Each June, Friends of the Rouge, in partnership with Rouge communities and other organizations, 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

Over 1,700 people participated in Rouge Rescue 2013. Volunteers worked to improve the Rouge River at 41 work sites in 20 communities across the watershed. Activities were scheduled on multiple dates with most activities taking place on Saturday, June 1st. Seven sites worked in April and May, two sites worked later in June and two work sites were cancelled. Multiple workdays were held at the Cranbrook, Rouge Park and Goudy Park work sites. Five sites were new. Six sites were led by new site coordinators.

Site coordinators are the backbone of this event. The amazing amount of work completed through Rouge Rescue would not be possible without these dedicated volunteers who plan and organize the individual work sites. The Friends of the Rouge team sincerely thanks these individuals for all they do to make Rouge Rescue successful!

Promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River since 1986
And successful it was! This year, over 120 acres were cleared of 82 cubic yards of trash. That is a lot of trash – enough to fill more than 250 55-gallon drums. Even more astonishing is the amount of invasive plant material removed by volunteers through Rouge Rescue – over 8,000 cubic yards were removed from 12 acres. That is enough plant material to fill 25,000 more drums than trash.

Smaller amounts of trash being removed from larger areas is a trend we have experienced for many years now, which is a good sign that less waste is being dumped in our natural areas. The large quantity of invasive plants being removed from a small area of land, however, shows the impact of invasive plants and how wide-spread they are throughout the region. Work to remove invasives has become a growing trend over the past decade and today as many sites work on invasive removal as trash removal.

Table 1 indicates the number of sites working on each activity during Rouge Rescue 2013. In addition to trash removal and invasive plant control, volunteers worked to install native plantings, manage wood in the river, maintain trails and stabilize eroding stream banks. Many work sites also offered educational opportunities such as nature walks, live animal demonstrations, bird house building and storm drain marking.

Twenty-three sites worked to clean trash from watershed parks. Twenty-two sites worked to remove invasive plants. Nine sites coordinated an educational activity. Eight sites had volunteers planting native vegetation to restore the river. Of these, five sites planted riparian buffers along streams or ponds to protect the water bodies from erosion and pollutants carried by rain water. Two sites created rain gardens to reduce the amount of rain water flowing to the river through the storm sewer. One site worked to plant a native demonstration garden, one planted a bio-swale (ditch) and one planted trees.

Seven sites managed large woody debris in the river by removing trash and opening a path for a canoe to pass through. Twenty log jams were opened. Floating wood was moved to protect river banks from erosion. Six sites maintained trails. One site installed coir logs and native vegetation along the river to stabilize 60 lineal feet of streambank.
A summary of the type and quantity of trash removed during Rouge Rescue 2013 is provided in table 2 and described below. The bulk of the trash removed consisted of paper, wrappers, styrofoam, balls, bottles and cans. These everyday items are carried to the river by wind and water. This type of waste could easily be prevented from entering the river if people would properly dispose of the trash in covered trash receptacles. Other items removed were most likely dumped, intentionally, and consisted of 31 tires, 27 shopping carts, 4 mattresses, bicycles, a lazy boy chair, a hot tub, and household appliances. Our friends at Aristeo Construction removed another vehicle from the river this year. This brings the total vehicles removed to 29 ½ since 2006.

Invasive plant removal has become an important activity volunteers participate in during Rouge Rescue. These non-native plants are highly invasive and have advantages to enable them to out compete our native plants. They often produce an abundance of seed or have the ability to alter the soil to prevent other species from thriving. These plants generally don’t have predators (insects or animals that consume them) to keep their population in check.

Garlic mustard, one of the common invaders pulled during Rouge Rescue, has several advantages over our spring wildflowers – they shoot up early in the spring and shade the ground before native wildflowers begin to come up. Each plant can produce 3,000 seeds and the seeds stay viable for years. Other invaders commonly removed during Rouge Rescue are Canada thistle, Dame’s rocket, honeysuckle species, and buckthorn species. Another growing threat in the watershed is Japanese knotweed. Quick action to control this species before it completely takes over the river corridors is highly recommended.

A great source of information on invasive species is the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network (www.misin.msu.edu). Available information includes species fact sheets, identification information, control methods and maps of reported species and coverage areas.

