green infrastructure projects to minimize the storm water inflow to combined or sanitary sewer system.
- MS4 Permit Compliance Activities will be state revolving fund and nonpoint source (319) grant eligible.
- A new State of Michigan Environmental Bond will be funded.
- Stakeholders will continue to pursue grant funding and local sources of match funding.

### Institutional

- The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) will be expanding and continuing to diversify its membership base.
- RRAC's affiliation with ARC will continue.
- The MDEQ and U.S. EPA will encourage the relationship between the ARC and RRAC whose common goals are restoration of the watershed.

### Municipal Stormwater Permits

- The municipal storm water permitting program will provide adequate flexibility for both the regulators and the regulated entities to be able to focus their efforts on restoring the resource (i.e. the Rouge River).
- The MDEQ/EPA will allow collaborative efforts that fulfill IDEP, PEP and other municipal storm water permit requirements while also remaining eligible for state and federal grants.