



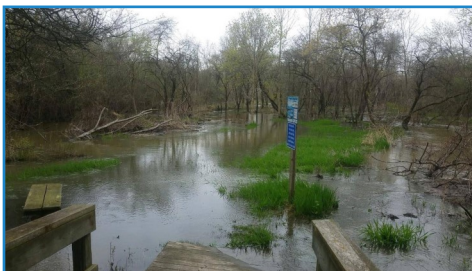
# ROUGE 2019 Rescue REPORT



Each spring, Friends of the Rouge partners with communities, supporters and organizations across the Rouge River community to restore, clean, protect, and appreciate the river and its natural areas for generations to come. This annual event, known as Rouge Rescue began in 1986 with community volunteers removing large quantities of trash from the river. As these 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 work is focused on invasive plant control, native plantings and stabilizing stream banks to improve the health of the river for all to enjoy.

*Connecting people across southeast Michigan to improve the Rouge River - for enjoyment today and for generations to come.*

## Event Summary



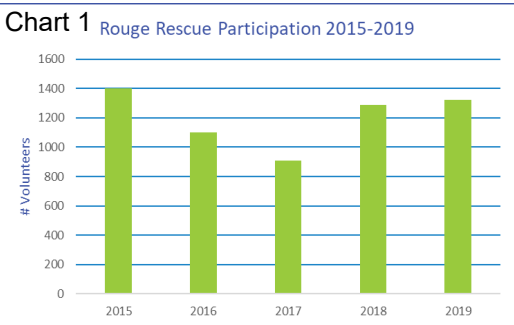
Flooding of the Rouge River at Novi's Rotary Park on May 2nd due to heavy rains.

Rouge Rescue 2019 attracted just over 1,300 volunteers who participated in river clean up and stewardship projects at 31 work sites in 18 communities across the Rouge River watershed. Activities were scheduled on multiple dates from late April to early June. The main event date was May 18th with 21 sites working on this day. Four (4) sites held early events: Merriman Hollow on 4/13 for an Earth Day celebration, E.L. Johnson Nature Center on 4/27, Henry Ford Estate on 5/11 and a new site, Riverside Park on 5/11 as well. Five (5) sites held later events: Newburgh Lake on 5/22, a rescheduled planting at Dozier Recreation Center on 5/25, Novi Cemetery on 6/1 in lieu of Rotary Park, Goudy Park on 6/1, and a second workday at Rouge Park on 6/3. Three (3) sites were canceled: Rotary Park in Novi on 5/4 due to park flooding, Cass Benton in Northville on 5/11 normally put on by Terry Marecki, and Canton High School on 5/18. Early morning rain seemed threatening on the 18th, but all events went

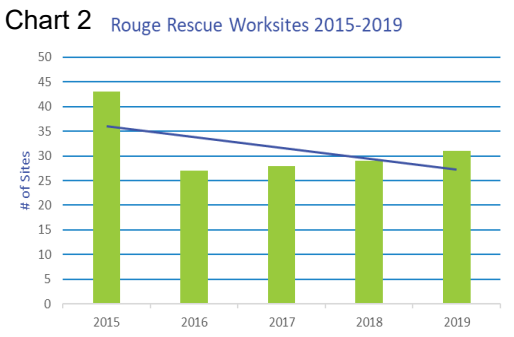
on as planned albeit with high river levels and safety in mind. The month of May began with heavy flooding in Detroit, Dearborn and many other Wayne County communities with the third wettest April on record for the area according to the National Weather Service. As extreme weather events continue due to climate change, our work in the watershed is vital in mitigating affects from these events to protect wildlife habitat and communities into the future.

# Event Summary (continued)

We thank all who participated in Rouge Rescue for the benefit of our Rouge River communities. Involvement of individuals, families, youth groups, conservation and faith based groups, and local businesses allow us to fulfill our mission. We are grateful for all our site coordinators who organize work days and provide time, money, and supplies, Rouge Rescue would not be possible without their support.



New this year was online pre-registration for volunteers on Friends of the Rouge's website along side of a new format for displaying and organizing all Rouge Rescue events. Visitors to the Rouge Rescue page were able to search by different criteria to find a site that works best for them. They could search by date, city, or activity. All event pages had a button to pre-register for that event along with a reminder email before the event date. Site Coordinators appreciated the pre-registration option to give them a better indication of how many volunteers they could expect the day of the event. As a bonus for pre-registering, volunteers were also entered to win a pair of Detroit Tigers tickets generously donated by Wayne County Commissioner Melissa Daub. A total of 220 entries registered 513 individual volunteers for themselves or a group.



