#### WESTRIVERFRONT COMMUNITY UPDATE

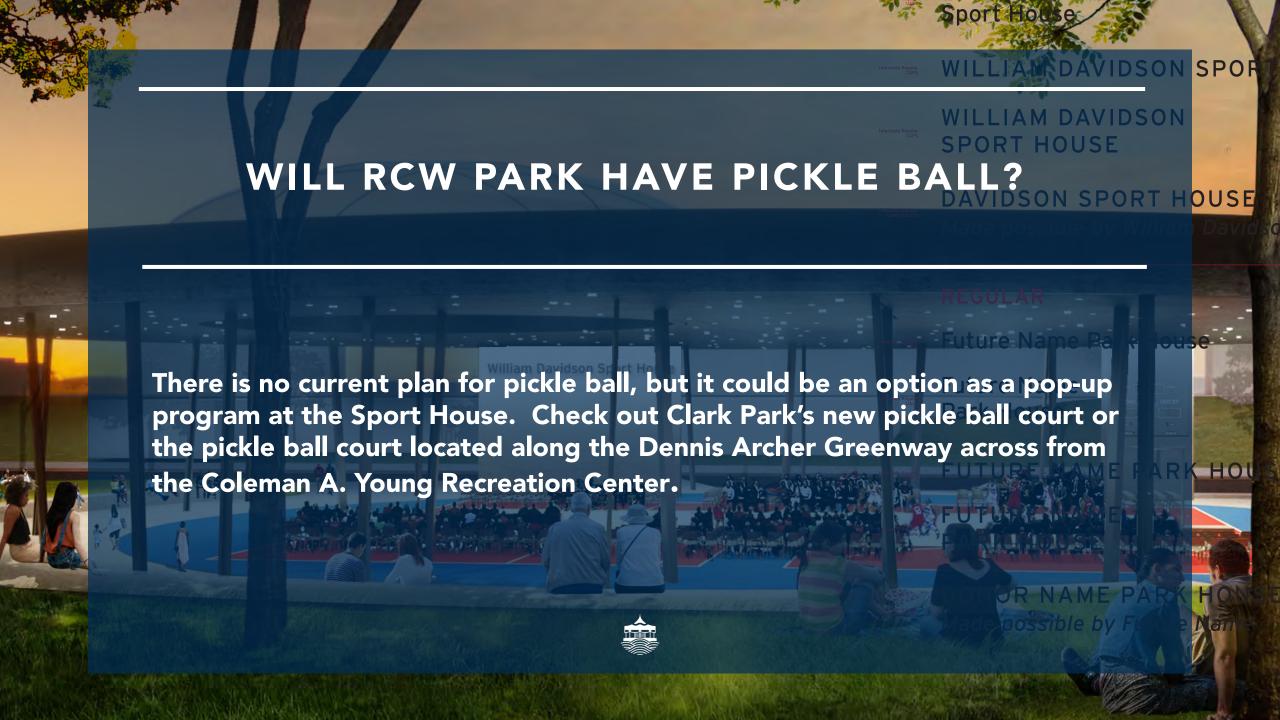
April 18, 2023

#### Questions & Answers





We are so happy you asked. The Southwest Greenway will officially open in May and we hope you can join us! We will be hosting festivities throughout that day, and of course we invite you to enjoy the greenway any time after that. Stay tuned to our website and social media for the grand opening date and for updates on future programming and events.



#### WHAT WILL HAPPEN WITH THE SPORT HOUSE IN WINTER?

We continue to experiment with winter programming and building on 3+ years of successful winter activities at Robert C. Valade Park. We plan to use the William Davidson Sport House, the Hill and other select areas to keep Wilson Park active throughout the winter.







This is the section we refer to as the "Uniroyal Promenade," which is named for the former tire plant that was located there many years ago. Construction is well underway and is scheduled for completion in fall 2023.





The slide presentation is available on the DRFC website at <a href="https://detroitriverfront.org/riverfront/ralph-c-wilson-jr-centennial-park-development/meetings/community-meeting-7">https://detroitriverfront.org/riverfront/ralph-c-wilson-jr-centennial-park-development/meetings/community-meeting-7</a>





Landside Construction

RALPH C. WILSON, JR. CENTENNIAL PARK

**CONSTRUCTION** 

**Brinker-Christman JV** 

MARINE CONSTRUCTION

J. F. Brennan

SOUTHWEST GREENWAY

**CONSTRUCTION** 

**Turner Construction** 

Marine Construction

**DDA/MDOT SITE** 

CONSTRUCTION

Warren Contractors & Development

### WILL ARTISTS BE COMMISSIONED FOR MURALS ALONG THE SW GREENWAY AS ON THE DEQUINDRE CUT? IF SO, WHEN WILL THE ARTIST CALL GO OUT?

