








# Executive Director 2014 Annual Report

## Rouge Growing Green Naturalizing the Home Garden

Native Garden Design Workshops for  
Beginners held in Novi, Livonia,  
Bloomfield Hills, and Dearborn Heights

*Presented by the  
Alliance of Rouge Communities  
and Friends of the Rouge*

### Choose Your Plant Palette

	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> Butterfly Weed 1' - 3' height		<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Purple Coneflower 3'-4' height
	<i>Rudbeckia hirta</i> Black-eyed Susan 1'-3' height		<i>Monarda fistulosa</i> Wild Bergamot 2'-4' height
	<i>Lobelia siphilitica</i> Great Blue Lobelia 1'-3' height		



April, 2014

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# ARC ROUGE GRANT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2014 Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) Executive Director's Annual Report discusses all of the activities conducted by the ARC from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014, including routine administration and meetings of the ARC and all of its committees. It also includes results from ARC IDEP activities and public education activities, including workshops and developed products.

## ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE

### OC1A: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SERVICES

#### A. FULL ALLIANCE MEETINGS

Staff support was provided for three (3) Full ARC meetings. Staff support for each meeting included preparation of the agenda (under the direction of the Chair), distribution of the materials prior to the three (3) full ARC meetings, facilitation of the meetings (including note-taking and tallying of votes at the meeting), and preparation/distribution of meeting summaries to members and other interested parties. ARC meetings were held on:

#### *March 13, 2014, Longacre House, Farmington Hills*

ARC Staff received resignations from both Kevin Buford (ARC Chair) and Jim Murray (ARC Vice Chair). Brandy Siedlaczek, Southfield, will serve as Chair with Gary Mekjian, Farmington Hills, volunteering to serve as Vice Chair and Bob Belair, Canton, volunteering to serve as Treasurer through the end of 2014. Elections will be held as planned later in 2014.

Kelly Karll of SEMCOG gave a presentation on Green Infrastructure to the ARC members.

The Executive Director's Annual Report for 2013 was handed out to the ARC members.

The ARC withdrew the proposal for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study in the Lower Rouge Main Channel because the project was short \$210,000 in match. MDEQ indicated their desire to lead the effort. ARC staff requested that the Erb Foundation allow the ARC to rescope the remainder of the funds (\$88,748) to focus on green infrastructure and public education. No response had been received from the Erb Foundation as of the meeting.



The committee began discussions regarding the 2010 Census which has been finalized and the effect it would have on ARC dues for 2015 if the Full ARC decided to update the dues in relation to population changes which could make the dues adjust based on population.

ARC staff reviewed a grant application that was submitted for habitat improvement at Fish Hatchery Park located along Johnson Creek in Northville and Northville Twp. and a PAC grant application to continue facilitation of the RRAC meetings along with developing a list of projects that are needed to restore habitat in the watershed. Grant applications were prepared under NOAA for the Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage and a Fish Barrier and Habitat Fragmentation.

No actions were voted on because there was not a quorum.

May 19, 2014, Wixom Community Center

Jim Ridgway discussed the possibility of merging the ARC with FOTR and RRAC to create a new organization as the Rouge Grant funds are ending on May 31, 2014. He reported that the ARC staff have had conversations with both FOTR and RRAC and will continue to work together to discuss the future of the Rouge River Watershed. A Memorandum of Understanding will be drafted which is a voluntary agreement to work together to explore the merging of FOTR and the ARC in order to provide the most effective nonprofit organization to protect and restore the Rouge River watershed.

The Organization Committee made a motion to incorporate email voting into the ARC Bylaws as an option when a quorum is not present and the motion passed. The Officers stressed the importance of member participation regardless of making the change to the Bylaws to include email voting.

Annette DeMaria, ARC Staff, provided a Summary of Efforts for the ARC-funded IDEP activities.

ARC Staff reported that the Erb Foundation requested that the ARC return the unused portion of the Legacy Grant in the amount of \$88,748 as they denied the ARC’s request to rescope the grant. ARC staff processed the refund.



November 10, 2014, Inkster City Hall

Annette DeMaria, ARC staff presented a summary of the new MS4 permit application, the estimated cost for compliance, and the ARC’s SAW grant. ARC members will save between \$2,300 and \$46,600 per year (depending on community size) for the next 3 years as shown in the table below.

**Net Benefit of the Collaborative Implementation Efforts and the SAW Grant**

MS4 Size	Permit Implementation Savings/year	SAW Grant/year	Average Dues (2010 census)	Benefit/year
Very Small	\$900	\$3,100	\$1,700	\$2,300
Small	\$3,700	\$12,200	\$5,400	\$10,500
Medium	\$11,700	\$39,000	\$17,600	\$33,100
Large	\$16,000	\$53,300	\$22,700	\$46,600

The Full ARC adopted the revisions to the ARC dues beginning in 2015 to coincide with the 2010 Census as per the ARC Bylaws. The Full ARC also approved the 2015 Budget along with the officers of Brandy Siedlaczek (Southfield) as Chair, Bob Belair (Canton) as Treasurer and Jill Rickard (Northville Twp.) as Vice Chair for 2015/2016. In addition the 2013 Audit was accepted.

