

**MINUTES**  
**Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting**

Thursday, October 20, 2022  
Location: Teleconference

**Meeting began at 9:00 a.m.**  
**No quorum established**

**PRESENT FOR BIPAC**

Attending remotely:

Michele Hodges; Muskegon, Michigan  
Michael Curis; Detroit, Michigan  
Bud Denker; Detroit, Michigan

**EXCUSED**

Rev. Lonnie Peek

**UNEXECUSED**

Sommer Woods  
Brad Dick

**DNR STAFF PRESENT**

Ron Olson, Chief  
Scott Pratt  
Tom Bissett  
Karis Floyd  
Joel Thomas  
Amanda Treadwell  
Mike Terrell  
Jason Becker  
Barbrea Young  
Amy Grochowski  
Ashley Jackson

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Becky Quinn, Simple Adventures  
Lance Courtier, MSP  
Ayo Thomas, Belle Isle Conservancy  
Amy Greene, Nature Center Director, Detroit Zoological Society

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Approval of Minutes for August 18, 2022**

No quorum

**Chair Hodges** started the meeting with a mission moment acknowledging the Belle Isle Nature Center, stating it is a beautiful facility that will add to the landscape on Belle Isle. The educational purpose to bring to life for our community all our native species and wonder around us that might not be evident because we do not know what to look for. She thanked **Amy Greene** and the Belle Isle Nature Center team for adding even more purpose and meaning to Belle Isle and the community that we serve, and assets we all seek to bring to the table. She encouraged those who have not been, to come out and see it.

## **VENDOR UPDATES**

### **Simple Adventures, Becky Quinn**

**Becky Quinn**, owner of Simple Adventures, a vendor on the island that offers kayaks, stand up paddle boards and bike rentals, began by stating they had a great first year on the island. They tried a couple of different locations to see where the best visibility would be, and the Flynn location turned out the best. They received some complaints on algae growth but worked with Karis and Joel to remedy the problem. Had some issues with folks during the Grand Prix who were taking boats, but now that they are at a different location, things have been better. She will continue to stay at the Flynn next season and open as soon as they can which is usually around Memorial Day.

**Chair Hodges** introduced Ms. Quinn to Ms. Ayo Thomas from the conservancy team who leads community engagement efforts and wanted to make sure Ms. Quinn was good with MOGO being on the island, to which Ms. Quinn said it is collaborative opportunity to advance her business' offerings. Scott Pratt informed Ms. Quinn that they appreciate her on the island and that staff will be in contact with her more in the future.

## **General Updates**

### **Parks and Recreation Update – Ron Olson, Chief, PRD**

October 1 started the new fiscal year. There are a lot of things going on with infrastructure, including the fountain so they are exploring options to bolster needed funding, including grants. Other items include pursuit of the demolition of the zoo buildings, a study on the paddock with engagement with MSU students, and options for the boathouse. Last month a tour took place at the Oudolf Garden with garden designer Piet Oudolf, followed by a reception at the yacht club.

### **Park Update - Scott Pratt, Karis Floyd, Joel Thomas; PRD**

Hype Athletics is allowing the boathouse members to store their boats on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the athletic complex and educational programs will move to Grayhaven. The booth has moved closer to the flower clock and will remain open past Labor Day. Two new GOAs and three rangers have been hired. The two new GOAs, **Amy Grochowski** and **Barbrea Young**, were introduced and everyone welcomed them. NBC will again do their live show tomorrow starting at Sunset Point. The transportation and mobility plan meeting notices will be posted soon and

will be broken into several meetings so island tenants and staff can participate. Winterizing will begin Monday, October 24, 2022; the bus stop and casino will remain open during the winter and notices will be posted. A lead ranger position will be posted soon. A seasonal ranger, a seasonal custodian and another GOA will be sought next spring. A total of 18 summer staff have left since October 15. Some rangers will be laid off in November and December.

