

## Section 4

# Vision and Goals

The general storm water permit requires that the subwatershed management plan define short term and long term goals for the watershed. Long-term goals are goals that will take more than 5-years to accomplish.

Short-term goals must include;

- Determination of actions needed to achieve short-term goals.
- The benefits and costs of the actions.
- Commitments, identified by specific permittee, or others as appropriate, to implement actions by specified dates necessary to achieve short-term goals.

Long term goals, must include;

- Protection of designated uses of the receiving waters as defined in Michigan's Water Quality Standards.
- Actions needed to achieve long-term goals must be determined.
- The benefits and costs of the actions.
- Commitments, identified by specific permittee, or others as appropriate, to implement actions by specified dates necessary to achieve long-term goals.

In considering goals for the Middle 3 subwatershed, the Middle 3 SWAG felt that a vision of the Middle 3 Rouge River would be helpful. The Middle 3 SWAG included a Vision statement when they adopted their Operational Procedures May 20, 1997. The Vision was revised February 23, 1999. The revised Vision for the Middle Rouge River is;

*A Middle Rouge River and river corridor that is aesthetically pleasant, clean, and safe so that watershed residents and visitors can enjoy a variety of recreational opportunities including fishing, canoeing and picnicking, and that supports a healthy and diverse wildlife community.*

### **4.1 Goals for the Middle 3 Rouge River Subwatershed as Determined by the Middle 3 Subwatershed Advisory Group**

Goals developed by the Middle 3 SWAG in March of 2000 are listed below. At the Public Forum, March 23, 2000, the public provided written comments on their vision of the Rouge River. Their comments have been added in quotes under the corresponding goal developed by the Middle 3 SWAG. Comments that did not fit a goal have been added under Other Vision Responses. Short-term goals are identified with a bullet.

#### **4.1.1 Improve water quality consistent with the Vision Statement.**

"Improved water quality"

"My vision is to be able to sit and meditate beside the river and have it smell sweet like it did in the 60's and then to pass this joy on to my grandchildren."

#### **4.1.2 Reduce public health risk and enhance recreational opportunities along the Middle Rouge River and within the Subwatershed.**

Continue to reduce combined sewer overflows and minimize impact of sanitary sewer overflows.

Identify and remove illicit discharges and illicit connections.

"The Rouge River should be safe for body contact for recreation, be enjoyable to be beside"

"A clean safe place where all can go to enjoy & learn about nature wonders."

"A River which it is possible to swim, fish and enjoy the beauty."

"To have the Rouge available for any activity that would normally occur on a river. Boating, fishing, swimming?"

"To improve enjoyment"

"Provide convenient access for both passive and active recreation"



#### **4.1.3 Educate the public regarding their impact on the river and the river's existing and future potential as a community asset and recreational resource.**

"Informed and concerned citizens."

#### **4.1.4 Preserve greenways adjacent to the Middle Rouge River that are held within the public trust.**

#### **4.1.5 Enhance and preserve habitat, especially next to the river, for fish and wildlife compatible with subwatershed land uses.**

- Remove fish consumption advisories.

"Sustainable fishery and wildlife populations"

"Support an appropriate fisherie"

#### **4.1.6 Obtain a general stormwater permit.**

- Implement the requirements of the general storm water permit through cooperation with other communities, Wayne County and stakeholders.

#### **4.1.7 Adopt a subwatershed management strategy.**

- Identify and obtain funding for watershed management efforts that ensures the best utilization of public funds.

"A permanent restoration of the river to a viable and enjoyable resource that has permanent funding, a maintenance schedule, with ownership of the administrative duties held by a specific group with goals and chatting"

#### Other Vision Responses

"Be considered as an asset to the community"

"The Rouge is getting better. The Rouge River will continue to improve as long as efforts like this continue. Hopefully one day conditions will improve enough so future generations can enjoy its beauty."

"I see the Rouge River becoming even more important with schools in the future."

"I see our children helping out more with saving the Rouge."

### **4.2 Results of the Public Forum, March 23, 2000.**

At the Public Forum attendees were asked the following question.

What are your suggestions to improve your enjoyment of the river and the areas adjacent to it?

These responses help to identify specific actions that are needed to meet the goals and vision. They said;

"Stream bank improvement."

"Trimming back some of the old, possibly dead trees, so that other vegetation can grow and help protect the bank from erosion."

"To set aside some areas as natural environment where fishing, boating, etc. is prohibited. Hiking trails would be established. This was original plan for Nankin Lake, what happened?"

"Plant wildflowers"

"We have many education programs for younger generations. I believe that we need to educate the adults too! Many people have the attitude of: well we used it, and abused it, we'll just create a new one. These people don't realize how much goes on and how important these things are."

"Get the News teams on your side, people will listen!"

"And definitely continue the Rough (e) Rescue!"

"Use some of the River flowing thru the Hines Parkway to create a natural wildlife habitat."

"Prioritize River ~ Wetland connections - 1) design and development, and 2). protection of existing WL"

"Stop excessive building and development near the river"

"Nankin Lake, the Mill Pond cleanup"

"Decrease littering in the Rouge"

"My enjoyment of the Rouge River and surrounding area would be greatly enhanced if we (all the communities) can get a handle on the immense amount of litter (many cigarettes) found along roadways and end up being washed down the storm drains to river. "

"The state of Texas recently published data that indicated the single biggest pollutant in the State's rivers was cigarette material. Can't we educate the smokers that our roadways, drains, and the river are not their ashtray."

"Riparian landscaping to protect/encourage native populations"

"Please- enforce pollution laws so that the children can play near and in the river. That is the only way they will learn to appreciate what nature has to offer"

"Please publish results of tests conducted on water samples and bio? counts."

"Be decisive! Take action, have a plan for long term change, with measurable goals and progress"

"Be serious with big corporate polluters - please!!!"

"Improve aesthetics (control sedimentation and erosion)"

"Eliminate mosquitoes or better control, one encephalitis lawsuit without showing due diligence can wreck your day"

"People stop referring to Rouge as a "sewer""

### **4.3 Public Opinion Survey**

A public opinion survey was conducted in 1999. This survey provides the views and opinions of residents in the Rouge River watershed. Responses from residents in the Middle 3 portion of the survey indicate that;

- A majority of the residents are familiar with the Rouge River Watershed.
- A majority have visited a park along the river in the past two years.
- During park visits the most common activities that families participated in were; walking, watching wildlife, biking, picnicking, using playground equipment, running or jogging, and winter sports
- The water quality is considered as poor and has stayed the same or gotten a little better in the last 5 years.
- Stream bank erosion is not a problem or only occasionally a problem.
- Flooding is the same as 5 years ago
- Pollution sources identified in order of importance were; stormwater, combined sewer overflows, waste from businesses, chemicals and fertilizers from parking lots, streets, farms and lawns.
- They are optimistic about improving water quality and flooding problems.

### **4.4 Revised Goals**

After the March 23, 2000 Forum, the Middle 3 SWAG began meeting with the Lower 2 SWAG. A comparison of goals that the two SWAGs had developed, revealed that they were quite similar. Since some of the communities are in both SWAGs, it was felt that a common set of goals would be beneficial. The current goals for the Middle 3 SWAG are listed in the matrix following page 7-28 and in Chapter 8. Watershed planning and management is an iterative process and these goals are likely to change in the future. Changes will be identified in the revised Middle 3 Subwatershed Management Plan.