



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA
556 W MAPLE
Thursday, August 4, 2022
5:00 PM**

Mission Statement: *The Birmingham Museum will explore meaningful connections with our past, in order to enrich our community and enhance its character and sustainability. Our mission is to promote understanding of Birmingham's historical and cultural legacy through preservation and interpretation of its ongoing story.*

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of June 2, 2022

4. Unfinished Business

- A. Underground Railroad commemorative event-update
- B. Museum window project-update
- C. Hunter House painting and interpretation-update

5. New Business

- A. ADA Parking/pond zone final design and planning
- B. Find-a-Grave digital files acquisition

6. Communication and Reports

- A. Director Report
- B. Member comments
- C. Public comments

7. Next Meeting: September 1, 2022

8. Adjournment

NOTICE: Individuals with disabilities requiring accommodations for effective participation in this meeting should contact the city clerk's office at (248) 530-1880 (voice), or (248) 644-5115 (TDD) at least one day in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. *APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MUSEUM BOARD MEETINGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE AND ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT www.bhamgov.org.* City of Birmingham, 151 Martin, Birmingham, MI 48009; 248.530.1800. Persons with disabilities that may require assistance for effective participation in this public meeting should contact the City Clerk's Office at the number (248) 530-1880, or (248) 644-5115 (for the hearing impaired) at least one day before the meeting to request help in mobility, visual, hearing, or other assistance.

Las personas con incapacidad que requieren algún tipo de ayuda para la participación en esta sesión pública deben ponerse en contacto con la oficina del escribano de la ciudad en el número (248) 530-1800 o al (248) 644-5115 (para las personas con incapacidad auditiva) por lo menos un día antes de la reunión para solicitar ayuda a la movilidad, visual, auditiva, o de otras asistencias. (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964).



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MUSEUM BOARD MEETING
556 W. Maple
Thursday, June 2, 2022
5:00 PM**

Members Present: Kristy Barrett, Bev Erickson, Alexandra Harris, Marty Logue

Members Absent: Pat Hughes, Judith Keefer, Caitlin Rosso, Jay Shell

Student Members: Jordan Snyder-Phillipoff

Administration: Museum Director Leslie Pielack,

Guests: None

Chairperson Logue called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes
Minutes of May 5, 2022**

MOTION: by Logue, seconded by Barrett:

To approve the minutes of May 5, 2022.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Unfinished Business

Updates for the status of the **Heritage Plant Exchange** included the following:

- Promotion
 - In addition to previous promotion, Ms. Harris has distributed flyers to neighbors, the DPS Open House, the Farmers Market, and City Hall
 - The City's Engage Birmingham site shows quite a bit of activity at the page in the last few days
 - A banner sign has been displayed for the past week and a half on the porch of the museum
- Staffing/personnel
 - Ms. Snyder will be on hand to assist and take photos
 - All four museum staff will be on hand for Allen House and Hunter House visitors and to assist outdoors as needed-tour admission will apply
 - Mr. Shell, Ms. Keefer, Ms. Harris, and Ms. Barrett will be on site
- Other
 - Plants for the museum garden will be set in the plot against the sign and mulched until DPS can plant them Monday or Tuesday

Updates for the **Underground Railroad Commemoration Event** included the following:

- The following speakers have been confirmed
 - **Marty Logue** as Emcee and Museum Board Representative
 - **George Getschman, Jacquie Patt, and Donna Casaceli**
 - **Mayor Therese Longe**
 - Letter from **Michigan Freedom Trail Commission** (has a major event that day and cannot send a representative) read by Director Pielack
 - **Jay Snyder**
 - **Pastor Adam Kuehner**
- The regulations for installation of historic markers by non-deed holders have not been finalized and will likely be delayed for approval until July's Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board meeting. This may delay the order and installation of the physical marker for the Taylors, but a mock up can be in place for the cemetery event.

New Business

Director Pielack provided an update on the window restoration project and its impact on the museum and staff. The museum will need to close due to the need to mitigate lead in the old paint that will be disturbed on the upper floor of the building. Artifacts and staff will need to be relocated; staff will be working from the Baldwin Library, which is providing a space with computers and a phone as well as periodically working in the lower floors of the Allen House. The museum will need to be closed after June 10 and will re-open August 9. Due to the circumstances and lack of pressing business, Director Pielack recommended the Museum Board consider canceling the July meeting.

MOTION: by Logue, seconded by Erickson:

To cancel the July Museum Board meeting due to the closure of the museum and ongoing construction project in the building that includes lead mitigation.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0

Communication and Reports

Director Pielack provided updates to the Director Report. Plans for improving the Pond Zone with parking and paths are moving forward through the design phase, with various components planned for construction in FY 2022-23; funding will include the museum budget, parks bond funding, and CDBG funding, in addition to potential donor funding. Planned staffing increases will be included in the final budget, which will be presented to