Kelly Cave distributed the Final Grant Report for the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project. Brandy Siedlaczek, ARC Chair, presented and read two resolutions thanking both Kelly Cave and Razik Alsaigh for their efforts in bringing the Rouge River back to life.

Full ARC meeting summaries can be found at:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/arcmeetings.html>

## **B. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Staff support was provided for three (3) Executive Committee meetings and one (1) Officers Meeting. Staff support for each meeting included (under the direction of the ARC Officers), preparation of the agenda, distribution of the materials prior to the meetings, facilitation of the meetings (including note-taking and documenting recommendations considered and actions taken), and meeting summary preparation (a summary was not prepared for the Officers meeting) and distribution. This subtask also included ongoing support services for the committee outside of the regular meetings.

The Executive Committee discusses and approves items in advance of full ARC meetings. Agendas and meeting summaries are available on [www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com). ARC Executive Committee Meetings were held on the following dates:

### March 5, 2014, Wayne County Commerce Court

ARC Staff reviewed the 2013 Executive Director's Annual Report that would be available to ARC members.

The ARC staff were asked to follow-up with Jim Murray to see if he is willing to act as Chair after the resignation of ARC Chair Kevin Buford.

The ARC withdrew the proposal for the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study in the Lower Rouge Main Channel because the project was short \$210,000 in match. MDEQ indicated their desire to lead the effort. ARC staff requested that Erb allow the ARC to rescope the remainder of the funds (\$88,748) to focus on green infrastructure and public education. No response has been received from the Erb Foundation as of the meeting.

The committee began discussions regarding the 2010 Census which has been finalized and the effect it would have on ARC dues for 2015 if the Full ARC decided to update the dues in relation to population changes which could make the dues adjust based on population.

ARC staff reviewed a grant application that was submitted for a habitat improvement with Fish Hatchery Park located along Johnson Creek in Northville and Northville Twp. and a PAC grant application to continue facilitation of the RRAC meetings along with developing a list of projects that are needed to restore habitat in the watershed.

### May 15, 2014, Southfield Parks & Recreation

ARC staff reported that the ARC is expected to receive SAW grant funding in 2015. ARC staff continues to research potential future grant funding. The ARC will investigate the merging with FOTR and RRAC. A Memorandum of Understanding will be drafted which is a voluntary agreement to work together to explore the merging of FOTR and the ARC in order to provide the most effective nonprofit organization to protect and restore the Rouge River watershed. Both the PIE and Technical Committees reported to be working on Collaborative plans. The ARC Treasurer provided the 2015 Budget Preparation Schedule.

ARC Staff reported that the Erb Foundation requested that the ARC return the unused portion of the Legacy Grant in the amount of \$88,748 as they denied the ARC's request to rescope the grant. ARC staff processed the refund.

November 5, 2014, Southfield Parks & Recreation

ARC Staff reviewed the proposed 2015 ARC dues based on the 2010 Census per the ARC Bylaws and the committee voted to forward the revised dues calculation to the Full ARC. The majority of communities showed a reduction in dues, with those having an increase in population showing an increase under \$1,000 with only 2 exceeding that.

The 2013 Audit was reviewed and disseminated to the committee and was voted to forward to the Full ARC. The 2015 Budget Recommendations were reviewed and voted on to forward to the Full ARC for approval. The 2015/16 officer slate was recommended to the Full ARC, in addition to nominations from the floor as Brandy Siedlaczek (Chair), Bob Belair (Treasurer) and Jill Rickard (Vice Chair).

Kelly Cave distributed the Final Grant Report for the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project.

ARC Executive Committee meeting summaries can be found at:  
<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/arcmeetings.html>

May 13, 2014, Officers Meeting

Staff support was provided for a special officers meeting held on May 13, 2014, in Farmington Hills to discuss the future of the ARC along with the future of Friends of the Rouge and the Rouge River Advisory Council and the possibility of the three merging into a new organization.

**C. ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Organization Committee did not have any scheduled meetings during the reporting period. Ongoing support services for the committee outside of regular meetings included drafting changes to the ARC Bylaws to incorporate a section to address Quorum and Manner of Acting.

**D. FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

ED staff worked with the Finance Committee to develop and administer the annual budget and work plan. ED staff prepared monthly financial reports, mailed dues invoices to members, collected dues, submitted various grant reimbursement requests and paid the ARC's bills. ED staff facilitated three (3) Finance Committee meetings by preparing the agenda, distributing materials prior to the meetings, and preparing/distributing meeting summaries to appropriate parties. Finance Committee meetings were held at on March 5, 2014, in Wayne, May 14, 2014, in Canton and October 7, 2014 in Canton.

