

ROUGE RESCUE

2014 Report

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 Maya Sheth, a student at Steppingstone School in Farmington Hills. We thank Maya for sharing her fun and creative talent!

Rouge Rescue 2014 attracted just over 1,500 volunteers who participated in river clean up and stewardship projects at 43 work sites in 22 communities across the Rouge River watershed. Activities were scheduled on multiple dates, with most activities (28) taking place on Saturday, May 17. Two sites worked in April, six sites worked earlier in May (5/3 and 5/10), two sites worked later in May (5/21 and 5/31), six sites worked on June 7, and one site was cancelled. Three sites were new. Nine new volunteers led or helped to lead work sites this year.

We are grateful for the communities, organizations, and individuals who coordinate worksites. Rouge Rescue would not be possible without their participation. The support provided in time, money, supplies and equipment is appreciated. Their participation helps to ensure the event will have a lasting impact in improving the Rouge River.

A big change to the event this year: the date. This was necessary in order to complete the work and report to the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project grant that has funded the event. The tradition has been to hold Rouge Rescue on the first Saturday in June; this year the main event was held on May 17.



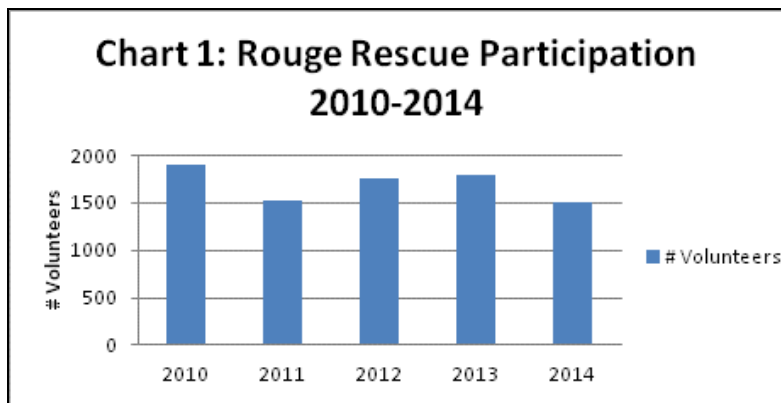
The Rouge River drains all or part of 48 communities in Southeast Michigan. It is home to 1.35 million people and provides places for people to enjoy nature and families to get outdoors. During Rouge Rescue volunteers care for this natural resources that connects us.

**Friends
of the ROUGE**

Promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River since 1986

Event Summary (Continued)

Participants seemed to enjoy the earlier workday and reported that trash was easier to find in the shorter vegetation and that the garlic mustard (a non-native, invasive plant) was easier to identify while it was still in flower. Everyone rejoiced at the lack of mosquitoes in May.



Participation in Rouge Rescue was down a little from last year, as shown in Chart 1. This may be attributed to the low temps and rain as well as the date change. The event remains wonderfully popular despite the lower participation and attracted a wide range of people. Seniors, youth groups, families, individuals, conservation and faith based groups, and businesses participated.

Rouge Rescue attracts people from across the region. Volunteers from 67 communities participated in the event—33 of the 48 communities drained by the Rouge River were represented. The remaining 34 communities represented were from outside the Rouge River drainage area. This is a testament to the desire for clean and healthy water in Southeast Michigan.

What were volunteers working on?

Volunteers worked to remove trash and invasive plants, install native wild-flowers and tree plantings, and conduct public education activities and more during Rouge Rescue 2014. Table 1 lists the number of sites working on each activity. This year more sites (28) worked to remove invasive plants than had cleaned up trash. Twenty-five sites worked to remove trash. Thirteen sites installed native plantings. Nine sites conducted educational activities. Eight sites worked to manage wood in the river. Trail maintenance activities were completed at four work sites.

Table 1: Site Participation by Activity	
Activity	# Sites
Invasive plant removal	28
Trash removal	25
Native plantings	13
Educational activities	9
Woody debris management	8
Trail maintenance	4

What did we accomplish?

Table 2: Quantity and Type of Items Removed/Planted	
Item	Qty
Trash removed—cu. yds.	133
Tires	57
Shopping carts	2
Furniture & appliances	4
Vehicles	0
Invasive plants removed—cu. yds.	1,181
Native Plants Installed	
Flowers/grasses	3,625
Trees/shrubs	75

A tally of the volunteer work completed during Rouge Rescue 2014 is provided in Table 2. In just a few workdays, volunteers removed enough trash to fill nearly 7 garbage trucks! The amount of invasive plant material removed would fill 59 garbage trucks!

Trash Removal: Over 344 acres were cleared of 133 cubic yards of trash, including 57 tires, 2 shopping carts, 2 mattresses, 2 large pieces of furniture and 2 bicycles.

Invasive Removal: Nearly 1,200 cubic yards of invasive plants were removed from 68 acres.



The amount of trash removed during Rouge Rescue 2014 would fill nearly 7 garbage trucks. Invasive plant material would fill 59 garbage trucks!

Plantings: Volunteers planted over 3,600 native wildflowers and grasses and 75 trees and shrubs. The types of plantings installed or enhanced were rain gardens (3), riparian buffers (3), native demonstration gardens or prairie plantings (4) and tree plantings (1).

These accomplishments improve the health and

appearance of the river and natural areas in the Rouge River system. Natural spaces provide opportunities for families to get outdoors and enjoy nature close to home. Controlling invasive plants helps to protect the natural world and the animals that depend on healthy natural areas for food and shelter—both in and out of the river.

