



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE AGENDA

CITY OF NOVI

July 09, 2024 | 5:30 PM

Mayor's Conference Room
Novi Civic Center | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL - Council Members Heintz, Gurumurthy, and Smith

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MINUTES

[June](#) 17, 2024 Minutes

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

[Prior](#) Sustainability/Environmental Initiatives

[Consideration](#) of Solarize Project

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Novi SSLI (Stewards Sustainability Leadership Institute)

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: *People with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the City Clerk (248) 347-0456 at least two working days in advance of the meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations.*



CITY OF NOVI
Environmental Sustainability Committee
June 17, 2024, 5:30 p.m.
Council Conference | 45175 Ten Mile Road
(248) 347-0445

CALL TO ORDER 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Council Members Heintz, Gurumurthy, and Smith

PRESENT: Council Members Heintz, Gurumurthy, and Smith

STAFF LIAISON: Danielle Mahoney, Assistant City Manager

ALSO PRESENT: Katherine Oppermann, Recording Secretary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Heintz, Seconded: Gurumurthy, Minutes approved 3:0

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Smith stated that he was excited to start the work of this committee and that his intention is to hold meetings roughly every two to three weeks. Additionally, he noted that he has a bias to action and plans to have action items for follow up at the end of each meeting. He looks forward to bringing in community residents at the appropriate time.

MATTERS FOR COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

1. Roundtable Discussion: Outside Resources

Chairperson Smith started the discussion by noting the local organization Friends of the Rouge and by noting that he was impressed by Ann Arbor's presentation of their Environmental materials.

Councilmember Gurumurthy agreed that she was impressed by the resources and materials presented by other cities and that such presentations will assist the Committee in setting benchmarks. She would like to better understand Novi's current standing in regard to sustainability and education. She would also like to establish a clear framework and goals for both the Committee and City as a whole.

Chairperson Smith noted that he envisions the initial Committee deliverable as short-term environmental sustainability goals with the eventual presentation of more formal goals and budget items to pass onto Council and City Staff.

Staff Liaison Mahoney pointed out that many comparable cities and organizations have a dedicated sustainability office and moving into the future we may also need to examine that.

Councilmember Heintz asked if there was one City office that handles sustainability matters more than others. Ms. Mahoney indicated that it would probably fall primarily under Integrated Solutions and the Department of Public Works. Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services (PRCS) also has some programming in place related to sustainability.

Councilmember Gurumurthy noted the importance of "quick wins" alongside short- and long-term goals. She wants what is best for the internal city operations as well as the community overall.

Chairperson Smith noted that in crafting new frameworks we should consider the value of the carrot vs. stick approach (IE incentives vs. enforcement) and the necessary balance that must be struck in the implementation.

Councilmember Heintz agrees that the reduction of "friction" is important. That making the process of sustainable practices should be made as easy as possible for businesses and residents.

Ms. Mahoney talked about the PRCS presentation at the recent Superhero Showcase event that allowed residents to vote on area of interest and suggested that a similar simple approach could be used to gauge resident interest in sustainability initiatives.

Councilmember Gurumurthy stated that at work she always starts with a problem statement. Here we don't have a problem but rather gaps that can be addressed. She would be interested in hearing from other cities that have an Environmental Action Plan in place to understand their process and how they got started. She wants to make sure that when the Committee reaches the stage of approaching residents that we are asking the right questions.

Chairperson Smith suggested starting with Royal Oak and Northville to understand their process as well as pain points in the Environmental Action Plan creation.

Councilmember Heintz agrees that, as an action item, the committee members should approach different cities to gather that information as a 1st step. It was determined by the committee that in undertaking meetings with other City representatives that having them during the course of regularly planned Environmental Sustainability Committee meetings and if necessary could hold the meetings during normal business hours.

Ms. Mahoney talked a bit about what she has learned about the process undertaken by Ann Arbor from their Sustainability Manager and how their City Council directive changed and grew over time.

