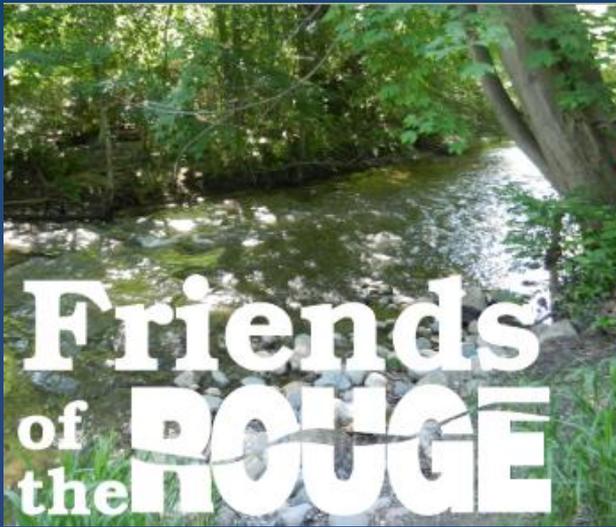


Rouge River Water Trail



25 miles along Lower Rouge from Canton to the Detroit River



Our Work

- Rouge Rescue
- River Restoration
- Rouge Education Project
- Volunteer Monitoring
- Bug Hunts
- Frog & Toad Survey
- Fish Monitoring
- Rouge River Water Trail

Welcome to Friends of the Rouge

Located in Southeast Michigan, the Rouge River watershed is the most urbanized watershed in the state, home to more than 1.35 million people in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

Friends of the Rouge has been working to promote restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River watershed for 30 years. We invite you to join us and get involved in our programs and projects.

Rouge River Water Trail

- ❑ Friends of Rouge River
- ❑ Wayne County Parks
- ❑ Michigan Dept. Environmental Quality
- ❑ City of Wayne
- ❑ City of Dearborn
- ❑ City of Canton
- ❑ Detroit Parks and Recreation
- ❑ Detroit Heritage River Water Trail
- ❑ Heavner Canoe Rental
- ❑ Riverside Kayak Connection
- ❑ National Park Service
- ❑ And others.....



ROUGE RIVER WATER TRAIL

Padding Guide



Newburgh Lake Livonia, Michigan

Rouge River Southeast Michigan

Recommended Launch Sites and Amenities

Launch Site	Commerces	Trails	Launch	Parking	Restrooms	Water	Shower	Public Area	Other
C Commerce Court	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
S Goudy Park	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
F Ford Field City Park	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
K Kessey Fieldhouse Boat Launch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
B Belanger Park Boat Launch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
N Newburgh Lake Boat Launch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Launch Sites & Points of Interest

- **Commerces Court** - primitive launch site behind Business Park at 3600 Commerces Court via short, steep walk from parking lot down
- **Goudy Park** - located behind Wayne City downtown Wayne. There is ample parking at carry down a set of steps to the launch site. It is scheduled for 2016. The Park hosts a week the annual Rouge-A-Palooza.
- **Venoy-Dorsey Recreation Area** - pre-parking but no designated launch site or restrooms

Legend:

- X Recommended Launch Site
- Point of Interest
- Park/Public Land
- Log Jams Managed in this Area
- SMART Bus Route 200

SMART Bus Route 200 - This Michigan Avenue bus line can be used as a shuttle for paddlers, schedules are available online at: www.smartbus.org/Schedules/Route-Schedules

ROUGE RIVER WATER TRAIL

Padding Guide

Enjoy your paddle!

This publication is provided only as a general guide. It is a graphic rendition of what paddlers might experience on the Rouge River. Conditions on the river are subject to constant change. Do not rely on this guide as a navigational tool or to identify all hazards. Paddle times depicted on featured trip maps are approximate and can vary based on skill level, energy level and weather conditions. Remember that kayaking and canoeing have inherent risks and you are solely responsible for your own safety.

The majority of the Lower branch of the Rouge River shown on this map is public land, owned and managed by Wayne County Parks and other municipalities.