Habitat is further enhanced by the native plantings installed by volunteers during Rouge Rescue. Native plants support important pollinators like bees, butterflies, and birds. Plants also help to improve water quality. Plants take in nutrients and filter sediment from polluted rainwater run-off. Deep root systems of native wildflowers and grasses provide an avenue for rain water to soak deep into the ground and help stabilize the river's flow.

Thank you sponsors!

Rouge Rescue would not be possible without the support of our corporate partners. Many of these businesses provided people power in addition to their financial support. **Quicken Loans** sent a team to Rouge Park in Detroit. **DENSO** employees participated at their corporate headquarters and the Berberian Woods work site in Southfield on May 17 and June 7. **Bosch** employees coordinated a work day on their corporate campus in Farmington Hills. **Marathon** employees also participated at the Rouge Park site. Employees from **AISIN** participated in Plymouth Township. This year, **Marine Pollution Control** employees participated at several work sites rather than sending a team to one site as they have done in past years. We sincerely thank all of our sponsors for their support. A complete list of sponsors is on the back of this report.



Denso associates gather for a photo at their corporate headquarters in Southfield. Denso employees also participated at the Berberian Woods work site on 5/17 and 6/7.

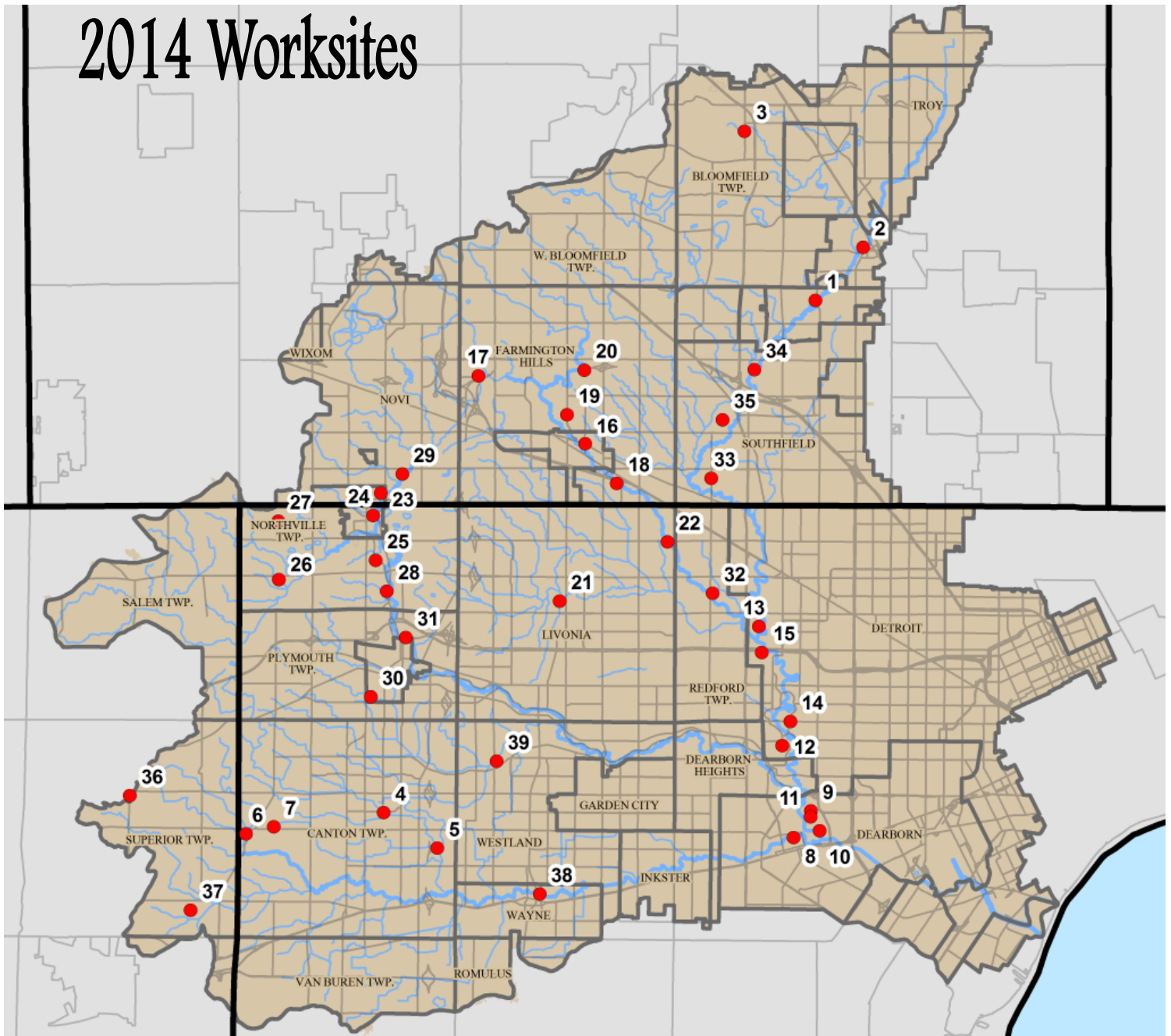


Volunteers from Quicken Loans learn about invasive species and how to identify garlic mustard before heading into the woods to pull it from the river corridor in Rouge Park.



