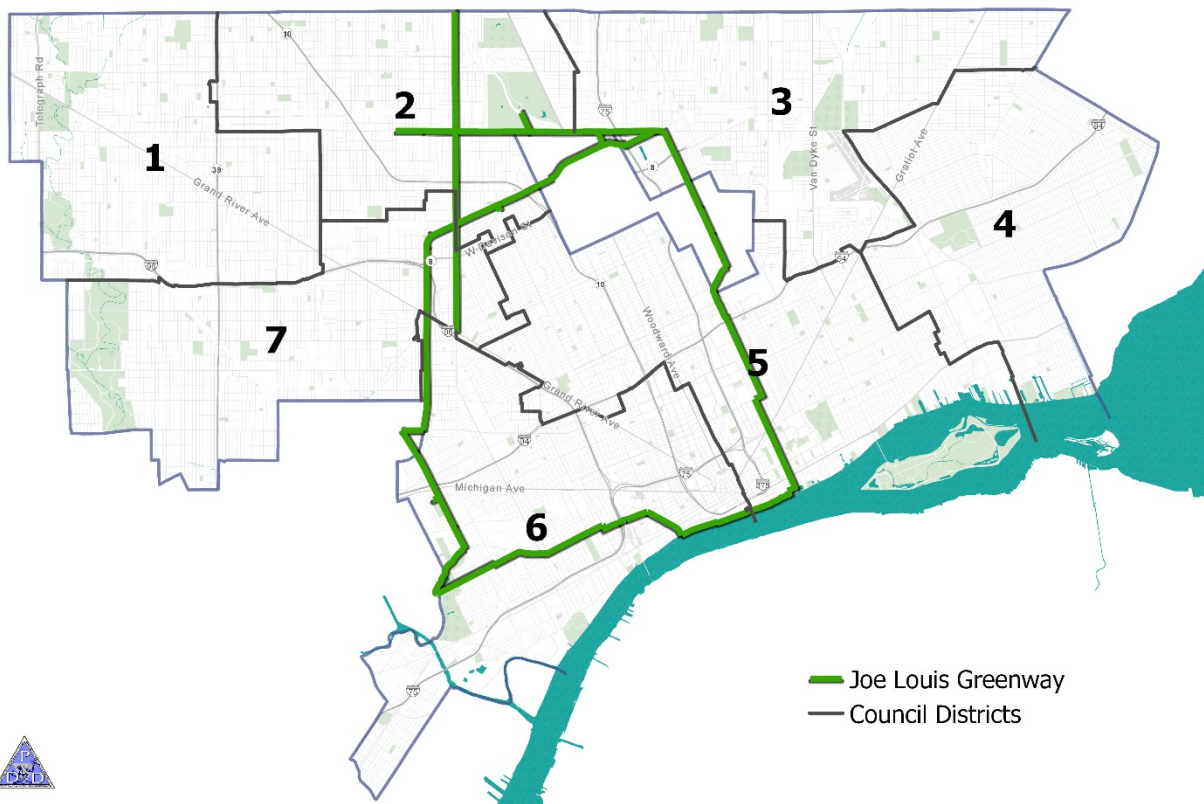


## JOE LOUIS GREENWAY FRAMEWORK TEAM AND ADVISORY COUNCIL SELECTED

### Joe Louis Greenway

The Joe Louis Greenway, 31.5-mile recreational pathway will connect neighborhoods across the city, allowing residents to travel safely from 8 Mile to the riverfront, all without a car. In 2017, Mayor Mike Duggan announced plans to name the pathway after legendary boxer and Detroit, Joe Louis. The Greenway project will be a combination of new trails, on-street protected bike lanes, and links to existing trails like the Dequindre Cut and the riverfront, providing a safe and efficient loop around the city. The project will connect neighborhoods previously separated by freeways and industrial areas, and will touch the neighboring cities of Dearborn, Hamtramck and Highland Park and link to larger trail systems that crisscross the entire state. The Greenway also traverses 5 Council Districts.

The Joe Louis Greenway Framework Plan will include the final alignment of the Greenway, connections and access points, effective storm water management techniques and connections to local arts culture and history. The Framework Plan will be comprised of the best pedestrian and bicycle design practices developed from extensive community engagement. Below is a conceptual image of the Joe Louis Greenway.



