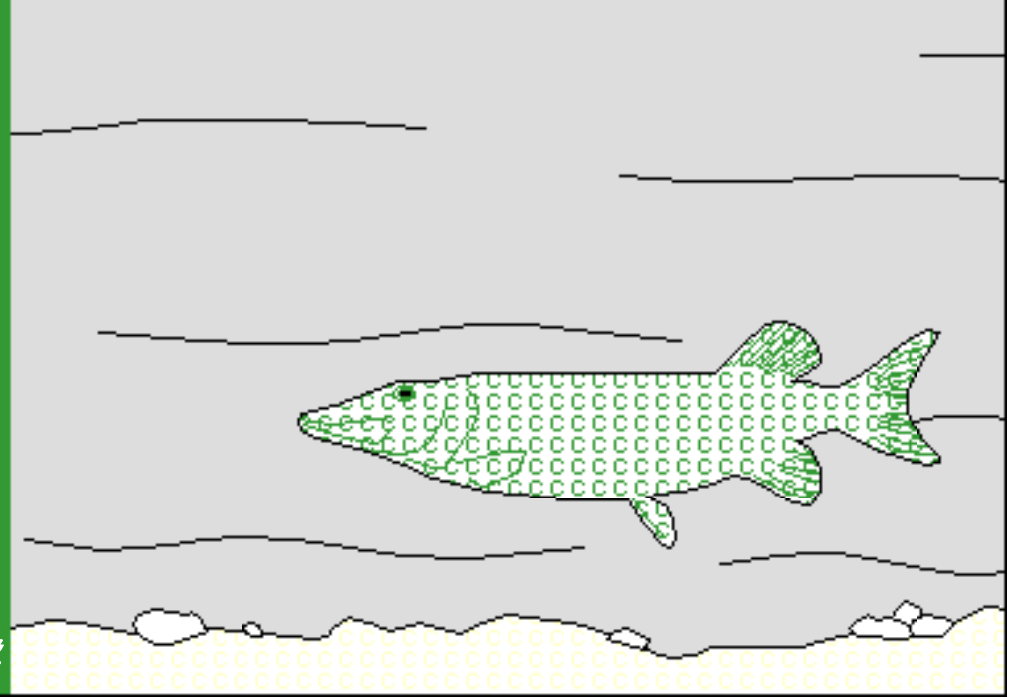
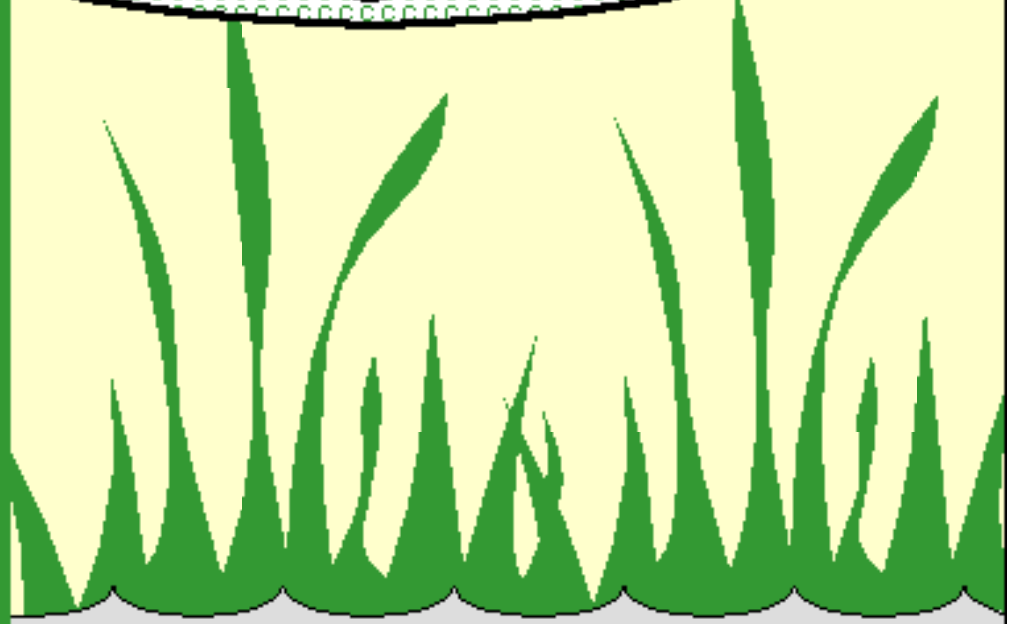


