



Friends
of the **ROUGE**

2021
ANNUAL REPORT



Above: Elayne Elliott of The Sierra Club Michigan Chapter co-instructs residential rain garden installations through the Rain Gardens to the Rescue program.

Growing a Healthier Rouge River

In 2021, 3,500+ people from all areas of the Rouge River watershed and Detroit worked toward a common goal—to improve the Rouge River in their community. These people contributed 6,400 hours to learn about river issues, actions that can be taken to improve river conditions, and to directly make a difference by working with FOTR to install and maintain rain gardens. Together we created 7,300 square feet of new rain gardens that will prevent as much as 67,800 gallons of rainwater from entering the sewer system each and every time it rains. Additionally, 18,000 square feet of rain gardens, excavated in 2021, were planted with tens of thousands of native plants. This work will have a lasting impact toward a cleaner, healthier Rouge River for generations to come as well as creating amazing space for people to enjoy.

As restoration programming expanded in 2021, so too did the restoration team. The restoration team grew to four full-time, three part-time, two interns, and four seasonal staff in 2021. Highlights from 2021 are provided throughout the following pages.

FOTR Collaborates with the Concerned Residents of South Dearborn (CRSD)

Concerned Residents of South Dearborn (CRSD) advocates on behalf of residents of Dearborn's South End neighborhood. The South End is geographically isolated from the rest of Dearborn, cut off by the Ford Rouge Plant, I-94, and a belt of heavy industry. The community consists predominantly of Yemeni immigrants, and exhibits a high-degree of vulnerability per the CDC's Social Vulnerability Index. CRSD worked with Friends of the Rouge in 2021 to implement a grant from Cleveland-Cliffs to plant 100 trees in right-of-ways across the neighborhood. CRSD currently identifies among its top issues concerns with air pollution emanating from nearby heavy industry, as well as the lack of tree canopy cover within the community, among other challenges. With CRSD's support, FOTR applied for and received funding from the Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund for an additional 240 trees and a pilot rain garden to help with flooding issues in the neighborhood.

PARCing Stormwater in its Place

FOTR transformed the Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex (PARC) parking lot into a pollinator paradise that stores and infiltrates approximately 3 million gallons of rainwater annually. This trend-setting project, funded by the State of Michigan Department of Environment and the Great Lakes Nonpoint Source program, manages all of the rainwater running off the PARC parking lots. Each garden area was designed to provide habitat for specific pollinator species from hummingbirds to bees, butterflies, flies, moths and more. The site is the home of the FOTR

offices and will serve as an educational site for PARC users, municipalities, businesses, developers, and residents alike.

Rouge Rescue: a Success During a Pandemic

Rouge Rescue 2021 had a lot of challenges, but FOTR's dedicated volunteers showed up in spite of COVID-19 forcing sites to opt out due to restrictions, lack of staff, or site closures. A lot of amazing people came out and made a difference for the Rouge River and for that we are grateful. Sixteen sites from 11 communities participated, including Birmingham, Canton, Detroit, Farmington Hills, Livonia, Northville, Plymouth, Redford, Southfield, Superior Twp. and Westland. Volunteers filled nearly 300 bags of trash from the Rouge River and floodplain. A few larger items were also cleaned up. These were tires, lumber, an AC unit, and lots of plastic bottles, food containers and wrappers. Volunteers also worked to control invasive plant species and planted 90 native trees.

Detroit Rain Gardens: A Multilevel Approach to Soaking Up the Rain

RESIDENTIAL: Friends of the Rouge and Sierra Club continue to raise awareness around stormwater issues while providing residents with tangible solutions through our Rain Gardens to the Rescue program. Participants are guided through the process of designing, problem-solving, installing, and maintaining rain gardens. In 2021, the program involved a diverse group of community influencers in a five-part training course and nine hands-on rain garden installations that soak up nearly 7,500 gallons every time it rains. Six community forums and a virtual garden tour

provided opportunities to deepen participants' awareness and understanding of rain gardens and the value and services they provide at little cost to us, while inspiring people to take action.

