

ROUGE RIVER COLLABORATIVE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM (PPP)



Prepared by:



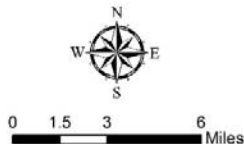
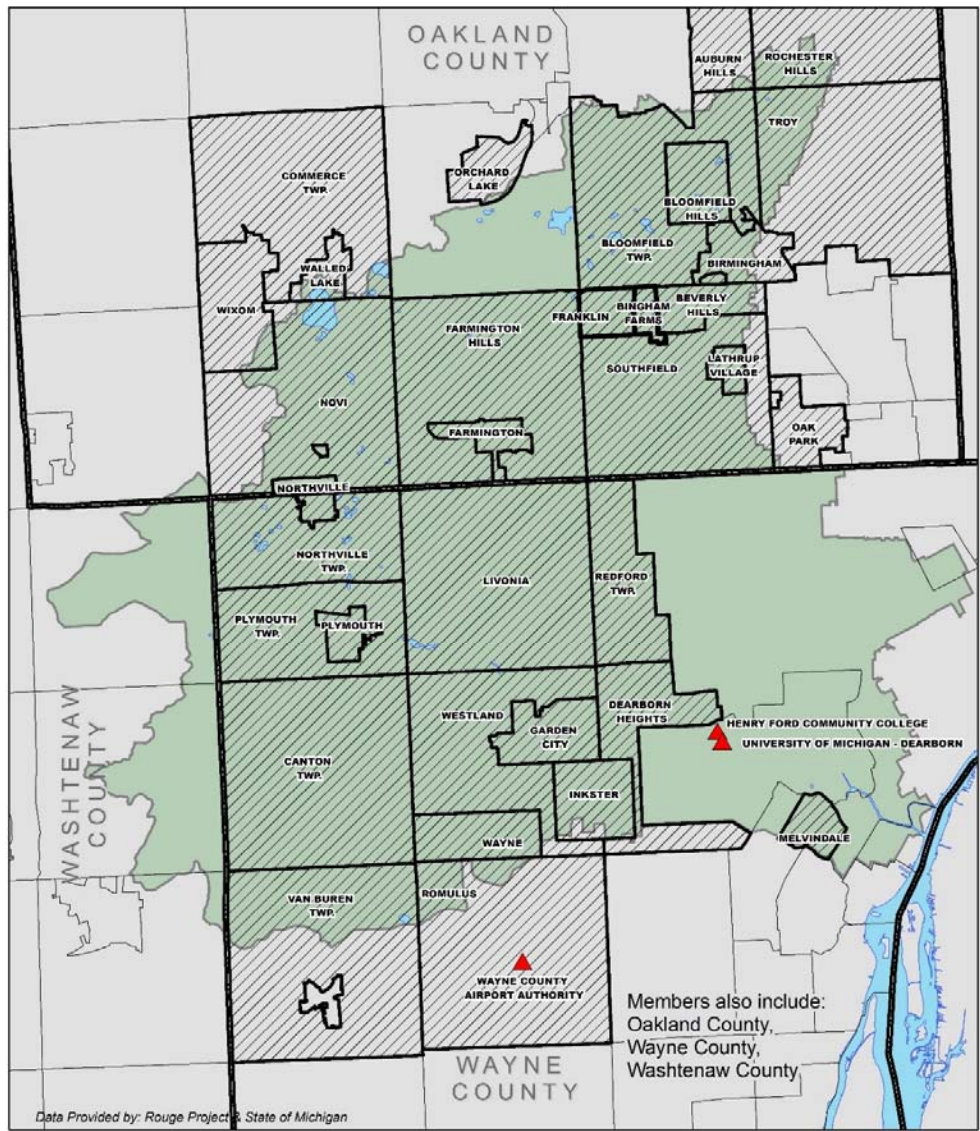
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INTRODUCTION

The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC), a 501(c)(3) organization, is a voluntary public watershed entity currently comprised of municipal governments, counties, schools, and cooperating partners (see Figure 1) as authorized by Part 312 (Watershed Alliances) of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (MCL 324.101 to 324.90106) as amended by Act No. 517, Public Acts of 2004. The purpose of the ARC is to provide an institutional mechanism to encourage watershed-wide cooperation and mutual support to meet water quality permit requirements and to restore beneficial uses of the Rouge River to the area residents.

