

Parks and Recreation

MLK Memorial Park and Williams Park

March 21, 2024
Duffield Branch Detroit Public Library



TAKE PART
Opportunity Rising

For more information go to: [Detroitmi.gov/MLKPark](https://detroitmi.gov/MLKPark) & [Detroitmi.gov/williamspark](https://detroitmi.gov/williamspark)

Welcome

Tonight's Agenda:

- Introductions & Acknowledgements
- Meeting Objectives
- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Detroit Presence
- Project Timelines
- Park History and Backgrounds
- Breakout Discussions with Q & A

Meeting Objectives

- Provide background on MLK Memorial Park and Williams Park
- Gain invaluable feedback from community members on what you want the site, scope and main programmatic space to be surrounding MLK Memorial Park
- Gain insight into what scope items are high priority at Williams Park
- Remind community members to partake in the MLK Memorial Park survey
- Answer remaining questions regarding the park projects
- Update the community on next steps and engagement for both park projects

MLK Memorial Park



**Opportunity
Rising**

PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT MLK MEMORIAL PARK



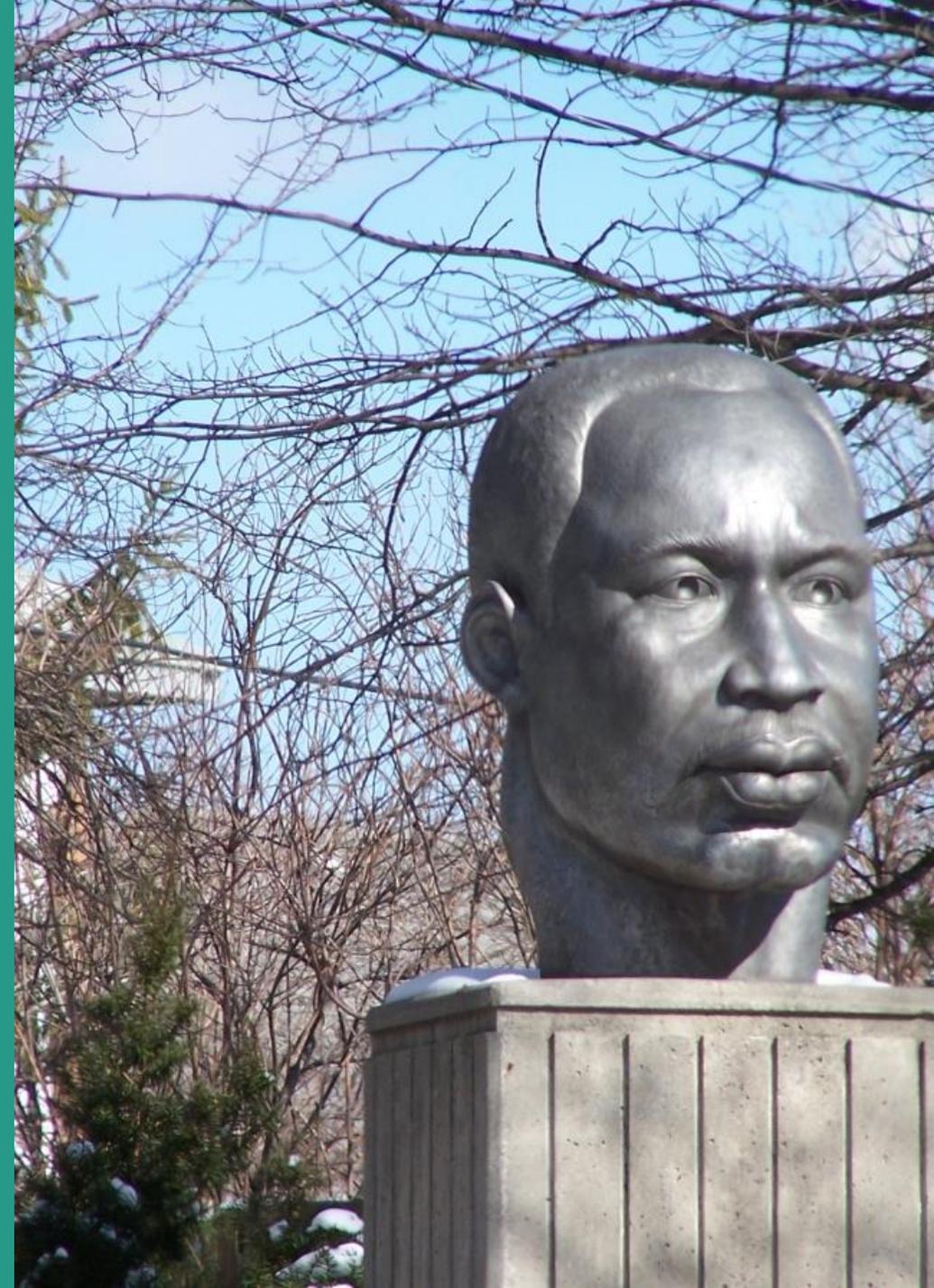
MLK Detroit Presence

- On June 23, 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Led 125,000 people in the Walk to Freedom down Woodward Avenue in Detroit
- That evening, Dr. King delivered his "I have a Dream" speech for the first time at Cobo Hall
- The seven minute speech was recorded and released on Gordy Records, a Motown Records subsidiary



