

Rouge Rescue

Cleanup becomes a celebration

It started out as a cleanup, it's becoming a celebration.

Rouge Rescue '92, planned for Saturday, June 6, will mark the seventh consecutive year volunteers have cleared Rouge River log jams and hauled away debris.

Even though this year's cleanup boasts the largest-ever number of work sites, organizers say the event is changing.

"When we started out the Rouge was really a mess," said Carol Weihe, executive director of Friends of the Rouge. "There's still a lot of work to be done, but we have made significant progress."

Rather than strictly emphasizing cleanup activities, this year's event is billed as a celebration of the Rouge and its potential for family recreation.

"There are people at the University of Michigan-Dearborn who are going to be working on restoring animal and bird habitats," Weihe said. "There are other people who

are going to be doing work along park trails near the river."

Friends of the Rouge, a volunteer agency, planned the first cleanup in 1986 and has coordinated each successive event.

Between 2,500-3,000 people are expected to take part in this year's cleanup.

Friends of the Rouge planned a 20-year cleanup schedule and organizers say they see no reason to abandon that time frame.

"Even if work is substantially completed before then, we'd still like to see people come to the Rouge at least once a year to celebrate what it has become," Weihe said.

Here is a select list of registration sites in Oakland and Wayne counties.

• Birmingham — Parking Lot No. 6, Woodward, between Maple and Oak streets. Robert Fox or Eleanor Siewert, 644-1807.

• Cranbrook Institute of Science — Institute of Science building.

Lone Pine, between Telegraph and Woodward, Bloomfield Hills. Maurin Lobos, 645-3220 or 654-3233.

• Farmington Hills — A site has yet to be determined. Updates are available by calling Jean Barrett, 473-9520.

• Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge — 2700 Orchard Lake Road, between Farmington and Orchard Lake Roads, south of I-696, Farmington Hills. Mike Kadrovec, 471-7515.

• Southfield — Beech Woods Park, on the southeast corner of Beech and Nine Mile. This is a tentative site. For final confirmation check with Steve Marshall, 354-9540.

• Detroit — Bonnie Brook Golf Course, southeast of Eight Mile and Telegraph. Joe Schaefer, 453-1032. Anthony Turvey, 531-0126.

• Detroit — Riverside Park Civic Association, south of Six Mile, east of Telegraph. Wally Quade, 533-6074. Don Daniels, 537-2110.

• Detroit — Brightmoor, Conceived Citizens, North Egan Boulevard Park. This is a tentative site. For confirmation, call Joan McConery, 535-5433.

• Livonia — Botsford Park, north of Seven Mile, west of Inkster Road. Sharon Sabat or Susan Wagner, 421-2000, Ext. 221.

• University of Michigan-Dearborn — Recreation and Organization Center, at the north end of the UMD campus. Volunteers will build nesting boxes for animals and birds. Michael Hayes, 593-5358.

• Plymouth — Behind the Tonquish Manor Senior Citizen Residence, west of Harvey, north of Ann Arbor Trail. Jim Pehn, 453-1234, Ext. 229.

• Plymouth Township and Western Wayne County Conservation Association — NWCCA Club House, 6700 Napier, between Five Mile and North Territorial. Charles VanVleet, 453-3840, Ext. 223.

• Belford Township Citizens — Loda Valley Park, northwest of Loda and Beech Dally. Karen Hicks, 534-9605 or 534-5441.

Additional sites sponsored by Newburgh United Methodist Church, Waste Management, Inc. and the Village of Beverly Hills are pending. For additional information, call Friends of the Rouge, 427-1234.

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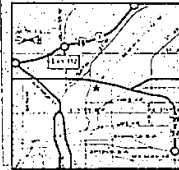
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Complaint over water rate goes to monitor

Suburban and city officials have been ordered to meet with a court-appointed monitor to settle the long-running dispute over Detroit water charges. Federal Judge John Fickens ordered Tuesday that Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn and Detroit Water & Sewerage Department officials meet

with monitor Johnathon Bulkeley to settle their differences. Bulkeley is a University of Michigan professor. The county claims the DWSD's proposed 13 percent rate hike is unjustified. The rate increase is scheduled to go into effect July 1. The county had sued in federal court to block the increase.

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