

## Alliance of Rouge Communities Trees for Green Schools

### Wayne County & Oakland County Schools November 2013



Working together, restoring the river

As part of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) 2013 Green Infrastructure Education Campaign, Wayne County's Water Quality Management Division (WQMD) coordinated the purchase of trees for recognized Michigan Green Schools in the ARC. The tree species offered were all native to Michigan and included eastern red bud, northern red oak and sugar maple. The trees were 1.5 inch caliper and depending on the variety, 7'-20' in height. WQMD offered trees to the sixteen (16) schools that were new to the Green School program in the Oakland and Wayne County portions of the Rouge River watershed. Ten schools accepted a tree.



Thurston High School  
South Redford

The ARC also provided white pine seedlings to the sixteen (16) green schools. The seedlings were provided in packs of 30. Informational material including planting instructions, the *Value of Trees flyer*, Rouge River bookmark, ARC flyer and instructions on registering the tree through the ARC's website were provided for each student receiving a seedling.

Healthy trees in our communities improve our water quality. In addition to the visual impact of trees, tree canopies and root systems provide a natural filter to our water supply and reduce storm water runoff, flooding and erosion\*.

Trees are natural air filters, too. Their foliage reduces particulate matter from the air, including dust, micro sized metals, and pollutants such as ozone, nitrogen oxides, ammonia and sulfur dioxides. Forty trees can remove 80lbs of air pollution annually\*.

Trees cool the air naturally from the effects of water evaporating from leaves and from direct shade. Buildings shaded by trees need less energy for cooling, which in turn means lower monthly utility bills in the summer. Four trees planted around each home could save up to 30% on summer cooling costs\*.

For more information on the ARC's Green Infrastructure Education Campaign please contact Ms. Meghan Price, ARC Senior Associate Scientist at (586) 296-1010 or email her at [mprice@ectinc.com](mailto:mprice@ectinc.com). For more information on the Green Schools Program please contact Ms. Nancy Gregor, Wayne County Water Quality Management Division at (734)326-4607 or email at [ngregor@co.wayne.mi.us](mailto:ngregor@co.wayne.mi.us)

\* Information obtained from the *Value of Trees flyer* the Alliance for Community Trees [www.actrees.org](http://www.actrees.org)

## Participating Schools

School	District
St Sebastian Catholic	Non-Public - Dbn Hgts
Crescent Academy International	Non-Public - PlyCan
St Damian Catholic	Non-Public Westland
Farrand Elementary	Plymouth-Canton
Smith Elementary	Plymouth-Canton
Workman Elementary	Plymouth-Canton
Thurston High	South Redford
William D. Ford Career-Technical Center	Wayne Westland
Warner Upper Elementary	Farmington
Clarenceville High	Clarenceville



Planting white pine seedlings at  
Thurston High School,  
South Redford