Volunteers from Aisin plant a native buffer around the pond in Plymouth Twp Park.

2014 Worksites



Douglas Evans Nature Preserve	1	Shiawassee Park	16	Plymouth Township Park	31
Booth Park	2	Bosch Farmington Hills	17	Lola Valley Park	32
EL Johnson Nature Center	3	Botsford Commons Senior Community	18	Beech Woods Recreation Center	33
Flodin Park	4	Heritage Park	19	Berberian Woods*	34
Meadows of Canton	5	Oakland Community College	20	DENSO	35
Rivers Edge	6	Coventry Gardens	21	Kosch Headwaters Preserve	36
Workman Elementary	7	Goff Nature Preserve	22	Superior Twp	37
Greenway Trail	8	Allen Drive Park	23	Goudy Park & Dynamite Park *	38
Henry Ford Community College	9	Mill Race Village	24	Holliday Nature Preserve	39
Henry Ford Estate	10	Bennett Arboretum	25		
UM-D Env. Interpretive Center	11	Linear Park	26		
Parkland Park	12	Maybury State Park	27		
Eliza Howell Park	13	Mead's Mill Rec Area– Hines Park*	28		
Rouge Park	14	Rotary Park	29		
St. Paul of the Cross Retreat	15	Smith Elementary School	30		

**Multiple workdays held at site*

Site Highlights

Beverly Hills

Douglas Evans Nature Preserve

Evergreen Road between 13 Mile and 14 Mile Roads

Coordinated by: Erin Wilks, The Village of Beverly Hills

Project summary: Volunteers pulled garlic mustard from the southeast corner of the preserve.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 6
- Local groups: Berkshire Middle School
- Site sponsors: Village of Beverly Hills
- Invasives removed: 23 bags of garlic mustard and buckthorn were removed from the preserve
- Other activities: Educated participants about the threat and impacts of invasive species



Volunteers pull garlic mustard at the Douglas Evans work site

Birmingham

Booth Park

North Old Woodward and Harmon

Coordinated by: Connie Folk, City of Birmingham

Project summary: Volunteers worked to control invasive species from Linden Park to Maple Road.

Project date: 6/7/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 23
- Local groups: Boy Scouts
- Site sponsors: City of Birmingham
- Invasives removed: 65 bags of garlic mustard removed



Dan Badgley introduces volunteers to the day's activities

Bloomfield Township

EL Johnson Nature Center

3325 Franklin Rd

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

Project summary: Work involved planting 900 native wildflowers and grasses, 50 trees, and 2 flats (76 plugs) of shrubs at the nature center. The plantings were mulched with 10 cubic yards of organic mulch. Volunteers also cleaned up trash from Franklin Road.

Project date: 4/26/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 120
- Local groups:
- Trash removed: Trash was removed from Franklin Road
- Plantings: 900 wildflowers and 50 trees and shrubs were installed.



Young volunteers build birdhouses in Canton's Flodin Park

Canton Township

Flodin Park

Saltz between Lilley and Sheldon

Coordinated by: Eika Hildago and Christie Jones, Canton Township

Project summary: The event focused on education. Volunteers worked to build birdhouses, enjoyed a live Birds of Prey demonstration, and learned about bike safety. A nature walk and scavenger hunt was also held. Volunteers cleaned up trash along the river.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 127
- Local groups: Eco Club and Scouts
- Site sponsors: Canton Township, OMI, W.T.U.A.
- Trash removed: 10 bags of trash were removed including papers, cups and miscellaneous trash.
- Other activities: Tree seedlings were provided to volunteers to plant at home to raise awareness of the benefits of trees in improving water quality.



Due to poor weather concerns the Meadows of Canton site was moved indoors. Presentations on the life in the stream, bird box building and other activities occurred.

Meadows Of Canton

Lotz Between Palmer and Cherry Hill Roads

Coordinated by: Keshav Raizada, Wayne County Department of Public Services, Water Quality Division

Project summary: The event was moved indoors due to the weather. Many activities were coordinated at the site - presentations on benthic macroinvertebrates (life in the stream) and the remediation of the Rouge were conducted. Volunteers built bird houses, cleaned up around ditches on Cherry Hill, and stenciled storm drains.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 95
- Local groups: Pack 852, HYSC, WTUA, Can, St. Michaels Church, and Canton Temple
- Site sponsors: W.T.U.A., Lakeshore Engineering, Delhi Hut
- Trash removed: 2 bags, which included papers and miscellaneous trash
- Other activities: Public education activities

Site Highlights (continued)

Rivers Edge Subdivision

Cherry Hill west of Ridge Road

Coordinated by: Maureen Rice, Rivers Edge resident

Project summary: A small amount of trash was removed from the creek. The low turnout forced the event to be postponed, though a few volunteers worked a short time. Residents will hold another cleanup event in the fall.

Project date: 6/7/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 3
- Local groups: Rivers Edge residents

Workman Elementary Habitat

250 Denton Rd

Coordinated by: Lisa Bank, Workman Elementary School

Project summary: Volunteers picked up trash, planted trees and flowers, removed brush and dug up teasel.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 50
- Local groups: Girl Scout Troop 40437, Cub Scout Pack 773, and Workman Elementary Families
- Site sponsors: Workman Elementary School
- Trash removed: 1 bag of trash was picked up from the schoolyard. It was mostly trash that had blown in from neighboring subdivisions
- Invasives removed: 10 bags of weeds and invasive plants were removed from a 10,890 sq. ft. area
- Plantings: 6 wildflowers and 10 trees and shrubs were planted within an existing 10,800 sq. ft. schoolyard habitat site. Trees were planted along fencing at the border of the playground and native flowers in the butterfly garden
- Other activities: Children were treated to a nature walk along the path and pond bridge to see a duck nest, muskrats, box turtles and birds in the habitat. Discussed butterfly habitats and pointed out the native milkweed plants.