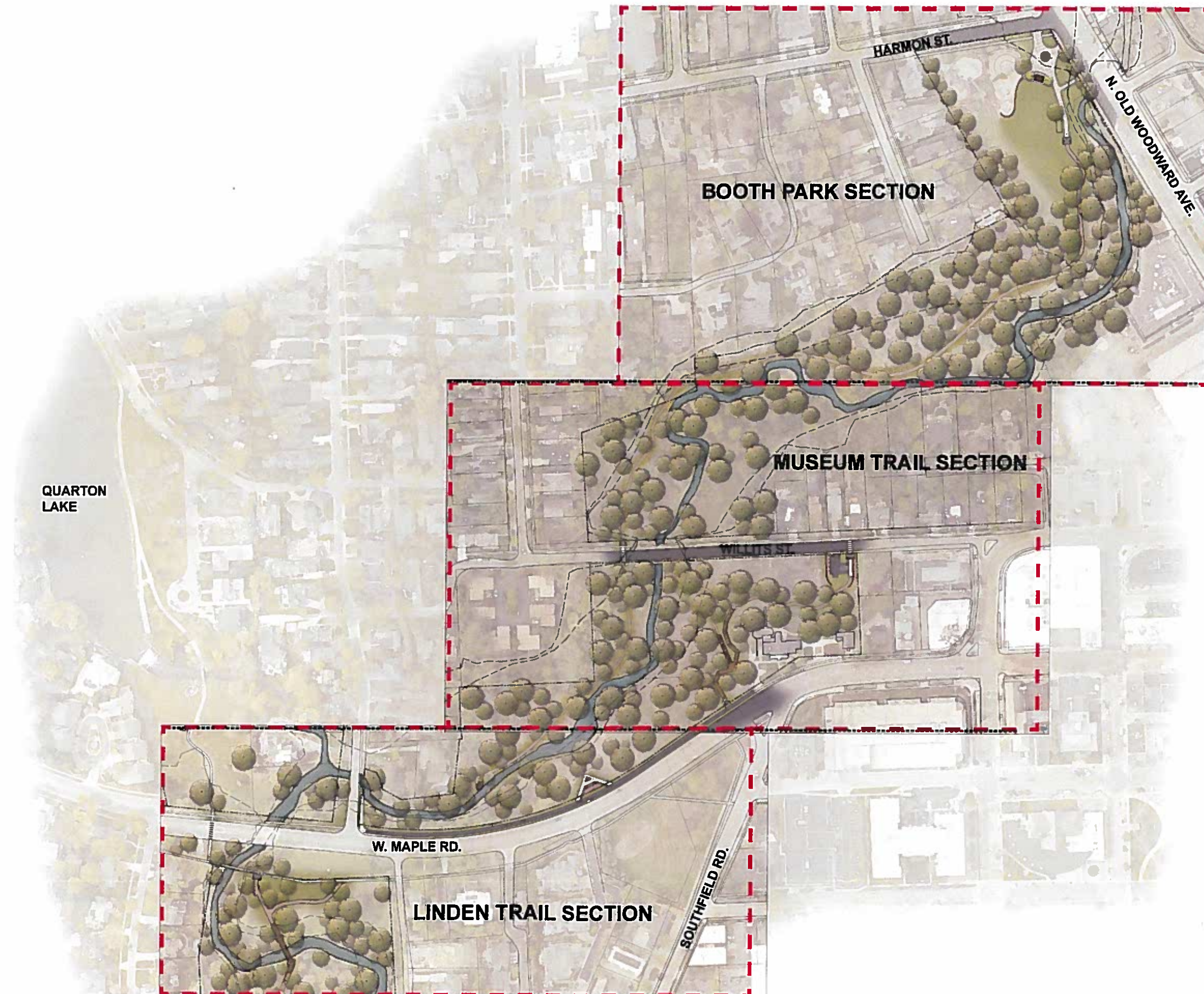
the City Commission on June 27. The new exhibit will be entitled, "A Tapestry of Birmingham: Exploring our Diversity," and will feature a graphic with a montage of images of some of the people who will be featured in the exhibit, which will open in August with the museum re-opening, and also featured in the museum's historic lecture series at the Baldwin Library.

Ms. Barrett suggested the lectures be noticed in the school's newsletter for greater visibility.

There were no public comments.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 4, at 5:00 PM.

Ms. Logue adjourned the meeting at 6:03 PM.



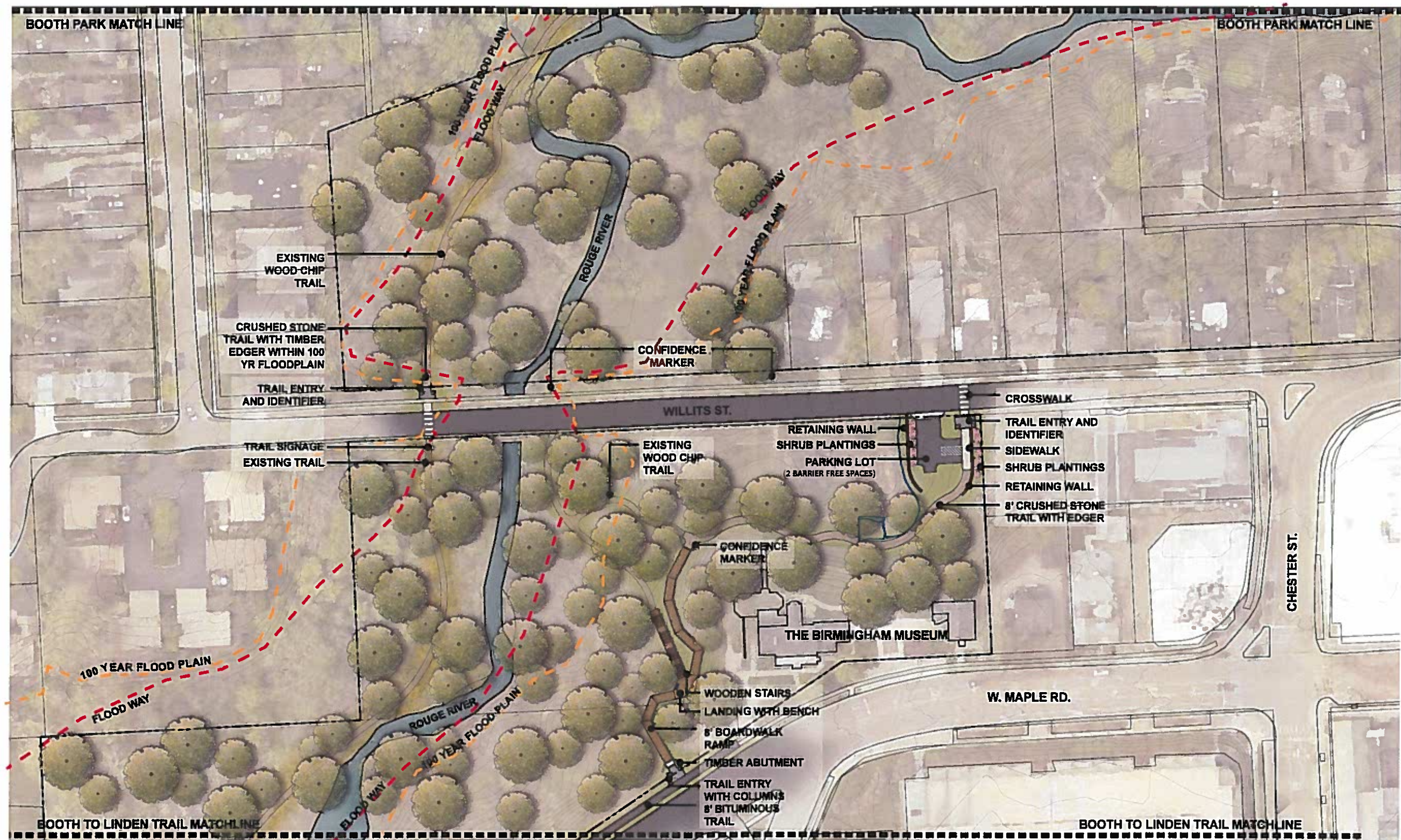
**OVERALL SITE MAP
TRAIL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN
BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN**

