



Michigan DNR Parks & Recreation Division

In Partnership with the Belle Isle
Conservancy

Belle Isle 2023 Annual Report

- **Tom Bissett**, Urban District Supervisor
- **Karis Floyd**, Belle Isle Park Manager
- **Amanda Treadwell**, Urban District Field Planner
- **Todd Szyska**, Lt. Law Enforcement Division
- **Maud Lyon**, Interim President, Belle Isle Conservancy

Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee



Michele
Hodges
CHAIR



Rev. Lonnie
Peek, Jr.
VICE - CHAIR



Sommer
Woods



Tom Bissett
DNR Liaison



Meagan Elliot



Angela Lugo-
Thomas



Michael Curis



Karis Floyd
Park Manager



The Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee advises the state on implementation of improvements, master planning and public safety for Belle Isle Park

- Formation outlined in lease
- Appointed by the Mayor, City Council and Governor
- 6 members
 - (1) vacancy
 - Chair (outgoing)
 - Jointly appointed by the Governor & Mayor
 - Nine meetings held in 2023
 - Public comment encouraged during meetings
- **Meeting Attendees:**
 - Hear Updates and Opportunities related to Belle Isle
 - Infrastructure, Construction, & Programming
 - Career/Volunteer Opportunities
 - Island/Venue Access
 - Public Comments and Suggestions
- **Remaining 2024 Meetings (9:00 AM)**
 - May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15 (6 PM),
 - September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19

Visit **belleislepark.org** for more information.



DNR Responsibilities

Ownership

City of Detroit

Management

Department of Natural Resources,
Parks and Recreation Division

In Collaboration with:

MDOT

Roads and Bridges

DNR - Law Enforcement Division & Michigan State Police

Public Safety





Park Staff

Summer Staff

- 27 State Worker 4s

Director of Volunteer Services position

- Jointly funded and managed by DNR Parks and Recreation and the Belle Isle Conservancy

Permanent Staff

- 1 Park Manager (Also manages Milliken SP & Harbor)
- 1 Park Supervisor
- 1 Accounting Assistant
- 3 General Office Assistants
- 2 Promotional Agents
- 2 Janitors
- 2 Lead Rangers
- 9 Park Rangers
- 1 Horticulturalist (Conservatory)
- 1 Groundskeeper (Conservatory)
- 4 MCCC Assistants (Conservatory)





DNR Job Opportunities



- Join our team!

Summer Jobs

- First Step Process is to express interest
- Starting hourly rate :\$15/hr
- Flexible Schedule

Michigan.gov/DNR/about/careers

Current Permanent DNR Job Openings

Governmentjobs.com/careers/Michigan/DNR





Youth Employment @ Belle Isle



- Demographics

- 61% African American (AA) or Black
- 17% Latinx or Hispanic
- 2% Bi-Racial (Latinx/Hispanic, Middle Eastern, Asian, Native American, AA)
- 1% Caucasian or White
- .04% Middle Eastern
- 18.9% Did not indicate
- Total Number of Hours Worked = **32,242.92***

Summer Youth Employment Program & Conservation Leadership Apprentice Program

- Partnering Agencies
 - Detroit Zoological Society
 - Michigan Rehabilitation Services
 - First Ward Community Center
 - Green Door Initiative
 - The Youth Connection
 - Urban Neighborhood Initiatives
 - Healthy Kidz, Inc
 - Many more....





2023 Attendance

Belle Isle Park Attendance

- 2023 Visitors 5,587,331
- 2022 Visitors 5,221,388
- 7% Increase



Belle Isle Aquarium – Belle Isle Conservancy

- 2023 Visitors 152,872
- 2022 Visitors 148,703
- 3% Increase

Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory – DNR

- 2023 Closed for Construction
- 2022 Visitors 62,064 (closed Nov/Dec)
- Reopening Late Summer 2024

Dossin Museum – Detroit Historical Society

- 2023 Visitors 24,860
- 2022 Visitors 23,661
- 5 % Increase

Belle Isle Nature Center – Detroit Zoo

- 2023 Visitors 103,427
- 2022 Visitors 20,577 (reopened 9/28/22)
- 25% Increase over Peak (2019)



Events

Runs, Walks, Fishing & Fun !



