



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD AGENDA  
556 W MAPLE  
Thursday, July 13, 2017  
5:30 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. Introduction of Guests**
- 4. Election of Chair**
- 5. Approval of the Minutes**
  - A. Minutes of June 15, 2017
- 6. Announcements**
- 7. Unfinished Business**
  - A. Master Landscape Planning-Activity Zone Priorities (including site walk)
- 8. Communication and Reports**
  - A. Committee Reports-Joint Bicentennial Book Committee
  - B. Director Report
  - C. Member comments
  - D. Public comments
- 9. Next Regular Meeting: August 3, 2017**
- 10. 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](http://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).*

draft



**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
MUSEUM BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, June 15, 2017  
5:30 PM**

**Members Present:** Jay Cunningham, Russ Dixon, Judith Keefer, Tina Krizanic,  
Marty Logue, Caitlin Rosso

**Student Members Present:** None

**Members Absent:** Lori Eaton

**Administration:** Museum Director Leslie Pielack

**Guests:** None

Mr. Dixon called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Ms. Rosso arrived at 5:40 PM.

**Approval of the Minutes  
Minutes of May 11, 2017**

**MOTION:** by Keefer, seconded by Krizanic:

To approve the minutes of May 11, 2017.

**VOTE:** Yeas, 6  
Nays, 0

**Announcements**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

A. In light of the new Museum Board members, the board discussed their backgrounds and interest in the museum and the ways they hope to serve the board. The Museum Board is in a unique position to represent the museum within the community. Continuing engagement in the community and collaborating with other organizations was mentioned as one way to connect and spread awareness of the museum. Several specific approaches were mentioned to help reach new audiences. The wide range in our audiences and their preferred method of connecting means the museum needs to be proficient in traditional as well as virtual engagement. As an entity, the Museum Board can get involved in outreach and help respond to the public's needs. The landscape master plan currently in process can be a major way of assessing, responding, and planning for the public benefit.

B. Members reviewed the landscape existing conditions and zones and discussed areas that could focus on historic content, barrier-free access, and natural zones with environmental/wildlife educational goals and interpretation. The issue of reconstructing what the pool was originally like vs. preserving how it is and interpreting its history were briefly addressed. Reconstruction may trigger a need for additional safety measures that might obstruct or interfere with the appreciation of the pool. It would be desirable to ensure that barrier free access could take visitors across the current lawn to a possible observation area overlooking the Rouge River. Managing invasives would be a significant part of the planning for the slope to the river and the museum portion of the trail area, and would require an ongoing commitment. However, it would allow the museum to interpret the land as it was historically at the founding of Birmingham. Many of these interventions may qualify for major grant funding, and could lead to the landscape being a 'destination' park.

### **Communication and Reports**

- A. There is no Bicentennial Book Committee Report at this time.
- B. Director Pielack reviewed the Director Report. Three contractors were present at the pre-bid meeting today. If there are no qualifying bids, the project will be re-bid in the fall. The Creem: Revisited event on June 10 was a great success and resulted in more quality artifacts being donated to the museum and also generated support from 3 new sponsors. Approximately 75 new visitors viewed the exhibit. School tours just ended, with 458 students and 155 adults coming through the museum.

### **Board Comments**

Mr. Dixon shared that former Museum Board member Gretchen Maricak received an award for a work of art and that the Scott Richard Case (SRC) band, with members formerly from the Birmingham area, received a lifetime achievement award at the 2017 Detroit Music Awards, and Mike Posner, who formerly attended Groves, also received awards.

### **Public Comments**

None.

Mr. Dixon adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM. Next meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2017.



## Museum Landscape Zones and Planning

Based on initial presentation from Brian Devlin of Devlin Land Designs, the landscape of the museum site has 4 distinctive areas that suggest various uses for consideration in planning.

### **1. Pond Zone (Red on attached sketch) Characteristics:**

- moderate slopes
- pond with historic pool
- pedestrian access from Willits street
- light pole with internet access (WiFi) and electric access

#### Suggested uses and improvement areas:

- Possible pond improvements
- Barrier free/accessible path
- Possible automobile improvement (barrier free parking)
- Seating area near existing light pole
- Tree planting
- Removal of invasive species

### **2. Transition Zone (Green on attached sketch) Characteristics:**

- Steep slopes
- Existing historic boulder wall
- Existing wood steps (recent)
- Evergreens and deciduous
- Often used for winter sledding

#### Suggested uses and improvement areas:

- Possible accessible path with interpretive information
- Additional plantings
- Removal of invasive species
- Possible wildlife support garden (bees, bats, birds, butterflies)

### **3. Heritage Zone (Blue on attached sketch) Characteristics:**

- Allen House
- Public Plaza
- Hunter House
- Museum, special events, outdoor gathering place, public access, signage, barrier free parking and access, bell monument, historic marker sign, seating, public WiFi, flower gardens

#### Suggested uses and improvement areas:

- Vegetable/demonstration garden
- Augment existing plantings and remove invasive species



## Historic Feature Photo References-Museum Grounds from Schoolhouse era c.1910 to 1955



Back of red schoolhouse as residence, c. 1915 (Willits in foreground)



Back of red schoolhouse as residence, c. 1915 (Willits in foreground)



Back of red  
schoolhouse,  
c. 1910



Schoolhouse,  
c. 1920



Harry Allen in back yard, 1955. Mature elms in background, Willits below.



Back of Allen House 1955





Swimming Pool Allens

View of Allen  
House  
Swimming  
Pool (fed by  
spring), c.  
1950



View of Allen  
House  
Swimming  
Pool, 2



Mature elm tree behind Allen House, approx 100 years old, before removal in 2015



Peg Allen, note top of wall; appears to be looking north along side of drive with Rouge valley to the left ?.





Allen House from east, with slope and trees, c. 1960



Allen House from the west, showing wall and landscape with mature elms.



Allen's Home

Another view showing trees on west and south, c. 1950

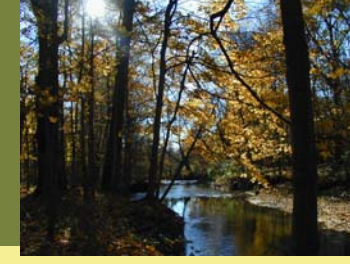


Allen House, c. 1970s showing trees, shrubbery, and circle drive.





