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**Media Contact:**

Lauracindy Plague Dávila  
Communications Manager  
[lploguedavila@fhgov.com](mailto:lploguedavila@fhgov.com)  
248-871-2509 (office)

## **Join the Cleanup: Volunteers Needed for Rouge River Day on May 17 at the Farmington Hills Nature Center**

*City seeks 100 volunteers to help restore the Rouge River and protect natural resources*

**FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. (April 24, 2025)** – The City of Farmington Hills is seeking 100 volunteers to help protect and preserve natural resources at **Rouge River Day on Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Heritage Park, located at 24915 Farmington Road.** In its 39th year, Rouge River Day is the City’s largest annual volunteer event at Heritage Park. The Farmington Hills Nature Center, Division of Public Works (DPW) and Parks Division are teaming up to host the event and are encouraging community members to join in.

Volunteers of all ages can contribute to this hands-on effort to restore and enhance the Rouge River watershed. Activities will include removing trash and debris from the river, clearing invasive species, planting native wildflowers and maintaining park trails.

“Rouge River Day is more than just a chance to volunteer – it’s a celebration of community and our shared responsibility to protect the natural spaces we all enjoy,” said Ashlie Smith, supervisor of the Farmington Hills Nature Center. “This is a great opportunity for community members of all ages to come together and make a lasting impact on our local environment for future generations.”

Snacks and water will be available throughout the morning and a free lunch, courtesy of the City’s DPW, will be served at noon. Volunteers should dress for outdoor work, including long pants, long sleeves, and closed-toe shoes or work boots. Clean-up equipment will be provided but participants are encouraged to bring their own work gloves.

Prospective volunteers can register using the Rouge River Day Volunteer [sign up form](#). For more information, please contact the Farmington Hills Nature Center at 248-473-1870.

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### **About the City of Farmington Hills**

The City of Farmington Hills is a place where everyone is welcome. Founded in 1973, it is one of the largest and most diverse communities in Oakland County. Farmington Hills is home to more than 83,000 residents who speak more than 60 languages, and more than 75 Fortune 500 businesses, including multinational corporations like Nissan and Bosch. The City is known for its extensive amenities, including over 600 acres of parks, 90 athletic fields, six miles of hiking and walking trails, the Farmington Hills Golf Club, and an Ice Arena. Farmington Hills is also home to The Hawk, an award-winning, 245,000-square-foot recreation and arts venue, which includes The Hawk Theatre and The Hawk Makerspace. For more information, visit [www.fhgov.com](http://www.fhgov.com).

31555 West Eleven Mile Road • Farmington Hills, MI 48336 • 248.871.2500 Phone • 248.871.2501 Fax  
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**Note for reporters:** Although the Cities of Farmington Hills and Farmington share similar names and are both communities in Oakland County, they are two distinct and separate cities. Farmington Hills is the larger of the two, both in population and size. Farmington is a historic city with its own unique governance and community. Please be sure to differentiate between the two cities in your reporting to avoid confusion.