**E. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Staff support was provided for one (1) regular committee meeting on March 25, 2014. Activities included preparation of the agenda (under the direction of the Technical Committee Chair), distribution of the materials prior to the meeting, facilitation of the meeting (including note-taking and record of actions taken), and preparation/distribution of meeting summary to members and other interested parties.

### Participation in IDEP Work Group

ED staff provided support to the Southeast Michigan IDEP Work Group which was organized in 2011. Support in 2014 included review and comment of the MDEQ's IDEP guidance document and participation in the meeting held on April 3, 2014.

### **F. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION (PIE) COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Staff support was provided for one (1) regular meeting on March 27, 2014, including preparation of the agenda (under the direction of the PIE Committee Chair), distribution of the materials prior to the meeting, facilitation of the meeting (including note-taking and record of actions taken), and preparation/distribution of meeting summary to members and other interested parties. Staff provided ongoing support services for the committee outside of regular meetings.

### **OC1B ADVOCACY AND ADMINISTRATION**

ED staff promoted the ARC as the advocate for the Rouge River Watershed, served as the primary spokesperson for the ARC, responded to requests for information and sought opportunities to promote ARC awareness. ED staff served as the ARC primary liaison to the general public, all members, including both formal and informal interaction with government officials, legislators and staff on a regular basis.

Materials distributed in 2014 included all meeting materials for the ARC Executive Committee, the Full ARC, the Public Involvement and Education, Technical, Organization, and Finance Committees and all special meetings. Staff also distributed materials related to permit discussions with MDEQ, watershed management planning documents and flyers for upcoming events.

The Executive Director and staff participated in the following outreach activities:

#### Transition Meetings

The ARC Executive Director had discussions and meetings with the officers, Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) Executive Director, and the Rouge River Advisory Council to discuss the future of the ARC and FOTR in lieu of reduced federal funding support. Discussions included opportunities to combine the three organizations into one overarching group. This would combine our collective revenue sources and allow for more effective efforts to restore the watershed. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed in September 2014. This is a voluntary agreement to work together to explore the merging of FOTR and the ARC in order to provide the most effective nonprofit organization to protect and restore the Rouge River watershed. Discussions are expected to be ongoing through 2015 and FOTR received funding through the Erb Family Foundation to support the merger investigation. As part of these discussions, ARC staff prepared a draft organization chart, a comparison of the missions of each organization, and gathered annual budget information.

#### Outreach Activities

The ARC Executive Director participated in Great Lakes Days in Washington, D.C., from March 3 – 7, 2014 and represented the ARC while meeting with various Congressional Staff.

Representative Kerry Bentivolio requested the ARC Executive Director review and give his opinion on HR-3189 Water Rights Protection Act that the House was considering.

### Statewide Public Advisory Council (SPAC)

ARC Staff attended the spring and fall SPAC meetings at no cost to the ARC in order to better understand how to secure funding for habitat improvement projects.

### Great Lakes Advisory Board

Jim Ridgway continues to serve on the USEPA Great Lakes Advisory Board (GLAB). He advocated for ARC communities as well as all communities within the Great Lakes basin. The Great lake Advisory Board supports the EPA and all other federal agencies in their efforts to restore and protect the Great Lakes.

### Member and General Public Requests

ARC Staff responded to a request by Garden City as they updated their annual water quality report.

ARC Staff worked with all communities to verify their ARC member Representatives and Alternates.

ARC Staff worked with the City of Inkster as they renewed their membership in the ARC in March 2014.

ARC staff participated in the City of Dearborn's Community Visioning session to discuss the River as an asset.

ARC Staff assisted the City of Dearborn in preparing for their MS4/MDEQ Audit at their request.

ARC Staff received a request from Cleveland Elementary School (a past ARC Grow Zone grant recipient) to visit the school to give suggestions on their grow zone.

ARC Staff responded to a survey by the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the Nature Conservancy, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to develop a decision support tool for evaluating the costs and benefits of removing dams and impassible road culverts from Great Lakes tributaries. Their hope is to improve the quality and utility of our decision support tool by soliciting input from interested parties at various stages. The asked the ARC staff for help with improving their estimates of the economic costs of barrier removal or barrier replacement across the Great Lakes basin because they found information in the Great Lakes Information Management & Delivery System database that suggesting the ARC was involved with one or more barrier removal or barrier replacement projects.



*Cleveland Elementary School grow zone*

ARC Staff attended the Sierra Club Green Your Neighborhood event held on October 15, 2014 at the Wayne County Community College District in Detroit. ARC Staff set up the ARC display and disseminated information on green infrastructure, rain gardens and homeowner activities that restore/protect the Rouge River.

### Storm Water Permit Activities

The Executive Director forwarded information regarding the EPA National Stormwater Rulemaking as reported by the Water Environment Federation to the ARC members.

