

John O'Meara, P.E.
Executive Director



Mayor and Council –

FYI if you're interested in attending.

- Victor

August 1, 2023

Dear Community Leader,

Please join our congressional leaders, along with Christopher Korleski, Director of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO); Julie Simmons, Great Lakes Regional Coordinator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA); Teresa Seidel, Director of the Water Resources Division, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE); and Melanie Foose, Supervisor, Great Lakes Management Unit, Water Resources Division, EGLE, as we celebrate the success of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and other restoration projects across southeast Michigan at:

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION CELEBRATION

September 22, 2023, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

The Henry Ford, Dearborn, Michigan

(see reverse for event agenda)

RSVP by September 8 by visiting:



OR <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLRCelebration>

Seating is limited, so RSVP today!



Communities across southeast Michigan have benefited from the diligent work of our public leaders and environmental advocates as they implemented eco-restoration projects to improve the quality of life for our residents by making the region greener and cleaner using the generous funding made available through the GLRI (and other funding sources).

From 2010 through 2021, the GLRI has invested approximately \$3.8 billion on more than 6,500 projects across southeast Michigan and the Great Lakes basin. These projects will be paying benefits for decades to come. Help us keep this momentum going by joining us on September 22. You will be given a succinct briefing along with a light breakfast and an opportunity to meet with constituents in your district as they share their stories. The program is designed to maximize the use of your precious time.

So please join us and celebrate our successes and help guide our future efforts at this free event on September 22, 2023. Let's build on our successes for constituents, our children, and the fish and wildlife that fascinate us all. For more information contact Chris O'Meara at 734-768-2180 or comeara@allianceofrougecommunities.com.

Cooperating Partners:

Cranbrook Institute of Science
Friends of the Rouge
Great Lakes Water Authority
Rouge River Advisory Council
SEMCOG
Southeastern Oakland
County Water Authority
The Henry Ford

Sincerely,

ALLIANCE OF ROUGE COMMUNITIES

Doug Moore, Chair
Superintendent of Public Services, City of Livonia

Celebrating
Our Accomplishments



Celebrating
The Future in Southeast Michigan

Hosted by:



AGENDA - September 22, 2023

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| 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. | COFFEE HOUR AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST |
| 9:00 a.m. – 9:10 a.m. | WELCOME
Patricia Mooradian, President – The Henry Ford
Karen Mondora, P.E., Technical Committee Chair, Alliance of Rouge Communities and Director of Public Services– City of Farmington Hills |
| 9:10 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. | GREAT LAKES VIRTUAL TOUR & STATE PERSPECTIVE
Teresa Seidel – Director, Water Resources Division
Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) |
| 10:10 a.m. – 10:20 a.m. | MICHIGAN AREA OF CONCERN PROGRESS
Melanie Foose – Supervisor, Great Lakes Management Unit
Water Resources Division, EGLE |
| 10:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. | KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Christopher Korleski – Director
U. S. EPA Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO) |
| 10:50 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | BREAK |
| 11:00 a.m. – 11:20 a.m. | FEDERAL PERSPECTIVE
Julie Simmons – Great Lakes Regional Coordinator
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) |
| 11:20 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | CONGRESSIONAL REMARKS
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow (<i>invited</i>)
United States Senator
The Honorable Gary Peters (<i>invited</i>)
United States Senator
The Honorable Debbie Dingell (<i>invited</i>)
United States Representative |
| 12:10 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. | FISH RESTOCKING AT THE HENRY FORD ROUGE RIVER OXBOW
(<i>Event is optional, comfortable clothing and walking shoes are suggested</i>) |

Sponsored by:



Fred A. and Barbara M.
Erb Family Foundation



*Celebrating
Our Accomplishments*



*Celebrating
The Future in Southeast Michigan*

**September 22, 2023, 8 a.m.-noon
The Henry Ford
20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, MI**

Hosted by:



The Alliance of Rouge Communities (ARC) is excited to host the fourth summit, similar to the events in 2013, 2016 and 2019, celebrating the restoration accomplishments that have occurred in southeast Michigan's river systems over the past several years. U. S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (invited) and Gary Peters (invited) and Congresswoman Debbie Dingell (invited) will speak on the importance of continuing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding into the future. This event is being held at The Henry Ford (THF), one of the country's leading historical museums and a project partner in restoration on the Rouge River. Southeast Michigan is home to 6 Areas of Concern (AOCs); the Rouge River, the Detroit River, the Clinton River, the River Raisin, the Saginaw River and the St. Clair River. Although not an AOC, the Kawkawlin River is another major river system in the area.

Each of the areas will display some of their successful restoration efforts emphasizing some of the larger-scale, GLRI-funded (EPA, NOAA, USDA-FS, etc.) projects that have recently been completed. Participants will be given a chance to walk around and see, in detail, all the different types of restoration that have been accomplished. In addition, participants will have a chance to engage with and learn from those individuals working on the projects.

Each of the river systems will participate in a virtual tour hosted by Teresa Seidel, Director, Water Resources Division, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). This has been a great success at previous summits and allows those attending to tour all the exciting projects in southeast Michigan without leaving their seat!

The keynote speaker will be Christopher Korleski, Director, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office (GLNPO).

Julie Simmons, Great Lakes Regional Coordinator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will provide an overview of where we are globally and locally in restoration efforts.

The State of Michigan will provide a summary of the state's involvements and their next objectives.

The audience for this event will be elected officials, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and public citizens that have led the efforts for restoration in the region. To be invited: EPA project managers, NOAA and USDA-FS project managers, congressional members, state officials, local officials, NGOs, and the press.

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