NOT TO SCALE

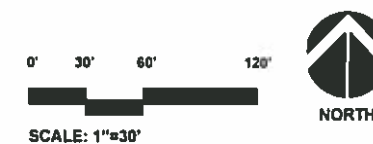


DATE
06.24.2022
PROJECT NO.
2149



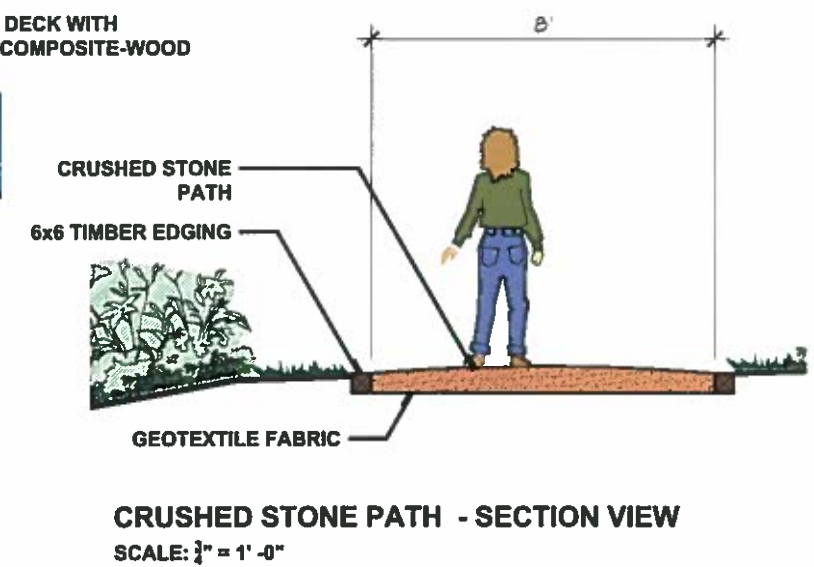
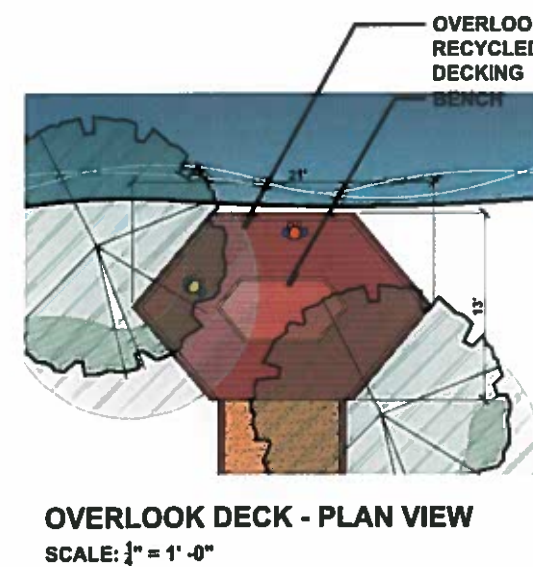
