



Issue 31 / Q2 / 2026

A LETTER FROM CASSIE BRENSKE & LEONA MEDLEY

At their core, great public spaces do more than connect destinations—they connect people and communities. That shared belief is what brings the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and the Joe Louis Greenway Partnership together.

For nearly 25 years, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy has worked to transform Detroit's international riverfront into a beautiful, welcoming and accessible gathering place for everyone. Along the way, the Riverwalk has grown from a vision into a nationally recognized destination serving residents and visitors from around the world. Today, we remain focused on ensuring these spaces continue to enrich the lives of Detroiters through thoughtful operations, engaging programming and long-term care.

Across the city, the Joe Louis Greenway is experiencing a similar transformation. This ambitious 27.5-mile greenway is a municipal initiative that will connect neighborhoods throughout Detroit, including the Detroit Riverfront, Hamtramck, Highland Park and Dearborn. With nearly 10 miles completed so far, people from across Metro Detroit and around the world have already experienced the Joe Louis Greenway through free fitness classes, youth programs, neighborhood celebrations, and cultural events. These experiences are strengthening community connections, supporting local businesses, and advancing health, wellness, and inclusive economic opportunity across the region.

Through the Unified Greenways Partnership, our organizations are working toward a common goal: creating and caring for a network of world-class trails and public

spaces that strengthen neighborhoods, improve quality of life and bring people together. We have already seen the transformative impact of these investments, both along the Detroit Riverfront and throughout the already complete sections of the Joe Louis Greenway.

As these spaces continue to grow, so does the responsibility to care for them. Maintaining trails and landscapes is only part of the work. Equally important is creating places where people feel welcomed, connected and inspired. By working together, we can strengthen our communities and build the support needed to sustain these treasured assets for generations to come.

That spirit of partnership is at the heart of Soirée for the Greenways, a fundraiser supporting our shared commitment to developing and caring for these beloved public spaces. We hope you will join us September 18 for a memorable evening along the Southwest Greenway as we celebrate the progress we have made together and invest in the future of the communities we serve.

Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, we are helping create a more connected Detroit where trails, parks and greenways bring people closer to each other and to the city they call home.

With gratitude,



Cassie Brenske
Chief Development & Communications Officer
Detroit Riverfront Conservancy



Leona Medley
Executive Director
Joe Louis Greenway Partnership





JOE LOUIS GREENWAY: CONNECTING COMMUNITIES, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

The Joe Louis Greenway is one of the most ambitious and transformative public space projects in the region's history. Spanning nearly 30 miles, the Greenway connects 23 Detroit neighborhoods with the cities of Dearborn, Hamtramck and Highland Park, creating a regional destination where residents and visitors can gather, explore, exercise, celebrate and connect with one another. The Detroit Riverfront is an integral part of this network, with the Detroit Riverwalk, Dequindre Cut and Southwest Greenway serving as key sections of the Joe Louis Greenway that link neighborhoods to the riverfront and help bring this shared vision of connected public spaces to life.

Named after Detroit legend Joe Louis, the Greenway was inspired by the people it serves. Through years of community meetings, listening sessions, surveys, and planning discussions, residents helped shape a vision that reflects the character, culture, history, and aspirations of the communities connected by the Greenway.

Today, that vision is becoming reality. Construction continues across the corridor, with nearly 10 miles already completed and additional segments under construction. New additions include a 2.3-mile stretch connecting Joy Road to Intervale Street, new trailheads, public art installations, and the recently installed Joe Louis Greenway rail bridge sign in Highland Park—a visible symbol of the progress

being made across the region. Former abandoned rail corridors once impacted by illegal dumping and neglect are being transformed into welcoming public spaces that connect people to parks, neighborhoods, businesses, and opportunities.

The initial vision as well as the design and construction of the Joe Louis Greenway has been primarily led by the City of Detroit, which undertook a yearslong community engagement process that brought together a Community Advisory Council and engaged the wisdom of Detroiters from across the city to define a vision for the Greenway. Together, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, the City of Detroit, and the Joe Louis Greenway Partnership secured state, federal, and philanthropic funding to support the construction and long-term stewardship of the greenway.