### **Law Update – Lt. Lance Couturier, MSP and Lt. Jason Becker, DNR-LED**

MSP will be coordinating with LED during the hunting season. **Tom Bissett** introduced **Lt. Jason Becker**, who is representing DNR Law Enforcement Division today while Lt. Szyska serves in a working out of class role. Lt. Becker thanked Lt. Couturier for their help covering the island.

### **Infrastructure Updates; Amanda Treadwell, Urban Area Field Planner, DNR**

**Amanda Treadwell** provided infrastructure updates including updates on the boathouse, the Scott Fountain, and the Flynn with information on what recommendations and repairs are needed and exploring options for funding (presentation attached).

**Chair Hodges** wanted to make sure the public knows that the access point to the island is being addressed in the mobility study. She gave Rev. Peek a “shout out” for partaking in the survey process.

**Chair Hodges** noted that **Mr. Eugene Driker** (Eugene and Elaine C. Driker Trail) passed away on September 29 and is truly being mourned by the community for the giant he was on many levels. He was known for being a masterful problem solver, someone who could take on the most difficult situations, seeing them clearly when no one else could, and doing so with impeccable ethics. He was a scholar, loved his family, and very involved at Wayne State. He was one of the architects of the bankruptcy that saved our most treasured assets here in the community. He was a wise and generous contributor to the Jewish community as well. She wanted to take this moment to treasure his memory.

### **Belle Isle Conservancy Updates, Michele Hodges and Ayo Thomas**

**Chair Hodges** mentioned the bi-national agreement committed to in September between the Ontario Provincial Government and the MDNR to move forward with a Great Lakes tourism effort that will enable the parties to collaborate on marketing, various trail destinations opportunities and experiences.

**Ayo Thomas** reminded everyone that Belle Isle Park is open year-round. The Oudolf Garden continues to mature and is available for outdoor enjoyment. The Nature Center reopened to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Programming is still taking place with Astronomy Night from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. tomorrow. Back-up date is Saturday 10/22; registration is required and is free. Boo at the Nature Center returning for the annual Halloween celebration October 29 - 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; please bring reusable bags.

Other important items to note:

- Overlooked is still on display which is a closer look at some of the inhabitants of the pollinator garden over at the Nature Center. Details and registration on the website.
- The Dossin Great Lakes Museum remains open Friday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free for children under six and \$5 for individuals and \$20 for a single household up to 6.
  - Hosting the SS Edmund Fitzgerald Special Event on November 5, 2022, from 11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
  - Lost Mariners Remembrance, November 10, 2022.
  - Homeschool Day, November 11, 2022, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- Text GEM to 80888 for real-time updates about Belle Isle, island closures, and more.
- The aquarium does offer seasonal tours and programs. More information can be found at [belleisleconservancy.org](http://belleisleconservancy.org).

