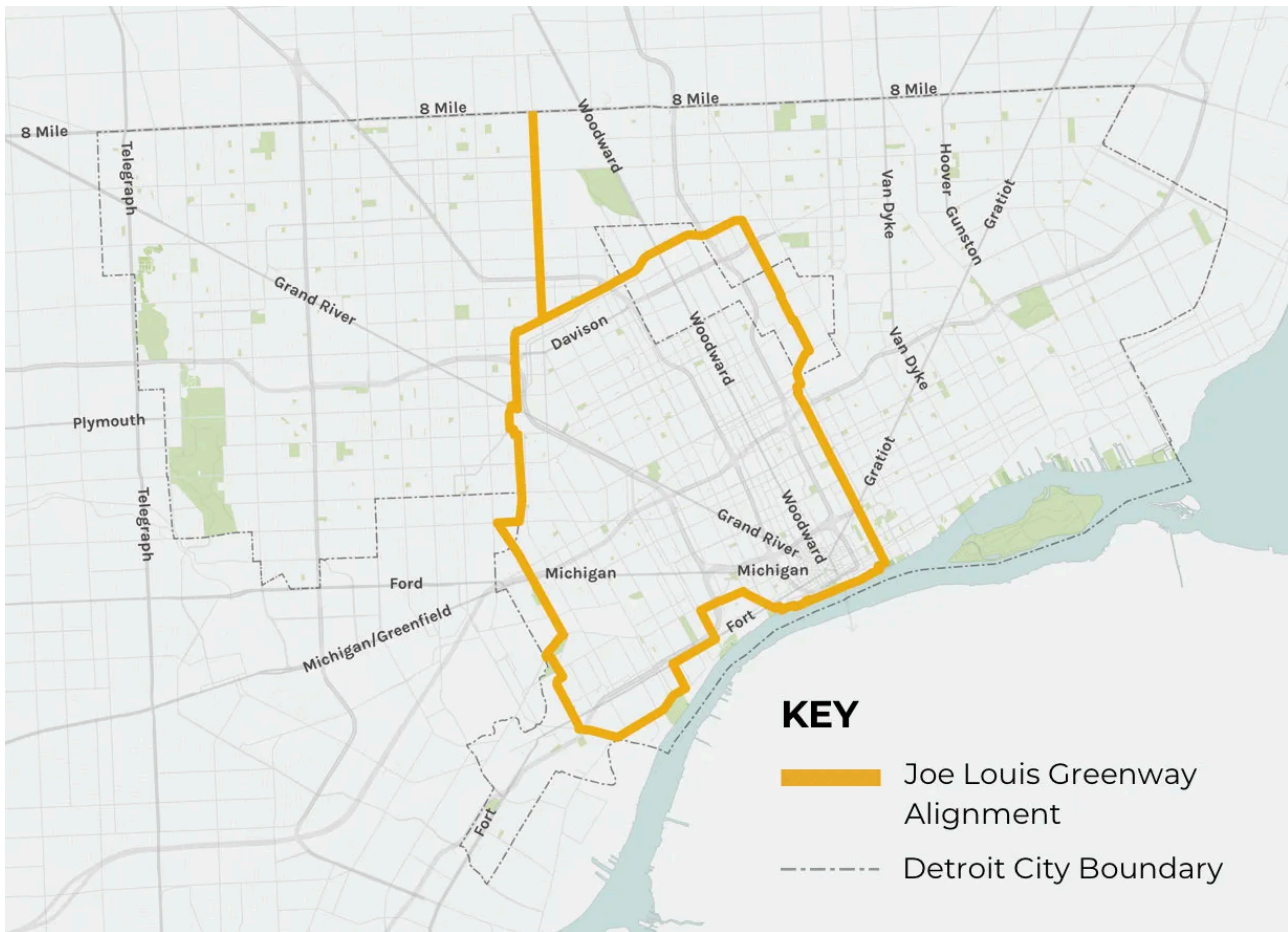


Joe Louis Greenway



City of Detroit map

The 27.5 mile **Joe Louis Greenway** is a planned biking and walking trail that extends from the Detroit Riverfront to Highland Park, Dearborn, and Hamtramck. It also includes connectors along Livernois and McNichols. The Joe Louis Greenway will include the Dequindre Cut and portions of the Detroit RiverWalk, as well as portions of the planned [Iron Belle Trail](https://detroitgreenways.org/projects/iron-belle-trail/) and [Southwest Greenway](https://detroitgreenways.org/projects/may-creek-greenway/).

