

Rouge Rescue Report



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 work to remove invasive plants from the river corridor, install native plantings and stabilize stream banks to improve the health of the river.

2009 Successes

Over 2,200 volunteers joined forces to Rescue the Rouge at 37 worksites in 25 communities in Southeast Michigan for Rouge Rescue 2009. Volunteers removed 76 cubic feet and 710 bags of trash including tires, construction debris, furniture, appliances and bicycles from the river corridor. Four cars were removed from the river this year, thanks to the continued participation of Aristeo Construction who removed 3 and the Detroit Water and Sewer Department (DWSD) for removing the 4th. This brings the total number of cars removed during Rouge Rescue events to 20 ½ since 2006. The Friends of the Rouge team appreciates Aristeo Construction and DWSD supplying the equipment and manpower to remove these eyesores from the river.



Aristeo Construction removed 3 vehicles and other debris from the Rouge River in Detroit's Rouge Park



Volunteers also removed 492 bags of garlic mustard and Dame's rocket. These 2 invasive plant species have taken over the understory of our local woodlands across the Rouge watershed and throughout the Great Lakes region. They are easily hand pulled but it takes many hands and a major commitment to work at removing these invaders for years to come to reduce the population. Nineteen sites worked to remove invasive plants.

Volunteers in Farmington Hills work to remove invasive shrubs from the forest

2009 Successes (continued)

Ten sites worked to restore the Rouge by planting trees and native wildflowers. Activities at 9 sites involved volunteers in managing wood in the river; removing all man-made trash, opening the flow and using the wood to stabilize eroding stream banks. Eight sites provided river stewardship education or conducted educational activities for the young volunteers in their community.

These accomplishments could not be achieved without our partners who coordinate the sites, volunteers who participate in the event and corporate sponsors and the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project who provide funds to sustain the event. Friends of the Rouge extends a big thank you to everyone involved.



A team of boys are preparing to search for debris in the stream under the direction of Peter Benz of the Wayne County Dept of Environment at the Meadows of Canton neighborhood site

To volunteer or learn about sponsorship opportunities contact Cyndi Ross at (313) 792-9621 or riverrestoration@therouge.org.



