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*Promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River since 1986*

FOR RELEASE: January 12, 2018

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### **Volunteers Needed for Annual Rouge Frog and Toad Survey**

Friends of the Rouge is looking for people interested in participating in the 2018 Annual Rouge Frog and Toad Survey. Volunteers learn the calls of the [eight local frogs and toads](#) and visit wetlands at night to identify what types are calling. According to Friends of the Rouge's Volunteer Monitoring Program Manager, Sally Petrella, the survey is a great way for residents to get to know more about local wildlife and wetlands while contributing to this long term survey.

Friends of the Rouge started the survey in 1998 to involve local residents in collecting data about the health of Rouge River wetlands. The presence of frogs and toads is used as an indicator of wetland health as the animals disappear when wetlands are too polluted or destroyed. Diverse, healthy wetlands support diverse populations of amphibians.

Michigan has lost 60% of its original wetlands. The Rouge River Watershed contains portions of three counties: Oakland County has lost 55%, Washtenaw County 53% and Wayne County 90%.

The [survey results](#) have shown the greatest diversity of frogs and toads, and therefore the healthiest wetlands, in the less developed headwaters of the [Rouge River Watershed](#) and the lowest diversity in the urbanized portions.

Interested volunteers need to [pre-register](#) for ONE of three training sessions held on Saturdays in February and March. (All materials are provided at the workshop.) Volunteers are assigned to survey blocks within the Rouge River Watershed and required to visit them several times a month on damp warm nights, March through June.

#### Workshop dates ([register](#))

Sat. February 17, 2017 10am-12pm

Canton Summit on the Park, 46000 Summit Parkway, Canton, MI 48188

Sat. March 10, 2017 10am-12pm

Farmington Hills Council Chambers, 31555 W Eleven Mile Rd, Farmington Hills, MI 48336

Sat. February 18, 2017 10am-12pm

Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road, Livonia, MI 48154