Four (4) new sites were added to Rouge Rescue in 2019: Hine's Riverside Park in Plymouth, Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center in Inkster, Redford Cemetery and Novi Cemetery. With these new sites, we had 2 new site coordinators, Robert Hurley with Riverside Park and Kaitlyn Hines (and



assistant site coordinator Adrianna Jordan) with Dozier Recreation Center. This is the first year the City of Inkster has participated in Rouge Rescue and hope to keep them onboard into the future!

Early morning rains may have deterred some potential volunteers, but we still had 1100 individuals come to events on May 18th at 21 sites across the watershed. 2019 saw slightly more volunteers compared to 2018 (Chart 1), and an addition of 2 work sites (Chart 2). These numbers are lower than Rouge Rescues' past, but are on an incline over the last 3 years. Rouge Rescue 2019 also marketed later Merriman Hollow workdays and rain garden plantings in the greater Plymouth area through another Friends of the Rouge program to offer more opportunities to volunteers looking to work later or during the week. We hope that in 2020, we will continue to draw more volunteers, add work sites, and have the added benefit of celebrating 50 years of Earth Day in April.

## What were volunteers working on?

Volunteers were hard at work removing trash and invasive plants, installing native wildflowers and trees, conducting public education activities and more during Rouge Rescue 2019. Table 1 lists the number of sites working on each activity. A majority of work sites removed trash (21 sites) and removed invasive plants (20 sites). Thirteen (13) sites installed native plants which included native demonstration gardens, rain gardens, tree plantings and other landscape enhancement with native wildflowers. A variety of different educational activities were available at 9 sites. Six (6) sites had volunteers improving or maintaining trails and paths throughout the site. Woody Debris Management was implemented at 5 worksites to stabilize streambanks and improve water quality in the Rouge River.

Table 1: Site Participation by Activity	
Activity	# Sites
Trash Removal	21
Invasive Plant Removal	20
Native Planting	13
Educational Activities	9
Trail Maintenance	6
Woody Debris Management	5

# Event Summary (continued)

## What work was accomplished?

A summary of the work completed during Rouge Rescue 2019 is provided in Table 2.



Eliza Howell

### Trash Removal

Trash cleanup is what Rouge Rescue began with. It is the simplest way to improve any landscape and help protect wildlife in the watershed. We no longer are pulling whole vehicles from the river, but trash still finds its way into our waters. According to American Rivers, 22 billion plastic water bottles are thrown away yearly, taking anywhere between 500 to 1,000 years to break down, releasing chemicals and breaking down into smaller pieces. Plastic bottles are among the most common rubbish collected along with food wrappers and containers at Rouge Rescue events.

This year, volunteers filled 580 bags, equivalent to 52.5 cubic yards, of trash from the watershed at 21 cleanup sites. Items removed included a radio flyer wagon, a snowboard, a grill, a hose, an oil drum, sports balls, painting supplies, lawn chairs, 19 tires, 7 TVs, and 2 car bumpers. Rouge Park volunteers also found and saved a baby bird and a feline friend.

### Invasive Removal

Invasive species can be quite difficult to eradicate from an area once established. These efforts require continual work to manage their impact. Oakland County CIS-MA notes that invasive garlic mustard, which is originally from Europe, can spread quickly, out-competing understory plants and tree seedlings and make compounds that limit neighboring native species' germination. Play Clean Go suggest cleaning your boots, gear, pets, and vehicles after enjoying your outdoor activities to help prevent the spread of small garlic mustard seeds.

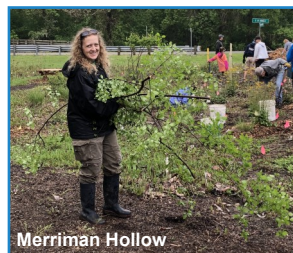
Twenty (20) Rouge Rescue sites worked on invasive species removal of glossy and common buckthorn, garlic mustard, honeysuckle, Dame's Rocket, and Narrowleaf bittercress. In total they removed 9113 cubic yards worth of invasive plant material from our parks and waterways.