*Rouge River*

**Activity** Book

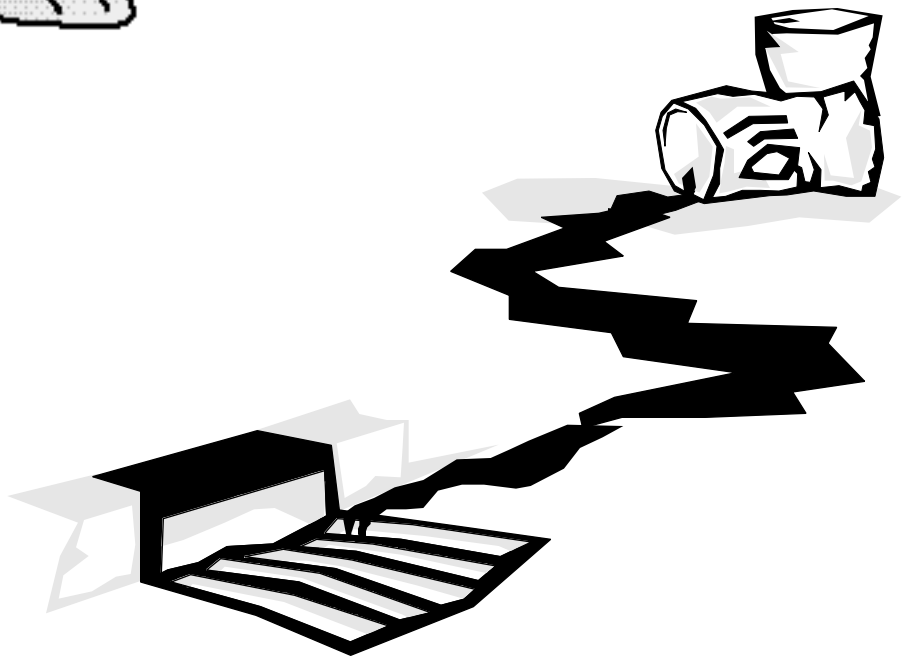
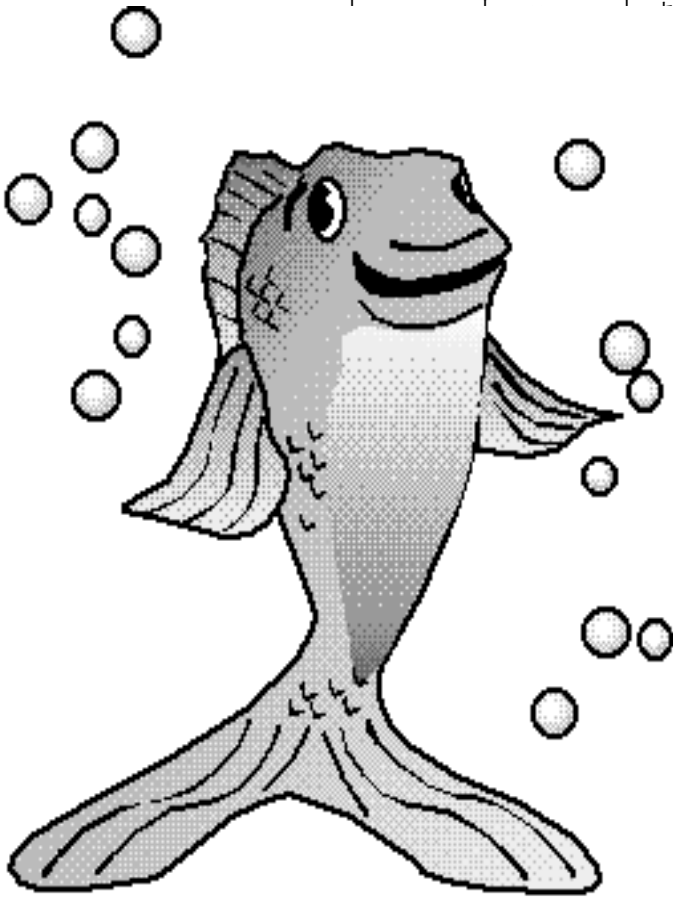


*...doing our part*

# Water Pollution

Hi. My name is Goldie and I want to talk to you about water pollution. Many people think that most water pollution comes from industry and businesses dumping chemicals into the water. The truth is our water is polluted because of things you and I do every day. When it rains, water

runs down the streets. This water picks up chemicals found in lawns, pesticides found in pet waste, and litter that's left on the ground. This polluted water enters the river through small streams and ditches or storm drains. Storm drains are found along streets in your neighborhood. Large pipes under the city connect the storm drains to the closest stream or lake.



# Pollution Police

Another way the water is polluted is when people dump hazardous chemicals, like motor oil and antifreeze, down storm drains. This means people are creating oil slicks in the rivers found down the street or in their own backyards. YUCK!

If we fertilize our lawns too much, pour hazardous chemicals down storm drains, leave pet wastes on the lawn or street, or litter sidewalks or streets, we are guilty of water pollution.

Join me and become a member of the water pollution police. Go through this book and learn more about what is polluting the Rouge River. Then when you see people that are polluting the river, tell them to stop what they are doing. Together we can help clean up the Rouge River.

