

News Release

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For Immediate Release

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Wayne County Marks Continuing Success in Environmental Protection

DETROIT – The Wayne County Department of Environment has filed its annual storm water permit report with the State of Michigan – a 64-page report detailing the extent of the County's work to improve water quality for its more than 2 million residents. Highlights of the Report include:

- In 2006, Wayne County identified 119 illicit sewer discharges to County waterways. Once all of these discharges are corrected, more than 1.5 million gallons of wastewater will be prevented from entering County waterways each year.
- 165 people from communities, other counties and elsewhere attended the County's training program for illicit discharge identification.
- The County collected 12,730 gallons and more than 312,000 pounds of household hazardous waste, and ensured that it was disposed of properly.
- 34 failing septic systems were identified and corrective action plans implemented.
- Numerous illegal dumping sites and emergency spills were cleaned up.
- Wayne County distributed more than 90,000 pieces of environmental educational material.
- Environmental education presentations were made to more than 10,000 schoolchildren, with and nearly 20,000 more people attending one or more of the numerous environmental educational programs hosted by the Wayne County Parks Division.
- More than 30 county staff attended at least one environmental training course.

(more)



- In partnership with groups like Friends of the Rouge, Friends of Detroit River, Johnson Creek Protection Group, local communities, and many others, Wayne County organized volunteers to complete many projects, such as grow zones, numerous stream bank stabilization and riparian corridor management projects, and data collection about water quality and ecosystem health.
- The Wayne County Roads Division completed street sweeping for more than 10,000 miles of County roadways - removing sediment and other pollutants before it is washed into our waterways. An additional 15,000 cubic yards of material was removed from catch basins and culverts.
- 200 construction sites were permitted and inspected to ensure proper soil erosion and sedimentation control.
- More than 400 development projects were reviewed for compliance with the County's Storm water Ordinance.
- 62 violations of the County's sewer use ordinance were corrected.
- 26 communities in the downriver area, along with Wayne County, formed "The Alliance of Downriver Watersheds" to coordinate storm water permit compliance activities into the future.

"Without a doubt, Wayne County is leading the way in environmental protection in southeast Michigan," said County Executive Robert A. Ficano. "And despite budget pressures from Lansing and Washington, we are continuing to deliver a better quality of life for our residents through regional cooperation and improved efficiency."

For a complete copy of the report, contact Kelly Cave, Director of the Wayne County Department of Environment's Water Quality Division, at (313) 224-8282.

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