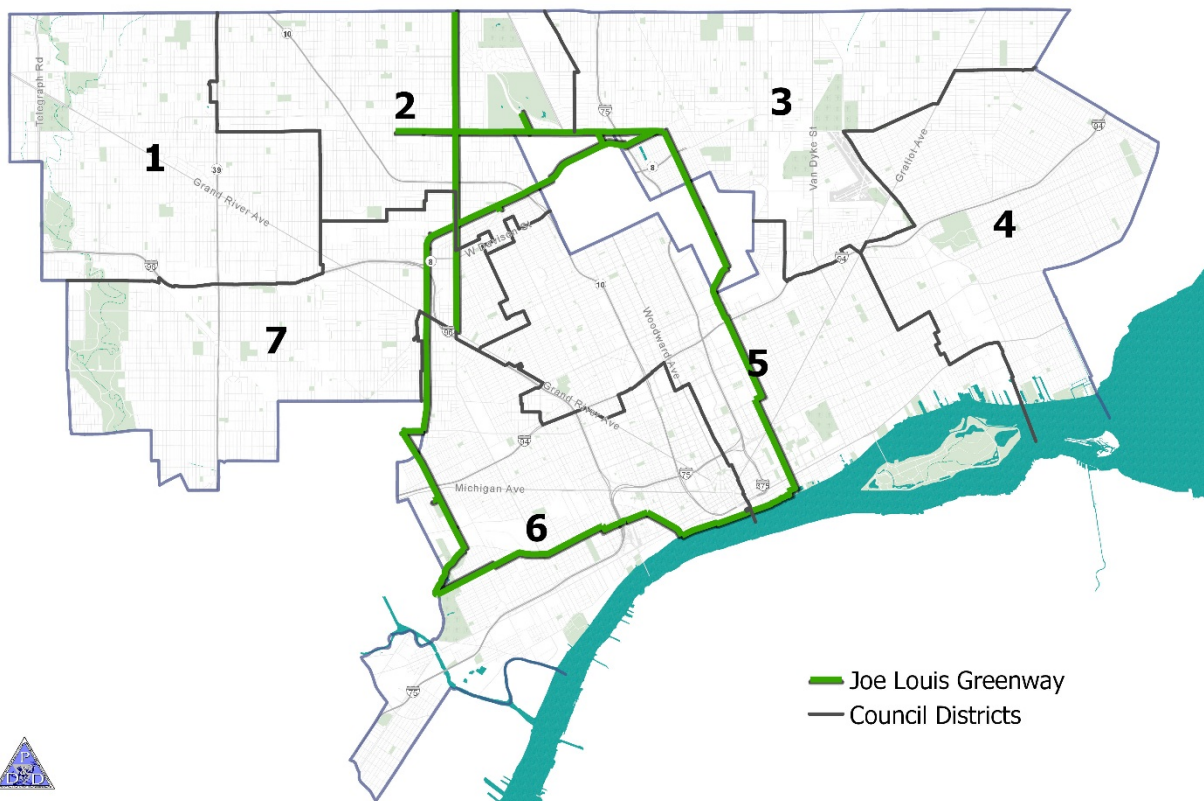


## JOE LOUIS GREENWAY FRAMEWORK CONSULTANT TEAM SELECTED

### Joe Louis Greenway

The idea for the Joe Louis Greenway 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 Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation, Kresge Foundation and Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan. Named after legendary boxer and Detroiter, the Greenway is a 31.5-mile recreational pathway that will connect parks and neighborhoods across the city, allowing residents to travel safely from 8 Mile to the riverfront, all without a car. 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 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 linking them to larger trail systems that crisscross the entire state. The Greenway also pass through 5 Council Districts. “Connecting Detroiters is at the heart of this project.” Says Councilman Scott Benson, “Creating ways in which residents can not only get around the city better but be reintroduced to neighborhoods, patronize businesses, and have access to job opportunities is what I am all for. “



### Framework Plan

The City was awarded a \$2 million grant from the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation which is currently funding the Framework Plan for the unconstructed segments of the Joe Louis Greenway. The Framework

Plan will include the final alignment of the Greenway, connections and access points, 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. It 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. The community engagement process will explore ways to honor Joe Louis and his legacy throughout the greenway, including possible murals and other art installations throughout the city. The Framework will be completed early 2020.

### **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 those meetings, SmithGroup was selected to work with the city and community to complete the greenway framework planning process. SmithGroup has extensive experience in this area of design also being responsible for designing the Dequindre Cut and Detroit Riverwalk. 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

The Joe Louis Greenway Framework will be completed early 2020. A phasing plan and funding strategy will be developed through the Framework Plan. Final construction of the full Joe Louis Greenway will be determined by funding opportunities.