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STATE OF THE RIVERFRONT

Dear Friends,
Our world has changed significantly over the past weeks.

In times like these—when we are separated from our closest friends and family—we are reminded of how much we miss gathering together.

The Detroit Riverwalk and the Dequindre Cut remain open at this time, allowing people to come to the water for much-needed rest and reflection. As the stewards of these special places, we have taken several measures to ensure the safety of the people who visit them.

Our riverfront visitors are adhering to social distancing guidelines provided by the Centers for Disease Control to keep everyone safe. The men and women of our security and operations

teams are tirelessly and selflessly working every day to make sure the riverfront remains safe.

Our programming team has also been hard at work developing new and creative ways for us to stay connected with the community. During the first week of the Stay-At-Home policy, we began a partnership with the YMCA to serve food to children and families impacted by the pandemic. We also reached out to our volunteers to make sure that they have the resources they need to get through this difficult time.

Since then, we have created a coloring book with images of Detroit parks and hosted musical concerts for kids online. We are offering weekly yoga classes on Facebook Live. And we developed walking and running maps featuring a variety of riverfront routes and posted them on our website.

Public spaces like the Detroit Riverfront are critical to the health of our community. Over the upcoming weeks and months, we will see our city rely even more on the riverfront as a safe place to gather, reflect and engage.

Thank you for your unwavering support of the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and our mission. We look forward to seeing you again soon on the Detroit Riverfront.

Mark Wallace
President & CEO



PROGRAMMING UPDATE



During this time of social distancing, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy has continued to provide several programs and activities designed to keep our community active and engaged.

“Many of the activities people look forward to participating in along the riverfront at this time of season are on hold right now because of the “Stay at Home” order,” said Rachel Frierson, director of programming at the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. “Now with our virtual programming, access to fun and engaging riverfront programs is available with just the swipe of your finger.”

Here’s a quick look at the activities currently offered:

Detroit Parks Coloring Book

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy, along with the Belle Isle Conservancy, the Downtown Detroit Partnership (DDP), Eastern Market and the City of Detroit, have developed a free coloring book celebrating some of Detroit’s most popular parks to provide kids with creative activities while they stay at home.

“Detroit Parks Coloring Book” launched April 14 and each Tuesday through

May 25, two new images will be released and available to download, print and color at detroitriverfront.org/coloringdetroitparks. Once finished, kids are encouraged to share their masterpieces by tagging the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy (@DetroitRiverfront) on social media and using #ColoringDetroitParks.

Many beloved public spaces throughout Detroit will be featured, including the Belle Isle Aquarium, the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and James

“Now with our virtual programming, access to fun and engaging riverfront programs is available with just the swipe of your finger.”

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

Scott Memorial Fountain on Belle Isle; Mt. Elliott Park, Gabriel Richard Park, Cullen Plaza, Robert C. Valade Park and the Dequindre Cut along the riverfront; Shed Three at Eastern Market; Campus Martius Park, and Clark Park, Palmer Park and Rouge Park in Detroit.

Yoga with Michelle Moten

The Conservancy is partnering with Michelle Moten from Urban Solace to provide free yoga classes. Until the classes can be hosted along the riverfront again at beautiful Milliken State Park, they will be offered online via Facebook Live.

Every Friday at Noon through May 29, Michelle will lead participants through a half-hour class of soothing and refreshing yoga. Check it out on Facebook Live by visiting @DetroitRiverfront.

Musical Performances for Children

Reading & Rhythm on the Riverfront, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy’s popular literacy

program, has been a summertime tradition for almost 10 years. In addition to the books that are read by local celebrities, a favorite component of each R3 session is the musical performances by local entertainers Kevin Devine and Joe Reilly.



To get kids engaged and moving, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is hosting free Facebook Live concerts at 10 a.m. on Mondays featuring either Devine or Reilly singing some of their most fun, interactive songs.

Yes, kids can hear favorites such as “Turkey Vulture” from Reilly and practice busting a move with Devine as he demonstrates some of his signature dance moves.

There are three more concerts scheduled in the series with Reilly performing on May 4 and May 11 and Devine performing on May 18. Log on to the Conservancy’s Facebook page @detroitriverfront for the free concerts. Don’t forget to “like” the page and tell your friends and family.

Riverfront Walking and Running Maps

Looking to get out on the riverfront or Dequindre Cut for some exercise? Not sure if you want to take your favorite route or try something new? Just how far is it from Cullen Plaza to Gabriel Richard Park, anyway?

No worries, the Conservancy has you covered with a new online brochure that lists nine different routes along the beautiful Riverwalk and the Dequindre Cut, such as “The Joe” and “The Milliken.”

