

Lansing Riverfront Activation Project

Project Overview

The Lansing Riverfront Activation Project is an implementation-focused plan developed by the MSU Urban and Regional Planning Practicum Team in partnership with the Lansing Economic Development Corporation (EDC). The plan aims to outline strategies that will transform Lansing's riverfront into a more vibrant, accessible, and economically productive space. The project focuses on three key sites: Dietrich Park, Adado Riverfront Park, and the proposed pedestrian walkway site – each chosen for their potential to catalyze continued revitalization along the riverfront corridor.

Goal

The overarching goal of this project is to provide an implementation "road map" to guide future development and position the riverfront as a valuable community asset. The following objectives outline the critical components necessary for achieving this vision:

- Trail improvement
- Public space activation
- Community engagement
- Private development

Dietrich Park

- Improve signage and wayfinding for accessibility and visibility
- Enhance access through trail maintenance and infrastructure improvements
- Create a more inviting space through landscaping and seating enhancements and restore biodiversity



Village of Plainfield, IL riverfront and its maintenance and restored habitats



Model of Dietrich Park with new stairs, additional seating, lighting, and trash cans to help with access, safety, and cleanliness



Riverfront Canal Cruises in Richmond, Virginia – a 40-minute historical tour along the James River and Kanawha Canal



Concert series, "Wednesday in the Park" held in the summer months at Wenonah Park in Bay City

Adado Riverfront Park

- Activate the park with year-round programming
- Improve connectivity, safety, and access
- Introduce seasonal boat and pontoon tours

Pedestrian Walkway Site

- Impression 5's Science Center Outdoor Classroom
- Increased Green Space and Beautification Efforts
- Casual Outdoor Dining Development

Key Steps for Connectivity along the Riverfront Corridor

The focus areas revealed common themes for recommendations along the entire riverfront corridor:

- Add more lighting, public restrooms, and sanitation initiatives throughout the riverfront corridor
- Improve signage and wayfinding methods along the river trail
- Enhance pedestrian pathways, bike lanes, and street crossing to connect key areas along the riverfront corridor

Implementing these key steps in strategic areas along the corridor will activate Lansing's riverfront.



Wayfinding signage created by the MSU Practicum Team. This sign includes a map of the river walk and different places to visit along the trail



Outdoor dining takes up parking spaces outside Bianca Restaurant & Bar along Greenwich Avenue in Connecticut



Youth engaging with the outdoor classroom at the University of Michigan Dearborn

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