### Stakeholder Meet and Greet

On Friday, January 18, 2019, the City of Detroit invited key stakeholders of the Joe Louis Greenway to a special 'Meet and Greet' at the Belle Isle Conservancy with the two finalist consultant teams for the Framework Plan, SmithGroup and Spackman Mossop Michaels. Both consultant teams submitted strong and creative proposals, showing a clear understanding of the benefits the Joe Louis Greenway will provide residents. The finalists introduced their team and provided boards describing their proposals. A total of 46

people attended the event, excluding the consultant teams. Participants were encouraged to ask finalists questions about their Framework proposals and experience working in the City of Detroit.



### Community Meeting

On Saturday, January 19, 2019, the City of Detroit invited residents to participate in kick-off meetings with the two finalist consultant teams aspiring to be selected to plan the Joe Louis Greenway Project. In spite of snowy roads, approximately 110 residents came to voice their dreams and concerns for the future of the Joe Louis Greenway. SmithGroup and Spackman Mossop Michaels brought their best community engagement techniques and presented strong showings of the quality of their teams' expertise.



Following an in-depth process and input from the community meetings, the SmithGroup team was selected to work with the city and community to complete the greenway planning process. The SmithGroup team provides a unique combination of national design expertise, technical research and innovation, local roots and knowledge, and artistic and cultural expression. As team leader and designer of the Dequindre Cut and Detroit Riverwalk, Detroit-based SmithGroup brings deep local understanding paired with design vision that results in meaningful experiences. The team is rounded out by Toole Design, nationally recognized for creating greenway networks centered around people; Sidewalk Detroit, harnessing the art and culture to engage residents in an authentic way; Studio Incognita, building soulful graphic design and messaging strategies; and HR&A Advisors, industry-leading economic development and public policy firm highlighting the value of public open space.

The team's drive to make connections to the community and to channel the passion, commitment, and perspective of Detroiters into the design was evident in how the team engaged with participants in the Saturday events. Ryan Myers-Johnson, from Sidewalk Detroit, referenced her own childhood growing up in Detroit neighborhoods, when she saw Detroit as a green city with fields and trees – not a city of vacancy. The JLG is a chance to rethink Detroit's relationship to green space and get better connected to nature, neighborhoods, jobs, and each other. Sidewalk Detroit will lead the community engagement process:



*"We employ a method of personal and interactive public engagement that empowers and uplifts residents. Our process is rooted in intimate connection, deep engagement and meaningful collaborations with community that capture their values, insights and priorities - critical components in building equitable spaces that service and excite the community."*

- Ryan Myers-Johnson, Executive Director, Sidewalk Detroit

## **Advisory Council**

Construction of the full 31.5 miles of the Joe Louis Greenway will be a lengthy process, which will take multiple years to complete. The Greenway will be built in phases dependent on the availability of funding. An advisory council has been created, comprised of community members from each Detroit City Council District impacted by the route. Smith Group, the consulting firm responsible for developing the Framework Plan, will work closely with the advisory council to ensure residents needs and expectations are properly being addressed in the Plan. The advisory council will continue to inform the General Services Department about residents' concerns throughout the construction, long after the Framework Plan is complete, and communicate closely with their networks about the Joe Louis Greenway progress. We would like to introduce you to the Joe Louis Greenway Advisory Council:



## District 2



Presently, I am the President of the Board of Directors of People for Palmer Park and one of the founding board members of the organization. I became involved 6-7 years ago when there was a threatened closure to Palmer Park. Our organization formed to assure preservation, beautification and reactivation of Palmer Park. In the past, I have served on the Palmer Woods Association Board (10 years) and for four of those years, I was the President of the Board; also served on the PW Preservation Committee as co-chair. The Joe Louis Greenway is a path to future development of green space and healthy living in Detroit. My utmost goal is to assure the Greenway makes it way to and through Palmer Park, as well as, benefiting the neighborhoods that surround and border the park.

## District 3



My name is Victoria Griffin. I am a lifelong Detroit Resident, community advocate and activist, 3 year breast cancer survivor, and mother of 2 sons. I earned my Bachelor of Arts in Finance at Wayne State University and a MBA from the University of Detroit. My current affiliations include Transfiguration, Davison/Campau/Banglatown Neighborhood Association Member, School RFP Selection Committee, Cancer Action Council Detroit, Sisters Network Detroit and Women of AT&T. Detroit has long suffered from segregation this will be a way to start integration. The Joe Louis Greenway will be a way to connect neighborhoods and communities, promote exercise, and increase resident's health in a safe environment. I will be able to ride my bike to work...WOOHOO!!!