We are very grateful for the support provided by our corporate sponsors. A complete list of sponsors is on the back page of this report. We are also grateful for the in-kind contributions provided by Michigan Poly Supplies and HD Edwards Company.
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*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, Village of Beverly Hills  

Project summary: Participants learned about the history of the Preserve and about invasive plants, including garlic mustard, Dame’s rocket and buckthorn. Volunteers pulled second year garlic mustard plants and walked the exterior length of the site.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 19  
- Local groups: Berkshire Middle School, Holy Name, BLIA  
- Invasive plants removed: 3.86 cubic yards of garlic mustard and Dame’s rocket were removed  
- Other Activities: Public education activities, nature walk  
- Details: Educated volunteers on plants and walked path by Rouge

### Birmingham

**City Parking Lot #6**  
Old Woodward just north of Harmon Street  
Coordinated by: Connie Folk, City of Birmingham  

Project summary: Volunteers removed invasive plants along the Rouge River

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 9  
- Invasive plants removed: 4.46 cubic yards of garlic mustard, Dame’s rocket, buckthorn, and honeysuckle were removed from a 9,000 sq ft area

### Bloomfield Hills

**Cranbrook**  
Woodward and Lone Pine  
Coordinated by: Lisa Appel, Cranbrook Institute of Science  

Project summary: Invasive plants were pulled from the wooded area behind the Cranbrook Institute of Science on May 20 and 24.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 15  
- Local groups: Cranbrook high school students  
- Invasive plants removed: 1.19 cubic yards of garlic mustard and Dame’s rocket were removed from a 2,000 sq ft area

**EL Johnson Nature Center**  
Franklin Road north of Long Lake Road  
Coordinated by: Dan Badgley, E.L. Johnson Nature Center  

Project summary: Volunteers planted trees and shrubs as part of a reforestation project. Volunteers also cleared invasive shrubs - several trailer loads of invasives were removed and transported to a chipping area. Six flower beds were mulched and a team removed trash from a 1.5 mile section of Franklin Road. The workday was held on April 27.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 58  
- Trash removed: Trash was removed from a 0.5 acre area  
- Invasive plants removed: Several trailer loads of invasive shrubs were removed from another 0.5 acre section of the grounds

### Canton

**Lower Rouge Recreational Trail**  
Morton Taylor Road north of Michigan Avenue  
Coordinated by: Anne Naszradi, Canton Township  

Project summary: Celebration of the River

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 244  
- Local groups: Schuler, Girl scouts, Boy scouts, Robotics club, Charter school  
- Trash removed: 2.97 cubic yards of trash was removed from a 3 mile area, including 3 tires, plastic water bottles, alcohol/beer bottles, wrappers, kids toys, and fishing gear  
- Invasive plants removed: 2.23 cubic yards of garlic mustard were removed from a 1,000 sq ft area along the Lower Rouge  
- Plantings: Reestablished a rain garden. Planted remaining plants around Canton Twp ponds in Heritage Park. Planted 380 native flowers/grasses in a 525 sq ft area  
- Other activities: Public education activities, nature walks  
- Trails maintained: 3 miles  
- Details: Removed trash and woody debris from trail. Public education - Leslie Science Center (Hunter w Eagle), building bird houses, scavenger hunt, word puzzles and coloring bugs for children

**Meadows Of Canton**  
Lotz Road between Cherry Hill and Palmer Roads  
Coordinated by: Keshav Raizada, Meadows of Canton  

Project summary: Around 2 mile area cleaned - from Lotz Rd to Cherry Hill and Palmer

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 112  
- Trash removed: 1.34 cubic yards of trash were removed from 2 miles of river

### Rivers Edge (new site)

**Gold Ridge Lane and High Meadow Crossing**  
Coordinated by: Maureen Rice, Canton resident  

Project summary: Volunteers worked in and around the river in the subdivision. Trash and construction debris was cleaned up. Trees and natural material blocking culverts was cleared away. Volunteers also mulched and trimmed trees and bushes around the river and ponds.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 16  
- Local groups: Rivers Edge subdivision residents  
- Trash removed: 3.71 cubic yards of trash were removed, including construction debris and natural material  
- # Log jams managed: 2  
- Details: opened 2 culverts/grates that were blocked with natural debris

