

# Kelly Rose

# Founding member of Ecorse Creek Committee

From Concern to Action: Revitalizing Ecorse Creek Together

Grosse Ile Nature & Land Conservancy Annual Membership Meeting November 16, 2024

## From Concern to Action: Revitalizing Ecorse Creek Together How citizen action has significantly improved Ecorse Creek

I moved to Ecorse from the Pennsylvania/West Virginia area in **2016**. I was immediately impressed by all of the water and began to explore the Detroit River and Ecorse Creek via kayak. While I saw some problems like ease of access and pollution, I also saw a great deal of potential.

In **2018**, I wrote to the Mayor of Ecorse and then met with the City Administrator to discuss the creek and the riverfront. Before I knew it, other residents and partner groups joined together to work toward

- a) healing the creek and
- b) fostering a positive connection for Ecorse residents and visitors to the creek.

Our goal: restore the creek to a beautiful and safe place for people and wildlife to enjoy for generations to come.

#### Fast forward to **Summer 2024**:

- kayak launch installed in Pepper Park
- 100 linear feet of shoreline habitat restored
- 3 clean-up events, 76 volunteers, 228 hours diverting over 3,700 lbs of trash from the creek

How did it really take shape? Where does it go from here? (DeCuir video)

#### **Summer 2018**

#### October 2018

#### Got involved locally

- Began to kayak with Detroit River
   Paddlers
- Became guide for RKC
- Wrote letter to
  Ecorse Mayor
  Lamar Tidwell

Attended my first City Council meeting to learn about the Ecorse Parks & Recreation Plan

#### November 2018

#### Dialog Began...

- At GINLC annual meeting met Susan White of DRIWR
- Met with Ecorse
  City Administrator
  Richard Marsh

#### December 2018

#### February 2019

#### Ecorse Asset Inventory Tour with Richard Marsh, McKenna Group, & Anita Twardesky (DLG, RKC)

Creek Recon paddle with Paul Gloor <u>slides</u> Represented Ecorse at Shiver on the River

First Ecorse Creek Meetings began with City Admin, Anita, McKenna Group, & DRIWR's Susan White & Jody DeMeyer

# July 2019

First Ecorse Creek Clean-up Event (Pepper Park & Council Point Park)

In partnership with TrashFishing (Along Dingell Park)

#### Fall 2019

#### February 2020

Stakeholder meetings began monthly to identify needs, secure grant funding, and plan future events. (3rd Thursday's) Conducted Fallen Trees recon paddle with Jody DeMeyer on the north branch to share mapping with Wayne County Drain Commission in hopes of help. <u>slides</u>

#### **Summer 2021**

Public meeting on Pepper Park Improvements (NFWF \$100k grant)

Grew to 3 Cleanups at 3 locations concurrently

#### July 2022

Partnered with

**Motor City Magnet** 

Fishers to include

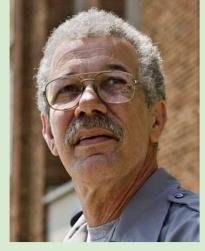
clean-up event in

Dingell Park with free

kits for kids

#### November 2022

#### Tony DeCuir



Rest in peace

### May 2023

Hosted first annual Explore the Shores bike ride to raise awareness of efforts along creek in shoreline communities

#### October 2023

#### January 2024

#### Spring 2024

Committee growth and project reach prompt transition to Friends of the Detroit River as committee meeting facilitator.

Wayne County Drain Commission began plans for \$10 million maintenance project along north branch of creek. Flatrock Fire Department drone pilot conducts aerial survey of creek to identify clean-up locations for 2024 as well as invasive species and infrastructure concerns.

#### May 2024

1200 pounds of trash.

#### June 2024

#### Melvindale High School science department holds Ecorse Creek Clean-up event with the help of Friends of the Rouge and collects over

Pepper Park kayak launch and shoreline habitat restoration projects are completed.

### July 2024

Clean-up venues moved upstream to address debris fields in path of Drain Commission project along Montie Street in Lincoln Park. <u>video</u>

#### September 2024

#### Ongoing

Final clean-up of 2024, between Montie and Outer Drive near Austin Street Bridge. GLWA allowed access from their property. <u>slides</u>



Bryon Frady keeps an eye on areas that need attention <u>video</u>

### Spring 2025

Paddle event for past volunteers to thank them, let them enjoy the creek, and involve them in choosing venues for 2025 clean-ups

What began in 2018 as a small citizen-led effort to help the shoreline communities of Ecorse and Lincoln Park see the creek as an asset to be cared for and as a source of recreation, has now blossomed into a far-reaching effort which will touch communities along the entire length of the creek while also improving the creek's impact on the Detroit River and our Great Lakes. This is thanks in large part to the direction and support of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and Friends of the Detroit River as well as the numerous stakeholders and volunteers who contribute their expertise to the cause year after year. Thank you!

~ Kelly Rose

# For more information...

Follow Ecorse Creek on Facebook

Link to Ecorse Creek Watershed Management Plan

Link to Ecorse Creek Potential Project Locations - Story Map

Link to Future of Ecorse Creek Restoration Projects