Fair Lane Estate



Henry Ford College



Merriman Hollow



Rouge Park

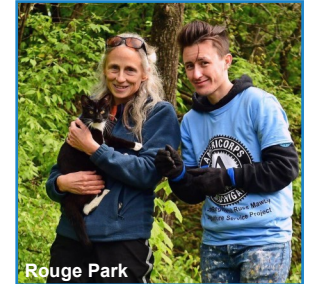
Table 2: Quantity and Type of Items Removed / Planted\*

Item	Quantity
Trash Removed	52.5 cubic yards
Shopping Carts Removed	0
Furniture & Appliances	9
Vehicles Removed	<i>only parts:</i> 19 tires, 2 car bumpers
Invasive Plants Removed	9113 cubic yards
Native Flowers & Grasses	1550
Native Trees & Shrubs	39

\*Based on submitted site data



Eliza Howell



Rouge Park

### Rouge Rescue Big Four Invasive Plants



# Event Summary (continued)

## Plantings

Native plants are crucial in controlling flooding by creating vertical infiltration of rainwater and securing river bank soils to prevent erosion from flood events. The species chosen have root systems that penetrate deep into the soil to infiltrate water once they are established. These roots help regenerate ground water supplies and reduce surface water pooling and anchor soils. These plants also provide habitat for pollinators like bees, butterflies, bats, and birds and are great to replace areas where invasive species are removed. The Audubon says that in order for native birds to survive, they need native plants and the insects that have co-evolved with them. With shrinking native land cover, planting native species is essential to maintain a healthy ecosystem. These events also encourage participating volunteers to plant native species on their own property to help support pollinators and create a more connected habitat across the watershed.



Rouge Rescue 2019 had 13 sites planting native flowers, grasses, shrubs, and trees to enhance the native landscape. These sites planted 1550 native flowers and grasses in demonstration and rain gardens and 39 trees and shrubs. Our 2 cemetery sites, in Novi and Redford, planted native flowers to honor veteran graves and beautify the grounds. Some of the native flowers installed include butterfly weed, swamp milkweed, Joe-pye weed, blue lobelia, bee balm, marsh blazing star, wild strawberry, cardinal flower, columbine, Indian grass, goldenrod, coneflower and more!

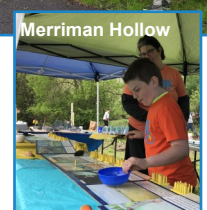
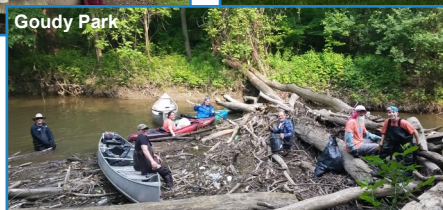
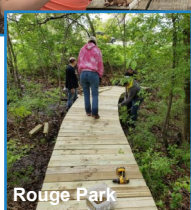
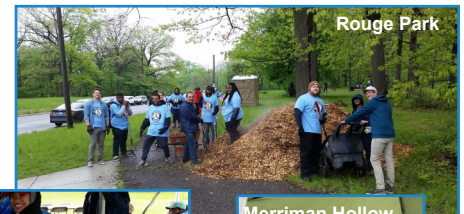
## Other Activities

Friends of the Rouge supports the recreational value of our community park and natural area trails to connect people to their Rouge River. This year, 6 sites maintained 3,800 feet of trails throughout the parks. Trails were wood chipped and raked for a smooth walking path. Rouge park also installed some wooden walkways where the terrain was more uneven.