While Detroit, Dearborn, Hamtramck, and Highland Park each play leading roles in advancing the Greenway construction, the Joe Louis Greenway Partnership (JLGP) serves as the steward and activation partner for the regional trail. Working across municipal boundaries, the Partnership helps ensure the Greenway is more than a construction project - it is a community asset that reflects and serves the people of the entire region.

The Partnership works every day to ensure the Greenway is activated long before the final mile is complete. Through community programming, advocacy, storytelling, stewardship, and regional collaboration, JLGP helps turn construction progress into meaningful community impact.

The Greenway is becoming a place where families create memories, neighbors build relationships, youth discover new opportunities, and communities celebrate what makes them unique. Throughout the year, the Partnership hosts free fitness and wellness classes, volunteer opportunities, and family-friendly events that bring thousands of residents together. Signature events include the annual Joe Louis



Leona Medley
Executive Director, Joe Louis Greenway Partnership

Birthday Celebration, Pink "O" Ween, backpack and school supply giveaways, and cultural celebrations that connect communities across Detroit, Dearborn, Hamtramck, and Highland Park.

Storytelling remains at the heart of the Greenway experience. Through Neighborhood Stories, public art, oral histories, interpretive signage, and community storytelling projects, residents are preserving the memories, traditions, and experiences that define the communities connected by the Greenway. Murals, historic markers, and storytelling installations ensure local voices remain woven into the future of the corridor.

One of the most meaningful connections to the project is the involvement of Joyce Louis-Barrow Henderson, daughter of Joe Louis and a member of the Joe Louis Greenway Partnership Board of Directors. Her leadership helps ensure her father's legacy of perseverance, service, inclusion, and community pride continues to inspire future generations.

Beyond recreation, the Greenway is helping lay the foundation for long-term economic growth by supporting local businesses, increasing access to parks and open spaces, improving mobility, attracting investment, and creating opportunities that can benefit residents throughout the region for generations to come.

Everyone who attends an event, shares a story, volunteers, or enjoys the Greenway becomes part of its legacy. The Joe Louis Greenway is creating new connections, celebrating community identity, and building a stronger, healthier, and more connected region - one mile, one neighborhood, and one story at a time.

Stay connected with the Joe Louis Greenway Partnership. Visit jlgpartnership.org to learn more about upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, and project updates, and follow @jlgpartnership on social media to see how the Greenway is bringing communities together across Detroit, Dearborn, Hamtramck, and Highland Park.





Join us at
SOIRÉE FOR THE GREENWAYS

In support of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy & Joe Louis Greenway Partnership
Friday, September 18 | Southwest Greenway

Soirée returns this fall with a fresh format, new location, and expanded impact on the future of Detroit's Greenways. Soirée for the Greenways will be hosted on Friday, September 18 on the Southwest Greenway and will be a masquerade fundraiser under the stars you won't want to miss. This year, the event will benefit both the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and Joe Louis Greenway Partnership, helping advance a shared vision of accessible, beautiful, and connected green spaces throughout the city. The Southwest Greenway will be one of the evening's headliners as the creative history of the path that joins Ralph Wilson Park to Michigan Central is on full display. Join us for an unforgettable evening filled with vibrant entertainment, local flavors, special interactive experiences, and the unveiling of a new piece of public art on the newest Detroit Riverfront greenway.

Don your masquerade mask and costume and come experience the new Soirée for the Greenways in celebration and support of connectivity of public green spaces.

SUPPORT YOUR GREENWAYS AND JOIN US AS A SOIRÉE SPONSOR

Champion of the Arts | \$10,000

- Acknowledgement as a Champion of the Arts
- Dedicated signage at Soirée
- 12 All Access Tickets

Ally of the Greenways | \$5,000 | 10 All Access Tickets

Southwest Partner | \$2,500 | 8 All Access Tickets

Soirée Partner | \$1,000 | 6 All Access Tickets

All Soirée Partners Receive

- Recognition on DRFC website and in press release(s)
- Inclusion in eblasts (50k+ subscribers)
- Social media recognition (200k+ followers)
- Listing on sponsor signage
- All Access tickets, which include unlimited food & beverage



Learn more by visiting
[DetroitRiverfront.org/Soiree](https://detroitriverfront.org/soiree)

