

News Release

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Wayne County Issues Public Health Warning for Ecorse Creek Watershed

WAYNE COUNTY, MI – The Wayne County Department of Environment and County Public Health Division have issued a Health Warning for the entire Ecorse Creek Watershed, citing increased levels of human waste in the Downriver urban waterway.

“A recent study conducted by the federal Environmental Protection Agency and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality indicated that the Ecorse Creek Watershed exceeded acceptable limits for human waste approximately 70 percent of the time,” said Wayne County Environment Director Kurt Heise.

The Ecorse Creek Watershed covers nine Wayne County communities – Taylor, Dearborn Heights, Allen Park, Lincoln Park, Romulus, Ecorse, Melvindale, Wyandotte, and Southgate. The creek’s three main branches, which are county drains, discharge into the Detroit River.

“Wayne County is advising residents to avoid all body contact with the waters of the Ecorse Creek, and to take immediate health precautions for cleanup and disinfection should contact occur,” said Heise. Wayne County has issued guidelines on the Health Advisory in the attached document from the Public Health Division.

(More)



Wayne County's Department of Environment has requested \$105 million in federal and state funds for a more aggressive cleanup of the Ecorse Creek Watershed, focusing on illegal discharges of human waste into the creek.

"For several years, Wayne County and the Downriver communities have been locating and correcting these illegal discharges if funding was available," said Heise. "Clearly the problem is much worse than anyone thought, so the funding commitment to clean up the creek will need to be dramatically increased."

For more information, contact Kurt Heise at (313) 224-3631 or (313) 213-5151.

(Attachment – public health guidelines)