HOUSES OF WORSHIP: Friends of the Rouge and Sierra Club teamed up with National Wildlife Federation and nine Detroit faith organizations to restore our sacred grounds by collecting and storing rainwater, providing critical habitat, saving Detroiters from flooded streets and basements, and reducing drainage fees for the houses of worship. Rain gardens are a win for all. The upcoming gardens are currently in various phases of the design process and will be installed in 2022.

NEIGHBORHOOD: Neighborhoods are where the magic happens, especially in Detroit. There is no limit to what Detroiters can accomplish when they come together. FOTR has been witness to and thrilled to be a part of this magic. Working with My Community Speaks, and funded by a grant awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and contributions from Mercedes Benz Financial, FOTR is in the process of developing a neighborhood park in memory of a community leader. When complete, LaNita's Pocket Park & Pollinator Garden will feature a walking path (in the shape of the Prince symbol) surrounded by pollinator gardens, benches, trees, and a rain garden designed to reduce severe street flooding.

REGIONAL: FOTR is working with the Henry Ford Health System to create a new public plaza as part of the development of the South Campus on W. Grand Blvd. and Lincoln St. The roughly 25,000 square foot plaza will include removal of approximately 12,500 square feet of existing asphalt and the creation of an active recreation plaza incorporating ping-pong tables and basketball hoops, art, a native meadow, and a 82,500 square foot bioretention garden, which will manage ~100,299,000 gallons of rainwater runoff annually. This project will be complete in 2022, and will benefit hospital staff, patients, and visitors from across the region.

This page, top: Denise Kennedy helps direct volunteers installing a new rain garden in Southfield's Beech Woods Park; Bottom: Volunteers work to install the 18,000 sq. ft. of rain gardens at PARC. Opposite page, top: Rain garden planting as part of restoring the Rouge River watershed; Middle: Magnet fishers Clay and Jennifer Matulle of The Rusty Magnets (YouTube) pull metal debris from the Rouge River during Rouge Rescue; Bottom: Rouge Rescue volunteers pull invasive garlic mustard plants from the Coldwater Springs Nature Area in Northville.



2021 Restoration Programs Engagement and Impact

Educational Programs:

- Detroit River Coalition Events
- Explosiva Radio Interview
- Johnson Creek Inter County Drain Project
- Master Rain Gardener Course
- Rain Garden Design, Pierce School, Redford
- Rain Garden Maintenance Workshop
- Rain Gardens 101 Seminar
- Rain Gardens to the Rescue Course
- Sacred Grounds Workshops & Rain Gardens
- South Dearborn Tree Campaign
- South Dearborn Tree Town Hall
- StormWater Specialist Training Course (*workforce development*)
- Value of Trees Presentation, Salina Elementary & Middle Schools

Hands-on Restoration Activities:

- Henry Ford Health System Rain Garden, Detroit Campus*
- Henry Ford Health System Rain Garden, Plymouth Campus*
- LaNita's Pocket Park Pollinator Garden & Pathway
- PARC Rain Garden Plantings
- Plymouth, Plymouth Twp. Rain Garden Enhancements and Southfield Rain Gardens (3)
- Rain Garden Maintenance Workdays
- Rain Gardens to the Rescue Rain Gardens (10)
- Redford Rain Gardens (3)
- Rouge Rescue (11 communities, 16 work sites)
- Sacred Grounds Houses of Worship Rain Garden Design (8)*
- South Dearborn Tree Plantings (100)
- St. Suzanne Cody Rouge Rain Garden (*SWST Training*)

Collaborations:

- Detroit River Coalition
- Land + Water WORKS! Coalition
- Regional Watershed Collaborative

Earned Revenue/Fee-for-Service:

- Landscape Consultations
- Regional Green Infrastructure Marketing Campaign (*in process*)
- Native Plant & Rain Barrel Sales
- Redford Rain Garden Installations (3)
- Rain Garden Maintenance

*Funded 2021, to be built in 2022



Monitoring for Change

Bug Hunts

FOTR monitors aquatic insects, clams, snails, etc. that live in the bottom of our streams because their presence or absence is linked to water quality. Volunteers participate in group sampling events in the spring, fall, and winter. Trained volunteers collect the bugs from the river and lead teams on monitoring days. Additional sites are sampled by Wayne County, Susan Thompson and Schoolcraft College. FOTR data is provided to the state through MiCorps and to local communities to track restoration progress.

