

Each spring, Friends of the Rouge, in partnership with communities and other organizations throughout the Rouge, brings volunteers together from across the watershed to work toward the common goal of improving the Rouge River for generations to come. This annual event, known as Rouge Rescue, began in 1986 with volunteers removing large quantities of trash from the river. As river sites improved, public perception of the river shifted away from the thought that the river was just an open sewer and a place to dump trash. Today, much of the event is focused on river restoration and volunteers also work to remove invasive plants from the river corridor, install native plantings and stabilize stream banks to improve the health of the river.



## Event Summary

*This year's Rouge Rescue t-shirt graphic was created by our Rouge Rescue Intern, Dana Wloch. The image demonstrates what we are all working for—a clean and healthy river teeming with life.*

Rouge Rescue attracted 1,400 volunteers who participated in river cleanup and stewardship activities at 36 work sites in 20 municipalities. Activities were scheduled on multiple dates. The main event was held on Saturday May 30. Twenty-nine (29) sites worked on this date. Four sites worked early (E.L. Johnson



Volunteers at the Henry Ford Estate Fair Lane show off a pile bags they filled with garlic mustard.

Nature Center 5/2, Holliday Nature Preserve 5/9, Cranbrook Institute of Science 5/14 and Hoover Elementary/Dynamite Park 5/21). Three sites worked on June 6 (Linden Park, AISIN/Northville Twp. and Beech Woods Recreation Center). Three new sites joined in the effort (Rouge Valley Parkway in northwest Detroit, AISIN Corporate Headquarters in Northville Twp. and Lawrence Technological University in Southfield). We welcomed six new site coordinators who lead or co-lead a work site for the first time in 2015. New coordinators are noted in the site details section of this report.

We sincerely thank all who participated in the event. We are especially thankful for our site coordinators for their hard work and dedication. They are integral to Rouge Rescue. Their actions surely *have inspired others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more.*



Hoover Elementary Students plant a rain garden in Wayne.

## Event Summary (Continued)

We also could not do this good work without the support of our corporate sponsors, many of whom also coordinated projects for their employees or sent a team to an existing work site. We are grateful for the support and awesome work that was completed by the following entities ITC, Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation, Consumers Energy, Bosch, Denso International America, Quicken Loans, AISIN, AK Steel, Marine Pollution Control and more. Please refer to the last page of this report for a complete list of sponsors.



An army of volunteers from Quicken Loans worked hard to cleanup trash and remove invasive plants in Rouge Park.

### What were volunteers working on?

For the second year in a row, and second time in the history of Rouge Rescue, more sites worked to control invasive plants than cleaned up trash, as shown in Table 1. (Pretty impressive for an event that started as a river cleanup event.) Nineteen sites cleaned up trash. Fifteen sites installed native plantings. Ten sites managed woody debris in the river. Six sites organized educational activities. Four sites maintained trails.

Table 1: Site Participation by Activity	
Activity	# Sites
Invasive plant removal	21
Trash removal	19
Native plantings	15
Woody debris management	10
Educational activities	6
Trail maintenance	4

### What work was accomplished?

A summary of the work completed during Rouge Rescue 2015 is provided in Table 2.

**Trash removal:** Volunteers removed 110 cubic yards of trash from 44 acres. The bulk of the trash reported was miscellaneous paper, wrappers and bottles. Large debris removed was down a bit from past events; 7 tires and 1 appliance and were reported. For the first time in the history of Rouge Rescue there were no shopping carts removed from the river. Large debris cleaned up by volunteers included construction debris, carpet (30 yards), a mattress, TV, garbage cans (2), construction barricade, bowling ball, part of a wood bridge, concrete items, golf balls, plywood and a couple of homeless encampments.

**Invasive removal:** Two hundred thirty (230) cubic yards of invasive plants were removed from 36 acres during Rouge Rescue 2015. Garlic mustard, Dame's rocket, honeysuckle and buckthorn were the most common species volunteers worked to control.

**Plantings:** Volunteers planted nearly 2,230 native flowers and grasses and 85 trees and shrubs. The types of plantings installed or enhanced were native demonstration gardens (6), rain gardens (3), riparian buffers (3) and tree plantings (3).

Table 2: Quantity and Type of Items Removed/Planted	
Item	Qty
Trash removed—cu. yds.	110
Tires	7
Shopping carts	0
Furniture & appliances	1
Vehicles	0
Invasive plants removed—cu. yds.	230
Native Plants Installed	
Flowers/grasses	2,230
Trees/shrubs	85

**Other:** Volunteers maintained 3,140 lineal feet of trail. Twenty log jams were cleaned and opened using the [WDM 101 Clean and Open Method](#). Additional activities organized by work sites were birdhouse building, storm drain stenciling, mercury thermometer exchange, benthic macroinvertebrate education, history tours, and nature walks.

### What is the impact to the river?

**Trash removal:** Most of the trash picked up by volunteers during Rouge Rescue were small wrappers, papers and bottles that haven't been properly disposed of or trash that has been carelessly tossed on the ground. Wind blows these items over land until they get stuck somewhere, which is often in taller vegetation or a lake or stream. Rain water washes small trash from streets and parking lots to the river through storm sewers. Trash is also discharged into the river when combined sewers overflow. You can help reduce this waste by placing trash in a secure container with a tight fitting lid and never littering.



Denso Associates and volunteers from the community pull garlic mustard in the Berberian Woods Nature Preserve in Southfield.

**Invasive plant removal:** Invasive plant removal has become a large part of Rouge Rescue. This work may be less glamorous or as exciting as jumping in the river to remove a mattress or a sofa but it is important work.