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

## **NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**November 17, 2022**

**9:00 a.m.**



# Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update

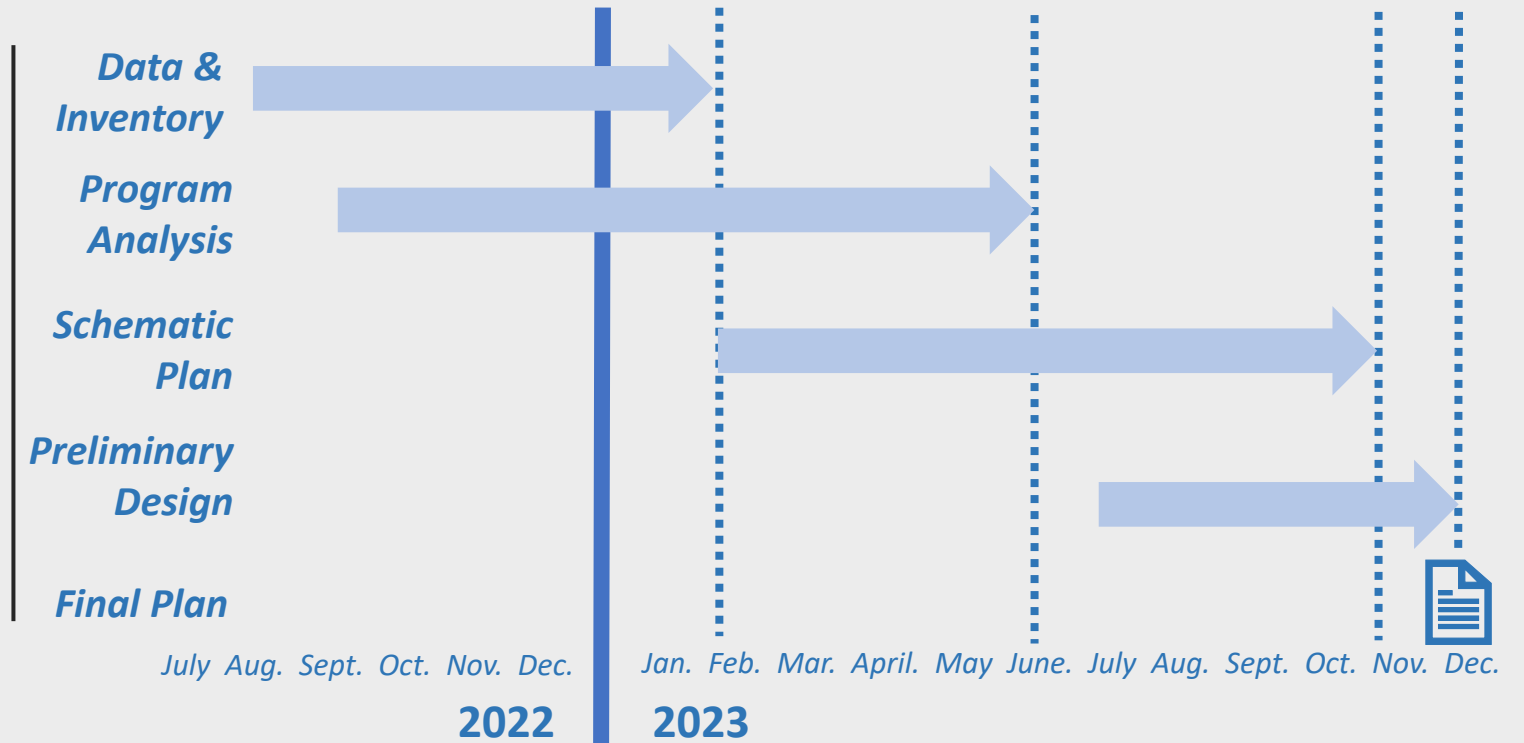
October 20, 2022 Detroit, MI





# Belle Isle Multimodal Mobility Study (BIMMS)

- Data & Inventory
  - Traffic back-up locations & Duration
  - Conflict data
  - Parking utilization
  - Park attendance sampling
- Program Analysis
- Schematic Plan
- Preliminary Design
- Final Plan