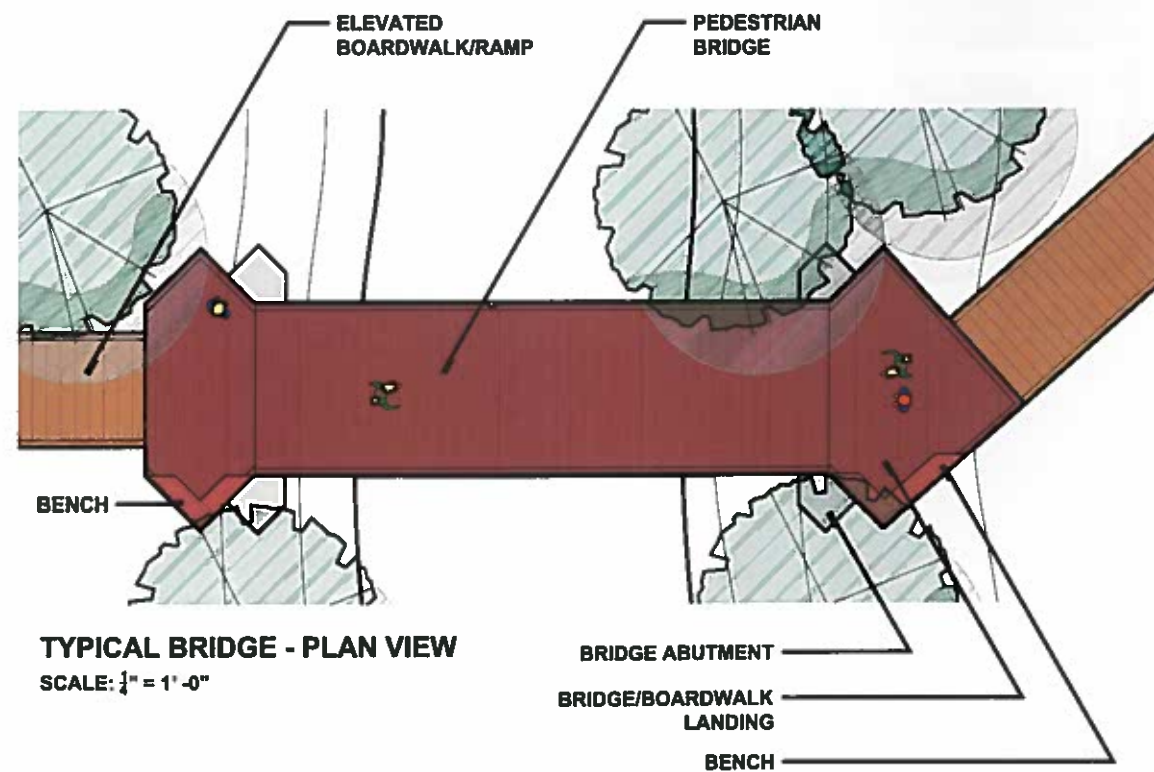
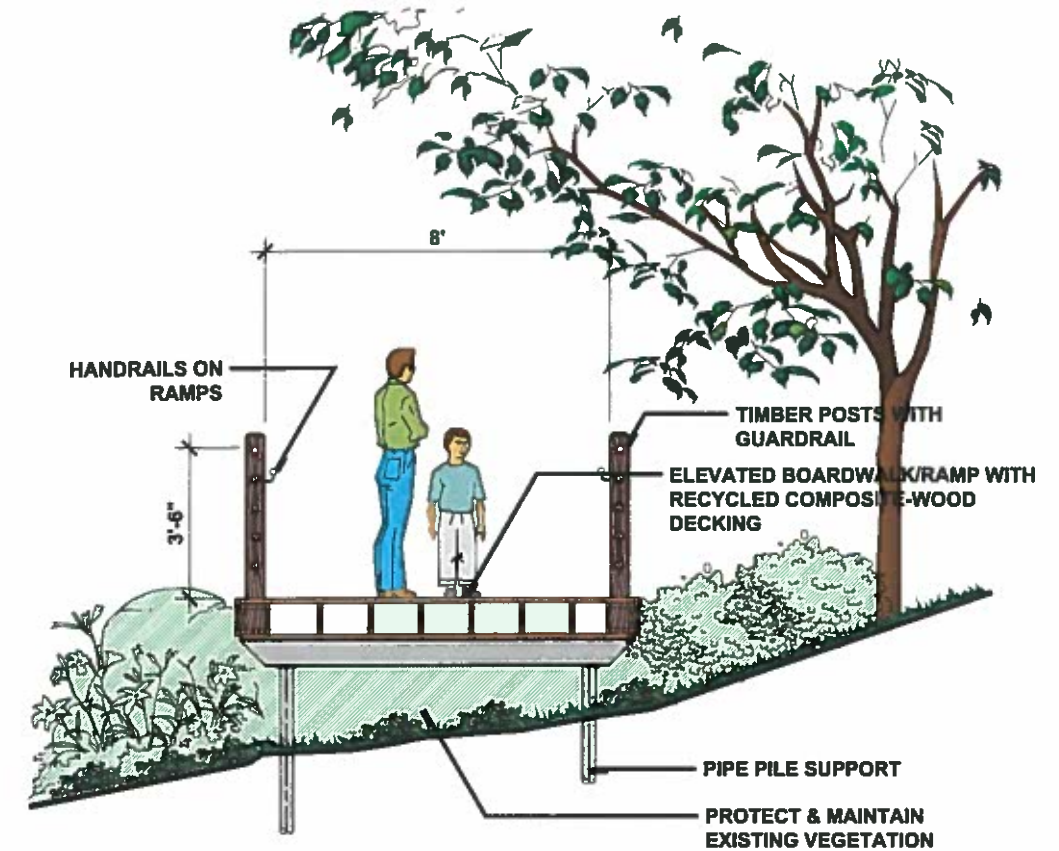
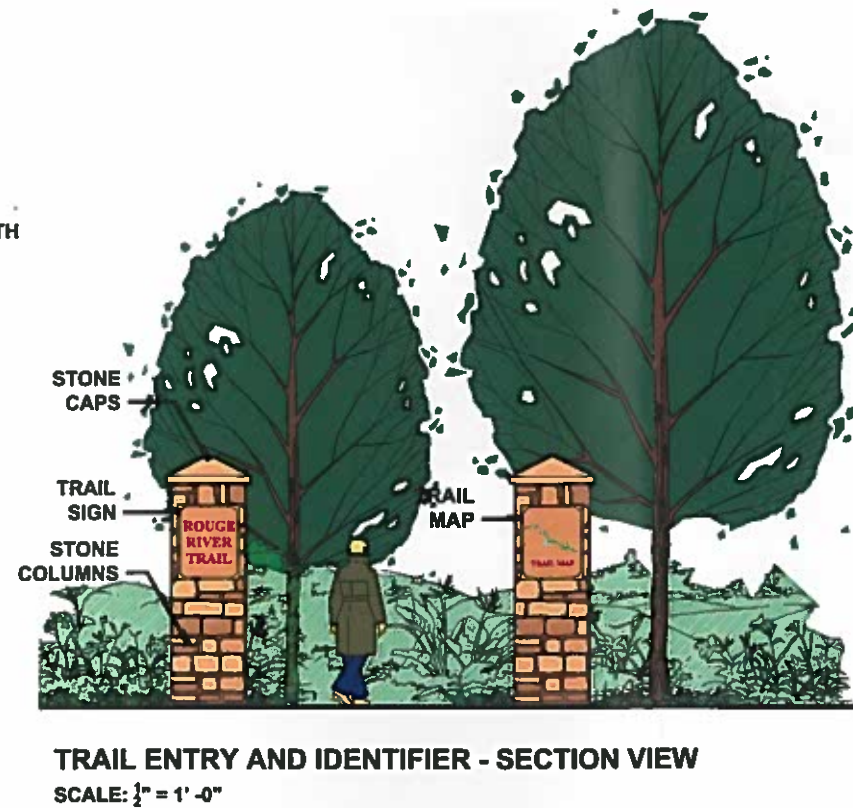
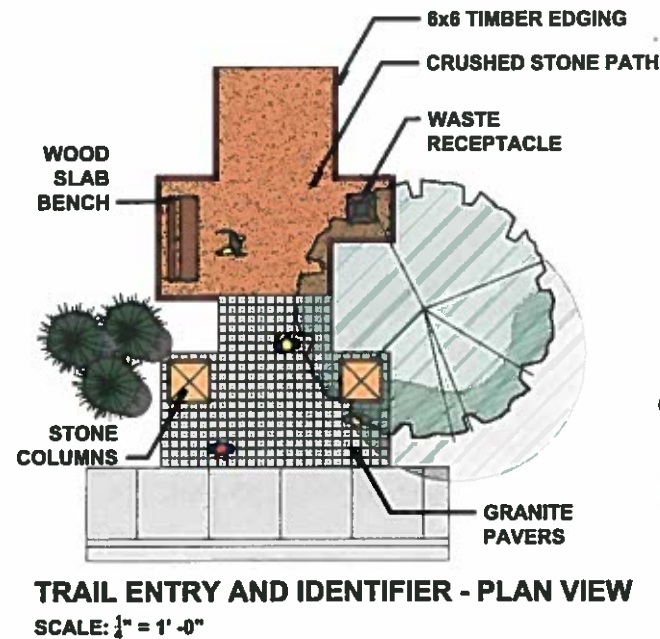