Each year, the Conservancy works to identify and select local Detroit artists to create murals on the Dequindre Cut. We will also work to identify artists to install works on Southwest Greenway. The Conservancy connects with local artist collectives and organizations and bases its selection of artists on the walls, funding and theming for the space. We were also excited to find a remarkable collection of public art pieces along the greenway when we began clearing the site, and we will be preserving the vast majority of the original works on the greenway.



There is an Application Launch Event with a Taste of the Neighborhood on Saturday June 17 from 2-5 p.m. at the Ford Resource and Engagement Center Plaza at 2826 W. Bagley. For information, please contact Shaun Nethercott from the Cultural Crossroads Initiative at <a href="mailto:netherco@hotmail.com">netherco@hotmail.com</a>.



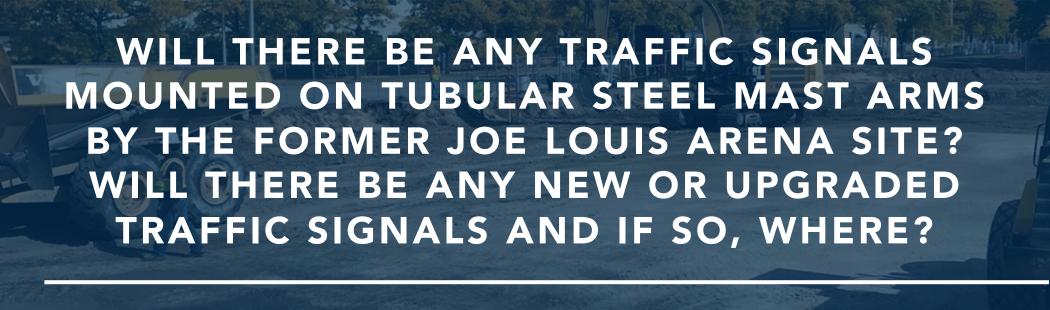
### WHAT ARE THE PLANS FOR MAINTAINING THE FREEDOM SCULPTURE IN HART PLAZA? AND

IS THAT NOW BEING CALLED GM PLAZA?
THE BRICKS HAVE BEEN DETERIORATING
FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND REPAIRS WITH
BEIGE CONCRETE ON THE BLACK BRICK
MAKES IT LOOK WORSE.

A point of clarification – GM Plaza is the portion of the Riverwalk that is directly south of the GM Renaissance Center. Hart Plaza and the Freedom Sculpture are managed by the City of Detroit.







The street/traffic design are underway but not complete at this time. MDOT and the City of Detroit are leading this effort, with advisement and park coordination by the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.