Maple Road  
looking east, c.  
1940



# Discovering Your Community's Natural Asset

## The Rouge Green Corridor

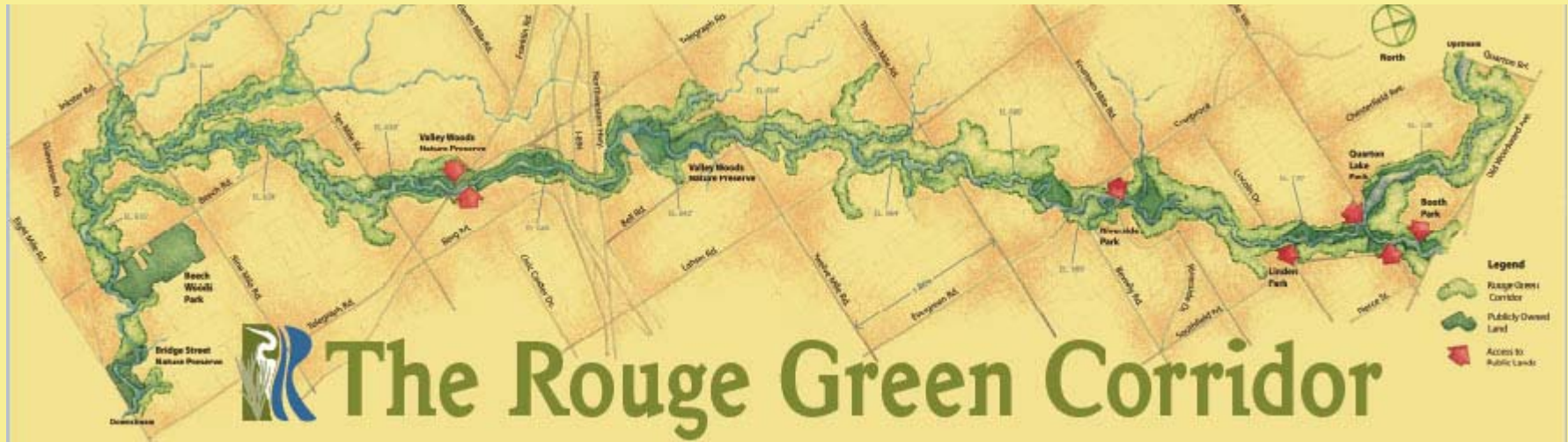




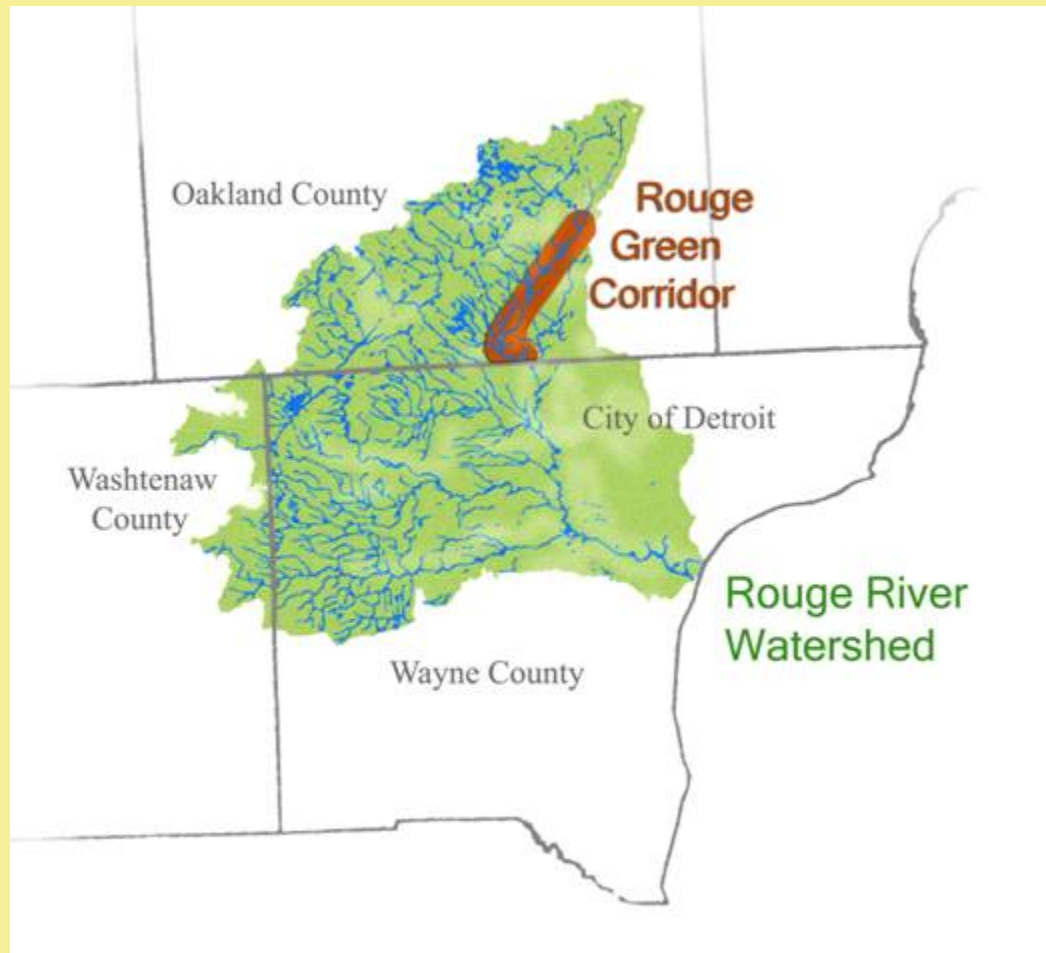
# Introducing The Rouge Green Corridor



- The **Rouge Green Corridor** is an urban river flowing through Birmingham, Beverly Hills, and Southfield that provides a haven for wildlife and people to enjoy



# Introducing The Rouge Green Corridor



## *Partners:*

*City of Birmingham  
Village of Beverly Hills  
City of Southfield*

*Southeast Oakland  
County Water Authority  
(SOCWA)*

*Friends of the Rouge*

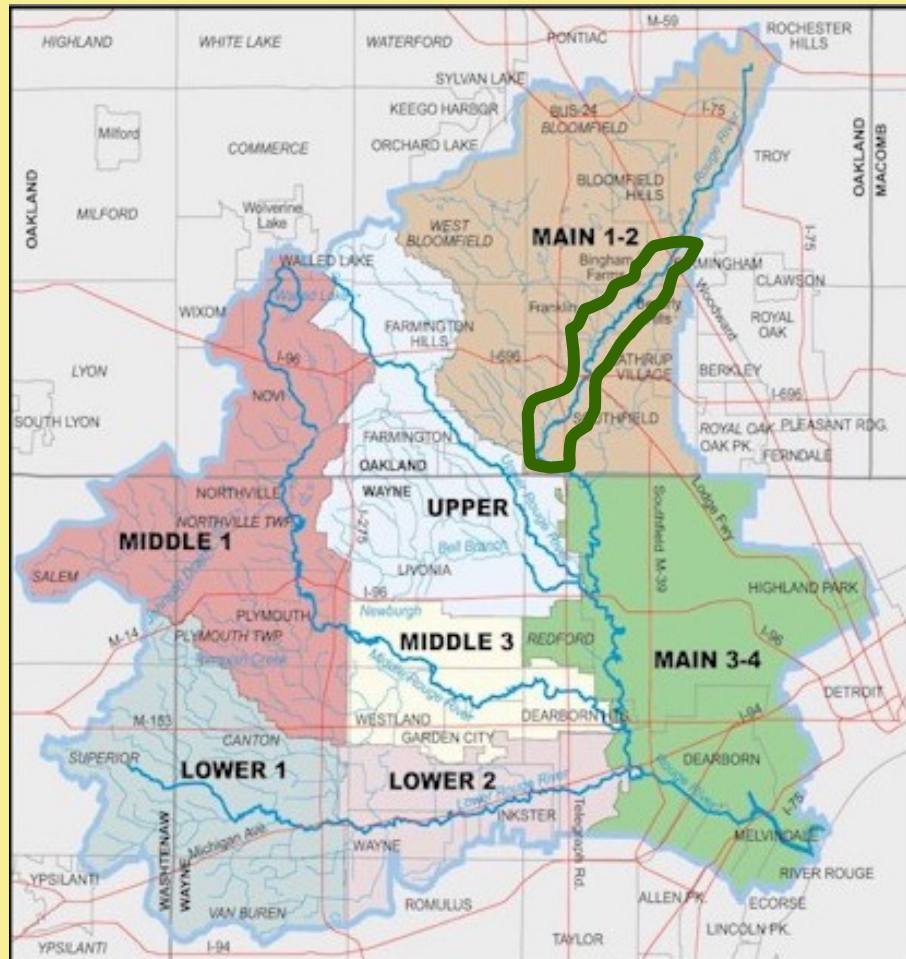
*Oakland Land Conservancy*

*Oakland County Office of the  
Drain Commissioner*

*Oakland County Planning &  
Economic Development Services*



# Introducing The Rouge Green Corridor



*Main 1-2 Subwatershed Goal:*

*Maximize community assets  
related to the river*

# Introducing The Rouge Green Corridor

- **The Rouge Green Corridor** is an urban river corridor
  - Nature preserves and public lands to explore
  - Private residents that are stewarding the river
  - Businesses that are participating in good corporate citizenship practices





# The Rouge Green Corridor

## Why is it special?



- Intact riparian vegetation

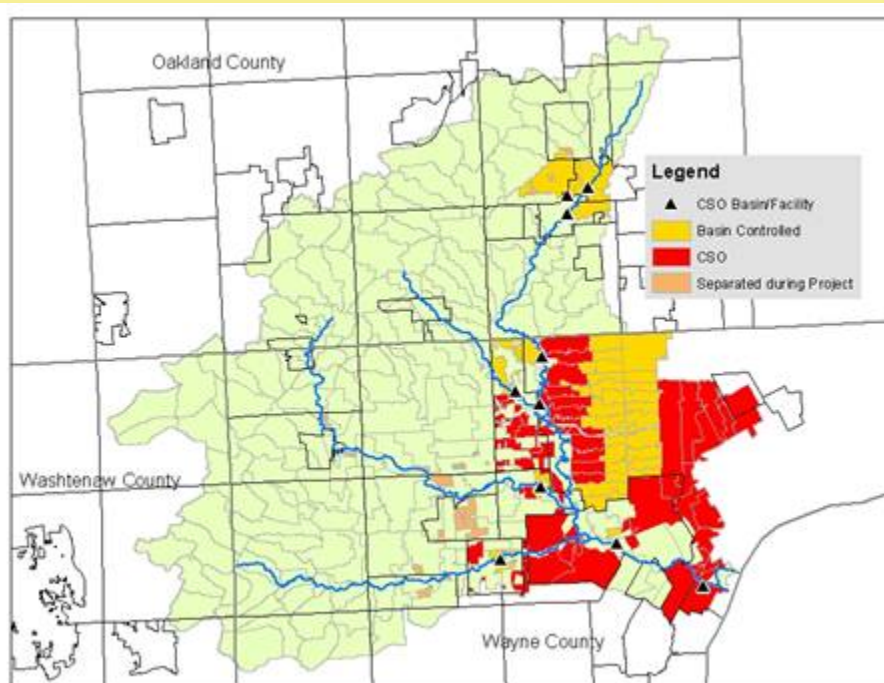


# The Rouge Green Corridor

## Why is it special?



- Improvements in water quality due to installation of CSO basins



### Recent monitoring has shown:

- Increased **dissolved oxygen**
- Decreased **bacteria**
- Highest **diversity of fish species** in the Rouge
- Sensitive “River Bugs”-**macro-invertebrates**
- Five kinds of **turtles**, two kinds of non-poisonous **snakes**, eight species of **frogs**, and seventeen species of **mammals**
- Largest and most **diverse population of freshwater mussels** within the entire Rouge River watershed
- Several natural areas of **significant floristic quality** (Douglas Evans, Valley Woods North)



# The Rouge Green Corridor Educational Poster

## Challenges & Opportunities

## Riverfront Property Owner Guide

## Stewardship Guide

## More Resources

# Today and Tomorrow

## Challenges, Opportunities, and Actions to Enhance the Rouge Green Corridor as a Community Asset

### Current Challenges and Opportunities

**What is a "Riverfront"?**  
The Rouge Riverfront is the area between the Rouge River and the adjacent land. It is the area where the river meets the community. The Rouge Riverfront is a valuable asset to the community and should be protected and enhanced.