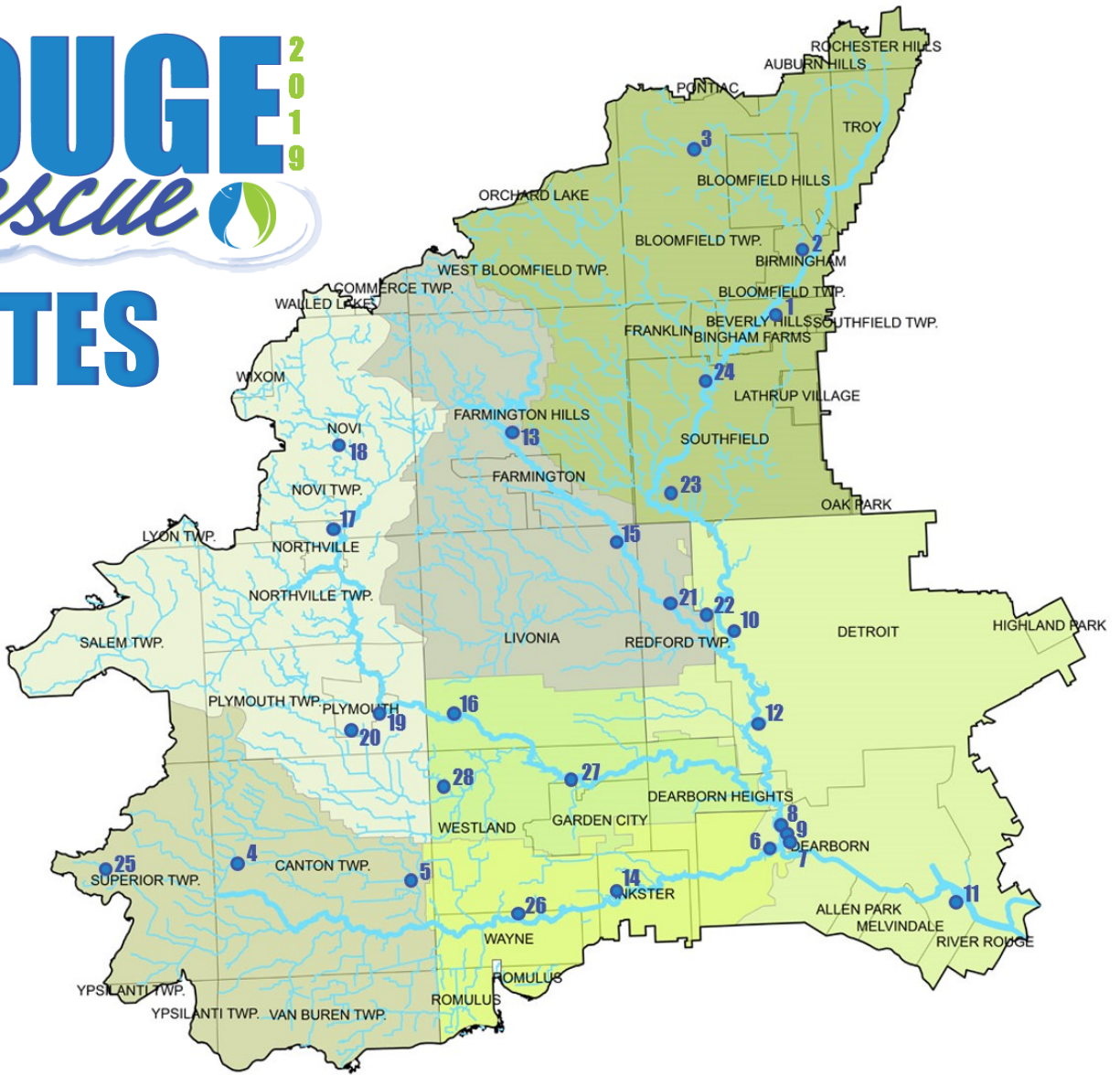
To maintain a navigable waters on the Rouge, a total of 6 log jams were cleaned and opened using the Wood Debris Management 101 techniques. In these practices, large log jams are cleared of trash and man-made debris and loose or floating branches and sticks are removed from the floodplain. These methods are designed to preserve the benefits for fish and wildlife while minimizing the problems they create.



Rouge Rescue events host a variety of additional activities. At events this year we had 9 sites with an array of public education activities from games, displays, handouts and presentations. Some sites also installed educational signage and build bird and mason bee houses. At Rouge Park, a group of volunteers rolled 750 seed balls made of clay and seeds to later be dispersed on the native prairie site in the park. Participants also participate in other park beautification efforts like painting picnic tables and fun recreation like a petting zoo and nature walks.



# ROUGE <sup>2019</sup> Rescue SITES



### Beverly Hills

1. Douglas Evans Nature Preserve

### Birmingham

2. Linden Park

### Bloomfield Hills

3. E.L. Johnson Nature Center

### Canton

4. Preservation Park
5. Meadows of Canton

### Dearborn

6. Dearborn Gateway Trail
7. Fair Lane / Henry Ford Estate
8. Henry Ford College
9. University of Michigan– Dearborn

### Detroit

10. Eliza Howell Park
11. Oakwood Heights
12. Rouge Park \*

### Farmington Hills

13. Heritage Park

### Inkster

14. Dozier Recreation Center \*

### Livonia

15. Moelke Park
16. Sumac Pointe/ Newburgh Lake

### Northville

17. Allen Drive Park

### Novi

18. Novi Cemetery

### Plymouth

19. Riverside Park
20. Smith Elementary School

### Redford

21. Lola Valley
22. Redford Cemetery

### Southfield

23. Beech Woods Recreation Center
24. Berberian Woods

### Superior Township

25. Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve

### Wayne

26. Goudy Park

### Westland

27. Merriman Hollow \*
28. Holiday Nature Preserve

**\*Multiple workdays held**

# Site Highlights

## Beverly Hills

### Douglas Evans Nature Preserve

Location: 31835 Evergreen Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Erin LaPere, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Sponsored by: Village of Beverly Hills