MUSEUM TRAIL TRAIL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN



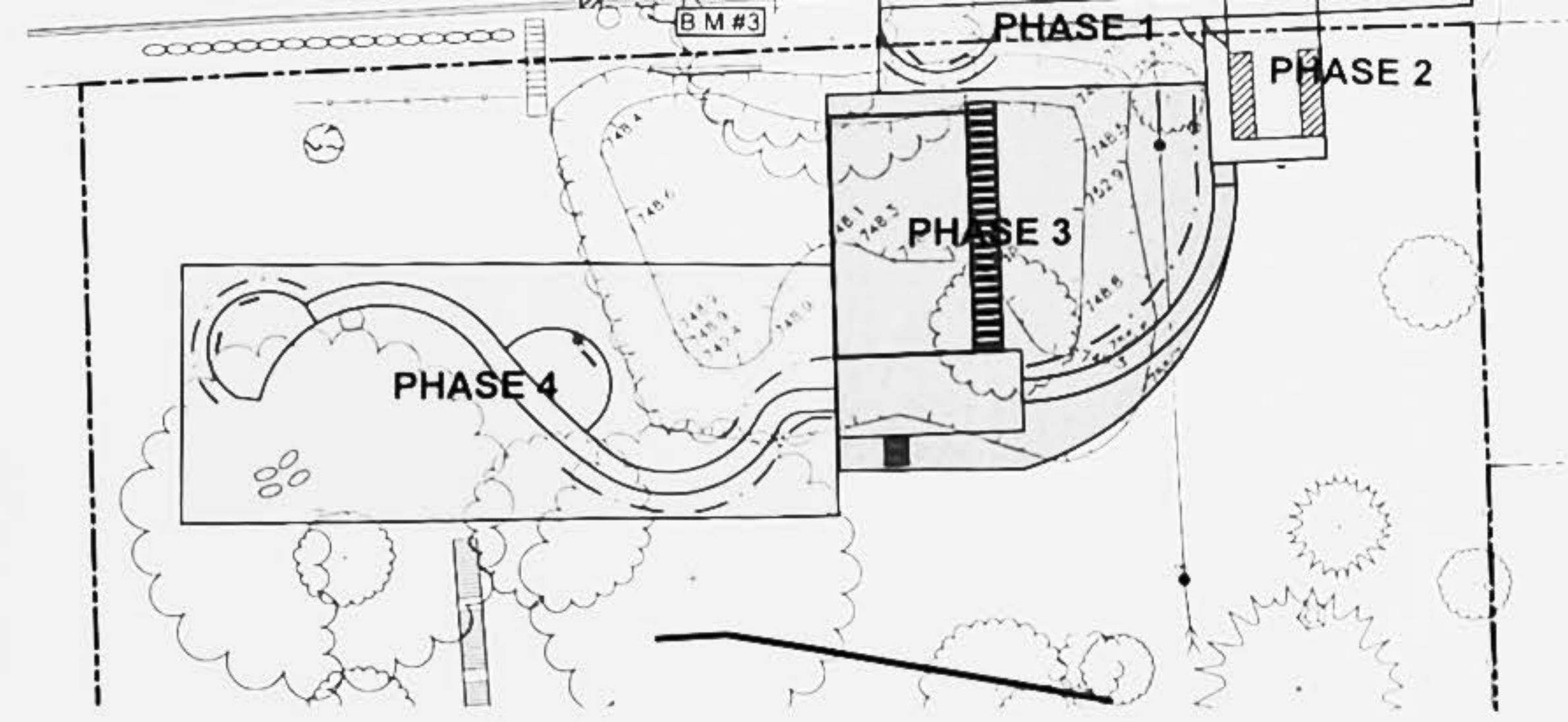
DATE
06.24.2022
PROJECT NO
2149



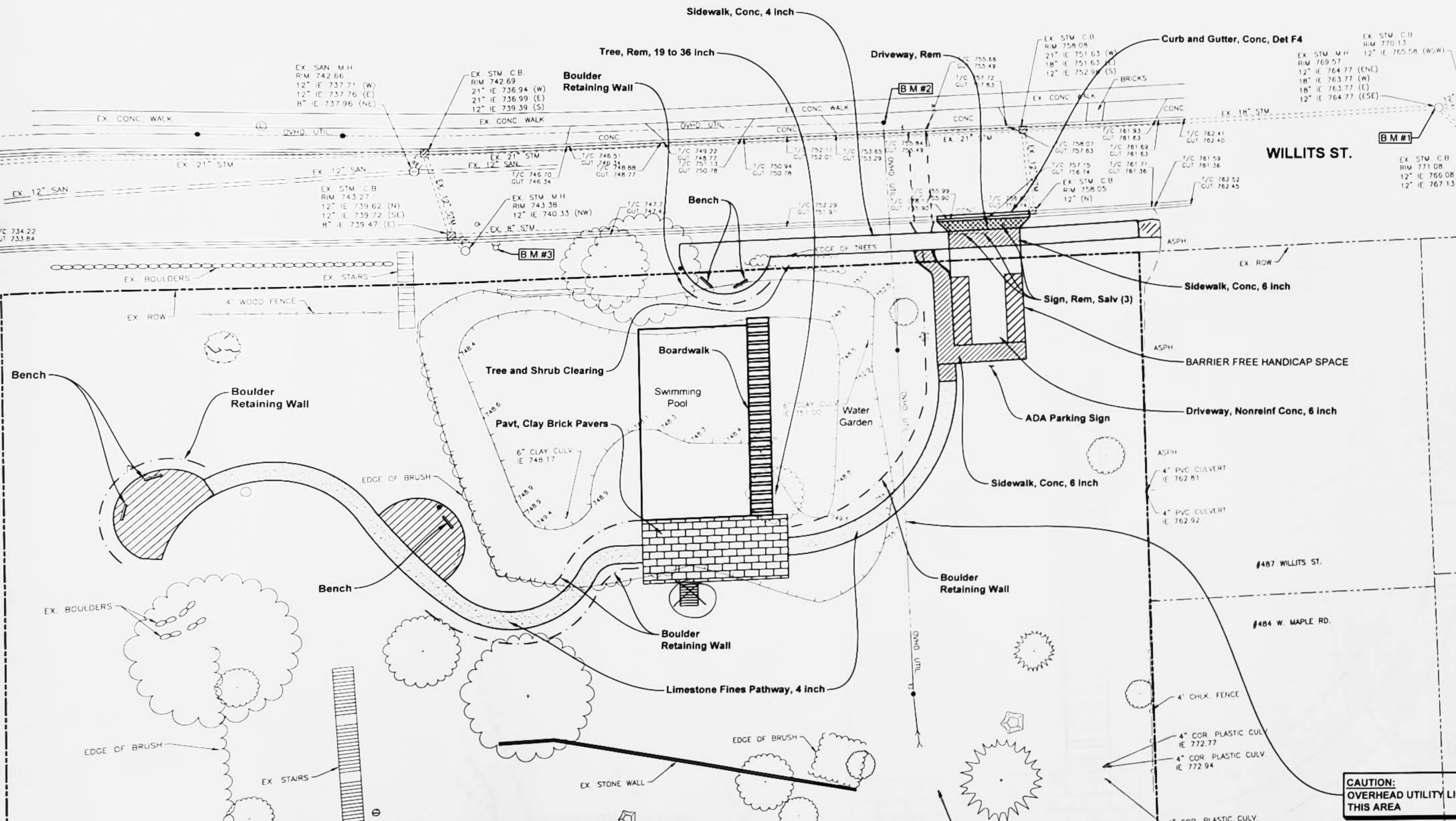


DESIGN DETAILS TRAIL IMPROVEMENT MASTER PLAN BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN

DATE
06.24.2022
PROJECT NO.
7140



NOT TO SCALE





MEMORANDUM

Birmingham Museum

DATE: July 1, 2022

TO: Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board

FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director

SUBJECT: Find-a-Grave Database for Greenwood Grave Sites Coming to Birmingham Museum

INTRODUCTION:

Find-a-Grave is an online interactive database that is crowd-sourced and designed to build information on cemeteries and gravesites for access by the public. A gravesite in the database has its own file, which is managed by the file creator, and is hosted online by Find-a-Grave.com. Data files can contain a range of information, including cemetery lot identification and location, biographical information, documents, links to other family members' graves, and photos of the marker. Find-a-Grave is comparable to FaceBook, and is an increasingly robust resource for locating burial sites and genealogical information, is free to the user, and is a recognized method for the general public to access information about cemeteries and graves.

The Greenwood Cemetery Find-a-Grave database currently includes over 3,000 burial files and images. This database will be transferred to the Birmingham Museum's archives for permanent management and oversight in the coming months. The quality of the files, completeness of the records, and control of the data by the City of Birmingham through the Museum provides an opportunity for the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board to accomplish two important objectives. It will provide a user-friendly method for the public to locate grave plots and biographical information in Greenwood Cemetery without requiring the labor-intensive creation of a GIS database through the Planning Department. It also is an excellent framework for uploading and updating marker photographs and can be used to track the status of individual historic markers for the Board's/City's internal use. This will help avoid duplicating effort in the Board's planned survey of the grave markers and make better use of GCAB resources for a more intensive marker preservation plan.

BACKGROUND:

As a crowd-sourced resource, completeness and accuracy of Find-a-Grave data can vary; the quality of the database depends on the file creator/manager. In the case of Greenwood Cemetery, over 3,000 burial data files are managed by the same person, who is a skilled local researcher well known by Birmingham Museum staff. In recent years, this volunteer has determinedly attempted to photograph each marker in the cemetery, and has cross-referenced burial

information to eliminate errors, and make records more complete for almost all of Greenwood's Find-a-Grave files. Because of the valuable information contained in these files, this volunteer wants to ensure they continue to be accurate and accessible going forward, and to this end will be transferring file control to the Museum in the coming weeks.

