

PLANTS



BLACKEYED SUSANS

Rain gardens made up of native plants capture water and allow it to soak into the ground instead of running off into storm sewers. Allowing storm water to soak into the ground while the native plants filter out pollutants reduces pollution and slows down water going directly into our lakes, rivers and waterways.

THAT



PURPLE CONEFLOWERS

Plants like Blackeyed Susans, Purple Coneflowers and Swamp Milkweed have dense root systems and are native to Michigan. The deep root systems of these plants help filter pollutants from the water before it reaches the river or the groundwater. The extensive root systems of native plants help them survive fires, winters, droughts and flooding.

LIVING IN THE ROUGE RIVER WATERSHED

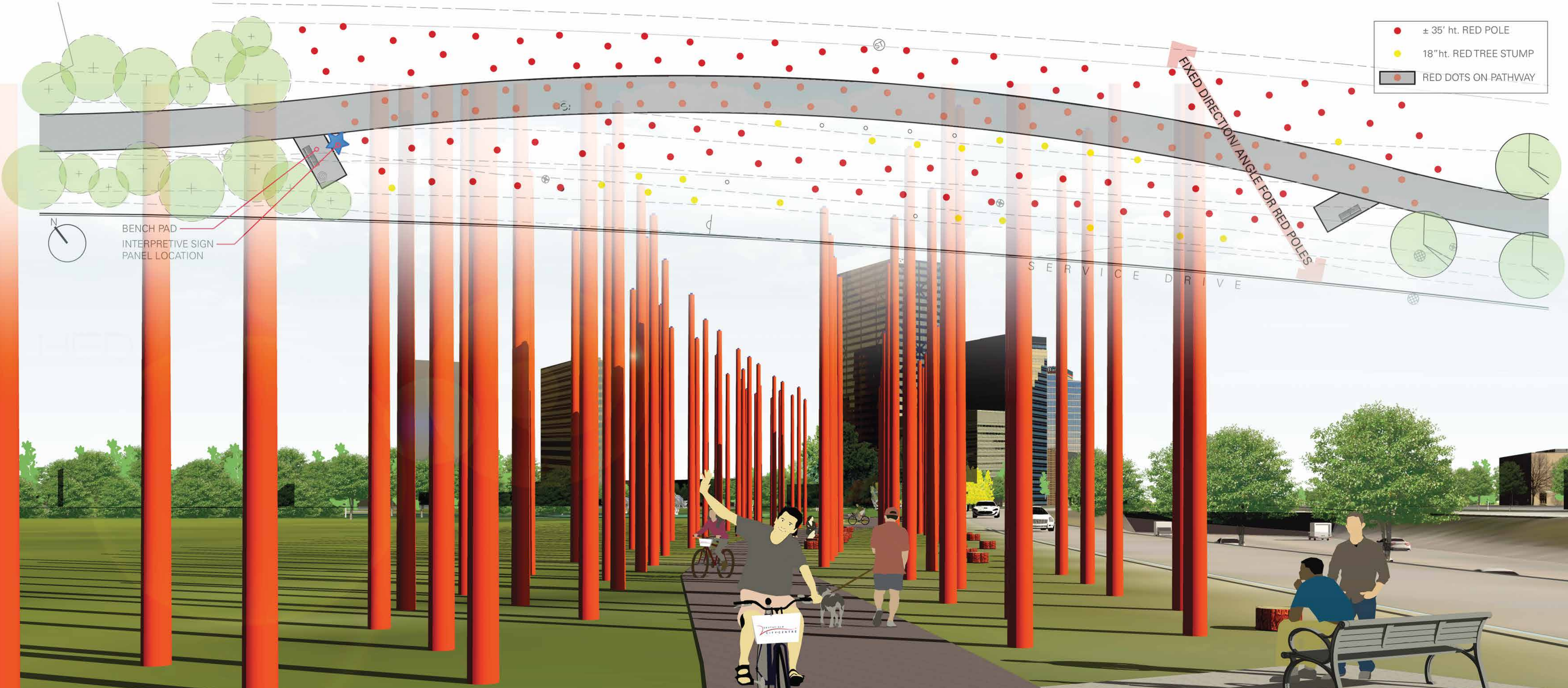
When it rains, the water that falls here begins a journey towards the lowest point in the watershed, the Rouge River. The Rouge River Watershed is 467 square miles in size, includes 126 miles of river, and numerous tributaries. During a storm, rainwater flowing from roads, parking lots, rooftops and other hard surfaces travels rapidly to drain pipes that carry it to the river. Too much rainwater all at once can cause flash-flooding, stream bank erosion, and destruction of fish and wildlife habitat. It is better to slow or even prevent the water from draining directly to the river to reduce flooding and to help keep the water clean. The City of Southfield is implementing these design elements in our public areas.