Volunteers: 17

Groups Involved: Conant Elementary School (4th Graders)

Project Summary: Pulled garlic mustard, removed trash and enjoyed a nature walk. Children found a snake and a toad on the walk!

Trash Removed: 2 bags and one tire

Invasives Removed: 2.07 cubic yards of garlic mustard



Douglas Evans' young volunteers find some wildlife in the Preserve during a nature walk.

## Birmingham

### Linden Park

Location: Hawthorne St.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Connie Folk, Recreation Coordinator

Volunteers: 20

Project Summary: Volunteers removed garlic mustard along the trail between Linden Park and Booth Park.

Invasives Removed: 6.22 cubic yards

## Bloomfield Hills

### E.L. Johnson Nature Center

Location: 3325 Franklin Rd.

Project Date: 4/27/2019

Coordinators: Charles Markus, Project Coordinator and Dan Badgley, Manager

Sponsored by: Bloomfield Township, E.L. Johnson Nature Center, Re-Leaf, DTE

Volunteers: 65

Groups Involved: DTE, Bloomfield Hills Schools, Detroit Country Day School

Project Summary: Planted donated trees, removed buckthorn, removed trash along 3 miles of road and mulched a mile of paths at the nature center.

Trash Removed: 5 bags

Invasives Removed: buckthorn

Trees Planted: 23

## Canton

### Preservation Park

Location: 500 N. Ridge Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Christie Jones, Administrative Coordinator

Sponsored by: Salvation Army, ITC, Wade Trim, WTVA, Absopure

Volunteers: 85

Project Summary: The wet weather prevented the planting of a bioswale, but participants planted 2 trees and children got to make bird houses and see the farm animals at the petting zoo.

Trees Planted: 2

## Meadows of Canton

Location: 44955 Cherry Hill Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Kesh Raizada, Wayne County Environmentalist

Sponsored by: Meadows of Canton

Volunteers: 74

Groups Involved: Wayne County, Hindu Temple, Meadows of Canton

Project Summary: Volunteers cleaned up trash along the river. Other activities included educational displays and presentations, bird house building and stenciling.

Trash Removed: 3 bags



Dearborn Gateway volunteers picking up trash near the bridge.

## Dearborn

### Dearborn Gateway Trail

Location: 22051 Cherry Hills St.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinators: Thomas Trimble, Dave Norwood

Volunteers: 28

Project Summary: Removed trash, including a tire, and cleared a log jam in the river.

Trash Removed: 41 bags

Log Jams: 3

# Site Highlights (cont.)

## Fair Lane, Henry Ford Estate

Location: 1 Fair Lane Dr.

Project Date: 5/11/2019

Coordinator: Karen Marzonie, Director of Landscapes

Sponsored by: Henry Ford Estate Fair Lane

Volunteers: 12

Project Summary: Removed garlic mustard from 2 acres of gardens and grounds.

Invasives Removed: 3.37 cubic



Henry Ford Estate volunteers fill a whole truck bed with all the garlic mustard they removed!

## Henry Ford College

Location: 5101 Evergreen Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Michael Wiczorek, Health and Safety Engineer

Sponsored by: Henry Ford College, Friends of the Rouge

Volunteers: 14

Project Summary: Volunteers filled a 30 yard dumpster with invasive plant material and picked up trash including rusted signs.

Groups Involved: Henry Ford College, SSAA Union, and Local 1650

Trash Removed: 14 bags

Invasives Removed: 30 cubic yards



Volunteers at U of M Dearborn gear up to maintain the trails on the back of campus.

## University of Michigan– Dearborn: Environmental Interpretive Center

Location: 4901 Evergreen Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Rick Simek, Program Supervisor, Natural Areas Manager

Volunteers: 17

Project Summary: Spread mulch on foot paths through the Environmental Study Area

Groups Involved: Dearborn High School and U of M Dearborn students



## Eliza Howell Park

Location: 15081 Grayfield St.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Riet Schumach, Neighbor

Volunteers: 15

Project Summary: Volunteers got in the river and cleaned the trash from 2 log jams including 2 tires, a PFD ring and an oil drum.

