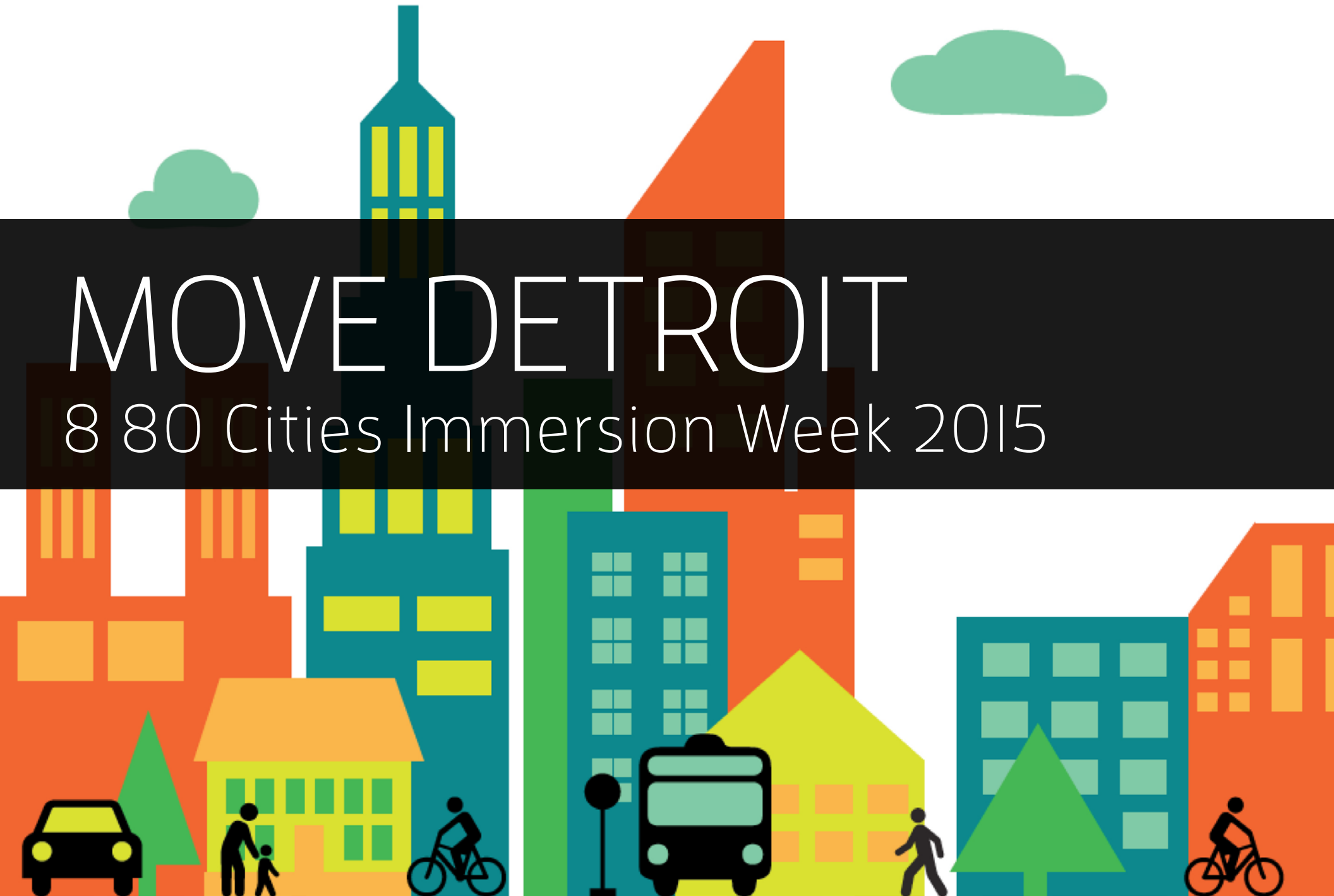


MOVE DETROIT

880 Cities Immersion Week 2015



8 Lessons for 8 80 Cities

Detroit has an incredible opportunity to become an 8 80 city.

Detroit may be facing financial challenges, but the city is rich in human capital. Local residents' energy, creativity, and commitment to building a thriving city is Detroit's greatest resource.

People want a more walkable and bikeable city with better public spaces.

There is a sense of urgency among Detroit residents to start creating a more people-friendly city. Many leaders have already begun taking action (ie. Jason Hall of Slow-Roll, and Ryan Myers-Johnson of Sidewalk Festival of Performing Arts, for example). Decision makers must work with and support community leaders in scaling up many of the inspiring initiatives already underway.

Don't let political or financial challenges get in the way of creating people-friendly cities.

Decision makers need to become champions for creating vibrant parks and accessible transportation options for all residents. When it comes to sustainable mobility, there can be no half-measures. Detroit needs an accessible and connected network of wide sidewalks, better crosswalks, and protected bike lanes that are physically separated from traffic.