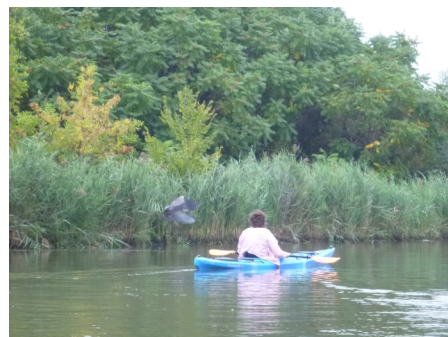
According to the [Utah State Extension](#), invasive species are the second leading cause of species extinction and loss of biodiversity in aquatic habitats throughout the world. Invasive species:

- Displace or otherwise harm native species
- Alter ecosystem processes
- Reduce biodiversity
- Cause illnesses in animals and humans
- Cause severe economic impacts
- Reduce property values

A publication of MSU Extension, [Phragmites, invasions harm riparian property values: Part1](#), documents harm to property values and ecosystems by damaging infrastructure and limiting access to water and



The amount of trash removed during Rouge Rescue 2015 would fill nearly 6 garbage trucks. Invasive plant material removed would fill nearly 12 garbage trucks!



A kayaker startles a great blue heron in a stand of invasive phragmites. Behind the phragmites is another aggressive invader—Tree-of-Heaven.

# Event Summary (Continued)

recreation. [Phragmites invasions harm riparian ecology: Part 2](#) discusses the risk of increased fires and flooding in areas colonized by phragmites. Other invasive species are also mentioned in these articles.

We are making progress. Rouge Rescue work sites that have been working to control invasive plant species for several years are reporting isolated occurrences and less dense populations of the species they have worked to control.

**Native plantings:** Polluted stormwater and flashy flows are huge problems in the Rouge River watershed. Native plantings help to reduce stormwater runoff and enable infiltration deep in the ground, where water is cleaned and cooled as it slowly seeps to the river. Surges in flow during rainy weather cause streambank erosion and clogs the water with silt and sediment, degrading the system and harming fish and other life in the river.

Fifteen sites engaged volunteers in plantings. Many plantings were native demonstration projects designed to improve site conditions as well as teach participants' how they can help protect the Rouge River at home. Once established, the plantings restore natural processes and little rainwater will leave these sites. As rain water moves through the plantings the stalks of the plants will capture sediment and reduce pollutants.

Rain gardens were installed at several sites. These gardens go a step further at reducing rain water runoff. They are designed to take in excess water from a downspout, parking lot or road. Rain water pools in the garden planted with deep-rooted water loving native flowers and grasses and evaporates, is transpired by plants or infiltrates into the soil within 24 hours so there is no risk of breeding mosquitoes.



Rouge Rescue Intern, Dana Wloch, directs volunteers at the Environmental Interpretive Center (EIC) in Dearborn (left).

Volunteers work to maintain native flowers in two large rain garden at the EIC (below).



Aisin World Corp. of America hosted Rouge Rescue at their corporate headquarters in partnership with Northville Township. Volunteers from Aisin, the Northville Twp. community and the Northville Swim Club worked to plant a rain garden to reduce stormwater pollution.

A few of our sites worked to reduce localized erosion and stabilize stream banks by planting native vegetation along the river, which also helps to filter pollutions and sediments. Several sites planted trees during Rouge Rescue. Once established, trees reduce stormwater runoff by reducing the amount of rain fall that ever reaches the ground. Rainwater collects on the leaves and bark of trees and is evaporated or slowly makes its way to the ground. According to the [Arbor Day Foundation](#), a single tree may store up to 100 gallons of rainwater or more, depending on its size.

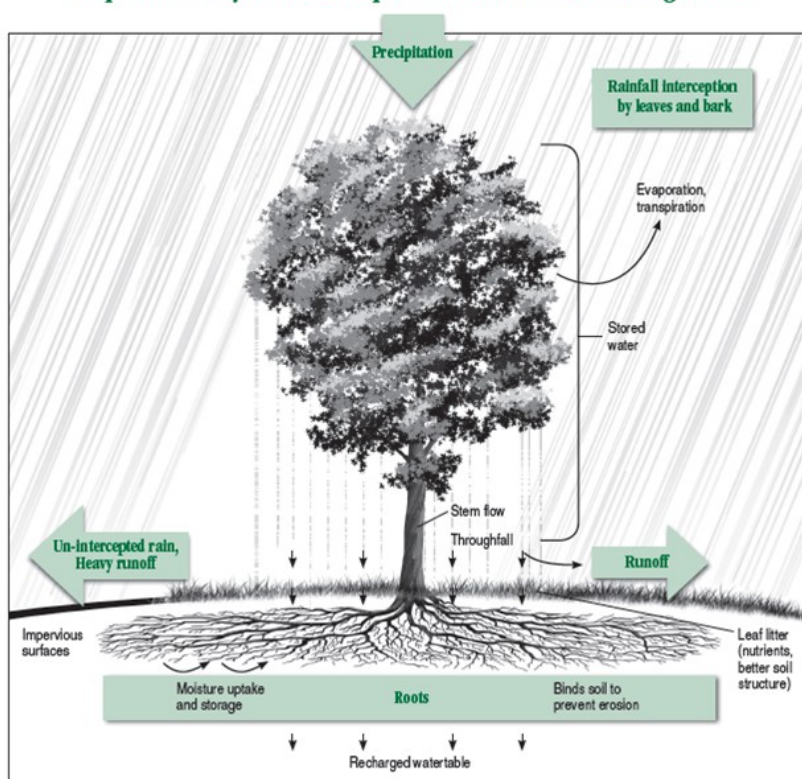
All of these plantings increase habitat for wildlife, including birds, butterflies and other important insects. The decline of migrating monarchs and bees and other pollinator species has been a hot topic in the news. Many of our native wildflowers provide food, cover and breeding areas for these animals.