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### Rights and Responsibilities of Riverfront Property Owners

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### River Stewardship 101

**Don't Forget to Help the Rouge Green Corridor**

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### More Resources

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## A photograph of a forest floor covered in fallen leaves and a fallen log. The leaves are in various shades of yellow, orange, and brown, indicating autumn. A dark, fallen log lies horizontally across the middle of the frame. The background is a dense forest with green foliage.



The jailed tour identifies several locations for you to enjoy in the Rouge Green Corridor. The tour is designed to highlight special features along the corridor that everyone in the family can enjoy. Each point has something unique to offer, or be sure to visit as many other enjoy as you. You'll learn what about this billion treasure, and have fun in the process! Points along the tour described below have access to trails. Whether it's a paved or woodchip trail, remember to stay on the path. Keep your dog on a leash and be a good neighbor stowed by picking up after your pet. Enjoy!

**Where to park:** Park at the historic Dutch Park at the northeast corner of Berg Road and Civic Center Drive. Walk west along Civic Center Drive to Valley Woods Nature Preserve. You can access the park by a ramp behind the McDonald's near Senior Center (North side of Civic Center Drive) or by steps at the West (South side of Civic Center Drive).

Want to decide the north-south direction? Just crossing over to the west side on a pedestrian bridge. This is a lovely natural area with everything for all ages on the grass trail with some beachside benches along the way. The trail ends at the Pavers 3-400 complex. Return to the green trail. This is approximately a 3 mile hike.

What to see: Look for soft-shell turtles nesting on the banks. Ducks and herons are often in the river, fishing or logs drifting in the shallows. *Syrnistrus birgini* is migratory birds such as the United States; the snowy egret and the ibis.



Where to park: North Old Orchard at South Park; pick up the Bayview walkship trail at the northwest corner of the park. You can also park at the Chandler Reeling Streets located at the corner of

**What to do:** The wedding trail meanders along the river and wooded areas for approximately 1.25 miles.

What to see: In the spring, look for several species of migrating birds, such as warblers (22 species), tree swallows, and spotted sandpeeps. Look for the many species of wild life and native plants. Also view two types of arroyo tree stabilization methods to reduce erosion. The methods include "hard engineering" (stone and boulders) and soft engineering (logs and vegetation) in South Park.



the park, which is located on Riverside Drive just east of Georgetown Road.

What to do: Visitors are welcome to enjoy the trail park during the daylight hours. There are two picnic tables and a grill available that overlook the Wild Road, which was established over a century ago.

What to see: The park offers habitat and viewing opportunities for many species of birds, including terns, hawks, woodpeckers and hummingbirds. Cows can often be seen at the surface of the water, along with turtles sunning themselves and a variety of other water aquatic creatures. Several plantings of native shrubs have been planted and include semideciduous, bi-lobed leafy red twig dogwood, chokeberry, witchhazel, and American crabapple flowers, among others.



Meandering through the wooded corner of Oakland County, the main branch of the Rouge River joins a green band through neighborhood and business districts. The river rises, with clear water flowing over sandstone and past shady wooded banks, has changed since the time of European settlement, but still provides a home for wildlife and people to enjoy.

Over the past 15 years, efforts at improving the river's water quality have paid off, restoring your community to give it its new name — the *Range Great Community*. This segment of the Range River, and its tributaries, now stretch through Birmingham, Beverly Hills, and Jacksonville. It is in this way that you can enjoy this valuable natural resource. The new guide gives you an opportunity to find out for yourself the beauty of the Range Great Community through a 100-mile tour.

This initiative is part of a larger program called *Executive Phase II of the Clean Water Act*. The Act requires certain municipalities to maintain wastewater treatment in certain waters like the *Long Range*. To accomplish this, the municipality has joined forces and developed a *Watershed Management Plan* for this portion of the *Long Range*, called *The Mile 3-3 Subwatershed Management Plan*. One goal of the Plan is to increase awareness of the threat, which is rain. Another goal is to maintain good community relationships to the threat. The *Watershed Management Plan* is available for review to your community after.



### Rouge Green Corridor

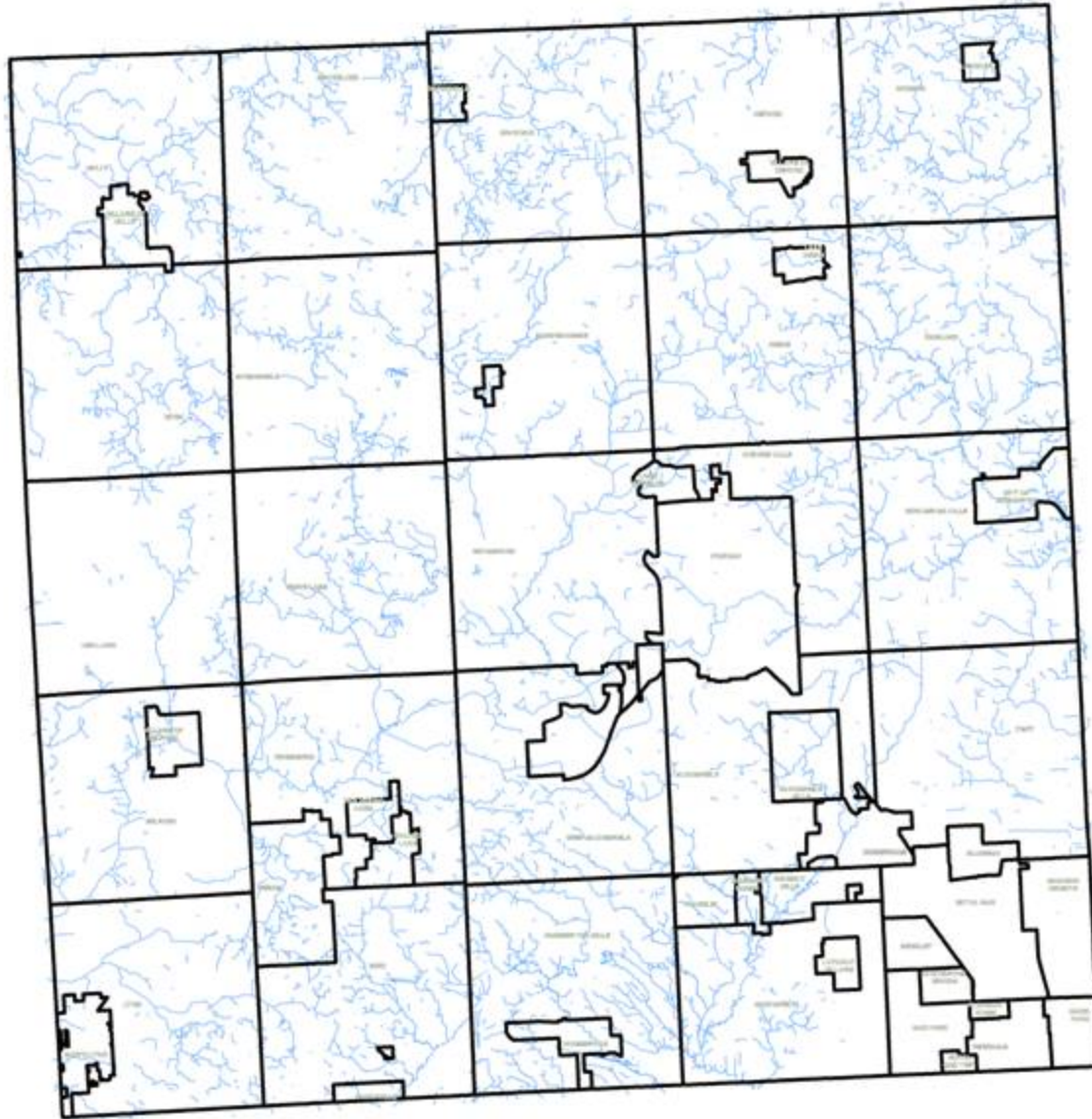
**PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS**  
 City of Birmingham [www.cityofbirmingham.org](http://www.cityofbirmingham.org)  
 City of Southfield [www.cityofsouthfield.com](http://www.cityofsouthfield.com)  
 Village of Beverly Hills [www.villageofbeverlyhills.com](http://www.villageofbeverlyhills.com)  
 Friends of The Rouge [www.frtouge.org](http://www.frtouge.org)  
 Southwestern Oakland County [www.southwesternoc.org](http://www.southwesternoc.org)  
 Oakland Land Conservancy [www.oaklandlandconservancy.org](http://www.oaklandlandconservancy.org)  
 Oakland County Drain Commissioner's Office  
[www.oaklandcountyilc.com](http://www.oaklandcountyilc.com)  
 Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services  
[www.oaklandcountymi.com](http://www.oaklandcountymi.com)

To learn more about the Ridge Green Corridor's history and natural beauty, visit [www.ridgegreen.com](http://www.ridgegreen.com) and click on "Ridge Green Corridor."

Funding for this project was provided by the Trumpa River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project (R-1 USA grant #09002712-01-0-02) and was awarded to Oakland County Planning & Economic Development under L. E. Smith Partnership, County Executive.

