



# The Rouge Green Corridor

# Discovering Your River – A Self-Guided Tour

This self-guided tour identifies several locations for you to enjoy in the Rouge Green Corridor. The tour is designed to highlight special features along the corridor that everyone in the family can enjoy. Each point has something unique to offer, so be sure to visit as many sites as you can. You'll learn a lot about this hidden treasure, and have fun in the process!

Points along the tour described below have access to trails. Whether it's a paved or woodchip trail, remember to stay on the path. Keep your dog on a leash and be a good river steward by picking up after your pet. Enjoy!

## ▶ Valley Woods Nature Preserve in Southfield

**Where to park:** Park at the Historic Burgh Park at the northeast corner of Berg Road and Civic Center Drive. Walk west along Civic Center Drive to Valley Woods Nature Preserve. You can access the park by a ramp behind the McDonnell Tower Senior Center (North side of Civic Center Drive) or by steps at the river (South side of Civic Center Drive).

**What to do:** Hike north along the river, crossing over to the west side on a pedestrian bridge. This is a lovely natural area with easy hiking for all ages on the grass trail with some riverside benches along the way. The trail ends at the freeway (I-696) overpass. Return on the same trail. This is approximately a .5 mile hike.

**What to see:** Look for soft-shell turtles resting on the banks. Ducks and heron are often in the river, loafing on logs or fishing in the shallows. Springtime brings in migratory birds such as the belted kingfisher, the downy woodpecker and the indigo bunting among many others.



## ▶ Linden and Booth Parks in Birmingham

**Where to park:** North Old Woodward at Booth Park: pick up the Rouge woodchip trail at the southwest corner of the park.

You can also park at the Chester Parking Structure located at the corner of Chester and Maple.

Walk west to the Rouge River and pick up the woodchip trail to Linden Park. You can also cross Maple Road at Southfield and pick up the woodchip trail just west of the Museum. This will take you to Booth Park.

**What to do:** The woodchip trail meanders along the river and woodland areas for approximately 1.25 miles.

**What to see:** In the spring, look for several species of migrating birds, such as warblers (22 species!), tree swallows, and spotted sandpipers. Look for the many species of wildlife and native plants. Also view two types of stream bank stabilization methods to reduce erosion. The methods include "hard engineering" (stone and boulders) and soft engineering (logs and vegetation) in Booth Park.



## ▶ Riverside Park in Beverly Hills

**Where to park:** Limited parking is available at this park, which is located on Riverside Drive just east of Evergreen Road.

**What to do:** Visitors are welcome to enjoy the small park during the daylight hours. There are two picnic tables and a grill available that overlook the Mill Pond, which was established over a century ago.

**What to see:** The park offers habitat and viewing opportunities for many species of birds, including herons, hawks, woodpeckers and hummingbirds. Carp can often be seen at the surface of the water, along with turtles sunning themselves and a variety of other small aquatic creatures. Recent plantings of native shrubs have now taken hold and include serviceberry, Michigan holly, red-twig dogwood, chokecherry, witchhazel, and American cranberry viburnum, among others.



## Introducing the Rouge Green Corridor

*Meandering through the southeast corner of Oakland County, the main branch of the Rouge River paints a green band through neighborhoods and business districts. This urban river, with clear water flowing over smooth rocks and past shady wooded banks, has changed since the time of European settlement, but still provides a haven for wildlife and people to enjoy.*

*Over the past 15 years, efforts at improving the river's water quality have paid off, inspiring your community to give it a new name — the Rouge Green Corridor. This segment of the Rouge River, and its tributaries, runs through Birmingham, Beverly Hills, and Southfield. To introduce you to this valuable natural resource, this map guide gives you an opportunity to find out for yourself the beauty of the Rouge Green Corridor through a self-guided tour.*

*This endeavor is part of a larger program called Stormwater Phase II of the Clean Water Act. The Act requires certain municipalities to minimize stormwater pollutants in surface waters like the Rouge River. To accomplish this, the communities have joined forces and developed a Watershed Management Plan for this portion of the Rouge River, called The Main 1-2 Subwatershed Management Plan. One goal of the Plan is to increase awareness of the river's value in our lives. Another goal is to maximize each community's assets related to the river. The Watershed Management Plan is available for review in your community's office.*



### PROJECT PARTNERS

City of Birmingham [www.ci.birmingham.mi.us](http://www.ci.birmingham.mi.us)

City of Southfield [www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com)

Village of Beverly Hills [www.villagebeverlyhills.com](http://www.villagebeverlyhills.com)

Friends of The Rouge [www.therouge.org](http://www.therouge.org)

Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority [www.socwa.org](http://www.socwa.org)

Oakland Land Conservancy [www.oaklandlandconservancy.org](http://www.oaklandlandconservancy.org)

Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office

[www.oakgov.com/drain](http://www.oakgov.com/drain)

Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services

[www.oakgov.com/peds](http://www.oakgov.com/peds)

To learn more about the Rouge Green Corridor's history and natural assets, visit [www.oakgov.com/es](http://www.oakgov.com/es) and click on "Rouge Green Corridor"

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