### Partnership Activities

ARC Staff provided information to Great Lakes Reporter who asked to feature the Valley Woods Wetlands Restoration & Stormwater Improvements Project in an upcoming issue. The project won the 2014 Project of the Year – Environment less than \$5 Million award from the APWA. ARC Staff also provided information to Great Lakes Reporter for an article on the Danvers Pond Dam Removal & Stream Restoration Project that was in their spring 2014 issue.

ARC Staff assisted the City of Southfield with providing the ARC's Green Infrastructure poster to the MDEQ at their request. The MDEQ wanted to share information statewide through listserves and upcoming outreach events focused on GI, stormwater control, smartgrowth and placemaking, watershed and water quality protection.

The ARC did not receive any FOIA requests from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014.

### **OC1C. FINANCIAL SERVICES**

ED Staff provided financial services in accordance with the ARC's Accounting Procedures Manual including processing of payables and receivables. ED Staff provided monthly reports for the ARC Treasurer and ARC members from January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. ED Staff provided necessary staff to meet the separation of financial duties and responsibilities documented in the ARC's Accounting Procedures Manual so that no Executive Director Staff member has sole control over cash receipts, bank reconciliations, accounts payable, mail or other accounting functions. ED Staff maintained separate general ledger accounts as required by funding source regulations. ED Staff maintained financial records and files as required by the ARC Accounting Procedures Manual including grants and vendor contracts. ED staff submitted all required information for grant reimbursement requests and grant reporting. ED staff assisted and provided information for the 2013 financial audit and taxes.

ED staff worked with the Finance Committee to develop and administer the annual budget and work plan. ED staff prepared monthly financial reports, mailed dues invoices to members, collected dues, submitted various grant reimbursement requests and paid the ARC's bills.

### **OC1D. COMMUNICATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

ED staff provided administrative oversight of the ARC day-to-day activities, staff, consultants and contractors, and external relationships with other agencies, organizations, and individuals to meet the goals of the ARC. Specific activities were discussed in monthly invoice summaries.

The ARC's GLRI funded (as part of Transforming the Rouge) Valley Woods Wetland Restoration and Stormwater Improvement Project was awarded the American Public Works Association Award (APWA) Michigan Chapter Project of the Year Award for Environment – less than \$5 million in May 2014.



*From left to right, Merrie Carlock, City of Southfield, John O'Meara, ARC Staff, and Brandy Siedlaczek, City of Southfield and ARC Chair receiving APWA award*



The 2013 ARC annual report was completed and submitted to the ARC in March, 2014. The report to Wayne County for the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project for the period of January 1, 2014 through May 31, 2014 was completed and submitted to Wayne County in June, 2014.

## **OC1E. GRANT PREPARATIONS**

ARC Staff researched and surveyed ARC Members regarding the 2014 GLRI Request for Applications seeking their input in determining the scope of the ARC's application for this round. Projects would need to reduce nutrients and sediments and be documented in the Watershed Management Plan. Members decided not to submit an application but incorporated ARC activities into 2 projects submitted by Wayne County. ARC Staff was recently informed that 1 of the 2 GLRI projects was awarded to Wayne County (see below).

The Executive Director staff applied for the following grants in 2013 on behalf of the Alliance of Rouge Communities:

- ◆ NOAA GLRI Habitat Restoration Grant (\$259,596) for the design of the Henry Ford Estate Dam Fish Passage. (not awarded)
- ◆ NOAA GLRI Habitat Restoration Grant (\$145,664) to examine and prioritize fish barriers and habitat fragmentation in the Rouge River. (not awarded)
- ◆ MDNR Aquatic Ecosystem Grant (\$436,600) for design and implementation of the Fish Hatchery Park Restoration along Johnson Creek. (not awarded)
- ◆ US Forestry Service EAB Tree Grant (\$100,000) to purchase and plant an estimated 680 trees. (award pending)
- ◆ SPAC AOC Grant (\$39,867) for the facilitation of RRAC activities, development of a Habitat Restoration Project List and to conduct an Amphibian Data Analysis. (awarded)
- ◆ ARC Staff provided coordination and involvement with grant applications lead by other entities:
  - FOTR-ARC Merger Investigation (\$145,313) submitted to the Erb Family Foundation by FOTR (awarded)
  - GLRI Collaborative GI Retrofits in the Watershed (\$744,913) submitted to EPA by Wayne County (unknown at time of report)
  - GLRI Collaborative Invasive species control in Rouge and Detroit River AOC (\$634,736) submitted to EPA by Wayne County (awarded)

## **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

### **TC1: ROUGE RIVER WATERSHED MONITORING ACTIVITIES**

#### Water Quality Summary

The 2014 Rouge River Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Report, describing the results of the 2013 flow and DO data collection effort and an assessment of historic data trends, was completed by ED staff and is available at [www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com). In addition, the Rouge Project data collected between 1994 and 2013 is stored in a Sequel database housed at Wayne County and the ARC. In preparation of the end of the Rouge Project, Wayne County and the ARC sought assistance from Wayne State University to continue public access to the data. Wayne State University intends to provide online access to data as part of a larger effort to centralize environmental monitoring data in the region; however, the schedule for doing so is unknown at this time.

