The Joe Louis Greenway (formerly known as the Inner Circle Greenway) will eventually connect with the new Detroit-Windsor Gordie Howe International Bridge (GHIB), scheduled to open in 2023. A biking and walking trail on the GHIB will connect with a similar 26-mile bike trail loop being developed by the City of Windsor.

The City of Detroit plans to add additional linkages to the Greenway to expand its reach. This includes connections to Marygrove College, the University of Detroit-Mercy, the Avenue of Fashion, Palmer Park, Jayne Playfield, and the City of Ferndale.

The Joe Louis Greenway concept began with the Friends of the Inner Circle Greenway in 2007. It later became part of the Detroit Greenways Coalition Network Vision in 2009. Using other existing trails and plans, the Detroit Greenways Coalition modified the routing, advocated for its development, and worked closely with the cities of Detroit, Hamtramck, and Highland Park.

The Detroit Greenways Coalition is continuing to work on the Joe Louis Greenway and recently received Ralph A. Wilson Legacy Funds to design bike lanes in Highland Park along the entire length of Hamilton Avenue. These bike lanes will connect with the Joe Louis Greenway as well as nearby Palmer Park and the Boston-Edison neighborhood.

In 2018, the City of Detroit intends to finalize the purchase of the former Conrail railroad property then begin developing a Framework Plan for the Joe Louis Greenway which will include public input opportunities.