When completed, it will provide a place for people of all abilities to safely walk, bike, and run while connecting neighborhoods, parks,

schools, jobs, historic sites, commercial corridors and public transit.

This greenway concept began with the Friends of the Inner Circle Greenway in 2007 and became part of the Detroit Greenways Coalition Network Vision in 2009. Using other existing trails and plans, the Coalition modified the routing, advocated for its development, and worked closely with the city of Detroit. In 2017, Mayor Mike Duggan announced plans to rename the Inner Circle Greenway after legendary boxer and Detroiter, Joe Louis.

The City of Detroit is acquiring 7.5 miles of abandoned Conrail railroad property using grants from [Michigan's Natural Resources Trust Fund < https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79134_81684_79209_81657---,00.html >](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-350-79134_81684_79209_81657---,00.html) and MDOT. This railroad property, formerly the Detroit Terminal Railroad will become the northern and western part of the Joe Louis Greenway loop. For those who have experienced the Dequindre Cut it's hard not to be super excited about 7.5 more miles of former railroad property becoming a non-motorized greenway.

In 2017, the [Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation < http://www.ralphwilsonjrfoundation.org/ >](http://www.ralphwilsonjrfoundation.org/) awarded \$2 million to the City of Detroit to develop a framework plan and construction drawings for the project. In October of 2018 the city sought proposals to produce the framework plan. The [City of Detroit announced < https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/news/2019-03/2019_02_06_consultant%20team.pdf >](https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/news/2019-03/2019_02_06_consultant%20team.pdf) in March of 2019 that the SmithGroup team was selected for the project. An [advisory council has also been created < https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/news/2019-03/2019_03_15_Advisory%20Council_0.pdf >](https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/news/2019-03/2019_03_15_Advisory%20Council_0.pdf), comprised of community members from each Detroit City Council Districts impacted by the route.

What's a Framework Plan?

The Framework Plan is way of gathering community input and evaluating existing conditions before creating any final designs. It will:

- Consider at existing land uses in the half-mile corridor on either side of the Greenway.

- Include recommendations for land use, zoning, wayfinding and green infrastructure such as natural landscaping and effective stormwater management techniques.
- Determine the trail's alignment, access points, connections to nearby destinations, trails, public transit, and the new Gordie Howe International Bridge.
- Identify the best pedestrian and bicycle design practices that make up a signature greenway.
- Determine a phasing and implementation plan.

Community input will be an important part of this framework planning process. The greenway must reflect the needs and desires of the local communities through which it passes. Certainly many communities have issues and priorities that do not include a new trail, e.g. safety, blight, dumping, empty storefronts. This project may be an opportunity to get those issues addressed as well. This project is much more than just a trail. It's an opportunity to bring additional investment and attention to the neighborhoods.

When will it get built?

The city of Detroit will finalize the design once the framework planning is complete sometime in 2020. The [Detroit Strategic Plan for Transportation < https://detroitmi.gov/document/detroit-strategic-plan-transportation >](https://detroitmi.gov/document/detroit-strategic-plan-transportation) sets the following benchmarks to be completed by 2022:

- Construct the next phase of the Joe Louis Greenway
- Implement on-street sections of the Joe Louis Greenway through Road Bond Complete Streets projects

Mayor Duggan has committed \$20 million to build the first phase of the greenway. The rest of the required funding has not yet been identified, but there are many other potential philanthropic, state, and federal grants available. For instance, the Wilson Foundation has pledged \$40 million in funding for regional trail construction, which includes the Joe Louis Greenway.

City of Detroit web page

[www.joelouisgreenway.com](http://joelouisgreenway.com) < <http://joelouisgreenway.com> >

Jos Campau Construction

The City of Detroit is resurfacing Joseph Campau between Carpenter Avenue and E. McNichols. This is an on-road section of the Greenway and will get a protected two-way cycle track, as well as improved pedestrian crossings and raised bus boarding islands.