Councilmember Gurumurthy suggests that the committee meet with the MSU Stewards/SSLI/4H Club at an upcoming meeting as she can easily arrange it with her preexisting contact. She also notes that she believes education is very important and that residents should be sent information to help with community input.

Councilmember Heintz expressed interest in having a committee trip to the RRRASOC Recycling Center to assist with their own understanding of the process but also to potentially put together a video or podcast with Studio VI to educate residents on the recycling center.

The group discussed the various avenues of community outreach available to reach residents such as video, YouTube, podcast, etc. Councilmember Gurumurthy thinks that the "story" of the committee: why it is needed/what they are doing should be clearly established and communicated to the public.

2. Roundtable Discussion: Long- and Short-term goals

Chairperson Smith distributed post it notes to the committee members to assist in their brainstorming. HE explained that he regarded short-term goals should be those that will be implementable in two years or less time and can encompass "easy wins". Long-term goals should be either ones that will take over two years to realize and/or those that will require more capital or effort to enact.

Ms. Mahoney suggested that, if it is easier, to just write down all their ideas and then the committee can discuss and determine when in the schedule of action they should fall.

The committee members then wrote down their ideas and each eas read out by Chairperson Smith and grouped where appropriate. A typed list of all the presented goals will be made for future discussion and exploration.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Committee members should start thinking of ideas for questions to present to other cities and organizations.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT – 6:35 p.m.

Motion: Smith, Seconded: Heintz, approved 3:0

MEMORANDUM



TO: DANIELLE MAHONEY, ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER/TITLE
FROM: EZEKIEL CHOJNACKI, GRADUATE MANAGEMENT ANALYST
SUBJECT: PRIOR SUSTAINABILITY/ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
DATE: JULY 2, 2024

Some of the prior Sustainability/Environmental initiatives identified are:

Department of Public Works (DPW):

- Tree City USA
- There are two annual plantings that add trees and shrubs throughout the City along streets and in parks/around facilities. We've planted thousands of trees in this manner over the years with an emphasis on replacing dead/dying trees, creating habitat/attractive landscapes, and planting the right tree (species, size at maturity, etc.) in the right place (no big trees beneath overhead utility lines, for example).
- The City has distributed thousands of free native tree and shrub seedlings to residents through an annual program that started in 2020.
- Arbor Day events are held each year to commemorate the holiday with Novi residents. Some past events have included tree plantings, award presentations to residents that've made notable sustainability efforts, and volunteer opportunities.
- Presentations for residents on environmental topics covering proper pruning practices, tree health, etc.
- Fleet Hybridization (see attachment)
- Friends of the Rouge Partnership (see attachment)

Internal Solutions, Facilities

- LED Light Replacements
- Recently applied for the EGLE Community Energy Management (CEM) program with the intent of auditing our buildings for energy efficiency

Community Relations:

- Many environmental posts are made on Novi.org to serve as informational resources.

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services (PRCS):

- Annual Garlic Mustard Pull
- Nature. Nurture. Novi. Programming

Beautification Commission:

- Bee City USA
- Fuerst Park Monarch Waystation
- Perennial Exchange –
 - The original Program was established in 2008 and occurred twice a year (Spring and Autumn) but became defunct following the Fall 2017 exchange. Through this program residents would bring extra or overgrown plants to swap with other residents.
 - In collaboration with PRCS, Keith Salowich, & Rick Meader the program is planned to be resurrected this September 2024. In addition to the standard swap, it is planned for the City to give away some native plants, boosting local species diversity and aiding the pollinator population.
- River Day –
 - No longer an active program, formerly this was a yearly volunteer clean-up event for the local tributaries of the Rouge River (primarily at Rotary Park).
- Community Wildlife Habitat, via National Wildlife Federation –
Program may be defunct, will confirm

City Council:

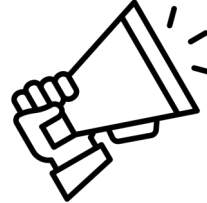
- Land Acquisition for Conservation Purposes

