



Grow Zones

Projects that Improve Wildlife Habitat and Water Quality

Water quality and wildlife habitat in the Rouge Watershed would benefit by protecting our natural areas, expanding native buffers and increasing planting areas. We are now calling these planting areas - **Grow Zones**. Grow zones can be anywhere, both public and private property, and take many different forms. We already have green roofs and green walls at industrial sites, and rain gardens and native buffer plantings on residential and municipal property. These grow zones increase infiltration of rain, reduce pollution and cost less to maintain. Improved water quality and additional natural areas benefit fish and wildlife. Opportunities for grow zones exist at community parks, municipal buildings, commercial developments and our own yards.

What is a Grow Zone?

A grow zone is a vegetated area with the purpose of improving water quality and wildlife habitat.

Benefits of Grow Zones

- Reduction of stormwater going to our rivers (Flow Reduction)
- Increases the amount of wildlife habitat
- Increases in public awareness
- Aesthetically pleasing
- Improves water quality
- Meets Federal and State Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative Requirements
- Meets Federal Phase II Storm Water General Permit Requirements
- Grow zones are less expensive to maintain than turf grass

Grow Zone

To Improve
Wildlife Habitat &
Water Quality



This area is
maintained as part
of a natural areas
maintenance plan

Sign funded in part by a Clean Michigan Initiative grant


Grow Zones can be...

Rain Gardens	Native Plant Gardens
Wildflower Gardens	Riparian Buffers
Wet Meadows	Green Roofs
Prairies	Schoolyard Habitats
No-Mow Areas	Butterfly Gardens
Streambank Stabilization	
Bioswales	