

### Explore Detroit's Belle Isle Water Trails

Wayne County's spectacular Belle Isle State Park boasts nearly 1,000 acres of attractions including a maritime museum, nature zoo, conservatory and aquarium. The park is a natural gem set against Detroit's iconic urban skyline, drawing thousands of hikers, kayakers, families, canoeists and birdwatchers to its outdoor recreation features located on five miles of scenic shoreline.

Collaborative projects spearheaded by the State of Michigan's Coastal Zone Management Program have made Belle Isle even better for paddlesports enthusiasts. The CZM team contributes to growing Belle Isle recreational activities through planning support of the dynamic Detroit Heritage Water Trail and financial assistance for the construction of two specialized canoe/kayak launches.

The canoe/kayak launches are EZ-dock style floating launches designed to improve water trail accessibility for users with physical challenges. One launch is located on Lake Muskoday (with access to Belle Isle's inner waterways) and the other on the Detroit River. The project included the construction of a connector pathway between the two launches, interpretive signage educating visitors on invasive species, and a picnic shelter.



The Michigan Department of Natural Resources began developing the historic Belle Isle City Park into a state park in 2013. Partnership projects help further the DNR's mission to protect Belle Isle's waters and provide increased recreation opportunities to the public.

Matt Lincoln, grants coordinator of DNR Parks and Recreation Division, said, "The accessible Belle Isle canoe/kayak launch project is a great example of how success can be realized through partnerships. The DNR partnered with the Coastal Zone Management Program and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to make this project a reality."

The CZM Program has a long history of partnering with coastal communities and organizations in the development of water trails to enhance water-based recreation and tourism opportunities. For additional information about the Michigan CZM Program, contact Ms. Cheri Meyer at [meyerc2@michigan.gov](mailto:meyerc2@michigan.gov), (517) 290-2110, or visit [www.michigan.gov/coastalmanagement](http://www.michigan.gov/coastalmanagement).