Meadows of Canton Neighborhood, Canton



Rotary Park, Novi



Lola Valley Park, Redford



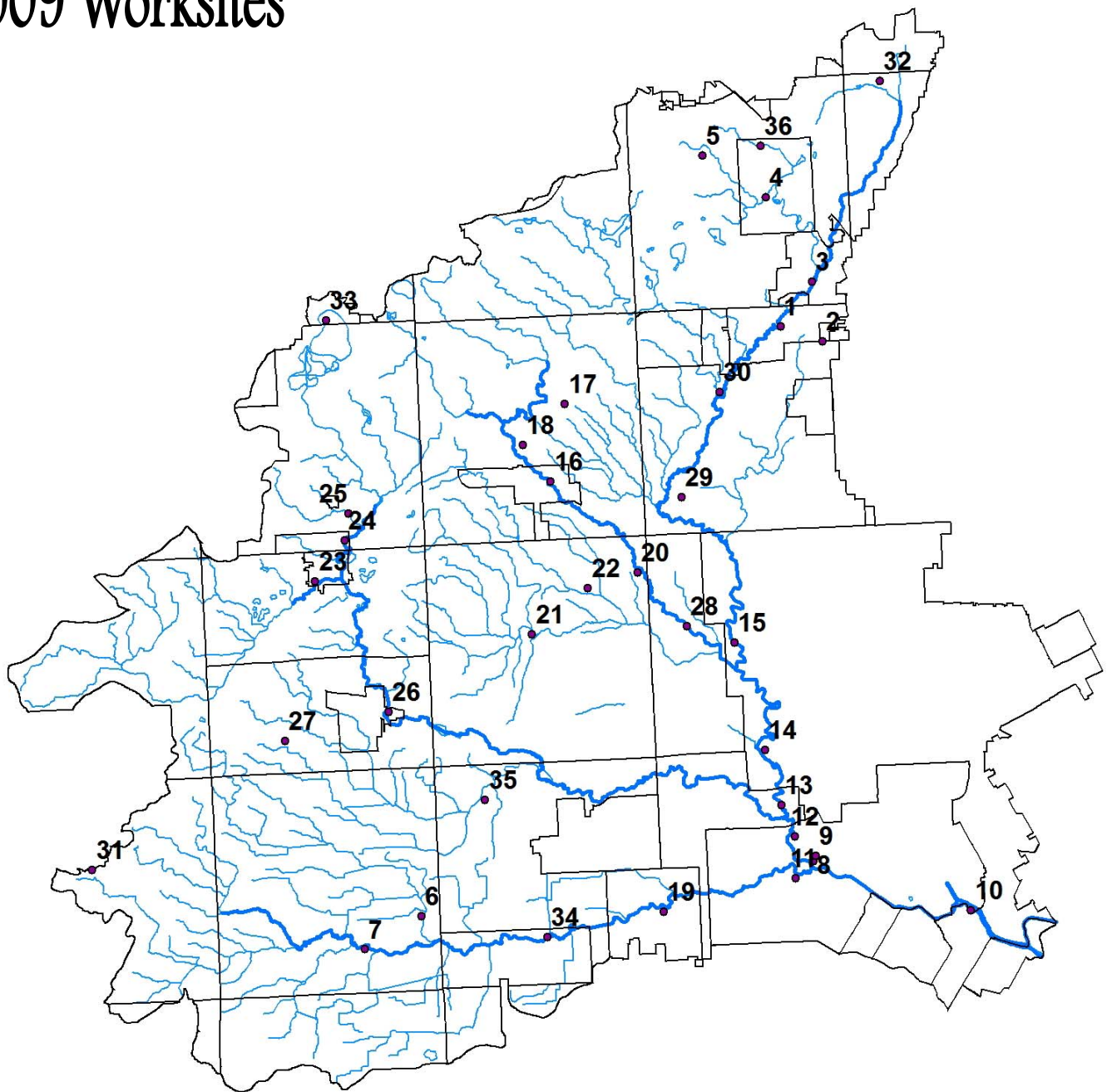
D-Town Farm, Rouge Park, Detroit

MiEarth Covers Rouge Rescue Event

Several Rouge Rescue worksites were featured on the MiEarth website. The website, developed by Detroit Public Television (DPTV), celebrates environmental work in Michigan and educates the public about environmental issues and inspires them to be active in their community. A cameraman from DPTV and Friends of the Rouge Board Member, Mike Darga, visited Rouge Rescue sites in Detroit, Redford, Southfield and Farmington to interview volunteers and capture the flavor of this river clean up and stewardship event. Videos were also aired between shows on Detroit Public TV during the months of June and July.

Visit www.miearth.org to see Aristeo Construction removing cars from the river's floodplain, scouts removing garlic mustard and volunteers working at the D Town Farm in Detroit's Rouge Park. Additional videos include DENSO International America employees working along the river in Southfield, volunteers working in Eliza Howell Park in the City of Detroit, children caring for the river in Shiawassee Park in Farmington, and more. To find the videos enter Rouge Rescue in the search box at the top of the MiEarth home page. While you are there, check out the site and learn what others are doing to help improve our environment. Thank you DPTV for celebrating environmental stewardship by sharing our event with others.

2009 Worksites



- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 Douglas Evans Nature Preserve | 10 Fordson Island | 20 Moelke Park | 30 Berberian Woods |
| 2 Beverly Hills Ace | 11 Greenway Trail | 21 Coventry Gardens | 31 Kosch Headwaters Preserve |
| 3 Linden Park | 12 HFCC | 22 Beverly Park | 32 Stage Nature Center |
| 4 Cranbrook | 13 Parkland Park | 23 Fish Hatchery Park | 33 Walled Lake Beach Cleanup |
| 5 E.L. Johnson Nature Center | 14 Rouge Park | 24 Allen Drive Park | 34 Dynamite Park |
| 6 Meadows of Canton | 15 Eliza Howell | 25 Rotary Park Novi | 35 Holiday-Wilderness Park Drive |
| 7 Canton Recreation Trail | 16 Shiawassee Park | 26 Woods Drive, Plymouth | 36 Roeper School |
| 8 HF Estate | 17 OCC Orchard Ridge | 27 Plymouth Twp Park | |
| 9 UM Dearborn | 18 Heritage Park | 28 Lola Valley Park | |
| | 19 Inkster | 29 Beech Woods Rec / DENSO | |