ABSORB



SWAMP MILKWEED & MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Along with filtering water, these plants attract pollinators. Honey bees, butterflies and other insects play a critical role in maintaining the natural ecosystem. Crop plants grown for their fruits, vegetables, nuts, seeds, and fiber cannot survive without these pollinators. Pollinators cannot survive without their native habitat.



WELCOME TO RED POLE PARK

These poles represent the conscious choice of our community to embrace civic values. Throughout our history, our community members have prioritized and embraced values that we hold common and connect us into a complex whole: sustainability, stewardship, and education.

The red, a symbol of strength and the color of energy, love and passion, inspires us to act. Of the numerous positions of this installation, some are filled with poles. Those that are standing tall are a symbol of those who came before us, who planted and nurtured the seeds of civic mindfulness. Some of their stories can be found at our historic treasures in the City. Some are less than 24 inches tall and represent the new growth, those who are currently championing our common unity. Others are noted on the ground, yet to rise, and represent the future, the generation who will come after us, continuing to nurture and grow the values we hold in common.

THANK YOU

This greenway includes a series of outdoor "rooms" or art installations, of which Red Pole Park is the first. This park exemplifies the commitment of the City of Southfield to create a pedestrian friendly community. This bike-walk greenway joins a growing network of trails and sidewalks throughout Southfield. 3,665 dedicated community members sponsored this park through a 2017 Patronicity crowdfunding campaign. As a result, a matching grant was provided by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation. To all who support the effort to enrich our public spaces, we are forever grateful.





BATS

Michigan bats feed on a variety of moths, flies, beetles and other insects. Bats can eat up to 1,000 mosquitos per hour. Without a healthy bat population, crops are placed at risk from invasive insects, and the number of mosquitoes will rise. By providing dry, safe houses for bats to sleep, we can help them thrive.

