



Friends
of the **ROUGE**

2020
ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

It goes without stating [but here I go anyway]—last year marked several moments in human antiquity that will forever be etched in global history books. Moments that rocked us to our very core, and made us examine ourselves in a unique and profound way. When we look back at 2020, I pause to reflect on how Friends of the Rouge reacted to two life-altering global events: the COVID-19 pandemic and the racial justice movement spurred by a national reckoning with systemic racism and violence toward Black Americans. I would like to provide this letter as a way to communicate the action that Friends of the Rouge has taken this year to advance our mission.

I am extremely proud of our ability to adapt, in response to the pandemic, by making a seamless transition to remote work, and pivoting critical programs to a virtual format. This included social channel-led campaigns like #NatureIsOpen, #RecreateResponsibly and our most engaging, #TakemetotheRiver—where we took viewers to a different location on the Rouge River every Tuesday from April through August. We opened our computer cameras to virtual coffee hours, and re-shaped Rouge Rescue at home activities to do safely with quarantined households via our new WeSpire interactive platform to help residents “Rescue the Rouge, every day.” Through these efforts, we tipped the earned media scales, increasing our media hits from 171 in 2019 to 440 in 2020—which, paired with nearly doubling our impressions to 206 million, made for an earned value equivalency of \$1.9 million.

The jump to virtual came with a unique silver lining: we built a bigger “tent,” widening our coverage, providing access to many who may not have otherwise been able to attend. Participation in our Rain Gardens 101 course, which usually attracts around 100 participants, instead attracted over 1,500. Our classic fundraiser event, Rouge Cruise, shifted to a five day series over a five week period we renamed the Rouge “UnCruise,” taking viewers on a virtual paddle up the most downstream eight miles of the Rouge River. This virtual platform removed the historic cost barrier and space limitation; we hosted over 1,600 viewers during the five weeks whereas we usually only have space for 160 at a one-time-only event. These virtual activities came with significant positive feedback from users. Many participants in our virtual Master Rain Gardener course let us know that they preferred the virtual format, removing the need to drive long distances or find childcare.

In past years Friends of the Rouge has recognized the importance of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion work, though with little to no thoughtful progress on the matter within the organization. Yet, some significant horrific events of racial injustice occurred in 2020 which brought a spotlight on the undeniable evidence of shameless, violent abuse of power that could no longer be quietly discussed. The Desmond Tutu quote, “If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor,” rang particularly in tune for me while watching the news of these events unfold—and prompted Friends of the Rouge to put out a statement of solidarity; an action otherwise unimaginable in the history of this organization. From that moment, we have doubled down on our efforts to open our eyes and to accept the fact that we need to do better in connecting with our diverse community and address

our lack of internal diversity. The Rouge watershed encompasses an incredibly broad cross section of people in the state of Michigan—around 57% white, 43% non-white—and we realized our staff and leadership didn’t reflect the communities we wished to serve and began to work through some glaring barriers to diversification.

The need to pivot with intentional creativity due to both of these challenges during the past year seemed to come seamlessly from the Friends of the Rouge board and staff. I am inspired by the tenacity with which our board and staff have embraced the difficult yet absolutely critical justice and equity work. They come to the table each day with their own new ideas, conversation they had or story they read. They ask to reflect on new ways of moving forward, which just a year ago were not considered. Our eyes, ears and hearts have opened as we have accepted our own role in working to undo the injustices so many of our fellow community members have lived with for a lifetime. This is just the beginning. The hard work has just begun.

Words do not convey the overwhelming sense of pride I feel for this group of people. While the “numbers speak for themselves” in the following report—they don’t always tell the full story. As we process this moment and reckon with the global paradigm shift the pandemic and racial inequality has affected within each of us, we recognize that we each have a story to share—stories that shine light on how we each came to this moment of reflection. Perhaps as we shift from one mindset to another, we can move from reflection to action on this profound moment and consider the kind of story we hope others will tell about this moment. History has its eyes on us. What kind of story do you want to share?

With great hope for the future, respectfully,

Marie McCormick
Executive Director

THE MISSION OF FRIENDS OF THE ROUGE IS TO
RESTORE, PROTECT AND ENHANCE THE ROUGE
RIVER WATERSHED THROUGH STEWARDSHIP,
EDUCATION AND COLLABORATION

ON THE COVER—Rain garden participants at Bandhu Gardens in Detroit. These gardens connect neighbors and build community in Banglatown.