Site Highlights

Beverly Hills

Douglas Evans Nature Preserve and Riverside Park

Evergreen Road between 13 Mile and 14 Mile Roads, Beverly Hills

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Howard Knorr

Sponsoring organization: Beverly Hills Resident

Volunteers: 25

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 1 bag of trash,
Invasive plant removal: 24 bags of garlic mustard removed
Other: 2 log jams removed and 1 opened.

Green Gardening for the Rouge River

Beverly Hills ACE Hardware, 17670 W. 13 Mile Rd., Beverly Hills

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Lillian Dean

Sponsoring organization: Southeast Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA)

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:
Invasive plant removal:
Other: Public education display and demos featuring green gardening systems, composting and earth-friendly fertilizer

Birmingham

Linden Park

Between West Lincoln and Linden Road off Shirley., Birmingham

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Connie Folk

Sponsoring organization: City of Birmingham

Volunteers: 30

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 1 bag of trash from a 1 mile section of floodplain.
Invasive plant removal: Volunteers removed 58 bags of garlic mustard.
Other:

Bloomfield Hills

Cranbrook Institute of Science

39221 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Lisa Appel

Sponsoring organization: Cranbrook Institute of Science

Volunteers: 30

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:
Invasive plant removal: Volunteers removed 21 bags of garlic mustard
Other:

EL Johnson Nature Center

3325 Franklin Road, Bloomfield Hills

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Noah Mehalski/ Dan Badgely

Sponsoring organization: Bloomfield Township/ EL Johnson Nature Center

Volunteers: 30

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 10 bags of trash. Approx. .25 acre cleaned.
Invasive plant removal:
Other: Planted 4.5 lbs of native prairie mix on hillside as part of a Grow Zone project and covered with erosion control blanket.

Roeper School

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Bill Eisenman

Sponsoring organization: Roeper School

Volunteers: 14

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 6 bags of trash. Cleaned an area 1/2 mile long by 60 feet wide.
Invasive plant removal: Removed invasive plants
Other: Opened 4 log jams.

Canton

Canton Recreation Trail

Along the Lower Rouge River on the north side of Michigan Ave, just west of Morton Taylor, Canton

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Greg Pyle

Sponsoring organization: Canton Township

Volunteers: 369

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 50 bags and 17.25 cubic yards of trash cleaning about 2.5 miles. Items removed included 1/2 a vehicle, 17 tires, construction debris, concrete, bricks, blocks and car parts.
Invasive plant removal:
Other: Volunteers also work in woody debris management, native plantings, bank stabilization, public education activities and enjoyed nature walks.

Meadows of Canton

Meadows of Canton Park and Lotz Road, Canton

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Kesh Raizada

Sponsoring organization: Wayne County Department of Environment

Volunteers: 135

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: 22 bags of trash and 4 tires were removed from the river and floodplain
Invasive plant removal:
Other: Volunteers also participated in public education activities such as benthic monitoring, bird house building, thermometer exchange and storm drain stenciling.

Dearborn

Henry Ford Estate

4901 Evergreen Road (University of Michigan- Dearborn. Meet at the Henry Ford Estate tour ticket office in the Greenhouse Potting Shed on the Estate grounds.

Project date: 5/30/2009

Coordinator: Karen Marzonie

Sponsoring organization: Henry Ford Estate

Volunteers: 14

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:
Invasive plant removal: 50 bags of garlic mustard removed.
Other:

Dearborn Greenway Trail

Michigan Avenue and Brady, Dearborn

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Thomas Trimble

Sponsoring organization: Christ Episcopal Church

Volunteers: 39

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 28 bags of trash, 4 tires, 1 fire extinguisher, 2 traffic cones, 1 sled and 4 picnic tables. Volunteers cleaned approximately 2 acre area.
Invasive plant removal: Volunteers removed 32 bags of garlic mustard.
Other: 2 log jams were opened.