For more information, please visit:
www.therouge.org

Published January 2016
Layout Assistance: National Park Service - RTCA



The Industrial Rouge
Melvindale to River Rouge



This route highlights the unique industrial history of the Rouge River. See the massive Ford Rouge Center (Ford Rouge Plant), pass under multiple suspension bridges, glimpse diverse wildlife and possibly pass a freighter or two. The two hour trip begins at the Keasey Fieldhouse Boat Launch in Melvindale and ends on the Detroit River at the Belanger Park Boat Launch in the City of River Rouge. See kayakers are recommended due to wind and open water. Hazards include freighters, boat traffic poor water quality and limited take-out sites due to industrial operations and armored banks. Riverside Kayak Connection offers an annual trip in partnership with Friends of the Rouge every September and can organize trips by appointment.



The Industrial Rouge



■ Park/Public Land
 X Recommended Launch Site
 ● Point of Interest

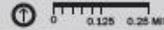
Wayne Paddle
Commerce Court to Goudy Park



The Lower Branch route highlights the floodplain forests protected within Wayne County Parkland. Towering cottonwoods and sycamores greet you as you maneuver the narrow river. Friends of the Rouge volunteers help keep this stretch of river open by removing logjams and fallen trees. Great blue herons and wood ducks are plentiful and you may glimpse an occasional mink or deer. The two hour trip starts behind 3800 Commerce Court off Michigan Avenue and ends at Goudy Park in downtown Wayne. Hazards include occasional log jams or fallen trees, and shallow spots, especially during low water. Canoe and kayak rentals and shuttle service can be arranged with Heavner Canoe Rental. Paddlers can find dining, shopping or other entertainment within walking distance in Wayne. The Michigan Avenue SMART bus can be used as a shuttle.



Wayne Paddle

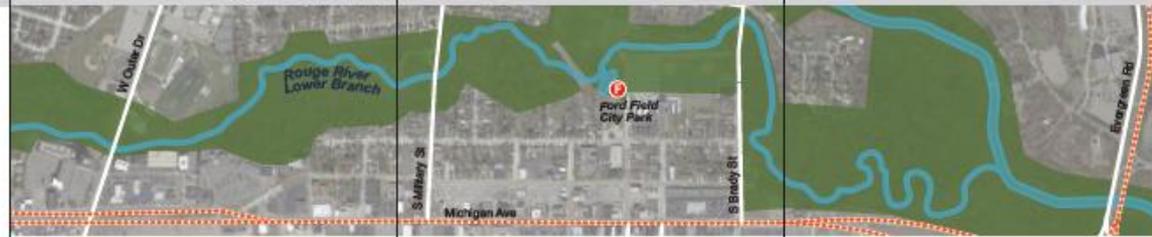


■ Park/Public Land
 X Recommended Launch Site
 ● Point of Interest
 --- SMART Bus Route 200

Dearborn Paddle
In and around Ford Field



Ford Field in Dearborn offers an easy launch into a pond that connects to the Lower branch. Paddlers can head out into the Lower branch and paddle upstream and back. Heading downstream is a little more adventurous. A stretch of fast moving, shallow water starting at the covered bridge is manageable but must be walked on the return. The river is wooded and natural. Work is being done to open logjams for paddling to the confluence with the Main branch where one can paddle up to the historic Ford Estate waterfall or down along the concrete channel. Hazards include logjams and the waterfall. Canoe and kayak rentals and shuttle service can be arranged with Heavner Canoe Rental. Paddlers looking to combine their trip with dining, shopping or other entertainment will find Dearborn to be easily walkable, or can use the Michigan Avenue SMART bus as a shuttle.