181 + Hosted Last Year

- Koi Festival
- High School & Family Reunions
- Birding, Fishing, Kayaking & Hiking Events
- 5k, 10k, Half Marathons, Triathlons
- Kite Festival
- Metro Youth Day #39
- Weddings
- Movies Under the Stars
- MO Big Music Concerts
- Belle Isle Art Fair
- DPD Car Show
- Wine & Food Experience, Tacos & Tequila
- Church Picnics
- Detroit Water Festival



Shelter & Restroom Improvements

Shelter Improvements

- **Shelter #9**
 - Stabilization
- **Shelter 8**
 - Roofing, Lead Paint Abatement, Restrooms
- **Shelter #2**
 - Roof Repairs,
 - Asbestos Abatement
- **Oxbow, Sunset & Woodside**
 - Painting
- **Shelters 14 & 15**
 - Roofing & Fascia

For Shelter reservations:

- Visit www.midnrrreservations.com or call [1-800-447-2757](tel:1-800-447-2757) to reserve a date.
- Shelter reservations can be made up to one year in advance.



Rented tents/canopies and inflatables are only allowed with permits.

- You must use approved vendors to provide the service.
- Please contact the office for a list.
- Alcohol is prohibited without a permit
- Permits are needed for certain events, caterers and vendors.

FY 2014 – FY 2023 Investments

\$140,533,536



Conservatory dome glass replacement complete and scaffolding removal underway.

The DNR and the Belle Isle Conservancy partner to leverage funding with many nonprofits and other government grant partners

- Infrastructure Investment
- PRD Park Improvement Operating Expenditures
- PRD - Other Operating Expenditures
- DNR - Other Division Operating Expenditures
- In-Kind Volunteer Services

FY 2023 Improvement Highlights

Historic Structures

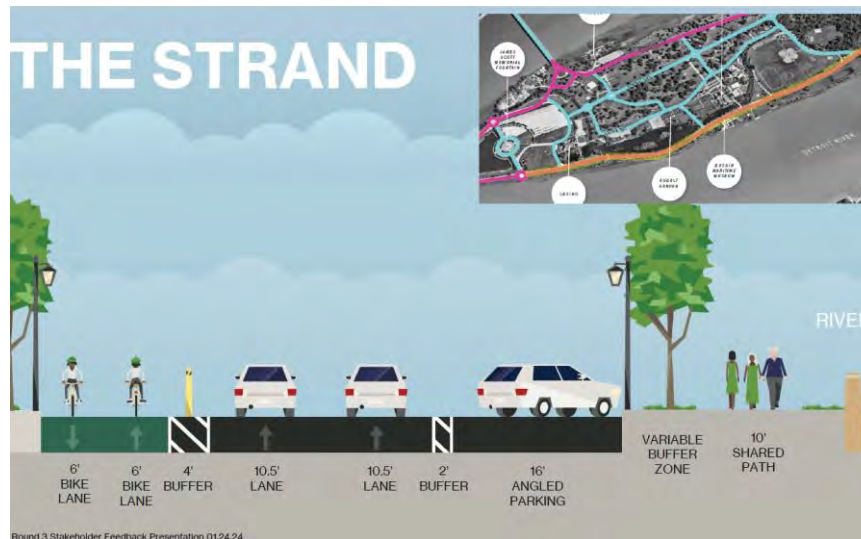
Casino Improvements



The \$5 million Casino renovation funded by ARPA is underway.

Planning & Community Engagement

Park Circulation



Community engagement was key to final recommendations for multimodal mobility study.

Ecological Restoration

Shoreline Engineering along Phase 2 Wilson Trail



Sections of trail aligned closely to shoreline will incorporate native vegetation to stabilize shoreline..

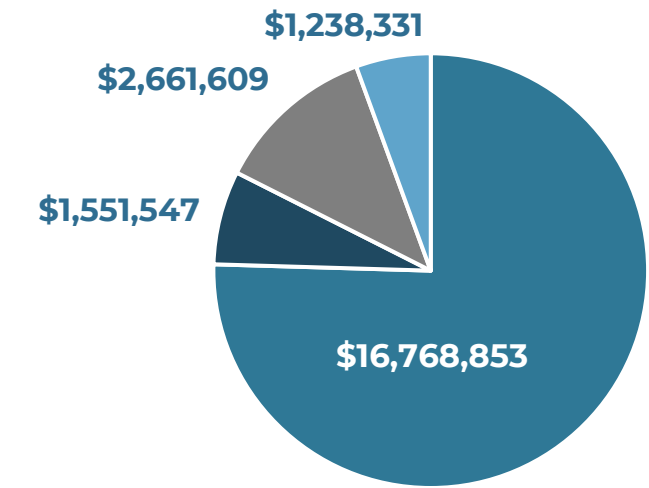
FY 2023 Investments

\$22,220,340



Flynn Pavilion window restoration underway.