2021 WINTER STONEFLY SEARCH: We adapted our “Stonefly Refresher” from the lab to a virtual presentation, enabling us to include more people (36 attendees) and to use it to orient new volunteers in place of the introductory presentation at the indoor gathering no longer held due to COVID. The January 23 Stonefly Search had 75 volunteers who sampled 20 sites in 11 teams. Stoneflies were found at ten of the 25 sites (40%). All ten sites had slender winter stoneflies (Capniidae). One site also had Perlodids. We continued to participate in the Winter Salt Watch program. Most sites had acceptable levels of chloride but several Upper and Main branch sites were high enough to cause harm to aquatic life. The program was funded by the Alliance of Rouge Communities.

2021 SPRING BUG HUNT: After canceling the 2020 event, we were happy to hold the 2021 Spring Bug Hunt on April 17. Volunteers came out in good numbers despite having to meet their team in the field, with 101 attendees sampling 25 sites in 13 teams. Sites averaged in the fair range and the middle subwatersheds continued to show significant positive trends. We continued Salt Watch to see how much background road salt is in our streams outside of the snow season. Sites remained surprisingly high and scores declined as salt levels increased. The program was funded by the Rouge communities of Beverly Hills, Farmington, Livonia, Novi, Plymouth, Southfield, Troy, Plymouth Township and Washtenaw County.

2021 FALL BUG HUNT: Fall brought changes to the program from the Michigan Clean Water Corps that meant more training for team leaders, new protocols and a new way of scoring sites. The Fall Bug Hunt on October 16 had 43 attendees that sampled 21 sites in 11 teams with additional sites sampled by Sue Thompson from Wayne County and volunteers. A total of 36 sites were sampled. Site scores showed 72% of sites stable, 22% improving and 6% declining. Johnson Creek and the Middle 3 had significant positive trends and the Lower 1, Main1-2 and Upper subwatersheds all had significant negative trends.



Testing for chloride showed some Upper and Middle sites with continuing high levels, pointing to some other source than road runoff. The program was funded by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, and MiCorps.

Frog & Toad Survey

Friends of the Rouge trains volunteers to listen for frogs and toads as indicators of healthy wetlands. All training was held virtually in 2021 due to the pandemic and offered in two separate sessions – an introduction open to anyone interested in learning about frogs and toads and a second session that covered the specifics of surveying. Part I was held on February 20 with 121 attendees and Part II on February 27 had 112 attendees. A total of 226 volunteers signed up to survey 224 survey blocks.

One hundred and forty-three surveyors submitted data for a total of 147 survey blocks and contributed 651 hours of time. An average of 3.3 species was heard per block. Most of the early calling species were heard in fewer blocks due to the spring drought. Rains came at the end of June, supporting

the larger later calling species which were heard in more blocks. The survey was supported by Bosch.

Fish Monitoring

Fish seining surveys have been overseen by FOTR since 2012. In 2021, FOTR monitored 26 sites on 14 survey days. For the first time since 2012, redbreast dace (*Clinostomus elongatus*) were found in the Johnson Creek at one upstream site but not found downstream or in the Upper branch. No pugnose shiners (*Notropis anogenus*) were found in Morris Lake. Additional sites were sampled to assess habitat projects. The program was supported by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

Opposite page: Fish seining in Johnson Creek; This page, top left: Jerrad Jankowski shows off a rock bass found on the Middle Branch; Top center: Fall Bug Hunt volunteer; Top right: Swarali Lokre and Jaclyn Heikkila (FOTR staff) learn to identify European Frog-bit; Bottom left: Biologist Joe Rathbun holds up a Rouge mussel; Bottom right: Girls from Camp Inspire participate in STREAM Girls



Freshwater Mussel Surveys

Freshwater mussels, often called clams, are some of the most threatened creatures in North America and only ten species have been found in the Rouge in recent years. After noticing some possible rare species, FOTR obtained a collector's permit from the state and returned with state biologists to thoroughly survey. We documented three new species, one threatened and one of special concern.