Electric Vehicles, Hybrids, and Plug-ins													
Fleet/Fuel	Provider	Class	these vehicles	Vehicle Type	Powertrain	# of Vehicles	Electricity Used in	Per Vehicle Per	EV Fuel economy	Fuel Economy	Boundary type	Boundaries	Notes
Enter a name	Select 1 from:	Light-duty or	Select 1 from:	Select 1 from:	Select 1 from:	Enter the	The kWh of	Enter the	If you don't know	Enter the	Select 1 from:	Enter the boundaries	Enter any notes or pertinent information about
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Low-Speed/Neighborhood	Hybrid (conventional)	128	N/A	9363	N/A	21.25	City	City of Novi	2020 Escape In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Low-Speed/Neighborhood	Hybrid (conventional)	129	N/A	6302	N/A	15.08	City	City of Novi	2020 Escape In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Low-Speed/Neighborhood	Hybrid (conventional)	130	N/A	7904	N/A	19.17	City	City of Novi	2020 Escape In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Low-Speed/Neighborhood	Hybrid (conventional)	133	N/A	6963	N/A	17.12	City	City of Novi	2020 Escape In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Low-Speed/Neighborhood	Hybrid (conventional)	207	N/A	6380	N/A	29.35	City	City of Novi	2020 Escape In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	851	N/A	31800	N/A	4.47	City	City of Novi	2021 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	852	N/A	NA	N/A	2.88	City	City of Novi	2022 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	853	N/A	26398	N/A	5.72	City	City of Novi	2021 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	854	N/A	?	N/A	0.25	City	City of Novi	2022 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	856	N/A	?	N/A	?	City	City of Novi	2022 Explorer Patrol Just Placed In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	861	N/A	25292	N/A	5.72	City	City of Novi	2020 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	862	N/A	30019	N/A	6.88	City	City of Novi	2021 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	864	N/A	22490	N/A	3.26	City	City of Novi	2021 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	865	N/A	21877	N/A	5.22	City	City of Novi	2020 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	866	N/A	24002.00	N/A	6.06	City	City of Novi	2021 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	867	N/A	?	N/A	3.29	City	City of Novi	2021 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	868	N/A	23310	N/A	4.78	City	City of Novi	2020 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	871	N/A	16800	N/A	5.87	City	City of Novi	2020 Explorer Patrol In Service
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	883	N/A	?	N/A	?	City	City of Novi	2022 Explorer Patrol Vehicle not in-service yet
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	887	N/A	?	N/A	?	City	City of Novi	2022 Explorer Patrol Vehicle not in-service yet
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	888	N/A	?	N/A	?	City	City of Novi	2022 Explorer Patrol Vehicle not in-service yet
Series Hybrid	Fleet of vehicles	Light-Duty	Government - Local	Patrol Car	Hybrid (conventional)	889	N/A	?	N/A	?	City	City of Novi	2022 Explorer Patrol Vehicle not in-service yet

You Create a Better Rouge River!



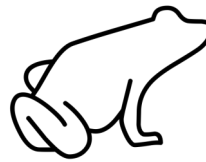
7,691 volunteers took action
for a better Rouge River
and more vibrant future



468 advocacy and outreach events
to raise a collective
voice for your River



26,072 gallons of water managed
by new rain gardens
each time it rains, for
less pollution and
flooding



4,680 hours of river monitoring
for bugs, frogs, toads,
fish & invasive
species



6,408 square feet of grass transformed
into new bird,
butterfly and
pollinator habitat



9,219 native plants, 4,133 trees
planted for a more
vibrant watershed



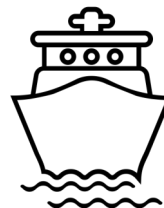
992 school students
experienced hands-on
Rouge River water
quality education



8,246 hours of river education
for the public and
caring people like you



44 Lower Rouge Water Trail events
to trail build, explore and
connect with nature



1 Rouge Cruise
event to experience
your Rouge River!

Thank you for making wonderful
things possible in 2023!

