

# THE DETROIT RIVERFRONT

## WINTER 2024 EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING GUIDE



[detroitriverfront.org](http://detroitriverfront.org)



## Welcome to the winter season along the Detroit Riverfront!

As one of Detroit's most scenic four-season destinations, the Detroit Riverfront has something for everyone. In fact, more than three million people visit the riverfront *each year*.

We hope this guide will be a useful tool in helping you make the most of your visit to the riverfront. In it, you'll find a complete list of our wintertime activities, as well as a map and descriptions for each of our parks and greenways.

For more than 20 years, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy has led a tremendous transformation along the Detroit Riverfront. We're proud of the significant progress we've made so far and are excited to continue marching toward our ultimate vision of 5.5 miles of revitalized riverfront from bridge to bridge.

The time spent along the riverfront can be as relaxing—or as exhilarating—as you'd like it to be this winter. Explore the Riverwalk. Take a walk along the Dequindre Cut. Go sledding. Or, visit Robert C. Valade Park on a weekend for some fun family-friendly activities.

Enjoy your time here, and we hope to see you along the Best Riverwalk in the U.S. again soon.

Mark Wallace  
President & CEO



# THE DETROIT RIVERFRONT WINTER 2024 EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING GUIDE







**Robert C. Valade Park** will be the go-to riverfront destination for family-friendly fun this winter.

The park will feature oversized fireplaces, warm drinks, marshmallow roasters, music, the Sled Shed (featuring free sleds to borrow when it snows), synthetic ice curling and much more.

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is committed to helping visitors embrace winter by extending our great riverfront programming year-round.

Visit our Facebook page or [detroitriverfront.org/winteratvalade](http://detroitriverfront.org/winteratvalade) for all the latest information.

## Every Weekend from January 5 - February 25

Valade Park is open every day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Our winter programs and activities take place these days and times:

### HOURS

<b>Friday</b>	4 to 9 p.m.
<b>Saturday</b>	Noon to 9 p.m.
<b>Sunday</b>	Noon to 7 p.m.

## WEEKEND AMENITIES

**Outdoor Games**  
**Sled Shed**  
**Oversized Fireplaces**  
**Free Gloves and Handwarmers\***  
**Marshmallow Roasters**  
**Live Music and DJs**

*\*Visit a volunteer for gloves or handwarmers during select hours.*

## FOOD & DRINK

Enjoy hot or seasonal alcoholic and non-alcoholic classics like hot chocolate and cider and Hot Toddlies at The Shed Bar. Marshmallows for roasting at the park are also available for purchase. Enjoy some tantalizing fare in The Shed from Smokey G's BBQ.

**Friday 4 to 9 p.m.**

**Saturday Noon to 9 p.m.**

**Sunday Noon to 7 p.m.**



## PARKING

Free parking is available at the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy Lot at the corner of Chene and Guoin (enter on Guoin). Additional parking is available on nearby streets and lots. Please follow all posted parking direction signage.



## WINTER WEEKEND ACTIVITIES • 2024

### FIRESIDE FRIDAYS 4 – 9 P.M.

#### Trivia

January 5

#### Vision Boards

January 12

#### Open Mic

January 19

#### Game Night

January 26

#### Galentines Day

February 2

#### Mardi Gras

February 9

#### Game Night

February 16

#### Trivia

February 23

### SELF CARE SUNDAYS

#### Self Care Sunday Stroll

January 7 at 2 p.m.

#### Polar Power Walk

January 14 at 2 p.m.

#### Self Care Sunday Stroll

January 21 at 2 p.m.

#### Polar Power Walk

January 28 at 2 p.m.

#### Self Care Sunday Stroll

February 4 at 2 p.m.

#### Polar Power Walk

February 11 at 2 p.m.

#### Self Care Sunday Stroll

February 18 at 2 p.m.

#### Polar Power Walk

February 25 at 2 p.m.

*Register for programs and  
find more information at  
[detroitriverfront.org/things-to-do](https://detroitriverfront.org/things-to-do)*

## SPECIAL EVENT WEEKENDS • WINTER 2024

Several dates  
this winter will  
feature special  
themed weekends  
with enhanced  
programming and  
activities.

