

For Immediate Release

June 1, 2010

Alliance of Rouge Communities to Address Local Pollution to Help Regional Efforts

Grant monies of over \$1.1 million dollars received through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Detroit — June 1, 2010 — The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) is proud to announce it has been asked to submit final proposals to receive grant funding for two habitat restoration projects worth over \$1.1 million in the Rouge River Watershed as part of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency received more than 1,000 proposed projects for GLRI funding from Great Lakes state, tribal, and municipal agencies, non-governmental organizations and other eligible entities aimed at restoring and protecting the Great Lakes. The EPA's Great Lakes National Program Office recently invited 270 finalists to submit applications for a total of \$161.4 million in competitive grant funding under the GLRI.

The two projects being conducted by the ARC in the Rouge River Watershed are the removal of the Danvers Pond Dam in Farmington Hills and a habitat restoration project along the Main, Upper and Lower Branches of the Rouge River which will restore a wetland in Southfield, restore native plantings in two City of Detroit Parks and provide native buffers in Wayne County Parks along the Lower and Upper Rouge Parkways. Partners in these projects include Wayne County Public Services, Wayne County Parks, the City of Detroit Recreation Department, the City of Southfield, the City of Farmington Hills and Friends of the Rouge.

“It’s nice when the EPA recognizes that communities who work together to share resources have a greater impact on regional water resources as a whole. “ said James W. Ridgway, Executive Director of the Alliance of Rouge Communities.

The ARC is a voluntary public watershed entity currently comprised of 37 municipal governments , three counties and an airport authority officially formed in January of 2006. ARC members represent public agencies with storm water management responsibilities whose jurisdictional boundaries are totally, or in part, located within the Rouge River Watershed in southeast Michigan. 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 river to area residents.

GLRI grants will fund projects that address the most important Great Lakes priorities, including reducing toxic contaminants, restoring the Great Lakes Areas of Concern, protecting beaches and beachgoers, keeping out invasive species and reducing polluted land-based runoff.

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For more information, press only:

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For more information on the Alliance of Rouge Communities:

<http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com>