



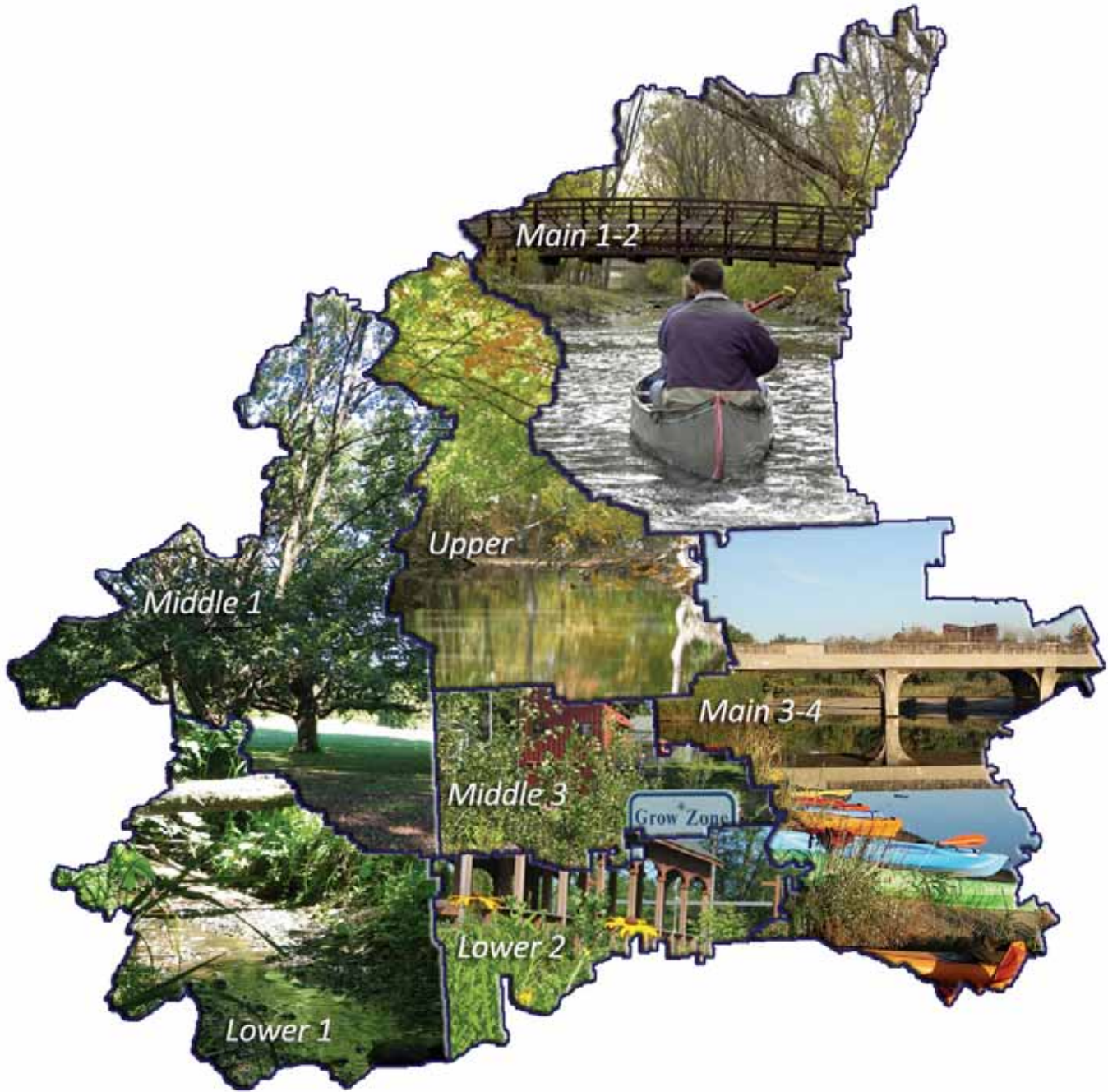
Alliance
of Rouge
Communities

Rouge River

Watershed Management Plan

OURS TO PROTECT

Working together, restoring the river



January 2009 (Revised June 21, 2012)



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Organization of The Plan

This Rouge River Watershed Management Plan has compiled extensive information from each of the 2001 subwatershed management plans into one complete watershed plan. It is designed to function as a guiding document for use, reference and annual planning purposes. It is fully expected that ongoing modifications will be necessary to reflect actual resources obtained and available for its implementation. Updates will be included as an appendix on an annual or biennial basis in order to accurately reflect the implementation focus by the ARC, its members and respective stakeholders.