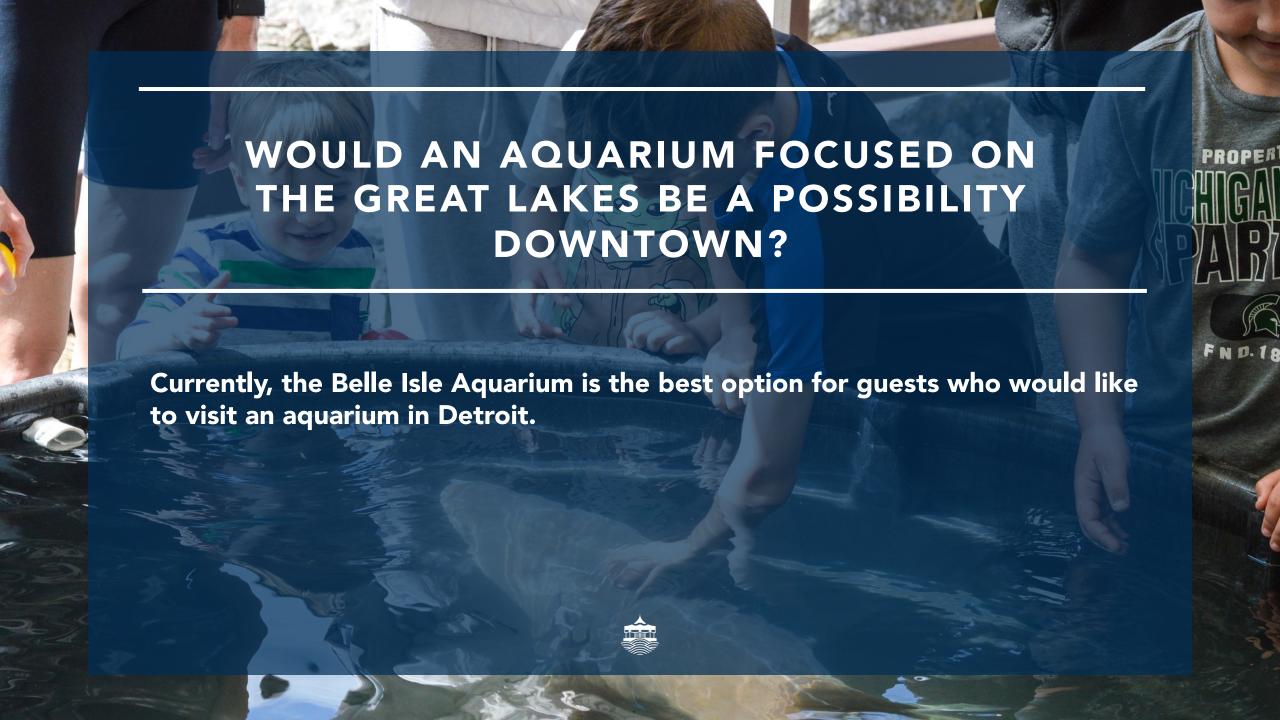






# HOW WILL THE PARK CELEBRATE AND SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS WITH UNIQUE NEEDS? COULD THERE BE AREAS CREATED FOR THOSE WHO NEED QUIET AND CALM EXPERIENCES OR SPECIALIZED EVENTS, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH?

We are committed to creating opportunities for everyone and often include components for various audiences into our programming. For instance, when we host the Touch a Truck program, we reserve a sensory hour for kids of all ages with sensitivities. The unique design of Wilson Park accommodates all types of park users, as it will have several areas specifically designed for calm and reflection closer to the river, as well as areas dedicated to more action closer to Jefferson.



## COULD ORGANIZATIONS LIKE ECO-WORKS, THE DETROIT ZOO + NATURE CENTER AND GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING RELATED TO OUR ENVIRONMENT?

We are excited to be working with several amazing partners throughout Southeast Michigan. Some of these partners include Huron-Clinton Metro Parks, City of Detroit, Detroit River Story Lab, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, University of Michigan and so many more. We are in the process of developing our educational and place-based programming, and are looking for a dedicated individual to join our team. If you or someone you know is interested in joining us as an Educational Programs Manager, please visit this <a href="link">link</a> and apply today!<a href="link">Link</a> and apply today!

# HOW DO YOU SELECT PARTICIPANTS FOR THE GREAT MUSIC SERIES ON THE DEQUINDRE CUT? WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO APPLY TO PARTICIPATE? WOULD YOU ALSO CONSIDER PUTTING ON PLAYS?

For the last five years we have commissioned a local music collective D.Cipher to curate our music series on the Cut. To learn more about D.Cipher and how to apply to perform with them visit www.dcipher.org. Each year our programming team looks for new partners to engage, if you are interested in partnering with us to host a program on the riverfront, please connect with us in the fall of the year prior to the event at <a href="mailto:info@detroitriverfront.org">info@detroitriverfront.org</a>.





#### ARE THERE PLANS TO CREATE ICE SKATING OPPORTUNITIES?

Once the park is complete, we plan to monitor the Water Garden/Cove area to see if ice skating might be a possibility. We are committed to making the park a four-season destination, and we will provide programming all year round from winter festivals to winter wellness. If you have a great winter idea, please share it at <a href="mailto:info@detroitriverfront.org">info@detroitriverfront.org</a>.



#### WHAT ARE THE DETAILS ON YOUR UPCOMING FREE BOAT CRUISES?

As part of our 20th anniversary celebrations, we'll be hosting free one-hour boat tours on the Diamond Jack, departing from Cullen Plaza at 6 p.m. June 8, July 13 and August 10. Stay tuned for details and registration. Visit our website at <a href="https://www.detroitriverfront.org/things-to-do">www.detroitriverfront.org/things-to-do</a> as summer approaches.



#### WILL YOU BRING MOVIE NIGHTS BACK TO THE WEST RIVERFRONT?

We hear you. The DTE Hill at Wilson Park will provide an excellent location for movies, small concerts and more. We will continue to work on programming for that space, including potential movie nights, as we make plans for Wilson Park.





### WHAT ARE THE SECURITY PLANS FOR IN THE PARK, ON THE SURROUNDING ROADS, AND IN THE ADJACENT RIVERFRONT COMPLEX AREAS?

Safety and security is something the DRFC takes very seriously. There will be a Command Center on the Wilson Park site which will be manned 24/7/365. The surrounding roads and other complexes would be the responsibility of the Detroit Police Department.



#### WHAT WILL THE PARK HOURS BE, AND WILL THEY BE ENFORCED?

Wilson Park hours are the same operating hours of all DRFC managed riverfront parks: 6:00 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily.



### CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THE SECURITY PLANS BOTH IN THE PARK AND ON THE SURROUNDING ROADS AND THE ADJACENT RIVERFRONT COMPLEX PROPERTY?