**Deliverables:**

Water Quality Summary (included in RREMAR)

[http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/technical/2013\\_RREMAR\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/technical/2013_RREMAR_FINAL.pdf)

**B. TC2: COLLABORATIVE IDEP PLAN**

ED and Wayne County staff updated the Collaborative IDEP Plan following comments from the Technical Committee. In addition, we summarized the ARC's IDEP activities conducted between 2010 and 2013 to demonstrate the success of a collaborative approach. ED and Wayne County staff also met with the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioners Office (OCWRC) and MDEQ regarding the draft plan. The meeting with OCWRC gave us a better understanding of how their work will fit into the plan. MDEQ requested additional specifics and additional justification as to how the plan is equivalent to the MDEQ's suggested approach. The plan will continue to evolve and be finalized using SAW funding.

**Deliverables:**

Draft Collaborative IDEP Plan

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/technical/Collaborative%20IDEP%20120114.pdf>

**C. TC3: IDEP INVESTIGATIONS**

ED staff reviewed and commented on OCWRC's and WC's 2014 IDEP Work Plans and brought them to the Technical Committee for approval. ED staff prepared IAAs for both counties and facilitated execution of them. ED staff reviewed, commented, solicited comments and finalized OCWRC's and WC's 2013 IDEP reports.

**Oakland County IDEP Field Investigations**

OCWRC staff conducted IDEP investigations along multiple storm drains within the Rouge River Watershed in Farmington, Southfield and Bloomfield Township in 2014. Investigations revealed likely or potential illicit sanitary connections along some of the drains that were investigated. These drains were the US-16, Fracassi, Austin, Devonshire, and Claude H. Stevens No. 3, 4 & 10 drains. The suspected problems and recommended follow-up actions for these drains are detailed in the final project report. Additional investigations will be conducted on these drains in 2015 to confirm the presence and determine the source of the illicit connections.

In other drains, investigations indicated an absence of illicit sanitary connections. These drains include the Amy/Dan Devine, Law, Lynn D. Allen and Nichols drains in Bloomfield Township; the Wagner and McClung drains in Southfield; and the Townline Drain in Novi. These drains will not be subject to further investigations, but will continue to be routinely screened for illicit connections per WRC's protocols.

**Wayne County IDEP Field Investigations**

In the 2014, Wayne County was tasked with dye-testing ARC member facilities and or facilities nested in their permit to confirm they are free of illicit discharges. This has been an on-going ARC service in the Priority IDEP areas (ARC 2011, 2012 & 2013 budgets) and is anticipated to be an on-going activity of the ARC Collaborative IDEP. This year the task was expanded to include all ARC members and nested jurisdiction facilities in the Rouge River Watershed. Wayne County surveyed the ARC members to see if their municipalities wished to have their facilities, or nested jurisdiction (e.g. school district) facilities, dye tested for illicit connections and discharges. Six members responded to the survey. Eleven municipal facilities were inspected and six illicit connections (floor drains) and one illicit discharge (outdoor vehicle washing) were discovered at three facilities in 2014.

Wayne County staff also assisted the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and the City of Northville in successfully tracking down the source of an oil discharge to the Johnson Creek. The property owner stepped up and took charge of the clean-up.

Three locations in the Middle and Upper Rouge Subwatersheds were sampled for *E. coli*, surfactants, ammonia, and conductivity to determine if additional investigative efforts are required. WC determined that the Beitz Drain could be eliminated from further IDEP investigations, while the Park Street storm drain needs further investigation due to *E. coli* levels between 14,000 and 22,000 cfu/100 mL.

#### **Deliverables:**

Wayne County Work Plan:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/technical/WQMD%20ARC%202014%20IDEP%20Wrk%20plan.pdf>

Oakland County Work Plan:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/technical/ARC-OC%202014%20IDEP%20Scope%20of%20Workv2.pdf>

Wayne County ARC 2014 Illicit Discharge Elimination Plan Activities 2014 Summary Report:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/technical/WQMD%20ARC%202014%20IDEP%20Activities%20summary%20report.pdf>

2014 Illicit Discharge Investigations in Oakland County's Portion of the Rouge River Watershed Final Report:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/technical/OCWRC%202014%20IDEP%20Report%20Final.pdf>

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & EDUCATION (PIE) COMMITTEE**

### **A. PIE1: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CAMPAIGN**

#### Workshops

Five workshops were held in partnership with Friends of the Rouge and Wayne County in 2014. ED Staff assisted in planning and attended and supported the workshop:

