Rouge River Area of Concern
Projects and Successes

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Rouge River Area of Concern
Encompasses 7 Subwatersheds
By the numbers:

• Drains 467 square miles and has 4 main river branches
• 126 river miles and numerous tributaries
• More than 400 lakes, impoundments, and ponds.
• 1.35 million people in 48 communities and 3 counties
• AOC is > 50% urbanized with < 25% remaining undeveloped
• Designated as an AOC in 1985
Nine BUIs

- Restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption
- Eutrophication or undesirable algae
- Degradation of fish and wildlife populations
- Beach closings
- Fish tumors or other deformities
- Degradation of aesthetics
- Degradation of benthos
- Restriction on dredging activities
- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat
Established in 1986
To get citizens involved in clean up of AOC
Mission to promote restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem through education, citizen involvement, and other collaborative efforts, for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the people, plants, and animals of the watershed
Public Involvement & Education

– Rouge Rescue

– Rouge Education Project
Public Involvement & Education
  – Volunteer Monitoring
  – River Restoration

Recreation
  – Rouge River Water Trail
What Makes the Rouge an AOC?

Industrial Legacy
Rapid Urbanization and Suburbanization

- Pre-1800’s comprised of abundant wetlands and woodlands
- 1800’s to present largest proportion of land is urban/suburban and still being developed
- Infrastructure struggling to keep up
Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project

- Initiated in 1992 by Wayne County
- Federal, state, and local agencies
- 1992-2014
- $350 million multi-year grants from US EPA
- Additional funding from communities & others
Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project

• Mission: *demonstrate effective solutions to water quality problems, leading to restoration*
Rouge Project Highlights

- 88 CSO/SSO control projects
- 71 public education and involvement projects
- 106 watershed management/analysis projects
- 2,008+ illicit discharges corrected
Rouge Project Highlights

- 60+ acres native plant grow zones
- 10,000+ cubic yards invasive plants removed
- 17,000+ ft of streambank stabilization
- 2 dams removed
Keeping the momentum....

Lower Rouge River Old Channel Legacy Act Project

- Permanent stabilization of the shoreline along Detroit Coke & Tar to allow dredging
- Temporary stabilization where needed to allow dredging
- Dredge approximately 90,000 cy of sediment
- Place underwater cap where dredging is infeasible
- Habitat restoration

Project Components

- Permanent stabilization
- Possible capping
- Dredging
- Temporary stabilization & additional capping as needed
- Potential staging area wall & tiebacks

Exact footprint subject to change.
Lower Rouge River Main Channel
Contaminated Sediments
Concrete Channel Modification and Habitat Enhancement
Henry Ford Estate Dam
Fish Passage Project
Habitat Project List

- PAC created habitat subcommittee to focus on creating a final habitat project list
- Work funded through state PAC support grants
- Used a targeted approach in selecting what projects to include on the list
• Ongoing monitoring & education
• Invasive species control
  – GLRI
• Green infrastructure education & installation
  – Nonpoint Source Program
  – Residential Rain Gardens
• Rouge River Water Trail
Partners

Friends of the Rouge

Alliance of Rouge Communities

Working together, restoring the river

Oakland County

Washtenaw County

NOAA

DEQ

Michigan Office of the Great Lakes
Questions?

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