The Detroit Police Department will continue to manage public safety issues along Jefferson Avenue.





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#### ARE YOU CONSIDERING LIFEGUARDS FOR CERTAIN SECTIONS?

Safety is of the utmost importance to the Conservancy and we recognize we have a role to play in increasing water safety skills in our community. The Conservancy is currently partnering with the City of Detroit and Huron-Clinton Metro Parks on building up swimming access, equity and safety in Detroit. While we will not have traditional lifeguards, DRFC Security, play leaders and staff will be trained in CPR and surveying visitors around the water in both the water garden, river and water wonderland playscape.



### COULD THERE BE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FUNDING FOR MORE ORGANIZATIONS TO PROVIDE HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAMMING?

We are actively fundraising for all types of programming, including health and wellness. We will continue to share the immense benefits of these program offerings to potential funders.





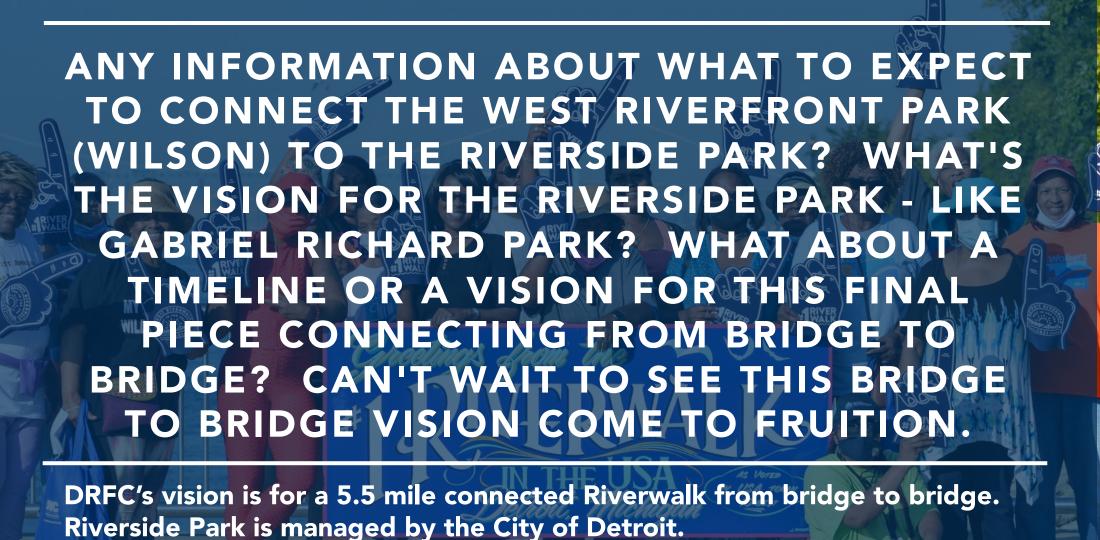
Yes, the new park will contain indoor public restrooms in three locations throughout the park.





Yes, we will be holding Detroit Riverwalkers again this year every Tuesday & Thursday, June 13 - August 24 at Cullen Plaza. For all the details visit: <a href="https://detroitriverfront.org/2023DetroitRiverwalkers">https://detroitriverfront.org/2023DetroitRiverwalkers</a>





# ANY DISCUSSION WITH WINDSOR? ANY CHANCE OF RETURNING TO A JOINT FREEDOM FESTIVAL OR OTHER SUCH ACTIVITIES? REALLY OUT THERE BUT ANY CHANCE OF A CONNECTION LIKE OVER/UNDER THE AMBASSADOR BRIDGE AND A FERRY OFF BELLE ISLE, LIKE CREATING AN INTERNATIONAL PARKWAY LOOK?

Both cities host special events along the riverfront, please check their respective websites for all planned activities.



ANY DISCUSSION OF TRANSIT? AT THE PLATFORM (SHOWN IN THE SLIDES) THERE COULD BE A PROMINENT PEOPLE MOVER STATION WITH STEPS (AND ELEVATORS) UP TO A PLATFORM WITH COMMANDING VIEWS. THERE COULD BE A FERRY RUNNING THE LENGTH FROM BRIDGE TO BRIDGE. TRANSIT SHOULD BE PART OF EVERYTHING THE CITY DOES AS WE'RE THE ONLY CITY OF SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS COUNTRY WITHOUT REAL MASS TRANSIT.

The city is planning on keeping the people mover station. The Conservancy, Michigan DNR and the Port Authority have all looked at options for a water taxi however funding to support this activity needs to be identified.





#### THANK YOU!



**DETROIT RIVERFRONT CONSERVANCY** 

FOR EVERYONE. FOR 20 YEARS.