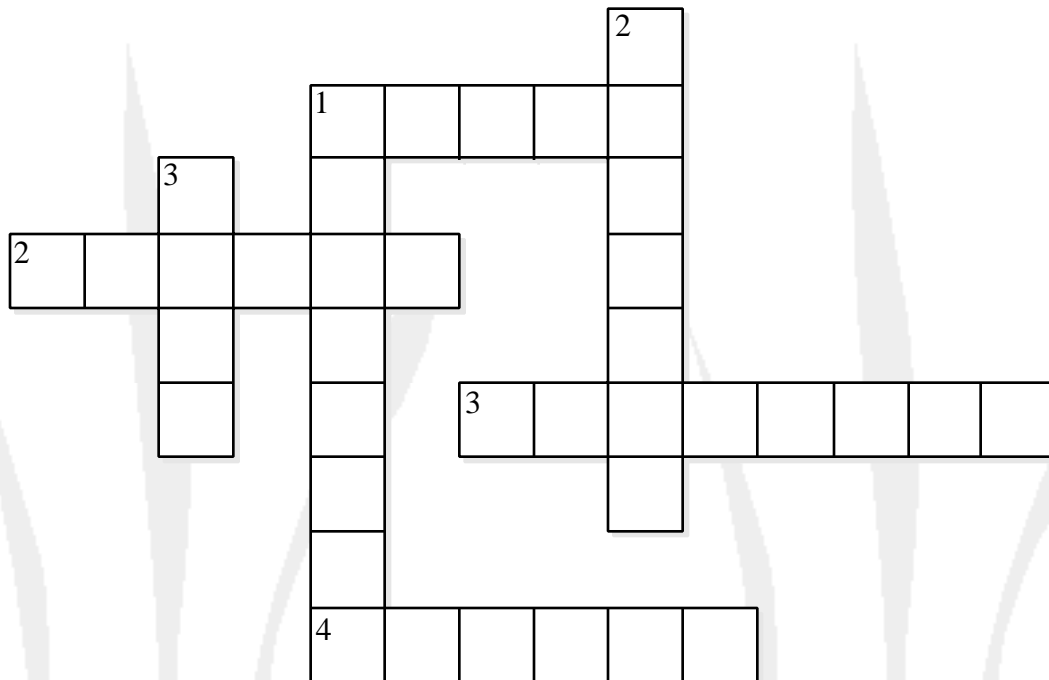




# Wetlands: Nature's Wonder

Are there any swampy areas in your neighborhood? Most likely these are called wetlands and they play an important role to the environment. There are many reasons why wetlands are important:

1. Wetlands contain various types of plants and animals. Wetlands can be compared to tropical rain forests and coral reefs in the types of plants and animals that live there.
2. Wetlands filter out many pollutants found in water. So, wetlands can make water cleaner.
3. Wetlands act like a sponge by storing water when it rains. This reduces flooding.
4. Wetlands give people a place to hike, fish and enjoy wildlife.



Across

1. Wetlands can improve \_\_\_\_\_ quality.
2. Wetlands are vital to the survival of various \_\_\_\_\_ and animals.
3. Destroying wetlands can lead to increased \_\_\_\_\_.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, marshes and bogs are types of wetlands.

Down

1. Michigan has lost over 70% of its original \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Wetlands can be used to protect shorelines from \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The government has passed \_\_\_\_\_ to protect wetlands.

# Household Hazardous Wastes

Common household products often contain chemical ingredients that are potentially harmful to you and are a threat to the Rouge River. These products are called Household Hazardous Wastes. You can help the environment by reducing your use of these products and disposing of these products during a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day. Find the Household Hazardous Wastes in the word search below:

Antifreeze	Oven cleaner	Batteries	Pesticide
Brake Fluid	Primer	Gasoline	Rat poison
Motor Oil	Varnish	Nail polish	Weed killer
Oil Based Paint	Old Medicine	Wood Preservatives	



# Our Lawns Pollute The Rouge

Fertilizers and weed sprays may help our lawns look beautiful, but they can cause problems for the river. When it rains, fertilizers and weed killers are washed off our lawns and into storm drains or streams. Both storm drains and small streams lead to the Rouge River. When fertilizer gets into the river, it causes the plants and algae to grow too much. When these extra plants die and rot, they use the oxygen that fish and other animals need to live. This rotting causes the river to become a smelly place with little fish and wildlife. YUCK!

Use the code to find some tips your parents and neighbors can use to stop this pollution.

4	15

14	15	20

1	16	16	12	25

6	5	18	20	9	12	9	26	5	18

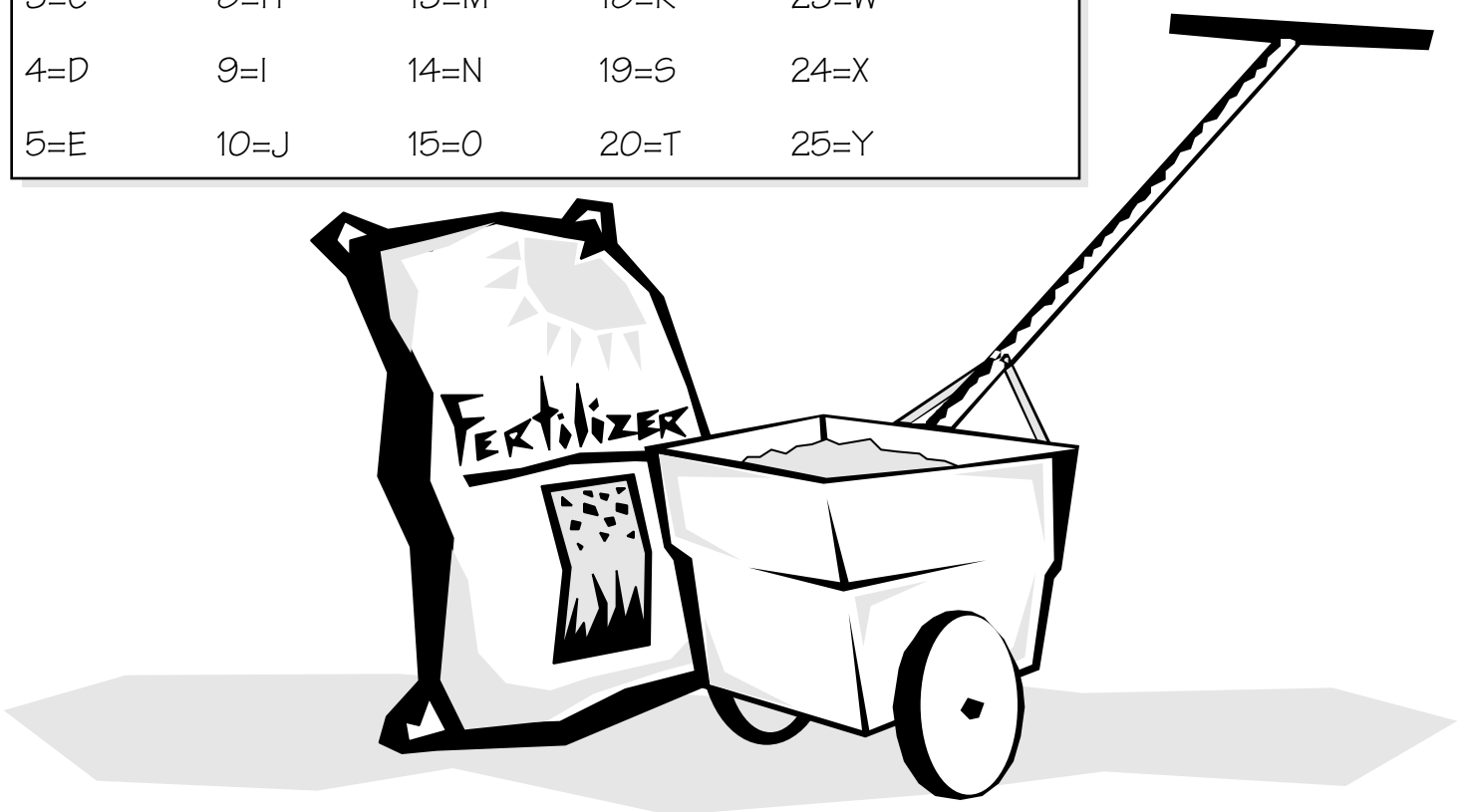
9	6

18	1	9	14

9	19

6	15	18	5	3	1	19	20

1=A	6=F	11=K	16=P	21=U	26=Z
2=B	7=G	12=L	17=Q	22=V	
3=C	8=H	13=M	18=R	23=W	
4=D	9=I	14=N	19=S	24=X	
5=E	10=J	15=O	20=T	25=Y	