Volunteers in Parkland Park care for trees installed a few years ago for Rouge Rescue

Dearborn

Ford Field Greenway Trail

Brady Street north of Michigan Avenue

Coordinated by: Thomas Trimble, Christ Episcopal Church-Dearborn

Project summary: Picked up trash and pulled garlic mustard along the Gateway Trail and surrounding foot trails along the Lower Rouge River.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 26
- Local groups: Christ Episcopal Church-Dearborn, MSU Alumni Group
- Trash removed: 20 bags of trash were cleaned up, including 3 tires, 1 trash can, 2 buckets, 1 yard sign and 1 road barricade
- Invasives removed: 10 bags of garlic mustard were pulled

Henry Ford Community College

5101 Evergreen Road

Coordinated by: Sam Greco, Henry Ford Community College

Project summary: Removed garlic mustard, buckthorn, and honeysuckle from the woods near the Gateway Trail. Trash was also removed.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 27
- Local groups: Boy Scout Troop 1127
- Trash removed: 1 bag of trash was removed from 1.5 acres and consisted of plastic bottles, cans and miscellaneous paper
- Invasives removed: 28 bags were removed from 1.5 acres
- Other activities: Trail maintenance
- Lineal feet of trails maintained: 1,350

Henry Ford Estate - Garlic Mustard Removal

One Fair Lane Drive

Coordinated by: Karen Marzonie, Henry Ford Estate Fair Lane

Project summary: Pulled garlic mustard from the Estate grounds (picnic area and trail garden)

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 15
- Local groups: HFE garden volunteers
- Site sponsors: Henry Ford Estate
- Invasives removed: 30 bags of garlic mustard were removed from 20,000 sq. ft.

Stewardship Network Garlic Mustard Pull

4901 Evergreen Road

Coordinated by: Martha Gruelle, Stewardship Network Lakeplain Cluster and Rick Simek, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Project summary: Volunteers worked to remove garlic mustard from the University of Michigan-Dearborn natural area. The event was organized by the Stewardship Network Lakeplain Cluster in partnership with the Environmental Interpretive Center.

Project date: 5/3/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 8
- Invasives removed: 13 bags of garlic mustard were removed

University of Michigan - Dearborn

4901 Evergreen Road

Coordinated by: Sydney Parmenter, Environmental Health and Safety and Emergency Management and Rick Simek, Environmental Interpretive Center

Project summary: Volunteers pulled invasive garlic mustard plants from habitats within the University of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Study Area.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 15
- Local groups: Dearborn High School National Honor Society, Dearborn Christian Fellowship
- Invasives removed: 42 bags of garlic mustard were removed from forested habitats to maintain, and even improve, habitat health.
- Other activities: Explored various plants and birds in the natural area en route to the work site.

Dearborn Heights

Parkland Park

6500 Parkland St

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

Project summary: Volunteers worked to maintain 30 trees planted during Rouge Rescue 3 years ago.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 23
- Local groups: Crestwood National Honor Society Students, Dearborn Heights District Court
- Site sponsors: Dearborn Heights Watershed Stewards Commission
- Invasives removed: 4 bags of invasives were removed from 120 sq. ft.



Coordinator Larry Quarles checks in volunteers at the Eliza Howell work site

Detroit

Eliza Howell Park

Fenkell Road, just east of Telegraph

Coordinated by: Larry Quarles, Friends of Eliza Howell Park

Project summary: Volunteers worked to do a general cleanup of the park, cleaning up trash and sprucing up parking lots.

Project date: 5/10/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 35
- Local groups: God Land Unity Church, Friends of Eliza Howell Park, HNTB, and community members
- Site sponsors: Friends of Eliza Howell Park
- Trash removed: 200 bags of trash were removed from 2,000 sq. ft. Trash included 12 tires and miscellaneous trash
- Other activities: Friends of the Rouge held a walk in the park earlier that morning as part of the Explore the Rouge series



Volunteers work to remove trash from the river in Rouge Park

Rouge Park

Joy Rd & Spinoza (22000 Joy Rd)

Coordinated by: Sally Petrella, Friends of Rouge Park & Friends of the Rouge

Project summary: Volunteers worked to remove trash and invasive plants from Rouge Park. Two demonstration plantings were installed. Volunteers also worked to clear fallen trees and wood chip 600 feet of trail.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 219
- Local groups: Quicken Loans, Marathon, Social Security, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association, D-town Farm
- Site sponsors: Friends of Rouge Park, the City of Detroit, Detroit Area Modelers, Rep. Harvey Santana, Wayne County Commissioner Alisha Bell
- Trash removed: 235 bags of trash were removed from 92 acres, including 2 mattresses, 1 traffic cone, fish tank, golf bag, TV, golf club, window frame, bicycle frame, and carpet.
- Invasives removed: 51 bags of garlic mustard were removed from 62 acres
- Plantings: 144 wildflowers were planted; creating two native demonstration plantings totaling 1,600 sq. ft. in size.
- Other activities: Trail maintenance. Removed fallen trees from one trail; wood chipped another trail
- Lineal feet of trails maintained: 600