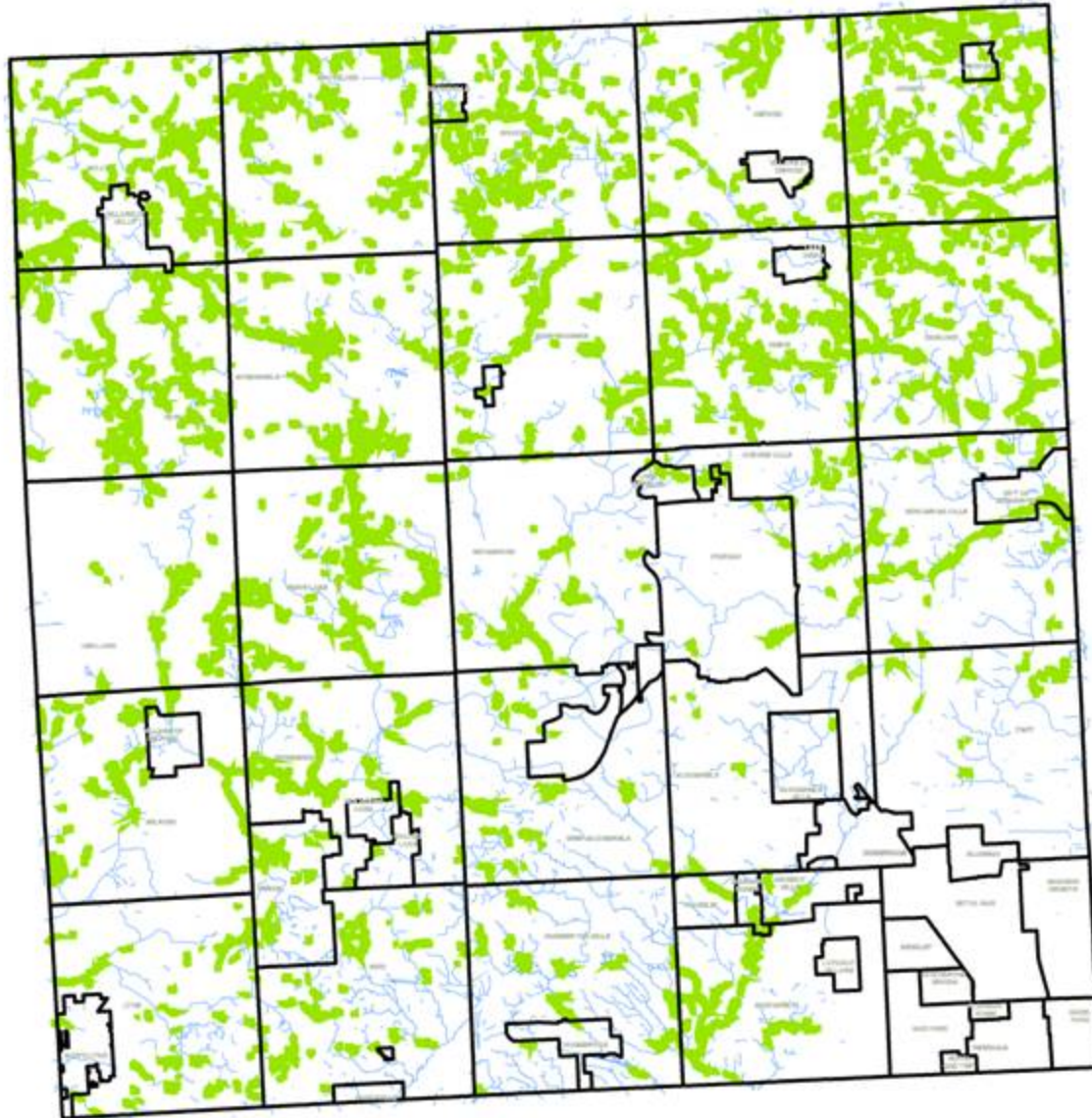
Indirizzo: Via Cavour 100 - 00198 Roma - Italia

# The Rouge Green Corridor Riparian Planning Guidelines





# The Rouge Green Corridor Riparian Planning Guidelines



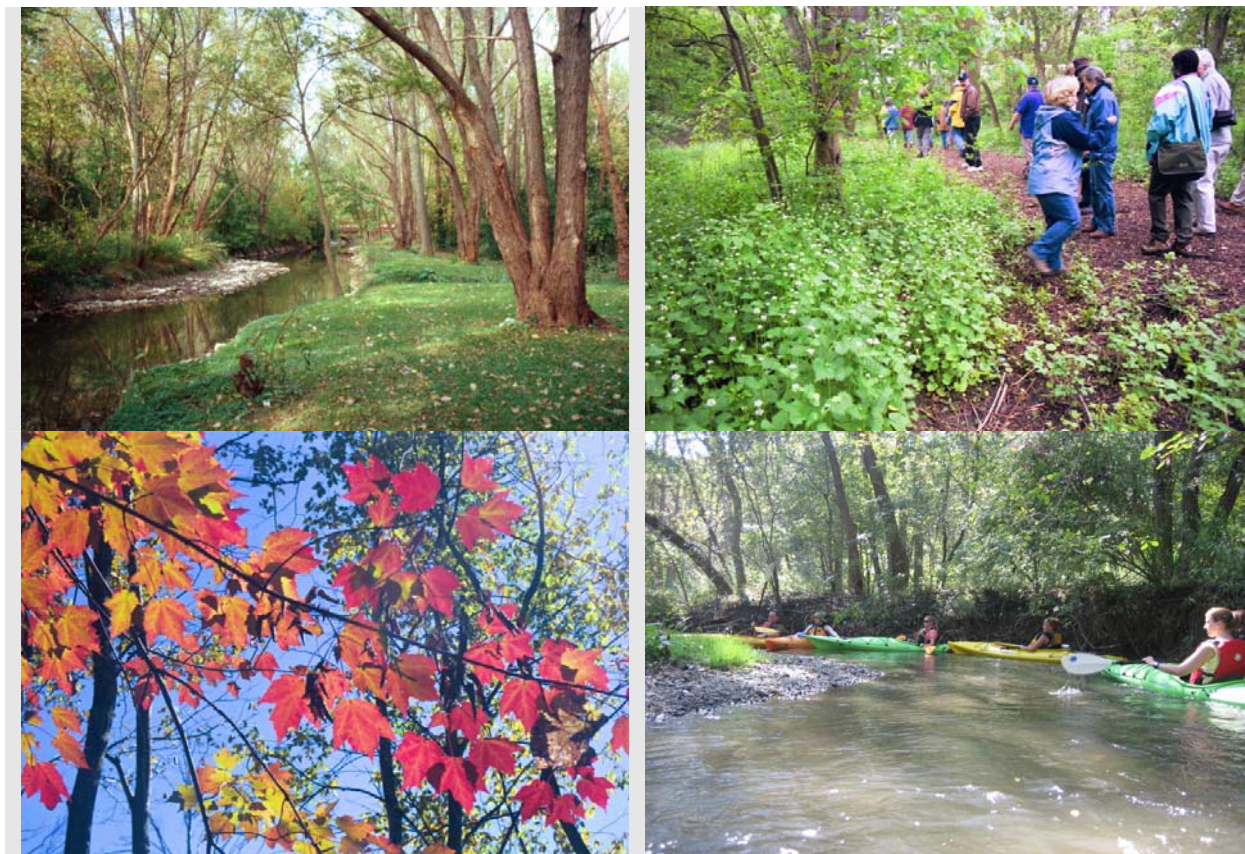


# The Rouge Green Corridor Riparian Planning Guidelines



1. **Riparian Corridors: An Opportunity to Connect to Nature** An introduction to the opportunity presented by riparian corridors.
2. **Riparian Corridors in the Landscape of Southeast Michigan** Information about the geography, ecology, and history of riparian corridors.
3. **Land and Identity: A Planning Process for Riparian Corridors** Options for planning for riparian corridor enhancement protection.
4. **Conservation and Restoration of Riparian Corridors** References to best practices for the preservation and ecological management of riparian resources
5. **Cultural Resources: Building Awareness and Connecting with the River** Options for bringing people and the river together.
6. **The Role of Community Planning in Riparian Corridor Protection** Information about the role of local community planning and regulatory measures that can help protect riparian resources.
7. **Funding Riparian Initiatives** Information about funding opportunities for work in riparian areas.
8. **Case Study: Riparian Planning and Management in the Rouge Green Corridor** Discussion and lessons learned from a riparian corridor project in southeast Oakland County.
9. **Summary & Additional Resources**

**DRAFT Rouge Green Corridor  
Urban Habitat Conservation & Stewardship Project  
5-year Habitat Implementation Plan  
May 28, 2009**



This document was prepared by Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services  
L. Brooks Patterson County Executive

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project Overview .....	3
RGC Urban Habitat Conservation & Stewardship Implementation Plan.....	3
Recommendation Ranking Process.....	3
Implementation Strategies .....	4
Goals, Strategies and Evaluation Benchmarks .....	5
Implementation Strategy .....	6
Corridor-Wide.....	6
City of Birmingham .....	7
Village of Beverly Hills .....	8
City of Southfield.....	9
List of Projects for Grant Funding.....	12
Habitat Restoration .....	12
Monitoring .....	12
Planning .....	13
Land Acquisition.....	13
Education .....	13
Review & Evaluation Process.....	14
Next Steps .....	14



## **Project Overview**

The Rouge Green Corridor (RGC) is a stretch of the Rouge River that flows through the City of Birmingham, Village of Beverly Hills, and the City of Southfield. The riparian corridor of this area has retained significant natural character despite extensive and intense urban development in the surrounding watershed. Significant natural areas and aquatic resources within the RGC are at risk of deterioration and require ongoing maintenance and stewardship to retain their ecological values. The RGC provides an important community asset to a densely populated, urbanized area.