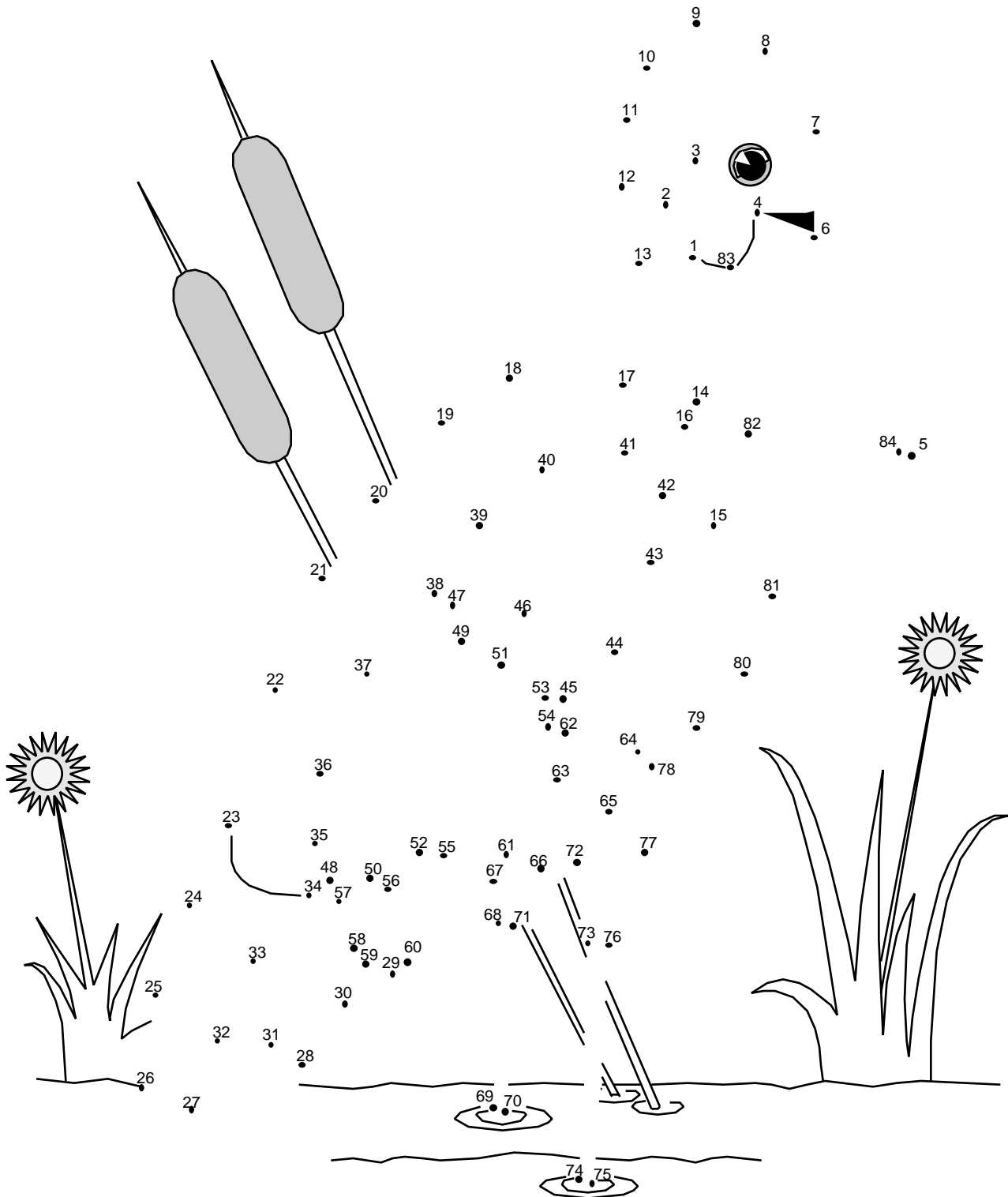


# Rouge River Wildlife



Many different varieties of birds live around the Rouge River. One type is the Great Blue Heron. This large wading bird lives in wetlands throughout the Rouge River and lives on fish, frogs and other small creatures.

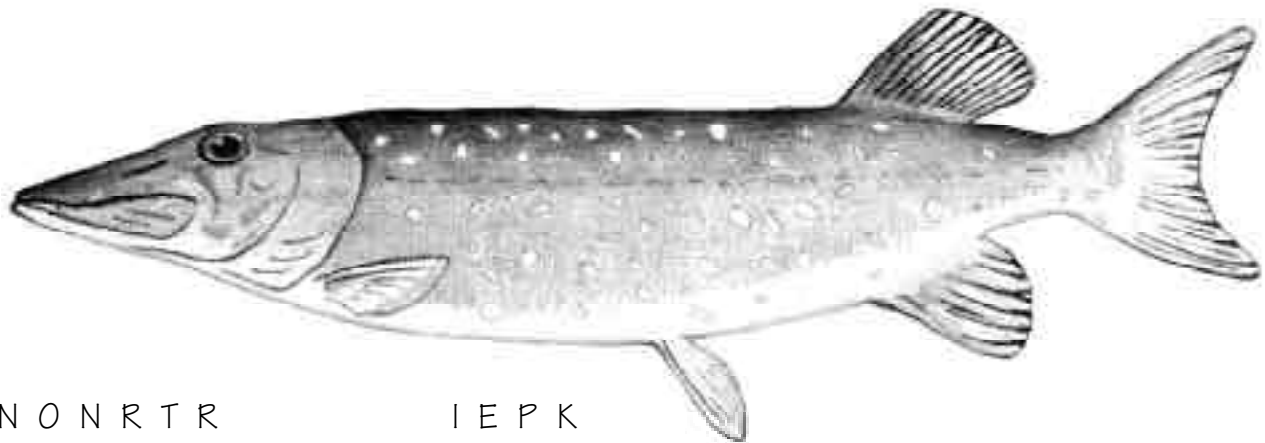
Connect the dots to see a Great Blue Heron.



# Rouge River Fish

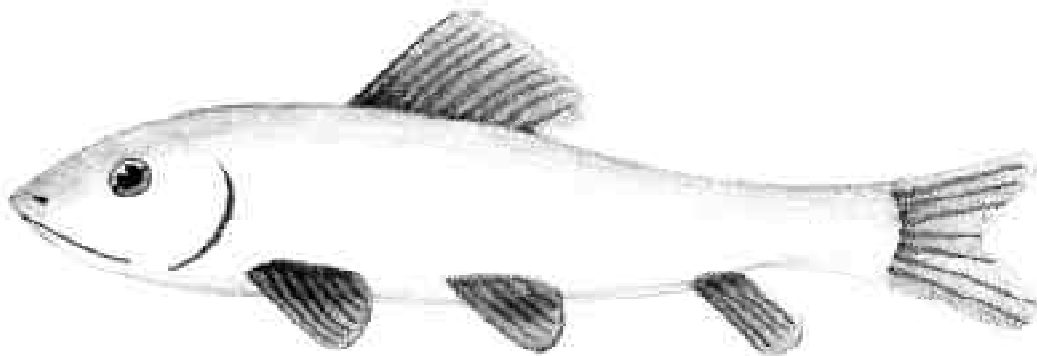
The Rouge River has many different types of fish. Unscramble the letters to find the names of different fish you might see in the Rouge.

