



# Transforming the Rouge Area of Concern from Mowed-down to Grown-up

Wayne County Lola Valley Park, Redford Township

The Alliance of Rouge Communities received grant funds to install Green Infrastructure in your neighborhood through the Transforming the Rouge Project. This project will create Green Infrastructure by converting 10 acres of mowed turf grass into native vegetation within Wayne County's Lola Valley Park along the Upper Rouge River. Designated areas shown below will be seeded with a mixture of native grasses and wildflowers.

This project is funded, in part, by the U.S. EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to improve water quality by creating more natural areas near the Rouge River. The Rouge River is the most urban river in the state and has been designated as a significant source of pollution to Lake Erie.

Projects like this improve water quality by restoring the riparian corridor and help to reduce extreme flow variation and volume.



## What is Green Infrastructure?

Green Infrastructure is the interconnected network of open spaces, natural areas and native plant vegetation that naturally manages storm water, reduces flooding, improves water quality and creates wildlife habitat.

## About the Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC)

The ARC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization consisting of 35 local municipalities, three counties, educational institutions and stewardship groups working together to improve the Rouge River. Founded in 2005, the ARC and its partners work cooperatively to meet water quality requirements mandated by the state's storm water permit and to restore beneficial uses, such as canoeing, fishing and other recreational activities, to the Rouge River. The ARC is funded by membership dues from local governments and supported by grants. That means better water quality for less cost to its members!



(US EPA grant #GL-00E00643-0)

# Transforming the Rouge Area of Concern from Mowed-down to Grown-up

Lola Valley Park,  
Redford Township

## When will the Lola Valley Park Green Infrastructure be installed?

It is anticipated that site preparation, seeding and planting will take place in the fall of 2011. If the project is delayed, planting activities will occur in the spring of 2012. Maintenance of the site by the contractor will occur during the summer of 2012.

## What can I expect to see once the plant material has been installed?

Initially, the site will be covered with straw mulch to facilitate the germination of the native seeds. After about a week or so, the seeds will begin to grow and it may initially look like new lawn as the native grasses in the seed mix will germinate first. For the first couple of years, there may not be much color as native plants spend more time developing their roots and less energy producing flowers. It may just look like someone forgot to mow at first but, with time, the native wildflowers will start to appear and provide colorful accents throughout the growing season. It often takes three to four years for native wildflowers to bloom proficiently. Native plants will generally grow to a height of four to six feet depending on the species.



*Seeded area*



*Year 1 growth*



*Year 3 growth*

## Will I still be able to walk through Lola Valley Park?

Yes, it will be possible to walk through the park and avoid the Green Infrastructure areas. It is requested that the green infrastructure areas be avoided while the native plants are young to prevent damage to the establishing plant material.

## What types of plants will be installed as part of the Green Infrastructure project?

The native seed mix contains a variety of native grasses and wildflowers suitable for growing in a river floodplain like Lola Valley Park. Below are a few of the 40+ species proposed for this Green Infrastructure project.

*Big Bluestem*



*Black Eyed Susan*



*Culver's Root*



*Sand Coreopsis*



*New England Aster*



*Bergamot*



*Rough Blazing Star*



*Butterfly Weed*



*Purple Coneflower*



The Alliance of Rouge Communities - Working Cooperatively to Improve the River!  
For more information go to: [www.allianceofrougecommunities.com](http://www.allianceofrougecommunities.com)