**Friends
of the ROUGE**

February 2, 2024

Aaron Staup
City of Novi
26300 Lee Begole Dr
Novi, MI 48375-1247

Dear Aaron,

Thank you for being a special partner for a clean water future in Metro Detroit. Thanks to your support, 2023 was a wonderful year for engaging Friends in hands-on action and education for a better Rouge River.

Friends of the Rouge (FOTR) continued to expand engagement with community. New for 2024, the expansion of advocacy work to elevate priority watershed issues and amplify community voices for the Rouge River. Also new this January, FOTR kicked off an 8-month strategic planning process to build on the strengths, successes, and learnings from the last 5 years of growth, which included significant increases in reported revenue (\$0.7 to \$1.8M), staff (8 to 16), and impact (see 2023 attached impact sheet).



Image: Friends planting trees along the Lower Rouge River, Spring 2023.

In 2023, FOTR empowered Metro Detroiters to save their River and become a part of the solution for: water pollution, habitat loss, flooding, heat, and inequitable access to green spaces. 2023 highlights include:

- 701 Rouge River outreach, action & education events
- over \$4 million in earned media to spread Rouge River awareness
- 12,998 Friends engaged in programming
- over 8,245 hours of river and environmental education
- expansion of emerging invasive species monitoring
- launch of the “Rain Catchers Collective” a collaboration between the Huron River Watershed Council, Friends of the Detroit River, the Clinton River Watershed Council, and Friends of the Rouge, to bring green infrastructure solutions to Southeast Michigan

Your valued partnership and committed investment makes all of this and more possible. You are warmly invited to further explore the impact that you make. Then, let us know how we can better serve you to meet your environmental and sustainability goals.

Sincerely,

Lara Edwards

Lara Edwards, Development Director

CC Rebecca Runkel

**Friends
of
the ROUGE**

2023 Marketing & Community Engagement Report

Engaging Community—Action, Advocacy & Education

Almost 13,000 Friends from across Metro Detroit engaged with Friends of the Rouge in: riverside student education; community science to track frogs, toads, bugs and fish; invasive species monitoring and removal; river clean-ups; logjam workdays; water trail builds, rain garden creation, tree planting, and Rouge River recreation. With your support, together, we are a movement for a more vibrant River community: more River stewards, more hands-on riverside education, less flooding, more robust River habitat, enhanced access to the Rouge River, and cleaner water.



Image: Metro Detroit Residents of all ages participated in new residential home rain garden builds. Above, two volunteers take a break from planting Detroit Rukiya Colvin's new rain garden.

Earned Media Reach



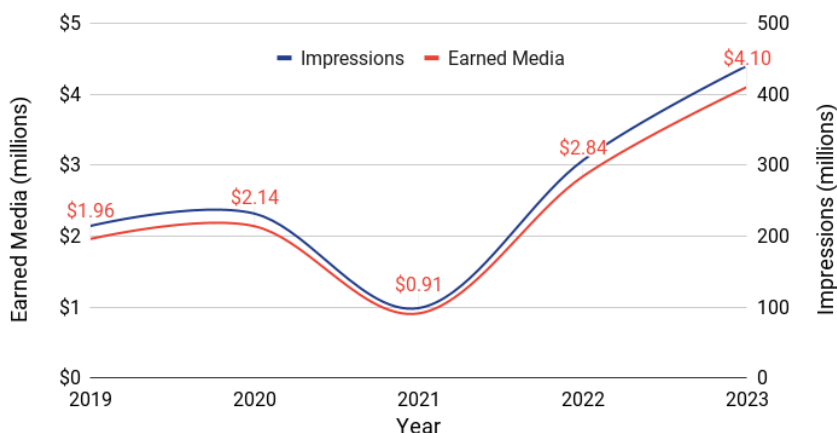
In 2023, Friends of the Rouge continued engagement with Robar Media in collaboration with watershed groups in Southeast Michigan for enhanced exposure and attention to the work of making a better Rouge River possible. **The Ad Value Equivalency, or earned media, for this attention was valued at a record \$4.1 million—a 40% growth over 2023.**

The continued growth in media exposure and reach reflects the growth of the organization's impact and influence as the voice of the Rouge River.