### Workman Elementary Habitat

**Cherry Hill and Denton Roads**  
Coordinated by: Lisa Bank, Workman Elementary  

Project summary: Teasel, thistle and clover were removed from the schoolyard habitat paths. Volunteers also picked up trash from the schoolyard.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 13  
- Local groups: Workman PTO, local high school and middle school students  
- Trash removed: 0.15 cubic yards of trash were removed from a 0.25 acre sq. ft. area, including plastic bottles and loose garbage  
- Invasive plants removed: 1.19 cubic yards of teasel, thistle, and clover were removed from a 0.25 acre sq ft area

Volunteers weed a native prairie restoration and improve pathways at the Workman Elementary Habitat work site.
Site Highlights (continued)

**Dearborn**

**Henry Ford Community College**  
Southwest of Ford and Evergreen Roads  
Coordinated by: Sam Greco, Henry Ford Community College  
Project summary: Removed garlic mustard, honeysuckle and buckthorn from Ford Rd overpass to campus. Painted sewer grates. Hot dog cookout for volunteers.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 47  
- Invasive plants removed: 38.91 cubic yards of garlic mustard, honeysuckle and buckthorn were removed along the bike trail from the Ford Road overpass to Kingfisher Bluff  
- Other activities: Painting "Dump No Waste" near storm drains along HFCC campus drive

**Garlic Mustard Pull Together**  
Evergreen and Michigan Avenue  
Coordinated by: Martha Gruelle, Stewardship Network Lakeplain Cluster  
Karen Marzonie, Henry Ford Estate  
Cynidi Ross, Friends of the Rouge  
Rick Simek, University of Michigan–Dearborn  
Project summary: On April 27th, four organizations joined forces to pull garlic mustard from the UM-D campus and the grounds of the Henry Ford Estate.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 27  
- Local groups: See above  
- Invasive plants removed: 7.43 cubic yards of garlic mustard were removed

**Ford Field Greenway Trail**  
Brady Street north of Michigan Avenue  
Coordinated by: Thomas Trimble, Christ Episcopal Church-Dearborn  
Project summary: Picked up trash at the Rouge River Gateway Trail trailhead

**University of Michigan - Dearborn**  
Evergreen Road between Michigan Avenue and Ford Road  
Coordinated by:  
Sydney Parmenter, University of Michigan – Dearborn  
Rick Simek, Environmental Interpretive Center  
Jill Lucas, Friends of the Rouge  
Project summary: Participants learned about the impact of invasive plant species. Volunteers then stomped Japanese knotweed – a pioneering technique originally used in the UK to manage the species - Rick Simek followed up with herbicide treatments later in the growing season.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 19  
- Local groups: Dearborn High Key Club (Teen Kiwanis)  
- Invasive plants removed: Stomped Japanese knotweed to stress the plants and later treated with herbicide  
- Other activities: Public education activities

**Eliza Howell Park**  
Fenkell Street east of Telegraph Road  
Coordinated by: Larry Quarles, Friends of Eliza Howell Park  
Project summary: Volunteers joined the activities at the Rouge Park work site due to a low turnout at this site

**Dearborn Heights**

**Outer Drive at Hines Drive**  
Helm’s Haven Rec Area, Hines Drive  
Project summary: The site was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. One dedicated volunteer hung out and pulled garlic mustard from the floodplain even though nobody else showed up.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 16  
- Trash removed: 1.63 cubic yards of trash removed from a 1,000 sq. ft. area, including 1 construction barrel and 2 large metal rails

**Parkland Park**  
Ann Arbor Trail east of Outer Drive  
Coordinated by: Barbra Goryca and Steven Roberts, Dearborn Heights Watershed Stewards Commission  
Project summary: Volunteers worked to maintain 30 trees the Watershed Stewards planted 2 years ago. Weeds were removed from around the trees and then wood chips were placed around them.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 37  
- Local groups: Crestwood HS National Honor Society Students  
- Other activities: Woody debris management, public education activities, nature walks  
- Trails maintained: 1 mile

**Detroit**

**Rouge Park Spring Clean-up**  
Joy Road and Spinoza Drive  
Coordinated by: Sally Petrella, Friends of Rouge Park  
Project summary: Volunteers cleaned trash along Spinoza and the Brennan Pools parking lot on April 27.