European Frog-bit Monitoring

In a partnership with the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, FOTR surveyed 200 ponds, lakes and river sites for European Frog-bit through a two year project to determine if this aggressive, non-native floating plant is expanding beyond where it was first found in Novi. Pure Oakland Water provided support for intern Swarali Lokre to assist in surveys. Happily, no frog-bit was found.

STREAM Girls

FOTR held our first STREAM Girls event in July in partnership with Trout Unlimited. Designed to engage girls in science at an age when they often turn away from it (middle school), Trout Unlimited teaches stream surveying, benthic macroinvertebrate sampling, fly casting and fly tying. Girls from Camp Inspire in Inkster participated in this day-long event held at Inkster Park along the Lower Rouge. Fish technicians Bob Muller and Jerrad Jankowski added to the day by exposing the girls to fish seining.

Healthy Fish, Healthy People: Community Science to Protect Southeastern Michigan Anglers from Toxic PFAS

In an effort to protect anglers from toxic PFAS in fish they consume, FOTR is working with the Ecology Center to identify PFAS hazards in Rouge fish and educate anglers who consume the fish on how to avoid exposure. Funding for the project comes through a grant from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan.

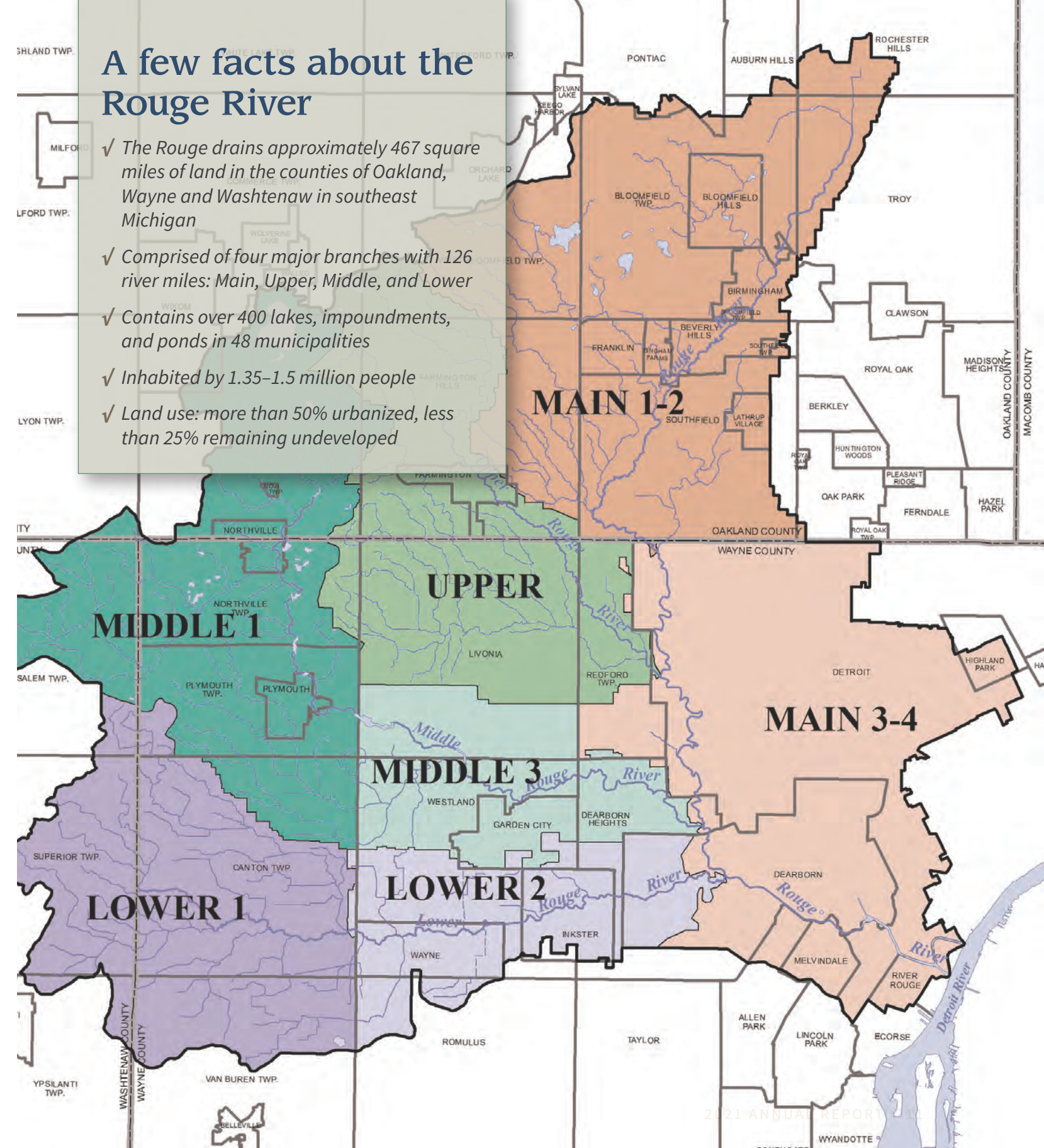
What Grade Does Your Watershed Get?