The Museum has been increasingly committed to digital access for the public, and has expanded staffing and IT resources to accomplish this objective. As such, the Museum is in a good position to take on the responsibility to manage the interactive Greenwood Find-a-Grave database, and to continue to update the files to serve both the public and the City more effectively. To facilitate access and utilization of the files, we propose the following:

- That the Museum would add a web page on its site with
 - explanations of the Find-a-Grave process and how to use it to locate a grave at Greenwood and associated biographical information
 - how to contact the museum if they are having difficulty using the database, or to correct any errors or add information to individual gravesites
 - link to the Find-a-Grave website and search engine
- The Greenwood Cemetery webpage on www.bhamgov.org will have a link to direct people to the Museum page to access information on how to use Find-A-Grave
- The City's Communications Director would assist with press releases and public announcements
- The Museum would assist the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board in developing its preservation plan and zeroing in on historic markers in most need of a professional assessment, using the Find-a-Grave marker photo data as a baseline

LEGAL REVIEW:

City Attorney Mary Kucharek has provided a review of this proposed public access plan for the Find-a-Grave database using the Museum's web site.

FISCAL IMPACT:

None.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS:

City Communications Director Marianne Gamboa will work with the Museum to announce the availability of this service through social media, press releases, and other public communications.

SUMMARY:

The transfer of the Find-a-Grave files to the Birmingham Museum will offer opportunities for additional public service and access to historical, location, and condition information about gravesites in Greenwood Cemetery. It also offers a baseline framework for additional study by the Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board in marker condition and preservation for its long-term objectives. The Museum's role will help assist both the public and the City in planning and maintaining a user-friendly database to support Greenwood Cemetery Advisory Board goals.

ATTACHMENTS:

Sample records, Greenwood Cemetery Find-a-Grave search and online gravesite records (historical and recent)

[Find a Grave®](#)
[MEMORIALS](#)
[CEMETERIES](#)
[FAMOUS](#)
[CONTRIBUTE](#)




Photo added by Cherie

Greenwood Cemetery

Also known as *Birmingham Cemetery*

LOCATION Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan, USA [Show Map](#)

PHONE 248-928-4094

WEBSITE greenwoodhistoriccemetery.org

MEMORIALS 3,644 added (88% photographed)

[SHARE](#)
[ADD FAVORITE](#)

[CEMETERY](#)
[PHOTOS 5](#)
[MAP](#)

Select Map from the About Greenwood link on their website.


Search Memorials in Greenwood Cemetery

Exact


Exact

[SEARCH](#)
[More search options](#)
[Search tips](#)


Famous Memorials · 4




Marshall M. Fredericks ★ ✨
1908–1998
Atrist and sculptor. Knighted by the King of Denmark....



Elmore Leonard ★ ✨
1925–2013
Author, Screenwriter. He is probably best remembered for his...




Rowland Ebenezer Trowbridge ★ ✨
1821–1881
US Congressman. Elected to represent Michigan's 4th and 5th...




Barbara Whiting ★ ✨
1931–2004
Movie Actress and Singer. She appeared in a few films such as...

Contribute

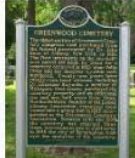
- [Add a memorial](#)
- [Upload Headstone Photos](#)
- [Transcribe Photos](#)
- [Photo requests 5](#)
- [Upload spreadsheet](#)



88% photographed ?



Added by Always with Love



Added by Pam and Dave from...

Sample Record (Historical): Elijah Fish, showing location, image of marker, related plots and biographical information

Find a Grave®

MEMORIALSCEMETERIESFAMOUSCONTRIBUTE




Photo added by Jacquie

Deacon Elijah Stanton Fish

BIRTH 11 Feb 1791
Athol, Worcester County, Massachusetts, USA

DEATH 28 Feb 1861 (aged 70)
Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan, USA

BURIAL [Greenwood Cemetery](#)
Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan, USA [Show Map](#)

PLOT Section B, Lot 37, Space 2

MEMORIAL ID 216961734 · [View Source](#)


[SHARE](#) [SAVE TO](#) [SUGGEST EDITS](#)

MEMORIALPHOTOS 4FLOWERS 0


[+ Add Photos](#) [Request Photo](#)

Family Members

Parents




[Josiah Fish](#)
1755–1811




[Elizabeth Hazelton Fish](#)
1757–1798


Siblings



[Libbeus Fish](#)
1781–1859




[Josiah Fish](#)
1787–1842




[George W. Fish](#)
1807–1851

Spouse




[Fanny Spencer Fish](#)
1796–1872


Children



[Fanny Fish](#)
1820–1827



[Edmund Fish](#)
1824–1904



[Fanny Emily Fish Trollope](#)
1829–1905

[In their memory](#)
Plant Memorial Trees

[Leave a Flower](#)


See more Fish memorials in:

- [Greenwood Cemetery](#)
- [Birmingham](#)
- [Oakland County](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [USA](#)
- [Find a Grave](#)


[Send Flowers](#)

[Sponsor and Remove Ads](#)

Records on Ancestry




Deacon Elijah Stanton Fish
[Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1867-1952](#)



Deacon Elijah Stanton Fish
[Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1897-1929](#)

Sponsored by Ancestry



amazon basics

Large Kennel, 3-Tier, Cat Cage Playpen Crate

Amazon Basics Large Kennel, 3-Tier, Cat ...
★★★★★ 9,135
\$99.99 [prime](#) [Shop now](#)

[Click Here For More Information](#)

MEMORIALS

CEMETERIES

FAMOUS

CONTRIBUTE

Elmore Leonard

BIRTH 11 Oct 1925
New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana, USA