Executive Summary

The executive summary summarizes the key points of the plan and can be distributed to local governmental agencies and non-technical staff for basic understanding of the watershed management plan. This section highlights historical and current challenges, past planning efforts and accomplishments, current pollutants and associated goals, example initiatives to address pollutants, success evaluation and plan sustainability.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

The introduction to the watershed management plan introduces the reader to watershed, purpose of the watershed management plan and a quick history of the Rouge River restoration activities and programs. This section is where Alliance of Rouge Communities entity, Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project and Rouge River Remedial Action Plan is explained.

Chapter 2 - Characteristics of the Rouge River Watershed

This chapter reviews the general characteristics of the entire watershed from physical location, climate, geology and soils to hydrology, natural features, and political jurisdictions. There is also information regarding the hydrologic unit codes for the watershed, subwatershed and drainage areas within this section. These codes are important because they assign each reach and major tributary of the Rouge River a unique ID and should be used when applying for funding.

Chapter 3 - Rouge River Watershed Conditions

This chapter is broken up into eight different sections – overall conditions and individual sections that describe the current state of each subwatershed. The conditions within the Rouge River watershed are discussed using five broad stream indicators: Changes in water quality; Modification to stream hydrology; Physical alteration of the stream corridor; Degradation of stream habitat; and Loss of aquatic diversity.

The overall conditions section reviews how information was gathered, general health of the watershed using the above stream indicators, state water quality standards and associated TMDLs, and state designated uses. Then each subwatershed has a dedicated section to walk readers through in-depth discussions of the health of that subwatershed.

Chapter 4 - Challenges of the Rouge River Watershed

This chapter elaborates on the challenges within the watershed, specifically the primary pollutants, sources of pollutants, and their respective causes. It also walks the reader through the designated, desired, and beneficial use impairments that are affected by these by challenges.

Chapter 5 - Goals and Objectives of the Watershed Management Plan

This chapter introduces the goals and objectives for the watershed which reflect the priority pollutant and stressors across the watershed along with the designated and desired use restoration. The long-term goals represent significant strides towards expected levels of restoration. Objectives represent shorter term activities that, once achieved, will demonstrate success in meeting the goals. This chapter also relates how the goals and objectives will help move towards addressing the pollutants, restoring the designated, desired and beneficial uses of the Rouge River watershed.

Chapter 6 - Rouge River Watershed Action Plan

This chapter presents many tools and resources that are available to achieve the goals and objectives presented in the previous chapter. These tools include general structural and non-structural best management practices; implementation roadmap including BMP sequence and timeline, and critical and priority areas; specific implementation actions and projects; theoretical outcome of BMP installation; and technical and financial assistance.

Chapter 7 - Public Participation

This chapter begins with a discussion of the public involvement processes that were used to obtain input on the goals and general direction of the watershed management plan. This discussion includes details of the participants in the various mechanisms and lists the specific feedback received. This section also includes current and future public involvement, education and information activities related to the goals of the watershed management plan.

Chapter 8 - Evaluation Methods for Measuring Success

Watershed planning is a cyclical process and this chapter walks readers through how progress is going to be evaluated. Evaluation of the current, on-going and future activities, program and projects is an essential component of knowing what methods are working, what to specifically focus on and when the management plan should be updated.

Chapter 9 - Steps for Plan Sustainability

This chapter presents the organizational structures and legal relationships that the watershed entities are working in to ensure that the actions of the watershed management plan are implemented and the goals and objectives are met.

Chapter 10 – References

This chapter refers to all work cited throughout the watershed management plan.

Chapter 11 – List of Acronyms

This chapter refers to all the acronyms used throughout the watershed management plan.

Appendices

The appendices include products generated during the watershed management plan development process, reports, studies and other information not essential to the text of the watershed management plan but important for those requiring additional information on select topics.