**Highlights**  
- # Volunteers: 13  
- Local groups: Friends of Rouge Park, City of Detroit, Far West Civic Association, West Outer Driver Civic Association, Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association  
- Trash removed: 5.94 cubic yards of trash removed, including 2 tires, 2 mattresses, kitchen tear out, 200 sq ft tile, 5 gallon paint buckets, drywall, dead geese and 3 dead dogs

**Hauling trash from the woods in Rouge Park.**

**Dearborn Heights volunteers gather for a photo**
Rouge Park
Southeast corner of Joy & Spinoza

Coordinated by: Sally Petrella, Friends of Rouge Park
Site Sponsored by: Friends of Rouge Park, City of Detroit, Detroit Aero Modelers, Greening of Detroit, Commissioner Alisha Bell

Project summary: A large group from Social Security cleaned up paint ball debris and opened a log jam; three groups pulled garlic mustard including a group from Marathon; a student in Greening of Detroit’s Our Land program pulled garlic mustard and planted 7 trees; Aristeo Construction removed one car; weeded a planting at Warren Rd; replaced 6 Grow Zone signs; lunch cooked by Detroit Aero Modelers; LTU students showed their master plan ideas; Dtown Farm and Buffalo Soldiers barn had volunteers work on maintenance.

Highlights
- # Volunteers: 251
- Local groups: Friends of Rouge Park, Scouts, Social Security, Marathon
- Trash removed: 22.28 cubic yards of trash removed, including 1 vehicle, hot tub, mattress, pallets, plywood, and 2 dead dogs
- Invasive plants removed: 12.48 cubic yards of garlic mustard were removed from an 80,000 sq ft area
- Plantings: Seven large native trees were planted as part of a planting of 135 trees. Planting at Warren weeded and thinned
- Other activities: Woody debris management, public education activities, trail maintenance
- # Log jams opened: 1
- Details: 6 Grow Zone signs were replaced, one blockage on a Rouge tributary opened, trail cleaned, park master plans presented

St. Paul of the Cross Retreat
Schoolcraft Road east of Telegraph

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

Project summary: Pulled and bagged lots of garlic mustard and picked up several bags of trash. Lunch was provided for all volunteers.

Highlights
- # Volunteers: 24
- Local groups: FOTR, Brightmoor residents, St Paul volunteers and staff
- Trash removed: Cement, bricks, and misc. trash
- Invasive plants removed: 1.49 cubic yards of garlic mustard were removed

Farmington

Shiawassee Park
Powers Road north of Grand River Avenue

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

Project summary: Volunteers worked to remove invasive plants from a restoration planting originally installed in 2004.

Highlights
- # Volunteers: 10
- Invasive plants removed: 7.49 cubic yards of garlic mustard, Dame’s rocket, buckthorn, and honeysuckle were removed from a 6,000 sq ft area
- Details: 10 bags of garlic mustard and Dame’s Rocket (herbaceous) were removed and 6 cubic yards of honeysuckle and buckthorn (woody shrubs) were cut and/or pulled from the planting

Farmington Hills
Botsford Commons Community (new site)
Tuck Road at 9 Mile Road

Coordinated by: Mike Coggins, Dave Comiskey and Maureen O’Connell, Botsford Commons Senior Community

Project summary: Established a path along the river, cleaned up trash, opened log jams.

Highlights
- # Volunteers: 15
- Local groups: Botsford Commons Community, neighbors
- Trash removed: 1.78 cubic yards of trash were removed from a 5,000 sq. ft area.
- # Log jams opened: 2

Heritage Park
Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile Roads.

Coordinated by: Randy Lovett, City of Farmington Hills

Project summary: Volunteers were split into four groups. Group 1 pulled garlic mustard (girl scouts), Group 2 cut and chipped buckthorn and honey suckle, Group 3 planted native trees in an area buckthorn had been removed in 2012, Group 4 pulled garlic mustard along the nature trails.