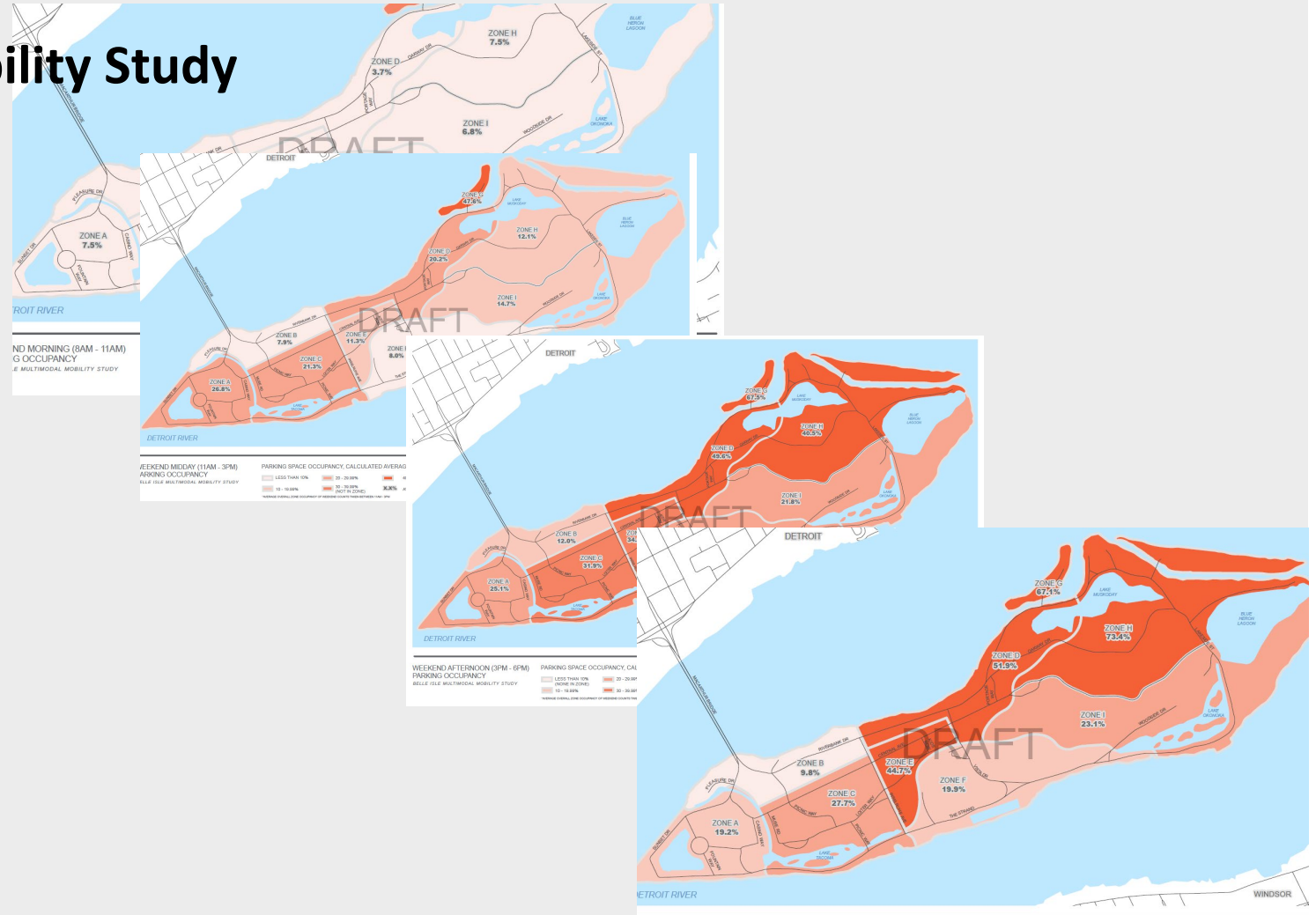
Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022





# Belle Isle Multimodal Mobility Study (BIMMS)

- Data & Inventory
  - Reviewing video turning movement counts at 60 intersections.
  - Aerial images & video footage:
    - Conflict data
    - Parking utilization rates
    - Park attendance sampling
  - Field Reviews and observations collected
  - Traffic Models are being developed for existing conditions