Five local watershed groups are working together to create socio-environmental report cards for five rivers in southeast Michigan including the Clinton, Detroit, Huron, Raisin and Rouge. Funded through the Erb Family Foundation, the project kicked off in 2021 by leading local stakeholders through a series of interactive sessions. The project is expected to take two years with one regional report card and five individual watershed report cards ready in June 2023.

*Top: First redbside dace seen in Johnson Creek since 2012;
Bottom: Rainbow mussel*

A few facts about the Rouge River

- ✓ The Rouge drains approximately 467 square miles of land in the counties of Oakland, Wayne and Washtenaw in southeast Michigan
- ✓ Comprised of four major branches with 126 river miles: Main, Upper, Middle, and Lower
- ✓ Contains over 400 lakes, impoundments, and ponds in 48 municipalities
- ✓ Inhabited by 1.35–1.5 million people
- ✓ Land use: more than 50% urbanized, less than 25% remaining undeveloped





Dynamic Education in 2021

The Rouge Education Project (REP) is a school-based environmental education program involving elementary, middle, and high schools from across southeastern Michigan. Students perform hands-on scientific exploration of the Rouge River to determine overall stream health; including the evaluation of chemical, biological, and physical parameters of water quality. Students are further encouraged to take action to restore and protect the river based on their results.

Despite ongoing challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the REP worked with a total of 920 students and 26 teachers from 10 schools throughout Metro-Detroit in 2021. Monitoring events occurred throughout the spring and fall thanks to these amazing dedicated teachers and implementation of strict COVID-19 prevention protocols at their schools that made this possible.

We also launched an online course called Explore the Rouge. Geared towards young people, the general public, teachers and school groups, it is a step-by-step way to teach about the river and how to be an engaged part of the community—earning points and fun badges along the way. The first campaign was called Rouge River Detective, which saw participation from 86 people completing 971 activities. It is housed at friendsoftherouge.wespire.com, and free to sign-up with an email address. We will continue to utilize and build on this tool into the future.

In addition, an in-person Summer Institute was held to train or refresh new and returning teachers in water quality monitoring protocol for the Rouge Education Project.

These training events were revamped to include an online component using the same WeSpire platform for the Explore the Rouge activity mentioned previously. Teachers liked the change in format, and we had wonderful weather in an idyllic setting at Plymouth Township Park right along the river.

Students also submitted videos as part of a planned virtual Student Symposium, summarizing their findings from their fall monitoring activities. The live portion of the symposium ended up getting canceled due to numerous circumstances outside of our control, but the videos were able to be shared with other schools and hopefully revisited later.

Other Educational Initiatives

Continuing our partnership with the Michigan State University Extension's Water School program, three meetings with local and elected officials took place to get to know each other and share information about the watershed and potential water issues in their jurisdiction(s). We will continue to support and assist in this state-wide initiative.

You may have seen some of our volunteers out representing us at various events! As in-person activities resumed, volunteers were able to staff a table for us at partner events throughout the year—getting some important face-time with watershed residents. Continue to check our website for the development of a Speakers Bureau, with the goal of connecting local experts in the community with the demand for localized watershed presentations and programming.