Pedestrians are the top priority

Just as birds were made to fly, people were made to walk. And every journey begins and ends with walking. Walking engages our senses and allows us to interact with our surroundings and each other. Creating a comfortable and

enjoyable pedestrian environment is about more than mobility – it's a basic human right.

Benchmark with the best.

A city is only as great as the people who choose to live there. Detroit must learn from the most livable cities in the world if it wants to attract and retain talented residents. That means taking inspiration from the most walkable, bikeable, people-friendly cities around the globe.

Build a minimum grid, and they will come.

To make cycling safe and accessible for all residents, we must lower speeds in residential areas, and build a minimum grid of separated bike lanes connect important destinations and all communities across the city.

Safety is the most important factor determining people's mobility choices and park use.

People won't walk, bike, or visit parks if they are made to feel unsafe or uncomfortable. Enhancing safety (real and perceived) for park users can be achieved with simple solutions such as improved lighting, installing more seating, or organizing community clean-ups.

Rebuilding Detroit is a collective effort.

An 8 80 city must be built for the community, and by the community. This can only be achieved through inclusive and meaningful community engagement that brings diverse stakeholders – elected officials, city staff, business owners, residents, non-profit organizations, schools and universities, etc. – together to address barriers and identify opportunities.

Presentations and Workshops

MONDAY, JUNE 22

Radio interview on *Detroit Today*

Meeting with Community Foundation

TUESDAY, JUNE 23

Walking Tour: Envisioning the Beltline Greenway

Detroit Greenways Coalition and Detroit Eastside Communities Collaborative

Presentation & Workshop: Great Street Design

8 80 Cities, Detroit Collaborative Design Centre, Van Dusen Urban Leadership Forum, Jefferson East Inc.

Presentation: We Are All City Builders: How to Create Vibrant, Inclusive and Innovative Cities for All

8 80 Cities, Van Dusen Urban Leadership Forum

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Presenation: Strengthening Park Assets through Programming and Engagement

8 80 Cities, Belle Isle Conservancy, Chandler Park Conservancy, Van Dusen Urban Leadership Forum, Jefferson East Inc.

Workshop: Riverfront Parks Planning

8 80 Cities, Belle Isle Conservancy, Detroit General Services Department, Van Dusen Urban Leadership Forum, Jefferson East Inc.

Presentation: Sustainable Mobility for a Vital Region

8 80 Cities, Grosse Point War Memorial, Jefferson East Inc.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25

Presentation: Downtown Design for People

8 80 Cities, Downtown Detroit Partnership, Jefferson East Inc.

Panel Presentation: Downtown for Everyone - Equity & Inclusiveness

8 80 Cities, International Downtown Association Midwest Urban District Forum

Presentation & Workshop: The Making of a Strong Neighborhood

8 80 Cities, Detroit Future Cities

FRIDAY, JUNE 26

Workshop: An Open Streets Event in Detroit

8 80 Cities, Van Dusen Urban Leadership Forum, Jefferson East Inc.

A series of hand-drawn cards on white paper, each with a dark red border, are hanging from a string with wooden clothespins. The cards feature various messages and drawings. One card at the top has a drawing of a potty and the text 'Porter Potties to use the Bathroom'. Another card has the word 'TREES' in green. A card in the foreground has 'PARKS DISSOLVE BORDERS' with a small heart below it. Another card says 'LEARN MORE ABOUT MY NEIGHBORS' with a drawing of three people. Other cards in the background have partial text like 'RK: your', 'TAKES', and 'DE'.

WORKSHOP RESULTS

PARKS DISSOLVE
BORDERS
♡

LEARN MORE ABOUT
MY NEIGHBORS
RIPPE

Porter
Potties
to use the
Bathroom

TREES

RK:

