

STATE SENATOR • TUPAC A. HUNTER • 5TH DISTRICT

# Hunter Press Release

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## **Hunter Announces Rouge River Cleanup Funds for Dearborn Heights, Detroit**

*Grant will help protect local water systems*

DETROIT-Today State Senator Tupac A. Hunter (D-Detroit) announced two grants for the Dearborn Heights Watershed Stewards Commission and the City of Detroit General Services Department for two Rouge River cleanup projects. Funds for the \$2,585 and \$2,385 grants come from the state's Volunteer River, Stream, and Creek Cleanup Program (VRSCCP), administered by the Great Lakes Commission under contract with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

"Michiganders share a sense of pride for our lakes, rivers and streams, which is why we have a responsibility to preserve our natural resources and protect the environment," said Sen. Hunter. "These grants will help Dearborn Heights and Detroit residents continue their efforts to keep the Rouge River clean by removing trash and debris."

Both projects are part of "Rouge Rescue 2008," an annual event organized by Friends of the Rouge that brings together thousands of volunteers across Southeast Michigan to remove debris from the river and its flood plain.

VRSCCP provides small grants ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 to local units of government to help clean up and improve Michigan's rivers, streams, and creeks. Since 2001, funding for this program has originated from the sale of the state's Water Quality Protection license plates. Local units of government often partner with nonprofit organizations or other volunteer groups to carry out the cleanups. Additional information on the VRSCCP is available on the Internet at <http://www.glc.org/streamclean> or by contacting John Hummer of the Great Lakes Commission at 734-971-9135.

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