Restoration Efforts Still Successful in 2020

FOTR's Restoration Programs armed 1,181 people with information and simple, low cost solutions that can be taken to reduce polluted rainwater from flowing into the Rouge River, Detroit River and Lake Erie. A total of 14 rain gardens were installed in 2020. These gardens will prevent as much as 250,000 gallons of rain water from entering Detroit's combined sewer system annually.

Rain Gardens to the Rescue

The Rain Gardens to the Rescue program, coordinated by Friends of the Rouge and Sierra Club, resulted in 12 Detroiters completing the five-part training course where they learned of the critical need for everyone—individuals and businesses alike—to manage rain water and engaged 146 people with the installation of 11 rain gardens. These rain gardens store and infiltrate up to 12,650 gallons of rainwater and provide habitat and beauty within the community. Two previous years' cohorts put their knowledge to power by initiating others to incorporate rain gardens on their property. They supported the process from concept to final plan and co-lead the garden installations with Friends of the Rouge and Sierra Club.

A self-guided tour was organized to raise awareness and connect the 30+ participants to rain gardens and stormwater practices installed by us and partners across

the City of Detroit. Garden hosts were on site to share stories and answer questions about their rain gardens.

Land + Water WORKS!

Through the Land + Water WORKS! Coalition, Friends of the Rouge and Sierra Club work with Detroit-based nonprofits and faith organizations to create larger-scale rain gardens to demonstrate what these organizations can do to manage rain water and reduce their drainage fees. A series of workshops focused on rain gardens were held in partnership with Bandhu Gardens, In Memory of Community Garden, and the Hope House of Meditation Missionary Baptist Church. Each site also received a rain garden. The 3 gardens total 2,000 sq. ft. in size and store 4,000 gallons of rain water. One-hundred fifty six people were involved with the program from across the city, including Hamtramck High School students, members of the Bengali neighborhood, Warrendale, and the heart of the city.

National Wildlife Federation

In 2020, we teamed up with the National Wildlife Federation's Sacred Grounds Program to expand our rain garden work with houses of worship in Detroit. The first of 3 large-scale rain gardens went in at Gesu Catholic Church and School. The project removed 10,900 sq. ft. of impervious runoff from the combined sewer system and stores 34,800 gallons of rainwater. Two additional large-scale projects are to be installed at Victory Outreach Detroit and Bethany Lutheran Church and School as well as 6 smaller projects in 2021.

Master Rain Gardener Training

In 2020, Friends of the Rouge trained 41 residents through two five-part Master Rain Gardener Training Programs, held in Livonia and Southfield. Nine graduates have built their rain gardens (or committed to maintaining a public rain garden for a year) and earned certification as a Master Rain Gardener in 2020.

Rain Barrels

Rain Barrel & Native Plant Sales 2020 saw Friends of the Rouge launch its inaugural year with the Rouge Store, bringing low-cost rain barrels, native plants, composters, and more to Rouge residents. All told, 400 southeast Michigan residents purchased 420 rain barrels and 4,400 plugs of native plants. The sales brought in roughly \$50,000 in revenue to support Friends of the Rouge's efforts, and the advertising efforts for the sales showed nearly 450,000 positive environmental messages to over 100,000 residents.

Rouge Rescue

Rouge Rescue was vastly different this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The annual stewardship event quickly shifted from planning in-person activities to an online platform that provided a fun and easy way to keep people engaged while at home and empowered them to take steps to be a river steward and Rescue the Rouge every day. Over 300 individuals from across Southeast Michigan logged on to participate in a variety of educational, creative and action-oriented programming they could do from home, in their own backyard, or in their community. Participants earned virtual badges along the way. An estimated 984 gallons of trash, 790 gallons of invasive garlic mustard and other invasive species were collected and 8 trees were planted.

Opposite page: Denise Kennedy works to inspire the Voices for Earth Justice rain gardens; This page, top: The Minnock-Whitlock Park, created by In Memory of Community Gardens, was enhanced with a rain garden in 2020; Bottom: Volunteers with the Plymouth YMCA help out at Rouge Rescue





"My butterfly rain garden brings a smile to my heart every time I look out my window."