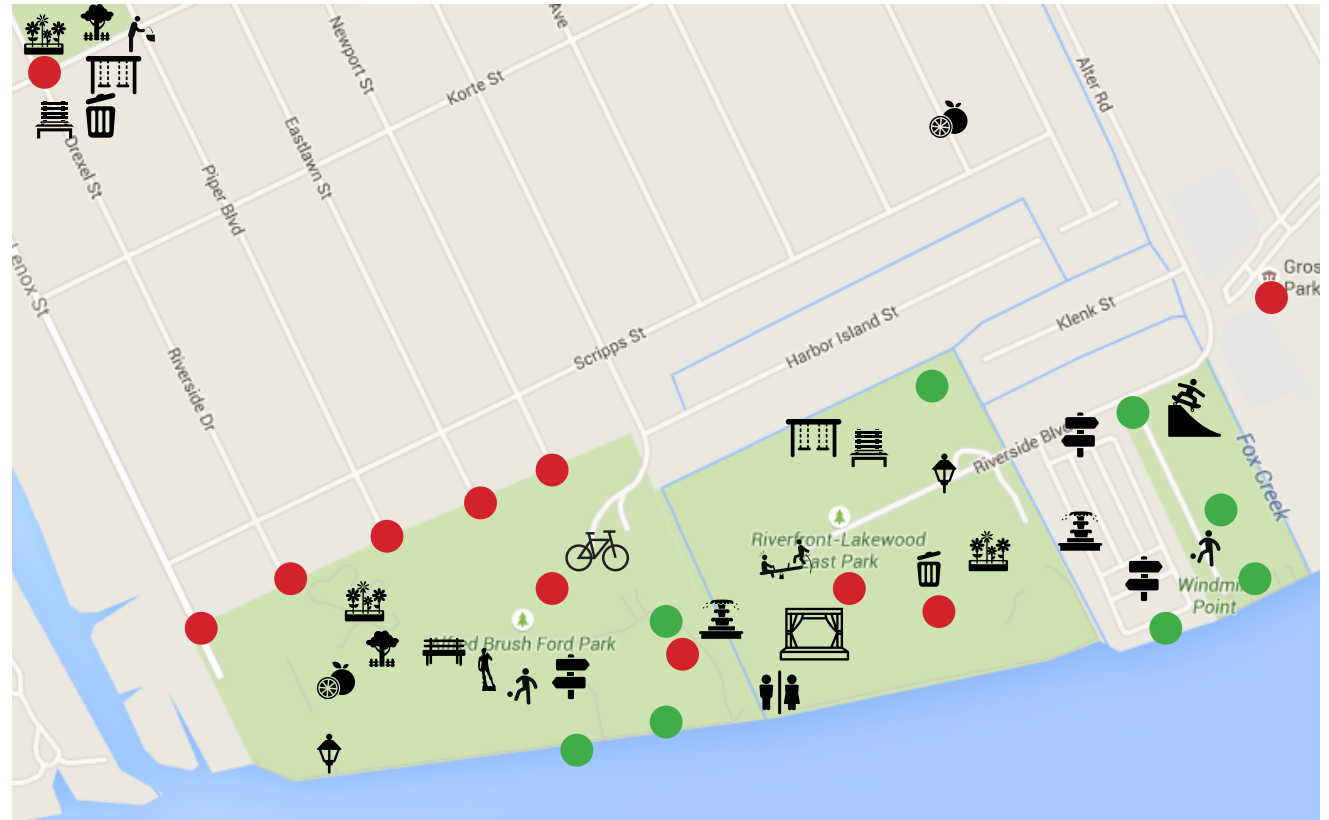
your

TAKES

Jefferson Chalmers Neighborhood

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Install wayfinding signage along Riverside Dr. to draw pedestrian activity towards the park.
- Leverage and enhance access to the lake view points.
- Improve facilities for fishing in Mariners Park.
- Bring in affordable and healthy food truck options.
- Improve entry points at the end of each major street into Brush Ford Park.
- Keep the gate open at Lennox St..
- Install phones throughout the parks to enhance security.
- Install more seating (benches, chairs, etc.) along the trails.



LEGEND

The maps featured on the following pages were designed by local residents during a workshop activity. Groups identified existing opportunities and barriers in their neighborhood parks, and selected amenities they would like to add.