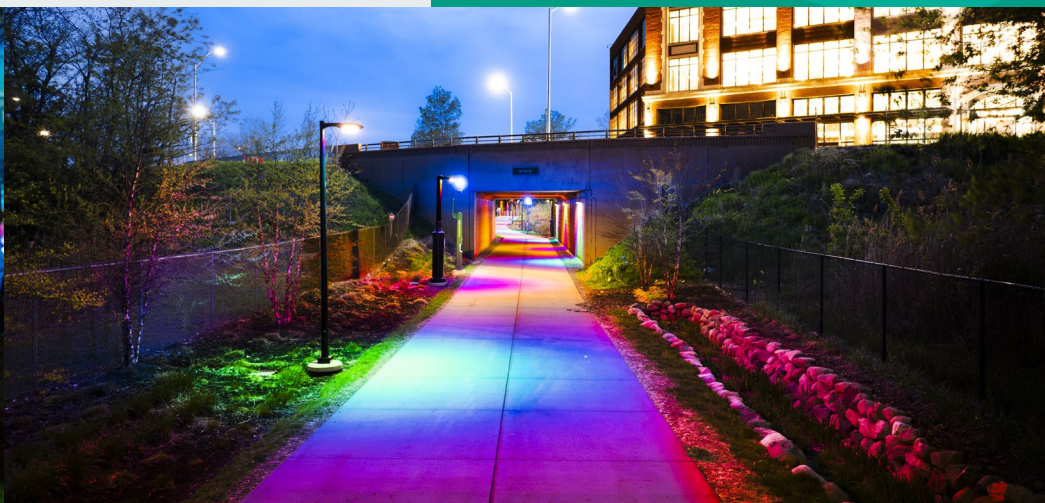
Detroit
HARVEST FEST
at **RALPH WILSON PARK**

A BELOVED FALL FAMILY TRADITION IS BACK THIS OCTOBER

Previously held on the Dequindre Cut Greenway, in 2025, Detroit Harvest Fest moved to Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park to celebrate the grand opening of this 22-acre public space on the Detroit Riverfront. Detroit Harvest Fest will once again be held at Ralph Wilson Park in 2026, featuring trick-or-treating, interactive fall activities, live entertainment, family-friendly programming, and Jefferson Avenue filled with our favorite local food trucks. Join us on October 3 and 4 for delicious food and beverage options, thrilling games, hands-on arts and crafts, collaborations with local organizations, and autumnal fun for the entire family. We can't wait to see you back at Ralph Wilson Park for 2026 Detroit Harvest Fest this fall!



For more information and to support the festival visit
[DetroitRiverfront.org/HarvestFest](https://detroitriverfront.org/harvestfest)



2026 PROGRAMMING AT RALPH WILSON PARK

Join us for our first season of programming at the new landmark park

LESSONS FROM THE RIVER AND LAND LECTURE SERIES Jul 20, Aug 17 6-7pm

CARDIO & CONDITIONING Tuesdays, Jun 2-Aug 25 6-7pm

RHYTHM AND PLAY 1st Tues, May-Sep | 3:30-5:30pm 3rd Sun, May-Sep | 1-3pm

MOVIE NIGHTS Wednesdays, Jul 8-Aug 12 6pm

ZUMBA DANCE FITNESS Thursdays, Jun 4-Aug 27 6-7pm

SILENT READING CLUB Jul 23, Aug 27 6pm

WE WALK DETROIT Sundays, Jun 7-Sep 27 8am

WILSON PARK WALKING TOURS Saturdays, Jun-Aug 10am

HURON-CLINTON METROPARKS SECOND SATURDAY SCIENCE Jul 11, Aug 8 10am-1pm

DETROIT YOUTH SPORTS SHOWCASE Saturday, August 15 10am-2pm

FALL EQUINOX Tuesday September 22

DETROIT HARVEST FEST Saturday & Sunday October 3 & 4

Learn more by visiting DetroitRiverfront.org/RalphWilsonPark



BE A PART OF RALPH WILSON PARK

Have a Seat, Spread your Roots, and Celebrate your Support

Less than a year after opening in October 2025, Ralph Wilson Park has already become a beloved destination for Detroiters and visitors from across the region. From families exploring the playground and Water Garden to neighbors enjoying a daily walk along the river, the park has quickly become part of the rhythm of everyday life.

