

# SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER FOR KIDS!



Issue 20 / Q2 / 2023



## A MESSAGE FROM NICO

Hi, I'm Nico, a kid who loves the Detroit Riverfront. There are so many fun things to do there, I can't pick just one. I'm going to tell you about some of my favorite things to do, and then you can check out this newsletter for

more ideas and some fun activities, too.

One of my favorite places to go along the riverfront is Valade Park. I really like the playground there because they have lifeguard towers you can play in. In the winter you can sled and eat s'mores and in the summer you can play in the sand. There are a lot of cool events there too and really good food to eat.

Cullen Plaza is another spot that's a lot of fun. It's downtown near the Renaissance Center. I LOVE to eat ice cream there in the summer. Riding the carousel can be fun, too, and this summer it is FREE to ride because the riverfront is celebrating their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I also love to go to Gabriel Richard Park because there is a lot of room to run around and play sports. One of my favorite things to do at Gabriel Richard Park is Reading & Rhythm on the Riverfront.

I really like this program because I love reading. You also get to listen to music and everyone who comes to Reading & Rhythm gets a brand-new book to keep and take home. Check out the article in this newsletter to find out more about Reading & Rhythm and have an adult at home sign you up – maybe I'll see you there!

Another thing I like about the riverfront are the volunteers. They are all super nice and very helpful. When you come down to the riverfront you'll see them wearing their Detroit Riverfront shirts and hats and they are there to make people feel welcome. Make sure to say "hi" when you see them around.

Did you know they're building a huge new park along the riverfront called Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park? I am a sports guy and I'm so excited that there will be a sports house there for playing basketball and other sports. There is also going to be a really neat playground and a water playground, too. I can't wait to go there when it opens next year.

I hope you're as excited as I am to spend a lot of time on the Detroit Riverfront this summer. The scavenger hunt in this newsletter will give you some great ideas for places to go with your family to have fun all summer. I hope you will come down and check them out. I might even see you there!

Nico

Nico  
Chief Coloring Officer  
Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

# READING & RHYTHM RETURNS FOR

# FAMILY FUN ALONG THE RIVERFRONT

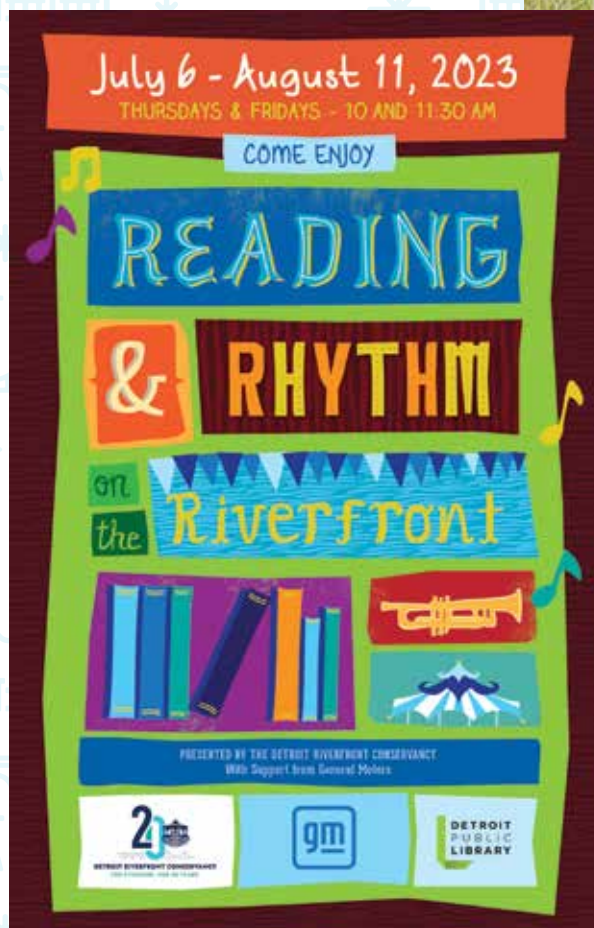
Reading & Rhythm on the Riverfront (R3) is returning for the 13<sup>th</sup> year this summer. Come to Gabriel Richard Park for a fun, interactive program that will get you excited about reading!

R3 (that's short for Reading & Rhythm on the Riverfront) starts July 6 and goes all the way until August 11, every Thursday and Friday. When you come to R3, you'll get to hear stories read by local celebrities and you'll also get to dance during the rhythm portion of the program. We'll have special fan-favorite performers there to get you moving, like Gincy and Joe Reilly!