- Areas with problems/challenges
- Positive spaces/opportunities

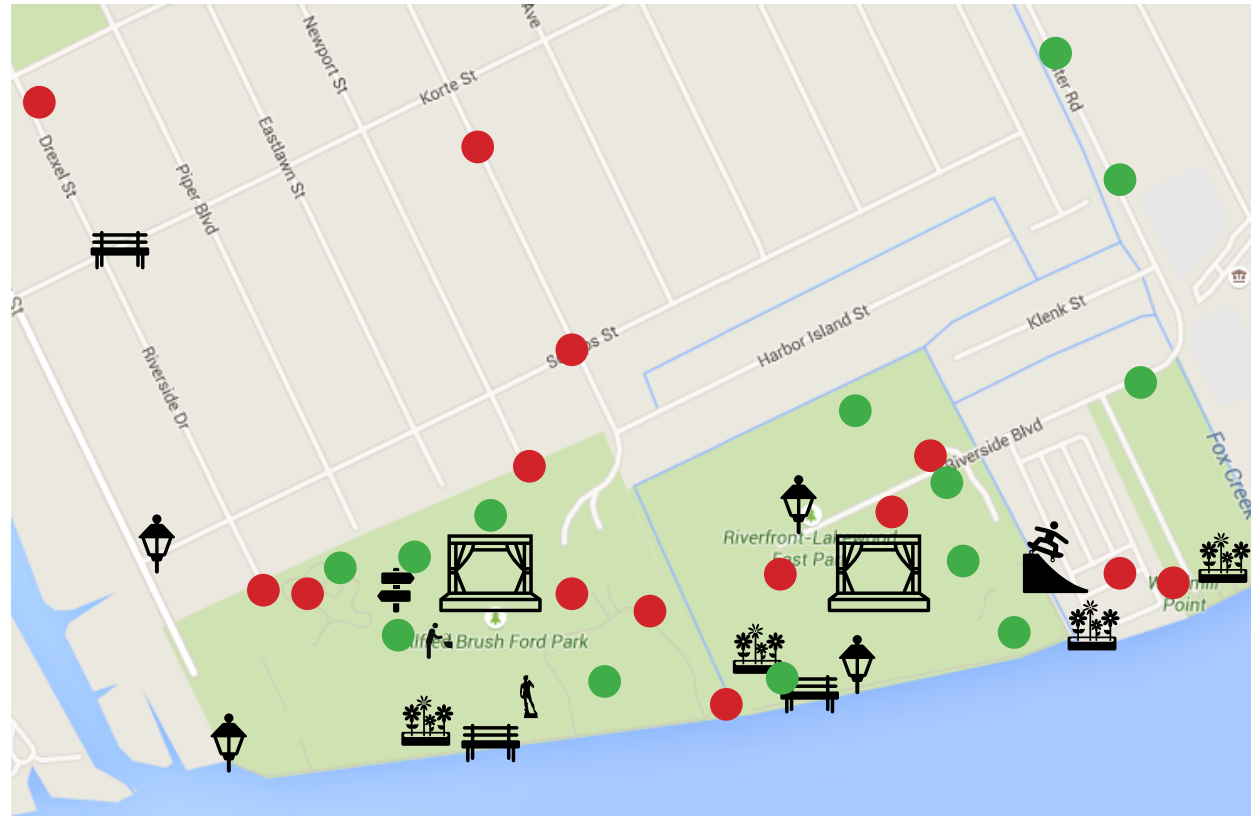


Community Wayfinding
Walk [Your] City (left in Raleigh, NC) is a wayfinding project that directs residents to local destinations by showing them distance in walking minutes, rather than miles. The project has been implemented in dozens of cities around the world.

Jefferson Chalmers Neighborhood

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Enhance the public amenities in Hansen Park in the northwest corner of the mapped site with additional seating, lighting, and programming.
- Enforce 20mph speed limits on Lakewood St. to enhance pedestrian safety.
- Install a four-way stop at Lakewood and Scripps to calm traffic.
- Install traffic calming measures along Alter Road and Riverside Boulevard.
- Remove the boulders along the waterfront to enhance access.
- Install bike racks throughout the neighbourhood.
- Build a picnic area in Brush Ford Park.
- Build a restroom in Brush Ford Park.
- Enhance walking trails in Brush Ford Park to improve connectivity and accessibility.
- Build a gateway to Brush Ford Park at the foot of Newport St. to establish a sense of arrival.



Creative Traffic Calming

Slowing traffic can create healthier, safer, and more connected communities. Creating safer routes to the parks in Jefferson Chalmers is an effective way to increase park usage. There are many creative ways to calm local traffic, including street murals (far left in Portland) and colorful crosswalks (left in Miami).

Jefferson Chalmers Neighborhood

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- The City should buy the parcel of land just west of Mariners Park.
- Install more seating along the waterfront.
- Program the waterfront with yoga classes.
- Organize music and dance classes in Brush Ford Park.
- Host bird watching classes in Brush Ford Park.
- Install floating docks along the creek.
- Bring in food trucks near the entrance of Lakewood East Park.
- Limit vehicle access to Lakewood East Park by closing the road nearer the park entry.
- Repurpose the parking lot at the end of Riverside Blvd for pedestrian use.
- Build a trail system around the perimeter of Lakewood East Park.
- The access gateway at Lennox is a problem.