Prioritizing Access in Recreation

In 2021, the Friends of the Rouge Lower Rouge River Water Trail Leadership Committee furthered its efforts to create safe and equitable access to the Rouge for recreation and enjoyment.

Friends of the Rouge and community stakeholders are spearheading an effort to establish a world class water trail and connect a network of new and existing greenway trails on the Lower Rouge River. The 29-mile Lower Rouge River Water Trail will span 10 cities from Canton to River Rouge. The Rouge Gateway Greenway will increase access to Wayne County Park assets like Hines Park for Lower Rouge communities and connect to a larger network of planned and existing trails including the Joe Louis Greenway, Downriver Linked Greenways, Iron Belle Trail, and the Great Lakes Way.

With funding secured through the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, Friends of the Rouge and the Rouge Gateway Greenway stakeholder group completed design development and construction documents for Rouge Gateway Greenway Phase II. The new trail design incorporates two pedestrian bridges and traverses along the river from an existing trail at the confluence of the Main and Lower stems of the Rouge to the Henry Ford Museum.

Friends of the Rouge continued its engagement with the Fort Rouge Gateway Partnership (FRoG Group) to bring Phase II of the Multi-purpose Trailhead at Fort Street Bridge Park to a shovel ready status. The park improvements will more than double the usable greenspace, expand the fishing and observation deck, and install a universally accessible kayak launch in a protected cove. Fort Street Bridge Park Phase II coupled with planned improvements at the Multi-purpose Trailheads at Kessey Fieldhouse, in Melvindale and Belanger Park, in River Rouge, will create shorter and more modest paddle trips on the Lower Rouge Water Trail. Design development for all three park sites was funded through the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Design and Access Grant.

In 2021, Friends of the Rouge also deployed its new “Dry Dock Pop-Up” exhibits at community events throughout the watershed to create awareness and excitement about Friends of the Rouge’s blueway and greenway development projects. The Dry Dock Pop-Up features a canoe, an interactive terrain model of the Rouge Watershed, youth crafts, and educational signage detailing trails plans. Friends of the Rouge coordinated nearly a dozen Dry Dock Pop-Up events including the Westland Harvest Festival, Inkster Farmers Market, and the Juneteenth Celebration in River Rouge.

The Dry Dock Pop-Ups were key to strengthening community relationships and building new partnerships. Friends of the Rouge



partnered with the Inkster Task Force, the City of Inkster, Wayne County Parks, and the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan to apply for funding to support design development of the Multi-Purpose Trailhead at Inkster Park. Friends of the Rouge also secured The Funders’ Network Partners for Places grant to work with the city of Westland, the Norwayne Community Citizens Council, and the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan to facilitate community engagement in the park improvement plans at Venoy-Dorsey Park, in the city’s Norwayne neighborhood.

Friends of the Rouge continued to coordinate with Wayne County Parks to identify ten of the largest log jams on the Lower Rouge River Water Trail, and these logjams have been targeted for removal through the Lower Rouge Habitat Restoration Project. Friends of the Rouge continued its efforts leading teams of volunteers on two scheduled dates to clean and open logjams on the Lower Rouge and clear longer stretches within the Trail.

Friends of the Rouge is thrilled that Motor City Canoe and Kayak Rental opened weekend livery services at Ford Field Park in Dearborn in 2021. Friends of the Rouge volunteers and Motor City Canoe and Kayak helped open logjams to allow for paddle trips upstream from the Ford Field Pond. Friends of the Rouge also hosted three paddle trips in 2021. On National Canoe Day, Friends of the Rouge partnered with Motor City Canoe and Kayak Rental for a paddle from

Melvindale’s Kessey Field House to the water fall at the Henry Ford Estate dam. The celebration also featured a demo day where first-time paddlers could try a boat or canoe for free. FOTR partnered with Riverside Kayak Connection for its annual Industrial Paddle trip downstream to Belanger Park in River Rouge. As paddlers entered the Detroit River from the mouth of the Rouge, they were greeted by the twin murals and concrete footings of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, now under construction. The Fall Paddle Trip from Dearborn Hills Golf Course to Ford Field Park was equally picturesque as the sun flickered through the changing fall colors of the tree canopy. Navigating log jams and the array of wildlife are a stark contrast to the industrial channel.