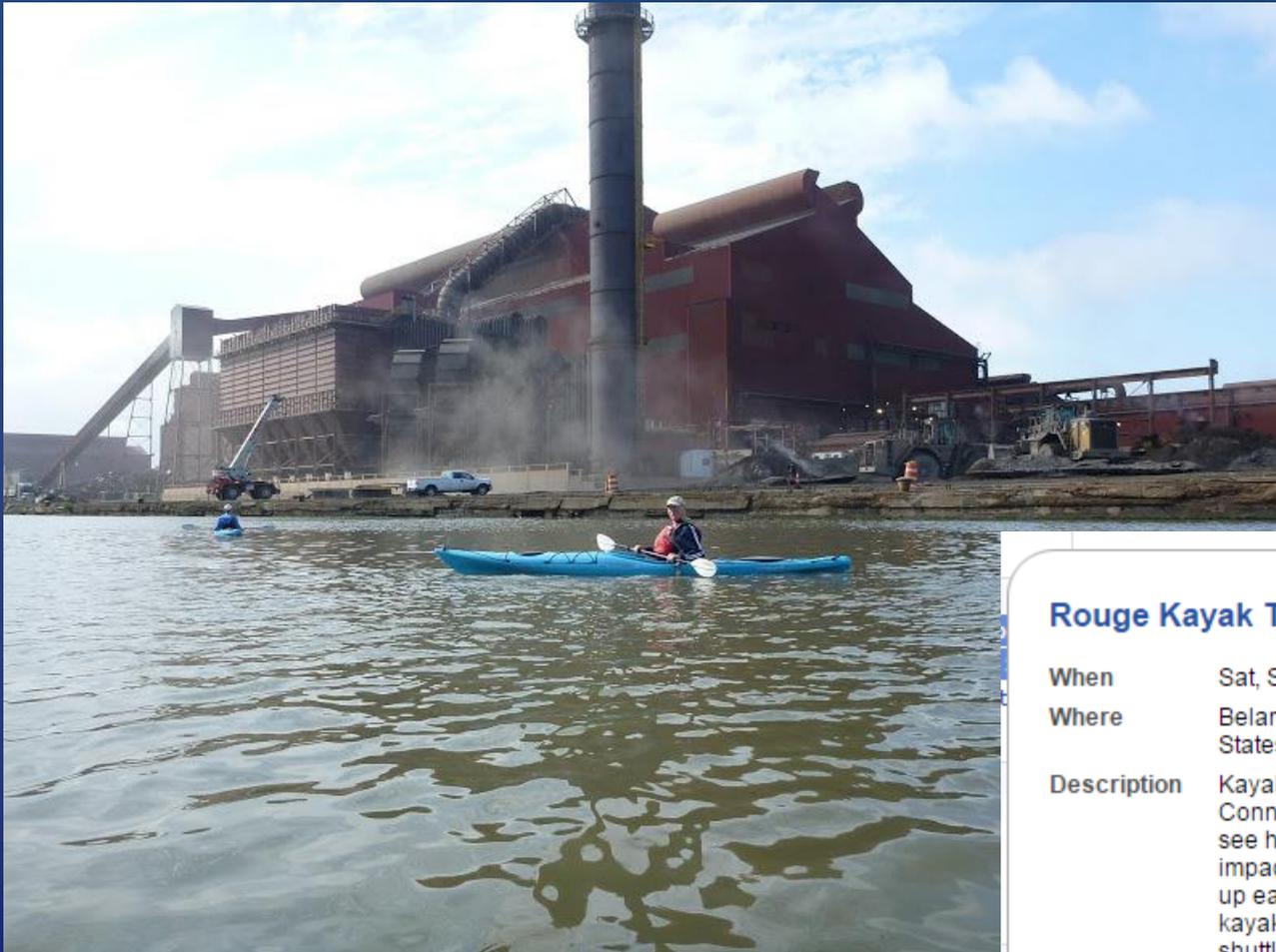


Dearborn Paddle



■ Park/Public Land
 X Recommended Launch Site
 --- SMART Bus Route 200

Rouge River Water Trail



Rouge Kayak Tour

When	Sat, September 17, 9am – 12pm
Where	Belanger Park Dr, River Rouge, MI 48218, United States (map)
Description	Kayak with FOTR and Riverside Kayak Connection from Melvindale to Belanger Park and see how the production of the automobile impacted the Rouge River. Contact RKC to sign up early as this fills up quickly 734-285-2925, \$50 kayak rental, \$30 shuttle, both include lunch. Meet shuttle at Belanger Park at 9am to leave cars there; drop off boats prior at Melvindale. http://www.riversidekayak.com/industrial-rouge-to-ur.html