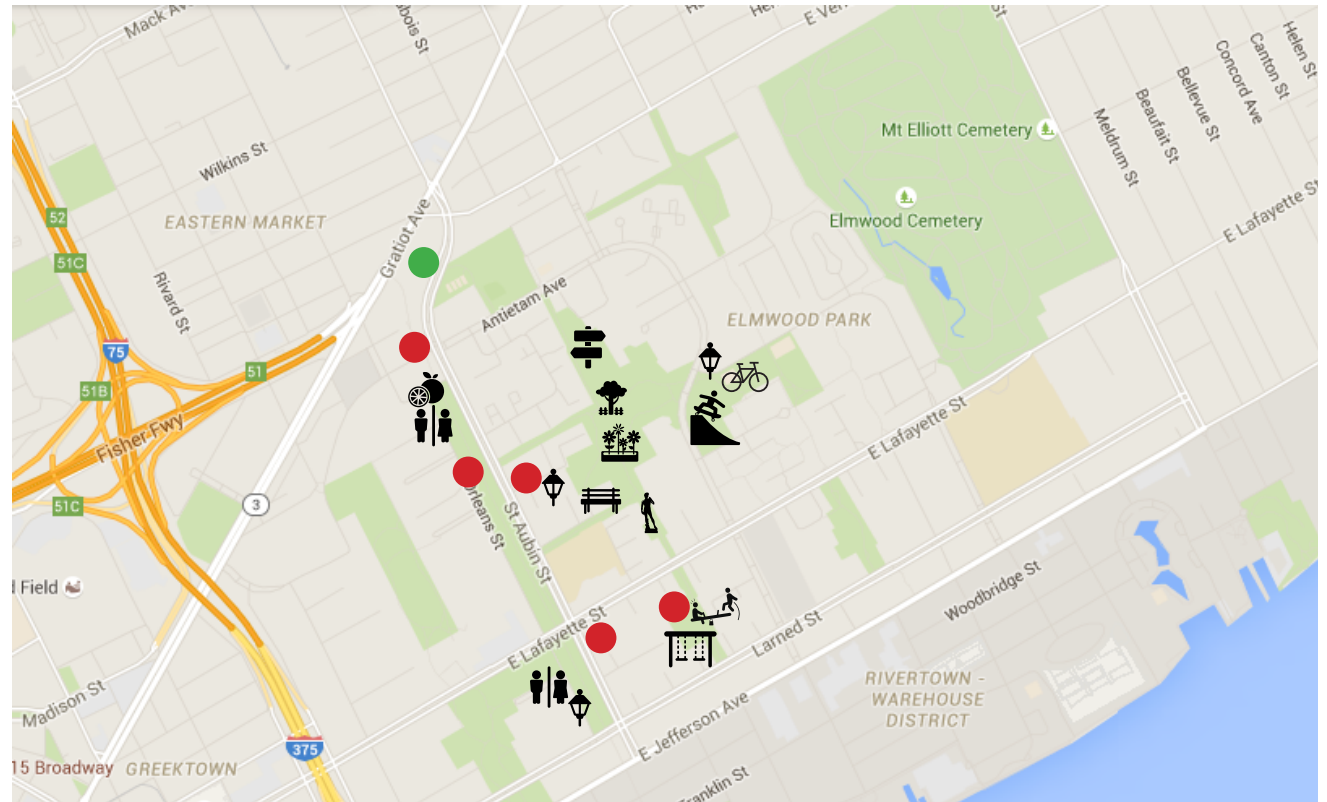
Site Revitalization

The temporary and experimental activation of an under-utilized parcel of land brings new life and vitality to a neighborhood. The parking lot on Riverside Boulevard could be converted into a community garden (far left in Vancouver, BC) or a community market (left in Brooklyn, NY).

Lafayette Neighborhood

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Lighting is needed along trails of Henderson Park to improve safety at night.
- Program a farmers market in the northern section of Henderson Park.
- Install more signage along Jefferson Ave. to draw people into the parks.
- Install traffic calming along Jefferson Ave., particularly near Owen Park.
- The marina is difficult to access. There needs to be improved awareness and programming for residents.
- All water front property should be accessible and open to pedestrians. Building a promenade would improve this.
- More eyes on the street (cafe, programming) needed in Memorial Park.



Common Themes

Common themes that emerged among all groups that participated in this activity include: **traffic calming; improve maintenance; improve safety; increase awareness of activities; create new programming to draw people in**

Village/Gold Coast Neighborhood

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS:

- Design and program the neighborhood parks attract diverse users:
 - Owen Park to be youth-friendly
 - Henderson Park to be themed on healthy lifestyles
 - Memorial Annex Park to celebrate nature
 - North of Henderson Park to be teen-friendly
- Improve connections to the Dequindre Cut.
- Create access points that link to other green spaces.
- More wayfinding signage to improve connections between parks.
- Install curb cuts and safe crosswalks.
- More promotion and awareness about programming and activities in the rec centre.
- More activities in the public spaces - foursquare, pickleball, shuffle board, bocci.
- Better maintenance in parks to create a welcoming environment



Themed Parks: Malmö, Sweden

In the mid-1990s, the City of Malmö began building themed playgrounds with custom designs. There are now a total of twenty themed playgrounds in the city catering to all age groups.

The imaginative themes include music, fairytales, space, farm, and forests.

Public Space Hearts & Road Blocks

Everyone has things they love, and things they would like to improve about the parks and public spaces in their community. On two occasions, 880 Cities asked Detroit residents, "What do you love about the parks and public spaces in Detroit? Why do you visit these spaces, and what keeps you coming back?" We also asked residents, "What deters you from visiting parks and public spaces? What would make you visit these sites more often?"

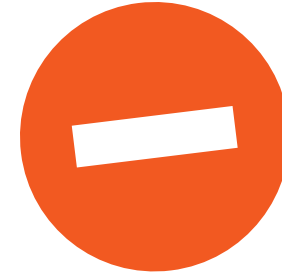
Residents were asked to record as many responses to these questions as possible. The results reveal consistent themes that could help community leaders and public space managers build on existing successes and address current challenges in Detroit's park system.