*-Loretta Powell,
Detroit,
RGtR Participant*





Monitoring Report

Bug Hunts

Bug Hunts (Benthic Macroinvertebrate Monitoring) are used to track stream health by assessing the type and abundance of aquatic insects, clams, snails, etc. that live in the stream bed. Volunteers participate in Bug Hunts held in the spring and fall and a Winter Stonefly Search. Experienced volunteers are trained as Team Leaders to lead at individual sites. Additional sites are sampled by Wayne County, Susan Thompson and Schoolcraft College. FOTR data is used by the state and local communities.

2020 WINTER STONEFLY SEARCH: We held our second “Stonefly Refresher” to prepare volunteers in the FOTR Bosch Lab with 16 people in attendance. The January 25 Stonefly Search, held at the Plymouth Cultural Center, had sixty-five volunteers who sampled 23 sites in 12 teams. Stoneflies were found at sixteen of the 34 sites (47%). All sixteen sites had slender winter stoneflies (Capniidae). One site also had Perlodids. The program was funded by the Alliance of Rouge Communities.

2020 SPRING BUG HUNT: The Spring Bug Hunt was not held in 2020 due to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the governor’s stay at home order that prohibited travel outside of the home for non-essential workers. Instead, FOTR’s staff Sally Petrella conducted an online live demonstration of a Bug Hunt that attracted 1300 viewers. Several team leaders visited sites on their own.

2020 FALL BUG HUNT: After the development of a volunteer re-engagement protocol, FOTR held the Fall Bug Hunt. All participants pre-screened and agreed to wear a face mask and social distance. Rather than meet at a central location, Team Leaders picked up and returned equipment and volunteers met on site. There were 58 participants who sampled 21 sites in 11 teams with additional sites sampled by Sue Thompson from Wayne County and volunteers. A total of 30 sites were sampled. Site scores showed 80% of sites stable; 3% improving and 16% declining. Johnson Creek had a significant positive trend and Middle 1 had no significant trend. The Lower 1, Main1-2 and Upper subwatersheds all had significant negative trends. The

This page, top: Fall Bug Hunters sample the Main Branch; Bottom: Sue Thompson instructs Stonefly Refresher attendees; Opposite page, left: Team Leader Tamika Jaja and her son Ryan visit a site in spring; Right: Staff learn to identify European Frog-bit.



program was funded by ten Rouge communities (Beverly Hills, Farmington, Livonia, Novi, Plymouth, Southfield, Troy, Northville Township, Plymouth Township and Washtenaw County) the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy, and a donation from Lynn DeGrande and Stuart Steel.

Frog & Toad Survey

The Frog & Toad Survey is a listening survey in which volunteers track frog and toad presence through listening surveys. Volunteers are assigned blocks where they keep track of what species are calling. Two training workshops were scheduled for 2020. Seventy-nine people attended the first workshop in Livonia on March 7. The second workshop had to be canceled due to COVID-19 but most registered volunteers (61) agreed to self-train and 126 veteran volunteers signed up for a total of 228 assigned blocks.

Seventy-three survey teams submitted data for a total of 184 survey blocks. An average of 3.4 species was heard per block. Wood frogs were calling in a lower percentage of blocks while gray treefrogs were heard in a larger percentage of blocks. The Lower 1 subwatershed had the highest diversity of species calling with an average of 4.4 and 4.5 species calling per block. The program was supported by Bosch. S. Petrella presented the program to an international audience at the Save the Frogs World Summit on April 24.

Fish Monitoring

Fish seining surveys have been overseen by FOTR since 2012. After developing a protocol in response to

COVID-19, FOTR monitored 21 sites on 9 survey days. Nine sites were sampled on the Lower in 2020 to continue to track the movement and effect of the invasive round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*). Gobies reached Beck Road in 2016 and this year we found them upstream of Beck Road for the first time, in Fowler Creek at Denton. No reddsidedace (*Clinostomus elongatus*) were found at See3 or Up2. No pugnose shiners or any native minnows were found in Gilbert Lake.

Baseline data was taken at Evans, Sprague, Seeley and Johnson Creeks in preparation for coming habitat projects.

The Main Branch was sampled upstream of the fishway that is currently closed. Samples were also taken in Rouge and Eliza Howell Parks where uncontrolled CSOs remain. The fish community is poor at these sites but the sensitive stonecat was found in Rouge Park. The oxbow at the Henry Ford was sampled and the fish community has improved since the project began. The program was supported by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy.

