Winter at
ROBERT C. VALADE PARK
DETROIT

2020 ACTIVITY BOOK
GREETINGS FROM THE DETROIT RIVERFRONT!

This winter, we look forward to seeing you experience the Detroit Riverfront in new and exciting ways. Over the past year, our team has quickly adapted to provide places and programs where our community could #BeApartTogether on the Riverfront and Dequindre Cut. We’ll continue to be that place for you even in the colder months.

Winter on the riverfront will be a place where children can play, couples can enjoy an outdoor date night, and seniors can see loved ones from a safe social distance. While you’re here at Robert C. Valade Park, borrow a sled from the Sled Shed, warm up around a fire pit, or try your hand at some of our winter games. When you see one of our volunteers, be sure to ask about hand warmers and gloves.

Check out the games, fun riverfront facts, coloring sheets and excursions on the following pages and use the activities in this booklet to curate your own exciting riverfront adventure. Be sure to tag @DetroitRiverfront and use #DetroitRiverfront to share your experience.

Enjoy,

Mark Wallace
President & CEO
THE DETROIT RIVERFRONT PHOTO CHALLENGE

Hey riverfront friends and welcome to the Detroit Riverfront Photo Challenge! Complete the activities below and have plenty of fun. Take photos of your adventures at each park and share them in one post using the hashtag #DetroitRiverfront.

Pose near the Cullen Family Carousel and show off your most creative shot.

Explore the views from the Detroit Riverwalk at Gabriel Richard Park.

Take a beat and have a winter-themed picnic at Robert C. Valade Park.

Take a selfie by the Being Apart Together mural on the Dequindre Cut, showing off your favorite face mask.

Get a shot of yourself sledding on the hill at Robert C. Valade Park.
DID YOU KNOW?
With Dr. John Hartig

Many people feel fish flies are a nuisance because they often create large swarms near the water. They are given their name because of the fishy smell emitted when they get stepped on or are decaying after they have died. Biologists call them mayflies because they are most often found in May. They are actually a good indicator of ecosystem health. So when you see large numbers of them, remember they provide evidence that our river is healthier.

VALADE PARK I-SPY
Can you find the items below?

☐ A musical instrument
☐ An area fit for sledding
☐ Something bright orange
☐ A place to roast marshmallows
☐ Something with wings
☐ A grill
Visit our two-mile greenway and enjoy the unique art on the Dequindre Cut. Share a photo of your favorite mural and be sure to tag @DetroitRiverfront.

1: Sydney James, 2018
2: Alex Senna, 2017
3: Freddy Diaz, 2019
4: Malt, 2009
5: Fel300ft, 2012
6: Mike Han, 2013
7: Shades, 2013
8: Kristin Adamczyk & Ouizi, 2014
9: Hygienic Dress League, 2014
10: Malt, 2012
11: Senghor Reid, 2016
13: W.C. Bevan, 2017
14: Freddy Diaz, 2020
15: Ellen Rutt, 2014
16: Hygienic Dress League, 2014
17: Malt, 2012

DID YOU KNOW?
With Dr. John Hartig

At one time Atwater Street was literally at the water. Prior to the Great Fire of 1805, the Detroit River shoreline was three tenths of a mile inland from where it is today. By 1889, the river had been filled with earth and timber framing to create new wharf facilities at the expense of wetland and riparian habitats.
MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER SNOWFLAKES

1. Start with a square piece of paper and fold in half diagonally to make a triangle.

2. Fold paper triangle in half so the pointed corners meet.

3. Fold paper triangle in thirds, overlapping the lefthand pointed corner over the triangle.

4. Overlap the righthand pointed corner over the triangle. You may need to adjust these folds to get the sides to match up, so don’t crease the paper until the folds are just right.

5. Trim the pointed ends.

6. Cut your folded paper with variations of cutouts. Get creative and make your own patterns! Tip: Patterns with straight lines are easier to make than the ones with curvy lines.

7. Gently unfold your snowflake. Don’t worry if it isn’t exact. No two snowflakes are ever alike!
Hard shorelines use steel sheet pile walls, concrete sea walls, or breakwaters to stabilize the shoreline for commerce and industry, but they provide no habitat for fish or wildlife. Soft shorelines use rock and plant material to stabilize the shoreline, enhance habitat, and improve aesthetics. The Detroit RiverWalk has five locations with soft engineering. Keep your eyes peeled.