See Appendix A for a complete list of the Public Space Hearts and Public Space Road Blocks.



131

Road Blocks



“ WHAT DETROITERS SAID:

Need more connectivity by biking and walking

Not enough organized activities

We need bathrooms for the public

Limited hours of operation/access :(

Transportation/connection between neighborhoods

Not enough activities for teens

Most city parks are not well maintained

Lack of safety

”

117

Hearts



“ WHAT DETROITERS SAID:

Quiet, peaceful green place to relax and reflect

Watching wildlife

Diversity of neighborhoods

I love the urban gardens that Detroit has

Proximity to water

Safe and fun community space

Chance to decompress

Free community activities

”

Public Space Hearts

This workshop activity produced 117 ideas from local residents at two separate events. The first event was the *Strengthening Park Assets Through Programming* workshop at Belle Isle Casino on June 23, 2015. The second event took place during the *Bringing Back the People* workshop, hosted as part of the Detroit Future City Ideas for Innovation Series on June 24, 2015.

STRENGTHENING PARK ASSETS WORKSHOP: JUNE 23, 2015

Skateboard park

I'd like to see chess and checker boards painted on the concrete

Scenary

Fresh air

Romanowski Orchard!!

Biking to the parks

Watching wildlife

Tons of people

Trees!

Big families

Gardens and plants

Quiet, peaceful green place to relax and reflect

By the river watching the boats go by

Free!

Music concerts

Nature and natural habitat

Nature

The best part I like about the park is the swing cause we can be our self while swinging

Beautiful grounds and trees

Learn more about my neighbors

Parks dissolving borders

Takes away from hustle and bustle

I'd like to see bikadome track for bike training

Love to see a bike trail into parks

Natural areas. Trees, flowers, conservatories, and greenhouses just being outside

Free art, free music. Cultural event spaces are free

I like to have fun and enjoy myself at the park

Riverfront - walking and biking can lead a very active life

Basketball

Nature (view)

The fact that it's there

I like that some parks have basketball courts. Also nature, and interacting with other people my age

I like the slides and swings

Diverse groups of people spending time outside

Originality

Trees and shaded space

Family playgrounds from picnics

Meeting places

Riverfront access

Shade spots

More physical activities - walking, jogging, biking, etc.

Ppen field

Play frisbee with my dog :)

Sports areas

It's a relaxation area somewhere everyone can hang out at

Being in the city of Detroit

It's somewhere kids can go

Parks are good for the community

Our parks on the waterfronts

The river - passive/active recreation

The view of the water

Public Space Hearts

Great places to play

Pools

Free community events

Wildlife and nature

Positive people

Relaxation

Pleasant place to play and relax

Family events

Need butterfly house!

Nature and relaxation

Shade

Hills for sitting, running, tumbling, sledding

Water fountains – drinking and decorative

Green space

Water, green space, active lifestyle, walking

Trees

Open space

Wildlife

I also like when my family is with me at the park

Waterfront

Grass at good low height, trees that are trimmed

Just to meet new people

I like playing basketball

Nature/water

Opportunity to relax and also to exercise

Where people from all walks of life mix and share space

Being able to experience nature

I like that we have parks on the beautiful river, right up to the water

Nice open water (need to build promenade)

Walking tracks

BRINGING BACK THE PEOPLE WORKSHOP: JUNE 24, 2015

Playing frisbee!

Safe parks

Communing with nature

Belle Isle – that it's an Island Park

Open space with new playground equipment

Peaceful atmosphere

Community

Views

Some parks are large and have benches

Invested neighbors

Belle Isle water

Good and cool and artistic features (benches, tables, unique play structures)

Being around people I might not otherwise get a chance to interact with

Eyes on the street = safety

Diversity of neighborhoods

The trees!

I love the urban gardens that Detroit has

Proximity to water

They are green

Parks have playstructures

The river

Fun people

Activity

Shade and trees (mature)

Trees and bike/walking paths

Lots of activity

Public Space Road Blocks



STRENGTHENING PARK ASSETS WORKSHOP: JUNE 23, 2015

We need bathrooms for the public

Tall grass

Graffiti on/or around play areas

Over-flowing trash cans

No clean restrooms

Not safe

Close too early

Goose poop!!

Gates that are never open

Restrooms that are always locked

Vandalism

Rude noisy folks and activities

Noisy boats and boating folk

Not free or too expensive

Broken drinking fountains

Have too much trash

Not enough activities for teens

Bad guys

Fix a new gate in front of eastword park

So much grass that's not really best for environment

When they don't feel safe and clean

Lack of bathrooms

Not enough discipline over users (trash left behind)

Lack of safety

Need at least one bike rack in every park

The adults take over the basketball court

Lack of cleanliness - overflowing trash cans

Cars driving on the grass

Planning and programming activities should be made easily and readily

Accessed by visitors

Canada geese and bird invasion. Animal feces

Waterfront not well developed

Not enough dog-friendly parks

Sometimes it don't be anything to do at the park

The smells at the parks

Not enough parks for little kids.