Henry Ford Community College

5101 Evergreen Road. Meet at Gateway Trail at the west end of campus., Dearborn

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Margaret Martin

Site Highlights (continued)

Sponsoring organization: HFCC Student Environmental Association

Volunteers: 4

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: HFCC students picked up trash along the Gateway Trail

Invasive plant removal:

Other:

University of Michigan–Dearborn

Environmental Interpretive Center, 4901 Evergreen Road, Dearborn

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Sarah VanBuren

Sponsoring organization:

Volunteers: 69

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 5 bags of trash and garlic mustard.

Invasive plant removal:

Other: Wood chipped and lined 1/2 mile of trails, pruned brush along approximately 2 miles of trail and painted over graffiti on benches, fence and trash cans in the natural area.

Dearborn Heights

Parkland Park

Ann Arbor Trail, east of Outer Drive, Dearborn Heights

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Steven Roberts

Sponsoring organization: Dearborn Heights Watershed Stewards

Volunteers: 18

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:

Invasive plant removal: Volunteers spread 8 loads of compost over a 1200 sq ft area prepped by Dearborn Heights DPW and planted 40 native shrubs, 100 native plants and seeded with a native plant seed mix.

Other:

Detroit

Eliza Howell Park

South side of Fenkell (5 Mile Rd), east of Telegraph Road, Detroit

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Emily Hughes

Sponsoring organization: Friends of the Rouge

Volunteers: 13

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 33 bags and

44 cubic yards of trash; including 1 appliance, grill, wood, metal beams, carpet, concrete and plastic seats. Volunteers cleaned 1 Mile of roadway in the park.

Invasive plant removal: Removed 3 bags of garlic mustard.

Other:

Fordson Island

Powell Street off Heidt Street at concrete block wall, Detroit

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Marina Chavez–Camerena

Sponsoring organization: Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision

Volunteers: 25

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Fifteen cubic yards of construction debris was removed from the site, including cement slabs and rubble, drywall and wood planks. Seventy bags of trash and yard waste were also removed from a vacant city lot.

Invasive plant removal:

Other: Provided literature regarding properly disposing of bulk items in the City of Detroit. Posted a "NO DUMPING" sign at the site following the clean up event to detour future dumping.

Rouge Park

Joy Road and Spinoza, Detroit

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Sally Petrella & Sharon Mioduch

Sponsoring organization: Friends of Rouge Park, City of Detroit

Volunteers: 210

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 86 bags of trash, 3 vehicles, 3 tires, a couch, toilet, furnace, paint buckets, dressers, bathroom floor tiles, printer, propane tank, observer news stand and toys.

Invasive plant removal: 43 bags of garlic mustard was removed

Other: WDM, Native planting and public education

Farmington

Shiawassee Park

Park in the parking lot off Powers Road north of Grand River Ave (south of Shiawassee Road), Farmington

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Cyndi Ross & Martha Ross

Sponsoring organization: Friends of the Rouge

Volunteers: 38

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 2 bags of trash from the river corridor.

Invasive plant removal: Removed approximately 4 cubic yards of garlic mustard and dames rocket

Other: Conducted nature scavenger hunt with volunteers from Beechview Elementary School.

Farmington Hills

Heritage Park

Farmington Road, between 10 Mile and 11 Mile Roads.

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator:

Sponsoring organization: City of Farmington Hills

Volunteers: 39

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:

Invasive plant removal: Removed buckthorn and 1 bag of garlic mustard. Chipped 10 yards of buckthorn.

Other:

Oakland Community College

Orchard Ridge Campus, Oakland Drive between Farmington and Orchard Lake Roads, Farmington Hills

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Mike Kadrofske

Sponsoring organization: Oakland Community College

Volunteers: 25

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 25 bags of trash, cleaning 1/4 mile section of Minnow Creek.