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is responsible for the ongoing care and programming at Ralph Wilson Park and the entire Detroit Riverfront, ensuring these spaces remain beautiful, safe and accessible for everyone. That work is made possible through the generosity of donors and community members who believe in the

power of public spaces to bring people together and improve quality of life.

This year, we're offering a special opportunity to support that mission while creating a lasting connection to Ralph Wilson Park. Supporters can sponsor a bench, dedicate a tree or place their name—or the name of a loved one—on a section of the park's iconic marine railing overlooking the Detroit River. These meaningful tributes celebrate the people, milestones and memories that matter most while helping sustain the park for future generations.

Your support helps ensure that Ralph Wilson Park and the Detroit Riverfront continue to inspire, connect and serve our community for years to come. We invite you to leave your mark and become part of Ralph Wilson Park's story.



Learn more about planned giving by visiting DetroitRiverfront.org/Support-Us
Or reach out to Annual Fund Manager, Jalyn Stovall Jalyn.Stovall@DetroitRiverfront.org



FACES OF THE RIVERFRONT

It takes a true team effort from more than 500 dedicated individuals to deliver over 200 days of high-quality programming and provide access to safe, beautiful, world-class public spaces along the Detroit Riverfront. The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy would like to acknowledge our amazing Conservancy staff members, third-party security and maintenance teams, and volunteers who work every day to ensure every visitor has a positive experience in our riverfront spaces.

Throughout the year, we'll be highlighting the people who contribute to creating a beautiful and active riverfront for everyone to enjoy. When you see these familiar faces out on the Riverwalk, be sure to say hello!



Nolan
Motown Roller Club
Rollin' on the river for 8 years

"My favorite moment of all has to be when I was one of the first people (and skaters) to be on the Uniroyal promenade connector to Belle Isle. I'm excited to see the WNBA practice facility take ground and further develop the area over there as well!"

James

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Seasonal Operations Staff
Volunteered so hard he became an employee

"I've been actively involved as a volunteer with the riverfront since 2016 and enjoying it since 2003 when I first moved downtown. I have the distinct honor and pleasure of helping to enhance and maintain its beauty while experiencing visitors' amazement while sharing the past, present, and future of the greatest city and riverfront in the country!"



Ella
Educational Programs Manager, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
Curator of riverfront memories for Detroit youth

"One of my favorite parts about hosting field trips at Ralph Wilson Park this spring was the experiences of watching kids see the large freighters on the Detroit River for the first time. It surprised me how many people had never seen a freighter before or knew about Detroit's special maritime history. I loved hearing the awe, shock, and excitement as young people see 'the biggest boats ever,' for the very first time."

Debra

Volunteer, Detroit Riverfront Conservancy
Proud caretaker of a monarch waystation

"There was no doubt that the riverfront would bring Detroit communities together, but my encounters with people from other cities, states and/or countries make me even more proud to be a Detroiter. The riverfront spaces provide the perfect opportunity for all to come together in the spirit of community, wellness, conservation, and education."



"PEDESTRIANS ONLY" | Created by Block Party Puzzles

- Across
- 1

North entrance to 7-down
- 5

Relinquish
- 9

Athletic events at Comerica Park or Little Caesar's Arena
- 14

Nature's building block
- 15

Gave the boot
- 16

___ garde (cutting-edge)
- 17

Michiganders call it "pop"
- 18

Info tabs on websites
- 19

Horses' paces
- 20

Bowling score
- 22

Sphere on a pool table
- 24

Hands-on
- 26

Woodwind instrument
- 29

In the big leagues
- 32

Before long
- 33

Depleted
- 35

Fixture of the Detroit skyline since 1977, familiarly
- 37

Female deer
- 39

Baseball pitcher's trajectory
- 40

Inauguration promises
- 41

One of the five "spoke roads" of Detroit that out-of-towners have trouble pronouncing

