

Cleaning up

Volunteers help the Rouge

About 150 volunteers gathered at the Rouge River Saturday morning, to remove debris and log jams that block the river's flow.

Coordinator Jean Barrett said the group included couples, families and individuals, who donned boots, long pants and long-sleeved shirts to dig around in

the muck on the river bank. The volunteers started around 8:30 a.m. and took out more than 100 cubic yards of debris, most of which ended up in a local landfill.

Although the group pulled out an old tire, tennis balls, croquet balls, a soccer ball and some pieces of drain pipe, most of the

debris was natural, like tree branches, stumps and leaves.

"That's a good sign," Darrett said. Formerly known as Rouge Rescue, the 16th annual event has been pulled into the more encompassing River Day, to include clean-up of other bodies of water, she explained.



PHOTO BY JULIE HINES

Hard work: Al McLeod (above) does chainsaw work in the Rouge River in Farmington Hills. Volunteers pulled logs, debris, as well as man-made items, such as tennis balls from the waterway. The special day, formerly known as Rouge Rescue, now is called River Day.



Joining In: Alex Struble and Rachel Leads (above) carry logs away from the river. At left, Jack Joynt and Al Whittemore pass along debris hauled out of the river. Carl Struble works behind them.



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