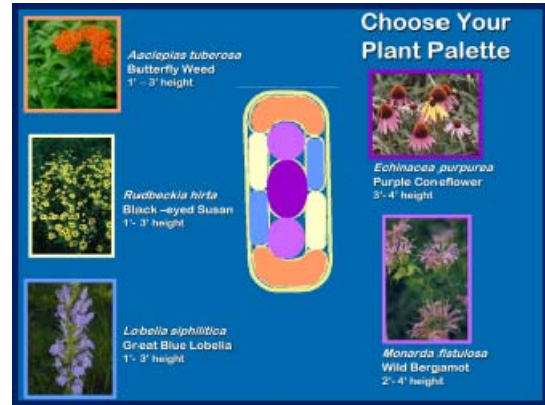
**Naturalizing the Home Garden Workshop:** A total of 183 people attended four (4) workshops to get hands-on experience from experts about how to design a small native garden at their homes. They were held in February, March, and April, 2014 at the following locations.

- ◆ February 19, 2014, Novi
- ◆ March 5, 2014, Livonia
- ◆ March 31, 2014, Cranbrook Institute of Science
- ◆ April 15, 2014 Dearborn Heights

Surveys conducted at the workshops showed that participants thought the workshops were a valuable experience.



**Maintaining Native Gardens Workshop:** This workshop was held October 18, 2014 at the Farmington Hills City Hall and was attended by 19 participants. The workshop focused on learning how to care for native gardens. The goal for participants was to achieve the best results from the work that participants invest in caring for your native gardens. There was also a discussion to share lessons learned, offer gardening tips, ask questions and learn from others who garden with native plants.



### Green Schools

Wayne County staff provided facilitation services for the Green Schools program in Wayne and Oakland Counties for the PIE Committee. 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, sugar maple and tulip tree. The trees were 1.5 inch caliper and depending on the variety, 7’-10’ in height. WQMD offered trees to the twelve (12) schools that were new to the Green School program in the Oakland and Wayne County portions of the Rouge River watershed. Eight schools accepted a tree. The remaining 4 trees were given to Farmington Public Schools for hosting the tree pick up. The state of Michigan has an official Michigan Green School Law, which encourages all public and private schools to administer energy-saving and environmental activities to become designated as a “Green School”. A school is eligible to receive a green, emerald, or evergreen school designation if the school coordinator submits proper documentation describing how the school has performed activities from each of the categories: Recycling, Energy, Environmental Protection, Miscellaneous, and Propose Your Own Point. The Green School designation can be achieved by successfully participating in a least 10 activities. The Emerald designation can be achieved by successfully participating in 15 points and the Evergreen designation can be achieved by successfully participating in 20 points.

As part of the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) 2014 Green Infrastructure Education Campaign, Wayne County’s Water Quality Management Division (WQMD) coordinated the purchase of Blue Spruce seedlings for FOTR Site Coordinators for River Day. The tree species offered are native to Michigan. 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 seedling. To date, 183 trees have been registered on the ARC Website.

### **Deliverables:**

Wayne County 2014 Green Schools Report:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/PI/WC%202014%20ARC%20Green%20School%20Tree%20Summary%20Final.pdf>

### Hines Park Green Infrastructure Volunteer Work Day

On May 10, 2014 over 40 volunteers from Ladywood High School Environmental Club; Wayne County Master Gardeners; and other Wayne County community residents worked at the Bennett Arboretum along Hines Drive in Northville. The volunteers participated in efforts that included: invasive species removal throughout the natural areas at Cass Benton and Bennett Arboretum; invasive species removal (i.e. weeding) around the newly planted trees within the Oak and Maple collections at the arboretum, the native plant gardens, kiosks, and interpretive signs.

The volunteers also hauled nearly 6 yards of cedar mulch and placed it around the new trees, kiosks, signs and native plant demonstration gardens. Twenty-three 33 gallon garbage bags of invasive species were removed as part of the Stewardship Networks Garlic Mustard Pull Challenge.



The event was held by Commissioner Laura Cox as a Friends of the Rouge 2014 Rouge Rescue project site. The event was also part of Wayne County's and the Alliance of Rouge Communities Green Infrastructure Outreach and Education Campaign to encourage the restoration and protection of the green infrastructure throughout the Rouge River watershed.

### Collaborative PEP

The PIE Committee continued to compile information needed to create the Collaborative PEP. The document is currently in draft form. Additional budget through ARC dues will finalize the document.

### **Deliverables:**

Draft ARC Collaborative PEP

[http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/PI/DRAFT%20ARC%20Collaborative%20PEP\\_123114.pdf](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/PI/DRAFT%20ARC%20Collaborative%20PEP_123114.pdf)

### **B. PIE2: PUBLIC ED MATERIALS**

ED staff made available to ARC members various partner public education materials through the ARC website. More than 11,000 partner material items were distributed to member communities.