FY 2023 Investments



- Capital Investment
- Park Improvement Fund
- Primarily General Fund
- Various

Upcoming Improvements in 2024

Shelter, restroom facilities, and ADA access improvements for historic facilities

- 20 Shelters & restrooms to be improved
* \$2,015,000
- ADA Access improvements at Aquarium & Conservatory Gardens and Casino
* \$2,700,000

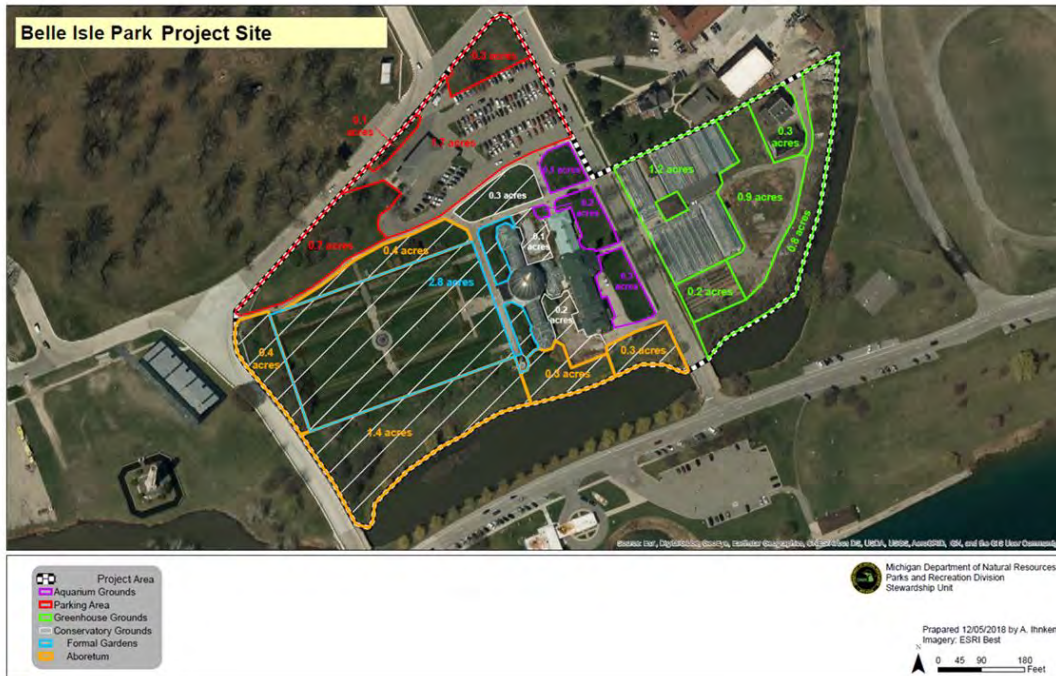
**Budgets include DNR capital outlay and ARPA funding*



Many repairs will be common as those planned for shelter #2, hazardous material remediation, structural repairs and energy efficiency improvements.