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022



# Belle Isle Multimodal Mobility Study (BIMMS)

- Park wide vehicular wayfinding draft plan



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022





# Belle Isle Multimodal Mobility Study (BIMMS)

- Pedestrian wayfinding study underway



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022



# Belle Isle Multimodal Mobility Study (BIMMS)

- Pedestrian wayfinding and circulation study underway



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022



# Belle Isle Multimodal Mobility Study (BIMMS)

- Bicycle circulation study underway



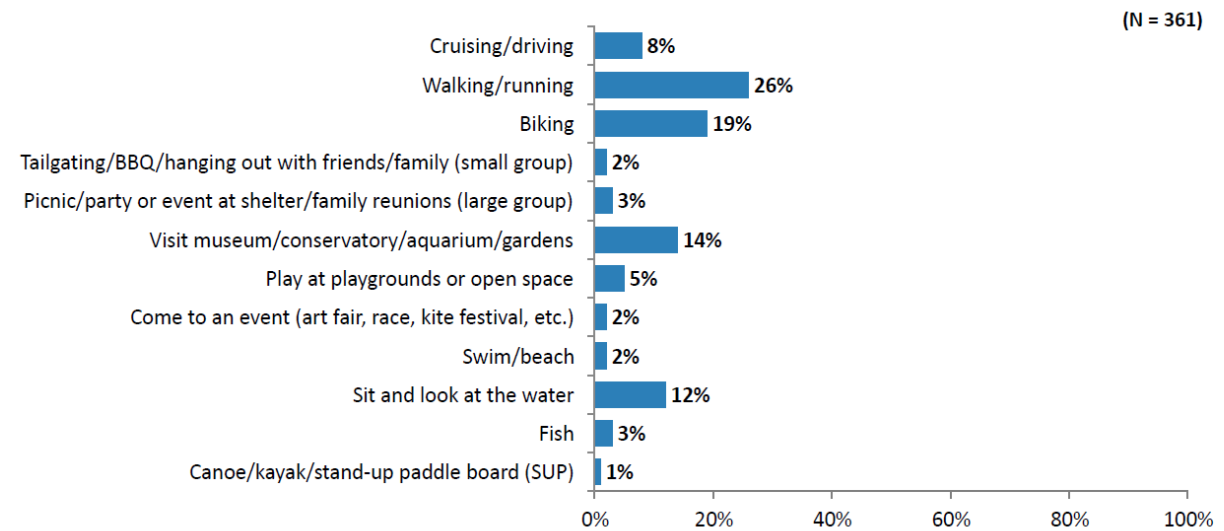
Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022



# Belle Isle Multimodal Transportation and Traffic Study Community Engagement Plan

- First public survey results are being reviewed.
- Park tenant and vendor as well as stakeholder engagement meetings will take place in November.
- Future Engagement with public and stakeholders planned for 2023.

## What activities do you participate in on the island most often?



*Intercept survey results are currently being reviewed by project team*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022**



## ARPA – Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

- Conservatory closure to start mid-November through May 2024.
- Anticipate gardens will be closed for winter and reopen spring 2023.



*Phase 2 of the ASWC structural repairs will address steel repairs replacement as needed and replacing glazing in upper dome, asbestos in glazing compound and lead paint on upper steel trusses will be significant scope of work.*