ED Staff distributed various public education materials to communities including:

- ◆ Commerce Township
- ◆ Wayne
- ◆ Washtenaw County
- ◆ Walled Lake
- ◆ Northville
- ◆ Lathrup Village
- ◆ Franklin
- ◆ Beverly Hills
- ◆ Bloomfield Hills
- ◆ Birmingham
- ◆ Novi
- ◆ Wayne County
- ◆ Oakland County
- ◆ Henry Ford Community College
- ◆ Walled Lake
- ◆ Bloomfield Township

### Bookmarks

ARC staff developed bookmarks to publicize the ARC and promote Rouge Friendly tips to the public. 2,250 were distributed to five (5) ARC member communities and agencies and 1,200 were used at four (4) ARC member community events including Rouge Rescue and the Master Gardeners of Western Wayne meeting, the Sierra Club's Green Your Neighborhood Community Forum and the Cranbrook Institute of Science Rouge River Water Festival.

### Fertilizer Clips

The ARC developed fertilizer clips with the ARC logo and the phrase: *Fertilize Sparingly and Caringly* to distribute at public events. More than 1,100 clips were distributed to 6 member communities and were distributed at Sierra Club's Green Your Neighborhood Community Forum.

### ARC Public Education Brochure

Staff updated the ARC flyer in 2014 to include the new grants that the ARC has been awarded and had 3,500 printed. This flyer is used to educate the general public about the ARC and its activities. 1,800 brochures were distributed to three (3) member communities and 1,000 were distributed in the tree seedling packages for Rouge Rescue and at the Master Gardeners of Western Wayne meeting and at Sierra Club's Green Your Neighborhood Community Forum.



### ARC Member Brochure

Staff updated the ARC member brochure to include updates to grants that have ended along with new grants the ARC has received and had 1,000 printed. The brochure explains the ARC, member benefits, projects and committees.

### Value of Trees

Staff distributed 2,200 copies of the Value of Trees flyer to seven (7) member communities and 1,300 to ARC member community events including Rouge Rescue and the Master Gardeners of Western Wayne meeting and Sierra Club's Green Your Neighborhood Community Forum.



### Waterfront Wisdom Brochure

Staff developed a booklet for riparian homeowners in the Rouge River Watershed. The publication was originally published by the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner's Office Environmental Team. 650 brochures were distributed to five (5) ARC member communities and Sierra Club's Green Your Neighborhood Community Forum.

### Detention Pond Maintenance Manuals

300 Detention Pond Maintenance manuals were distributed to three (3) member communities and 30 to ARC member community events including Rouge Rescue and the Master Gardeners of Western Wayne meeting and Sierra Club's Green Your Neighborhood Community Forum.

### Additional Rouge Grant and SEMCOG Printed Pieces

The ARC also distributed the following items that were printed by Wayne County or SEMCOG and were given to ARC Staff for distribution:

- ◆ FOG Prevention Brochure – 400 pieces to two (2) member communities
- ◆ A Homeowner's Guide to Septic Systems – 700 pieces to three (3) member communities
- ◆ Clean Up After Your Pet tip card – 850 pieces to five (5) member communities
- ◆ Save Water tip card – 200 pieces to one (1) member community
- ◆ Help Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains – 700 pieces to four (4) member communities
- ◆ Fertilize Sparingly & Caringly – 550 pieces to four (4) member communities
- ◆ Carefully Store & Dispose of Household Cleaners, Chemicals and Oil – 150 pieces to two (2) member communities

- ◆ Practice Good Car Care tip card – 700 pieces to two (2) member communities
- ◆ Working for Clean Water it Begins With You DVD – 2 copies to one (1) member community
- ◆ Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water DVD – 2 copies to one (1) member community



### Seedlings

A total of 500 seedlings (Blue Spruce) were prepared on May 14, 2014 for the FOTR site coordinators for various River Day events.

Wayne County Department of Public Services, Water Quality Management Division (WQMD) coordinated the purchase of 500 white pine seedlings for volunteers of Friends of the Rouge’s (FOTR) Rouge Rescue 2014. The seedlings were purchased from the Wayne County Conservation District (WCCD). A public information packet was assembled to go with each seedling consisting of Rouge River bookmarks, Value of Trees flyers, Planting and How to Register Your Tree Instructions, and the ARC informational flyer.

The seedling went to 11 different Rouge River Rescue sites May 17, 2014:

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| ◆ Heritage Park, Farmington Hills    | ◆ Plymouth Twp. Park, Plymouth Township |
| ◆ Shiawassee Park, Farmington        | ◆ Linear Park, Northville               |
| ◆ Lola Valley, Redford Township      | ◆ U of M Dearborn, Dearborn             |
| ◆ Beech Woods, Southfield            | ◆ Douglas Evans, Beverly Hills          |
| ◆ Meadows of Canton, Canton Township | ◆ Goudy Park, Wayne                     |
| ◆ Flodin Park, Canton Township       |   |

Another 200 seedlings (Norway) were prepared for and distributed at the City of Westland’s Household Hazardous Waste day on August 16, 2014. ARC Staff prepared 300 seedlings that were distributed at the 2014 Cranbrook Institute of Science’s Rouge River Water Festival during the third week in September.