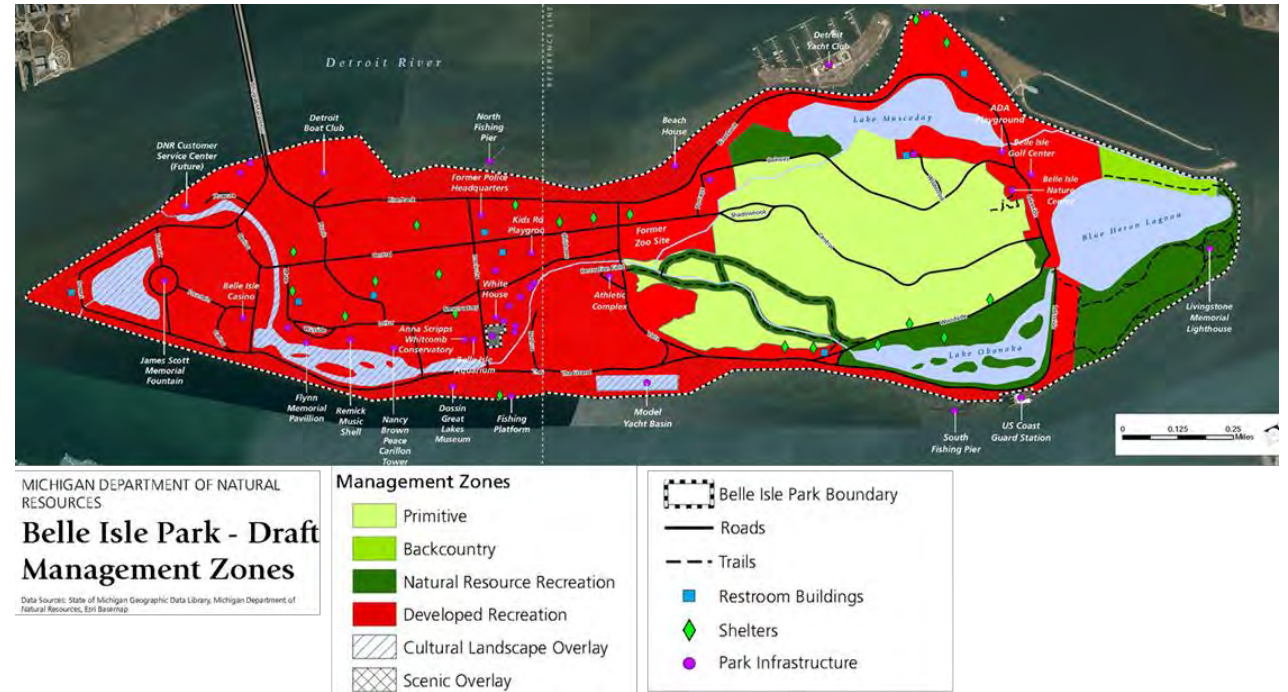
Upcoming Planning Highlights

Belle Isle Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory Facility Development Plan



Scope limits for Belle Isle Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory plan

Park Strategic Development Plan



Management zones defined in Strategic Management Plan

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

State legislature provided \$23 million to support Belle Isle Infrastructure needs in addition to the State Park allotment of \$12 million for the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory dome and Casino roof



Scott Fountain will benefit from structural stabilization and water sealing repairs

Project	Budget
Scott Fountain structural stabilization	\$6,000,000.00
Belle Isle Aquarium and Conservatory Facility Development plan and ADA access improvements	\$1,075,000.00
Belle Isle Aquarium HVAC Construction	\$10,000,000.00
Parkwide hazardous material abatement, structural repairs at multiple sites and removals	\$5,000,000.00
Park Strategic Development Plan	\$525,000.00
Park wayfinding signage	\$400,000.00
TOTAL	\$23,000,000.00

Belle Isle Boathouse

2023-2024 Timeline for Development Proposals



Belle Isle Boathouse construction estimates for the structure and site repairs are beyond the reach of state tax funded capital outlay budget.

- Dec. 2023: Public information shared; comments requested by end of month.
- Jan. 5: Summary of comments and answered posted online.
- March 29: Five Letters of Intent submitted
- April 12: Three successful applicants notified
- April 23: Applicant site walk through
- **July 31: Formal proposals due**