European Frog-bit Monitoring

In a partnership with the Oakland County Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area, FOTR will be surveying for a new aquatic invasive plant—European Frog-bit—with funding from the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program. Delayed due to COVID-19, training began in fall 2020.



Education Programming Adapts and Expands

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 numerous challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the REP worked with a total of 48 students and six teachers from four schools throughout Metro Detroit in 2020. 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.

Even though traditional in-school programming was limited, 2020 provided an opportunity for reflection, partnership-building, and pivoting of content development and delivery. At the onset of the pandemic when everyone needed to stay home to stay safe, staff reminded that #natureisopen through weekly “Take me to the River” video segments on Facebook Live that began as a moment of nature and evolved to more generalized watershed education around the Rouge, highlighting projects and the impacts of stormwater in the watershed. As mentioned elsewhere in this report, our Rouge Cruise became an “UnCruise.” These two series provided educational video content about the Rouge River that did not exist previously. The videos were edited and posted on the Friends of the

Rouge YouTube channel to share this content more widely, making it easily accessible to teachers and school groups as well as the general public.

Collaborating with local and regional watershed and place-based education organizations has been helpful to share resources. Partnerships grew to continue our work with Earth Force, whose mission is to engage young people as active citizens who improve the environment and their communities now and in the future. Using tools from Earth Force, the REP is developing an interactive online self-guided activity using the same platform used for Rouge Rescue last year. Geared towards young people, the general public, teachers and school groups, it will be a step-by-step way to teach about the river and how to be an engaged part of their community—earning points and fun badges along the way. The REP also continued its formal partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Bay Watershed Education & Training Program, who were supportive of our adjustments.

Our Educational umbrella is expanding and adjusting to changing needs. Not only will we continue our work with school groups, but hope to come up with internal systems to address the needs for informal watershed education on-demand through presentations, online training segments, connecting experts in our community with interested parties as well as municipalities and elected officials, and providing more public education opportunities among all of our programs. We are excited to continue to grow and adapt in 2021.





Paddling Grows on the Rouge

The Lower Rouge River Water Trail Leadership Committee continued to build the trail with significant progress despite the pandemic. The Committee moved to virtual meetings starting in May, holding five meetings throughout 2020. FOTR promoted the trail in a presentation to the Inkster City Council in February and held separate meetings with officials from Inkster, Westland and Wayne to discuss and explore trail connections in their respective communities. A Woody Debris Management Work Day was organized and held by volunteers at two locations in Dearborn in July with 23 volunteers followed by several smaller work days. On October 24, a public group paddle attracted 42 paddlers with canoes provided by Wayne County Parks and delivered by Jeff Vallender with paddles and PFDs provided by Heavner Canoe Rental. The route was round trip to avoid shuttling people in a pandemic.

A significant stride towards implementing the trail came when the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation approved a grant of \$330,000 to support the design and enhancement of the Rouge River Gateway Trail and three trailheads along the Rouge River Trail. This funding allowed FOTR to hire a Trails Program Manager to further the work in 2021.

In addition, FOTR joined the Fort Rouge Gateway Partnership (FRoG) in cutting the ribbon on the new Fort Street Bridge Park on October 22, 2020. Executive Director, Marie McCormick was invited to speak to honor major donors who financially supported the project along with other notable speakers like Congresswoman Debbie Dingell, Detroit Deputy Mayor Conrad Mallatt and Councilwoman Raquel Castaneda-Lopez. FOTR will be the fiduciary for Phase II of the project which will enable river access via a universally accessible kayak launch and a boardwalk for fishing and observation.

Top: Group paddle at Melvindale boat launch in October 2020; Middle: Marie McCormick in front of educational signage at the Fort Street Bridge Park ribbon cutting; Bottom: Paddlers below Fair Lane dam during group trip

Advocacy Efforts Continue in 2020, Despite Pandemic

In 2020, Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) continued to play a role in guiding public knowledge about important issues in the watershed. We appreciate the opportunity to serve on councils, committees and in events where FOTR can lay the framework for mission driven, meaningful advocacy and lobbying to educate and advise on issues relevant to 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. Some highlights of our advocacy efforts over the past year include:

Invitation to meetings with leadership of the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE), Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development (MDARD)

Presenting (Executive Director serving as panelist) to state legislators and their staff via Michigan Water School via Zoom

Participation in the Water Table to discuss and regionally take action on collective state-wide water priorities.