Trash Removed: 30 bags

## Rouge Park

Location: Joy Rd. and Spinoza Dr.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinators: Sally Petrella, President of Friends of Rouge Park, and Jaqara Jackson

Sponsored by: City of Detroit, Friends of Rouge Park, Detroit AeroModelers, Americorps

Volunteers: 355

Project Summary: There was 13 simultaneous projects including trash removal, garlic mustard and honeysuckle removal, trail maintenance, weeding, planting, cleaning trail steps, mulching, painting camels and picnic tables and made seed balls. Trash removed included 15 tires, 9 appliances, 7 TVs, 2 car bumper, a propane tank, chair, bed sheets, building materials, a grill, and 10 glass bottles, Volunteers also can across and saved a live bird and a cat!

Groups Involved: Boy Scouts, Quicken Loans, Far West Detroit Civic Association, D-town Farm, Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association, Motor City Mountain Bike Association, West Outer Drive Civic Association

Trash Removed: 388 bags

Invasives Removed: 13.5 cubic yards

Trees Planted: 5

Forbs Planted: 130

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Project Date: 6/3/2019

Sponsored by: Friends of Rouge Park

Volunteers: 56

Project Summary: Finished mulching the planting from 5/18 and removed honeysuckle and buckthorn from 2 acres of prairie.

Groups Involved: Repair the World Detroit

Invasives Removed: 15 cubic yards



May 18th Rouge Park Participants.

# Site Highlights (cont.)

## Farmington Hills

### Heritage Park

Location: 24915 Farmington Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Ashlie Smith, Nature Center Supervisor and Naturalist

Sponsored by: City of Farmington Hills, Bosch

Volunteers: 82

Project Summary: A variety of work stations were available for volunteers to choose from including removing invasive garlic mustard and dame's rocket, removing buckthorn and honeysuckle, removing woody debris from the trail, and planting natives in the "Monarch Meadow" native plant education area. Volunteers received a welcome presentation educating them on the work being done and why, as well as free lunch and swag bags donated by Bosch.

Groups Involved: Pathfinders, Farmington SDA Church, Jr Optimists Club, Girl Scouts

Invasives Removed: 5 cubic yards

Forbs Planted: 214



Scouts at Heritage Park getting a better view.

## Inkster

### Dozier Recreation Center

Location: 2025 Middlebelt Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Kaitlyn Hines, Planning Technician, and Adrianna Jordan, City Planner

Sponsored by: Inkster Beautification Committee

Volunteers: 18

Project Summary: A planned garden planting was postponed due to early morning rain. Volunteers instead aided the beautification committee by cleaning trash along Middlebelt Rd. and Michigan Ave.

Groups Involved: Canton ECO Club

Trash Removed: 2.6 cubic yards

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Project Date: 5/25/2019

Sponsored by: National Kidney Foundation of Michigan, Inkster Beautification Committee

Volunteers: 16

Project Summary: Prepped and planted native plants in a parking lot island at the city's rec center. Inkster DPS came during the week to mulch the planting area.

Groups Involved: Inkster Beautification Committee, Inkster DPS

Forbs Planted: 128

## Livonia

### Moelke Park

Location: 19444 Lathers St.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Arica Flores, Forestry Foreman, John Wojnar, Ralph Williams

Volunteers: 59

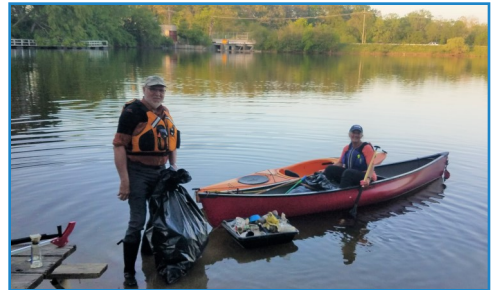
Project Summary: Volunteers removed trash from trails, including a child's plastic chair, a snowboard and a wooden sign, removed garlic mustard and honeysuckle and planted a native demonstration garden.

Groups Involved: Bosch, 2 Girl Scout Troops

Trash Removed: 25 bags

Invasives Removed: 2 cubic yards

Forbs Planted: 532



Phil C. and Vicki S. pull trash from Newburgh Lake.

### Newburgh Lake/ Sumac Pointe

Location: 37507 Edward Hines Dr.