If you get a little hungry, don't worry – the YMCA will provide a healthy snack. Even better, every kid who comes to R3 will go home with a brand-new book from the Detroit Public Library thanks to our friends at General Motors.

Reading is important, and R3 is a great way to make sure you keep reading all throughout the summer. Also, it's a chance for you and your family to enjoy the outdoors along the beautiful Detroit Riverfront.

Have an adult at home sign you up for R3 using this QR code:



## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Here are some fun book recommendations you can check out at the Detroit Public Library and read over the summer.



**1. Super Cities! Detroit**  
Author: Daralynn Walker  
Ages: Elementary and Middle School  
Location: Detroit Public Library – Main Branch

What's it about?: Sometimes the coolest places are right outside your front door! Learn about Detroit's interesting and unique culture including music, cars, pizza and more!



**2. Rosie, A Detroit Herstory**  
Author: Bailey Sisoy Isgro  
Ages: Elementary and Middle School  
Location: Detroit Public Library – Main Branch, Sherwood Forest Branch Library

What's it about?: Learn about who Rosie the Riveter really was and why the legacy of women workers during World War II is still so important.

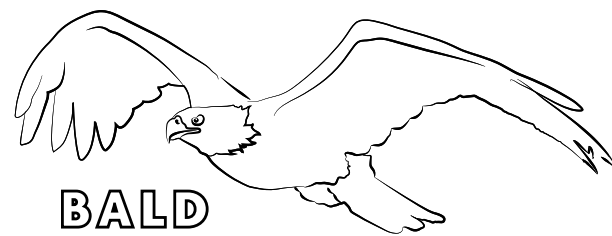


**3. A Beaver Tale: The Castors of Conners Creek**  
Author: Gerald Wykes  
Ages: Elementary School  
Location: Detroit Public Library – Main Branch, Campbell Branch

What's it about?: The incredible story of one beaver family's return to the Detroit River more than 100 years after beavers were last seen in the area.

# DETROIT RIVERFRONT COLORING AND ACTIVITIES!

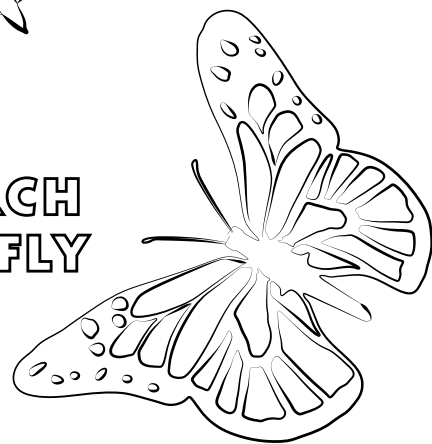
## COLOR THESE LOCAL SPECIES



**BALD  
EAGLE**



**RAINBOW  
TROUT**



**MONARCH  
BUTTERFLY**



**MALLARDS**

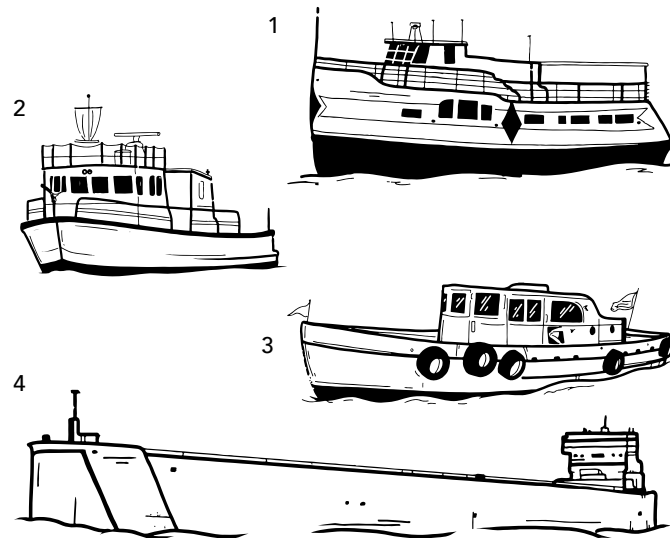
## A RIVERFRONT WORD SEARCH!

