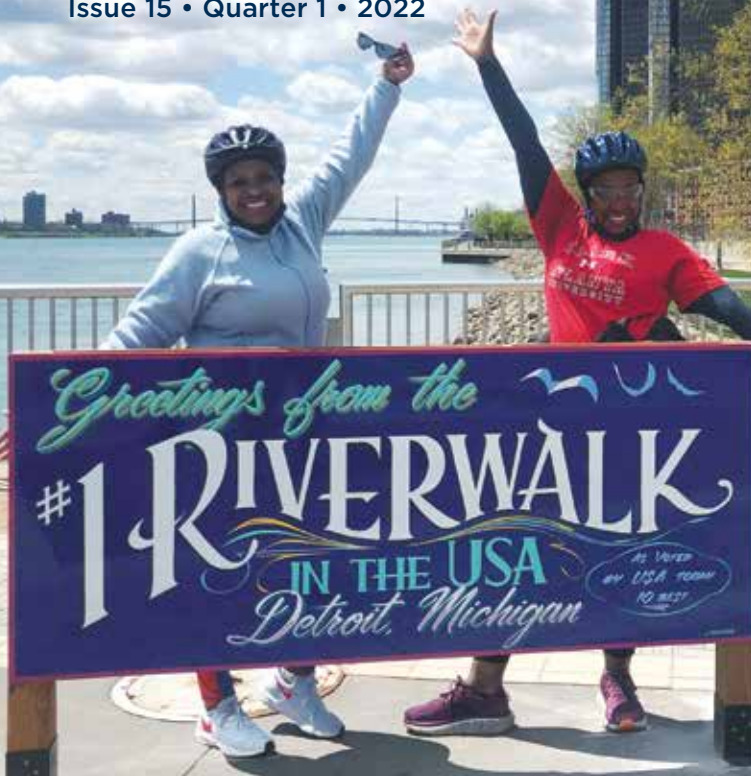




DETROIT RIVERFRONT CONSERVANCY

Issue 15 • Quarter 1 • 2022



A MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

Two years in a row!! I am beyond thrilled to announce that USA Today has named the Detroit Riverwalk the Best Riverwalk in the country for the second year in a row. The Detroit Riverwalk has had a huge impact on our community, and we are feeling the love from all of you who voted. We look forward to celebrating our win with you all year long.

After a busy past several months that saw more than 20,000 people enjoy our Winter at Valade events, we are excited to begin our warm-weather programming.

The return of several favorite programs and special events like Fishing Fest, Shimmer on the River, Yoga and Tai Chi and more are coming up quickly.

We are particularly happy that the Riverfront Run, which had to be postponed due to the pandemic, will come back to the Riverwalk this June.

It's also a big year for construction. In April, we broke ground on the Southwest Greenway, which will make it easy for Mexicantown and Corktown residents to get to the riverfront. On May 10, we will break ground on Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park and look forward to a 2024 grand opening. This fall, we will open the final piece of the East Riverwalk - across the former Uniroyal property - which will connect the riverfront to the Belle Isle Bridge.

The team at the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is very proud of the work we do to maintain the Riverwalk and Dequindre Cut. It's an honor and a privilege to manage these public

spaces that mean so much to so many people throughout our community. And in 2023, we look forward to celebrating our 20th anniversary with you.

Each year since the Conservancy launched, the support we receive from the community has continued to grow. It truly is humbling. On behalf of the entire Conservancy team, I want to thank you for all your support. We couldn't do what we do without each and every one of you.

Mark Wallace
President & CEO





COMPLETING THE RIVERWALK

Riverfront construction crews have been busy all winter working to complete the Riverwalk.

DDA Property

The seawall repairs are now complete at the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) site, west of Riverfront Towers. The Conservancy is finalizing plans to begin extending the Riverwalk along that stretch of waterfront. This fall, in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Conservancy looks forward to beginning work on the Riverwalk, which will include a spacious concrete plaza with tiered seating, three beautiful rain gardens, the familiar marine railing, lights, security cameras and more.

Mayor Dennis W. Archer Greenway

The City of Detroit completed phase two of the Mayor Dennis W. Archer Greenway earlier this year. The second phase runs from Robert Bradby Drive to Vernor. The greenway now provides East Siders with safe and easy access to the riverfront from Vernor all

the way to Jefferson. The popular pathway features a special pedestrian plaza between Larned Street and Jefferson Avenue, as well as benches, landscaping, outdoor power stations, playscapes, security cameras and emergency call boxes. The Conservancy manages and provides security for the greenway.