Above left: Image WXYZ Detroit: Friends of the Rouge Executive Director Marie McCormick speaks with reporter Faraz Javed on the proposed Salem Township wastewater facility, December 20, 2023

Below left: Graph - Impressions (millions) and Earned Media (millions) over time.

Highlights of news coverage on page 7.



Impact Spotlight : Culvert Inventories for Healthy Fish

The Team: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, US Fish & Wildlife, and Friends of the Rouge with Wayne County, Washtenaw County, and Canton Township

The Problem: Culverts are tunnels built under roads or railroads for the uninterrupted flow of streams. If improperly sized, culverts may impede fish from moving “across the road”. This can segment fish communities and create barriers to habitat access. Improperly sized culverts may disrupt reproduction, feeding, and ultimately the success and survival of impacted Michigan fish.

The Opportunity: The Michigan DNR contacted Friends of the Rouge to assess fish passage issues at culverts along the Lower Rouge River. FOTR scored culverts for a prioritized list to inform local partners of the culverts that pose the greatest threat to native fish success.

The Impact: Thanks to the injection of funds from the “Bipartisan Infrastructure Law” (BIL), Metro Detroit will have improved roadways. **And now—with priority culverts identified and scored by FOTR—culvert reconstruction improvements for safe fish passage can dovetail road reconstruction along the Lower Rouge River.** What was once a barrier will become a “road” for fish success!

Images: (top) Rouge River culvert with debris limiting flow; (middle) FOTR & Wayne Co. surveying streams to score culverts; (bottom, credit Robert Muller) Northern Logperch will likely be positively impacted by culvert improvements that result from this project.



Website Reach

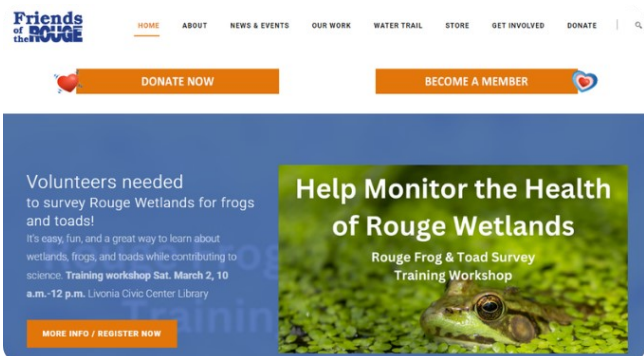


Image: Current FOTR homepage example.

Year	Users	Sessions	Bounce Rate	Session Duration
2023	56,000	44,000	44.8%	1m 19s
2022	62,000	86,900	66.67%	1m 29s
2021	58,000	79,000	61.58%	1m 36s
2020	48,000	67,000	60.27%	2m 8s

Graph: Users and usability has decreased in 2023.

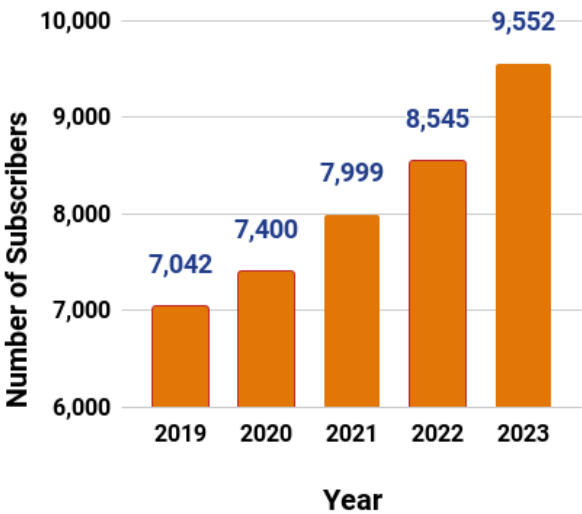
In 2023, the FOTR website experienced a sharp decrease in users and sessions over 2022 and 2021. 2023 was a transition year for the FOTR website. A full redesign to optimize usability, enhance aesthetics, lower bounce rates, and provide clearer calls to action was in progress and the focus of staff time. FOTR eagerly anticipates the new site launch in 2024.