DNR Law Enforcement & MSP

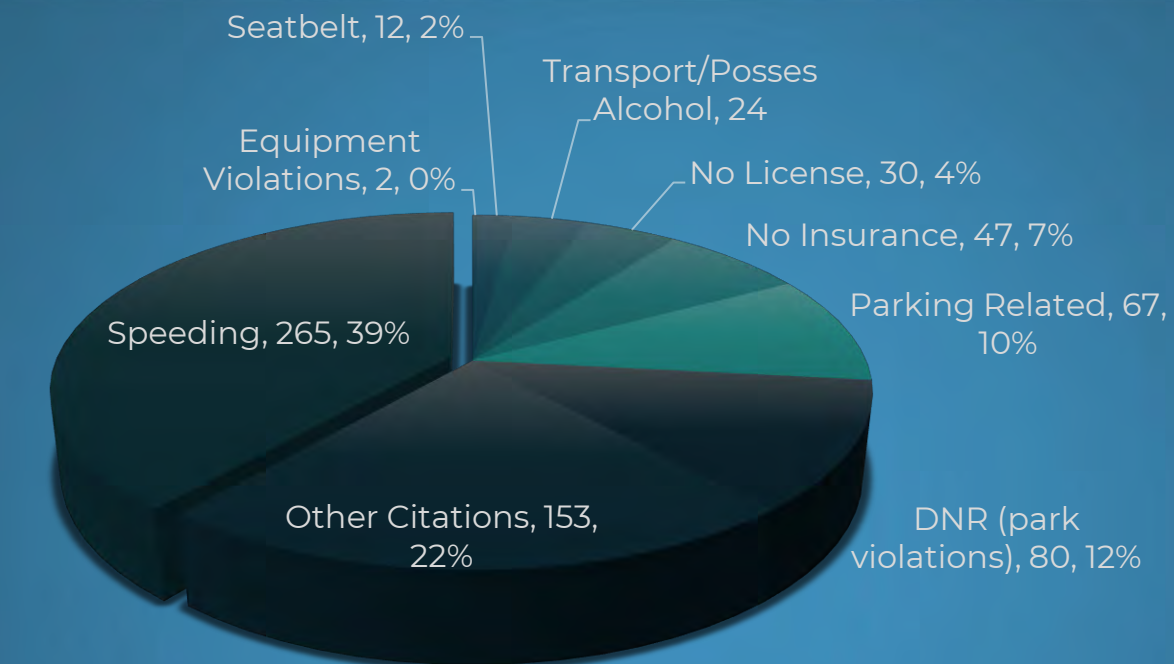
Law Enforcement Division Partnership
(Serving together to provide safety/public
service) on Belle Isle.

MI Conservation Officers and Michigan State
Police Troopers





DNR LED Enforcement - Citation Breakdown 2023



- Equipment Violations
- Seatbelt
- Transport/Posses Alcohol
- No License
- No Insurance
- Parking Related
- DNR (park violations)
- Other Citations
- Speeding



Public Safety Breakdown



Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers

Fully empowered peace officers of the State of Michigan (MCOLES Certified) enforces all fish and game laws, boating laws, ORV laws, snowmobile laws, state land laws, and all other State laws. Also deputized through the United States Fish and Wildlife Agency to investigate federal fish and game laws within Michigan; statewide jurisdiction.



Michigan State Police

Fully empowered peace officers of the State of Michigan (MCOLES certified) (enforce all State laws, highway patrol, etc.) Statewide jurisdiction.

Michigan State Park Ranger

Not police officers under Michigan Statute (Not MCOLES Certified) requests voluntary compliance with State Park Regulations by authority of the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Also manages the island wide outreach, maintenance & infrastructure upgrades.








A Community-Driven Organization

Nonprofit Partner to the
Michigan Department of Natural Resources



A new study ranked the top 10 most beautiful aquariums nationwide based on visitor reviews, and Belle Isle Aquarium is #1!

Open Friday to Sunday
Year Round
Free Admission

How we engage with the public

- Self-guided and docent-led tours
- School programs
- Teacher programs
- Community programs
- Special events
- Public feedings
- Interactive programs
- Retail



Transforming Space, Enhancing Experience: Our New Retail Hub

In collaboration with Carhartt, we've transformed a donated shipping container into a vibrant gift shop and information center. This innovative use of space serves as the central hub for both visitors and locals, offering a unique shopping experience right at the heart of the island



Visitor Convenience: Centrally located for easy access, offering refreshments, souvenirs, and essential visitor information.

Local Collaboration: Partnerships with local creators promote Detroit's artistic community, directly benefiting local artists and authors.

- Currently, we have 7 different local vendors featured in the shop

Unique Offerings: Locally produced items provide visitors with unique keepsakes that carry the essence and artistic expression of Detroit, making their visit even more memorable





Our Volunteers

- Docents
- Interpreters
- Educators
- Greeters
- Tankscapers
- Special Events
- Facility Improvement Team

KEEP Belle Isle BEAUTIFUL

BELLE ISLE PARK - DETROIT, MI

2nd Friday @ Belle Isle Beach

3rd Saturday @ Belle Isle Aquarium

May – October







New in 2023, Citizen Science and Data Collection at Public Kayak Cleanups in the Canals of Belle Isle



Elevating KBIB Cleanups in 2024

BeBot Robot

Innovative technology
in litter removal

Partners

- City of Detroit Office of Mobility Innovation
- Council for Great Lakes Region
- MDNR
- Belle Isle Conservancy



Outdoor Classroom installed;
Mural painted by Tony Whlgn



Meagan Elliott,

Belle Isle Conservancy
President & CEO

- Starts July 1, 2024