See if you can find all seven riverfront parks & greenways

Cullen Plaza Riverwalk Valade Park Gabriel Richard  
Mt Elliott Park Dequindre Cut Ralph Wilson Park

A K R A P T T O I L L E T M T B  
D M A Z T Q X L G L G G X G K V  
J J L A I U M E Y V Q B A R R T  
R V P L V A C B H A F B A K M Q  
S Z H P W J C E G D R P W Z S R  
V W W N F B F I R I E F Z U P M  
H Z I E C X F S E D P T C V C Z  
F L L L S X Q L A Y N Z A W V A  
G F S L X T R L I Q C I F H X W  
J P O U W I A M B B C F U D K O  
S A N C C V S X A H N Q J Q T X  
U P P H R I V E R W A L K M E S  
P O A L L V Z D X X I N Q O I D  
E R R Z P E Y Z C O K C Q N X L  
D X K U Y F P H G D H V W Q A H  
W S R S Q O Y X J Z I D Q K M I

## NAME THAT SHIP!



1. Diamond Jack 2. Curtis Randolph Fireboat 3. J. W. Westcott II Mail Boat 4. Edgar B. Speer



**CULLEN PLAZA**



# KIDS' PHOTO SCAVENGER HUNT

## ALONG THE DETROIT RIVERFRONT

There are so many fun places to visit along the Detroit Riverfront, we can't pick just one (or two)! Follow this photo scavenger hunt that will take you to some of our favorite spots and snap your picture at each stop to win a special prize.

Once you've completed the scavenger hunt, you (or the adult in charge at home) can tag us on Instagram (@detroitriverfront) or email the pictures to us at [info@detroitriverfront.org](mailto:info@detroitriverfront.org) and we'll be in touch to send you your Detroit Riverfront prize. (Bonus activities do not need to be completed to earn a prize).

SNAP A PICTURE OF YOURSELF AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS DOING THESE FUN ACTIVITIES:

- 1: GABRIEL RICHARD PARK**
  - Use the birding scopes
  - Walk along the paved labyrinth
- 2: MT. ELLIOTT PARK**
  - Take a splash in the Gilbert Family Schooner splash pad
- 3: ROBERT C. VALADE PARK**
  - Climb up into one of the lifeguard towers
  - Bury your feet in the sand on the beach
- 4: DEQUINDRE CUT GREENWAY**
  - Stop at at least two murals along the greenway and take a selfie
  - Visit the Freight Yard and play some lawn games
  - Spend an afternoon at the Michigan DNR Outdoor Adventure Center (Bonus Activity!)
- 5: CULLEN PLAZA**
  - Take a ride on the Cullen Family Carousel (FREE this summer!)
  - Play on the playscape
- 6: SOUTHWEST GREENWAY**
  - Hop along the rocks near the trailhead
  - Visit "The Yard" Graffiti Museum
  - Walk along the section of old train tracks in the grass

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL:

-  [twitter.com/DetroitRvrfrnt](https://twitter.com/DetroitRvrfrnt)
-  [instagram.com/detroitriverfront](https://www.instagram.com/detroitriverfront)
-  [facebook.com/detroitriverfrontconservancy](https://www.facebook.com/detroitriverfrontconservancy)
-  [detroitriverfront.org/waystohelp](https://detroitriverfront.org/waystohelp)



600 Renaissance Center Suite 1720 Detroit, MI 48243-1805  
313.566.8200 | [DETROITRIVERFRONT.ORG](http://DETROITRIVERFRONT.ORG)

- 1 | A Message from Nico
- 2 | Reading & Rhythm
- 4 | Detroit Riverfront Coloring and Activities
- 6 | Kids' Photo Scavenger Hunt along the Detroit Riverfront
- 8 | Fun Fish Facts

Don't have kids in your home? Please share this newsletter with a neighbor, relative or friend and encourage them to visit the Detroit Riverfront!

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## FUN FISH FACTS

**DID YOU KNOW?** Sturgeon thrived during the Upper Cretaceous period about 136 million years ago when dinosaurs walked the Earth. That is why they are called living dinosaurs. They were revered by Native Americans and the Wyandot tribe believed that the spirit, "Oki" lived in a fish. Medicine men showed their respect for the fish by burying their bones instead of burning them and would thank fish in advance for giving up their lives to ensure Natives could eat and live. Today, the sturgeon population is 4,400, thanks to conservation efforts and construction of nine sturgeon spawning reefs in the river.