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park

On May 10, the Conservancy will break ground on the much anticipated Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. After the groundbreaking, contractors will focus on excavation for the installation of underground utilities. During this time, a portion of the seawall will be rebuilt and installation of a soft shoreline will facilitate habitats for fish and other aquatic life will begin. Once complete in 2024, this 22-acre park will feature an expansive lawn for special events, basketball courts at the William Davidson

Sport House, a large water garden and the Delta Dental Children's Play Garden.

Uniroyal Promenade

Work continues on the Uniroyal Promenade with crews just completing the repair of an aging sewer outfall along the property. The contractors have now resumed work installing underground electrical and constructing the final retaining wall. In the next few weeks, crews will continue paving the Riverwalk, as well as installing benches, lighting and security cameras. This scenic stretch of Riverwalk will connect Gabriel Richard Park with Mt. Elliott Park, and provide safe pedestrian passage to the bridge to Belle Isle. When completed later this fall, the Uniroyal section of Riverwalk will include an extra-wide pathway with separate lanes for walkers and bicyclists, colorful landscaping and a stone barrier of rip rap along the water's edge.



Mary Culler, Chair of Michigan Central



BREAKING GROUND ON NEW CONNECTIONS

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and its partners celebrated the groundbreaking of the Southwest Greenway during an April 6 press conference that was attended by more than 200 community leaders and residents.

The future greenway is nearly a mile long and spans from Bagley to Jefferson, connecting the Detroit Riverfront and the future Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park with the Michigan Central mobility innovation district and

neighborhoods throughout Southwest Detroit, Mexicantown and Corktown.

Speakers at the event included representatives from the City of Detroit, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, Michigan Central, Michigan DNR and Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the Michigan Department of Transportation.

At the groundbreaking, Michigan Central announced a \$5 million commitment to the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy for the Southwest Greenway.

The project is scheduled to be completed this fall.

“We are proud to partner with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy to make this historic link to the Detroit waterfront a reality. We’re all about building a better, more accessible world for the communities surrounding Michigan Central, and the Southwest Greenway is a great example of how we are working to increase accessibility for all.”

– Mary Culler, Chair of Michigan Central



SAVE THE DATE

Please join the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy to celebrate the groundbreaking of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park on Wednesday, May 10 at 1:30 p.m. This monumental event takes place at West Riverfront Park.



THE RETURN OF SHIMMER AND

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is thrilled to host both of its longstanding signature fundraisers along the riverfront this year. For the first time since 2019, both Shimmer on the River and Soirée on the Greenway will return in-person, giving the riverfront community the perfect opportunities to come together and celebrate these beloved parks and green spaces.

On June 23, Shimmer on the River returns to kick off summer festivities along the riverfront. This event attracts donors and guests from all over the Detroit

area who believe in and support the revitalization efforts of the Conservancy on the riverfront. At this year's Shimmer event, the Conservancy is looking forward to bringing together its supporters once again to enjoy live musical performances, exceptional food and drinks from Detroit eateries and family-friendly activities for everyone to enjoy.

Later in the season, the Conservancy is excited to be once again hosting Soirée on the Greenway – the official kick off to the fall season and a special preview of the Detroit Harvestfest and





SOIRÉE

Food Truck Rally. Gathering once again along the beautiful Dequindre Cut, this year's Soirée will be a masquerade theme. Guests are encouraged to don their favorite festive costumes and gather under the stars to enjoy scrumptious plates from a wide variety of Detroit food trucks, as well as live entertainment, interactive art and the unveiling of a new mural on the Cut.



To support the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy through event sponsorships or donations, scan the QR code or visit <https://detroitriverfront.org/2022fundraisers>.



Events and Programming **ON THE RIVERFRONT**

With summer fast approaching, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is thrilled to be once again hosting in-person events on the riverfront. While being mindful and responsive to safety needs, the Conservancy is excited to be connected with new partners and offering a full season of activity on the riverfront.