Executive Director appointed as a member of the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) Policy Advisory Committee, advises MEC staff on member groups responses to legislative issues related to water.

Executive Director appointed as a councilmember of the Dearborn Water System Advisory Council to address lead and copper rule and drinking water in the City of Dearborn

Maintaining an active role in the Rouge River Advisory Council (RRAC) that 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.

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

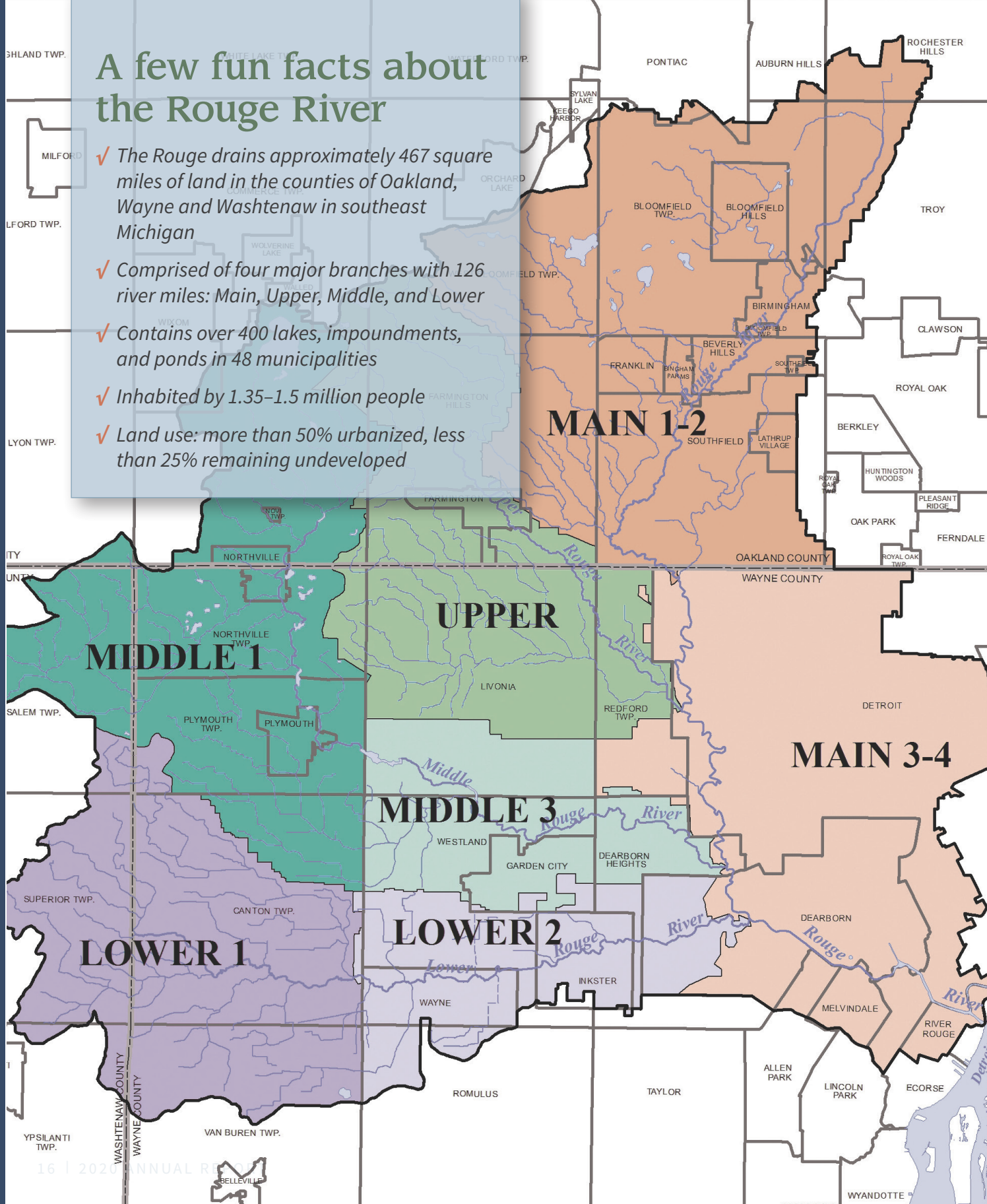
Advocacy has steadily increased over the past year with the FOTR Board of Directors formalizing the Advocacy Committee in August 2020. This Committee assists the Executive Director in making more informed decisions regarding response and participation regarding FOTR's comments around environmental issues. This new committee worked on submitting formalized statements in opposition to a permit from Advanced Disposal to discharge leachate in Johnson Creek, near headwaters of Middle Rouge and another to Wayne County recommending alternatives to future land development and sale.

