March 6, 2025

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park Community Meeting

Questions & Answers

**Will there be bike parking at Wilson? How much?**

There will be bike racks with up to 60 spaces available.

**Will there be kayaking, canoeing, or boating from the river into the water garden?**

There is no access point from the river into the Huron Clinton Metroparks Water Garden; therefore, there will not be any kayak launches at Wilson. There may be opportunities for using canoes, kayaks, or small row boats in the Water Garden, which will be offered on a limited basis through Conservancy programming.

**Will there be a dedicated fishing area?**

Yes! There will be nearly 100 yards of dedicated fishing space in the west side of the park on the shoreline of the Detroit River.

**Will there be a designated bike trail at the park?**

The paved pathway through the park is meant for walking, running, and slow to moderate biking. For cyclists, there is a cycle track alongside the perimeter of the park on West Jefferson Ave.

**How will insects be taken care of at the water garden?**

Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park will be home to a rich, vibrant ecosystem, which will include bees and insects. August and September can often bring about encounters with bees and yellowjackets. It is important to note that while both are beneficial to our ecosystem, bees are crucial to the food system as they are pollinators, while yellowjackets are not. Issues pertaining to bees, yellowjackets, and other insects will be handled on a case by case basis by the Operations and/or Maintenance teams.

**What is the parking situation? Will there be enough parking?**

There will be construction on West Jefferson Ave. to support Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park. In addition to the cycle track, there will be roughly 150 street parking spots added to both the north and south side of West Jefferson Ave, which runs along the perimeter of the park. Within a ten-minute walk of the park, there are around 1,000 parking spots, both street and garage options. The Conservancy is also working with the Detroit Department of Transportation to install a bus stop in front of the park as an additional mode of transportation. There is no Conservancy operated parking lot at Wilson Park.

**Which schools helped design the play equipment?**

Three of the schools that helped design the play structures used in the Henry Ford Health Tot Lot were St. Clare of Montefalco, The James and Grace Lee Boggs School, and Maybury Elementary School.

**Is the water in the Huron Clinton Metroparks Water Garden treated?**

The water in the Huron Clinton Metroparks Water Garden is pumped directly from the Detroit River; meaning, the water garden is an extension of the river. The water quality of the Detroit River is the same water quality as the Huron Clinton Metroparks Water Garden.