Invasive plant removal:

Other:

Inkster

Lower Rouge, Inkster

Lower Rouge Corridor, Inkster

Project date: 5/16/2009

Coordinator: Archer Collins

Sponsoring organization: City of Inkster

Volunteers: 43

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:

Invasive plant removal: Cut and bundled honeysuckle bushes and removed from floodplain.

Site Highlights (continued)

Other:

Livonia

Beverly Park

30601 Pickford (Pickford and Flamingo, south of 7 Mile between Merriman and Middlebelt Roads), Livonia

Project date: 5/2/2009

Coordinator: Sharon Sabat & Felicia Cross

Sponsoring organization: City of Livonia

Volunteers: 48

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: 50 bags of trash removed from 1/2 mile area, including plastic resin chairs, pylon, plastic bags, bottles, nylon folding chairs, car battery, barricade cones, couch, aerosol cans, beer cans and metal pipes.

Invasive plant removal: Removed buck-thorn and garlic mustard seed.

Other:

Coventry Gardens Improvement Association

West of Farmington Road, north of 5 Mile Road in Coventry Gardens Sub. Meet at Stamford and Roycroft.

Project date: 5/9/2009

Coordinator: Chuck Eastman

Sponsoring organization: Coventry Gardens Improvement Association

Volunteers: 10

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 32 bags of trash, cans, bottles, drug container and misc plastic.

Invasive plant removal: Garlic mustard was removed

Other: Worked on 1 log jam

Botsford Park (Moelke Park)

19422 Lathers, Livonia

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Glenda Marks

Sponsoring organization: Trinity Church

Volunteers: 46

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: 38 bags of trash removed from 1 mile of river, including 2 55 gallon drums, old ford radiator, construction barricade and 1 1/2 bicycles.

Invasive plant removal: Garlic mustard was removed

Other: Public education material and information was provided.

Northville

Allen Drive Park

Novi Street (not Novi Road) at Allen Drive, Northville

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Selena Browne

Sponsoring organization: Northville resident

Volunteers: 6

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:

Invasive plant removal:

Other: Demonstrated the components of creating a prairie: tarping, peeling off sod, seed mixing and distribution.

Planted 100 sq. ft prairie and 2 black willows.

Northville Twp

Fish Hatchery Park

South of 7 Mile Road between Beck and Sheldon Roads, Northville Twp

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Jill Rickard

Sponsoring organization: Northville Twp

Volunteers: 121

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:

Invasive plant removal:

Other: Public education activities

Novi

Rotary Park

22220 Roethel Drive, south of 9 Mile Road between Novi and Meadowbrook Roads., Novi

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Wendy Devall

Sponsoring organization: City of Novi

Volunteers: 84

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 10 bags of trash and bottles, cans, sheet metal, shoes and plastic bags from river.,

Invasive plant removal:

Other: Volunteers planted a new bioswale and cleaned up an existing bioswale planting. Mulched flower planting, pulled weeds, cleared trails and installed bird houses. Volunteers also opened 3 log jams.

Plymouth

Woods Drive

Woods Drive is located in Hines Park between

Haggerty and Plymouth Road, Plymouth

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Chris Porman

Sponsoring organization: City of Plymouth

Volunteers: 23

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 32 bags of trash, 4 tires and a picnic table.

Invasive plant removal:

Other: Installed wood duck and wren houses

Plymouth Twp

Plymouth Twp Park

Plymouth Twp

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Susan Vignoe

Sponsoring organization: Plymouth Township

Volunteers: 63

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:

Invasive plant removal:

Other: Volunteers planted 150 evergreen seedlings

Redford Twp

Lola Valley Park

Meet at the CSO Basin in Lola Valle Park, 16201 Lola (east of Beech Daly, between 5 & 6 Mile Roads), Redford Twp

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Karyn Aho & Carl VanAartsen

Sponsoring organization: Redford Twp

Volunteers: 66

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 26 bags of trash, 1 car fender, 1 transmission, 2 garbage cans and 1 bicycle.