MONDAY

Herbal Walk & Talk

May 2 & 16, June 13,
July 11 & 25, August 8 & 22
6 to 9 p.m.
Cullen Plaza

Mindful Mondays*

June 6 & 20, July 18,
August 1, 15, & 29
7 to 8 p.m.
Valade Park

Volleyball at Valade with Come Play Detroit*

6 to 9:30 p.m.
Valade Park

TUESDAY

Detroit RiverWalkers*

June 7 - August 25
8 to 10 a.m.
Cullen Plaza

WEDNESDAY

Campbell Terrace Performance Series with D. Cipher

June 29 - September 14
6 to 9 p.m.
Dequindre Cut

Tai Chi with Urban Solace*

June 1 - August 24
10 to 11 a.m.
Cullen Plaza

Work from the Park Wednesdays

June 15, July 20, August 17
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Valade Park

Moonlight Yoga*

August 3, 17, 31
8 to 9:30 p.m.
Gabriel Richard Park

THURSDAY

Reading & Rhythm on the Riverfront*

July 7 - August 12
10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Gabriel Richard Park

Detroit RiverWalkers*

June 7 - August 25
8 to 10 a.m.
Cullen Plaza

Yoga in the Park with Urban Solace*

June 2 - August 25
6 to 7 p.m.
Milliken State Park

Volleyball at Valade with Come Play Detroit*

6 to 9:30 p.m.
Valade Park

Pewabic on the Plaza

June 16, July 21, August 18
4 to 6 p.m.
Cullen Plaza

FRIDAY

Reading & Rhythm on the Riverfront*

July 7 - August 12
10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
Gabriel Richard Park

First Fridays at the Freight Yard

June 3, July 1, August 5
6 to 9 p.m.
Dequindre Cut Freight Yard

Yoga in the Park with Urban Solace*

June 3 - August 26
10 to 11 a.m.
Milliken State Park

SATURDAY

Intro to the Detroit Riverfront Walking Tours

May 7, June 4, July 2,
August 6, September 3
2 p.m.
Cullen Plaza

SUNDAY

Pack Walk with Canine to Five

Every Third Sunday
10:30 a.m.
Valade Park

Summer Sundays at the Freight Yard

June 19, July 17, August 21
12 to 4 p.m.
Dequindre Cut Freight Yard

* Pre-registration required. Visit detroitriverfront.org/things-to-do to register.



All dates and times are subject to change. For a full listing of events, dates, times and other information, please visit detroitriverfront.org/things-to-do

Special Events ON THE RIVERFRONT

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy hosts various programs throughout the year including special events and weekly programs. There is year-round fun for everyone!

STURGEON DAY

May 14, 10 AM to 2 PM

Milliken State Park Harbor

DEQUINDRE CUT WALKING TOUR WITH CITY INSTITUTE*

May 21, July 17, September 18, 1 to 3 PM

Dequindre Cut

RIVERFRONT RUN*

June 11, 10K begins at 8:40 AM, 5K begins at 9 AM

Cullen Plaza

KIDS FISHING FEST*

June 12, Noon to 4 PM

Milliken State Park & Harbor

JUNETEENTH ON THE CUT WITH D. CIPHER

June 19, 1 to 5 PM

Dequindre Cut Freight Yard

TASTE THE RIVERFRONT WALKING TOUR WITH CITY INSTITUTE*

June 19 and August 21, 1 to 3 PM

Valade Park

SHIMMER ON THE RIVER

June 23

Detroit Riverfront

CAMPING ON THE CUT*

July 23

Dequindre Cut

LITTLEGUIDE STROLLER ROLL

August 20, 9 to 11 AM

Valade Park

SOIRÉE ON THE GREENWAY

September 30

Dequindre Cut

DETROIT HARVESTFEST AND FOOD TRUCK RALLY

October 1 and 2

Dequindre Cut

DEQUINDRE CUT FALL CLEAN UP

October 22, 10 AM to 2 PM

Dequindre Cut

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS

October 29

Valade Park



Detroit RIVERFRONT RUN



The Detroit Riverfront Run is making its return to the Detroit Riverfront on June 11! This 5K & 10K run and walk will showcase the Detroit Riverwalk and the Dequindre Cut with proceeds benefiting the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, the stewards of the Detroit Riverwalk and Dequindre Cut Greenway. All participants will receive a performance-wicking T-shirt and a commemorative medal! Use the code RIVERWALK for \$5 off Race Registration.

“The Detroit Riverfront Run celebrates the importance of the Detroit Riverwalk to our public health during these challenging times. The riverfront was a place that we came together for wellness and to experience the power of the outdoors. For the first time in two years, we are so excited to welcome back families, neighbors, friends and everybody to participate in this unique run/walk that supports the work of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.”

– Rachel Frierson, director of programming at the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

For more information or to register, visit detroitriverfrontrun.com or scan the QR code.



A Look at **YOUR RIVERFRONT PARKS**

The Detroit Riverfront is a beautiful year-round destination. Each year more than three million people visit the many plazas, pavilions, pathways and open greenspaces along its shores. And with miles to explore, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Whether the Detroit Riverfront is relatively new to you or perhaps you're a seasoned regular, spend some time this spring and summer exploring the Best Riverwalk in the country as named by USA Today/10 Best two years in a row.

