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# News Release

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For Immediate Release

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## Wayne County Receives Environmental Award

**WAYNE COUNTY, MI — December 11, 2006** Wayne County's Department of Environment is being recognized for helping return a thriving habitat to the center of Wayne County.

The Rouge River Oxbow Restoration Project, located just south of Michigan Avenue on the eastern side of the Henry Ford's Greenfield Village property, is a collaborative effort between Wayne County, the State of Michigan, the Henry Ford, City of Dearborn, Ford Motor Company, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Funding for the project has been provided largely by state and federal grants, along with private contributions.

The Rouge River Remedial Action Plan Advisory Council, a team of environmental activists, government officials, academics, and business leaders organized under the International Great Lakes Commission, recognized the project at its December 13 meeting.

"The Oxbow project is taking a neglected area of the Rouge that had been cut off from nature by a concrete channel in the 1970's," said Wayne County Executive Robert A. Ficano. "By working together, we were able to reconnect this old portion of the river to the Rouge. We're now seeing fish thriving in the area, and even bald eagles - right here in the heart of Wayne County - and that improves the quality of life for all of us."

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*For additional media inquiry contact Vanessa Denha-Garmo at 313-213-5274.*