TRI-COLORED BAT



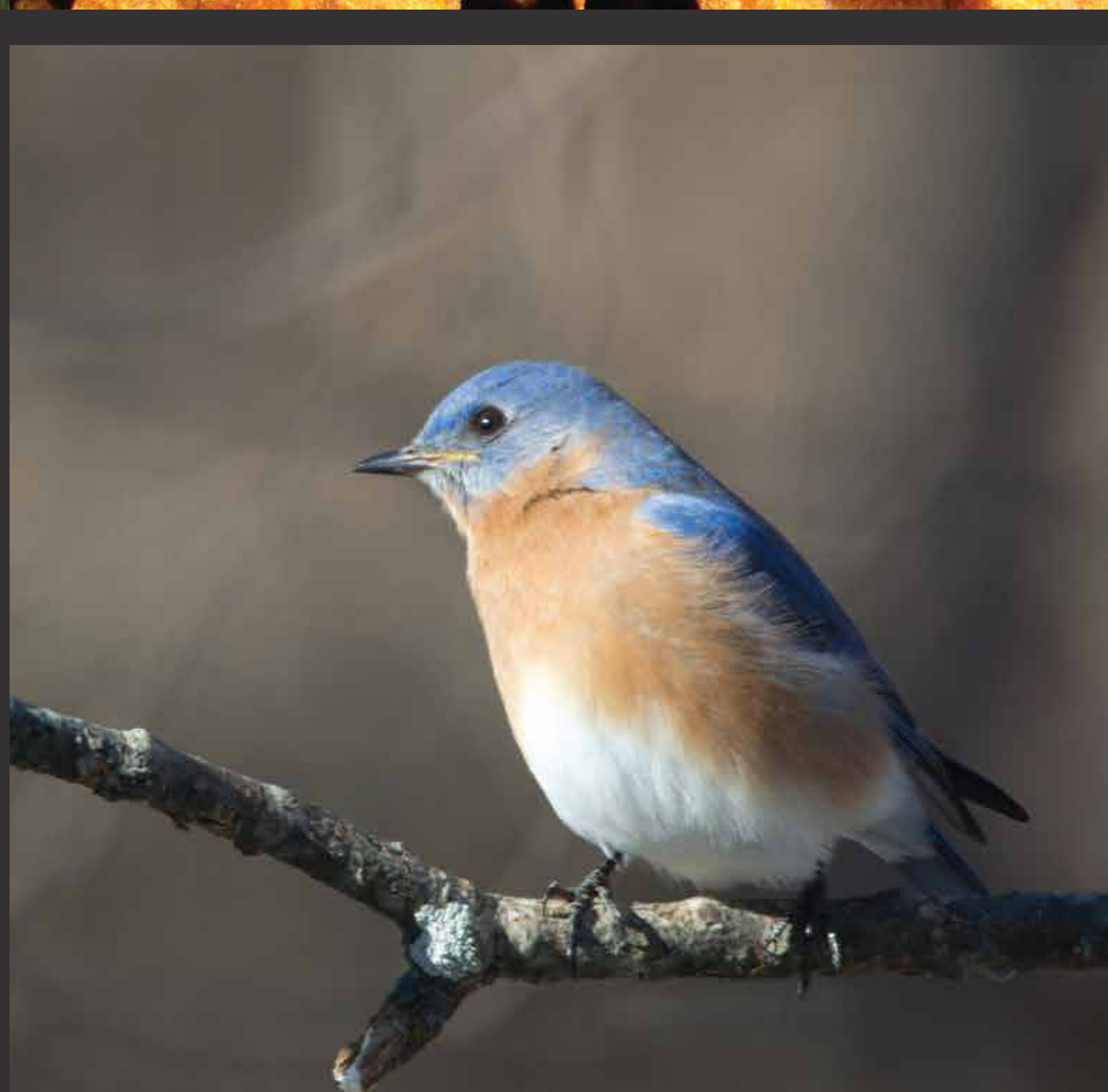
BEEES

Following a national pattern, Michigan's honey bee populations are declining rapidly. Because honey bees pollinate nearly all of the fruits, vegetables, and nuts grown in Michigan, this population decline is emerging as a significant threat to the state's food production. We can help the honey bees by using less chemicals and pesticides.

HONEY BEE

HELPING OUR URBAN ECOSYSTEM

Even in Southfield, we are surrounded by the natural world. In fact, cities are in a unique position to help our ecosystem. In 2014, white-nose syndrome, a deadly disease affecting North American bats, was confirmed in Michigan. This disease affects bats during hibernation and spreads easily in moist caves. By providing dry, safe houses for bats to sleep in our cities and backyards, we can help our bat population. Since 2005, 30% of all honey bee colonies in the US have been lost each year, a condition known as Colony Collapse Disorder. We can help the honey bees by planting native flowers in our public spaces to attract and feed the bees. We know these small actions work because bluebirds have benefited from similar concerted efforts and now have a restored population.



BIRDS

Because of habitat loss, pollution, and competition of non-native species, bluebirds have suffered large declines. Through the efforts of many people providing bluebird houses over the last 10 years, the bluebird population has began to thrive again. Bluebirds prove our actions have positive results.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD