

Detroit Facts Sheet

Founding of Detroit

Detroit was established in 1701 by Antoine de la mothe Cadillac, a French military leader and trader. St. Anne's church, established by the Catholic Church at the time of Detroit's founding still stands in southwest Detroit today. Many of the street names are still French and the city itself was designed as a replica of Paris.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD – CODE NAME: MIDNIGHT

For so many who were under the tyranny of slavery saw Detroit as the light toward a brighter future. Detroit was known as Midnight, and the final stop before reaching Canada—a country that outlawed the practice of slavery. Michigan is important in the legacy of the Underground railroad, and Detroit is the embodiment of freedom's unbroken spirit.



BIRTHPLACE OF THE ASSEMBLY LINE

The moving assembly line was developed for the Ford Model T and began operation on October 7, 1913, at the Highland Park Ford Plant, and continued to evolve, using time and motion studies.



DETROIT WAS ESSENTIAL IN WINNING WWII (DETROIT ARSENAL)

During World War II, Detroit adapted its factories to produce airplanes, tanks, vehicles, boats, weapons, ammunition, electronics, clothing, food – everything necessary to assist the military efforts at home and overseas. The people of Detroit and the manufacturing might of southeast Michigan produced 30% of the war products generated by the United States before the end of World War II in 1945.

WOODWARD AVENUE – THE FIRST PAVED ROAD IN THE US

The first mile of concrete pavement was placed in Detroit, Michigan on Woodward Avenue. The pavement stretched from Six Mile Road to Seven Mile Road and was built in 1909. The cost at the time was \$14,000.

PIVOTAL IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr gave an early version of the famous "I Have A Dream" speech during the Detroit Walk to Freedom down Woodward Ave in June of 1963. It is estimated 125,000 Detroiters participated in that monumental march.



People and Culture

MICHIGAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Detroit occupies the contemporary and ancestral homelands of three Anishinaabe nations of the Council of Three Fires: the Ojibwe, Ottawa, and Potawatomi. Through the Treaty of Detroit, the Ojibwe, Ottawa, Potawatomi, and Wyandot tribes ceded the land now occupied by the city in 1807.



RICH DIVERSITY AND ETHNICITY

93% of Detroiters identify as Black, Hispanic, or Foreign Born in Detroit. This makes Detroit the largest minority-majority city in the United States, per capita. Also, the Detroit metropolitan area has the largest Arab population outside the Middle East (403,445).



WOMEN RULE IN MICHIGAN!

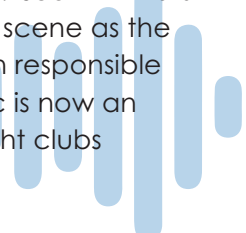
US Attorney: Dawn Isom, Michigan's Governor: Gretchen Whitmer, Attorney General: Dana Nessel, Secretary of State: Jocelyn Benson, Senator Debbie Stabenow, Representatives Rashida Tlaib, Debbie Dingell, Haley Stevens, Elizabeth Slotkin and 53 women in Michigan's legislature makes us one of the states with the most women in office in the country.

DETROIT IS THE ONLY UNESCO CITY OF DESIGN IN THE US

Detroit is the first and only UNESCO city of Design in the U.S. making Detroit a part of a network of 34 cities around the world using art and design to improve the lives of everyday people.

BIRTHPLACE OF TECHNO MUSIC

Did you know Juan Atkins, Kevin Saunderson and Derrick May, three African American Producers and DJs from Detroit originated the genre "Techno" way back in 1981? Juan Atkins is known in the Detroit underground scene as the "Originator" of Techno and is even responsible for coining the term. Techno music is now an international genre, popular in night clubs throughout the world.





MOTOWN MUSEUM

BIRTHPLACE OF MOTOWN RECORDS "HITTSVILLE, USA"

Motown Records was founded in 1960 by Berry Gordy who produced 110 top ten hits from artists including Stevie Wonder, The Supremes, The Marvelettes, Marvin Gaye, Smoky Robinson, The Temptations, The Four Tops, Martha Reeves and many others. Motown's first record, "Shop Around" by The Miracles was released in 1960 and sold more than one million copies. The original studio is now a museum in its original location in Detroit.

Location, Location, Location!



DETROIT IS BIG AND SOUTH OF CANADA!!

Detroit is 139 miles square and Boston (90) and San Francisco(47) can fit inside it. Windsor, Ontario is just across the Detroit River from Canada. Millions of commuters cross the bridge and tunnel daily.



EASTERN MARKET – HISTORIC OPEN AIR MARKET

The market dates back to the 1840s, making it one of the oldest farmers' markets in the United States. Today, the market is open year-round and features over 225 vendors selling local produce, meat, flowers, and other items.

WAYNE STATE HAS THE LARGEST MEDICAL SCHOOL ON A SINGLE CAMPUS IN THE US

With a recent increase to 290 medical students in entering classes, the Wayne State University School of Medicine is the largest single-campus medical school in the country, and the fourth largest overall.

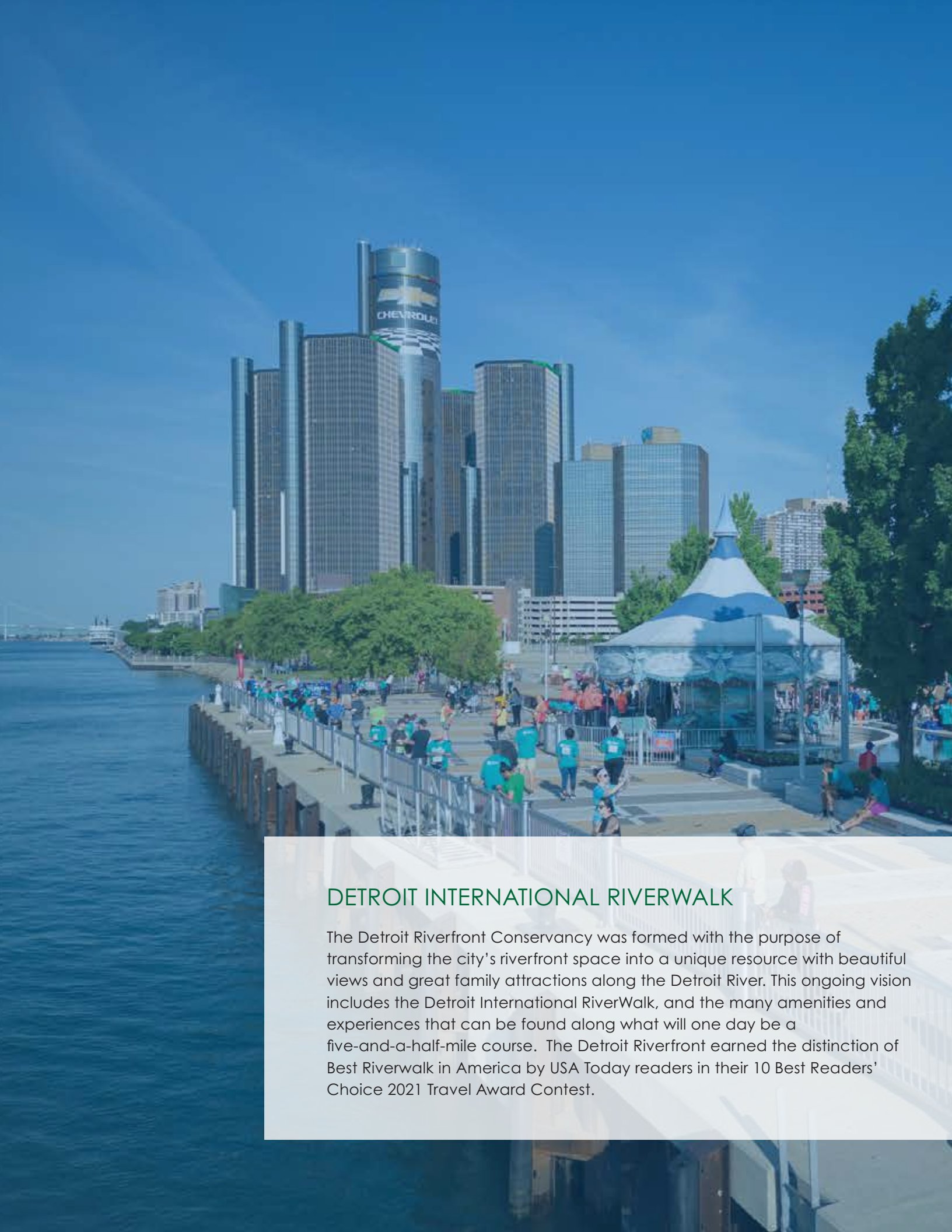
DETROIT HAS A POINT OF ORIGIN FOR STREETS

Detroit set-up its road system after a fire in 1805 with a “point of origin” at the crossroads of Monroe and Woodward Avenues. Each road radiating out from this point has a numerical name. If you are on 7 mile road, you are 7 miles from this point of origin. Today there is medallion embedded in the stone walkway in Campus Martius Park marking the point of origin.

NORTHLAND MALL WAS ONE OF THE FIRST AND THE LARGEST MALLS IN THE US

Northland Mall opened in 1954 with 7,500 parking spots and at the time was the world's largest shopping center.





DETROIT INTERNATIONAL RIVERWALK

The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy was formed with the purpose of transforming the city's riverfront space into a unique resource with beautiful views and great family attractions along the Detroit River. This ongoing vision includes the Detroit International RiverWalk, and the many amenities and experiences that can be found along what will one day be a five-and-a-half-mile course. The Detroit Riverfront earned the distinction of Best Riverwalk in America by USA Today readers in their 10 Best Readers' Choice 2021 Travel Award Contest.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S FORUM

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