The “Rouge Rundown” e-newsletter for the Win!



Images: The *Rouge Rundown* shares impact opportunities, State and local River news, community-science findings, and highlights Friends, partners, and supporters.

Your logo belongs in the *Rouge Rundown*! FOTR’s bi-weekly e-newsletter grew in audience from 2019 to 2023 by 36% with mass email open rates consistently between 36-41%. Email—including the e-newsletter—continues to be FOTR’s most broad-reaching and effective tool to engage Friends to take action.



Graph: The number of “Rundown” subscribers is nearing 10,000 with 36% growth over 5 years!

YouTube Channel Reach: Calls of the Wild

YouTube viewership contracted significantly in 2023 over 2022—a reflection of the large shift from virtual to in-person education. With less new original content released, and qualitative evidence of declining interest in “online meetings”, views were down 86%. The most popular videos in 2023 were longtime beloved favorites: the heavily referenced frog calls from the free and permanent YouTube collection @FriendsOfTheRouge.

	2023	2022	2021	2020
Views	8,565	59,090	51,927	13,015
Hours of Watch Time	395.7	690.6	581.4	385.2
Impressions	39,791	50,400	294,034	62,228

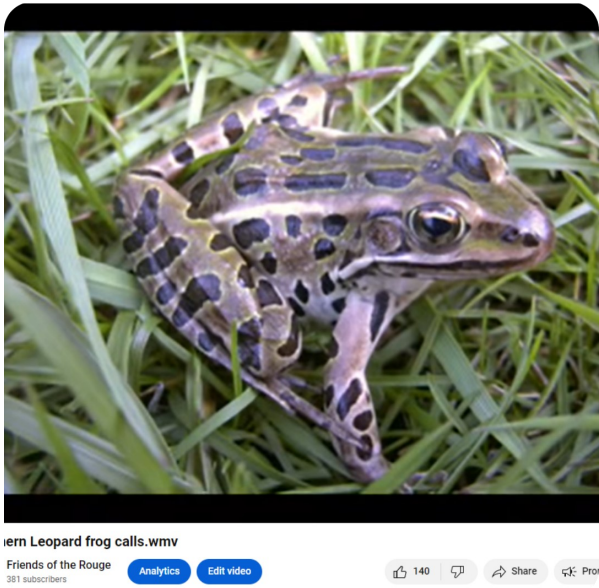
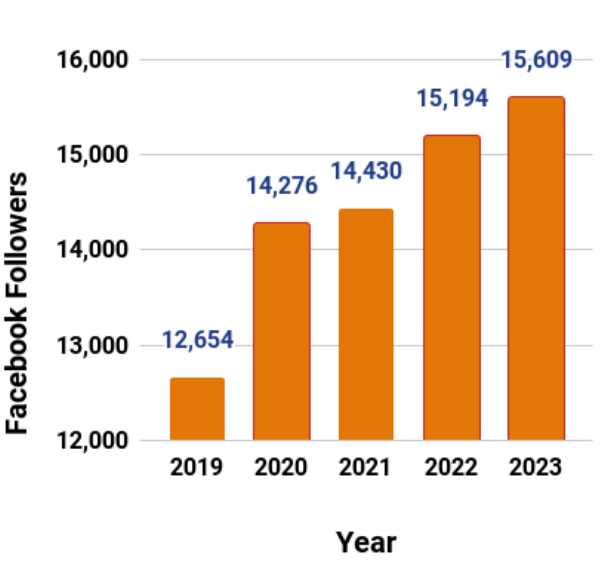
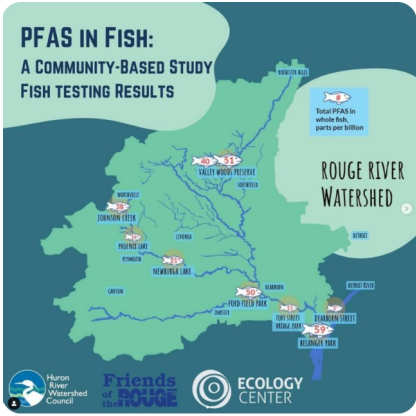
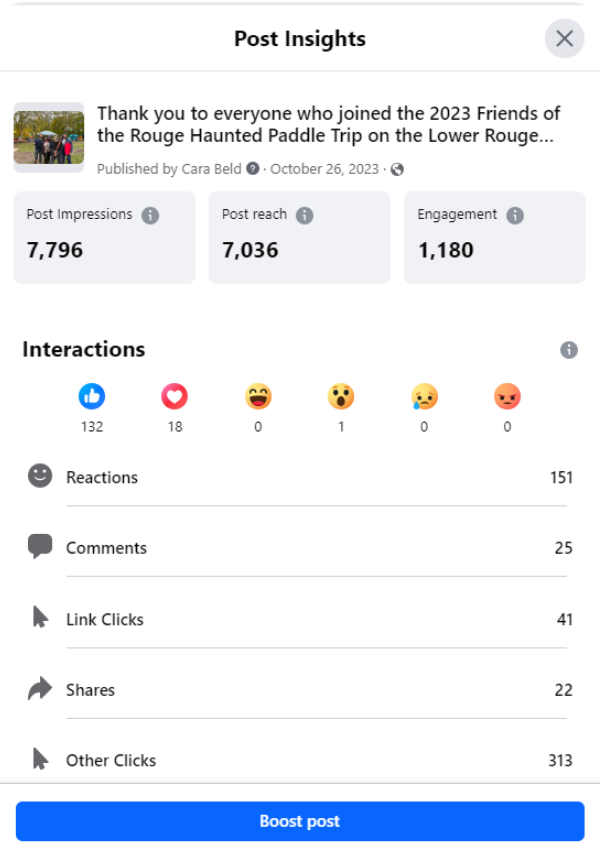


Image: And the winner for FOTR’s most watched YouTube Video in 2023: The call of the Northern Leopard Frog!

Engaging Community via Social Media

