

Ford Park Passive Recreation Project, Northville, Michigan

THE ROUGE RIVER PROJECT
A WORLD CLASS EFFORT

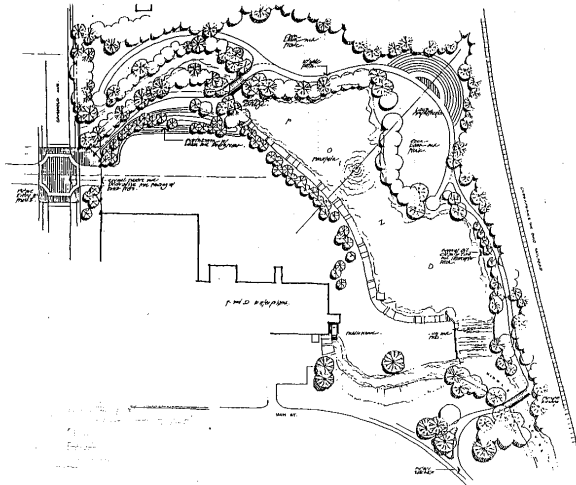


BRINGING OUR RIVER BACK TO LIFE

A publication of the Wayne County Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project
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Objective

The objective of the Ford Park Development Project was the construction of a passive recreation area along the Middle Rouge River that will increase community use and awareness of the river's attributes.



Owner/Location

The City of Northville, Michigan

Dates

Start Planning/Design	January 1997
Start Construction	October 1997
Completed Construction	October 1998

Cost

Design	\$10,100
Construction	\$70,000

Demonstration Aspects

- A new park area has been created with public access to Rouge River.
- There is a public/private partnership for site access.

Project Highlights

- The park utilizes the natural terrain of the river edge to create pathways.
- The design identified linkages with other pathway systems to create contiguous paths.
- The project results are transferable to other communities.
- Property access is provided for continued clean up of oil seepage from the neighboring property.

Major Elements

- Eventually, the City anticipates construction of a path that will connect to Griswold Street. As funds become available, the shoreline will be widened enough to allow a path. Current access to the park is through private property with permission of the owner.
- The City of Northville Public Works Department now maintains the new park area.
- It is anticipated that further development of the park, including linking the Ford Field area on the west side of Griswold Street, will broaden the community's use of the park.
- Property access is provided for continued clean up of oil seepage from the neighboring property.

Project Results

As a result of the project, the City of Northville has completed the first phase of the creation of Ford Park. As additional funds become available, the city will complete additional work, including expansion and paving of the path. The City Public Works Department added a picnic table to the site in response to visitors. Visitation to the park is expected to increase when future park access improvements are made. There has been a significant improvement to the appearance of the park site, with the removal of the trees and scrub brush around the pond.

This project fulfills a major objective of the Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project by increasing river recreation opportunities along the river system.

To obtain further information on the Rouge Project, including documents, maps and general information, visit us at:

<http://www.rougeriver.com>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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