Want to create your own, route? Send it to us and maybe we will name it after

you. The brochures are available at detroitriverfront.org/riverfrontroutes.

Crop Circles on the Riverwalk?

Don’t worry, there haven’t been visitors from another planet sighted on the riverfront. However, human visitors will see a series of large pairs of circles placed six feet apart and adhered to the Riverwalk from the TCF Center all the way to Harbortown. They’re there to be a gentle, but fun reminder for people to practice social distancing when visiting the riverfront. The brightly-colored decals feature a picture of a suggested activity to participate in along the riverfront, such as singing a duet, posing for a photo or making someone laugh.

YMCA Partnership to Provide Free Meals

Since school districts closed throughout the entire state in March, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy has proudly partnered with the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit to provide free meals to students under 18 and those with special needs up to age 26. Each Tuesday and Friday until further notice, meals can be picked up at Cullen Plaza from 2:45 to 3:15 p.m. The food distribution is subject to change based on community need. For more information and the latest schedule, visit: <https://ymcadetroit.org/ymca-providing-free-grab-and-go-meals-for-children-youth-up-to-age-18-and-young-adults-with-special-needs-up-to-age-26/>.



What’s Happening with My Favorite Riverfront Special Events and Programs?

Everyone at the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy takes the health and safety of riverfront visitors seriously. We will not be resuming activities and events that encourage groups of people to gather until it’s safe again to celebrate the riverfront together.

Some activities, programs and events are being reimagined, while some are being postponed. Be sure to check our event page (Link: <https://detroitriverfront.org/things-to-do/>) for the latest calendar. Here’s a look at the current status of some of your favorite programs and events:

Rain Barrels on the Riverfront – A no-contact pick-up is scheduled for Saturday, May 9. Click here for more information. Link: <https://detroitriverfront.org/things-to-do/rain-barrels-riverfront-pickup-only>

Yoga – For right now, online Yoga classes via Facebook Live are available at Noon on Fridays through the end of May

The Detroit Riverfront Run is going virtual, sign up now for the virtual race at <http://www.detroitriverfront.org/riverfrontrun>

Detroit River Days – Watch for more information on this event on our website

Shimmer on the River – Will be held this fall as part of Soiree on the Greenway

Reading & Rhythm – We are looking at several options, including online streaming or hosting smaller sessions this summer

Freight Yard – Watch for opening information on our website



WHAT'S IN THE WORKS **ON THE RIVERFRONT?**

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy has big plans for new public spaces and better connectivity in 2020. Here's a look at the construction projects this year:

Joseph Campau Greenway
The City of Detroit is leading the way with construction efforts on the Joseph Campau Greenway. The first phase of this project is focused on the area between Jefferson Avenue and Robert Bradby Drive. The placement of underground utilities and new pavement is complete, as well as the installation of security cameras. During the second phase of construction, the focus is to bring those updates the full length of the 1.2-mile greenway all the way up to Vernor Highway.

The greenway will provide residents on the east side with safer and more convenient access to the riverfront. Updates include a 10-foot wide bicycle and pedestrian path, new benches, outdoor power stations, light posts and security cameras. The greenway will open later this year.

Uniroyal Promenade
Work on the Uniroyal Promenade is slated to begin this fall and is expected to be finished in late 2021. Construction on this 2,000-foot stretch of Riverwalk will take place in two phases, starting with the installation of the sediment cap in the water, after which construction to build the new section of Riverwalk will begin. This section of Riverwalk will feature creative design elements and landscaping, new benches, lighting and security cameras, and separate pathways for bicycles and pedestrians. The Uniroyal Promenade is significant in that it will connect Gabriel Richard Park with Mt. Elliott Park while also serving as another beautiful amenity along the riverfront. It will also complete the Conservancy's vision for a connected 3.5 miles of Riverwalk along the East Riverfront.

Riverfront Towers
The boardwalk in front of the Riverfront Towers property is nearing completion. When the temporary ban on non-essential projects in Michigan is lifted, crews will install lights, security camera and call boxes, as well as the security gateway that will provide access to the boardwalk and marina. This section of Riverwalk will not open until it can be connected to the rest of the Riverwalk via the Platform and DDA Parcels.

The Platform Parcel
Work is progressing on this section of Riverwalk that stretches between the Joe Louis Arena site and Riverfront Towers. While concrete work and utilities are nearing completion, crews will install the marine railing, light posts and security cameras. This property is owned by businessman Peter Cummings and will represent the first stretch of the two-mile long West Riverfront project. This section of Riverwalk is expected to be completed this summer.