FOTR leveraged social media to share event information, news stories, event recaps, impact stories, fundraisers, River facts, and sponsor recognition.

FOTR “followers” grew on Instagram and Facebook. FOTR did not remove its platform from X (formerly Twitter) but will no longer focus there to reach and engage community. The largest social media audience continues to engage via Facebook—57% of whom are ages 55 and older. Instagram grew in reach and followers to capture a younger demographic—62% of whom are between the ages of 25-44. Combined, these platforms reach a broad audience of Friends.



Instagram	2023	2022	2021	2020
Followers	1,766	1,346	1,059	600
Reach	25,545	15,296	13,770	10,290
Impressions	84,300	75,833	89,862	12,118

Images: From 2023—(Top left) Rouge River Haunted Paddle Facebook post generates “buzz”; Instagram Posts (squares clockwise from top right) PFAS in Fish data graphic; student science at the Rouge River; Paddle trip “before” photo; residential rain garden install; (bottom left) Facebook follower growth over time; (bottom right) an increase in all Instagram metrics in 2023 over 2022.

Partners in Advocacy and Boots-on-the-ground solutions

A better River takes a village. **In 2023, Friends of the Rouge collaborated with over 200 community partners.** From neighborhood associations to universities, local to national nonprofits, the work of building a more vibrant future is complex and done best with a wide net of community participation, reflective of the most diverse and populated watershed in the State.