DEATH 20 Aug 2013 (aged 87)
Bloomfield, Oakland County, Michigan, USA

BURIAL Greenwood Cemetery
Birmingham, Oakland County, Michigan, USA [Show Map](#)

PLOT Section G, Lot R, Grave 2

MEMORIAL ID 115775009 · [View Source](#)

SHARE SAVE TO SUGGEST EDITS

MEMORIAL PHOTOS 3 FLOWERS 145

Photo added by [Ruggero](#)

+ Add Photos Request Photo

Added by [Victoria Consiglio](#)

Family Members

Parents

- [Elmore John Leonard](#)
1893–1949
- [Flora Rive Leonard](#)
1895–1990

Siblings

- [Margaret Flora Leonard Madey](#)
1919–2007

Inscription

"The Dickens of Detroit"

[Read More](#)

See more Leonard memorials in:

- [Greenwood Cemetery](#)
- [Birmingham](#)
- [Oakland County](#)
- [Michigan](#)
- [USA](#)
- [Find a Grave](#)

[Send Flowers](#)

Explore more

Birth, Baptism & Christening	Search
Marriage & Divorce	Search
Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries	Search

Sponsored by Ancestry

[American Cancer Society Fund our 24/7 helpline. DONATE](#)

Flowers • 145

In their memory Plant Memorial Trees



Director Report

DATE: August 4, 2022
TO: Museum Board
FROM: Leslie Pielack, Museum Director
SUBJECT: Director Report

Doors Project—The visitor doors have been refinished and coated with a product that has been successfully used on the doors at City Hall for several years. They will require additional maintenance coats every year or two, but we anticipate the finish will continue to perform as it should to maintain the beauty of the wood grain. The hardware was replaced with heavy duty hinges that were set correctly to minimize sagging, and will close more effectively and be more weather-resistant.

Windows Project—All upper double-hung windows have been removed for off-site restoration, and the openings are secured with the previous storm windows. New, historically appropriate storm windows will be installed when the main windows are completed and re-installed. At that point, they will be much more energy efficient and historical in appearance.

Artifacts Relocation and Restructuring—The window project made it necessary to move many artifacts, and this led to a re-organization for their return to the upper floors. This will be more efficient going forward, but took a lot of extra staff effort during a very challenging time. Many thanks and kudos to Museum Specialist **Donna Casaceli** for heading up this huge project and for volunteers **Maddie Casaceli** and staff **Justin Koch** for carrying out much of it. Also thanks to Museum Specialist **Caitlin Donnelly** for her contribution and special care of the Creem Magazine artifacts and display

June's Plant Exchange & Planning for 2023—We had a moderate turnout, received about \$600 in plants, and gained good experience at our plant exchange to help us plan next year's event. Suggestions for next year include doing an exchange focusing on Michigan native plants and wildflowers, and holding the event two weeks earlier to ensure plants are smaller and easier to handle.

City Virtual Tours and Museum Tour App—Our Encurate tour app will be expanded in September to include the three existing cemetery tours (Birmingham's Pioneers, 19th Century Community Builders, and 20th Century Notables) and to create one just for the Underground Railroad stories and the sites of Elijah Fish and George Taylor's graves. This will permit a free download and phone-based experience for visitors. We are also planning to add our Women's History Walking Tour to the app. The City will be launching a web-based virtual tour option and we will integrate our tours with the city's, so that web visitors can zero in on the museum and see options for these tours as well as other museum information.

Fall/Winter Lecture Series at Baldwin Library Adult Lecture Series—We're returning to our fall series, beginning in October and ending in March. Programs will be held on the second Thursdays of the month at 7 PM, in person and on Zoom. Our past presentations are video recorded and available on our YouTube channel and are viewed on a regular basis (see attached article for *Birmingham Beat*).

(City's **Birmingham Beat** Fall-Winter Newsletter for October-April)

Museum's local history lecture series resumes at Baldwin Public Library

This season's Birmingham Museum monthly history lecture series will run from October through March on the second Thursday of each month at 7 PM at the Baldwin Public Library. Programs are approximately one hour and Birmingham-focused topics are timely and selected to reflect museum exhibit and research areas. Presentations are free, but online registration at the library is required at <https://www.baldwinlib.org/calendar/#/events/>. Pending public health conditions, programs will be held both in person and available via Zoom. Following is a listing of dates and topics; more detailed information can be found on the museum's events webpage at https://www.bhamgov.org/about_birmingham/city_history/birmingham_museum/programs.php.

- **October 13** **Threads: A Tapestry of Birmingham's Historic Diversity.** The Birmingham Museum has been doing some deeper dives into our local cultural heritage and learning some amazing things about Birmingham's racial and ethnic past.
- **November 10** **Buried Past: Birmingham's Indigenous People and Archaeological Heritage.** What archaeological finds have occurred in the area, and what is their connection to the Saginaw Trail (now Woodward Avenue), and what became of Oakland County's indigenous people?
- **December 8** **Carlos Lopez and the Controversial Birmingham Post Office Mural of 1942.** A discussion of how this public mural ignited a small but fierce racial and cultural controversy.
- **January 12** **Minoru Yamasaki and Asian Americans in Birmingham.** This gifted architect was not alone in facing housing discrimination in post-World War II Birmingham.
- **February 9** **Early Abolitionists and the Local Underground Railroad Network.** How Underground Railroad activists in the Birmingham area helped hundreds attain freedom.
- **March 9** **The Levinsons: First Jews in Birmingham.** The Levinsons overcame many obstacles to succeed in Birmingham, and descendants Carl & Sander Levin took their legacy forward.

Contact the museum at 248-530-1682, or museum@bhamgov.org, or check out our friendly and fun Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TheBirminghamMuseum>.



Caption: Carlos Lopez' 1942 design for the Birmingham Post Office mural ignited a racial and cultural controversy when first unveiled. *Photo: Birmingham Museum Collection, c/o The Surnow Company.*