**Woody debris management:** Work to manage wood in the river has evolved over the past 29 years. Historically Rouge Rescue volunteers would remove as much wood as they could possibly remove. We have hundreds, if not thousands, of photos of volunteers posing by the towering pile of logs they struggled to get out of the river. Today we use a softer approach advocating for managing large wood in the river rather than completely removing it. Wood is excellent habitat in the stream and helps to slow the river's flow. Work involves removing man-made trash ensnared in log jams and then strategically moving floatable brush and branches. Larger logs embedded in the bank are left in place. This allows for fish passage, while maintaining calm pools.



Wood provides important habitat and structure in the stream. Turtles bask on a log at the E.L. Johnson Nature Preserve in Bloomfield Township.

## Important Ways a Tree Helps with Stormwater Management



Source: Texas Trees Foundation

## [Friends of the Rouge](#)

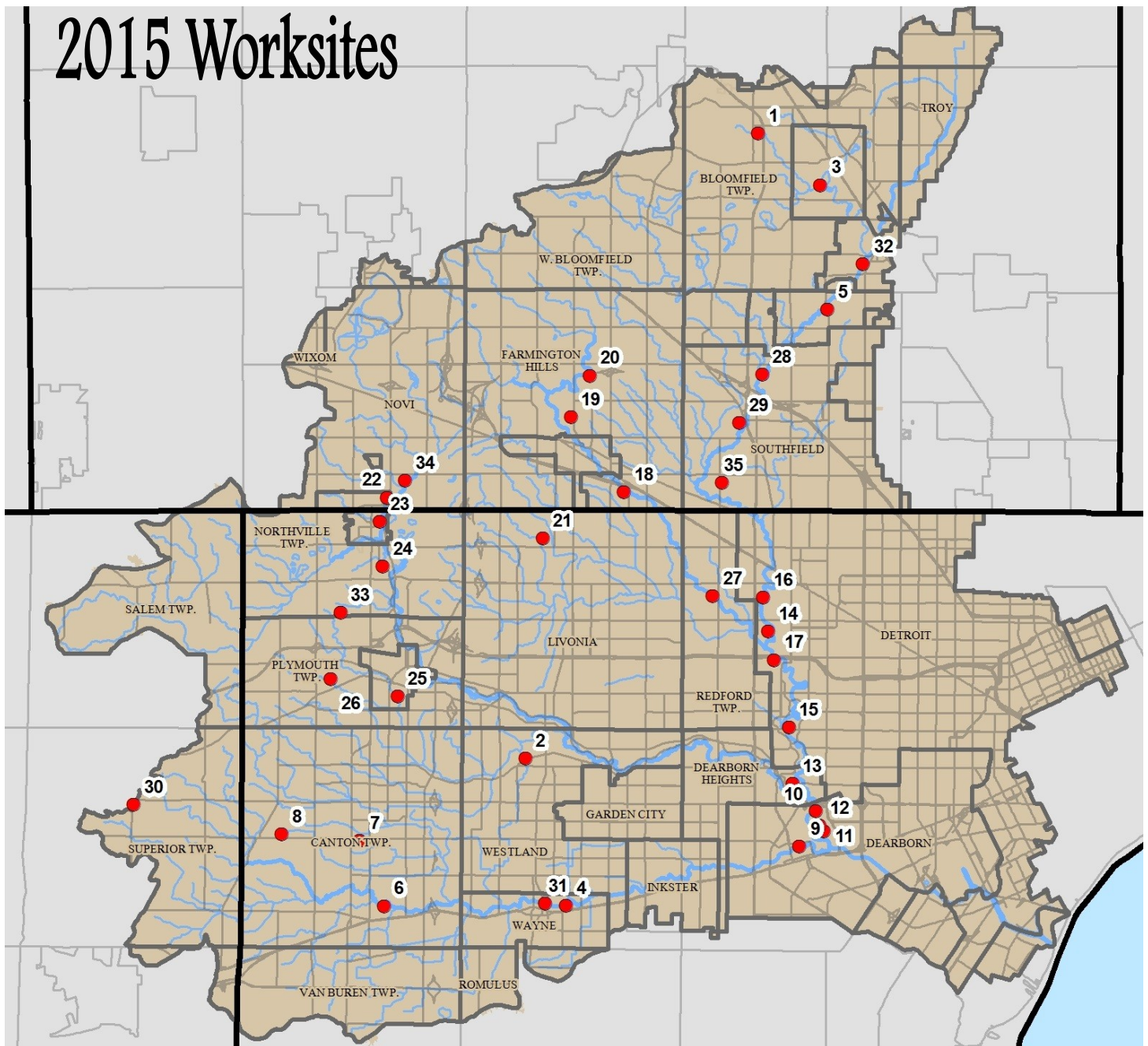
Friends of the Rouge is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization begun in 1986 to raise awareness about the need to clean up one of the nation's most polluted rivers. The organization provides opportunities for residents to participate in cleanups, stream and wetland monitoring, restoration projects, and recreational activities like canoeing and kayaking. Through these experiences, participants get to know and love their local river, work to directly improve it, and develop an understanding of the complex issues inherent in cleaning up an urban river.

**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.

## [Rouge River Watershed Facts](#)

- ◆ Drains 467 square miles of land in the counties of Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw in southeast Michigan.
- ◆ Contains over 400 lakes, impoundments, and ponds and 126 miles of major stream.
- ◆ Inhabited by 1.35 million people.
- ◆ More than 50% of the land is urbanized.