The ***Rouge Green Corridor Urban Habitat Conservation & Stewardship Project*** was conceived as a partnership between Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services, City of Southfield, Village of Beverly Hills, City of Birmingham, the Southeast Oakland County Water Authority (SOCWA), Oakland County Office of the Drain Commissioner, Friends of the Rouge, the Oakland Land Conservancy, and concerned citizens (collectively, the RGC Steering Committee). The project is partially funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The RGC Steering Committee contracted with *ASTI Environmental* to conduct a habitat inventory and management plan for the RGC. The ***Riparian and Aquatic Inventory and Management Plan for the Rouge Green Corridor*** was finalized on November 28, 2008.

## **RGC Urban Habitat Conservation & Stewardship Implementation Plan**

The ***Riparian and Aquatic Inventory and Management Plan for the Rouge Green Corridor*** (Habitat Plan) begins with an extensive description of the habitat resources contained within the RGC (based on filed surveys and existing data), describes existing threats to habitat, sets specific restoration goals, identifies habitat target benchmarks for terrestrial and aquatic resources, and lists specific recommendations for conservation and stewardship of habitat in order to achieve those goals and benchmarks. The plan contains a total of 134 recommendations for 11 parks and preserves and other river areas. Some of these recommendations apply to the entire corridor while others apply to specific areas only.

This document is a distillation of that plan. It consolidates and prioritizes the recommendations to set a concise 5-year agenda for RGC partners to follow in implementing the Habitat Plan.

### ***Recommendation Ranking Process***

The RGC Steering committee conducted a workshop to prioritize the 134 recommendations contained in the Habitat Plan. Each recommendation was evaluated based on the following four criteria:

- ***Return on Investment:*** Is the cost for implementation worthwhile based on the expected return on investment? Return on investment was considered in terms of benefit to habitat (as opposed to monetary reward). For example, a costly project that would impact habitat only minimally was given less priority than an inexpensive project that would greatly benefit habitat.

- ***Maintenance Cost:*** A challenge to maintaining habitat is the limited resources that both public private landowners s with which to maintain projects. Therefore, projects with very high maintenance costs were prioritized below those with self-sustaining maintenance or inexpensive maintenance costs.
- ***Ease of Implementation:*** Several recommendations in the plan, while they would have benefit to habitat, are very difficult to implement. This is particularly true of recommendations that propose physical modification to private property. The RGC group prioritized projects that are relatively easy to implement. Difficult projects are not rejected; however as they will require greater resources to implement, the group chooses to focus initial efforts on “low-hanging fruit” to achieve a record of success to build on as they tackle the more difficult recommendations.
- ***Restoration Goal Impact:*** The Habitat Plan identifies 12 restoration goals (p. 53) for the RGC (listed below). Each recommendation was evaluated with regard to its impact on these 12 goals. Recommendations that would have significant impact on multiple goals were ranked higher than those that would have less impact or would impact only one or two of the goals.

The following matrix describes the scoring system:

	<b><i>Return on Investment</i></b>	<b><i>Maintenance Cost</i></b>	<b><i>Ease of Implementation</i></b>	<b><i>Restoration Goal Impact</i></b>
<b>3 points</b>	Favorable return on investment	Low maintenance cost	Easy to implement	High impact on restoration goals
<b>2 points</b>	Medium return on investment	Medium maintenance cost	Moderately difficult to implement	Medium impact on restoration goals
<b>1 point</b>	Poor return on investment	High maintenance cost	Very difficult to implement	Minimal impact on restoration goals

### ***Implementation Strategies***

The top 3-5 ranked recommendations for the entire corridor and each piece of geography evaluated in the study were selected for further implementation strategy. The RGC Steering Committee identified a role and an immediate strategy for each prioritized recommendation, identifying what will be done and who will be responsible for doing it. A timeframe was assigned to each recommendation. Short-term strategies will be implemented within 2 years; long-term strategies will be implemented within 5 years. Each strategy was assigned a program evaluation benchmark which will be used to determine if the strategy was completed.

### ***Goals, Strategies and Evaluation Benchmarks***

The habitat plan identifies 12 habitat restoration goals and associates each goal with target habitat metrics that can be used to measure the progress and achievement:

#### **RGC Habitat Restoration Goals:**

1. Connect river and floodplain (AHR, BSI, FC, RBFI, WQ, WFV)
2. Educate and involve residents in riparian corridor stewardship (no targets established)
3. Expand survey and monitoring efforts (AC, AHR, MC, WFV, WQ)
4. Improve in-stream aquatic habitat (AHR, FC, MC)
5. Improve water quality to meet TMDL and water quality criteria (FC, MC, WQ)
6. Manage invasive species (FQI, WFV)
7. Manage woody debris (AHR, BSI)
8. Promote the river and the RGC as a recreational asset (no targets established)
9. Reduce erosion and sedimentation (AHR, BSI, FC, MC, WQ)
10. Reduce flashiness (AHR, BSI, RBFI)
11. Restore wetlands (FQI, WFV)

#### **Habitat Metric Targets for the Corridor**

AC – Amphibian Community Increase average species count from 2 to 4
AHR – Aquatic Habitat Ranking “Acceptable” Procedure. 51 ratings
BSI – Bank Stability Index Improve to, or maintain at, “Stable”
FC – Fish Community “Acceptable” Procedure 51 ratings
FQI – Floristic Quality Index Minimum FQI of 20
Average % native species >75%
MC – Macroinvertebrate Community “Acceptable” (Procedure 51 rating)
RBFI – Richards-Baker Flashiness Index Halt trend to increasing flashiness
WFV – Wetland Functional Value Suitable for Floodflow Alteration
WQ – Water Quality
Average wet-weather TSS < 80 mg/L Dissolved oxygen > 5 mg/L E. coli bacteria < 130 mg/L

These habitat metrics include targets for the entire corridor (listed above) as well as metrics for each individual piece of local geography. Local targets may be more or less ambitious as site conditions dictate. This implementation plan document sets programmatic evaluation benchmarks which are different than and separate from the habitat evaluation benchmarks. While habitat metrics are used to measure overall progress toward restoration goals, program evaluation benchmarks simply measure whether an identified implementation strategy was achieved. Tracking of both sets of indicators is critical to evaluating progress in implementing the Habitat Plan.



## Implementation Strategy

Each of the goals and strategies in the following table are associated with one or more of the above restoration goals and target habitat metrics.

### *Corridor-Wide*

#	Time frame	Recommendation	Role	Implementation Strategy	Program Evaluation Benchmark
13	2-year	Develop and implement (Rouge Green Corridor Overlay Zone) ordinances/guidelines in each of the 3 RGC communities for activities impacting the river.	RGC Group	Research options/pursue development of funding to draft model river corridor overlay zoning ordinance.	Proposal document written and funding source identified to develop river corridor overlay zoning ordinance.
18		Develop land owner education strategy and materials and disseminate.	RGC Group	Conduct meetings to inventory resources and devise strategy for public education.	Meeting conducted and strategy document drafted.
21		Continue and expand volunteer water quality (macroinvertebrates) monitoring to provide coverage of main drainage network inputs. (\$5K)	RGC Group, Friends of the Rouge (FOTR)	Ask FOTR to add monitoring point on main drainage networks.	Monitoring locations have been added to each major drainage input.
22		Expand bird surveys to include all parks and preserves and to incorporate annual counts, where possible, to detect population changes.	RGC Group, Audubon/ SRRLC	SRRLC will coordinate bird census	Regular bird census has been established.
23		Continue frog and toad volunteer surveys. Expand frog and toad survey efforts to include wetlands in each of the 11 RGC parks and preserves	RGC Group, Friends of the Rouge (FOTR)	Work with FOTR to promote monitoring locations in wetlands in each of the 11 RGC parks and preserves.	Monitoring locations in wetlands in each of the 11 RGC parks and preserves have been established.
30		Develop a detailed invasive species inventory, database, and map for each park/preserve. Map locations and densities of rare plant species. Prioritize areas for management based on floristic quality and infestation risk.	SRRLC/ RGC Group	Conduct spring ephemeral monitoring. Contract with SRRLC or other private contractor for invasive management services.	Invasive management program is underway in all parks and preserves.
1	5-year	Review policies and procedures to capture, detain, and treat storm water. Revise to further reduce peak flow runoff.	RGC Communities	Comply with Phase II stormwater regulations.	Communities are in good standing with Phase II permits.
4		Identify where direct connections and outfalls can be daylighted or modified to improve stormwater treatment or infiltration. .	RGC Communities	Work with OCPEDS LID coordinator to identify opportunities/ draft concept plans.	Opportunities identified/project implemented.
24		Conduct follow-up mussel surveys every 5-10 years, expand sampling locations to identify other high-quality areas and monitor over time.	RGC Group	Apply for grant for mussel monitoring	Grant secured for mussel monitoring.
50		Develop a corridor-wide large woody debris management plan which establishes priorities, budgets, schedules, and on-going maintenance programs for clearing recreational access and stabilizing the worst erosion hotspots.	RGC Group	Apply for grant to develop LWD management plan.	Plan developed and implemented on regular basis.

