

News Release

**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 – an 80-page report detailing the extent of the County's work during 2008 to protect and improve our rivers, lakes, and streams for its 2 million residents. Highlights of the Report include:

- In 2008, Wayne County identified numerous illicit sewer discharges to County waterways. Once all of these discharges are corrected, over 15 million gallons of wastewater will be prevented from entering County waterways each year.
- The County collected over 525,000 pounds of household hazardous waste and “e-waste” (computers and other electronic devices) from over 3,700 residents, and ensured that it was disposed of properly.
- 24 failing septic systems were identified and corrective action plans implemented.
- Numerous illegal dumping sites and emergency spills were cleaned up.
- Dozens of workshops, presentations and/or demonstration projects were conducted for County residents and businesses on a variety of pollution prevention and environmental stewardship topics. Over 12,000 children attended such environmental education presentations, and the County distributed more than 110,000 pieces of environmental educational material during these events.
- In partnership with groups like Friends of the Rouge, Friends of Detroit River, local communities, and many others, Wayne County organized volunteers to complete many projects, such as no-mow “grow” zones in County Parks, numerous stream bank stabilization and riparian corridor management projects, and data collection about water quality and ecosystem health.



(more)

- The Wayne County Roads Division completed street sweeping for over 2,000 miles of County roadways - removing sediment and other pollutants before it is washed into our waterways.
- Over 150 construction sites were permitted and inspected to ensure proper soil erosion and sedimentation control.
- Approximately 400 development projects were reviewed for compliance with the County's Storm Water Ordinance.
- 44 violations of the County's sewer use ordinance were corrected.
- Hundreds of Wayne County staff received training on topics related to preventing pollution from reaching our waterways. Topics ranged from soil erosion and sedimentation control practices to proper calibration of deicing equipment to identification of improper plumbing for public swimming pools.
- Wayne County, local communities and other public agencies continued their collaboration as the Alliance of Rouge Communities, the Alliance of Downriver Watersheds, and the Lake St Clair Watershed Advisory Group to coordinate and provide cost-effective storm water permit compliance activities.

“Without a doubt, Wayne County is leading the way in environmental protection in southeast Michigan,” said County Executive Robert A. Ficano. “And despite today’s tough economic times, 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 Management Division, at (313) 224-8282. For more details contact Wayne County Environment Director Kurt Heise at (313) 224-3631.

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