# 2015 Worksites



E.L. Johnson Nature Center	1	Rouge Valley Parkway	16	Goudy Park	31
Holliday Nature Preserve	2	St. Paul of the Cross Retreat	17	Linden Park	32
Cranbrook Institute of Science	3	Botsford Commons Senior Community	18	AISIN Corporate Campus	33
Dynamite Park/Hoover Elementary	4	Heritage Park	19	Rotary Park	34
Douglas Evans Nature Preserve	5	Oakland Community College	20	Beech Woods Recreation Center	35
Lower Rouge Recreational Trail	6	Bicentennial Park	21		
Meadows of Canton	7	Allen Drive Park	22		
Workman Elementary Habitat	8	Mill Race Village	23		
Ford Field Greenway Trail	9	Bennett Arboretum	24		
Henry Ford College	10	Lion's Club Park	25		
Henry Ford Estate	11	Plymouth Twp. Park	26		
University of Michigan-Dearborn EIC	12	Lola Valley Park	27		
Parkland Park	13	Berberian Woods Preserve	28		
Eliza Howell Park	14	DENSO Corporate Campus	29		
Rouge Park	15	Kosch-Headwaters Preserve*	30		

*\*Multiple workdays held at site*

# Site Highlights

## Beverly Hills

### Douglas Evans Nature Preserve

Location: 31835 Evergreen Road

Coordinated by: Erin Wilks, Village of Beverly Hills

Sponsored by: The Village of Beverly Hills

Project date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers pulled garlic mustard and dame's rocket and cleaned up trash.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 10
- Local groups participating: Berkshire Middle School, GM Cares, Holy Name Church
- Trash removal: ½ bag (0.1 cubic yards) was removed from 4.42 acres, which consisted of miscellaneous paper and wrappers
- Invasive removal: 16 bags (2.77 cubic yards) of garlic mustard and dame's rocket were removed from 4.42 acres
- Invasive plant removal details: Pulled a dense patch near the river's edge
- Other activities: Educational nature walk



Volunteers pull garlic mustard in Beverly Hills

## Birmingham

### Linden Park

Location: Shirley Road between Lincoln and Maple

Coordinated by: Connie Folk, City of Birmingham

Sponsored by: The City of Birmingham

Date: 6/6/2015

Project summary: Volunteers removed invasive plant species along the train tracks beginning at Linden Park and moving down the Rouge Green Corridor Trail.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 17
- Local groups participating: Seaholm High School Environmental Class
- Invasive removal: 40 bags (6.91 cubic yards) of garlic mustard and dame's rocket were removed from 14.18 acres

## Bloomfield Hills

### Cranbrook Institute of Science

Location: 39221 Woodward Ave

Coordinated by: Lisa Appel, Cranbrook Institute of Science

Sponsored by: Cranbrook Institute of Science

Date: 5/14/2015

Project summary: Volunteers pulled 9 bags of garlic mustard from the forested areas of the Cranbrook campus.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 21
- Local groups participating: Brownie Troop
- Invasive removal: 9 bags (1.56 cubic yards) of garlic mustard were removed from 1 acre

## Bloomfield Township

### E.L. Johnson Nature Center

Location: 3325 Franklin Rd

Coordinated by: Dan Badgley, E.L. Johnson Nature Center & Charles Markus, Bloomfield Township

Sponsored by: E.L. Johnson Nature Center & Bloomfield Township

Date: 5/2/2015

Project summary: Volunteers picked up trash along Franklin Road and removed invasive plants on the nature center grounds.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 32
- Trash removal: 5 bags (0.9 cubic yards) were removed from 1.21 acres
- Invasive removal: 8 bags (1.38 cubic yards) of garlic mustard, honeysuckle and buckthorn were removed from 1 acre
- Other activities: woody debris management, public education activities, nature walks and trail maintenance



Removing invasive shrubs in Bloomfield Township

## Canton Township

### Lower Recreation Area Trailhead

Location: Morton Taylor Road, North of Michigan Avenue

Coordinated by: Anne Naszradi, Canton Township

Sponsored by: Canton Township

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Activities included garbage pickup, scavenger hunts, bird house building, native planting and a nature walk.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 97
- Local groups participating: Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, High School
- Trash removal: 15.9 cubic yards were removed, including shingles and miscellaneous trash

# Site Highlights (continued)

- Native plantings: 250 square foot native demonstration garden was created
- # Native Forbs planted: 120 plants
- Additional notes (plantings): Planted tall native grasses in a very visible area of the Lower Rouge Trails
- Other activities: Public education activities/nature walks
- Description: Activities included bird house building, a nature walk for children and a scavenger hunt

## Meadows Of Canton

Location: 1. Lotz Road /Finley Street and 2. 44955 Cherry Hill Rd.

Coordinated by: Keshav Raizada, Wayne County Department of Public Services, Water Quality Division  
Sponsored by: W.T.U.A., Wayne County, Meadows of Canton, Hindu Temple  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers cleaned up a little trash and stenciled storm drains with the message, "Dump no waste...drains to Rouge River." Participants also learned about life in the river (benthic macroinvertebrates) and built birdhouses.

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 62
- Local groups participating: See sponsors listed above
- Trash removal: 5 bags (0.9 cubic yards) were removed from 2.42 acres
- Other activities: Public education activities
- Details: Bug hunt, thermometer exchange, storm drain stencilling, and bird house building



Board Members Sue Thompson and Keith Armitage are ready to teach people about the life in the river in Canton

## Workman Elementary Habitat

Location: 250 Denton Road

Coordinated by: Lisa Bank, Workman Elementary  
Sponsored by: Workman Elementary PTO  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers replanted the monarch butterfly area with appropriate plants to replace those killed by the harsh winter. They cleaned up garbage and dug up teasel. Children reseeded the area with wildflower seed.

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 32
- Local groups participating: Cub Scout Pack 773, Workman Girl Scout Troops, Workman students & families
- Trash removal: 1.5 cubic yards of trash were removed from 2 acres, which included paper, wrappers, broken toys, etc.
- Invasive removal: 1.38 cubic yards of thistle and teasel were removed from 0.13 acres
- Native plantings: Enhanced a butterfly garden
- # Native Forbs planted: 20 plants installed in a 150 square foot area
- Additional notes (plantings): Re-planted a Monarch butterfly waystation with native wildflowers and butterfly friendly plants. Milkweed was already established

## Dearborn

### Ford Field Greenway Trail

Location: Brady Street north of Michigan Avenue

Coordinated by: Thomas Trimble, Christ Episcopal Church-Dearborn  
Sponsored by: Christ Episcopal Church-Dearborn  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Open logjams on the river west of the pond in Ford Field Park

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 11
- Local groups participating:
- Trash removal: 10 bags (1.7 cubic yards) were removed from 2.53 acres, mostly miscellaneous trash and 2 tires
- # Log jams opened: 4

## Henry Ford College

Location: 5101 Evergreen Road

Coordinated by: Sam Greco, Henry Ford College,  
Sponsored by: Henry Ford College  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers cleaned up trash and removed invasive plants along the Gateway Trail on the HFC campus.

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 41
- Local groups participating: HFC Staff, Students, Boy Scout Troop 1127, Cub Scout 1111
- Trash removal: 1 bag (0.2 cubic yards) was removed from 0.18 acres, mostly paper and plastic bottles
- Invasive removal: 74 bags (12.79 cubic yards) of garlic mustard, honeysuckle and buckthorn were removed from 0.18 acres
- Invasive plant removal details: Pulled garlic mustard along pathway from Ford Rd bridge area to the top of the pathway at the HFC Roadway. Removed 6 pick-up trucks full of buckthorn and honeysuckle along fence at the Kingfisher Bluff overlook area.



Volunteers pull garlic mustard at the Henry Ford Estate site in Dearborn

## Henry Ford Estate - Garlic Mustard Removal

Location: One Fair Lane Drive

Coordinated by: Karen Marzonie, Henry Ford Estate Fair Lane

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Work focused on hand-pulling invasive garlic mustard plants. Due to the age of participants (many minors) we decided against removing invasive shrubs, which would have required more shovel use.

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 22
- Local groups participating: Girl scout troop from SE Michigan
- Invasive removal: 11.41 cubic yards of garlic mustard removed from 0.5 acres
- Invasive plant removal details: Hand removal, bagged garlic mustard, disposed in commercial dumpster at Henry Ford Estate.
- Native plantings: 5 ninebark and 3 gray dogwood shrubs were planted on the grounds of the Henry Ford Estate by garden staff after volunteers left.
- # Shrubs planted: 8
- Size of planting: 50 square foot area
- Other activities: Public education activities
- Details: Provided an outdoor, self-guided walking tour map to all of the participants which provides a history of The Estate and grounds.

## University of Michigan - Dearborn

Location: 4901 Evergreen Road

Coordinated by: Dana Wloch, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Sponsored by: University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center and Friends of the Rouge

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers worked to wood-chip trails and clear overhanging brush in the natural area. Volunteers also weeded the rain

gardens at the Center. Monarda was relocated from the gardens to the natural area.

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 27
- Local groups participating: University of Michigan-Dearborn, Universal Academy, Environmental Interpretive Center, Friends of the Rouge
- Native plantings: Native plants were transplanted to bare spots in rain gardens after weeding. Plants included wild strawberry, cinquefoil, mountain mint, woodland phlox, and zigzag goldenrod.
- # Native Forbs planted: 50
- Size of planting: 50 square feet
- Other activities: Trail maintenance
- Trail maintenance (lineal feet): 1,800 feet
- Details: Trails were woodchipped and brush was trimmed back.



Volunteers maintain trails in the UM-D Natural Area

## Dearborn Heights

### Parkland Park

Location: 6500 Parkland Street

Coordinated by: Barbra Goryca and Steven Roberts, Dearborn Heights Watershed Stewards Commission

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers worked to maintain 25 trees planted during Rouge Rescue 2011. They weeded, fertilized and mulched around the trees. Volunteers also worked to control garlic mustard in the park - filling 92 bags! Seve Ray led an educational session with the volunteers.

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 68
- Local groups participating: Annapolis HS Key Club, Crestwood HS National Honors Students
- Invasive removal: 92 bags (15.9 cubic yards) of canada thistle and garlic mustard were removed from 1 acre
- Invasive plant removal details: 1 bag canada thistle was removed. 92 bags of garlic mustard was removed. Coordinators were careful to keep volunteers from areas with poison ivy.
- Native plantings: Tree planting
- # Trees planted: 1
- Other activities: Public education activities

## Detroit

### Eliza Howell Park

Location: Joy Rd & Spinoza. 22000 Joy Rd

Coordinated by: Larry Quarrels

Sponsored by: Friends of Eliza Howell Park

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary:

### Highlights

No data provided

### Rouge Park

Location: Joy Rd & Spinoza. 22000 Joy Rd

Coordinated by: Sally Petrella, Friends of Rouge Park

Sponsored by: Friends of Rouge Park, the City of Detroit, Detroit AreaModelers, Rep. Harvey Santana, Wayne County Commissioner Alisha Bell

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Approximately 200 volunteers pulled 103 bags of garlic mustard, filled 171 bags of trash, removed a mattress, washer, carpet, 5 tires, tv, and building

# Site Highlights (continued)

material junk, cleared a logjam, and weeded and planted two demonstration plantings.

## Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 200
- Local groups participating: Friends of Rouge Park, Detroit AeoModelers, Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association, Far West Detroit Civic Association, West Outer Drive Civic Association
- Trash removal: 59.6 cubic yards removed from 0.76 acres, including 5 tires, 1 appliance, 30 sq yards of carpet, mattress, and a tv
- Invasive removal: 17.8 cubic yards of garlic mustard removed from 0.21 acres
- Invasive plant removal details: Garlic mustard removed by hand and bagged in the floodplain by 65 Quicken Loan employees
- Native plantings: Demonstration garden
- # Native Forbs planted: 200
- Additional notes (plantings): Two plantings weeded and plants added including Liatris and black-eyed Susan by Marathon employees and City of Detroit employees. Plants provided by Detroit.
- # log jams opened: 1



Volunteers clean trash from a log jam in Detroit's Rouge Park

## Rouge Valley Parkway (new site)

Location: Ridge Road south of McNichols.

Coordinated by: Diane Hanks, Riverdale resident (new)

Sponsored by: Riverdale residents with support from the City of Detroit

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers focused on clearing a trail along the river and cleaning up trash on 6 mile. Storm shortened efforts.

## Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 14
- Trash removal: 11 bags (1.9 cubic yards) were removed from 0.25 acres
- Native planting: Buffer planting
- Additional notes (plantings): Three areas were planted with grasses and ferns provided by the City of Detroit.

## St. Paul of the Cross Retreat

Location: 23333 Schoolcraft

Coordinated by: Roz Salter, St. Paul of the Cross  
Sponsored by: St. Paul of the Cross  
Passionist Retreat & Conference Center  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers pulled garlic mustard.

## Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 8
- Trash removal: 4 bags (0.7 cubic yards) were removed from 0.02 acres
- Invasive removal: 10 bags (1.73 cubic yards) of garlic mustard were removed from 0.02 acres
- Invasive plant removal details: The amount of garlic mustard has decreased immensely since we began weeding them 3 years ago.

## Farmington Hills

### Botsford Commons Senior Community

Location: 21450 Archwood Circle

Coordinated by: Dave Comiskey, Maureen O'Connell and Dave Krozek, Botsford Commons Senior Community  
Sponsored by: Botsford Commons Senior Community  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers worked to open two huge log jams on the Botsford Commons campus.

## Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 3
- # log jams opened: 2



Volunteers care for and enlarge a native perennial garden in Heritage Park

## Heritage Park

Location: 24915 Farmington Road

Coordinated by: Randy Lovett and Ashlie Smith, City of Farmington Hills  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Staff and volunteers worked on a variety of activities to improve the land and water of Heritage Park. Work stations included: planting plugs of native plants in the pollinator gardens; weeding wildflower and pollinator gardens; pulling garlic mustard; removing buckthorn and non-native honeysuckle; and managing woody debris in the river.

## Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 60
- Local groups participating: Scouts, POW, Farmington Public Schools
- Invasive removal: 15.38 cubic yards of garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle were removed from 0.02 acres
- Invasive plant removal details: Cut, chipped and herbicided buckthorn and honeysuckle shrubs, hand pulled garlic mustard at multiple park locations

- Native plantings: rain garden, tree planting, native demonstration garden
- # Native Forbs planted: 150
- # Shrubs planted: 1
- Size of planting: 500 square feet
- Additional notes (plantings): Plantings added biodiversity to the native wildflower and pollinator gardens around the Nature Center. Volunteers weeded in areas where necessary, before adding plants.
- Other activities: Woody debris management
- # log jams opened: 3
- Details: Debris removed from multiple sites near the Rouge River bridge



Everybody is happy to help out at the OCC work site in Farmington Hills

## Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus

Location: 27055 Orchard Lake Road

Coordinated by: Mike Kadrofske, Oakland Community College  
Sponsored by: Oakland Community College  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers worked the river bank mainly picking up trash and debris within 50 yards of river bank

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 22
- Local groups participating: Oakland Early College, Phi Theta Kappa
- Trash removal: 15 bags (4.6 cubic yards) were removed from 18.73 acres, including 20 1-gallon plastic jugs, 2 garbage cans and a construction barricade

## Livonia

### Bicentennial Park

Location: 36000 Seven Mile

Coordinated by: Doug Moore, Ralph Williams and Amy Walker, City of Livonia  
Sponsored by: The City of Livonia  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers planted several hundred native plants, maintained trails, removed trash, invasive species and a bridge.

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 70
- Local groups participating: Latter Day Saints Church-Livonia, Girl Scout Troops, Emerson Middle School
- Trash removal: 5.5 cubic yards removed from 5 acres, including a bowling ball and part of a wood walking bridge
- Invasive removal: A few garlic mustard plants were removed
- Native plantings: A riparian buffer was installed
- # Native Forbs planted: 300 plants
- # Trees/Shrubs planted: 30
- Size of planting: 600 square foot area
- Additional notes (plantings): A buffer was planted on two banks of a Bell Creek tributary

## Northville

### Allen Drive Park

Location: Allen Drive north of 8 Mile Road (west of Novi Road)

Coordinated by: Callista Millroy  
Sponsored by: Northville residents  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Planted Tamarac, 2 cut-leaf coneflower and 2 blue spruce seedlings. Educated participants on invasive garlic mustard and buckthorn, some removed, spoke of pesticide use near water. Three visitors from England walking from Novi to downtown Northville stopped to fill a bag with garlic mustard.

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 41
- Local groups participating:
- Trash removal: 2 bags (0.4 cubic yards) were removed from 0.64 acres, including liquor bottles, tinfoil, plastic jugs and fast food wrappers
- Invasive removal: 28 bags (0.484 cubic yards) of garlic mustard, buckthorn, honeysuckle and myrtle were removed
- Native plantings: Tree planting
- # Native Forbs planted: 2
- # Trees planted: 4

### Mill Race Village

Location: 215 N. Griswold Avenue

Coordinated by: Juliana Cerra, Ed Gabrys and Luci Klinkhamer, Northville Historical Society  
Sponsored by: Northville Historical Society  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers weeded agricultural weeds and invasive species from a stream bank restoration project. Mulch was applied and new shrubs planted.

### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 9
- Local groups participating:
- Invasive removal: 10 bags (1.73 cubic yards) of garlic mustard, honeysuckle, buckthorn, burdock, mustard and Queen Anne's lace were removed from 0.03 acres
- Native plantings: Riparian buffer
- # Trees/shrubs planted: 3
- Size of planting: 15 square feet
- Additional notes (plantings): Planted native dogwood shrubs in wet area along river bank

# Site Highlights (continued)



The crew at Aisin stop for a group photo before everyone digs in the dirt to plant a native rain garden

## Northville Township

### **AISIN Corporate Campus (new site)**

Location: 15300 Centennial Drive

Coordinated by: Jill Rickard, Northville Township; Rick Gorski and Grace Bondy, AISIN; (new) and Cyndi Ross, Friends of the Rouge  
Date: 6/6/2015

Project summary: Volunteers planted a rain garden that receives rain water runoff from the AISIN Corporate Headquarters. Deep-rooted native flowers were planted to facilitate rain water infiltration and to provide habitat for birds, bees and other important pollinators. Northville Township employees prepared the site for planting.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 36
- Local groups participating: AISIN employees, Northville Swim Club
- Native plantings: Rain garden
- # Forbs planted: 350
- Size of planting: 400 square feet
- Additional notes (plantings): A rain garden demonstration was created to reduce stormwater runoff from the property. AISIN employees will be able to enjoy the garden during their lunch hour as the garden is near an outdoor patio area and visible from the cafeteria.

### **Park Clean-Up Day**

Location: Hines Drive, north of 6 Mile

Coordinated by: Grace Modes, Wayne County Commissioner Marecki's Office (new)

Sponsored by: Wayne County Commissioner Terry Marecki  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Met at 8:30 - enjoyed water and donuts, took a group picture, and then led volunteers to the areas with large amounts of garlic mustard to be removed

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 40
- Local groups participating: Girl Scouts, Ladywood High School
- Invasive removal: 67 bags (11.58 cubic yards) of garlic mustard were removed from 0.07 acres
- Invasive plant removal details: Volunteers had an easy time spotting the garlic mustard and spent about 2.5 hours pulling it from areas throughout the park.

## Novi

### **Rotary Park**

Location: 22220 Rothel Drive

Coordinated by: Wendy DuVall, City of Novi  
Sponsored by: The City of Novi, Corrigan, Rotary Club and Comerica Bank  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Cleared an existing trail that was neglected, cleaned 2 rain gardens and added new native plants, spread 6 yards of mulch, removed 8 bags of debris, established a new native area for future plantings, and cleaned and planted native plants around the park sign.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 67
- Trash removal: 8 bags (1.4 Cubic yards) were removed
- Native plantings: Rain garden
- # Forbs planted: 58
- Size of planting: 15 square feet
- Additional notes (plantings): Added new native plants to the 2 current rain gardens. Established a new area for future native plantings. Removed existing vegetation near park sign and added native plants.

- Other activities: Trail maintenance
- Lineal feet of trail maintained: 20 feet
- Details: Cleared an existing trail that has been overgrown for more than 5 years.



Volunteers maintain a swale planting in Novi

## Plymouth

### **Lion's Club Park**

Location: 575 Burroughs

Coordinated by: Adam Gerlach, City of Plymouth  
Sponsored by: The City of Plymouth  
Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Picked up trash and debris in the creek and surrounding areas. Removed invasive species, focused on cutting back honeysuckle, buckthorn and pulling garlic mustard and dame's rocket. Stenciling storm drains in the southern portion of the City of Plymouth.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 53
- Local groups participating: City of Plymouth, Lion's Club, Bosch
- Trash removal: 6 cubic yards removed from 1.5 acres, mostly general trash and some concrete pavers and brick.

- Invasive removal: 83.8 cubic yards of garlic mustard, dame's rocket, buckthorn, honeysuckle removed from 1.49 acres
- Other activities: Woody debris management
- Details: Removed piles of woody debris left over from road paving projects and from residents dumping

## Plymouth Township

### Plymouth Township Park

Location: 46640 Ann Arbor Trail

Coordinated by: Susan Vignoe, Plymouth Township

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Opened log jams in the creek

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 3
- Trash removal: 1 bag (0.2 cubic yards) was removed from 0.02 acres, mostly golf balls
- Other activities: Woody debris management
- Details: Five locations opened to allow free flow

## Redford

### Lola Valley Park

Location: 16100 Lola Drive

Coordinated by: Justin Wehrheim, FOTR Volunteer (new)

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers removed trash and pulled garlic mustard.

#### Highlights

No data provided

## Southfield

### Berberian Woods

Location: 28415 Streamwood, Southfield, 48034

Coordinated by: Gail Barber, Southfield Resident and Brandy Siedlaczek, City of Southfield

Sponsored by: The City of Southfield

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers pulled 45 bags of mostly garlic mustard, some Dame's Rocket from the preserve.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 15
- Local groups participating: DENSO
- Invasive removal: 45 bags (7.78 cubic yards) of garlic mustard and dame's rocket were removed from 0.5 acres



Invasive plant control work at the Berberian Woods Preserve help protect native flora like this rare twinleaf found at the site

### Lawrence Tech (new site)

Location: 21000 W 10 Mile Rd

Coordinated by: Davey McConnell, Lawrence Technological University (new)

Sponsored by: Lawrence Technological University

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers removed trash from the river and surrounding area. Some woody debris was also removed.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 14
- Local groups participating: Lawrence Tech, University High School
- Trash removal: 10 bags (1.7 cubic yards) were removed from 3.67 acres, including vehicles, tires, shopping carts, appliances and plywood.

- # Log jams opened: 1
- Details: Volunteers pulled several large fallen trees from a log jam

### Beech Woods Recreation Center

Location: 22200 Beech Road

Coordinated by: Brandy Siedlaczek, City of Southfield

Sponsored by: The City of Southfield

Date: 6/6/2015

Project summary: Volunteers worked to open logjams/manage woody debris.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 48
- Local groups participating: Lafarge, Korean Presbyterian Church of MetroDetroit
- Other activities: Woody debris management
- # Log jams opened: 1

### DENSO International America, Corporate Campus

Location: 24777 Denso Drive

Coordinated by: Melissa Smith, Denso International America & Brandy Siedlaczek, City of Southfield

Sponsored by: DENSO and City of Southfield

Date: 5/30/15

Project summary: Logjam work, native planting, invasive plant removal and youth education

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 100
- Local groups participating: Denso employees, NCS, Arts & Scraps
- Invasive removal: 156 bags (26.96 cubic yards) of garlic mustard and dame's rocket were removed
- Native plantings: Native plant demonstration garden
- # Forbs planted: 75
- Other activities: Woody debris management
- # Log jams opened: 1

## Superior Township

### Kosch-Headwaters Preserve

Location: 3268 N. Prospect Road

Coordinated by: Carla Bisaro, SMLC Superior Twp. Chapter

Sponsored by: SMLC Superior Twp. Chapter, Washtenaw County Parks & Rec.

Date: 5/30/2015 & 6/6/2015

Project summary: 5/30/15: Twelve volunteers split into two groups - six pulled Garlic Mustard in wooded area, six worked on Teasel removal in open area; 6/6/15: Volunteers installed new native plant species and tended previous planting in an area created to provide habitat for native pollinators.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 20
- Local groups participating:
- Invasive removal: 12 bags (2.07 cubic yards) of garlic mustard, teasel and thistle were removed from 1.01 acres
- Invasive plant removal details: 5/30/15: Because of continued maintenance, garlic mustard presence in maple/beech woods continues to be light & scattered. Teasel effort was a trial of non-chemical method, results to be determined. 6/6/15: Group pulled thistle and other weeds in pollinator meadow garden
- Native plantings: Native plant demonstration garden
- # Forbs planted: 36
- # Trees/shrubs planted: 3
- Size of planting: 300 square feet
- Additional notes (plantings): Volunteers installed new native plant species and tended previous planting in an area geared to native pollinators



Our friends from the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy work to control invasives in the Kosch-Headwaters Preserve

## Wayne

### Dynamite Park/Hoover Elementary

Location: Sims Avenue & Wayne Rd

Coordinated by: Amy Morse, Hoover Elementary School, Kurt Kuban, Resident of Wayne and Cyndi Ross, Friends of the Rouge

Sponsored by: Hoover Elementary, Wayne DPW

Date: 5/21/2015

Project summary: Hoover Elementary Students planted native wildflowers and grasses around a storm drain to reduce sediment and storm-water runoff from entering the storm sewer which drains directly to the Lower Rouge.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 47
- Local groups participating: Rotary, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Wayne DPW
- Native plantings: Rain garden
- # Forbs planted: 228
- Size of planting: ~400 square foot area

### Goudy and Dynamite Parks

Location: Sims Avenue & Wayne Rd

Coordinated by: Kurt Kuban, Resident of Wayne

Sponsored by: Wayne Rotary, Wayne DPW

Date: 5/30/2015

Project summary: Volunteers cleaned up (weeded, re-mulched) two native plant beds in Dynamite Park, worked to open 2 logjams, and cleaned up trash along river (5 yards). They also improved areas around benches along the river in Goudy Park.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 52
- Local groups participating: Rotary, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Wayne DPW
- Trash removal: 5 cubic yards of trash cleaned up, including a couple of homeless encampments (tents, bottles, can, etc)
- Invasive removal: 1.73 cubic yards of weeds were removed from 0.04 acres
- Other activities: Woody debris management, trail maintenance

- Trail maintenance (lineal feet): 1,320 feet of train maintained
- # Log jams opened: 2



Hoover Elementary students plant a rain garden in Wayne

## Westland

### Holliday Nature Preserve

Location: Central City Parkway, west of Wayne Road

Coordinated by: Bill Craig, Holliday Nature Preserve Association

Sponsored by: Holliday Nature Preserve Association

Date: 5/9/2015

Project summary: Most of the work was invasive plant cutting and piling -- mostly honeysuckle. Also bagged garlic mustard, cut bittersweet vines and dug out barberry shrubs. As it turned out there was no need to work on woody debris - no blockage, plus little collection of trash to remove within designated work area.

#### Highlights

- Number of volunteers: 22
- Trash removal: 3 bags (0.5 cubic yards) were removed from 0.5 acres, including plastics, styrofoam, cans, glass bottles, and paper
- Invasive removal: 13 bags (2.25 cubic yards) of garlic mustard, honeysuckle, buckthorn, barberry and bittersweet were removed from 0.5 acres
- Invasive plant removal details: Thicket of honeysuckle was cut and piled for later chipping and disposal. Also removed buckthorn and barberry. Cutting of bittersweet, wild grape intertwined. Left impressive pile 10' x 40' x 6' high.



If your actions inspire others to  
dream more, learn more, do more  
and become more, you are leader.

~John Quincy Adams



Thank you for helping  
us work toward our  
dream for a cleaner and  
healthier Rouge River!



# ROUGE RESCUE '15



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## Save the date! Rouge Rescue 2016 is Saturday, May 21



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