Here's a quick look at the parks and spaces managed by the non-profit Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, which serves as the perpetual steward of the Riverwalk, Dequindre Cut Greenway and all its public spaces.



For more information on these parks and so many other great riverfront destinations, please visit detroitriverfront.org/riverfront or scan the QR code.



GABRIEL RICHARD PARK

Located at the far eastern end of the Conservancy's footprint, Gabriel Richard Park is a beautiful and serene oasis on the riverfront, and features a whimsical fountain, flourishing butterfly gardens and a contemplative labyrinth. Birders enjoy the four wildlife-spotting scopes while fishermen cast a line from the river's edge regularly. The park also offers beautiful views of Belle Isle and the iconic MacArthur Bridge.

Address: 7130 E. Jefferson Ave.



MT. ELLIOTT PARK

Mt. Elliott Park features a Great Lakes schooner-themed water feature, which makes it a hit with families. Kids adore the many interactive features, including water cannons and wind chimes that were designed to be universally accessible. Fishing outlooks make this park popular among fishermen. Visitors to this park this spring can watch the Riverwalk extension work progress along the Uniroyal property.

Address: 110 Mt. Elliott Street



ROBERT C. VALADE PARK

Since opening in the fall of 2019, Robert C. Valade Park has become a popular go-to summer and winter destination for visitors of all ages. In the summer months, the park features an expansive sandy beach, children's musical garden, colorful playscapes, community barbecue pavilion and Bob's Barge – Detroit's only floating bar. The Shed is open year-round and features delicious food from Geisha Girls Sushi and Smokey G's Smokehouse Tuesday through Sunday.

Address: 2670 Atwater Street

MAYOR DENNIS W. ARCHER GREENWAY

The Mayor Dennis W. Archer Greenway provides east side residents with safe and convenient access to the Detroit Riverfront along a beautifully-landscaped paved pathway.

Address: The greenway runs from Vernor to Jefferson and features a pedestrian plaza, benches, outdoor power stations and playscapes.



DEQUINDRE CUT

Formerly a Grand Trunk Railroad line, the Dequindre Cut is a cultural gateway to the riverfront that is well-known for its urban art and graffiti, as well as its 20-foot-wide paved pathway for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. Highlights along the Cut include the Dequindre Cut Freight Yard, an outdoor bar and gathering place which is open during weekends; and the Campbell Terrace, an outdoor stage and performance area that features regularly-scheduled musical performances.

Address: Between Atwater and Mack Avenue and St. Aubin and Orleans Streets



CULLEN PLAZA

Cullen Plaza was the Conservancy's first park to open back in 2007. Home to the charming and ever-popular Cullen Family Carousel, as well as the Riverwalk Café and Wheelhouse Detroit bike shop, Cullen Plaza is a great place to begin exploring the riverfront. There's also a tiki bar, playground, beautiful landscaping and water fountains and views of the iconic GM Ren Cen. Diamond Jack boat tours are based out of the park as well.

Address: 1340 Atwater Street



WEST RIVERFRONT PARK/ RALPH C. WILSON, JR. CENTENNIAL PARK

Located between Rosa Parks Boulevard and 8th Street along the Detroit River, the 22-acre West Riverfront Park is well known for its wide open green space and as the site of exciting large-scale annual events. This spring, the park will close as it undergoes a transformation into the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. When it opens in 2024, the new park will feature a water garden, the Delta Dental Play Garden, a William Davidson Sport House with basketball courts and an expansive lawn for special events.

Address: 1801 W. Jefferson Avenue





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DEBORAH HARDISON HILL

When Deborah Hardison Hill first heard about the mission of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and the work that was happening on the riverfront, she immediately knew that it was something in which she wanted to play a role. “I first started off with one of the kids’ activities because I minister to children at church,” said Deborah. “It was an opportunity for me to get active with the kids on the riverfront and encourage them to get involved.”

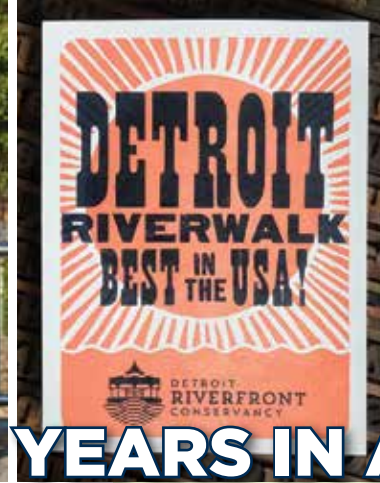
A long-time volunteer, Deborah has been donating her time to riverfront events and initiatives for a decade, remaining active throughout the pandemic while taking the necessary precautions. Her favorite events to volunteer with center around youth and older adults. However, over the years she has naturally gravitated towards an ambassador role.

