

FLINT RIVER RESTORATION

2024-2025 CONSTRUCTION OVERVIEW AND FAQ

In the spring of 2024, construction will begin on completing the Flint River Restoration project. This work will fully remove Hamilton Dam and will create a new structure within the Flint River. Once completed, this work will improve flood control and will restore river access that has been absent for more than a century, including creating new recreational access and opening an astounding 25 miles of waterways for fish and aquatic species passage.

Why is the project happening?

Originally built in 1920 for the logging industry, Hamilton Dam is classified as a “high hazard critical dam” by the State of Michigan and poses a threat to public safety. The “superstructure” of the dam was removed in 2018 but the weir remains. This project will fully remove Hamilton Dam and replace it with a new in-river structure to manage the river’s water. This project is the product of decades of planning, investment, and partnership to eliminate the hazard posed by Hamilton Dam and transform the Flint riverfront from a neglected resource into a healthy and vibrant community asset.

What work is being done?

There are three key components of this project: (1) Completing the removal of Hamilton Dam by removing its weir. (2) Removing the remnants of Fabri Dam. (3) Constructing six “riffles” in the Flint River to create a new in-river structure that will manage the river’s water in the absence of the dams. The riffles are clusters of rocks designed to mimic naturally occurring in-river structures and will be placed at strategic locations within the river.

When and where will construction take place?

Construction is expected to last 18 months, starting in June of 2024 and finishing in September of 2025. The work will take place in the Flint River in two areas (1) adjacent Riverbank Park between Grand Traverse Street and Harrison Street and (2) near Vietnam Veterans Park near James P. Cole Boulevard and Hamilton Avenue.

Will Riverbank Park and Vietnam Veterans Park be closed?

Portions of Riverbank Park and Vietnam Veterans Park will be closed at various times for construction purposes. Specific section closings are identified on the accompanying maps.

What will change because of the project?

A lot! The project will improve flood control and restore access to the Flint River that has been absent for more than a century. This new river access will create new recreational access and open an astounding 25 miles of waterways for fish and other aquatic species passage.

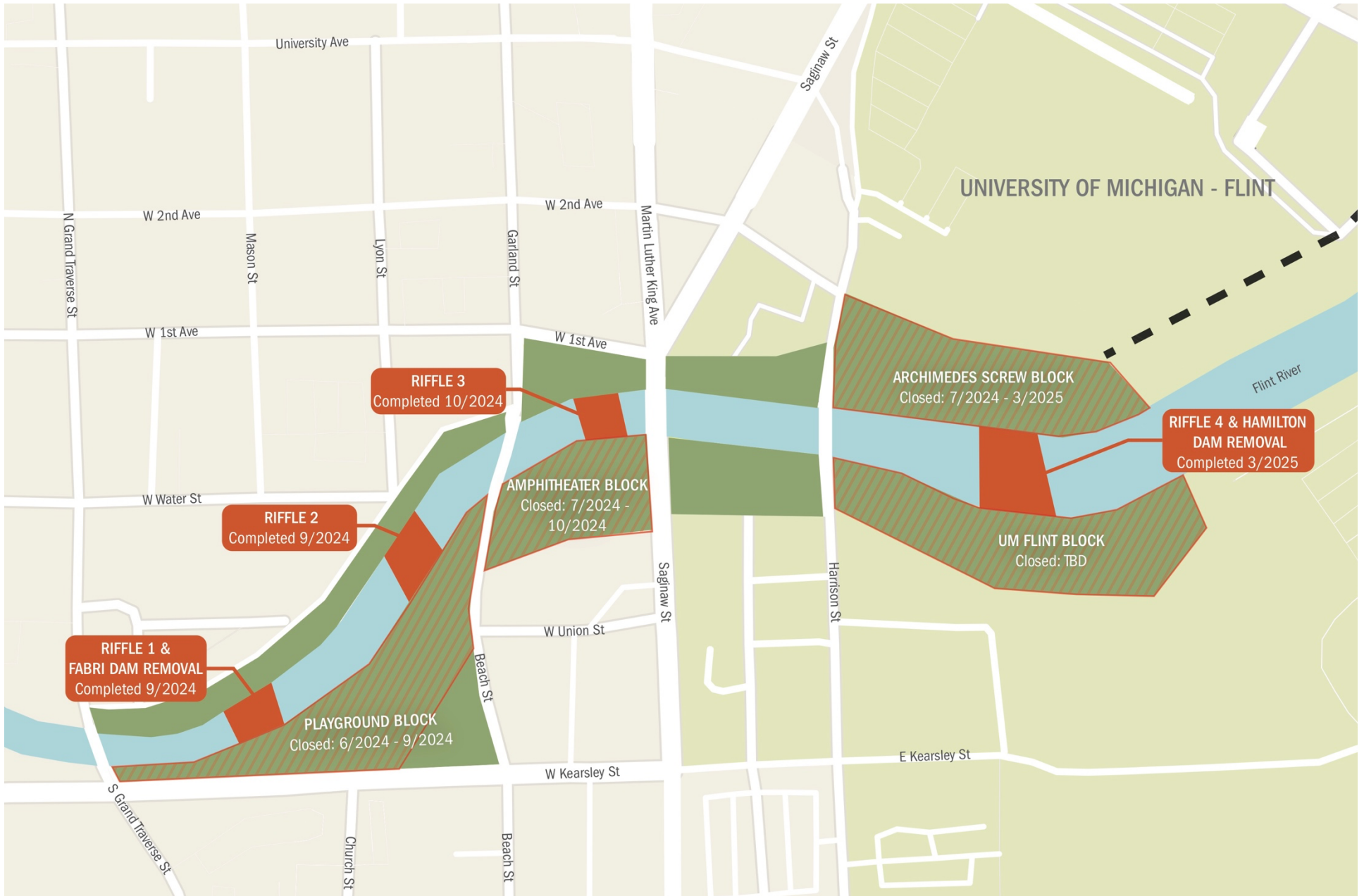
Is this work part of the new state park?

Yes! In March of 2022, the State of Michigan announced that it would establish a new 104th state park in the city of Flint. The new park consists of 230 acres that stretch approximately 3 miles east to west and more than 1.5 miles north to south. This construction project marks the start of construction within the new park. Development will be ongoing throughout the park through 2026 and will invest more than \$42 million.



RIVERBANK PARK CONSTRUCTION

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VIETNAM VETERANS PARK CONSTRUCTION

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