Friends of the Rouge looks forward to advancing its trails vision in 2022 and continuing its work to nurture new stewards of the Rouge who embrace the river as a valued community asset.

*This page: City of Melvindale Councilman Joe Jackson and his son try a kayak for the first time at 2021 National Canoe Day Celebration; **Opposite page, top:** Volunteer Ethel Hines carries wood from a logjam in the river out of the floodplain at Woody Debris Workday; **Middle:** A youth at Canton National Trails Day enjoys the Rouge River Watershed interactive terrain model at a Dry Dock Pop-up Exhibit; **Bottom:** Akello carries a kayak from the shore during the Black to the Land Coalition’s Browns and Blacks in Kayaks event. Photo: Antonio Cosme*



Advocacy Efforts Continue to Grow

In 2021, Friends of the Rouge built upon our efforts to guide public knowledge about important issues in the watershed. We continued our service on councils, committees and participation in events where FOTR can lay the framework for mission driven, meaningful advocacy and lobbying to educate and advise on issues in line with our work. This work lives within the legal framework of a nonprofit, and is informed by extensive research and guided by examples set by other nonprofits which operate effective and legally acceptable practices.

We advocate for the health of our watershed, the Rouge River and its tributaries, and all those (both human and nonhuman) who live here. We value the rich diversity of our watershed, and see it as a key factor in advancing our mission and deepening our work in the communities we strive to serve. Some highlights of our advocacy efforts over the past year include:

Virtually presenting to state and federal legislators and their staff via Michigan Water School at RiverNetworks' Action Days For Clean Water and Great Lakes Week in Washington D.C.

Continued service on the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) Policy Advisory Committee, advising MEC staff on member groups' responses to legislative issues related to water.

Maintaining an active role in the Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC), which serves as the Public Advisory Committee (PAC) for the Rouge River Area of Concern (AOC). This group oversees large-scale habitat projects meant to delist the Rouge as an AOC. Executive Director McCormick was elected Chairperson of the RRAC in January 2022.

Moving concrete channel AOC project forward, in line with 2019 recommendations in partnership with the ARC and Friends of the Detroit River.

FOTR participation in a six week advocacy-based training, Equitable Water Infrastructure Bootcamp, through RiverNetwork

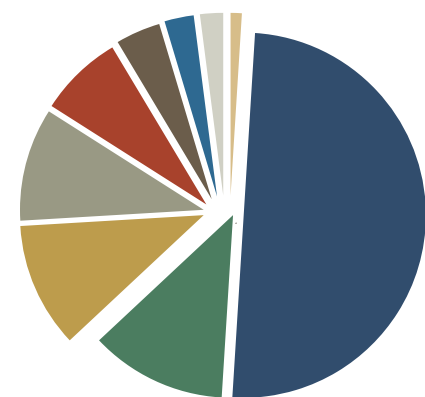
We continue to grow in this role, and seek opportunities for personal and professional development as FOTR moves further into advocacy and lobbying work. We are encouraged and honored by the reception the community has given us, and the level of trust it in turn places on us. More will certainly follow in 2022!

2021 Fundraising Events

- ROUGE CRUISE
\$38,342
- DETROIT FREE PRESS MARATHON
\$2,796
- REP BACK-TO-SCHOOL CHALLENGE
\$1,843
- ADOPT-A-RAIN GARDEN
\$28,000
- YEAR-END APPEAL
\$62,873
- EARTH DAY APPEAL
\$8,442
- RAIN BARREL & NATIVE PLANT FUNDRAISER
\$46,103