### Management and Distribution

Staff developed labels, tree planting instructions and packaged the information for the above mentioned events. Staff designed and ordered materials and distributed materials to ARC members.

### **C. PIE3: WEBSITE MAINTENANCE**

Staff performed design, writing, editing and general maintenance of the ARC website (www.allianceofrougecommunities.com). A section was added under the documents tab to include a permit section to assist members in finding the available information to support their permit reporting.

Articles or information published on the “Rouge in The News” section of the website or distributed to members through email in 2014 include:

- ◆ The Mysterious Creatures in the Clinton River, Shawn Keenan, Water Resources Coordinator, Auburn Hills Community Development Blog

- ◆ August, 1968 Life Magazine article - historic perspective on water pollution in the Great Lakes, prior to enactment of the Clean Water Act. It includes some great photos and mention of White Lake, among other future AOCs
- ◆ Mysterious Windsor Hum traced to Zug Island, Michigan, CBC News

Activities and events published on the “Activities and Events” section of the website or through email in 2014 include:

- ◆ FOTR frog & toad survey events
- ◆ FOTR Reception honoring Congressman John Dingell
- ◆ Naturalizing the Home Garden Workshops
- ◆ Maintaining Native Gardens Workshop
- ◆ Permit Progress Report reminders to members
- ◆ SEMCOG/St. Clair County Health Department Passing Your Phase II Stormwater Audit: Municipal Training for Success
- ◆ EPA National Stormwater Rulemaking changes by WEF
- ◆ MDEQ, WRD, FY15 surface water quality monitoring recommendations
- ◆ ARC Municipal/Nested Facility Dye Testing
- ◆ FOTR spring bug hunt events
- ◆ FOTR Rouge Rescue
- ◆ FOTR Fall bug hunt
- ◆ FOTR Fundraising events
- ◆ FOTR winter stone fly events
- ◆ Southeast Michigan CSO Discussion
- ◆ Various state grant programs

Documents that were added to the ARC website or emailed to members in 2014 include:

- ◆ ARC Executive Directors 2013 Annual Report
- ◆ FOTR Winter Stone Fly report
- ◆ 2013 FOTR Frog and Toad Survey results
- ◆ FOTR Spring Bug Hunt report
- ◆ Report on Illicit Discharge Investigation of the US-16, Law and Fracassi Drains in Oakland County
- ◆ FOTR 2014 Semi-Annual Report on Activities through May 31, 2014
- ◆ 2013 RREMAR
- ◆ Revised ARC Bylaws to address Quorum and Manner of Acting
- ◆ 2013 ARC Green Schools Summary
- ◆ Rouge Oxbow Restoration Project Phase III Design Fact Sheet
- ◆ ARC Five Year Monitoring plan 2009-2013
- ◆ Rouge River Monitoring For E. coli TMDL Implementation Final Report MDEQ Clean Michigan Initiative – Clean Water Fund

#### **D. PIE5: FRIENDS OF THE ROUGE WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP AND REPORTING**

##### Workshops

FOTR worked with the ARC to present four (4) Naturalizing the Home Garden workshops described above.

This task also includes distribution of an e-newsletter by FOTR.



### Annual Report

Strong partnerships are necessary to establish and enhance local and regional outreach with communities, other non-profits and governmental agencies to educate and inform the public about key issues within the Rouge River Watershed and change behaviors that directly affect the health of the Rouge River Watershed. In the course of its work, FOTR promotes activities and attends a variety of local and regional meetings to build partnerships and promote Rouge River activities.

The Friends of the Rouge developed a semi-annual report of the activities it conducted through May 31, 2014 and an annual report for January 1 through December 31, 2014 that will assist ARC members in fulfilling their stormwater permit requirements. The report includes the Frog and Toad Survey, Benthics Macroinvertebrate Monitoring, Fish Monitoring, Rouge Education Project (REP), River Restoration, and Rouge Rescue and Local and Regional Outreach efforts. Information includes meeting or event dates; workshop dates; number of volunteers attending each event; residency of volunteers, REP Schools, number of students per school, number of teachers per school, monitoring locations for each school; a list of dates, locations for REP workshops and a list of schools that participated and a list of organizations that outreach efforts were done.

#### **Deliverables:**

2014 FOTR Annual Report

[http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/general/FINAL\\_2014\\_FOTR\\_Annual\\_Report\\_for\\_ARC.pdf](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com/PDFs/general/FINAL_2014_FOTR_Annual_Report_for_ARC.pdf)