

Rouge River Pollution Problems

1. Approximately 30% of the Rouge River Watershed is served by combined sewers which annually discharge over 6 billion gallons of stormwater directly to the Rouge River from 168 overflow points.
2. Stormwater runoff has been identified as a major pollution source in each branch of the Rouge River and many of its primary tributaries and lakes and ponds.
3. A fish consumption advisory has been issued for the Middle and Lower branches of the Rouge and the lower segment of the Main branch.
4. Wayne and Oakland County Health Departments have issued advisories warning against whole body contact with the Rouge River.
5. Portions of the Rouge River in Wayne County have been listed as a site of environmental contamination (Act 307 site) because of heavily polluted bottom sediments.
6. In 1985, the International Joint Commission identified the Rouge River as one of the worst sites of environmental pollution in the Great Lakes Basin and designated it an Area of Concern.
7. Today, there have been significant improvements made to the Rouge River as a result of citizen involvement and education.