Highlights
- # Volunteers: 67
- Local groups: Girl scouts, the Volunteers of Heritage Park Hill and Dale Garden Club, neighborhood associations
- Invasive plants removed: 7,813.68 cubic yards of garlic mustard were removed from a 4,000 sq ft area
- Plantings: Installed 200 trees and a 1,225 sq ft native plant demonstration garden

Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge
Farmington Road south of 12 Mile Road

Coordinated by: Mike Kadrofske, Oakland Community College

Project summary: Volunteers worked to clean up trash. Styrofoam, plastic jugs, paper products were some of the common items removed from the stream and bank areas. Volunteers also worked to remove invasive plants and filled approximately 20 bags with invasive plants.

Highlights
- # Volunteers: 28
- Trash removed: 2.97 cubic yards of trash removed from 0.5 Mile section Minnow Creek, including styrofoam, plastic jugs, and paper products
- Invasive plants removed: 2.97 cubic yards of garlic mustard and phragmites were removed

Canterbury Commons Subdivision
13 Mile Road east of Farmington Road

Coordinated by: Robert Elliott, Canterbury Commons HOA

Project summary: Volunteers weeded the streambank stabilization planting installed with Friends of the Rouge last fall and cleaned trash from the stream.

Highlights
- # Volunteers: 67
- Local groups: Girl scouts, the Volunteers of Heritage Park Hill and Dale Garden Club, neighborhood associations
- Invasive plants removed: 7,813.68 cubic yards of garlic mustard were removed from a 4,000 sq ft area
- Plantings: Installed 200 trees and a 1,225 sq ft native plant demonstration garden

A vehicle (in pieces) and other debris removed by the Aristeo Construction team fill this truck in Rouge Park.
Site Highlights (continued)

**Bosch Builds Workday (new site)**
12 Mile and Halsted Roads

Coordinated by: Pascale Fallot, Robert Bosch, LLC

Project summary: Removed Canada thistle, garbage and garlic mustard around the east side of the Bosch building and into the ravine.

**Livonia**

**Coventry Gardens Park**
Farmington Road and 5 Mile Road

Coordinated by: Chuck Eastman, Coventry Gardens Improvement Association

Project summary: Good weather, lots of energy, no one fell in the water, a good day

**Moelke Park**
Seven Mile Road west of Inkster Road

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

Project summary: Moved to rain day make-up on 6/8/13. 6/1/13 was scheduled date and rain/high water caused issues. Picked up trash from 7 Mile to 8 Mile Rds; planted natives and opened log jams

**Northville**

**Allen Drive Park**
8 Mile and Novi Roads

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

Project summary: Removed garlic mustard, buckthorn and trash from a portion of Allen Drive Park. Followed by neighborhood pot luck and bird house building, painting and erecting. A donation from Hiller's Market allowed organizers to purchase water for the work site.

**Mill Race Village**
Griswold north of 7 Mile Road

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

Project summary: Placed coir log to prevent erosion and created a buffer zone of native plantings

**Northville Township**

**Bennett Arboretum**
Hines Drive south of 7 Mile Road

Coordinated by: Wayne County Commissioner Lora Cox

Project summary: Volunteers removed trash and weeded a native grow zone

**Northville Twp Fire Station (new site)**
Six Mile and Sheldon Roads

Coordinated by: Jill Rickard & Tom Casari, Northville Township

Project summary: Volunteers worked to install a rain garden at the new fire station.

**Novi**

**Rotary Park**
9 Mile Road between Novi and Meadowbrook Roads

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

Project summary: The river was too high and running too fast to work in. Volunteers removed trash, pulled weeds, planted flowers and maintained trails.
**Highlights**

- # Volunteers: 68
- Local groups: Rotary Club, Togrum, Beautification Commission, Frog Force, Troop 1826, Pack 239, Girl Scouts, Individuals
- Trash removed: 2.82 cubic yards of trash were removed from a 66 acre area
- Plantings: Installed a 400 sq ft bio-swale with 8 flats of flowers
- Trails maintained: 1 mile

**Plymouth**

**Woods Drive Area of Hines Parkway**

Hines Drive west of Haggerty Road

Coordinated by: Adam Gerlach, City of Plymouth

Project summary: The site was cancelled the day before the event due to high water and the poor weather forecast

**Plymouth Township**

**Pointe Park**

Ann Arbor Road and Ann Arbor Trail

Coordinated by: Susan Vignoe, Charter Township of Plymouth

**Project summary:** Native species planting along Tyler Creek

**Highlights**

- # Volunteers: 22
- Local groups: AISIN Associates, FOTR Member
- Trash removed: 0.30 cubic yards of trash were removed from the east shore of Newburgh Lake along Newburgh Road.
- Plantings: 51 plants were installed to create a buffer along Tyler Creek.