We continue to grow in this role, and seek opportunities for personal and professional development as FOTR moves more into advocacy and lobbying work. We are encouraged and honored by the public reception and the level of trust the public places on us.



A few fun 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



Fundraising Report

THE 2020 ROUGE UN-CRUISE was a huge success, raising over **\$27,000** with **983** live Zoom users and an estimated live event participant count of **1,475**

Thank you to our 2020 Un-Cruise Funders:
 AK Steel Corporation, Ann Ivory Studios, Burns & McDonnell, Cardno, Carmeuse Lime & Stone, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT), Giffels Webster, Honeywell, Inland Lakes Landscaping Corporation, Mannik & Smith Group, Marathon Petroleum Company LP, Marine Pollution Control (MPC Environmental), Michigan State University, Midwestern Consulting LLC, MJ Electric, LLC, Natural Community Services, OHM Advisors (Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc.), SmithGroup, TSP Environmental, and Waste Management

...and to our 2020 Un-Cruise Supporters:
 Alice Ann Bailey, John Barker, Bill Craig, Mike Darga, Kenneth L. Gurnow, Mary Geraldine Grunow, Bill Hazel, Kathleen A. Klein, Judy & Bart Lessin, Stanislaw Lisica, Robert D. Muller, James Sunstrum, Theresa Tejada, Sue M. Thompson, Paula Trilety, Mary Kathryn Trzeciak, Laura Wagner, Steve J. Weis, and Kathleen A. Wight

- Other Events—**
- CAPITAL CAMPAIGN \$5,500**
 - DETROIT FREE PRESS MARATHON \$1,845**
 - VALENTINE BUG APPEAL \$578**
 - COVID-19 EMERGENCY APPEAL \$16,648**
 - YEAR-END APPEAL \$32,542**

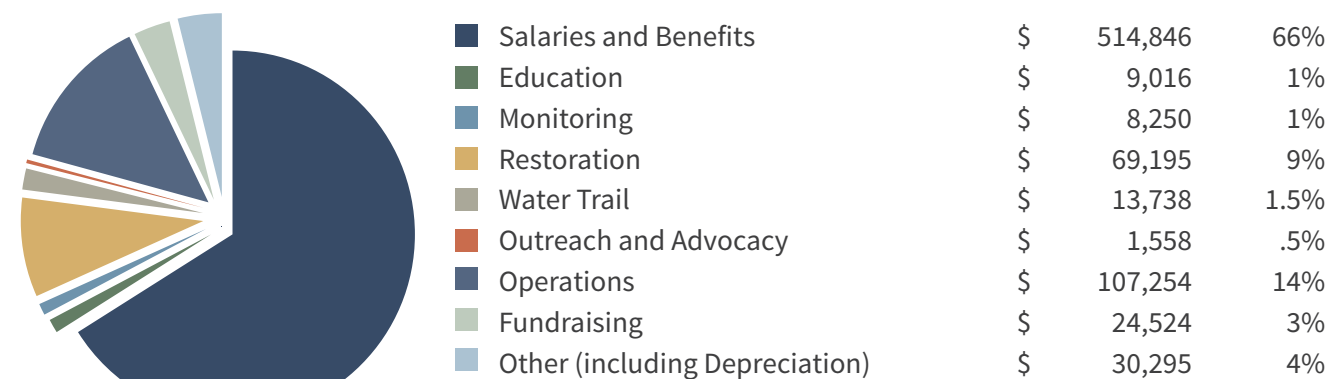
Fiscal Year 2020 JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31