Images: (top) EGLE Mussel expert Amanda Chambers leads Michigan Mussel clinic; (bottom left) Detroit Zoo Conservation Student Intern discovers the art and science of “bug hunting”; (bottom middle) kayak birding trip with Detroit Audubon; (bottom right) packed house for rain garden workshop with UM SEAS and the UM Graham Institute.



The Rouge Cruise



It was a “Bon” Voyage for the 2023 Rouge Cruise! The biennial Fundraiser featured a sold-out boat, perfect weather (all images), live narration from FOTR Watershed Ecologist “Captain Sally Petrella” (top right), a view of the Gordie Howe bridge mid-build (bottom right)! **See you on land for the Heart of the Rouge in 2024!**



2023 News Coverage: Select Highlights

December 20, 2023

WXYZ Detroit: Proposed Salem Township wastewater treatment facility may be in jeopardy as Plymouth Township objects

November 17, 2023

C&G News: The Friends of the Rouge discover discharge in Booth Park

October 18, 2023

Fox 2 Detroit: Friends of the Rouge hosting its Annual Haunted Paddle

October 9, 2023

CBS Detroit: Friends of the Rouge tells you to Leave the Leaves this fall

August 5, 2023

University of Michigan SEAS: The Rain Garden Ripple Effect

June 28, 2023

The Detroit News: Michigan activists seek policies to curb pollution in industrial neighborhoods

June 16, 2023

Fox 2 Detroit: LaNita's Pocket Park sparks new life into old Detroit neighborhood

June 15, 2023

Fox 2 Detroit: National Canoe and Kayak Day

May 1, 2023

Michigan Radio: Once beset by industrial pollution, Rouge River on a slow path to recovery

April 24, 2023

Hometown Life: Dam good news: Beavers came back to Rouge River and decided to stay

April 20, 2023

The Detroit News: How to celebrate Earth Day in Metro Detroit this year

March 15, 2023

The Detroit News: Dearborn to pump \$30M in public parks, including upgrades to Camp Dearborn

March 14, 2023

Detroit Free Press: Beavers reclaim land in southeast Michigan

March 7, 2023

WDET 101.9FM: New study shows all fish tested from Huron and Rouge Rivers have PFAS

February 8, 2023

Press & Guide: Got frogs? Help the Friends of the Rouge find out

January 20, 2023

Great Lakes Echo: Toxic hotspot builds nontoxic community engagement



Image FOX 2 Detroit: FOTR Trails Manager Herman Jenkins with FOX 2 Detroit on June 16, 2023 to feature National Canoe & Kayak Day AND a re-match kayak race between Fox 2's Derek Kevra and Herman.

Thank you! See you on the River in 2024!

MEMORANDUM



TO: VICTOR CARDENAS, CITY MANAGER
FROM: EZEKIEL CHOJNACKI, GRADUATE MANAGEMENT ANALYST
SUBJECT: SOLARIZE PROJECT UPDATE
DATE: JULY 5, 2024

I want to update you on the Solarize project and request final approval.

Ann Arbor is hosting a group event on July 11th at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The group will be hosted by Ann Arbor resident Richard Dokas, along with his chosen installer, Oak Electric. They have spoken to Oak Electric and Novi residents have been invited to join. I believe this would be a great first trial run and if you agree I can work with Sheryl and Danielle to inform and invite Novi residents to the event.

In the long run I would still like Novi to run this project independently. According to Ann Arbor staff Holland, Grand Haven, Livonia, and Grand Rapids are working on it as well. Ann Arbor says they have struggled due to limited staffing and support. We could try to work with Livonia since they are our neighbor, or we could invite several neighboring cities like Northville and Farmington to ease the staffing load. Either way I would like to speak with the sustainability committee when they meet next. I am hoping that council members might know of some residents that would be interested in being a host (or possibly even hosting themselves).

With your approval, I will move forward with this right away.