Need more parks for seniors

Not enough organized activities

No frequent monitoring

Locked bathrooms

Need more connectivity by biking and walking

Not enough comfortable places to sit and spend an afternoon



Public Space Road Blocks

Not feeling safe
Tall grass
Trash
Limit vehicle access to Angel Park
Broken playscapes
Overgrown grass
Trash
Things I dislike is that people leave their trash around and never clean it up
Comfort stations
Negative community engagement
Some play areas need repairs
Solid recreational items on the ground
Trash
Not enough toilets
Vehicles parking on the grass
Animal litter
Maintenance
Stop people from driving into Eastwood Park
Three month Gran Prix
Toilets with doors that don't lock or close
Follow through. Consistency. Accountability
Not accessible enough
At times too much police presence
Need more connectivity
No porta potties to use the bathroom
Garbage pick up and recycling
More community activities
No dog park area
Too far to go
Dog areas
More litter barrels or cans

No concession stands
Would like to see bathrooms renovated
Not clean sometimes
Limited hours of operation/access :(
Toilets don't work
Exclusivity
Most city parks are not well maintained
Stop signs on the way to parks to slow traffic
Lack of basketball courts
Brown fields blocking public access
No lawn up-keep

BRINGING BACK THE PEOPLE WORKSHOP: JUNE 24, 2015

People using alcohol and drugs
Lack of maintenance
Trash
Long grass and weeds
Broken benches or no benches
Need a park
Programming
Crime rate
Safety
Safety hazards
Trash!
Limited access
Do not go to Detroit parks. Safety issue
Early closing time
Safety
Access to parks. Busy roads!
Many not kept up. They fall into blight and not useable
No equipment. Basketball hoops gone

Public Space Road Blocks

Not maintained equipment and landscaping

Nothing to do

Proximity to healthy food so I can go to parks from work

Lack of maintenance

No people

Lack of lighting

Transportation/connection between neighborhoods

Too much space for cars!

Missing swings!

Gang graffiti/activity

Accessibility (biking to riverwalk is ok)

Sketchy looking areas/people in parks

Parks and vacant lots redeveloped for citizen use for safe activities

No restrooms or drinking fountains

Broken or out-dated equipment

Parks can't just be green spaces. We need incentives to visit them.

Extend hours

No trees

Bathrooms

Poor maintenance

Crime rate

Maintenance

Connectivity (safe to walk to)

Not enough foliage

Parking

Crime danger

Grass too high

Need more common areas to socialize around

Public lighting



OPEN STREETS DETROIT WORKSHOP

OPEN STREETS

Open Streets programs, also known as Ciclovías, among other names, are mass recreational programs that encourage physical activity and community building by temporarily closing streets to cars and opening them to walking, cycling, and other forms of active transportation.

Streets become 'paved parks', presenting recreational opportunities to people regardless of their age, gender, ability, or background. Open Streets programs have the potential to foster civic pride and integration by bringing together people from all corners of the city. While the first South American ciclovías were launched in the 1960s, the past five years have seen a marked proliferation of Open Streets programs throughout North America.



Open Streets Detroit: **PLANNING WORKSHOP**

For their final event of the Detroit Immersion Week, Jefferson East Inc. and 8 80 Cities hosted a workshop on Open Streets in Detroit. On June 26, 2015 approximately 20 local residents came together to learn about Open Streets programs from Gil Penalosa, Founder of 8 80 Cities and designer of the Ciclovía program in Bogotá, Colombia which draws over 1 million people each week. Emily Munroe, Executive Director of 8 80 Cities, also presented on the logistics of organizing and planning an Open Streets program, based on the experience of Open Streets Toronto, which premiered in 2014.

After the presentations, the participants worked in groups to design an Open Streets program in Detroit. The groups were instructed to answer the following questions:

- a) Where should the route be?
- b) What programming should be offered?
- c) Who should be involved in organizing?

The results of these workshops are presented in the following two pages.

PROPOSED ROUTES*

1. Michigan Ave. (Downtown > Dearborn)
2. Jefferson Ave. (Downtown > Gross Pointe)
3. Grand Boulevard Loop > Riverwalk
4. Woodward Ave. (Detroit > Windsor)

**Routes are mapped on the following page*

KEY PARTNERS:

Groups were asked to identify key people, organizations, and institutions that should be involved in the organizing and planning stages of Open Streets.