**Southfield**

**Berberian Woods**

12 Mile and Telegraph Road

Coordinated by: Gail Barber, Southfield Resident

Supported by: Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy & Southfield Parks and Recreation

Project summary: Volunteers pulled invasive plants from the Berberian Woods section of the Valley Woods Nature Preserve

**Highlights**

- # Volunteers: 29
- Local groups: DENSO, Southfield
- Invasive plants removed: 28.96 cubic yards of garlic mustard, Dame’s rocket, and honeysuckle were removed from a 5 acre area

**Redford**

**Lola Valley**

Beech Daly south of 6 Mile Road

Coordinated by: Erin Cassady & Justin Wehrheim, Friends of the Rouge

Project summary: Volunteers cleaned up litter and pulled garlic mustard. Work was done on Redford Twp’s property at Woodbine and Graham. There was also a group that picked up litter around Lola Valley in the disc golf course.

**Highlights**

- # Volunteers: 38
- Local groups: Boy Scouts, Hilbert school teacher and students
- Trash removed: 1.49 cubic yards of trash removed from a 13.5 acre area, including 1 tire, 1 shopping cart and a garbage can
- Invasive plants removed: 4.75 cubic yards of garlic mustard were removed from a 0.75 acre area
- Other activities: Public education activities
- Details: Redford Twp provided informational material

**Redford Chiropractic (new site)**

5 Mile Road west of Telegraph Road

Coordinated by: Dr. Kim M. Zell, Redford Chiropractic

Project summary: Volunteers cleaned up trash and opened a large log jam and placed the wood along the bank to reduce erosion.

**Highlights**

- # Volunteers: 22
- Trash removed: 2.82 cubic yards of trash removed, including 1 tire, pvc pipe, plastic signs, glass, chair, plywood, blanket, and chair cushion
- Bank stabilization: 40 linear feet stabilized with woody debris
- # Log jams managed: 2

**Bosch Builds Workday (new site)**

5 Mile and Haggerty Roads

Coordinated by: Todd Brigmon, Robert Bosch, LLC

Project summary: A walk was held to inform Bosch Associates of the protected wetlands on the grounds and the value/benefits these areas provide. Employees learned about the great work the Bosch green team has completed including creating habitat for bees, installing nesting boxes for birds and wood ducks and creating an organic vegetable garden.

**Spotsylvania**

**Summit Woods**

6750 Westmoreland Drive

Coordinated by: Amanda L. German, City of Fredericksburg

Project summary: Volunteers planted native trees at Summit Woods.

**Highlights**

- # Volunteers: 54
- Local groups: VCU, Fredericksburg Parks
- Invasive plants removed: 12 cubic yards of garlic mustard were removed
- Plantings: 55 native trees were planted
- Other activities: Public education activities
- Details: VCU provided informational material

**Redford Chiropractic (current site)**

5 Mile and Telegraph Road

Coordinated by: David Narvaez

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

**Highlights**

- # Volunteers: 29
- Local groups: Redford Chiropractic, Southfield Township
- Invasive plants removed: 28.96 cubic yards of garlic mustard, Dame’s rocket, and honeysuckle were removed from a 5 acre area

**Beech Woods Recreation Center & DENSO Corporate Campus**

Beech Road at 9 Mile & 10 Mile and Telegraph Road

Coordinated by: Brandy Siedlaczek, City of Southfield

Melissa Smith, DENSO International America, Inc

Project summary: Volunteers worked to remove invasive plants from sites in Southfield and the DENSO corporate campus. A native plant garden was installed on the DENSO campus. Public education activities were also coordinated at the DENSO work site and children painted bird, bat and owl boxes.