Write the correct answer underneath.



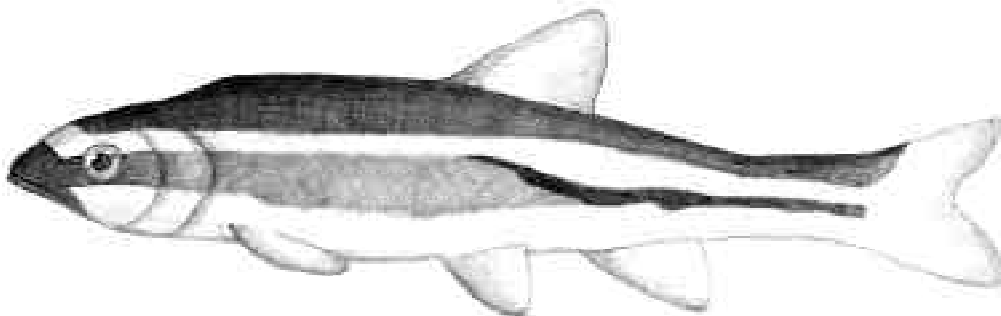
H E N O N R T R

I E P K



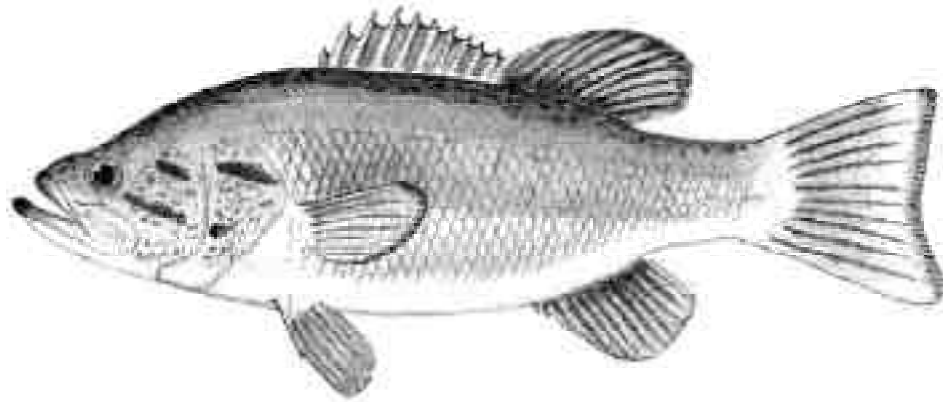
I W T E H

U R C E K S



E D R E S I D

D C E A



G L E R A

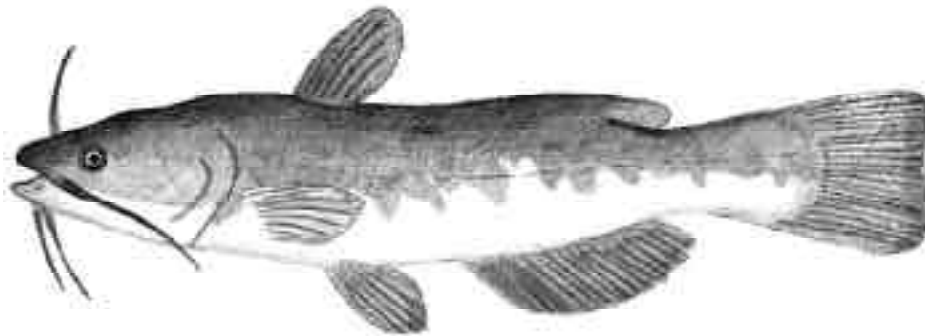
□	□	□	□	□
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O T M U H

□	□	□	□	□
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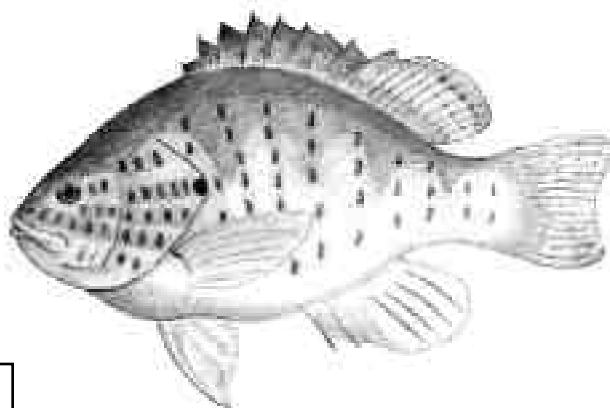
A B S S