## District 5



My name is Ashia Phillips I am the C.E.O And Co. Founder of the D Town Riders b/c. I volunteer with several groups in our community such as Forgotten Harvest, Burners without Borders, Free Bikes for Kidz, and many more.

The Joe Louis Greenway means to me safe travels through new scenery, more jobs, cleaner air, and having fun with friends and family. I'm so excited to be a part of this Advisory Committee because I want the best for my city and my community. This project is very important to me because I ride bikes and lead rides so not only am I safe, but also my riders.

## District 6



My name is Ru Shann Long. I was born and raised in Detroit. I'm married to a Detroiters and we've raised our children and now we're helping to raise our grandchildren in the city of Detroit. I've lived in my neighborhood since 1962, that's 56 years. We've stayed in Detroit through the good, bad, ugly and now hope of rebirth and rebuilding because we love Detroit. I am committed, through my involvement with our neighborhood community organizations, City officials and residents, to making our part of Detroit a better place to live. I'm a member of Midwest Civic Council of Block Clubs, Board Member of the Midwest Civic Council of Block Club Non-Profit, Midwest Blight Task Force, Unity Baptist Church and actively involved with our District 6 City Council Member R. Lopez, District 6 District Manager Ms. N. Cancel and other Community and Church groups. I'm so excited about the Joe Louis Greenway Path project and what it will not only bring to my neighborhood but the entire City now and in the future. It is an honor to be a part of the Advisory Committee and to have the opportunity to have input on this project. I look forward to bike riding and walking with my family in our neighborhood on the Joe Louis Greenway Path.

## District 7



I am a lifelong Detroiters and founder of Detroit Aint Violent Its Safe (DAVIS) a nonprofit organization helping to develop internal neighborhood greenways throughout communities in Detroit. I have been active in my community by leading thousands of volunteers in various cleanup activities involving vacant homes, blighted streets and alleyways.

The Joe Lewis Greenway not only helps more residents in our community commute throughout our city but it also drives more traffic to Detroit neighborhoods inviting new and talented families.

We promote healthy outdoor activity and this creates endless opportunities for our youth in our communities. I am excited to be a part of this council to utilize my community engagement skills but to also be a clear example to others in my community to never give up on their dreams.

## Project Scope & Timeline

In early 2020 the City of Detroit will finalize the greenway plan which will include recommendations for land use and zoning, green infrastructure, connections to public assets such as parks, wayfinding, and thoughtful intersection with local and regional multi-modal transportation routes such as the Iron Belle Trail, DDOT and SMART bus networks, and the new Gordie Howe Bridge.

Community engagement will continue through construction of the project, keeping residents fully informed at each step of the process. Construction of the Joe Louis Greenway is expected to begin by 2020.

The plan will be comprised of the best pedestrian and bicycle design practices developed from extensive community engagement. Under the guidance of city's General Services Department, the SmithGroup team will review existing conditions of the path, determine alignment and access points, develop a phasing and implementation plan, incorporate effective stormwater management techniques and create a signature greenway connected to local arts, culture and history.

The design process will begin thereafter, following the completion of the plan. This process will explore ways to honor Joe Louis and his legacy throughout the JLG, including possible murals and other art installations throughout the city.

### **Project Partners & Funding**

The idea for the JLG has been more than 15 years in the making, with partners ranging from community leaders to nonprofits, such as the Detroit Greenways Coalition, and foundations, such as the Kresge Foundation and Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan. In 2018, the City of Detroit reached an agreement to purchase the largest gap in the proposed 'Greenway' from Conrail, a 7.5 mile stretch of land that ran along the historic Detroit Terminal Railroad.

The city was also awarded a \$2 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation that will be used to develop comprehensive design and construction plans for the unconstructed segments of the Joe Louis Greenway, as well as an overarching plan that incorporates the half-mile corridor to either side of the Greenway itself.

### **Mailing List**

Want to receive updates about the Joe Louis Greenway? To be added to the Joe Louis Greenway mailing list, please send an email to (email to be set up by Communications Department).