

THE DETROIT RIVERFRONT

WINTER 2023 EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING GUIDE



DETROIT
RIVERFRONT
CONSERVANCY



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 the parks that the Conservancy manages.

Over the last 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



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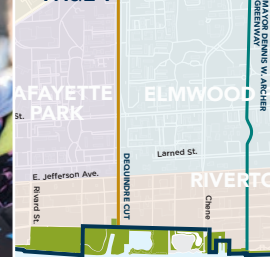
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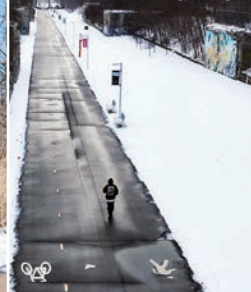
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DEQUINDRE CUT

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**MAYOR DENNIS W. ARCHER
GREENWAY/RALPH C. WILSON,
JR. CENTENNIAL PARK**

WINTER AT ROBERT C. VALADE PARK



Presented by
FRIENDS OF ROBERT C. VALADE PARK

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 for all the latest information.

HOURS

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Friday | 4 to 9 p.m. |
| Saturday | Noon to 9 p.m. |
| Sunday | 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.*

DRINK

Enjoy hot or seasonal alcoholic and non-alcoholic classics like hot chocolate and cider and Hot Toddies at The Shed Bar. Marshmallows for roasting at the park are also available for purchase.

Thursday through Sunday from Noon to 8 p.m.



FOOD

Enjoy some tantalizing fare in The Shed from Smokey G's BBQ and Geisha Girls Sushi.

Smokey G's and Geisha Girls are open Wednesday through Sunday from Noon to 8 p.m.



SPECIAL EVENTS • WINTER 2023

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

January 6-8

Fire and Ice Festival, presented by Bedrock

January 20-22

Winter around the World, presented by Visit Detroit

February 3-5

Motown Love, presented by Bedrock

February 17-19

Mardi Gras at Valade



For a full listing of events, dates, times, and other information, visit detroitriverfront.org/winteratvalade

WINTER WELLNESS WEEKENDS • 2023

SATURDAY

Polar Power Walk

January 14, January 28,
February 11, February 25
from 11 a.m. to Noon

Winter Hustle

January 14, January 28,
February 11, February 25
from 1 to 3 p.m.



SUNDAY

Pack Walk with Canine to Five

January 15 and February 12
from 10:30 a.m. to Noon

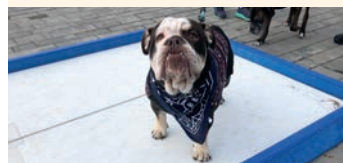
Riverfront Walking Tour

January 29 and February 26
from 1 to 2 p.m.

Self Care Sunday Stroll

January 15, January 29,
February 12, February 26
from 2 to 3 p.m.

To learn more and register for these free programs, visit detroitriverfront.org/winteratvalade_winterwellnessweekends



Add a moment of mindfulness and reflection to your day with Riverfront Reflections from Inner Explorer. Scan the QR code to explore audio recordings for all ages and a mindful scavenger hunt.

Riverfrontreflections.org

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

PRESENTED BY

Friends of Robert C. Valade Park

FIRE & ICE FESTIVAL
WEEKEND SPONSOR



WINTER AROUND THE WORLD
WEEKEND SPONSOR



MOTOWN LOVE
WEEKEND SPONSOR



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RIVERFRONT MAP

1 Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park

Opening in 2024

See page 14.

2 Hart Plaza

1 Hart Plaza



3 GM Plaza

300 Atwater Street



4 Cullen Plaza

See page 9.

5 Dequindre Cut

See page 13.

6 Milliken State Park & Harbor and the Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC)

1900 Atwater Street (State Park)

1801 Atwater Street (OAC)



7 Aretha Franklin Amphitheatre

2600 Atwater Street

8 Robert C. Valade Park

See page 10.