Fiscal Year 2021 JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31

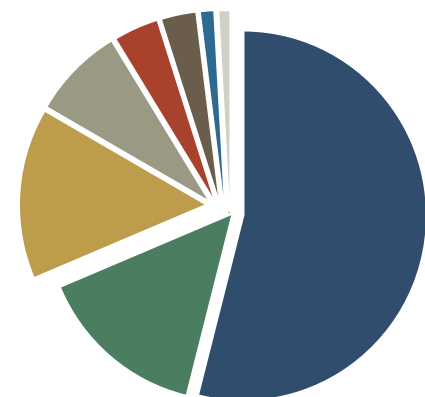
TOTAL REVENUES = \$1,343,888



Other Grants	\$ 607,487	45%
Foundation Support	\$ 197,836	15%
Fundraising	\$ 178,262	13%
Corporate Support	\$ 93,996	7%
Government Grants	\$ 122,826	9%
Gain on Investments	\$ 63,798	5%
Membership	\$ 40,026	3%
Other Revenue	\$ 28,747	2%
Community Support	\$ 10,910	1%

TOTAL REVENUE BY SOURCE \$1,343,888 100%

TOTAL EXPENSES = \$1,252,634



Salaries and Benefits	\$ 694,617	55%
Water Trail	\$ 184,948	15%
Restoration	\$ 167,362	13%
Operations	\$ 97,239	8%
Fundraising	\$ 49,318	4%
Other (including Depreciation)	\$ 44,059	3%
Education	\$ 8,921	1%
Monitoring	\$ 6,172	1%

TOTAL EXPENSES BY USE \$1,252,636 100%



Thanks to all who supported the Rouge financially in 2021!

FUNDERS

Aaron Contracting	Consulting)	Northville Township
Alliance of Rouge Communities	Huron River Watershed Council	OHM Advisors (Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc.)
Ann Ivory Studios	Inland Lakes Landscaping Corporation	PEA Group
Atwell Group, LLC	Interlake Maritime Services, Inc.	Plymouth High School Class of 1966
Bosch Community Fund	ITC Holdings	Plymouth Township
Burns & McDonnell	Ketic Fyre	Pure Oakland Water (POW)
Cardno	Kiwanis Club of Colonial	Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation
Carmeuse Lime & Stone	Plymouth, Inc.	Redford Township
City of Farmington	Marathon Petroleum Company LP	River Network
City of Livonia	Marine Pollution Control (MPC Environmental)	Robert Bosch, LLC
City of Novi	Mercedes-Benz Financial Services	Rotary Club of Plymouth
City of Plymouth	Michigan Association of Environmental Professionals	Rotary Club of Plymouth A.M.
City of Southfield	Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE)	SmithGroup
Cleveland-Cliffs	Michigan State University	Steppingstone School
Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation	Midwestern Consulting LLC	The Funders Network
Community Financial Credit Union	MJ Electric, LLC	Tonquish Lodge #23, Independent Order of Odd Fellows
Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	Trout Unlimited
DTE Energy Foundation	National Kidney Foundation of Michigan	TSP Environmental
Edward C. Levy Company	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	University of Michigan - Dearborn
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	Natural Community Services	US Ecology
Erb Family Foundation		Utility Lines Construction Services
Ford Motor Company		Village People Chapter of BNI
Garden Club of Dearborn		Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission
Giffels Webster		WM
Great Lakes Water Authority		
Hubbell, Roth, & Clark (HRC		

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- Gesu Catholic Church & School
- General Motors (GM)
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- Great Lakes Water Authority
- Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) Surface Water Intake Protection Plan Committee
- Green Living Science
- The Greening of Detroit
- The Green Infrastructure Center (Scottsville, VA)
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- Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
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- St. Suzanne Cody Rouge Community Resource Center
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YOU Created a Better Rouge River in 2021!



6,074 volunteers took action over **9,229** hours for an improved Rouge River and more vibrant future



67,804 gallons of water removed each time it rains, by new rain gardens for flood prevention



1,056 school students experienced one-of-a-kind Rouge River water quality education



184 advocacy and outreach events to raise a collective voice for your River



22 Lower Rouge Water Trail events to trail build, explore and connect with nature

7,363 square feet of asphalt and grass removed for new songbird, butterfly and pollinator habitats



26,598 new native plants and **234** rain barrels for a more vibrant watershed



3,780 hours of river monitoring for bugs, frogs, toads, fish and invasive species



3,871 hours of river education for our wonderful supporters (like you!)



1 Rouge Cruise to sail, learn about, and experience sunset on the River



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