- 43

___ gin fizz
- 44

Sneaks a look
- 45

Urgent situation
- 47

"Waiting for ___" (groundbreaking modernist play)
- 51

Language spoken in Pakistan
- 52

Pointless
- 53

One of the rival Downtown Coney Islands
- 57

Lions 6-pointers
- 58

Important choice for a wedding or gala
- 59

Levitate
- 62

Actress Seyfried
- 63

Definitive example
- 66

"Moon River" lyricist Johnny
- 67

Golfer's appointment
- 68

Got nosy
- 69

South entrance to 7-down

- Down
- 1

___ production (industrial method associated with Henry Ford)
- 2

Perched on
- 3

Many an ASL user

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18					19				
20					21		22			23				
				24		25					26		27	28
29	30	31		32						33	34			
35				36				37	38				39	
40							41					42		
43						44								
45					46						47		48	49
					51					52				
58										59		60	61	
62										63				64
66										67				
68										69				

- 4

Successor of the Kresge company, once headquartered in Troy
- 5

Half-___ (coffee option)
- 6

"Precisely," en español
- 7

Greenway that connects the Detroit Riverwalk to Eastern Market
- 8

The ___ and Eleanor Ford House
- 9

Lady in music and film?
- 10

Bakery that sells "Greektown Olive" and "Corktown Cinnamon Raisin" breads
- 11

The J.W. Westcott, for one (vessel with the world's only floating zip code)
- 12

Sinus doc
- 13

Wilkins, Woodbridge, & Franklin, e.g.
- 21

Alleviates
- 23

French hats
- 25

Scam
- 27

Yours and mine
- 28

"And so on..."
- 29

Like writing in a novel
- 30

Area
- 31

How ballerinas dance

- 34

Cheesy bagel choice
- 36

One-named "Goddess of Pop"
- 38

Like some Chardonnays
- 41

Male, female, or nonbinary
- 42

Texter's disclaimer: Abbr.
- 44

Annually
- 46

Has one's walls up
- 48

City celebrated on 313 Day
- 49

The ___ Miami (bar on Cass)
- 50

Pranks with Charmin, for short
- 52

Digital creature and early aughts fad
- 53

Less cool and exciting
- 54

Classic arcade game
- 55

Protective barrier along the riverfront
- 56

Math symbol for an angle
- 58

Summertime activity
- 60

Perspective
- 61

James of jazz
- 64

Mrs., in Marseille
- 65

Suffix with puppet

For the solution, visit DetroitRiverfront.org/q2crossword

LEARNING COMES TO LIFE AT RALPH WILSON PARK

This spring, Ralph Wilson Park became an outdoor classroom for hundreds of students through the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy's new field trip program and curriculum. Designed by our Educational Programs Manager, Ella Cramer to connect young people with nature, history, art and the Detroit River, the program offers hands-on learning experiences that bring classroom lessons to life in a unique riverfront setting.

Since launching this year, the program has hosted over 25 field trips with schools from all over Detroit and metro Detroit, and many more are scheduled throughout the summer.

Field trip experiences are tailored to different grade levels and interests, with topics ranging from water chemistry and Detroit River water quality to native and non-native species, pollinators and nature scavenger hunts. Students have also explored Black history and the river, public art and graffiti in Detroit, park design and architecture, nature-inspired art, and mindfulness in outdoor spaces.

The program's success has been strengthened through partnerships with several community organizations and educators. This year's field trip partners have included Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Play for a Cause with Come Play Detroit, Urban Solace Yoga Studio, graffiti historian Megan Ostrolecki and Jenny Vaughn of the TEAD One Memorial. Their expertise and engagement have helped create memorable learning experiences that connect students to Detroit's environment, culture and history.

For those not able to schedule a guided field trip with our team, teachers can visit our website and download the free, custom curriculum created by our Educational Programs Manager. These ready-to-use lesson plans and activities provide everything needed to lead an enriching educational experience in our park.

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy field trip program is helping students build a deeper connection to Detroit's riverfront while encouraging curiosity, discovery and stewardship. As the program continues to grow, the Conservancy looks forward to welcoming even more students to explore and experience the transformative power of the outdoors at Ralph Wilson Park.

Learn more by visiting DetroitRiverfront.org/plan-your-visit/field-trips





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RIVERFRONT
CONSERVANCY

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