



US Army Corps  
of Engineers ®



## Rouge River, MI

### River Features

- The Rouge River originates in Oakland and Washtenaw Counties, MI. The river is 30 miles long, flows southeast through Wayne County, and joins the Detroit River at the westerly limit of the city of Detroit. The navigation channel is located at the lower end of the Rouge River.
- Authorization: Rivers & Harbors Acts of 8 Aug 1917, 30 Aug 1935, 3 Jul 1958, 23 Oct 1962
- Deep draft commercial harbor
- Project depth is 21 feet in the cut-off and main Rouge channel to 17 to 25 feet in the Old Rouge channel
- 8.1M tons of material shipped and received in 2021
- Ranked 12<sup>th</sup> in tonnage among the Great Lakes harbors in 2021, when considered separately from Port of Detroit
- Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center combines Detroit and Rouge River as the Port of Detroit, with combined tonnages of 9.7M ranked 9<sup>th</sup> among Great Lakes Harbors and 49<sup>th</sup> among US ports in 2021.
- Total of 4.5 miles of federal channels and one turning basin
- Pointe Mouillee Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) is located in Lake Erie and has sufficient capacity to accommodate Rouge River dredged material for the next 5 to 10 years.
- Major stakeholders: Ajax Paving Industries Inc., Great Lakes Aggregates Inc., Harridon Terminal Inc., Honeywell International Inc., Jefferson Marine Terminal, Michigan Marine Terminal, Motor City Materials LLC, Nicholson Terminal & Dock Co., Severstal North America, Marathon Oil, U.S. Gypsum, U.S. Coast Guard, and Warner Petroleum



### Project Requirements

- Rouge River historically requires maintenance dredging of 50,000 to 60,000 cubic yards on a 2- to 5-year cycle.
- Maintenance dredging last occurred in 2021.
- Maintenance dredging will be conducted in 2023 with 2022 funds.
- Sediment sampling is funded in FY23.

### Consequences of Not Maintaining the Project

- If the channel were closed to commercial traffic, commodities would have to be transported by rail and truck. This would increase annual emission rates by 61.3M lbs. of harmful particulate matter (PM-10) and increase costs by \$13.7M due to increased railroad related accidents, and \$9.2M due to increased trucking related accidents.
- Light loading: losses of between 1 and 2 feet of channel depth would result in increased transportation costs between \$6.5M to \$14.2M annually.

**Transportation Importance**

- Major receiving port on the Great Lakes.
- Commodities include iron ore, petroleum products, coal, slag, cement, limestone, lignite, fuel oil, coke, salt, sand, and gravel.
- Waterborne transportation facilitated by the harbor supports \$358.9M in business revenue, 1,596 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$115.1M in labor income to the transportation sector.
- Commodities handled by the project support \$9.2B in business revenue, 50,282 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, and \$2.6B in labor income.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, 2023, and 2024  
Rouge River, MI – Project Requirements and President’s Budget (\$1,000)**

| <b>Work Package</b>   | <b>FY22 Requirement</b> | <b>FY22 Appropriation</b> | <b>FY23 Requirement</b> | <b>FY23 Appropriation</b> | <b>FY24 Requirement</b> | <b>FY24 President’s Budget</b> |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Maintenance Dredging  | 1,130                   | 1,130                     | 0                       | 0                         | 1,630                   | 1,630                          |
| Sediment Sampling, Analysis, and Environmental Coordination | 0                       | 0                         | 175                     | 175                       | 200                     | 200                            |
| Real Estate Management                                      | 3                       | 3                         | 3                       | 2                         | 4                       | 4                              |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>1,133</b>            | <b>1,133</b>              | <b>178</b>              | <b>177</b>                | <b>1,834</b>            | <b>1,834</b>                   |

**Congressional Interests**

- Representative Shri Thanedar D-MI-13
- Senator Gary Peters D-MI
- Senator Debbie Stabenow D-MI