**Highlights**

- # Volunteers: 143
- Local groups: DENSO, Korean Presbyterian Church
- Invasive plants removed: 34.61 cubic yards of garlic mustard were removed
- Plantings: Installed a Native Plant Garden
- Other activities: Public education activities
- Details: Bird/bat box: 9 bird, 3 owl, 6 bat
Site Highlights (continued)

Wayne

**Goudy Park**
Wayne Road and Michigan Avenue

Coordinated by: Kurt Kuban, Resident of Wayne

Site Sponsored by: Wayne Rotary Club

Project summary: The work occurred over two days (6/1 and 6/8). The first day volunteers pulled invasives from the stormwater basins at city hall. The second day a group of about 15 worked to open log jams between Newburgh and Wayne roads. Other volunteers worked to remove trash and open log jams between Elizabeth and Wayne roads.

**Highlights**
- # Volunteers: 129
- Local groups: Boy scouts, PD Graham Elementary, local volunteers, MPC
- Trash removed: 14.46 cubic yards of trash were removed from 1/2 mile of river, including 24 tires, 20+ shopping carts, bikes, tar mixing tub, lots of bottles, lawn blower, and a large steel rail that was pulled out by DPW
- Invasive plants removed: 4.46 cubic yards of garlic mustard, honeysuckle, and other invasives were removed from stormwater basins
- Other activities: Woody debris management
- Trails maintained: 1/2 mile
- # Log jams managed: 10
- Details: Had a great crew opening log jams between Newburgh/Wayne Roads

Nearly 15 cubic yards of trash was removed from the river in Wayne—including 24 tires and 20 shopping carts!

Superior Twp

**Kosch-Headwaters Preserve**
Ford and Prospect Roads.

Coordinated by: Carla Bisaro, Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

Site Sponsored by: Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, Superior Land Conservancy Chapter, Washtenaw County Parks and Rec Commission

Project summary: Washtenaw County Parks and Rec. naturalist gave background on garlic mustard and showed features of the maple/beech forest and why we seek to preserve it. Volunteers worked to pull garlic mustard.

**Highlights**
- # Volunteers: 14
- Local groups: Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy, Superior Land Conservancy, Girl Scouts, Archive Charter Academy
- Invasive plants removed: 2.08 cubic yards of garlic mustard were removed
- Details: Because of previous years’ efforts, garlic mustard was thin, but spread out - we covered a lot of area
- Other activities: Public education activities, nature walk

Denso volunteers create a native wildflower garden at their corporate headquarters in Southfield.

Westland

**Holliday Nature Preserve**
Wayne Road south of Joy Road

Coordinated by: Kevin Buford, City of Westland

Bill Craig, Holliday Nature Preserve Association

Project summary: Trash cleanup, woody debris management and painted over graffiti on Wayne Road bridge. (1,800 sq ft)

**Highlights**
- # Volunteers: 58
- Trash removed: 8.91 cubic yards of trash removed, including 6 Shopping carts, Lazy Boy chair, tent, blankets, bed springs, car seat, plywood, stroller, folding chair, glass bottles, plastic bottles, and styrofoam
- Invasive plants removed: 15.45 cubic yards of garlic mustard (bags), honeysuckle and buckthorn (chipped) were removed from a 1,000 sq ft area
- Other activities: Woody debris management, painting over graffiti
- # Log jams managed: 1

Participants at the Kosch-Headwaters Preserve work site were treated to an educational walk in the beech-maple woodland in Superior Township.

Volunteers improve the appearance of the river by painting the Wayne Road bridge in the Holliday Nature Preserve.

Site Coordinator Larry Quarles and wife Nancy staff the registration table at the Eliza Howell Park work site.
I hope that when my life ends,
I would have added
a little beauty, perception,
and quality for those who follow

Jacob Lawrence, American artist

Your participation in Rouge Rescue will have
a lasting impact and will improve the
Rouge River...for today and tomorrow.
Thank you Sponsors

PROTECTOR

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STEWARD

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Friends of the Rouge extends a heartfelt thank you to all who participated in Rouge Rescue 2013! The Rouge River is flowing a little cleaner because of you.

Also funded by

Rouge Rescue was celebrated at the Redford Twp. Memorial Day Parade, thanks to FOTR Member Michael Stack.

Join us for Rouge Rescue 2014  ~  Saturday, May 17th

Friends of the Rouge

Promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River since 1986

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