DDA Parcel

Just to the west of Riverfront Towers is a parcel of land owned by the Downtown Development Authority (DDA). Architects are designing the look of this portion of the Riverwalk and the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation is taking bids to repair the seawall. Completion is expected in the fall of next year. When finished, this crucial part of Riverwalk will connect the Riverfront Towers property with what will become Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park.

May Creek

The design stage is underway for the May Creek greenway project which

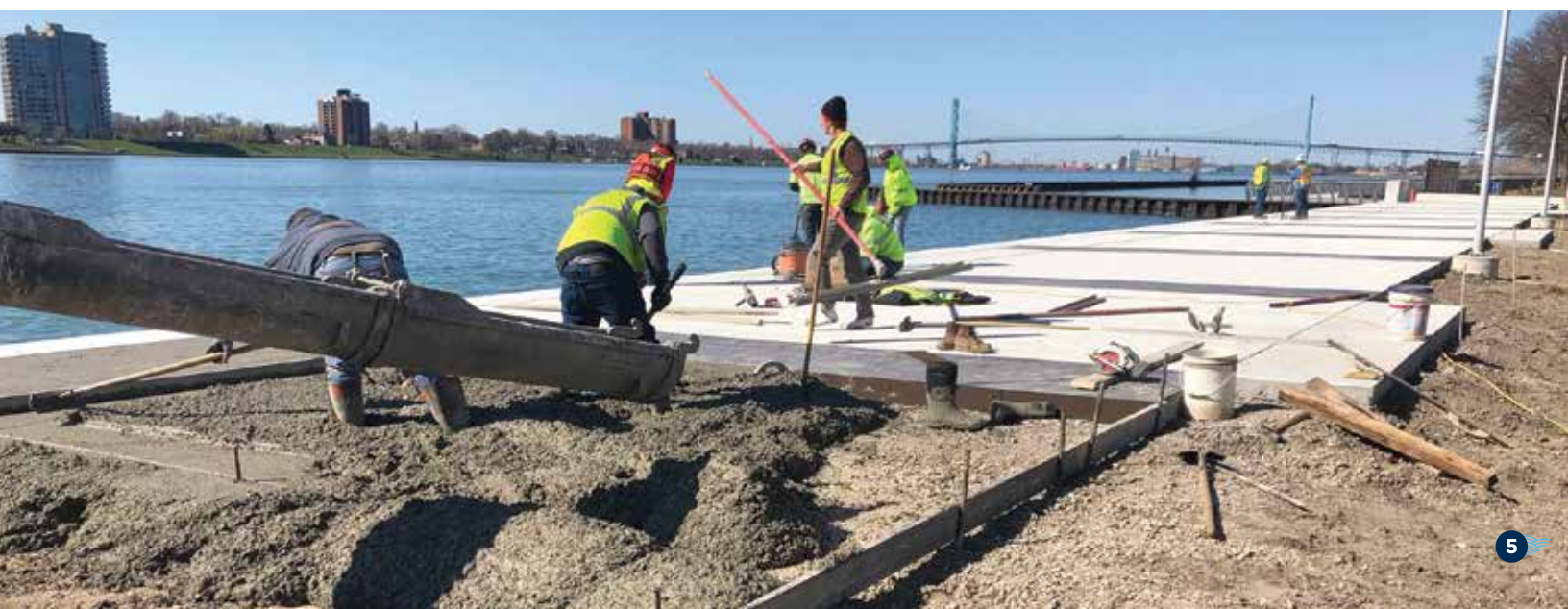
will ultimately provide users with easy and safe access to the West Riverfront from Corktown. The first part of this project will focus on the area between Jefferson Avenue and Bagley Street. The Conservancy is currently working with landowners to secure easements. Construction is expected to start late this year and wrap up in fall of 2021.

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy looks forward to breaking ground on land for construction of the 22-acre Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. Until then, the Conservancy will work

with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this summer on a \$2.5 million project that will remediate sediment along the shoreline and create a substantial new habitat for fish.

When complete, the park will feature a large cove for swimming and ice skating, the Delta Dental Children's Play Garden, a Sport House for basketball and other sports activities and an expansive lawn for special events and sledding. Construction is expected to be complete in 2022.





LARRY McLAUGHLIN RECEIVES THE SHIMMER AWARD

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy is pleased to honor Larry McLaughlin with the 2020 Shimmer Award for his myriad contributions to the organization and for his keen leadership in the revitalization of the Detroit Riverfront.

As general counsel to the Conservancy from 2002 until 2018, Larry expertly and masterfully guided all aspects of the organization's legal endeavors, including filing the original articles of incorporation and authoring numerous complex land transactions.