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S H T A F C I

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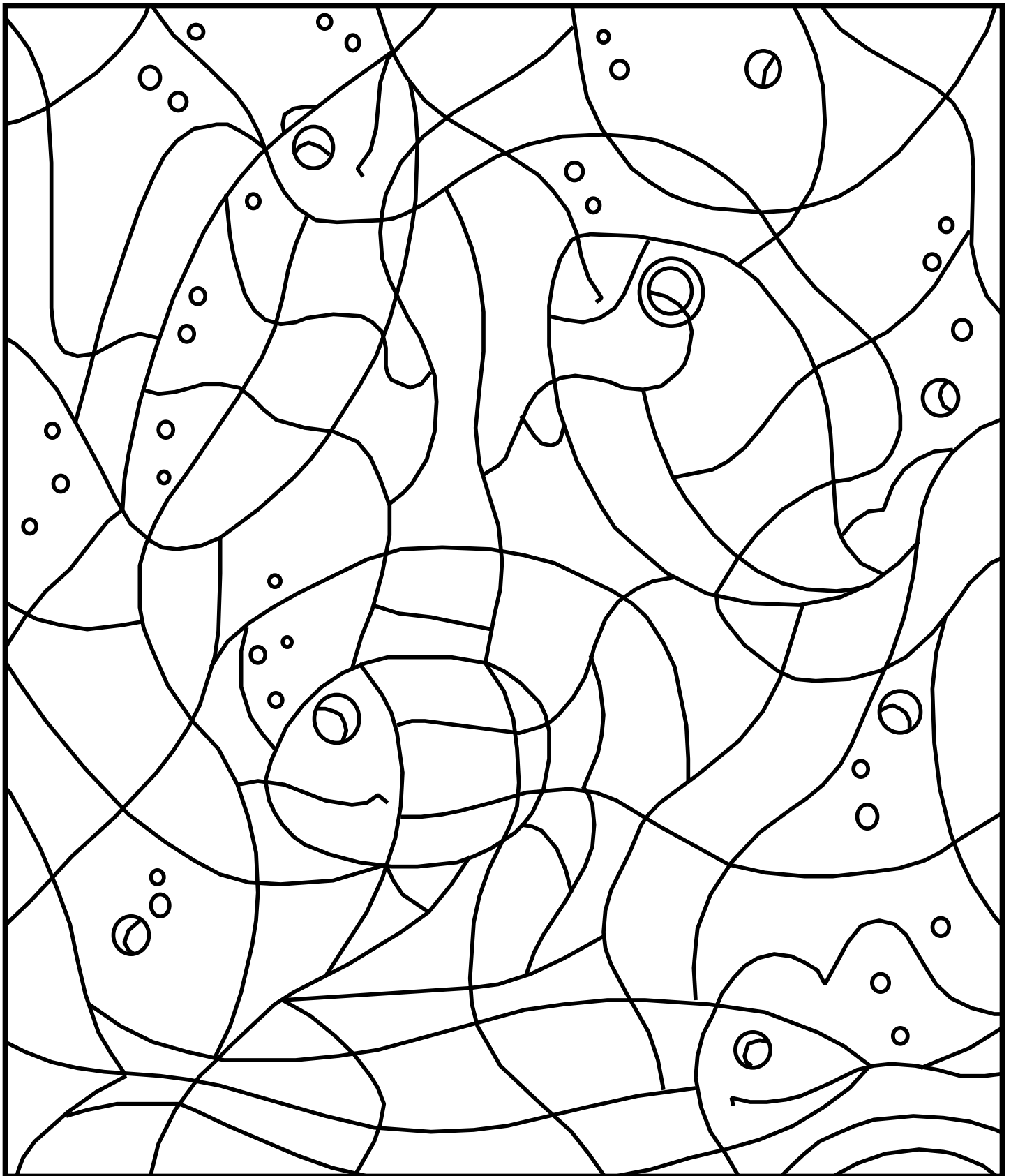


H S S I F N U

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# Where's The Fish?