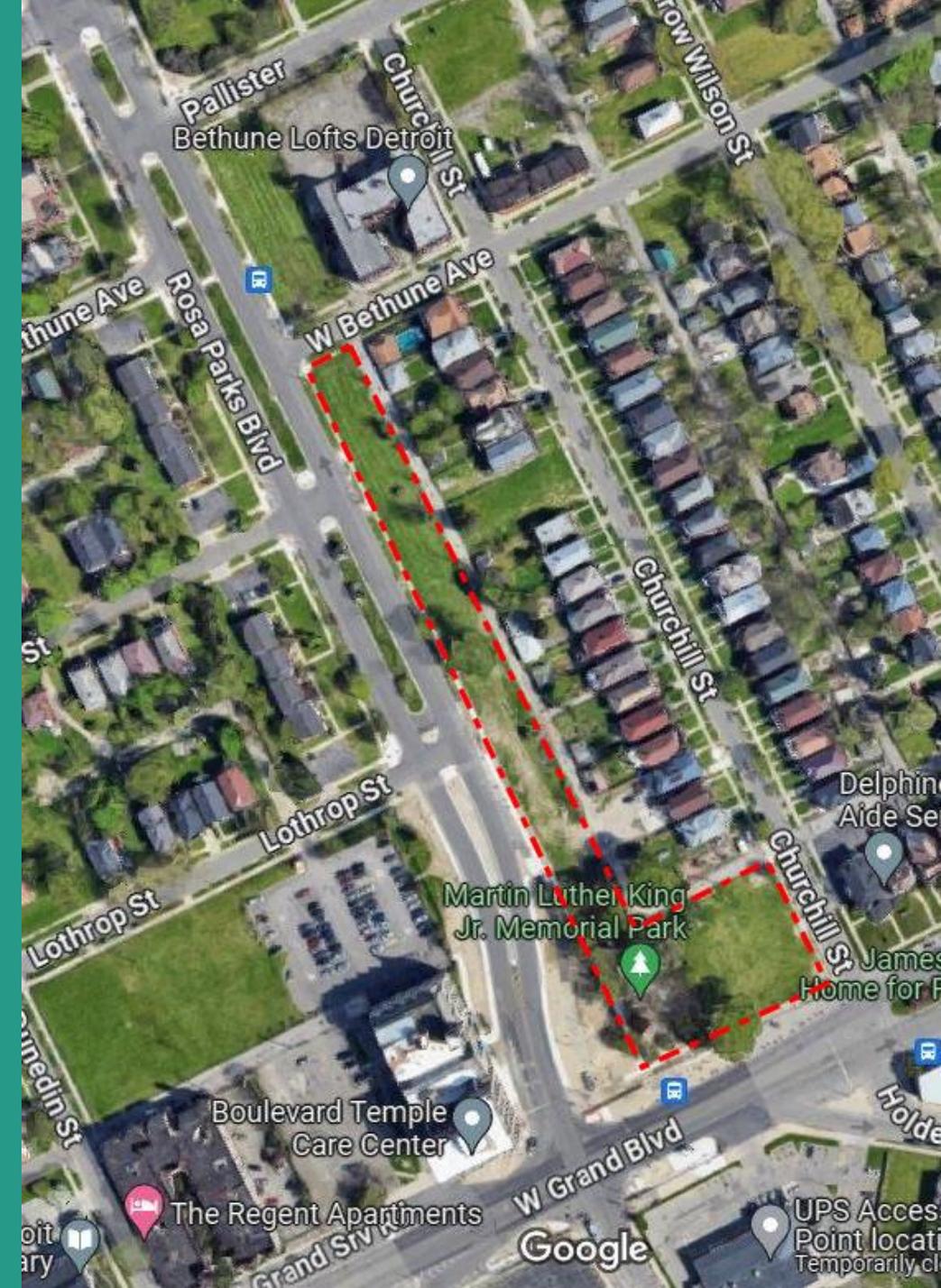
MLK Memorial Park History

- On November 6, 1980 the official dedication ceremony for the new Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park was held to honor and commemorate Dr. King as one of the prominent Civil Rights leaders in the Nation and his direct impact in Detroit
- The keynote speaker at the 1980 ceremony was Mrs. Rosa Parks
- In 1981, the City installed a memorial bust of the likeness of Dr. King that still sits in the existing MLK Park today
- The state of the plaza and surrounding space have not seen significant improvements in many decades



MLK Memorial Park Background

- 2589 W. Grand Blvd.
- Acquired by the City in 1980
- Neighborhood Park
- District 5
- 1.83 acre park
- Recently acquired additional parcels for park development



MLK Memorial Park – Ex. Conditions



MLK Memorial Park – Ex. Conditions



MLK Memorial Park – Ex. Conditions



Williams Park



**Opportunity
Rising**

PARK IMPROVEMENTS AT WILLIAMS PARK

PLANNING
SPRING 2024

DESIGN & CONTRACTS
SUMMER 2024

CONSTRUCTION
SPRING 2025

Williams Park Background

- 8431 Rosa Parks Blvd.
- Acquired by the City in 1981
- Neighborhood Park
- District 5
- 8.5 acre park
- Sits near the Williams Recreation Center which is currently undergoing a major renovation



Williams Park – Ex. Conditions



Williams Park – Ex. Conditions



Williams Park – Ex. Conditions



Williams Park – Ex. Conditions



Discussion

Questions or Comments?

Let's look at what comes next for these parks and breakout into groups to discuss.

Stay up to date on these projects: [Detroitmi.gov/MLKPark](https://detroitmi.gov/MLKPark)

[Detroitmi.gov/williamspark](https://detroitmi.gov/williamspark)

Contact us:

Theresa McArleton

Chief Parks Planner

theresa.mcarleton@detroitmi.gov