

Arches on Parade

One of the most celebrated symbols of Flint is the procession of arches over Saginaw Street. Thanks to the Genesee County Historical Society, these works of architecture were restored to their rightful place in 2003. As a salute to these stately structures, the Flint River Corridor Alliance (FRCA) partnered with the University of Michigan-Flint Art Department students, local businesses and organizations to host a weeklong exhibit of twelve miniature arches (4'x5"). Each arch was individually decorated by the art students and is sponsored by a local business or organization.



The twelve arches will be exhibited during the Back to the Bricks celebration from August 10 through August 14, 2009. On Saturday, August 15, the "Arches on Parade" will be placed outside the UM-Flint Pavilion and will be available for

purchase through a silent auction. Auction winners will be determined on Sunday, August 15. All proceeds will be used to support FRCA projects

(Chevy in the Hole, Flint Riverbank Park, Hamilton Dam, Flint River Trail, and Flint River District Redevelopment).

Arch Sponsors:

- ComedyMurderMysteries.com
- Fandangle's
- GAV & Associates
- George Hamo, Attorney
- Mike Manley & Frank Manley
- Phoenix Soccer Club
- SAGE/Crim Fitness Foundation
- The Torch Bar & Grill
- UM-Flint University Outreach



About the Corridor Alliance

The Flint River Corridor Alliance brings people together around our riverfront to promote a vibrant community. The Corridor Alliance's priority areas focus on strengthening neighborhoods, improving infrastructure, restoring and improving access to the river in order to attract people and commerce to the region. Partnership guides the work of the Corridor Alliance's project committees as they work to inform, influence and provide opportunities for action. The combined influence of the Corridor Alliance acts to strengthen our community and celebrate its unique resources.

FRCA Partners

- Flint River Watershed Coalition
- Genesee County Land Bank
- Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission
- Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission
- Genesee Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Hurley Medical Center
- Kettering University
- Local Initiatives Support Corporation
- Mott Community College
- The City of Flint
- University of Michigan-Flint

FRCA Project Teams

- Flint River District Redevelopment
- Flint River Trail
- Hamilton Dam
- Riverbank Park
- Chevy in the Hole

Upcoming Events

Sept. 18 Park(ing) Day

Celebration of Flint's Urban Green Spaces

Location: Downtown Flint

Sept. 18-20 Flint River 500

Flint River Watershed Coalition Membership Drive

Location: Flushing

Sept. 25 Shoes, Views and Canoes

Explore the Flint River Corridor

Location: Downtown Flint

Cleaning up the Corridor

The Flint River Corridor Alliance is committed to supporting partnerships between local organizations, government and community members to advance projects in the Flint River corridor that sustain a vibrant community. For the last year, the Corridor Alliance has been proud to host a full-time LISC AmeriCorps volunteer who has focused on connecting with and supporting community efforts on behalf of the Corridor Alliance.

One way this has occurred has been by organizing and assisting in community cleanup efforts.

In November of 2008, the Flint River Corridor Alliance organized its first cleanup and beautification day along the Flint River from the Flint Farmers' Market to Riverbank Park. More than 35 volunteers from the Flint River Watershed Coalition, Mott Community College and

UM-Flint participated. The effort was made possible thanks to support from Keep Genesee County Beautiful, the Flint River Watershed Coalition, and the DDA's Riverbank Park management team. Volunteers with the First Fridays of Service program, organized by UM-

Flint's Center for Civic Engagement helped cleanup efforts as they do on the first Friday of each month.

A spring cleanup was organized in May of 2009 for Riverbank Park.



Both the fall and spring cleanups in the park included planting, mulching, painting, and trash removal in order to encourage use and enhance enjoyment of Riverbank Park. These cleanups were followed by two additional work days over the summer where volunteers and high school students from the YES (Youth Empowerment Solutions) program painted the Harrison Street bridge.

Volunteers at the cleanups expressed feelings of satisfaction and accomplishment and noted that participation in the project led to a greater sense of connection to the community. The Flint River Corridor Alliance looks with anticipation to future cleanup efforts in the hopes that each will be as successful as the first ones. Thanks to the volunteers and partners who made these efforts possible.

For more information or to volunteer on Community Cleanup efforts, please contact Gerard Burnash, Flint River Corridor Alliance, LISC AmeriCorps Member at (810) 424-5467.

Spring Grove Cleanup & Playscape Landscaping

The weekend of May 15, 2009 saw more than 200 AmeriCorps volunteers in downtown Flint working on a variety of projects from building a playscape in Memorial Park to cleaning out vacant Landbank properties. The Flint River Corridor Alliance assisted the volunteers in the cleanup of Spring Grove and the playscape landscaping. More than 40 yards of trash and debris was removed from the future site of Spring Grove Park. It is very encouraging to see the nature project beginning to take shape as a walkable, user-friendly park connected to the Flint River Trail. The spreading of woodchips for the playscape turned into what could only be described as a scene from *High School Musical*, as more than 50 volunteers unexpectedly began singing and dancing as they spread the woodchips within the perimeters of the play area. The weather was great for the whole weekend, and the FRCA couldn't have been more proud to assist in such a huge undertaking.

Grand Traverse Neighborhood Wall Project

On May 2, 2009 the Flint River Corridor Alliance, in cooperation with volunteers from the Grand Traverse Neighborhood Association, demolished and removed a 220 foot concrete block and poured cement wall on Ann Arbor St. The structure had become a favorite place for illegal dumping because the wall blocked the view of the illegal actions. The area has since been transformed into green space with flowering plants and sections designated for urban gardening. Equipment for the project was donated by local contractor Efficient Demolition. Burnash Wrecking concrete recycling center accepted the waste at no charge. It is truly amazing what can be accomplished in a few short hours by a handful of highly motivated volunteers. The FRCA looks forward to completing similar projects in other neighborhoods in the coming months.