9 Mt. Elliott Park

See page 11.

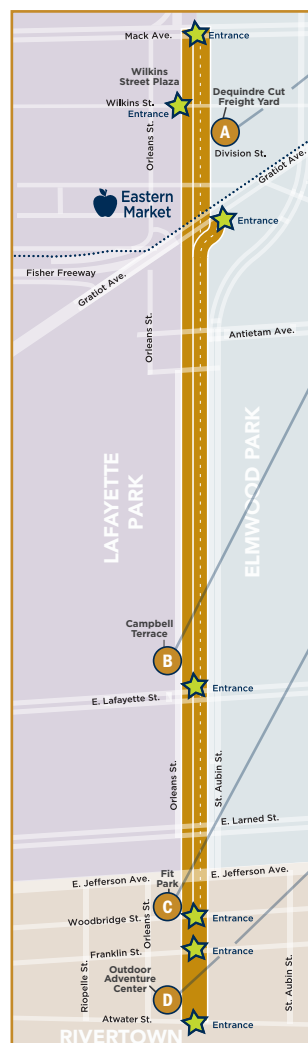
10 Gabriel Richard Park

See page 12.

11 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
- Diamond Jack Boat Tours
- Glass map of St. Lawrence Seaway
- In-laid granite map of riverfront
- Bank of America Playscape
- Cullen Family Carousel
- Bike repair station
- Reflecting fountains
- Riverfront Café and Tiki Bar
- 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
- Bob's Barge
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:
4-9PM, Saturday: 12-9PM,
Sunday 12-7PM
- Smokey G's BBQ and
Geisha Girls Sushi
Wednesday-Sunday: 11AM-8PM
- Community barbecue pavilion
- Restrooms and drinking fountains

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.

AMENITIES

- Free parking
- Plaza and partially covered pavilion with seating
- Gilbert Family Schooner
- Fishing outlooks
- Bike repair station
- MoGo station
- Grassy picnic areas
- Restrooms and drinking fountains
- On-site security office

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 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

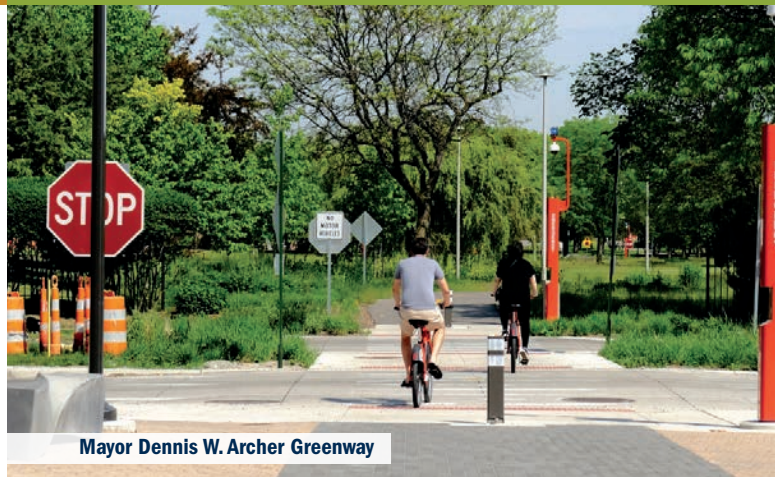
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Fit Park (Woodbridge entrance)
- Commissioned murals by local artists
- David Campbell Memorial Terrace (Lafayette entrance)
- Dequindre Cut Freight Yard Beer & Wine Garden (Wilkins entrance)
- MoGo station
- Bike repair station



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 the end of 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.

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 2024.

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



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.

Interested in volunteering your time? The Conservancy has numerous volunteer opportunities available.

Visit detroitriverfront.org/ways-to-help



Help make a better #DetroitRiverWalk.

Scan this QR code to provide feedback on your most recent visit.

DETROIT RIVERFRONT CONSERVANCY

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