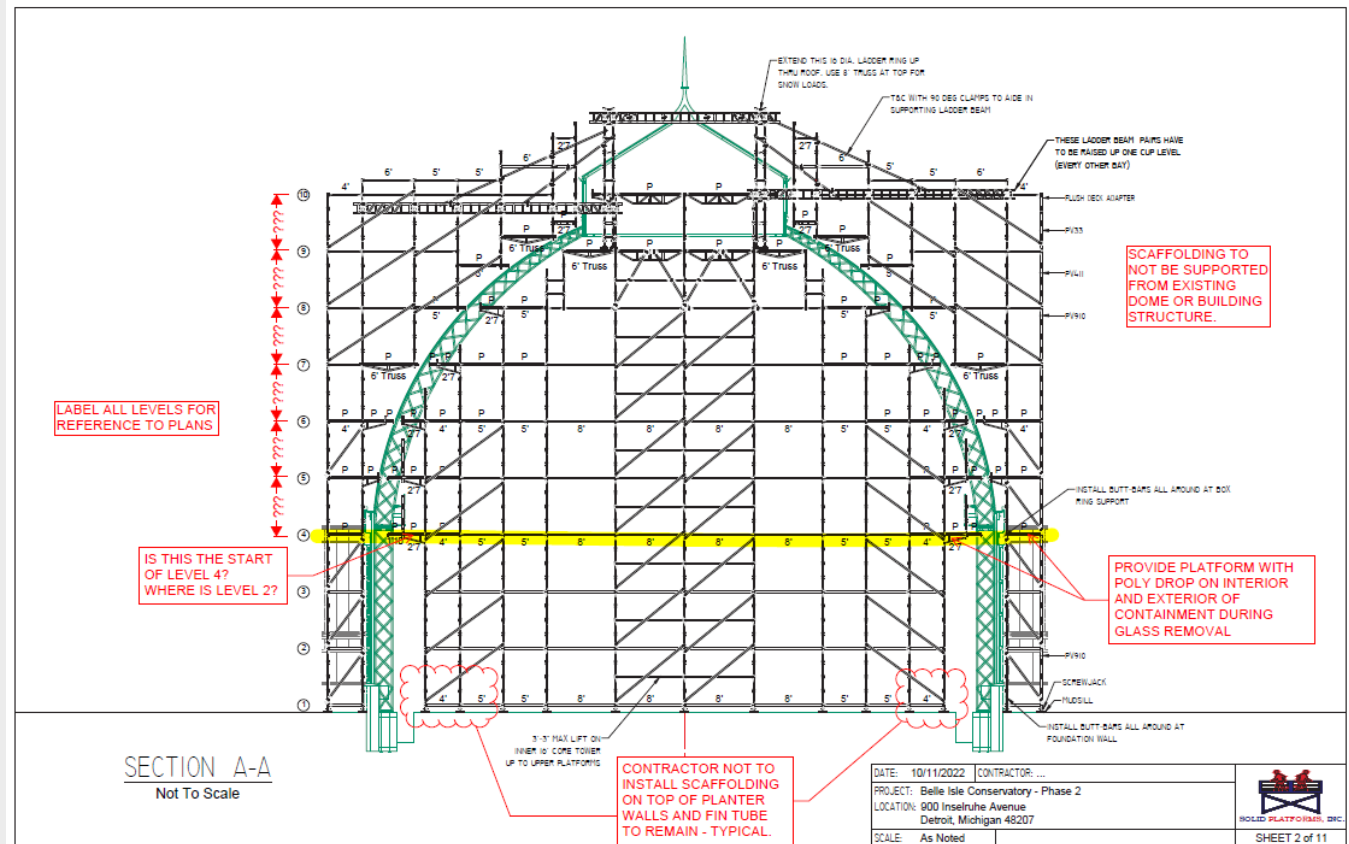
**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022**





## ARPA – Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

- Scaffolding will be erected in dome interior and exterior.
- Temporary floor at base of dome will provide separation of space between abatement work and the planting beds below.



