



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

Got involved locally

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

October 2018

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

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

Creek Recon paddle with
Paul Gloor [slides](#)

February 2019

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

Stakeholder meetings began monthly to identify needs, secure grant funding, and plan future events.
(3rd Thursday's)

February 2020

Conducted Fallen Trees recon paddle with Jody DeMeyer on the north branch to share mapping with Wayne County Drain Commission in hopes of help. [slides](#)

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

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

January 2024

Wayne County Drain Commission began plans for \$10 million maintenance project along north branch of creek.

Spring 2024

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

Melvindale High School science department holds Ecorse Creek Clean-up event with the help of Friends of the Rouge and collects over 1200 pounds of trash.

June 2024

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.
[video](#)

September 2024

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

[slides](#)

Ongoing



Bryon Frady keeps an eye on areas that need attention
[video](#)

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](#)