Larry retired as a partner with Honigman LLP in 2018 where he served as the chairman of real estate for 20 years. Larry's practice included all aspects of real estate development with emphasis on real estate finance, retail development, urban redevelopment, public-private partnerships, construction law, government incentives and inducements, complex transactions, joint ventures and distressed debt.

Earlier this year, Larry was named executive vice president/ chief development officer at Bedrock. In this role, Larry oversees the growth and logistics of all current and future Bedrock developments and projects.

"Larry's legal acumen and unwavering commitment have been integral to the many successes the Conservancy has enjoyed over the years," said Matt Cullen, chairman of the

Conservancy Board of Directors. "We're thrilled that even though he's embarked on a new career path at Bedrock, he will still be providing his insights to the Conservancy as an Emeritus Board Member."

As the highest honor the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy can bestow on an individual, the Shimmer Award will be

presented to Larry at this year's fundraiser, which will be hosted in the fall. Larry joins past winners such as Karen and Matt Cullen, Senator Carl Levin,

Tom McNulty, Faye Nelson, David Page and Nettie Seabrooks, among others.

"I am deeply honored to receive the Shimmer Award and to be included in the distinguished group of prior Shimmer honorees," Larry said. "It has truly been a pleasure and a privilege to be a small part of the outstanding accomplishments of the Conservancy and to have had the opportunity to work with the amazing, dedicated and enthusiastic board and staff of the Conservancy."

The Conservancy's fundraisers are being reimaged for 2020, so be sure to watch for more information about this year's events in future newsletters.



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- Larry McLaughlin



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MARIE MORRIS

Born and raised in Detroit, Marie Morris has known the riverfront her entire life. However, it wasn't until about five or six years ago, when a good friend got her started as a volunteer with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy that she realized just how much of a treasure the riverfront truly is.

As a volunteer, Marie has helped out with numerous events put on by the Conservancy and witnessed first-hand how beautiful parks and public spaces touch people's lives. "The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy offers a variety of free programs for the entire family," said Marie. "My favorites are the children's events, especially Reading and Rhythm. It's a joy watching the smiles on their faces and their eyes light up when they're listening to a story, receiving a free book from the Detroit Public Library, riding on the carousel or learning a new song and dancing."

Marie spends most of her volunteer time with the Conservancy as a greeter. In that position, she helps to check people in at events, share information about programming along the riverfront and represent her Detroit community. "As a greeter, I want all visitors to feel and experience the welcoming love the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy's Riverwalk, parks and greenways have to offer," said Marie. "I am proud to be representing my community and working with a team of dedicated volunteers and staff from the Conservancy who are always expressing how much volunteers are appreciated."

Year after year, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy relies on the dedication of individuals like Marie who are committed to helping others create unforgettable memories along the riverfront. On average, the Conservancy works with almost 400 volunteers a year. From staffing the information booth, handing out fliers, leading activities for kids and answering questions of Riverwalk visitors, volunteers make up the heart of the riverfront.

"Volunteers are very important to our organization," said Renee Rodriguez, volunteer manager at the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. "We would not be able to do what we do without them. We are incredibly grateful for the time and dedication they donate to us each year."

To learn more about volunteering
on the riverfront, visit
www.detroitriverfront.org/volunteers
or call **(313) 566-8207**.



SUPPORT YOUR RIVERFRONT

It is during times like these when we realize the importance of public spaces. They are where we gather with friends and family, where we celebrate life's milestones and where we go to collect our thoughts and convene with nature.

The Detroit Riverfront is a beloved year-round destination that is visited by three million visitors each year. This scenic oasis was made possible by thousands of community members, as well as business, government and community leaders, working together on this truly special project.

The Detroit Riverfront is unlike many other park systems. Rather than using tax dollars, our operation is funded by generous individuals who make both large and small gifts to ensure that the riverfront is a clean, safe, beautiful gathering place for everyone.

As we continue toward our vision of a 5.5 mile riverfront by making significant progress on building new parks and greenways, the need for capital repairs, landscaping, security officers, staff and resources grows.

In the near future, the crowds will again be gathering along the Detroit Riverfront so that we can enjoy this beautiful public space together. Until then, let's enjoy this community asset at an appropriate social distance when visiting it.

WAYS TO GIVE

Considering a gift to the riverfront?
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

We know these are difficult times, and we appreciate your consideration of support for the work we do. If you planned to make a gift this year, please consider giving by May 31 to support our summer season at <https://www.detroitriverfront.org/give/2020NL1>

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.