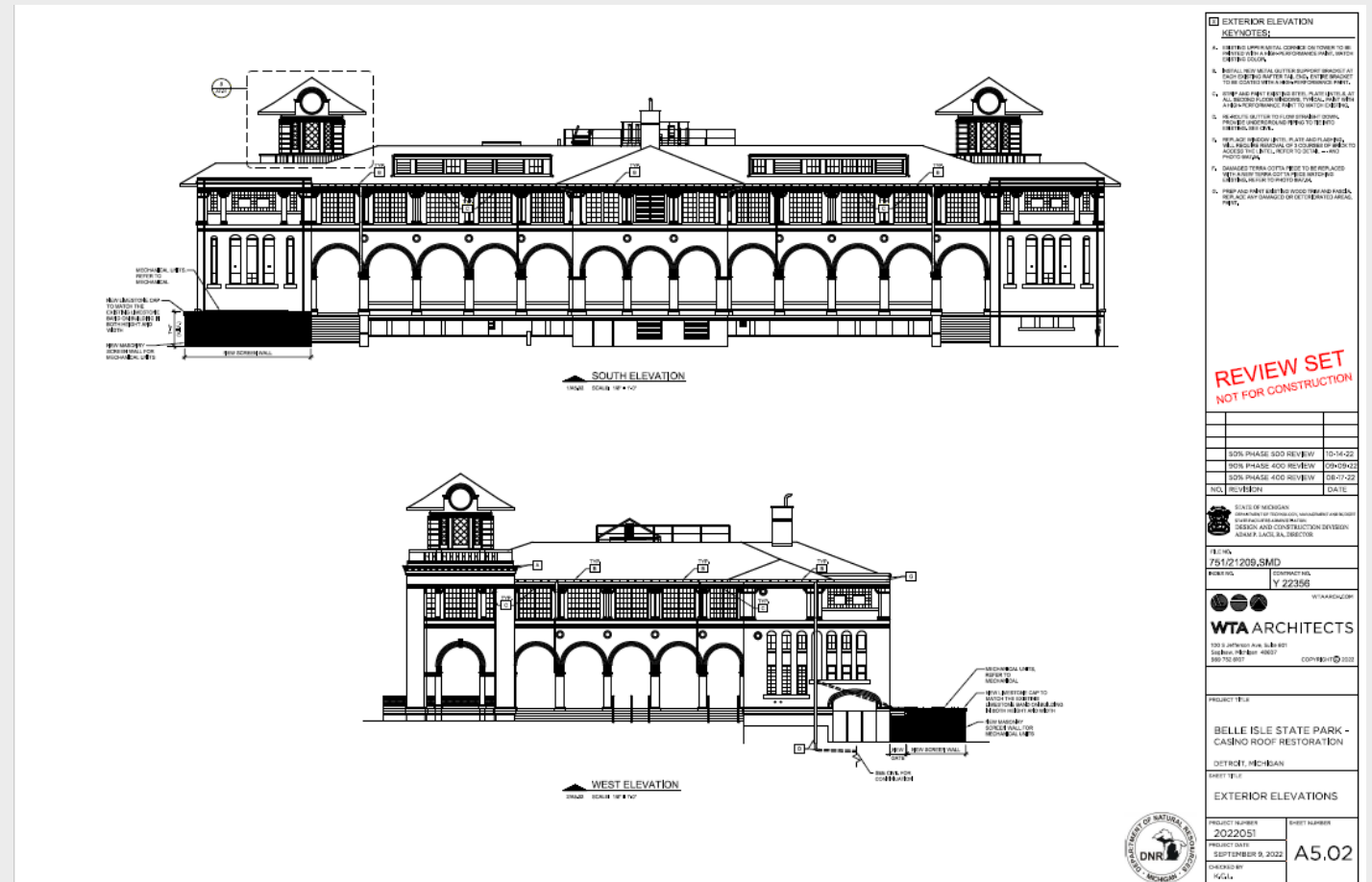
**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022**



## ARPA - Casino

### Project Status

- Bid Documents to be advertised end of December.
- Construction in 2023 to align with elevator modernization.



Significant deterioration to roof and related structural and architectural elements will be address in roof replacement project

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022



## Shelter #12 Improvements

- Improvements Complete;
- Carpentry repairs of rotted supports and decorative gables.
- Roof repairs including underlayment, wood decking and new clay tile shingles.
- Entire shelter to be re-painted.