As she volunteers at special riverfront events, Deborah’s favorite part of volunteering is talking to the visitors, finding out what brings them to the riverfront and what they like about being there. That curiosity made her an excellent candidate for the Volunteer Ambassador Advisory Team – a new initiative aimed at increasing volunteerism by listening to the feedback of volunteers and enabling them to perform outreach in their respective communities.

Besides advocating for the riverfront within her local community, Deborah feels strongly about advocating to people from out of town and helping to change their perspective of Detroit. “I love when I’m talking to people from out of town and telling them about the things that aren’t just on the riverfront, but downtown,” said Deborah. “I tell them about all the parks that we have and they are surprised. I let them know how many parks are down here and how they can bring their families and friends.”

As a life-long Detroit resident, Deborah has seen how the city has changed over the years. The transformation that is taking place on the riverfront means a lot to her, and she is proud to be a part of it and hopes to get more people involved. “It just presents Detroit in a positive manner,” she said. “To be the number one riverfront in the country – well, that speaks for itself.”

To learn more and apply, visit
www.detroitriverfront.org/volunteers
or call (313) 566-8207.



BEST IN THE U.S.A. TWO YEARS IN A ROW

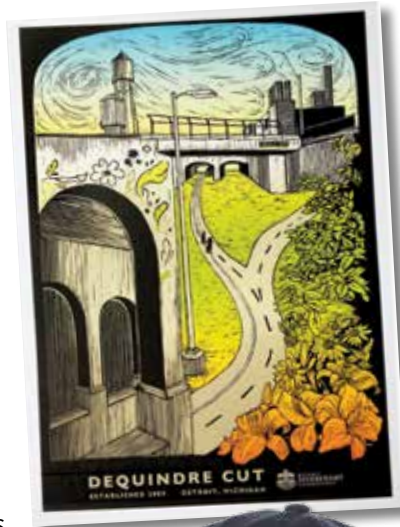
Thank you to everyone who voted for the Detroit Riverwalk! The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy team is excited to hold on to the Best Riverwalk in the country designation by USA TODAY/10 Best for two years in a row.

Looking to show off your love for the riverfront while supporting our work? Take a look at our unique lineup of riverfront merch, artwork, and gifts created with local partners at detroitriverfront.org/RiverfrontMerch.

Check out All Things Marketplace where you can purchase limited-run Detroit Riverwalk swag, including “Best Riverwalk” baseball caps, sweat-shirts, canvas totes and embroidered patches, as well as “I Love the Detroit Riverfront” T-shirts and stickers. Visit the All Things Marketplace storefront in Corktown at 1620 Michigan Ave. Suite 123, or the online store at AllThingsMarketplace.com.

Be sure to visit Signal Return in Eastern Market if you’re looking to display your love of the Detroit Riverfront inside your home. We’ve partnered with local artists to create one-of-a-kind Detroit Riverfront prints, including Robert C. Valade Park, the Dequindre Cut, a Best in the USA Detroit Riverwalk print, and a limited edition freighter piece by Detroit artist Pat Perry.

We wouldn’t be the Best Riverwalk without you and we look forward to celebrating this win all summer long up and down the riverfront. Keep an eye out for new programs and more events to come together along our #1 Riverwalk.



ADDITIONAL WAYS TO GIVE

In addition to visiting our online store, here are some ways you can help out:

- Make a one-time donation or become a Monthly Sustainer
- Learn about your employer’s matching gift program
- Become a member and receive exclusive benefits
- Purchase an engraved brick or paver, underwrite a commemorative bench or make an honorary gift for a loved one
- Support the Conservancy at its fundraising events

Visit detroitriverfront.org/waystohelp



About the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 with the mission to develop public access to Detroit’s riverfront and to serve as an anchor for economic development. As the permanent stewards of the Riverwalk and the Dequindre Cut, the Conservancy is responsible for raising the funds needed for construction, operation, maintenance, security and programming of the public spaces located along the riverfront. The Conservancy’s ultimate vision is to develop five-and-a-half miles of riverfront from the Ambassador Bridge on the west to Gabriel Richard Park, just east of the MacArthur Bridge to Belle Isle. Visit www.detroitriverfront.org for more information.



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