A team from Immanuel House work in Detroit's Rouge Park

St. Paul of the Cross Retreat

23333 Schoolcraft

Coordinated by: Roz Salter and Bernadette Beach, St. Paul of the Cross Passionist Retreat & Conference Center

Project summary: Volunteers cleaned up trash, removed garlic mustard and pulled a small amount of tree limbs from the river.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 20
- Local groups: St. Paul volunteers
- Site sponsors: St. Paul of the Cross Retreat Center
- Trash removed: 5 bags of trash were removed from 1,000 sq. ft., including broken glass, metal pieces and misc. trash
- Invasives removed: 8 bags and 1,000 cu. yds. of invasive plant and shrubs were removed

- Other activities: Woody debris management
- Other activities: A minimal amount of tree limbs were removed from the river bank



St. Paul of the Cross volunteers remove garlic mustard and other invasive shrubs at this Catholic Retreat Center in Detroit

Shiawassee Park

Powers Road north of Grand River Ave

Coordinated by: Lisa Lytle & Martha Ross, Friends of the Rouge Volunteers

Project summary: Volunteers cleaned up native grow zones installed by Friends of the Rouge and the Alliance of Rouge Communities in 2004 and 2009. Volunteers cut and removed dead stalks in the plantings, pulled weeds, planted native wildflowers in bare areas and added woodchips to define the area.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 8
- Trash removed: 2 bags of trash were removed from 40,000 sq. ft.
- Invasives removed: 3 cu. yds. of weeds and invasives were removed from a 32,500 sq. ft. native planting. Garlic mustard was removed from the river corridor.
- Plantings: 300 wildflowers were planted in bare areas of the grow zone, enhancing 9,750 sq. ft. of native plantings.
- Other activities: Public education activities - Relay for Life was taking place in the park that day. Thousands of people participated in the event. FOTR talked to passersby about the benefits of native wildflowers and the destructive nature of invasive plants.

Site Highlights (continued)

Farmington Hills

Bosch Builds Workday

Farmington Hills Corporate Campus

Coordinated by: Pascal Fallot, Robert Bosch, LLC.

Project summary: Bosch employees worked to remove trash from Seeley Creek on their corporate campus in Farmington Hills on April 25th. Poor weather limited their workday, however, 5 hearty employees were successful at removing a pile of trash from the natural area around Seeley Creek.
Project date: 4/25/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 5
- Site sponsors: Robert Bosch, LLC
- Trash removed: 5 cu. yds. of trash were removed from 80,000 sq. ft. area along Seeley Creek



One of the piles of trash collected from the river corridor at the Bosch corporate campus in Farmington Hills

Botsford Commons Senior Community

21450 Archwood Circle

Coordinated by: Dave Krozek, Maureen O'Connell and Dave Comiskey, Botsford Commons Senior Community

Project summary: Volunteers picked up trash, opened log jams, and cleared a path along the river.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 20
- Site sponsors: Botsford Commons
- Trash removed: 8 bags of trash were removed from 5,000 sq. ft., including 1 tire, plastic bottles, baseballs, and liquor bottles
- Other activities: Trail maintenance, woody debris management
- Lineal feet of trails maintained: 250
- # Log jams opened: 2

Heritage Park

24915 Farmington Road

Coordinated by: Randy Lovett and Ashlie Smith, City of Farmington Hills

Project summary: Planted native trees and wildflowers, opened 4 log jams and cleared debris from bridge, pulled garlic mustard and cut and chipped buckthorn.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 72
- Local groups: Scouts, Heritage Park volunteers, Local 6 Out Officials
- Site sponsors: City of Farmington Hills
- Trash removed: 2 bags of trash were removed from 211 acres including wrappers, bottles, glass, etc.
- Invasives removed: 32 bags of garlic mustard were removed and 13 cu. yds. of honeysuckle and buckthorn shrubs were cut and chipped
- Plantings: 342 wildflowers and 8 trees and shrubs were installed to enhance rain gardens and native demonstration planting areas in the park.
- Other activities: Woody debris management
- # Log jams opened: 4

Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus

27055 Orchard Lake Road

Coordinated by: Mike Kadrofske, Oakland Community College

Project summary: Picked up trash and debris along 1/2 mile stretch of Minnow Drain Pond and Creek.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 10
- Local groups: Man-Up, Phi Bata Kappa
- Site sponsors: Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus
- Trash removed: 20 bags of trash were removed from a 132,000 sq. ft. area, including paper and Styro-foam products

Livonia

Coventry Gardens Park

Corner of Rayburn and Stamford

Coordinated by: Chuck Eastman, Coventry Gardens Improvement Association

Project summary: Volunteers worked to remove garlic mustard and trash from the river corridor.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 7
- Local groups: Livonia Commerce Club
- Site sponsors: Coventry Gardens Improvement Association
- Trash removed: 3 bags of trash were removed including bottles, cans, chairs and underwear.
- Invasives removed: 5 bags were removed. Volunteer efforts over the past 6-7 years have been successful - last year volunteers collected 35 bags of garlic mustard; this year 5 bags. Constant vigilance is the answer.

Goff Nature Preserve

7 Mile and Inkster Roads

Coordinated by: Doug Moore, Ralph Williams & Amy Walker, City of Livonia

Project summary: Trash removal, native wildflower and tree planting

Project date: 5/10/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 14
- Site sponsors: City of Livonia
- Trash removed: 30 bags of trash were removed from 2 acres including 6 tires as well as construction and automotive debris
- Plantings: 380 wildflowers were installed in a 2,000 sq. ft. area along the Upper Rouge.
- Other activities: Woody debris management
- # Log jams opened: 1
- Other activities: Loose material, trash, wood debris and construction material pulled out of one blockage



Coordinator Ralph Williams takes native plants to volunteers for installation along the Upper Rouge at the Goff Nature Preserve site

Newburgh Lake Cleanup

Coordinated by: Val and Ron Jones, Watershed Residents

Project summary: Val and Ron cleaned up the east side of Newburgh Lake along Newburgh Road and Hines Drive on Sunday, May 11th. Not able to participate during the scheduled events they took it upon themselves to do their part for Rouge Rescue and cleaned up 50 pounds of plastic and other debris that washed ashore or had been left by the Lake. They also removed 2 ten gallon plastic fishing containers. Most of the waste was recycled. *Way to go Val and Ron!*

Project date: 5/11/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 2
- Trash removed: 50 lbs of trash

Nankin Lake Drive Garlic Mustard Removal

Coordinated by: Doug and Sandy Wallace, Livonia Residents

Project summary: Doug and Sandy pulled 27 bags of garlic mustard along Nankin Lake Drive in Hines Park on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday May 17, 18 and 19 in Livonia in support of Rouge Rescue. *Awesome job Doug and Sandy!*

Project date: 5/18/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 2
- Invasives removed: 27 bags were removed

Northville

Allen Drive Park

Novi Street north of 8 Mile Road

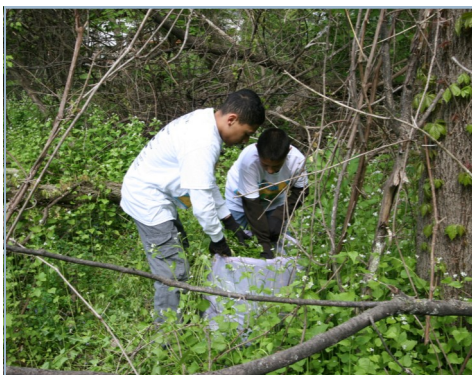
Coordinated by: Callie Milroy and Scotti Dunn, City of Northville Residents

Project summary: Volunteers cleaned up trash, removed invasive plants and built birdhouses.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 22
- Local groups: Neighbors, community volunteers, City of Northville
- Site sponsors: Northville Residents
- Trash removed: 4 bags of trash were removed, including a garage door track, box and traffic barrel
- Invasives removed: 38 bags were removed
- Other activities: Public education activities - informed participants of danger of garlic mustard weed, built 6 of 9 bird houses to be erected.



Young volunteers pull garlic mustard from natural areas at the Allen Drive site in Northville

Mill Race Village

215 N. Griswold Avenue

Coordinated by: Juliana Cerra, Luci Klinkhamer, and Edward Gabrys, Northville Historical Society

Project summary: Volunteers cleared existing vegetation from a 400 sq. ft. section of riverbank, spread compost, laid erosion control blanket, planted native trees, shrubs and grasses, and mulched the planting. Volunteers also removed invasive garlic mustard plants.

Project date: 6/7/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 11
- Local groups: Mill Race Weavers Guild, Northville Historical Society, MSU alumni, and UM-D students
- Site sponsors: Northville Historical Society
- Invasives removed: 6 bags were removed
- Plantings: 228 wildflowers and 7 trees and shrubs were installed. A riparian buffer was expanded by 400 sq. ft. Two 8 ft. river birch, 3 Michigan holly shrubs and 6 plug flats were planted on the river bank.
- Other activities: Trail maintenance
- Lineal feet of trails maintained: 40
- Other activities: Mulch applied to river bank trail

Northville Township

Linear Park

Six Mile and Ridge Roads

Coordinated by: Jill Rickard, Northville Township

Project summary: A fun run was organized. Volunteers also maintained a rain garden planted during last year's Rouge Rescue event.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 20
- Site sponsors: Northville Twp
- Invasives removed: Two residents worked on their own to remove 2 1/2 bags of garlic mustard on May 3rd in the Township.
- Other activities: Children's fun run

Park Clean-Up Day

Hines Drive, north of 6 Mile

Coordinated by: The Office of Commissioner Cox, Wayne County Commissioner Lora Cox

Project summary: Volunteers worked to remove invasive plants from the Cass Benton and Bennett Arboretum sections of Hines Park. Volunteers also added mulch around newly planted trees, kiosks, signs, and native plant demonstration gardens.

Project date: 5/10/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 40
- Local groups: Ladywood High School Env. Club, Wayne County Master Gardeners and local residents
- Site sponsors: The Office of Commissioner Laura Cox
- Trash removed: Cleaned up bottles, wrappers, and miscellaneous trash.
- Invasives removed: 23 bags were removed



We were excited to welcome Maybury State Park to Rouge Rescue this year! The Friends of Maybury led a garlic mustard pull at Maybury State Park for the event.