### January 5-7

Fire & Ice Festival

### January 19-21

Motown Magic  
presented by Visit Detroit

### February 9-11

Mardi Gras at Valade

### February 23-25

Lunar New Year Celebration



## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### PRESENTED BY

Friends of Robert C. Valade Park

MOTOWN MAGIC  
WEEKEND SPONSOR

visitdetroit

SLEDDING HILL &  
MARSHMALLOW ROASTER SPONSOR

 BOSCH

SLED SHED SPONSOR

Sarah & Charles McClure

*\*sponsors as of 12/11/23*



To learn more, visit  
[detroitriverfront.org/winteratvalade](https://detroitriverfront.org/winteratvalade)



## RIVERFRONT MAP

### 1 Southwest Greenway

See page 14.

### 2 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park Opening in 2025

See page 14.

### 3 Hart Plaza

1 Hart Plaza



### 4 GM Plaza

300 Atwater Street



### 5 Cullen Plaza

See page 9.

### 6 Dequindre Cut

See page 13.

### 7 Milliken State Park & Harbor and the Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC) 1900 Atwater Street (State Park) 1801 Atwater Street (OAC)



### 8 Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre

2600 Atwater Street

### 9 Robert C. Valade Park

See page 10.

### 10 Mt. Elliott Park

See page 11.

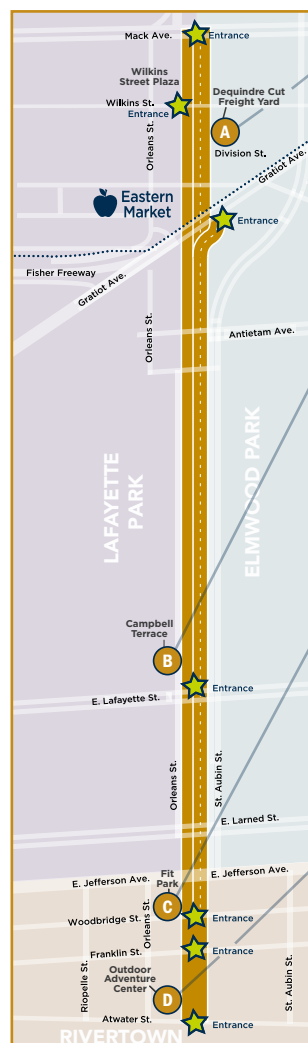
### 11 Gabriel Richard Park

See page 12.

### 12 Mayor Dennis W. Archer Greenway

See page 14.

## 5 DEQUINDRE CUT



## CULLEN PLAZA



### 1340 Atwater Street

Since opening in 2007, **Cullen Plaza** has become a popular destination for some of the most-visited attractions along the Detroit Riverfront, such as the Cullen Family Carousel, Bank of America Children's Playscape, Diamond Jack Boat Tours and Wheelhouse Detroit Bicycle Shop.

## AMENITIES

- Free parking in paved lot
- Plaza and partially covered pavilion
- Wheelhouse Detroit Bicycle Shop (closed for the winter season)
- Diamond Jack Boat Tours (closed for the winter season)
- Glass map of St. Lawrence Seaway
- In-laid granite map of riverfront
- Bank of America Playscape
- Cullen Family Carousel Open Memorial Day - Labor Day
- Bike repair station
- Reflecting fountains
- Riverfront Café and Tiki Bar (closed for the winter season)
- Restrooms and drinking fountains
- Security office 24/7
- Free public WiFi



## ROBERT C. VALADE PARK



### 2670 Atwater Street

**Robert. C. Valade Park** is the newest park along the Detroit Riverfront. In late 2019, the park made its debut as a family-friendly destination that features a sandy beach, colorful playscapes, delicious food options, a barbecue pavilion, Detroit's only floating bar and more.



## AMENITIES

- Free parking
- Indoor/Outdoor seating
- Large, sandy beach and lush lawn
- Children's playscapes
- Sand volleyball
- Musical sensory garden
- Free public WiFi
- Community barbecue pavilion
- Restrooms and drinking fountains
- **Valade Shed Bar**  
Friday 4 to 9 p.m.  
Saturday Noon to 9 p.m.  
Sunday Noon to 7 p.m.  
Serving beer, wine, and cocktails
- **Café at Valade & Smokey G's BBQ**  
Friday 4 to 9 p.m.  
Saturday Noon to 9 p.m.  
Sunday Noon to 7 p.m.  
Serving lunch, dinner, and drinks



## MT. ELLIOTT PARK



### 110 Mt. Elliott Street

On a hot and sunny summer day, there's no finer place for free, family-friendly fun along the Detroit Riverfront than at **Mt. Elliott Park**. Among the park's attractions, the Gilbert Family Schooner is a universally accessible shipwreck-themed splash pad that is open Memorial Day to Labor Day (weather dependent).