Project Date: 5/22/2019

Coordinator: Vicki Schroder

Sponsored by: Friends of the Rouge

Volunteers: 5

Project Summary: A kayak and a canoe were deployed onto the lake to collect trash while others collected trash and garlic mustard from the park.

Trash Removed: 4 bags

Invasives Removed: .07 cubic yards

## Northville

### Allen Drive Park

Location: 1056 Allen Dr.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Callie Milroy

Volunteers: 14

Project Summary: Pulled garlic mustard and cleaned debris up both sides of creek between Novi and 8 Mile Rd.

Groups Involved: Friends of the Rouge, neighbors

Invasives Removed: 0.52 cubic yards



# Site Highlights (cont.)



Volunteers gather to beautify the Novi Cemetery.

*Novi*

## Novi Cemetery

Location: 25755 Novi Rd.

Project Date: 6/1/2019

Coordinator: Wendy DuVall, Communication Outreach and Special Events Coordinator

Sponsored by: City of Novi

Volunteers: 14

Project Summary: In lieu of an event scheduled at Rotary Park in May, which was canceled due to flooding, Novi held their cemetery cleanup as a Rouge Rescue event. Participants planted flowers and removed trash and buckthorn from the grounds.

Groups Involved: Frog Force Robotics Novi High School

Trash Removed: 1 bag

Invasives Removed: 0.69 cubic yards

Forbs Planted: 300

*Plymouth*

## Riverside Park

Location: 42401 Edward Hines Dr.

Project Date: 5/11/2019

Coordinator: Robert Hurley

Sponsored by: Keep Plymouth Leafy

Volunteers: 22

Project Summary: Volunteers cleared buckthorn and honeysuckle near the

banks and the bridge. Others installed a native demonstration garden around the comfort station.

Groups Involved: Keep Plymouth Leafy, Friends of the Rouge

Invasives Removed: 3.75 cubic yards

Trees Planted: 5

Forbs Planted: 50

## Smith Elementary School

Location: 1298 McKinley St.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinators: Greta Bolhuis, Adam Gerlach

Sponsored by: City of Plymouth

Volunteers: 95

Project Summary: Removed honeysuckle, buckthorn and garlic mustard along Tonquish Creek. Volunteers planted natives where invasives were removed to stabilize banks and enhance natural habitat.

Groups Involved: Plymouth Scholars, East NJHS, Varroc Lighting Systems, Girl Scout Troops

Trash Removed: 3.5 cubic yards

Invasives Removed: 9000 cubic yards

Forbs Planted: unknown

*Redford Township*

## Lola Valley

Location: Kinloch and Lola Dr.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Scot Martin, Ted Kozlowski

Volunteers: 8

Project Summary: Removed trash and garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle from park areas and river banks.

Groups Involved: Redford Beautification Committee, Boy Scout Troop 499

Trash Removed: 4 bags

Invasives Removed: 0.3 cubic yards



Lola Valley's smiling faces.

## Redford Cemetery

Location: 15958 Telegraph Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Karen Marzonie

Sponsored by: Redford Cemetery Association

Volunteers: 19

Project Summary: Cleaned up trash, removed garlic mustard and planted flowers in the historic cemetery.

Trash Removed: 9 bags

Invasives Removed: 1.55 cubic yards

Forbs Planted: 160



Southfield volunteers and their garlic mustard.

*Southfield*

## Beech Woods Recreation Center

Location: 22200 Beech Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Brandi Siedlaczek, Storm Water Manager

# Site Highlights (cont.)

Sponsored by: City of Southfield

Volunteers: 40

Project Summary: Pulled garlic mustard from 5 acres of park land. Woody debris management was also planned, but we were unable due to river levels.

Groups Involved: Korean Baptist Church, Denso, OCC, Eagle Scouts

Invasives Removed: 13 cubic yards

## **Berberian Woods**

Location: Streamwood Ln.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinators: Gail Barber, Brandi Siedlaczek, Storm Water Manager

Sponsored by: City of Southfield

Volunteers: 33

Project Summary: Pulled garlic mustard, dame's rocket and narrow leaved butter-cress from 16 acres of land.

Groups Involved: Korean Baptist Church, Eagle Scouts

Invasives Removed:

## *Superior Township*

### **Jack R. Smiley Nature Preserve**

Location: 8080 Cherry Hills Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinator: Carla Bisaro

Sponsored by: Superior Twp. Chapter SE Michigan Land Conservancy

Volunteers: 16

Project Summary: Installed decorative planting and maintained the native plant and insect garden in reception area of the preserve planted last year.