TOTAL REVENUES = \$1,839,902



TOTAL REVENUE BY SOURCE \$1,839,902 100%

TOTAL EXPENSES = \$778,680



TOTAL EXPENSES BY USE \$778,680 100%

PARTNERS

- Academy of the Americas High School
- Achieve Charter Academy
- Alliance for the Great Lakes
- Alliance of Rouge Communities Public Involvement & Education Committee
- Americorps
- Bandhu Gardens
- Birmingham Covington School
- Bloomfield Hills Schools
- Bloomfield Township
- Bosch
- Canton High School
- Canton Township
- Chandler Park Academy High School
- Christ Episcopal Church, Dearborn
- City of Allen Park
- City of Birmingham
- City of Dearborn
- City of Dearborn Heights
- City of Detroit
- City of Farmington
- City of Farmington Hills
- City of Inkster
- City of Livonia
- City of Melvindale
- City of Novi
- City of Plymouth
- City of River Rouge
- City of River Rouge
- City of Southfield
- City of Troy
- City of Wayne
- City of Westland
- Clean Water Action
- Clinton River Watershed Council
- Clippert Multicultural Honors Academy
- Concerned Residents for South Dearborn
- Concrete Channel Stakeholder Group (overseen by EPA, EGLE, Army corps of engineers)
- Cranbrook Institute of Science
- Crescent Academy International
- Crestwood High School
- Destination Downriver
- Detroit Audubon
- Detroit Country Day Middle School
- Detroit Future City
- Detroit Green Task Force Water Committee
- Detroit Public Television
- Detroit River Coalition
- Detroit Stormwater Hub Advisory Council
- Detroit Water and Sewerage Department
- Detroit Zoo
- Downriver Delta Community Development Corporation
- Downriver Linked Greenways
- Earth Force
- Earth Share of Michigan
- Eastside Community Network
- EcoWorks
- EL Johnson Nature Center
- Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE)
- Fair Lane Estate
- Farmington Hills Nature Center
- Farmington STEAM Academy
- Ford Fund / Model Teams
- Ford Motor Company
- Fordson High School
- Fort Rouge Gateway Partnership (FRoG)
- Fort Rouge Gateway Partnership (FRoG) which oversees the Fort Street Bridge Park
- Friends of Rouge Park
- Friends of the Detroit River
- Gesu Catholic Church & School
- Great Lakes Water Authority
- Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA)
- Surface Water Intake Protection Plan Committee
- Greening of Detroit
- Healing our Waters Coalition
- Healthy Urban Waters Advisory Board (Wayne State)
- Heavner Canoe Rental
- Henry Ford College
- Henry Ford Health Systems
- Henry Ford Heritage Association
- Holliday Nature Preserve Association
- Hoover Elementary School
- Hope House, Meditation Missionary Baptist Church
- Hulsing Elementary School
- Huron River Watershed Council
- Huron Valley Lutheran High School
- In Memory of Community Garden
- Inter-City Baptist School
- John D. Pierce Middle School
- Keep Growing Detroit
- Keep Plymouth Leafy
- Land & Water WORKS! Coalition
- Land + Water WORKS! Coalition
- Lawrence Technological University
- Lincoln Park High School
- Lincoln Senior High School
- LivingLab
- Marine Pollution Control
- Meadows of Canton
- Metro Detroit Nature Network
- Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Michigan Environmental Council (MEC)
- Michigan League of Conservation Voters (MLCV)
- Michigan Nonprofit Association
- Michigan Radio
- Michigan Science Teachers Association
- Michigan Sea Grant
- Michigan State University Extension
- Michigan Water Table - statewide network of statewide water quality and accessibility issues
- Moraine Elementary School
- Motor Cities National Heritage
- My Community SPEAKS
- National Resource Defense Fund
- National Wildlife Federation
- Northville Art House
- Northville Township
- Novi Meadows Elementary School
- O.L. Smith Middle School
- Oakland Community College
- Oakland County CISMA
- Oakland County Water Resources Commission
- Office of the Great Lakes
- One Water Campaign, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
- Parallel Solutions, LLC
- Peace Love and Planet (ask Matthew)
- PFAS Alliance
- Pierce Middle School
- Plymouth Arts and Recreation Complex
- Plymouth Garden Club
- Plymouth High School
- Plymouth Township
- Plymouth Township Environmental Commission
- Plymouth-Canton Educational Park
- Pure Oakland Water
- Quicken Loans
- River Network
- River Restorations Inc.
- Riverside Kayak Connection
- Ronald Brown Academy
- Roosevelt High School
- Rouge River Advisory Council (public advisory council organized because of our AOC status)
- Rouge River Water Trail Leadership Committee
- Salem Elementary School
- Salem Township
- Save Hines Park
- Schoolcraft College
- Sierra Club of Michigan
- Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
- Southeast Michigan Land Conservancy
- Southeast Michigan Partners for Clean Water
- Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition (SEMIS)
- Southwest Detroit Business Association
- Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision
- St. Michael's Green Team (Merriman Hollow)
- St. Suzanne Cody Rouge Community Resource Center
- Stage Nature Center
- Steppingstone School
- Sunnyside Farms, Detroit
- Superior Land Conservancy
- Superior Township
- Tawheed Center School
- The Henry Ford
- Tonda Elementary School
- Transformative Research on Urban Sustainability and Training (Wayne State)
- Troy College & Career High School
- Troy High School
- United States Army Corp of Engineers
- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- University of Michigan
- University of Michigan-Dearborn
- Village of Beverly Hills
- Village of Bingham Farms
- Village of Franklin
- Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission
- Water System Advisory Council
- Wayne County Community College
- Wayne County Department of Environment
- Wayne County Department of Public Service
- Wayne County Parks
- Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency
- Wayne Regional Educational Service Agencies
- Wayne State University
- West Bloomfield Township
- Wildlife Habitat Council