Invasive plant removal: Removed 12 33 gal bags from Bell Creek Park and 3 33 gal bags from Graham and Woodbine

Other: Managed 2 log jams

Southfield

Beech Woods Recreation Center/ DENSO

Beech Road just south of Nine Mile Road, Southfield

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Brandy Siedlaczek/ Kathryn Darga

Sponsoring organization: City of Southfield and DENSO International America

Volunteers: 206

Accomplishments:

Site Highlights (continued)

Trash removal: 2 shopping carts, hub cap, construction materials, wooden wheel, 2 large pieces of carpeting, a shoe and other debris.

Invasive plant removal: 166 bags of garlic mustard

Other: 5 log jams cleaned and opened.

DENSO International America

DENSO Corporate Campus, Southfield

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Kathryn Darga

Sponsoring organization: DENSO International America

Volunteers: 143

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: 2 shopping carts, hub cap, construction materials, wooden wheel, 2 large pieces of carpeting, a shoe and other debris.

Invasive plant removal: 166 bags of garlic mustard

Other:

Southfield

Berberian Woods

Section of the Valley Woods Nature Preserve. Meet at the end of Streamwood Lane, south of 12 Mile Road between Lasher and Telegraph Roads., Southfield

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Heather Huffstutler

Sponsoring organization: Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy

Volunteers: 12

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:

Invasive plant removal: Removed 33 gal bags of garlic mustard and Dame's rocket from floodplain

Other:

Superior Twp

Kosch Headwaters Preserve

8383 Vreeland Road, Superior Twp.

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Jack Smiley & Scott Tyrrell

Sponsoring organization: Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy

Volunteers: 5

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:

Invasive plant removal: Volunteers removed garlic mustard

Other:

Troy

Stage Nature Center

6685 Coolidge, Troy

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Jennifer Lawson

Sponsoring organization: City of Troy

Volunteers: 160

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: One bag of trash was removed from the nature center grounds.

Invasive plant removal: Volunteers removed 17 bags of garlic mustard

Other: Volunteers installed 700 sq ft rain garden and worked on 1200 lineal feet of wood in the river. Approx 50 small to medium log jams were cleaned and opened.

Walled Lake

Walled Lake Historic Lakefront

Mercer Beach and Historic Downtown Area. Meet at the DPW Building located at 1499 E West Maple Road, Walled Lake

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Lisa McGill

Sponsoring organization: City of Walled Lake

Volunteers: 6

Accomplishments:

Trash removal:

Invasive plant removal:

Other: Volunteers planted 24 plants in planters in Historic Lakefront Downtown and labeled storm 13 storm drains.

Wayne

Dynamite Park

Josephine Street (Michigan Avenue and Venoy), Wayne

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Kurt Kuban

Sponsoring organization: Kurt Kuban

Volunteers: 51

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 8 bags of trash, 1 moped and 1 bicycle,

Invasive plant removal:

Other: Volunteers improved trails, planted native plants and put up bird boxes. They also repaired bat boxes installed a few years ago.

Westland

Holliday Nature Preserve

Newburgh section of Holliday Nature Preserve - through Wilderness Park Apartments, 7280 Wilderness Park Drive, North of Warren Road, east of Newburgh Road.

Project date: 6/6/2009

Coordinator: Bill Craig & Bob Patterson

Sponsoring organization: City of Westland & the Holiday Nature Preserve Association

Volunteers: 68

Accomplishments:

Trash removal: Removed 20 bags of trash, 16 tires, 2 shopping carts, 4 doors, 1 construction cone, 1 wheelchair, 1 bike tire, construction wood, section of chain link fence and 1 piece of luggage.

Invasive plant removal: Small amount of invasive plant removal

Other: WDM (wood from log jam placed along bank), stabilized stream bank at 9 areas suffering from erosion and planted 4 trees. Opened 4 log jams

Sponsors

GOLD

DENSO



SILVER

Aristeo
CONSTRUCTION



BRONZE



OTHER



ATLAS SPECIALTY BAGS, INC.



HUBBELL, ROTH & CLARK, INC
Consulting Engineers



Join us for Rouge Rescue 2010 ~ Saturday, June 5th

Call Cyndi Ross at 313.792.9621 or go to www.therouge.org for more information

Supported, in part, by a grant from the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project.

Friends
of the **ROUGE**