

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Program



Michigan Placemaking in Action...

Detroit Riverwalk at the William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor

Before:



After:



The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan's GreenWays Initiative, used TE funding to construct a nonmotorized trail from Rivard Plaza to Atwater Street in Detroit as part of the William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor development. The trail is part of the extremely popular Detroit Riverwalk. All plants in the park are native to southeast Michigan wetlands. These are the types of plants that one would have seen in the 1800s before the city of Detroit was settled. The park contains a wetlands demonstration project, that shows how wetlands act as nature's water filtration system. Interpretative signs explain how the wetlands naturally clean the water and then return it to the Detroit River as clean water, without going to a wastewater treatment plant. This green oasis in the heart of the city provides opportunities for picnics, walks, boating, and shore fishing.

The TE investment funded site preparation, construction of the 12-foot-wide bituminous nonmotorized path, pedestrian lighting, security system, benches, trash receptacles, utility work, sod placement and tree planting. The TE project was part of a much larger state park development project.

- Federal TE Investment: \$581,945
- Matching Funds: \$286,630 from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan

Project Impact:

- The William G. Milliken State Park is the first urban state park in Michigan and is a showcase of Michigan's natural resources.
- This urban state park provides opportunities for Detroit children to experience wildlife and natural resources within their own city.