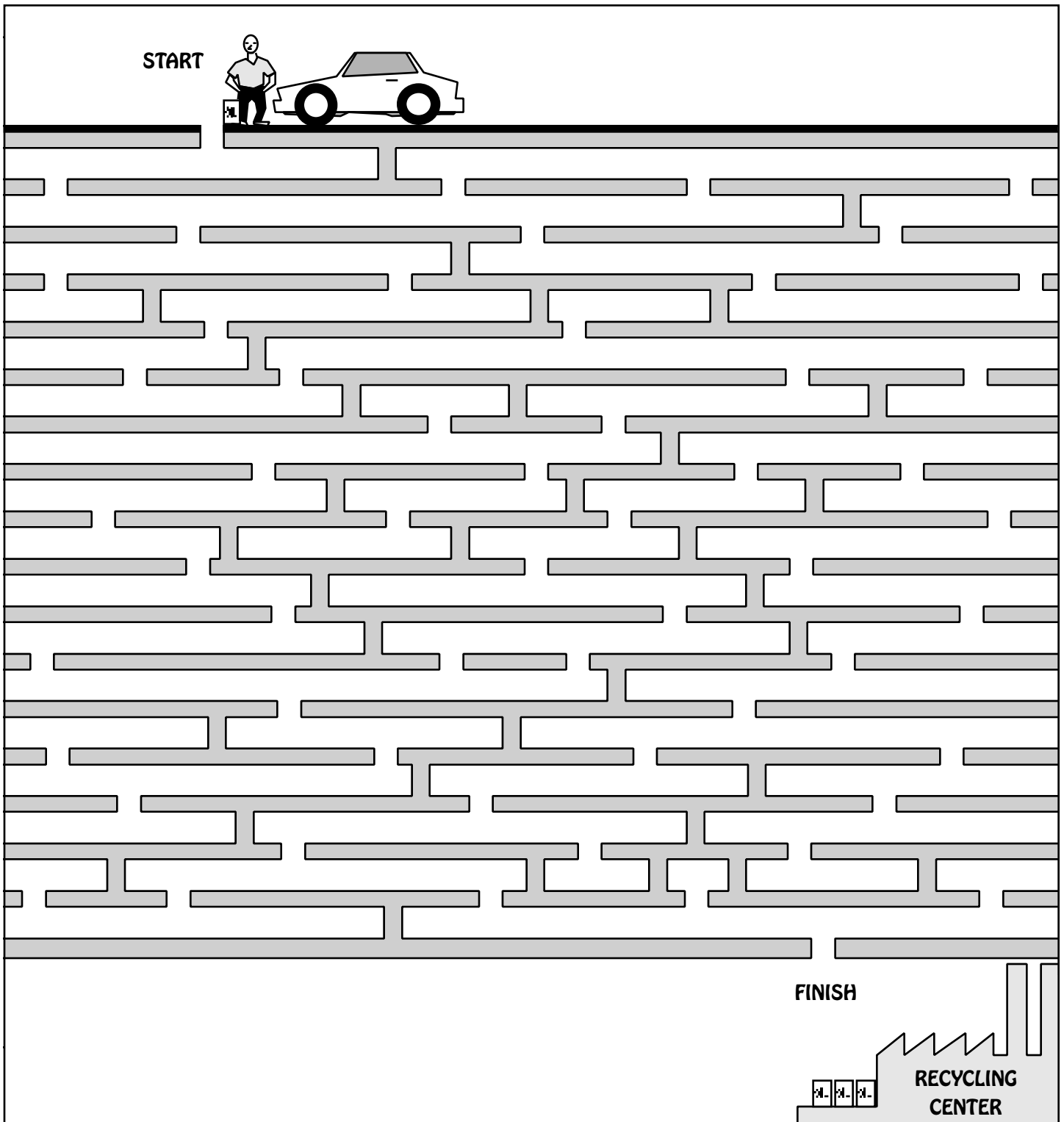
Find the four fish hiding below and color them in.



# Storm Drains: It's a Direct Connection

Storm drains are found along streets in your neighborhood. Large pipes under the city connect the storm drains to the closest stream or lake. Never dump oil or other waste down the storm drain. Take it to a recycling center instead.

Help get the used motor oil to the recycling center.

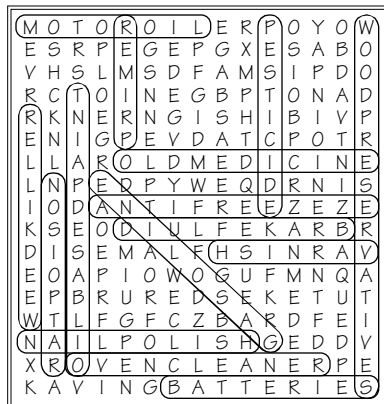


# Solutions

Page 5 Wetlands: Natures Wonder

- |         |             |       |             |
|---------|-------------|-------|-------------|
| Across: | 1. WATER    | Down: | 1. WETLANDS |
|         | 2. PLANTS   |       | 2. EROSION  |
|         | 3. FLOODING |       | 3. LAWS     |
|         | 4. SWAMPS   |       |             |

Page 6 Household Hazardous Wastes



Page 7 Our Lawns Pollute the Rouge

Answer: DO NOT APPLY FERTILIZER IF RAIN IS FORECAST

Page 8 Rouge River Fish

- |          |               |                  |
|----------|---------------|------------------|
| Answers: | Northern Pike | Large Mouth Bass |
|          | White Sucker  | Catfish          |
|          | Redside Dace  | Sunfish          |

# How Can I Get Involved?

There are many organizations and activities you can become involved with to help the Rouge River.



**Friends of the Rouge** is a grassroots organization with over 800 members who are dedicated to restoring the Rouge River. They participate in a variety of special community projects and an annual Rouge Rescue cleanup, which has removed tons of natural and man-made debris from the river. They also sponsor an education program to teach elementary through high school students about water quality sampling and the importance of the Rouge River.

For information on Friends of the Rouge, call:

Jim Graham, Executive Director (313) 792-9625



**Rouge RAP Advisory Council (RRAC)** represents all parties interested in the Rouge River Remedial Action Plan (RAP), which is the long-term clean up plan for the Rouge River. This group is responsible for advising the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality on the update and implementation of the Rouge RAP. Six subcommittees address issues of concern: nonpoint source pollution (such as stormwater runoff), onsite sewage disposal, public education, contaminated sites and headwaters issues. Citizens and students are included in RRAC's membership, and anyone may participate in the subcommittees.

For information on the Rouge RAP Advisory Council, call:

Cathy Bean, Rouge RAP Coordinator (734) 953-1441

THE ROUGE RIVER PROJECT  
A WORLD CLASS EFFORT



BRINGING OUR RIVER BACK TO LIFE

For additional information about the Rouge River, call the **Rouge River Information Line** at (888) 223-2363, or visit our website at <http://www.rouge-river.com>.

*Thanks for caring enough to repair  
and protect the Rouge River!*