*City of Birmingham*

#	Time frame	Recommendation	Role	Implementation Strategy	Program Evaluation Metric
<b>Quarton Lake</b>					
38	2-year	Develop and disseminate targeted land owner education materials regarding use of low/no phosphorus fertilizers and other ways to reduce nutrient and stormwater runoff:	City of Birmingham / SOCWA	Send personal letter to residents and place information on City's web site.	Letter sent, web site information posted.
42		Use only low/no phosphorus fertilizers on park lawns and avoid fertilizer use within riparian buffers.	City of Birmingham / SOCWA	Institute department policy.	Policy is in place.
41		Provide pet-waste bags, trash cans, and educational signage regarding proper disposal.	City of Birmingham	Install signage, place information on website and quarterly newsletter.	Signage installed, information posted and in newsletter.
39		Identify opportunities to redirect storm water outfalls upstream and downstream of the park to bioswales, rain gardens, or other treatment systems prior to discharge.	City of Birmingham	Request assistance from OCPEDS LID coordinator to ID opportunities, pursue grants/budget allocation for implementation.	Opportunities and funding identified.
44		Widen existing riparian buffer with additional native species plantings.			
--		Manage and monitor fish in conjunction with Quarton Lake maintenance plan.		Department of Public Services	See maintenance plan.

<b>Booth Park Trail &amp; Linden Park Trail</b>
No location-specific recommendations different from corridor-wide recs for monitoring and invasive management.

*Village of Beverly Hills*

#	Time frame	Recommendation	Role	Implementation Strategy	Program Evaluation Metric
<b>Hidden Rivers Preserve and Riverside Park</b>					
60	2-year	Develop and disseminate targeted land owner education materials regarding use of low/no phosphorus fertilizers and other ways to reduce nutrient runoff.	Village of Beverly Hills	Brochures are being made in connection with \$2000 MDNR grant.	Brochures have been distributed to relevant property owners and posted to VBH website.
61		Conduct invasive species removal on the island in Riverside Park and involve riparian residents as a form of outreach and education.	SRRLC/ Village of Beverly Hills	Development of spring and summer workshops in progress	Workshops are implemented.
63	5-year	Hold public meetings regarding dam removal or impoundment management options.	Village of Beverly Hills	Research impoundment management options and coordinate meeting.	Meeting held and options/opinions recorded.
<b>Douglas Evans Nature Preserve</b>					
66	2-year	Actively manage invasive and woody species to maintain the planted prairie and wet meadow areas at the Douglas Evans Preserve.	SRRLC/ Village of Beverly Hills	Continue partnership with SRRLC to develop and implement invasive management program.	Invasive management program is in place.
67		Expand volunteer, consultant and/or agency staff surveys to include insects and herptiles.	SRRLC/ FOTR/ Village of Beverly Hills	Work with SRRLC and FOTR to incorporate insect and herpetile monitoring	Insect and herpetile monitoring has been incorporated.
69	5-year	Develop plan for stabilizing streambank and reducing erosion at high volume site near southern end of this reach.	Village of Beverly Hills	Contact property owners at this location to determine interest/willingness to participate.	Stabilization plan has been developed.



*City of Southfield*

Time frame	Recommendation		Role	Implementation Strategy	Program Evaluation Metric
Valley Woods Nature Preserve at Streamwood					
82	2-year	Identify opportunities to eradicate or reduce early infestations on or near the Berberian Property before they can threaten rare plant species.	SRRLC/ City of Southfield	Conduct volunteer stewardship workdays.	Workdays are conducted.
87		Explore opportunities to purchase additional parcel across the river from the Berberian property.	City of Southfield	Negotiate with landowner and submit MNRTF application.	MNRTF Application submitted.
85		Explore opportunities for removing invasive species and restoring native species at the north end of the park, while allowing for planned parking and trails.	City of Southfield (with partner support)	Pursue grant opportunities for implementation.	Grant opportunities identified/application made.
97		Continue stream bank stabilization for high priority sites identified in the Franklin Branch Erosion Inventory.	City of Southfield	Pursue grant opportunities for implementation.	Grant opportunities identified/application made.
Valley Woods Nature Preserve at Civic Center Drive					
100	2-year	Consider conducting a fish survey within this reach to determine if previous efforts to provide fish cover were successful or if more should be done to enhance fishing opportunities.	City of Southfield/ MDNR	MDNR surveys every 5 years; work with MDNR to ascertain effectiveness of fish structures.	Fish survey conducted; conclusion on fish habitat reached.
101		Provide pet-waste bags and educational signage in park regarding proper disposal.	City of Southfield	Request to city.	Bags and signage installed

Time frame	Recommendation	Role	Implementation Strategy	Program Evaluation Metric	
Valley Woods Nature Preserve at 10 Mile Rd.					
110	5-year	Restore capacity of wetlands to store and detain stormwater by removing or blocking existing culverts and shallow ditches and placing rock-armored inlets at upstream end of park.	City of Southfield/ RGC Partners	Pursue funding for and develop wetland restoration feasibility study including land assembly, costs, and impacts.	Feasibility study completed.
111		Explore the potential for a conservation easement on the hillside owned by DENSO Corporation to facilitate restoration and protection activities.	City of Southfield/ SRRLC	Work with SRRLC and Conservation Stewards program to negotiate with DENSO	Conservation easement secured.
114		Continue partnership with DENSO Corporation. Encourage their participation in local monitoring and restoration activities, within the park and on DENSO property. Explore the potential for a conservation easement on the hillside owned by the DENSO Corporation to facilitate restoration and protection activities.	SRRLC/ City of Southfield	Continue to work with DENSO and SRRLC on easement and employee stewardship program.	Employee involvement ongoing. Conservation easement secured.
10 Mile to Beech Rd. @ Beechwoods					
115	5-year	Stabilize eroding gullies and crumbling infrastructure in all 3 of these reaches.	City of Southfield/ Private landowners	City will replace publicly held infrastructure as necessary. Work with city to incorporate sensitive design standards.	City has adopted sensitive design standards when replacing infrastructure and stabilizing erosion.
116		Enhance floodwater storage in former oxbows, meander channels and drained wetlands.	City of Southfield/ Private landowners	Pursue conservation easements to incorporate improvements in flood storage.	Conservation easements secured.
Beech Woods Park/Bridge Street Nature Preserve					
122	2-year	Work with golf course personnel to change management practices, particularly leaving a natural vegetation buffer along the river and reducing fertilizer use in proximity to river.	Southfield	Pursue streambank stabilization and establishment of vegetative buffer, and fertilizer management program.	Streambank stabilization and buffer implemented, appropriate fertilizer management program in place.

#	Time frame	Recommendation	Role	Implementation Strategy	Program Evaluation Metric
<b>Valley Woods Nature Preserve South</b>					
16	2-year	Utilize MDEQ maps to identify areas of former wetland or hydric soils. Develop priorities/strategies for restoring 85 acres of wetland in the RGC south of I-696 (1/2 the estimated acreage lost since European settlement).	OCPEDS/ SRRLC/ City of City of Southfield	Outlines scope and identify funding and resources to undertake a wetland preservation /mitigation plan.	Development of project scope document.
134		Remove logjams causing localized erosion and new channel formation.	City of Southfield	Initiate woody debris management and streambank stabilization program.	WDM and streambank stabilization programs implemented.
131		Remove invasive species near Bridge Street and restore areas as mesic to wet meadow.	SRRLC/ City of Southfield	Seek grants for professional work, coordinate volunteer work.	Invasive management program in place.
104	5-year	Work with MDOT to manage invasive species within their ownership as a continuous unit with other portions of this park to minimize potential for neighboring seed sources and to allow for wildlife movement.	City of Southfield	Contact MDOT on this issue.	Dialog with MDOT opened; management actions planned or implemented.
102		Create signage/kiosks in park to provide education on habitat	City of Southfield	Pursue grant	Interpretive signage installed in park.
109		Develop a dedicated walking trail connecting City of Southfield RGC parks and preserves between 12 and 10 Mile Roads.	City of Southfield	Apply for grants to complete trail system.	Grants applied.
105		Replace geo-grid erosion control and riprap where failed with vegetative stabilization to improve shoreline aesthetics, as resources allow.	City of Southfield	Apply for grants to complete	Grants applied.



## List of Projects for Grant Funding

### *Habitat Restoration*

1. ***Establish “Grow Zone”/ Riparian Buffers (Multiple Locations)***  
(Costs outlined below)

#	Location	Cost	Description
# 57	Birmingham Country Club (Bloomfield Township)	\$17K-\$34K for design, plants and labor	Design and plant deep rooted, native species to create no-mow buffer along stream and to replace the stabilizing effects of the trees that have been cut there.
# 71	13 Mile to Lahser	\$5K for design, plants and labor	Work with riparian landowner(s) immediately south of 13 Mile Road to establish deep rooted native plantings along river banks.
#77	Lahser to 12 mile Rd.	\$5K for design, plants and labor	Work with riparian landowner(s), encouraging reestablishment of cleared streamside vegetation.
#118	Beech Woods park (City of Southfield)	\$30-\$40-K/acre (5 acres) = \$150K-\$200K	Design and plant deep rooted, native species to create no-mow buffer along stream.