SUPPORTERS	FUNDERS	MEMBERS	MEMBERS	MEMBERS	MEMBERS	MEMBERS	MEMBERS	MEMBERS	MEMBERS
Kathy & Michael Ableson Andrew Chandler Larry Clayton Mike & Nancy Darga Christopher Dark Lynn DeGrande & Stuart Steel The Dorr & Hoenscheid Family Foundation Paul Draus & Carla Gonzalez Lara & Kyle Edwards Dr. Orin & Charlette Gelderloos Marilyn & Jeffrey Gilbert Eiji Isomura Ann & Tim Ivory Nancy Low Mark & Patty Malcolm Marie & Darren McCormick James J. & Sarah Prescott David & Jean Redfield Jerry Ring Hideaki & Larissa Sano Schulte Family Bill Secrest & Misty Callies Sam Shopinski & Lisa King Terry & Jeff Snyder Jack Snyder Colleen & William Sturm Al & Peggy VanKerckhove Laura Wagner Alan Wiggins & Jennifer Irwin Block Family Foundation	Advanced Disposal AK Steel Corporation Alliance of Rouge Communities Ann Ivory Studios Bosch Community Fund Buckfire Law Firm Burns & McDonnell Cardno Carmeuse Lime & Stone City of Livonia City of Plymouth City of Southfield City of Troy Cleveland-Cliffs Foundation Community Financial Credit Union Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan Dearborn Public Library DTE Energy Foundation Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT) Erb Family Foundation Farmington Ford Motor Company Garden Club of Dearborn Giffels Webster Great Lakes Commission Honeywell International Inland Lakes Landscaping Corporation Livonia Garden Club Mannik & Smith Group Marathon Petroleum Company LP Marine Pollution Control (MPC Environmental) Mercedes-Benz Financial Services Michigan State University Midwestern Consulting LLC MJ Electric, LLC National Kidney Foundation of Michigan National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Natural Community Services Novi OHM Advisors (Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc.) PEA Group Plymouth Township Pure Oakland Water (POW) Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Robert Bosch, LLC Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy SmithGroup St. Suzanne Cody Rouge Community Resource Center Trailwood Garden Club Travel Leaders TSP Environmental University of Michigan - Dearborn Washtenaw County Water Resources Commission Waste Management WeSpire Woman's National Farm & Garden Association, Bloomfield Hills Branch	Kathy & Michael Ableson Adrienne Abramson Kevin Adkins Lisa & Steven Agosta Dan & Sharon Alford Djenaba Ali Marilyn Alimpich Christine & Mike Allen Carol Almeranti D. Karen Andrews Michael Mueller & Anne McGraw-Mueller Lisa A. Anneberg Robert & Catherine Anthony Angela Antosiewicz Anil Aparanji Paulina Appel Doris Applebaum Gary A. Archer Janet Armil Kristen Armstrong Dr. Mark Bacigal Alice & Christopher Bailey K & M Baker Brenda Baker Gail Barber & Marlene Davis Kevin & Denise Barkume Susan Bauder Joy Beatty Steve Beers Dan Bejesky Ronald & Phyllis Bendrey Ross Benner John G. 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