



**Clean Michigan Initiative
Clean Water Fund Grant**

Wayne County Department of Environment
Water Quality Division
 Telephone (734) 326-3936
 Fax: (734)-326-4421
 Email: nmullett@co.wayne.mi.us

Rouge Watershed Nutrient Reduction Program
 April 1, 2005 through July 31, 2007

The goals of this project were to educate the public and train citizen volunteers and community staff about actions that can be taken to reduce nutrient loadings to the river, lakes, ponds, and streams within the Rouge watershed. The project implemented information and education strategies that were multi-faceted and lead to behavioral changes, including the implementation of vegetative best management practices. Audiences of all types received information and had the opportunity to participate in numerous educational events or resource restoration and protection projects.

The proper use of fertilizers, as well as the use of slow release nitrogen and low phosphorus fertilizers, was promoted extensively. The project also introduced new storm water management concepts (LID/Naturescaping) to municipal staff and officials, the general public and private developers and builders. It actively contributed to efforts performed to protect and restore sensitive natural resources like the Johnson Creek. The project encouraged, implemented, and stressed the importance of riparian corridor management for public as well as private lands.

The watershed benefits of this program include reduced phosphorous, nitrogen, and sediment discharges into the Rouge River as well as reduction in flow volumes, increases in infiltration, floodwater storage capacity and wildlife habitat. The benefits of the program will be long-term in nature because it has resulted in attitudinal shifts and behavioral changes from watershed residents and businesses. Therefore these benefits will be cumulative in nature, lasting long beyond the timeline of the project.

Grant Amount: \$274,800
Match Funds: \$274,800
Total Amount: \$549,600



Project Accomplishments:

- 305,175 advertisements
- 28 Earth Friendly Fertilizer Retailers
- 2 Fertilizers reformulated to meet Earth Friendly Fertilizer criteria
- 156 citizen volunteers
- 32,692 volunteer hours
- 1,203 workshop/event attendees
- 900 participants in Johnson Creek Days
- 1,230 attended Dirt Doctor Presentations
- 117,600 public information handouts
- 6 Grow Zone Demonstration Projects
- 13+ Acres of Native Plant Grow Zone Areas
- Riparian Corridor Management Technical Advisory Committee and Work Group
- Numerous Project Partnerships



Project Partners

- Alliance of Rouge Communities
- Friends of the Rouge
- MSU Extension
- SEMCOG
- Wayne County Parks Division
- Design Resource Associates
- Ford Motor Company
- Pheasants Forever - Washtenaw
- Smith Elementary School
- Edison Elementary School
- Wayne Westland Community Schools
- Local Scout Groups





Bennett Arboretum Site Before: This 2 acre site was dominated by turf grass. Stormwater runoff from this site was washing away topsoil into a small forested wetland. This site lacked vegetative species diversity.



Bennett Arboretum Site After: The site was prepared and seeded with over 20 different native plants. After two seasons, the site has successfully established itself as a native prairie. The slope has been stabilized.



Smith School Site Before: The Tonquish Creek was eroding the slope, impacting the bike path and the playground of the adjacent Smith Elementary School. The erosion of the bank was supplying sediment to the stream. Poor habitat quality existed in this reach of stream.



Smith School Site After: 100 linear feet of stream bank was stabilized with geogrid and a rock toe. Over 20 different native plant species were added to provide a riparian buffer for the bank. The project is now part of an outdoor classroom at the school.