2. ***Implement LID Stormwater Management at Parks/Preserves (costs TBD on case-by case basis)***  
Identify opportunities to redirect stormwater outfalls upstream and downstream of for LID
3. ***Restore Native Species in Parks & Preserves (costs TBD on case-by case basis)***  
Remove invasive species and restore native species/habitats while allowing for planned parking & trails.  
Priority: North Berberian Woods, Bridge Street
4. ***Stabilize Streambanks at Multiple Locations (costs TBD on case-by case basis)***
  - a. Pursue funding to implement stabilization at high priority areas identified in Franklin brand erosion Inventory.
  - b. Replace geo-grid erosion control and riprap where failed with vegetative stabilization.
5. ***Restore Wetlands Adjacent to DENSO (up to \$40K/acre- \$50-\$200K total)***  
Restore capacity of wetlands adjacent to DENSO (Between Telegraph and 10 Mile) to store and detain stormwater by removing or blocking existing culverts and shallow ditches and placing rock-armored inlets at upstream end of park.

### *Monitoring*

1. ***Mussel Surveys (Multiple Locations) (\$500/location- \$4-5K total)***  
Conduct mussel surveys every 5-10 years.

### ***Planning***

**1. *Write Large Woody Debris Management Plan (Cost \$20-25k)***

Develop coordinated Large Woody Debris Management plan including inventory and management strategies and schedules. Incorporate maintenance into municipal annual budgets.

**2. *Write Invasive Species Management Plans at Each Park/Preserve (Cost \$15,000/ per park- \$165K total)***

Develop a detailed invasive species inventory, database, and map for each Park. Map locations and densities of rare plant species. Map aerial distribution of individual invasive species infestations, measure abundance, and track eradication efforts. Prioritize areas of highest floristic quality at risk of infestation. Weigh the merits of using available resources for invasive species management at Park against protection of higher quality resources elsewhere. If that analysis indicates that is a high priority, then cut, remove and/or treat invasive species while numbers, densities, and coverage are fairly low. Review past and existing invasive species management actions to identify the approaches that have worked the best. Share these successes with other RGC communities, natural resource agencies, and incorporate these techniques into detailed invasive species management plans for each park and preserve.

**3. *Develop Wetland Restoration Plan for 10 Mile Road South to 8 Mile Road (Cost TBD)***

Outline scope and identify funding and resources to undertake a wetland preservation /mitigation plan.

### ***Land Acquisition***

**1. *Berberian Property (Cost TBD)***

Explore opportunities to purchase additional parcel across river from Berberian property. Negotiate with landowner and pursue MNRTF funding. (Cost TBD)

### ***Education***

**1. *Educational Signage (\$2-3K/sign; \$20-30K total)***

Develop signage/kiosks in Parks/Preserves to educate users on habitat, the Rouge Watershed, and the Rouge Green Corridor.

## **Review & Evaluation Process**

The following schedule for evaluating implementation progress is recommended:

**Review of Implementation Plan at a 3 year interval (2012)** - Evaluate progress of implementation plan. Review priority recommendations; add or delete recommendations and adjust strategies as needed.

**Habitat Inventory and Review of Habitat Plan at a 10 -year interval (2019)** -

Conduct full habitat assessment of RGC to determine progress toward habitat benchmarks. Review habitat plan and adjust as needed.

## **Next Steps**

Successful implementation of this plan will require the continued dedication and collaboration of the RGC partners. The following ongoing actions are recommended to retain established momentum and keep the process moving forward:

1. Continue to meet monthly with RGC steering partners to plan, strategize and coordinate plan implementation activities using this document as a guide.
2. Report activities and progress to City/Village councils/boards on an annual basis.
3. Create and update an RGC website where information about the RGC, including the full habitat plan and this document, can be accessed by the public.





## MEMORANDUM

Clerk's Office

**DATE:** June 29, 2017

**TO:** Joe Valentine, City Manager

**FROM:** Leslie Pielack, Museum Director

**SUBJECT:** Museum Strategic Plan Update

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### Background

During 2016, the Museum Board reviewed the goals and the objectives of the expiring 2013-2016 Strategic Plan to make necessary modifications and updates for the next three year period.

The resulting 2017-2020 Birmingham Museum Strategic Plan builds on the foundation of the original 2013-2016 Strategic Plan, continuing its emphasis on

- a) Community engagement and public access
- b) Strategic development and care of the museum collection
- c) Strengthening financial and other resources for improved sustainability
- d) Marketing and image enhancement.

Changes in the plan were primarily related to accomplished objectives or modifications needed due to changing circumstances; otherwise the plan's direction and goals remain the same. On January 5, 2017, the Museum Board unanimously approved the revised 2017-2020 plan and recommended that it be presented to the City Commission for final approval. The city commission approved the plan on February 20, 2017.

### Emphasis of 2017-2020 Plan

The guidance of the Strategic Plan has allowed the museum to continue to focus on the key areas of preserving and connecting the public to Birmingham's history and culture. It has also helped the museum improve these efforts through using technological advances. We continue to provide educational services and interpretive programs that reinforce our historic collection and Birmingham's story, and worked to form relationships with organizations that support these goals. Activities identified in the current plan continue or expand on those in the previous plan to accomplish these objectives.

The first two goals (Community Engagement and Collection Care) primarily involve our core historic materials and programming in particular. We have expanded our mission to include our general cultural legacy as part of our scope. This makes it possible to connect the past

effectively with the present and to reach younger audiences who have a keen interest in the recent past and aspects of the past in the present.

## **Examples of Current History Focused Activities Based on the Strategic Plan**

### **Community Engagement**

#### **1. Museum Programs and Educational Tours**

##### **Continued:**

School tours are designed to help teachers achieve their local history curriculum standards. Students continue to tour the Allen House and Hunter House each year, accompanied by parents who also are exposed to the history of pioneer Birmingham as well as the Allens and early 20<sup>th</sup> century Birmingham. We have continued to provide special group tours to area cultural and service organizations, such as senior centers, private schools, and quester groups.

##### **Added:**

- We have worked closely with the Birmingham Public Schools Curriculum coordinator and with 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers to improve the tour experience.
- We have added museum staff visits to classrooms in addition to museum site tours, taking more historic content and objects to 2<sup>nd</sup> graders.
- Bi-monthly tours of the Hunter House for the Community House's pre-K classes
- Additional history-based programs for the public for our Second Thursday extended hours (children and adults)
- Joint development of a history-based lecture series with the Baldwin Public Library featuring outside speakers
- Joint sponsorship of a local history author presentation at the Baldwin Public Library
- Bi-monthly children's story time with a children's librarian at the Hunter House with history focused themes

#### **2. Expanding Public Access to the Collection**

##### **Continued:**

Visitors to the museum include those who visit the site (museum buildings and park) as well as virtually. Both forms of access are important and enhance each other. We have continued to provide research services to walk in visitors and by appointment, and this activity has been steadily increasing. We have continued to provide in-house museum programs in house that feature objects from our collection. We have also continued to provide content on our web site with photographs, history, walking tour brochures, and other historic information about Birmingham.

##### **Added:**

- On a bi-monthly basis, museum staff takes objects from our collection to the residents of the Baldwin House for special off-site programming

- Museum staff have created an exhibit case in City Hall with objects from our collection that features Birmingham's police history
- Several new thematic virtual exhibits with curated content have been created for the museum website that feature school history and Birmingham police history
- Expanded our online collection to include Birmingham historic postcards in the Oakland County Historic Resources library collection (for which we received a grant)
- Audio-visual content; a 6 minute promotional video of the museum that highlights Birmingham's history at both buildings and our collection with photos
- WiFi infrastructure on the museum site and throughout the park with QR code access to virtual exhibits and other historic content
- Working with Baldwin Library and Bloomfield Township Public Library to make historic Birmingham Eccentric issues available electronically to the public

### 3. Other Activities, Events and Outreach

#### Continued:

We have continued to provide presentations and off-site lectures on content related to Birmingham's history, and requests are steadily increasing. We continue to promote the museum's collection and activities through press releases and for events that focus on Birmingham's history and culture. We continue to utilize Facebook for communication through social media with our younger audiences, and activity is steady and increasing.

#### Added:

- Monthly articles in the Birmingham Eagle for their "Looking Back" column that feature photos from our collection and curated content for specific aspects of Birmingham's history (examples attached)
- 2-3 times per week, a special museum Facebook post "This Day in Birmingham History" that includes a spotlighted photo from our collection and a historic note, inviting responses from visitors (one of our most popular activities; examples attached)
- An Instagram account for images relating to the museum and Birmingham history
- Our website, Facebook, and Instagram communication approach has been used as a model by at least two local history organizations in recent weeks, reinforcing its positive impact
- The Museum Board Bicentennial Book Project Committee is currently exploring approaches to creating a publication to coincide with the 200<sup>th</sup> bicentennial in 2018, and the Museum Board is also looking at bicentennial celebration ideas
- Our outreach has resulted in firm relationships with key donors; for example, the Rosso Family Foundation continues to fund preservation activities for aspects of our historic collection (on average, the Rosso Foundation gives \$7,500 - \$10,000 per year to special projects)



## **Strategic Development and Care of the Museum Collection**

### **1. Preservation of the Collection**

#### Continued:

Digitization and efficient storage of historic photos, objects, and books has been ongoing, with the goal to bring our collection entirely into our museum software system and to add new materials to maintain these standards.

#### Added:

- A high resolution scanner for preservation quality images to permanently archive our historic photos and documents
- Development of new methods of storing and retrieving our digitized collection materials
- A special archival storage area for maps, documents, and photographs

### **2. Enhancing the Collection through Strategic Acquisition**

#### Continued:

We work with donors and other institutions to enhance our existing collection by acquiring additional materials related to Birmingham history. We continue to provide assistance and research for potential object donors and facilitate object donations as well as outreach to locate and acquire objects.

