



Friends of the Rouge • 4901 Evergreen Road-KMB • Dearborn, MI 48128
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Paddle the Rouge River with Friends of the Rouge this Fall
Sept. 16 (Industrial Rouge); Oct 7 (Natural Rouge)

This fall there are two opportunities to join a group paddle on the Rouge River. The tours are being organized by Friends of the Rouge in conjunction with two local liveries. The two tours offer contrasting perspectives on this recovering urban river.

On Saturday September 16, Friends of the Rouge partners with [Riverside Kayak Connection](#) on a tour that highlights the river's industrial past. Beginning in Melvindale, paddlers are dwarfed by industry as they cruise past the Ford Rouge Complex, awed by history as they pass under historical suspension bridges, surprised by the great blue herons and kingfishers that still frequent the area, and always on the watch for the occasional freighter that makes its way up the river.

On Saturday October 7, Friends of the Rouge partners with [Heavner Canoe Rental](#) to offer a trip that feels like an up north paddle. Following the Lower Branch within the City of Wayne, paddlers are surrounded by a surprisingly healthy forest with towering cottonwoods, several steep riverbanks and even a bit of whitewater to negotiate.

Both tours are limited to experienced paddlers due to water quality concerns. To sign up for the Sept. 16 Kayak Tour, contact [Riverside Kayak Connection](#) at 734-285-2925. (\$50 kayak / \$30 bring your own, both include shuttle and lunch). To sign up for the Oct 7 paddle, contact FOTR at 313-792-9621 or spetrella@therouge.org (\$45 per canoe/\$10 bring your own).

The Rouge River covers 466 square miles in three counties and 42 communities in the metropolitan Detroit area. [Friends of the Rouge](#) is a non-profit 501c3 organization dedicated to promoting restoration and stewardship of the Rouge River and is currently working to develop a Rouge River Water Trail.

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