Trees Planted: 3

Forbs Planted: 35

## *Wayne*

### **Goudy Park**

Location: 3355 S. Wayne Rd.

Project Date: 6/3/2019

Coordinators: Kurt Kuban, Matt Muholland

Sponsored by: River Restoration Inc.

Volunteers: 15

Project Summary: Opened and cleaned up trash from a large log jam on the canoe & kayak route off Elizabeth St. bridge. Some large woody debris was secured along the banks to help stabilize and reduce erosion.

Groups Involved: Westland Jaycees, Friends of the Rouge

Trash Removed: 6 bags

Log Jams: 1



Smiling Holliday NP participants with the woody debris from the river.

## *Westland*

### **Holliday Nature Preserve**

Location: 6867 N. Hix Rd.

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Coordinators: Bill Craig, Holliday Nature Preserve Association President, Phil Crookshank

Sponsored by: Holliday Nature Preserve Association, City of Westland

Volunteers: 32

Project Summary: Cleaned and opened large log jam at Hix crossing and used larger pieces to stabilize banks. Volunteers also pulled garlic

mustard and cut honeysuckle in the preserve area.

Groups Involved: Canton HS, Garden City HS, U of M students, River Restoration Inc.

Trash Removed: 6 bags

Invasives Removed: 1.04 cubic yards

Log Jams: 1

## **Merriman Hollow**

Location: Hines Dr. and Merriman Rd.

Project Date: 4/13/2019

Coordinators: Jenny Petoskey and Sandi Wallace, Merriman Hollow Native Garden Site Leaders

Volunteers: 18

Project Summary: Volunteers cleaned up trash in the area and maintained the native garden.

Trash Removed: 8 bags including a wagon and signs

&

Project Date: 5/18/2019

Volunteers: 31

Project Summary: Volunteers weeded and mulched the garden and removed buckthorn and honeysuckle. Girl Scouts presented on mason bees for their silver award and Boy Scouts installed plant informational signs and mason bee houses as their eagle project. The site also had tons of educational games about pollinators.

Groups Involved: St. Michael's Green Team, Master Gardeners, Wayne County Parks, Boy Scout Troop 782

Invasives Removed: 10 cubic yards

Trees Planted: 1



Volunteers at Merriman Hollow getting ready to start their cleanup.

# Thank You Sponsors!



## Guardian



## Protector



## Steward



## Advocate



## Supporter



Bloomfield Hills

## Donor

Aisin • Arch Environmental Group • Cardno • The Dul Foundation  
Garden Club of Dearborn • General Motors (Romulus)  
Hubbell Roth & Clark Inc • Stantec • Trailwood Garden Club  
Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission



& the Rouge Watershed Communities



# Coverage of Rouge Rescue 2019

- Fox 2 News Detroit
- City of Dearborn TV
- Patch
- Daily Detroit
- The Detroit News
- Great Lakes Now
- Royal Oak Tribune
- The Oakland Press
- Press & Guide
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- American Rivers
- Local Community Calendars

**ROUGE RESCUE**

- MAY 18TH
- 8AM-1:30PM
- [THEROUGE.ORG](http://THEROUGE.ORG)
- [FRIENDS@THEROUGE.ORG](mailto:FRIENDS@THEROUGE.ORG)

FOX 2  
7/27/17



FOTR Executive Director, Marie McCormick, on Fox 2 News Detroit discussing Rouge Rescue 2019 and frog calls.



In 2019, Friends of the Rouge celebrated 50 years since it caught fire in 1969 due to pollution and how far we've come. In 1986, Friends of the Rouge was founded and the first Rouge Rescue was organized by a group of concerned citizens who saw the great need for the Rouge River to be cleaned further. The river that was once seen as an open sewer has transformed into a recreation destination with improving natural habitat through the help of many dedicated volunteers throughout the years with support of our volunteers, sponsors, donors, members, and the Rouge River communities.

**“Start by doing what’s necessary;  
then do what’s possible;  
and suddenly you are doing the impossible”**

– St. Francis of Assisi

# SAVE THE DATE

**SAT. APRIL 25**

**SAT. MAY 18**



## ROUGE 2020 RESCUE

<https://therouge.org/rouge-rescue/>

**Friends  
of the  
ROUGE**

*Promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River ecosystem since 1986.*

650 Church Street Suite 209 ♦ Plymouth, MI 48170 ♦ [www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org)