The stakeholders and potential partners for an Open Streets Detroit program are:

- Police Department
- State of Michigan
- City of Detroit (Public Works, Mayor's office)
- Downtown Detroit Partnership
- Slow Roll, Tour de Troit, and G. Mob
- Community Development Advocates (CDAD)
- Community+Public Arts Detroit
- Eastern Market
- Museums and churches along the route
- Regional Transit Authority
- 8 80 Cities
- Jefferson East Inc.
- **The People!**

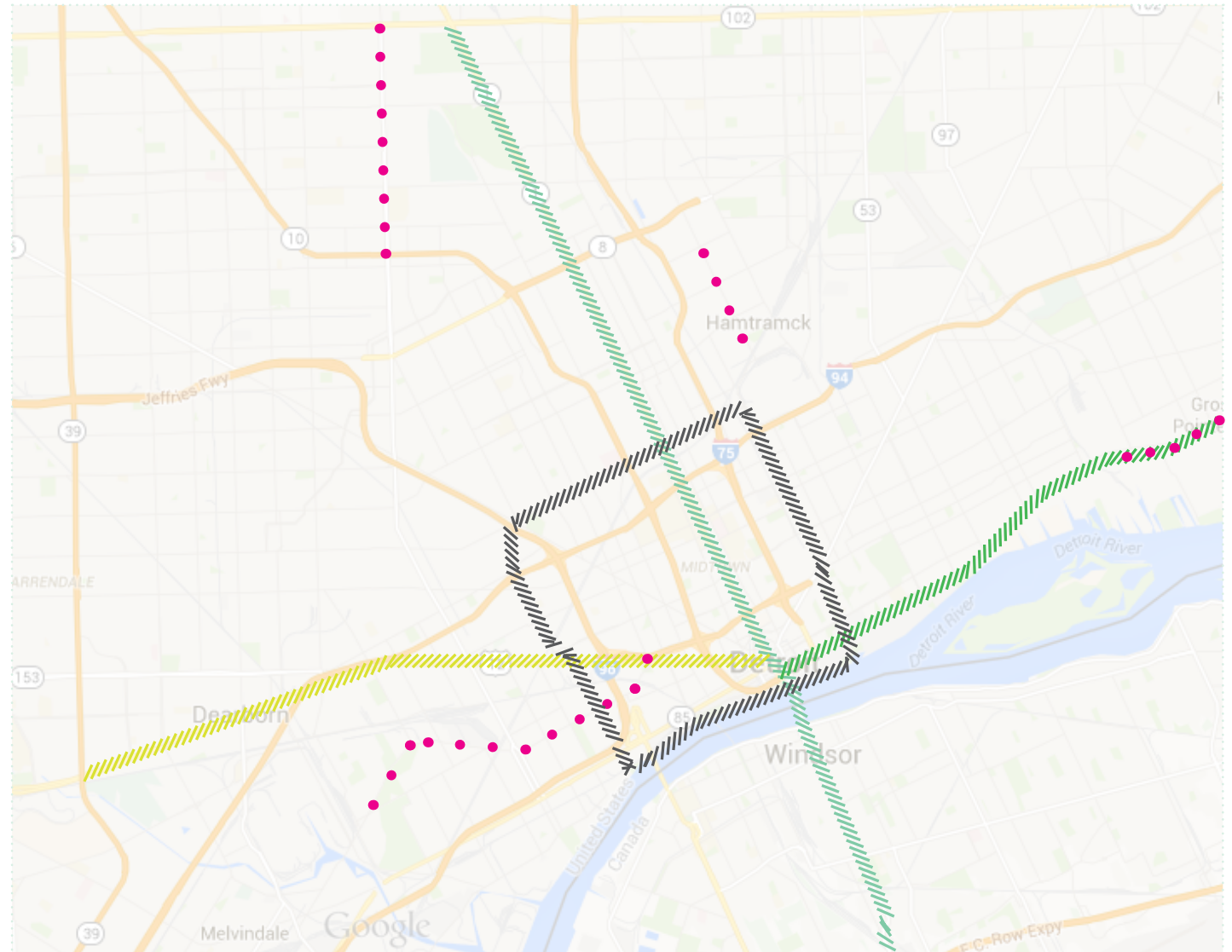
PROGRAMMING:

Groups discussed the need for an Open Streets route to weave together the **diverse neighborhoods** and **connect cultural nodes** throughout the city (ie. Downtown, Clay Town, East Dearborn, Mexican own, etc.). Another common theme was the opportunity for Open Streets to **encourage physical activity and healthy lifestyles**.

Specific programming ideas included:

- Satellite Eastern Market
- Free bike share rentals
- Yoga
- Dance (African, hustle, ballet, break, zumba, modern)
- Sidewalk chalk
- Dogwalking
- Public art
- Horseback riding
- Music
- Tai chi
- Outdoor church services

Open Streets Detroit: **ROUTES IDEAS**



1. Michigan Avenue 

2. Jefferson Avenue 

3. Grand Boulevard 

4. International Crossing 

Proposed Pilot Routes 