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**WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN STATE PARK AND HARBOR OPENS TO PUBLIC**  
**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22**

*Former TriCentennial State Park renamed to honor former Michigan governor*

**DETROIT** — The second phase of the William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor, formerly named TriCentennial State Park, is set for rededication at a ribbon cutting at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, October 22.

A former brownfield site, the park was officially renamed in honor of former Michigan Governor William G. Milliken, who will be in attendance along with current Governor Jennifer Granholm. Other state and city elected officials have been invited, including Detroit Mayor Dave Bing.

Milliken is widely known for his extraordinary level of commitment to the environment. The former governor's commitment to the belief that preserving and enhancing Michigan's natural resources is essential to Michigan's future of the state had not been seen before his administration. Nearly every major piece of environmental protection legislation in Michigan was passed during Governor Milliken's administration.

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, through its GreenWays Initiative, provided a significant portion of the funding to create the park through a grant of more than \$580,000.

“We are honored to be part of the collaboration that helped complete this important part Detroit's riverfront,” said Mariam Noland, president of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan. “The creation of this Park involved years of planning and the hard work of many organizations. It is a real pleasure to see this dream of so many finally become a reality.”

Unique because of its urban setting, the 31-acre Park provides recreational and educational amenities, fishing opportunities, a State harbor and non-motorized trails. The first phase of the park was completed in 2000 with the renovation of the former St. Aubin Marina. The second phase, located between Riopelle Road and Rivard Plaza, includes the development of a five-acre lowland park on the west side of the Park, the continuation of the RiverWalk project, a separate non-motorized bike trail, a storm water demonstration wetland complex, an interpretive history of natural and cultural features of Detroit and surrounding areas, an emphasis on “green” utilities, products and innovation, LED lights and innovative storm water capture. It also includes the extension of the Dequindre Cut from Franklin to Atwater Street.

To date, half of the Community Foundation grant has supported building the RiverWalk, the associated native landscaping alongside the trail, benches, lighting and amenities. The remaining funds will match funding for the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) trail, which is currently being constructed and consists of a paved bike trail, landscaping, lighting and security cameras.

This project was led by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in partnership with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. JJR Inc. was the designer of both Phase I and II of the project. Additional funding was secured from a variety of other sources including the Stroh Family, the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) and a MDOT Transportation Enhancement grant.

The Community Foundation's GreenWays Initiative has created more than 100 miles of non-motorized recreational trails, connecting 80 communities in the seven-county region. Greenways offer free, year-round opportunities for exercise and recreation, helping to improve the regions quality of life.

*The **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan** is a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations committed to the future of southeast Michigan. The Foundation works to improve the region's quality of life by connecting those who care with causes that matter. The Foundation supports a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development and civic affairs. Since its inception, the Community Foundation has distributed more than \$380 million through more than 33,500 grants to nonprofit organizations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair and Livingston counties. For more information, please visit [www.cfsem.org](http://www.cfsem.org).*

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