



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Erin
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Byrnes
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
Rep. Alabas Farhat
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Friends of the Rouge
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
650 Church Street, Suite 209 Plymouth, MI 48170
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
N/A
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Alabas Farhat, District 3
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.
The purpose of this funding request is to establish recreation access to the Lower Rouge River in Dearborn at Ford Field Park. Friends of the Rouge is spearheading the community led efforts to establish a 29-mile water trail and network of connected greenways on the Lower Rouge River. Ford Field Park is a critical multi-purpose trail head on the Lower Rouge River Water Trail. The park also provides connectivity to planned and existing greenways.

Located in the City of Dearborn, Ford Field Park is between two existing launches on the Lower Rouge River Water Trail and has been home to Friends of the Rouge paddling events since 2003. Ford Field Park is already recognized as a space for events, paddling access, fishing, and community gatherings. The park's red covered bridge is a recognized landmark, and it spans a stream of bubbling rapids on the Lower Rouge River.

This is an opportunity to create safe river access for paddlers of all skill levels and abilities. The project will also create a more modest and recreational paddling experience on the Lower Rouge River Water Trail that will connect the naturalized upstream Lower Rouge with the industrialized concrete channel on the Main Branch.

The project is 100% shovel ready and permitted for construction through June 2026. For more information: www.therouge.org/water-trail/

Because Ford Field Park is a public park, and all citizens of Michigan would be able to enjoy the benefits of recreation access to the Rouge River in the park, this appropriation would not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution.

9. Attach documents here if needed:

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.

1200000

11. Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.

["None"]

12. Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:

Non-profit organization

13. For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?

Yes

14. For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?

Yes

15. For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?

Yes

16. For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'

· President, Jessica Eiland Anders, Ballmer Group · Vice President, Myra M. Tetteh, Ph.D., Wayne County Department of Health, Human & Veterans Services · Secretary, Gerry VanAcker, Detroit Zoological Society · Treasurer, Carol Snodgrass, CPA · Member-At-Large, Mike McNulty, ITC Holdings Directors · Alice Bailey, Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. · Paul Draus, Ph.D., University of Michigan-Dearborn · Erma Leaphart, Sierra Club · Madelin Maher, Bank of America · Dave Norwood, Canton Township · Brandy Siedlaczek, City of Southfield · Jeremiah Steen, National Audubon Society · Susan Thompson, Wayne County Department of Public Service, Samra'a W. Luqman, Concerned Residents of South Dearborn

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

Immediately upon receipt of funds, to June 2026.

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

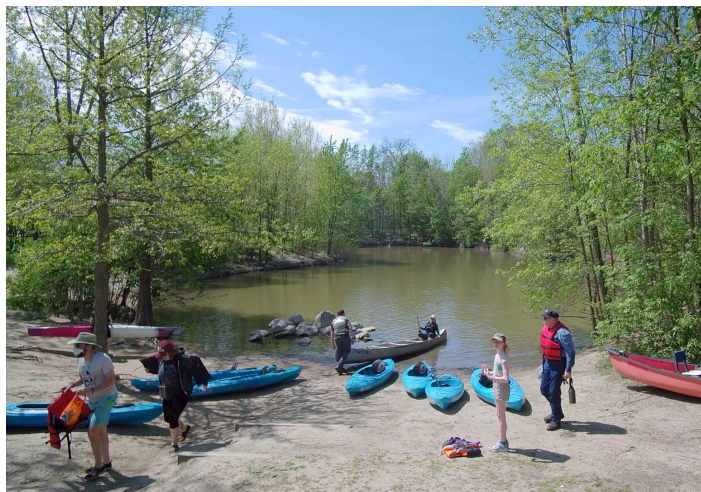
Yes

Establish Recreation Access to the Lower Rouge River in Dearborn

Ford Field Park Multi-Purpose Trailhead

Friends of the Rouge was founded in 1986 and our mission is to restore and protect the Rouge Watershed. We are spearheading the community led efforts to establish a 29-mile water trail and network of connected greenways on the Lower Rouge River. Ford Field Park is a critical multi-purpose trail head on the Lower Rouge River Water Trail. The park also provides connectivity to planned and existing greenways.

Located in the City of Dearborn, Ford Field Park is between two existing launches on the Lower Rouge River Water Trail, and has been home to Friends of the Rouge paddling events since 2003.



Ford Field Park - Supporting community paddling access and events since 2003

Ford Field Park is already recognized as a space for events, paddling access, fishing, and community gatherings. The park's red covered bridge is a recognized landmark and it spans a stream of bubbling rapids on the Lower Rouge River. This is an opportunity to create safe river access for paddlers of all skill levels and abilities. The project will also create a more modest and recreational paddling experience on the Lower Rouge River Water Trail that will connect the naturalized upstream Lower Rouge with the industrialized concrete channel on the Main Branch.

This project is community led by Friends of the Rouge through its Lower Rouge River Water Trail Leadership Committee. This coalition includes businesses, community organizations, labor, municipalities, and passionate area residents. Friends of the Rouge serves as the fiduciary for Ford Field Park Improvements. The total project budget is \$1.2 million. The project is 100% shovel ready and permitted for construction through June 2026.

Ford Field Park Site Plan