DID YOU KNOW?
With Dr. John Hartig

They heard an exciting sound and ___________________________ towards it. They noticed it was coming from ___________________________.

They joined the fun and started ___________________________ with everyone else.

Afterwards, they looked at the Detroit River and were happy to see a ___________________________. They waved and yelled "________________________!". And they thought to themselves, "another __________________________ day along the Detroit RiverWalk."

The End.
RIVERFRONT BIRD BINGO

Grab a friend and have a physically distanced bird watching adventure!
From our friends at the Detroit Audubon Society
4 THINGS...

I bring to the Riverwalk:
1. ..............................................
2. ..............................................
3. ..............................................
4. ..............................................

I’d like to try this winter:
1. ..............................................
2. ..............................................
3. ..............................................
4. ..............................................

DETOUR RIVERFRONT
THIS OR THAT

WALK OR BIKE
NATURE OR URBAN
EAST OR WEST
ADVENTURE OR RELAX
AUTUMN OR SPRING
RIVERWALK OR THE CUT
MEDITATE OR MUSIC
MORNINGS OR LATE NIGHTS

Share your preferences and tag @DetroitRiverfront on Instagram!
COLOR THESE LOCAL SPECIES

MONARCH BUTTERFLY

BALD EAGLE

RAINBOW TROUT

MALLARDS
From 1961 to 1987 there were no bald eagles produced in Metropolitan Detroit due primarily to organochlorine contamination. Since 1991, there has been a steady increase in the number of occupied bald eagle nests that now produce 28 or more young per year, including Belle Isle and Peche Isle at the head of the Detroit River. When you are on the Detroit RiverWalk, keep watch for our American Symbol.

DID YOU KNOW?
With Dr. John Hartig

APPLE CRISP
The perfect Michigan autumn dessert from our DRFC Volunteer, Frank Ford

INGREDIENTS
Approx 12 apples, cored & peeled, slice each quarter into about three slices
1 cup sugar
Approx 1/2 cup butter, softened
3/4 cup pastry flour
1 tsp cinnamon
1 tsp ground nutmeg
1 tsp ground ginger

INSTRUCTIONS
Place apple slices in a dish. You want enough apples so they cover the bottom of the dish with three or more layers of apple slices.

Mix together sugar, flour, cinnamon, nutmeg, and ginger. Add the butter and work the mixture with a pastry blender or your fingertips. Pat it into slabs about a quarter of an inch or so thick. Put the slabs over the apples so they are one continuous sheet of topping.

Put it in the oven at a temperature of 350-400 for 45-60 min. Bake it to the point that the topping gets pretty solid, but not as hard as peanut brittle.

You can serve it warm. After it cools, put it in the refrigerator. If the topping is too hard, you can break it with a knife.

The original recipe from my mother says it serves 6-8, but I put in more apples than her recipe calls for. On the other hand, if we’re talking my size of servings, not so many!

(Acknowledgement: I got the recipe from my mother, but I have revised it. So if you don’t like the way it turns out, blame me!)
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 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 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

DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Sturgeon are called a “living dinosaur” because they thrived 136 million years ago when dinosaurs were at their peak. During the 1800s and early 1900s, fisherman killed them in favor of more desirable lake whitefish, we destroyed much of their spawning and nursery habitats through building the shipping channels, and we even burned them as a fuel source in the boilers of steam ships. They are now back reproducing in the river because of cleaner water and nine sturgeon spawning reefs. Remember, if the river is cleaner for sturgeon, it is cleaner for you and me.

With Dr. John Hartig
Visit DetroitRiverfront.org/things-to-do for a full calendar of Winter 2020 events & programs.

This activity booklet and all winter programs are made possible thanks to gifts from donors like you. Visit DetroitRiverfront.org/give to learn more about how you can support our important work.

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Visit DetroitRiverfront.org/things-to-do for a full calendar of Winter 2020 events & programs.

/W DetroitRiverfrontConservancy
/ @DetroitRiverfront
/ @DetroitRvrfrnt

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