Maybury State Park

Beck Road between 7 Mile and 8 Mile Roads

Coordinated by: George McCarthy, Friends of Maybury

Project summary: Volunteers pulled garlic mustard in several areas of the park

Project date: 5/3/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 17
- Site sponsors: Friends of Maybury
- Invasives removed: 12 bags of garlic mustard were removed

Mead's Mill Rec Area

Hines Drive south of Six Mile Road

Coordinated by: Dan Freeman, Watershed Resident

Project summary: Volunteers planted native wildflowers along the river, removed invasive plants and cleaned up trash. Participants enjoyed the workday so much that they scheduled a 2nd date to continue the work!

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 13
- Local groups: Ward Church
- Site sponsors: Resident
- Trash removed: 5 bags of trash were removed from 8,000 sq. ft.
- Invasives removed: 15 bags were removed from 10,000 sq. ft.
- Plantings: 75 wildflowers were installed. A 30 sq. ft. buffer planting was created. Species planted included Golden Alexanders, Meadow Rue and Penstemon



Volunteers pause for a group shot at the Mead's Mill site

Site Highlights (continued)

Novi

Rotary Park

22220 Roethel Drive

Coordinated by: Wendy DuVall, City of Novi, Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

Project summary: The river was too low and mucky for anyone to get in. Volunteers mulched, cleaned up trash, weeded a rain garden and planted flowers. A local landscaper donated swamp milkweed for the rain garden.

Project date: 6/7/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 15
- Local groups: Beautification Commission
- Trash removed: 3 bags of trash were removed from 30 acres
- Plantings: 304 wildflowers were installed to create a 400 sq. ft. rain garden

Plymouth

Smith Elementary School - Byron Creek

1298 McKinley

Coordinated by: Adam Gerlach, City of Plymouth

Project summary: Picked up trash and debris from the creek and surrounding areas. Removed piles of illegally dumped compost, brush and root balls.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 67
- Local groups: Smith School, City of Plymouth
- Site sponsors: City of Plymouth
- Trash removed: 65 bags and 20 cu. yds. of trash were removed from 85,000 sq. ft. including duct work and pallets.
- Invasives removed: 40 bags were removed from 15,000 sq. ft. Work also involved removing vines overgrowing fences, signs and trees.
- Other activities: Woody debris management
- # Log jams opened: 4
- Other activities: Removed approximately 150 cubic yards of woody material (pallets)



Young volunteers remove trash from the creek at the Smith Elementary School site in Plymouth.

Plymouth Township

Plymouth Twp Park

Intersection of Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail

Coordinated by: Susan Vignoe, Charter Township of Plymouth

Project summary: Expanded a native prairie planting by planting 340 native perennials and seeding a 1/4 acre area.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 20
- Local groups: Aisin
- Site sponsors: Plymouth Twp., Aisin
- Plantings: 340 wildflowers and native seed were installed to create a ¼ acre prairie planting



A crew from Aisin work to plant a native meadow by the pond in Plymouth Township Park

Redford

Lola Valley

16100 Lola Drive (Approx. from Google Maps)

Coordinated by: Erin Cassidy, Justin Wehrheim, Friends of the Rouge

Project summary: Volunteers pulled garlic mustard and cleaned up litter on Redford Township's property at Woodbine and Graham. Redford Observer came out to take photos. Carl Van Aartsen (Redford Twp) gave a tour of the CSO basin following the clean up. Phil and Belinda Wehrheim purchased a pizza lunch for the volunteers. Local residents stopped to thank the volunteers for their work.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 15
- Site sponsors: Friends of the Rouge
- Trash removed: 10 bags of trash were removed from 62,000 sq. ft. Trash included 19 tires, a cooler, washing machine agitator, plastic chair, carpet, fencing, decking, concrete, sand bag, and a section of PVC piping.
- Invasives removed: 24 bags were removed from 62,000 sq. ft.
- Other activities: Public education activities
- Other activities: Redford Twp provided literature and public education materials for volunteers to look at and take home. A tour of the Combined Sewer Overflow Basin was provided to volunteers.



Carl Van Aartsen of Redford Twp treated Lola Valley volunteers to a tour of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Basin facility

Southfield

Beech Woods Recreation Center

22200 Beech Road

Coordinated by: Brandy Siedlaczek, City of Southfield

Project summary: Water levels were too high to work in the river as planned so volunteers joined the team at the Berberian Woods work site.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Berberian Woods

28415 Streamwood

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

Project summary: Volunteers worked to pull garlic mustard. Volunteers from the Beech Woods site joined the Berberian Woods team because water levels were too high for the river work that was planned.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 54
- Local groups: Lafarge, Korean Presbyterian Church, University High School Academy, DENSO, U of M, and Southfield residents
- Site sponsors: City of Southfield and local residents
- Invasives removed: 35 bags were removed from 40,000 sq. ft. This was a much smaller number of bags than was cleared in the past. Most of the garlic mustard in Berberian Woods has been cleared. Volunteers really had to search for the plants.

DENSO Corporate Campus and Berberian Woods Preserve

24777 DENSO Dr

Coordinated by: Melissa Smith, DENSO International America, Inc

Project summary: Woody debris management, native garden planting, youth education

Project date: 6/7/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 100
- Local groups: DENSO, City of Southfield, Cranbrook Institute of Science, Natural Community Services
- Invasives removed: 25 bags were removed from Berberian Woods
- Plantings: The native demonstration garden installed during Rouge Rescue 2013 was expanded by nearly 2,000 sq. ft.
- Other activities: Woody debris management, public education activities
- # Log jams opened: 3



Denso associates pull garlic mustard at the Berberian Woods site in Southfield.

