

# CANTON NEWS UPDATE

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## ARC Seeks Public Input on Watershed Management Plan

**December 12, 2008, Canton, MI** – The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) is seeking public input on a draft of the 2009 Rouge River Watershed Management Plan. The plan represents a year-long effort by the ARC to update and consolidate seven subwatershed management plans that were completed in 2001 into one sustainable Rouge River Watershed Management Plan.

Once finalized, the plan will provide guidance on finding cost-effective ways to improve the water quality of the Rouge River and meet the regulatory requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II stormwater permits over the next five-years.

The 2009 Watershed Management draft identifies four primary issues affecting the Rouge River: pathogens, flow rate and volume, sediment, and nutrients. The watershed plan is driven by six goals, each of which has associated objective that will focus efforts on addressing these pollutants, the sources and their respective causes:

- Reduce sources of pollution that threaten public health.
- Reduce runoff impacts through sustainable storm water management strategies and programs.
- Inform and educate the public to become watershed stewards.
- Protect, restore and/or enhance natural features to maintain/improve river and watershed ecosystems.
- Maximize community assets related to the watershed.
- Support regional partnerships for the implementation of the watershed management plan.

To view a complete draft of the 2009 Watershed Management Plan visit [www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com). Environmental Consulting Technologies will accept public comments on plan until Sunday, December 28. Public comments can be sent to the following places; via email to [comeara@allianceofrougecommunities.com](mailto:comeara@allianceofrougecommunities.com); via letter or phone to 719 Griswold Street, Suite 1040, Detroit, Mi 48226 or; via phone at 313/963-6600

Formed in January of 2006, the ARC is a voluntary public watershed entity currently comprised of 40 municipal governments, three counties, and the Wayne County Airport Authority. 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 the area residents. For more information on the ARC visit [www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com).

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