#### Added:

- A 19<sup>th</sup> c. portrait of Dr. Ebenezer Raynale, pioneer Birmingham doctor
- A previously unknown photographic portrait of John West Hunter in the collection of another institution
- A table, chairs, menu, and related artifacts from historic Peabody's Restaurant for display in our lobby
- A protective outside display for the historic Hill School Bell, funded almost entirely by private means. The display also includes commemorative bricks that acknowledge the entire history of Birmingham schools superintendents and their terms
- Additional items pertaining to CREEM Magazine's publication in Birmingham, making our collection the most important in the country
- A group of important Native American bi-face projectile points originally found in Birmingham that span 8,000 years of activity, formerly in a private collection

### **3. Preservation Planning**

#### Continued:

We have continued to incorporate planning initiatives to study and preserve our collection. We have developed draft policies in disaster preparedness for our collection and in collection management. These

functions help assure that our historic objects and documents are protected and preserved.

Added:

- A comprehensive master landscaping planning initiative is underway that includes special survey by a historic landscape professional to identify, preserve, plan, and interpret our historic site more effectively (historical survey funded by the Rosso Family Foundation)
- Public input is planned for the master landscape plan to ensure public access to historic features of the site and interpretive content that meets public needs and expectations

## Summary

Our current strategic plan has enabled the museum to approach our mission with numerous activities that reinforce our commitment to Birmingham and its history. At the same time, we have been able to increase our audience and forms of visitation, resulting in improved public access and greater appreciation for our role. Our re-branding and the shortening of our name to Birmingham Museum has helped us refresh our presence and appeal to individuals, families, and even other organizations in the community.

## Birmingham Museum Community Engagement and Collections Care

	2014-2015	2015-16	2016-17
Visits			
School Tours	700	735	711*
Museum Site (includes park)	2400	2700	3100
Programs & Events			
Children Only Programs	n/a	6	14
Adults/Family	n/a	15	20
Online Engagement			
Facebook Total Likes	541	643	731
Instagram Followers	n/a	n/a	151
Revenues			
Admissions	1719.00	3783.00	5713.00
Donations**	452.00	2428.00	2858.00
Grants	5000.00	8500.00	2900.00
Collection Items Digitized Per Year			
Detailed Object Records	n/a	600	1750
Scanned images	n/a	3500	1300

\*Reduced attendance attributed to school closure/absenteeism for Noro virus

\*\*Does not include projects funded by Friends of the Birmingham Museum

As shown in the chart, our Facebook activity reflects an active social media connection with our online audience, with a high level of likes for an organization of our size, active re-posts, interest in our events, and other indications of engagement. We have also a healthy following of over 150 on Instagram.

Our revenues also reflect the improvement in our community engagement, both in numbers of physical visitors and an increase in admission revenues (which for 2016-17 were up by 54%).

As a strategic plan is always best when flexible, we look forward to input and opportunities to make adjustments. This will allow us to continue to meet expectations and strengthen the museum going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Pielack  
Museum Director



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BIRMINGHAM

# Looking Back: The Watkins Pony Farm of Birmingham

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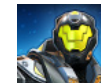
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🕒 Posted April 6, 2016

Shetland ponies were once big business in Birmingham. From the 1890s to the mid-20th century, Watkins Shetland Pony Farm supplied Shetland ponies to pony lovers, farmers and businesses in the Birmingham area and all over the country from its 120-acre property east of what is now called Quarton Lake.

Gilbert Watkins imported the herd of ponies from the Shetland Islands to his Birmingham farm sometime in the late 1880s. By day he worked in the insurance industry, but in his spare time he took pride in breeding the finest ponies that were, as he claimed in a 1892 catalog, “the only herd in the world registered in both the United States and the Shetland Islands.”

In the early 1900s, Gilbert’s nephew, Fenton Watkins, began working with the ponies. In an oral history interview with the Birmingham Historical Society in the 1970s, he recounted many details of the business and the ponies themselves.

On one Saturday each spring, Fenton and several local boys would walk the ponies from the farm to Belle Isle. The ponies were housed on the island with the police horses all summer and pulled carts that visitors could rent. The rates were 25 cents for an hour, 15

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cents for a half-hour and 10 cents for a ride. The duration of the ride was determined by how many children were waiting in line.

The ponies were also used on Boblo Island and in Palmer Park in Detroit. Fenton and his wife spent every summer between 1916 and 1929 caring for the ponies on Boblo.

The postcard pictured here is from The Birmingham Museum's collection and depicts the ponies on Belle Isle. The postcard bears a postmark from 1910.

— Caitlin Donnelly, The Birmingham Museum

### Did you know...

The Birmingham Historical Museum and Park is now called The Birmingham Museum. It is open 1-4 p.m. Wednesdays-Saturdays at 556 W. Maple Road in downtown Birmingham. Admission costs \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors and students, and is free for children younger than 5.

### Morning Vinegar Cleanse

My friends keep asking me about this morning vinegar cleanse, this is what I tell them. [classatbootcamp.com](http://classatbootcamp.com)



◀ 3

2

◀ 1

For more local news coverage, see the following newspaper:

**Birmingham - Bloomfield Eagle**

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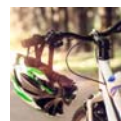
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**Trending** ▲▼ School raises more than \$16,000 for pediatric cancer research — *Macomb Township*

BIRMINGHAM

## Looking Back: Alice Fouracre and a 'Titanic' near-miss

26



Posted November 9, 2016

This photo of Alice Fouracre and her two oldest sons was taken in the late 1910s. Alice, her husband, Albert, and her children lived what could be described as an average life in Birmingham, but she might not have made it to Birmingham had she stuck with her original plan to sail on the infamous RMS Titanic.

Albert and Alice were both from Somerset County, England. Albert and his friend Jack immigrated to Detroit in 1911. Both left their fiancées behind in the city of South Hampton, England, while they sought work in their new home. While waiting, Alice took on work in England as a seamstress for a well-to-do family. In 1912, Alice and Elsie, Jack's fiancée, purchased second-class tickets aboard the next White Star Line ship that was setting sail to the U.S., the RMS Titanic.

As fate would have it, there would be a shortage of space for the domestic staff for first-class passengers, so the White Star Line asked existing second-class ticket-holders to sell back their tickets to the company to accommodate this need. Alice and Elsie sold their tickets back. This would delay their journey by at least another week as the Titanic's owners had bought up all available coal to eliminate competition during the Titanic's maiden voyage.

Even after learning of the horrendous loss of life when the Titanic sank and their own close call, Alice and Elsie were determined to be reunited with their husbands-to-be.

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Shortly after they arrived safely in America and passed through Ellis Island, a double wedding was held. Alice and Albert settled in Birmingham, where Albert worked for the Detroit United Railway, and raised a family in the city. For several of those years, they lived in the Hunter House, which is now located on the property of the Birmingham Museum.

If you have a Birmingham family history you'd like to share, contact Caitlin Donnelly at the Birmingham Museum at [cdonnelly@bhamgov.org](mailto:cdonnelly@bhamgov.org).

— Caitlin Donnelly, museum assistant at the Birmingham Museum

26

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**Birmingham - Bloomfield Eagle**

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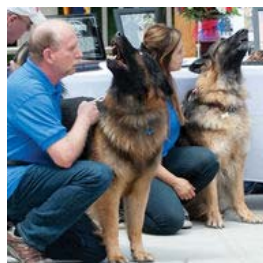
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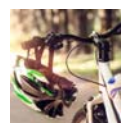
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**The Birmingham Museum**

Published by Katie Donnelly [?] · June 18 at 12:05pm · 🌐

On this date in 1896 four new cars of the electric interurban come to Birmingham for the first time. The interurban runs from Detroit to Birmingham. Fare was 15 cents one way.

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**The Birmingham Museum**

Published by Katie Donnelly [?] · February 17 · 🌐

On this #DayofFacts, we'd like to celebrate and appreciate the unique American stories that make us an amazing city! Recognize the young lady standing in the second row, third from the right in this Hill School class picture from 1914? She's Bessie Levinson, daughter of Morris Levinson, who opened up a department store in Birmingham in 1897 after he and his wife, Augusta, immigrated from Russia in the late 19th century. The Levinsons were the first Jewish family to call Birmi... [See More](#)

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## The Birmingham Museum

Published by Katie Donnelly [?] · March 16 ·

Nowadays, when we want the entire world to know that we had a good time at a party, we post about it on Facebook. Back in 1882, you'd put a notice in your local paper about it. In the March 16, 1882 edition of the Birmingham Eccentric we learn that

"A party of merry school mates had a very pleasant surprise party at Will Stevens' on Thursday evening of last week."

In the same front page column, there is also a record of who was visiting what friends and relations in the village, who had recently taken up painting, who was ill, who accidentally injured themselves with farm equipment, and who was embarking on a trip. It appears that the tendency to overshare isn't a totally new behavior brought on by social media.



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31 Reactions, Comments & Shares

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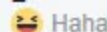
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**The Birmingham Museum**

Published by Katie Donnelly [?] · April 28 · 🌐

Did you know? In 1960 Birmingham became the first city in Michigan to have a female mayor. Florence "Twink" Willitt served as a member of the commission from 1955 to 1960 and mayor from 1960 until 1963.

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