Figure 1: ARC Members



Alliance of Rouge Communities

ARC Member Communities

February 2016

The two primary goals of the Rouge River Watershed Management Plan (RRWMP) are Protect Public Health and Reduce Stormwater Runoff Impacts. Bacteria is one of the priority pollutants identified in the RRWMP. The ARC's collaborative program presents a watershed-wide plan that is being implemented to effectively and efficiently address *E. coli* levels in the Rouge River watershed caused by stormwater runoff. This plan consists of existing and planned activities and strategies that members of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) are individually and collectively implementing.

This plan was developed by the ARC through its Public Involvement and Education Committee (PIE) in coordination with the ARC Technical Committee in response to the findings and recommendations of the RRWMP as well as the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality's (MDEQ) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessment for *E. coli* in the Rouge River Watershed. This plan is intended to meet the Public Participation/Involvement Program (PPP) element required by ARC members' NPDES permits for stormwater discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s). Those entities that are submitting a separate NPDES permit application, in lieu of this collaborative document, will continue to promote and participate in the activities identified in this plan as a member of the ARC.

This plan will be implemented collaboratively by the ARC participating communities and partners through September 30, 2022, which is the end of the permit cycle for the Rouge River watershed. The list of permittees participating in this Plan include:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Beverly Hills, Village of | Lathrup Village | Walled Lake |
| Bingham Farms, Village of | Livonia | Wayne |
| Birmingham | Melvindale | Westland |
| Bloomfield Hills | Northville | Oakland County* |
| Bloomfield Twp. | Northville Twp. | Washtenaw County* |
| Canton Twp. | Novi | Wayne County |
| Dearborn Heights | Oak Park | Henry Ford College |
| Farmington | Plymouth | <i>*Participating but this plan is not part of their pending permit application.</i> |
| Farmington Hills | Plymouth Twp. | |
| Franklin, Village of | Redford Twp. | |
| Garden City | Southfield | |
| Inkster | Troy | |

The Rouge River Watershed communities have long realized that the public must be engaged in order to have successful restoration activities in the Rouge River watershed. Public involvement and education has been the foundation of Rouge River restoration activities since the inception of the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project in 1992 and continues today through the ARC and its members.

SECTION A – PURPOSE

This plan is to establish procedures for the ARC's Public Participation/Involvement Program (PPP) as required in the Application. The procedure includes a description of the opportunities for the public to participate, comment, and become involved with the implementation of the Stormwater Management Plan.

SECTION B – PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION AND COMMENT

As required, the approved Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) will be made available to the public via the ARC website and links on each community's websites for 90 days as part of the application review process by MDEQ. Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) will inform its membership of the link to review the SWMP. The public will also be informed through the ARC's and community's social media that the plan is available for inspection and comment. The ARC will be identified as the point of contact to receive public comments. The ARC will survey its members regarding any local public notice requirements and will meet them as appropriate.

SECTION C – MEASURABLES

The ARC staff will compile and track comments from the public by documenting the commenter's name, date, and synopsis of the comment.

SECTION D – PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The SWMP will remain on the ARC website and will be available for public comment throughout the permit cycle. Specifically, the ARC and its members will invite the public to participate in the implementation and periodic review of the SWMP at least 2 times during the permit cycle. This will be advertised on the ARC website and links on the community's websites. The ARC will also use social media to promote the public's involvement and will periodically request FOTR to invite its members to participate in the implementation and periodic review of the SWMP during the permit cycle.