### AMENITIES

- Free parking
- Plaza and partially covered pavilion with seating
- Gilbert Family Schooner Splash Pad open seasonally
- Fishing outlooks
- Bike repair station
- MoGo station
- Grassy picnic areas
- Restrooms and drinking fountains
- On-site security office
- Café  
Open June - August

## GABRIEL RICHARD PARK



### 7130 E. Jefferson Avenue

Perhaps the most tranquil of the parks located along the Detroit Riverfront, **Gabriel Richard Park** offers breathtaking views of Belle Isle and the MacArthur Bridge. Visitors to this lush park enjoy strolling through the colorful butterfly gardens or taking a contemplative walk through the paved labyrinth.

### AMENITIES

- Free parking in paved parking lot
- Plaza and partially covered pavilion with seating
- David K. Page Butterfly Gardens
- Birding scopes
- Bike repair station
- Winding paved labyrinth
- Fishing outlooks
- Gabriel Richard Fountain
- Restrooms and drinking fountains
- Community grills and picnic tables





## DEQUINDRE CUT



Between Atwater Street at the Riverfront and Mack Avenue in Eastern Market.

Formerly a Grand Trunk Railroad line, the nearly two-mile-long **Dequindre Cut** is a predominately below-street level greenway that runs parallel to St. Aubin Street between Mack Avenue and Atwater Street, just north of the riverfront.

### AMENITIES

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Fit Park (Woodbridge entrance)
- Commissioned murals by local artists
- David Campbell Memorial Terrace (Lafayette entrance)
- Dequindre Cut Freight Yard Beer & Wine Garden (Wilkins entrance)  
Open mid-May to mid-September
- MoGo station
- Bike repair station



Located between Division and Wilkins streets, the **Freight Yard** is a unique gathering space comprising nine repurposed shipping containers. Each Friday-Sunday from mid-May to mid-September, the Freight Yard features a wine and beer garden, food trucks and entertainment.



## MAYOR DENNIS W. ARCHER GREENWAY



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.

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

## SOUTHWEST GREENWAY



Southwest Greenway

The **Southwest Greenway** connects Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park with the Michigan Central mobility innovation district. Running along the historic site of May Creek and a former railway corridor, this path connects Corktown, Mexicantown, and communities throughout Southwest Detroit directly to the riverfront.

## RALPH C. WILSON, JR. CENTENNIAL PARK

### 1801 W. Jefferson

**West Riverfront Park** closed to the public in summer 2022 as the park prepares for its transformation into **Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park**, which will open in 2025.

### Rendering of Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park







DETROIT  
**RIVERFRONT**  
CONSERVANCY

## PARK HOURS & INFORMATION

**6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily**

**[www.Detroitriverfront.org](http://www.Detroitriverfront.org)**



detroitriverfrontconservancy



@DetroitRiverfront



## ABOUT THE CONSERVANCY

As the permanent stewards of the Riverwalk and the Dequindre Cut, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is responsible for raising the funds needed for the construction, operation, maintenance, security and programming of the public spaces located along the riverfront. The ultimate vision of the nonprofit Conservancy is to transform and revitalize 5.5 miles of riverfront from the Ambassador Bridge to Gabriel Richard Park, just east of the MacArthur Bridge to Belle Isle.

## HOW TO SUPPORT THE CONSERVANCY

The work of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is made possible through the support of people like you who use and love our parks and greenways, and want to help us continue our work. By making a tax-deductible gift to the Conservancy, you are not only playing a role in Detroit's revitalization, but also protecting our riverfront for future generations to enjoy. Visit **[detroitriverfront.org/waystohelp](http://detroitriverfront.org/waystohelp)**



Interested in volunteering your time? The Conservancy has numerous volunteer opportunities available for both groups and individuals. Visit **[detroitriverfront.org/volunteers](http://detroitriverfront.org/volunteers)** to learn more.

### **DETROIT RIVERFRONT CONSERVANCY**

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