Previous Updates

[News from the Trail – May 2022 < https://detroitgreenways.org/news-from-the-trail-may-2022/>](https://detroitgreenways.org/news-from-the-trail-may-2022/)

[News from the Trail – February 2022 < https://detroitgreenways.org/news-from-the-trail-february-2022/>](https://detroitgreenways.org/news-from-the-trail-february-2022/)

[News from the Trail – November 2021 < https://detroitgreenways.org/news-from-the-trail-november-2021/>](https://detroitgreenways.org/news-from-the-trail-november-2021/)

[News from the Trail – May 2021 < https://detroitgreenways.org/news-from-the-trail-may-2021/>](https://detroitgreenways.org/news-from-the-trail-may-2021/)

[News from the Trail – April 2021 < https://detroitgreenways.org/news-from-the-trail-april-2021/>](https://detroitgreenways.org/news-from-the-trail-april-2021/)



A typical trail design

Additional Reading

- **[Inner Circle Greenway brochure](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kWKxIL_oFE1LPZ_LTvOMBKAzMmY8BYTV/view?usp=sharing)** < https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kWKxIL_oFE1LPZ_LTvOMBKAzMmY8BYTV/view?usp=sharing>, April 2008
- **[606 Trail in Chicago](https://www.the606.org/resources/final-design-plans/the-framework-plan/)** < <https://www.the606.org/resources/final-design-plans/the-framework-plan/>>, Chicago Department of Transportation, 2012
- **[TIGER Discretionary Grant Application](https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBwQ-G4AXAw1mdWVvRHd3eXpjOGc/view?usp=sharing)** < <https://drive.google.com/file/d/oBwQ-G4AXAw1mdWVvRHd3eXpjOGc/view?usp=sharing>>, City of Detroit, 2015
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- **[Inner Circle Greenway: Ambassador and Signage Strategies for Community Engagement](https://drive.google.com/file/d/18R2y3aZH7owh7NVfGe9LNxVPQBEDgSIH/view?usp=sharing)** < <https://drive.google.com/file/d/18R2y3aZH7owh7NVfGe9LNxVPQBEDgSIH/view?usp=sharing>>, University of Detroit Mercy Master of Community Development, 2016 (49 megabyte PDF)
- **[Measuring the Impact of The 606: Understanding How a Large Public Investment Impacted the Surrounding Community](https://www.housingstudies.org/research-publications/publications/measuring-impact-606/)** < <https://www.housingstudies.org/research-publications/publications/measuring-impact-606/>>, Institute for Housing Studies at DePaul University, November 2016
- **[City to Acquire Conrail Railroad Property, the Largest Gap in Inner Circle Greenway](http://www.detroitmi.gov/News/ArticleID/1369/City-to-Acquire-Conrail-Railroad-Property-the-Largest-Gap-in-Inner-Circle-Greenway)** < <http://www.detroitmi.gov/News/ArticleID/1369/City-to-Acquire-Conrail-Railroad-Property-the-Largest-Gap-in-Inner-Circle-Greenway>>, City of Detroit, June 2017
- **[City Awarded \\$2 Million Wilson Foundation Grant For Inner Circle Greenway Design and Pre-Construction](http://www.detroitmi.gov/News/ArticleID/1384/City-Awarded-2-Million-Wilson-Foundation-Grant-For-Inner-Circle-Greenway-Design-and-Pre-Construction)** < <http://www.detroitmi.gov/News/ArticleID/1384/City-Awarded-2-Million-Wilson-Foundation-Grant-For-Inner-Circle-Greenway-Design-and-Pre-Construction>>

[Million-Wilson-Foundation-Grant-For-Inner-Circle-Greenway-Design-and-Pre-Construction](#), City of Detroit, July 2017

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- **[An Equestrian Center along the Joe Louis Greenway?](#)** < <https://detroitgreenways.org/an-equestrian-center-along-the-joe-louis-greenway/> >, Detroit Greenways Coalition, November 2018
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- **[Can Detroit's Joe Louis Greenway avoid gentrification?](#)** < <https://planetdetroit.org/2020/12/can-detroits-joe-louis->

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