*Shelter #12 Improvements*



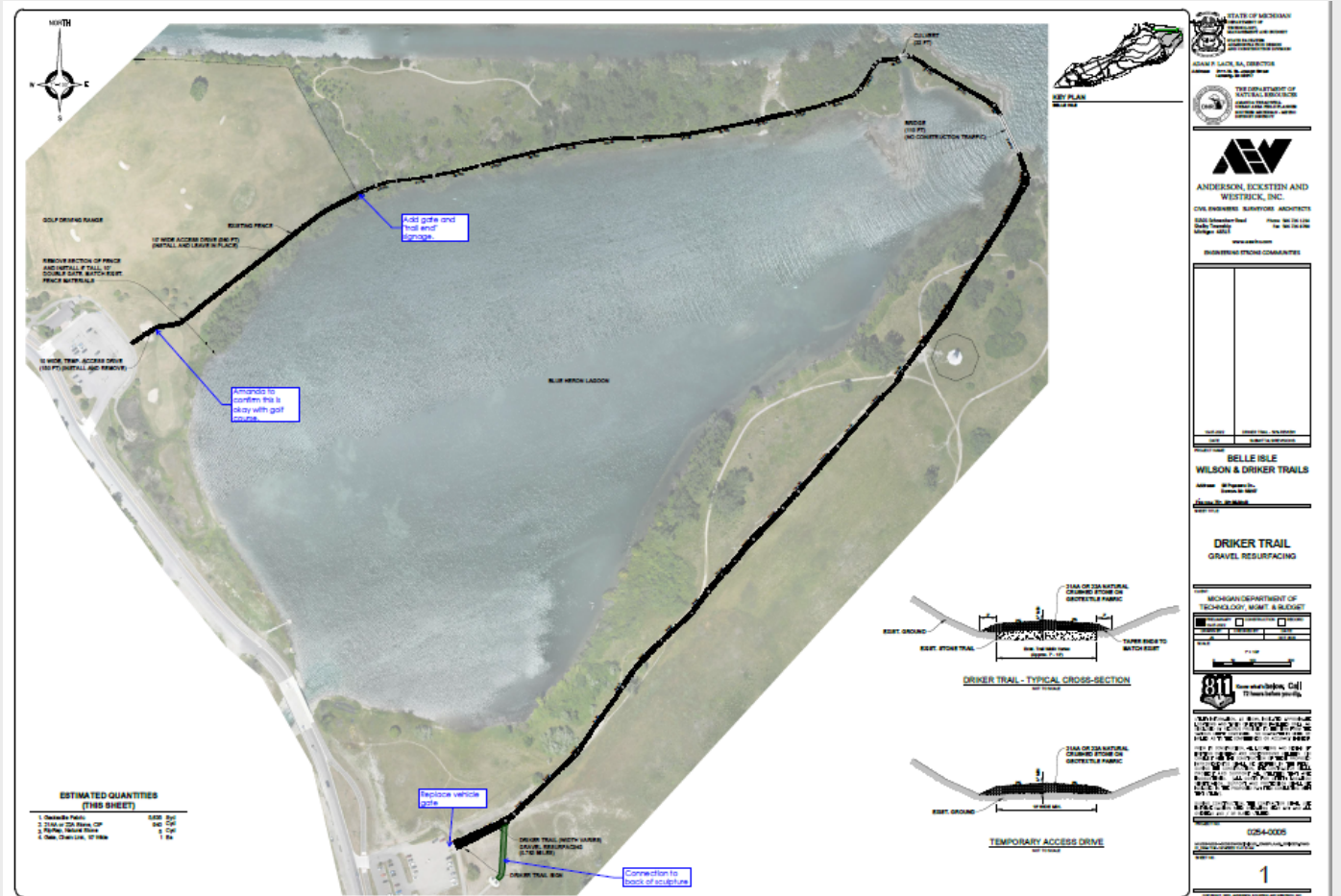
**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022**





## Driker Trail & Ralph Wilson Trail Phase 2

- Driker Trail bid documents are being finalized.
- Construction expected to take place in December/January.
- Wilson Trail Phase 2 geotechnical surveys completed this week.



Driker Trail scope of work



## MDOT Bridge Structure Maintenance

- Oakway Trail Bridge work and trail improvements complete.
- The Central Ave. Bridge work to be complete mid – October.
- Vista Ave. Bridge to be complete in Mid-November.



*Restoration work in progress on Central Ave. Bridge.*







## James Scott Fountain

- **Utility improvements underway this year will be complete next week with the installation of a new DTE transformer.**
- **Bulkheads to secure open spaces under the basin are in fabrication.**



*Utility improvements that have been underway this year to prepare the fountain for a new transformer will be complete next week with the installation of a new DTE transformer.*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2022**