A huge thank you to Martha Gruelle for leading the Denso crew when they realized employee involvement exceeded the work at their corporate work site.

Superior Township

Kosch-Headwaters Preserve

3268 N Prospect Rd.

Coordinated by: Carla Bisaro, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

Project summary: Volunteers pulled garlic mustard from the Preserve.

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 8
- Site sponsors: Superior Land Conservancy, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
- Invasives removed: 8 bags were removed



Volunteers pulled garlic mustard at the Kosch-Headwaters Preserve in Superior Twp.

Kosch-Headwaters Preserve Pollinator

Planting

3268 N Prospect Rd.

Coordinated by: Shawn Severance, Washtenaw County Parks

Project summary: Volunteers weeded and mulched a pollinator meadow created in the preserve to provide habitat for important pollinator species. The planting was expanded with additional native plant plugs.

Project date: 6/7/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 13
- Local groups: Washtenaw County Parks and the Superior Land Conservancy Chapter of the Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
- Plantings: 150 wildflowers were installed. A native plant demonstration garden was expanded by 450 sq. ft.

Superior Twp Cleanup

Ridge Road between Geddes and Mott

Coordinated by: Jim McIntyre, Superior Twp. Wetlands Board

Project summary: Trash clean up of the Bagely-Foster Drain (Creek)

Project date: 5/17/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 4
- Site sponsors: Superior Twp Wetlands Board
- Trash removed: 11 bags and 5 cu. yds. of trash were removed from 10,000 sq. ft. including 15 tires, 1 shopping cart, a bicycle, lawn mowers, and lumber.

Wayne

Dynamite Park/Hoover Elementary

Michigan Ave. west of Venoy

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

Project summary: Fourth grade students planted a rain garden around a storm drain in Dynamite Park. The City prepared the site, Hoover provided funds for plants, FOTR purchased the plants and assisted with the planting day. Mayor Haidous stopped by to see the children hard at work. The Wayne Police Department provided lunch for the kids following the planting.

Project date: 5/21/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 60
- Site sponsors: Hoover Elementary School, Friends of the Rouge, and the City of Wayne
- Plantings: 456 wildflowers were installed to create a 5,600 sq. ft. rain garden.
- Other activities: Public education activities
- Other activities: The children received a lesson about the value of native plants and how they help to protect water quality.



Volunteers in Wayne build benches to enjoy the river in Goudy Park.

Goudy Park

Sims Avenue & Wayne Rd

Coordinated by: Kurt Kuban, Resident of Wayne

Project summary: Two workdays were held. On May 17, volunteers worked at Dynamite Park and did trail work and collected 30 bags of garlic mustard and 10 cubic yards of honeysuckle and buckthorn. On May 31, volunteers built 3 benches along the river in Goudy Park, along with creating stone trails to provide access to the river and opening log jams. Ten bags of trash were removed from log jams.

Project date: 5/17/14 and 5/31/14

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 66
- Local groups: Wayne DPW, River Restorations Inc., local volunteers
- Site sponsors: River Restorations Inc., Wayne Rotary
- Trash removed: 10 bags and 5 cu. yds. of trash were removed including couches and other debris from an apartment complex
- Invasives removed: 30 bags and 10 cu. yds. were removed
- Other activities: Woody debris management, trail maintenance
- # Log jams opened: 5



Longtime FOTR Board Member, Chester Marvin, enjoys a little break on one of the new benches built by volunteers and placed along the Lower Rouge in Goudy Park.

Westland

Holliday Nature Preserve

Tonquish Creek (near Newburgh Road), Westland

Coordinated by: Bill Craig, Holliday Nature Preserve Association

Project summary: Newburgh section of the preserve had some trash collection, two small log jams were cleaned of trash, and a focus was made to cut invasive buckthorn shrubs. Poor weather and morning rain reduced participation. Soggy soil prevented the chipper truck from driving close to the work areas.

Project date: 5/3/2014

Highlights

- # Volunteers: 17
- Site sponsors: Holliday Nature Preserve Association
- Trash removed: 14 bags of trash were removed. Trash included 1 tire, 1 shopping cart, tents, blankets, camp supplies, dish antenna, and milk crates.
- Invasives removed: Buckthorn and honeysuckle shrubs were removed from 22,500 sq. ft. Plants were cut and stacked into brush piles.
- Other activities: Woody debris management
- # Log jams opened: 1
- Other activities: One jam contained 90 % of trash collected. This one was opened. A second jam did not block water flow and was just cleaned.



Our Holliday Nature Preserve Association friends gather for a group shot with a pile of trash they collected from the Holliday Nature Preserve in Westland.

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.



I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything,
but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do
interfere with what I can do.

~Edward Everett Hale, American author,
historian, and Unitarian minister



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Rouge River!

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BRINGING OUR RIVER BACK TO LIFE



Fred A. and Barbara M.
Erb Family Foundation

& made possible by YOU...



...for future generations to enjoy!

Save the date! Rouge Rescue 2015 ~ Saturday, May 30



Scouts work to pull garlic mustard
along the Gateway Trail at the
Henry Ford Community College
work site (left)

Volunteers work to remove trash
from the Rouge River in Detroit's
Rouge Park (right)



Promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River since 1986

To learn about Rouge Rescue sponsorship and volunteer opportunities contact Cyndi Ross at 313.792.9621 or visit us online at www.therouge.org.