



# Michigan DNR Parks & Recreation Division

In Partnership with the Belle Isle Conservancy



## Belle Isle Park Fiscal 2022 Annual Report

- **Tom Bissett**, Urban District Supervisor
- **Karis Floyd**, Belle Isle Park Manager
- **Amanda Treadwell**, Urban District Field Planner
- **Todd Szyska**, Lt. Law Division
- **Michele Hodges**, President, Belle Isle Conservancy  
& Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee



# Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee



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
- 7 members
  - (1) vacancy to be appointed by Governor
- Nine virtual meetings held in 2022
- Public comment encouraged during meetings

## Meeting Attendees:

- Hear Updates and Opportunities related to Belle Isle
- Infrastructure and Construction
- Programming
- Career/Volunteer Opportunities
- Island/Venue Access
- Public Comments and Suggestions

## Remaining 2023 Meetings (9:00 AM)

May 18<sup>th</sup> June 15<sup>th</sup> July 20<sup>th</sup> August 17<sup>th</sup> (6 PM) September 21<sup>st</sup>  
October 19<sup>th</sup> November 6<sup>th</sup> December 14<sup>th</sup>

Visit [belleislepark.org](https://belleislepark.org) for more information.



**Michele Hodges**  
CHAIR



**Rev. Lonnie Peek, Jr.**  
VICE - CHAIR



**Brad Dick**



**Tom Bissett**  
DNR Liaison



**Sommer Woods**



**Bud Denker**



**Michael Curis**



**Karis Floyd**  
Park Manager



# 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 Staffing Levels



## Full time staff

- 1 Park Manager (*Also manages Milliken SP & Harbor*)
- 1 Park Supervisor
- 1 Accounting Assistant
- 1 General Office Assistant
- 2 Promotional Agents
- 1 Janitor
- 2 Lead Rangers
- 1 Full time Ranger

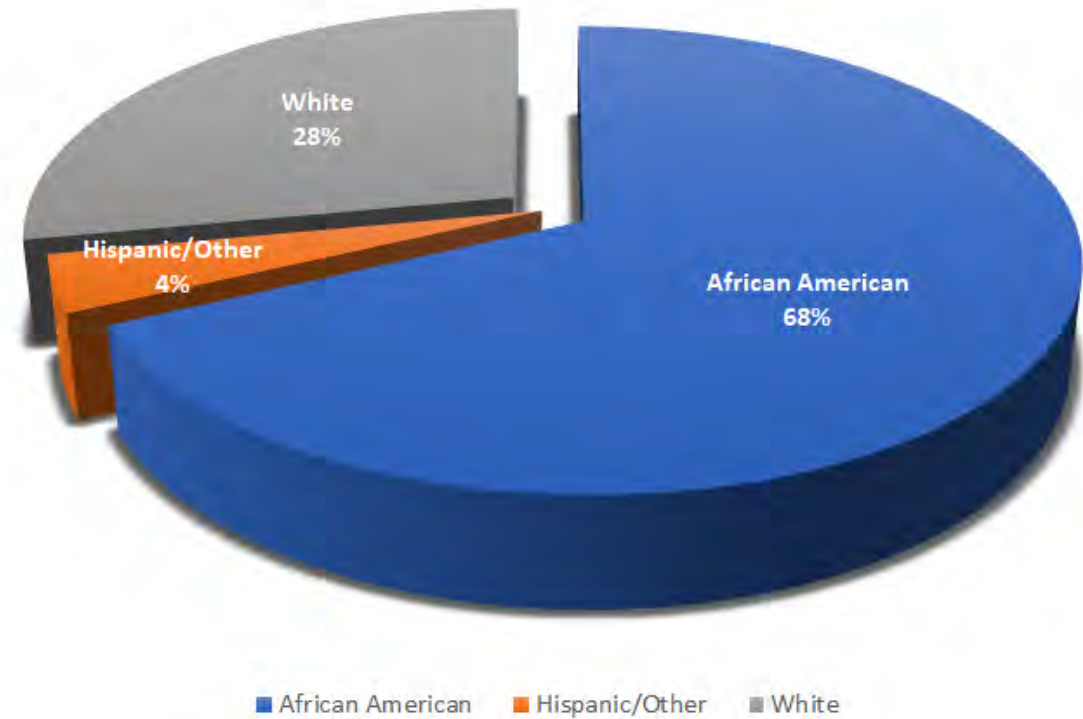
## Seasonal Staff

- 8 Seasonal Park Rangers
- 1 Seasonal Janitor
- 27 Short Term Workers (summer help)
- 2 General Office Assistant positions

## Director of Volunteer Services position

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

Staff Breakdown





# 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 - Efforts 2022



Michigan State Troopers based out of Metro South Post



## DNR LED Enforcement Statistics January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022

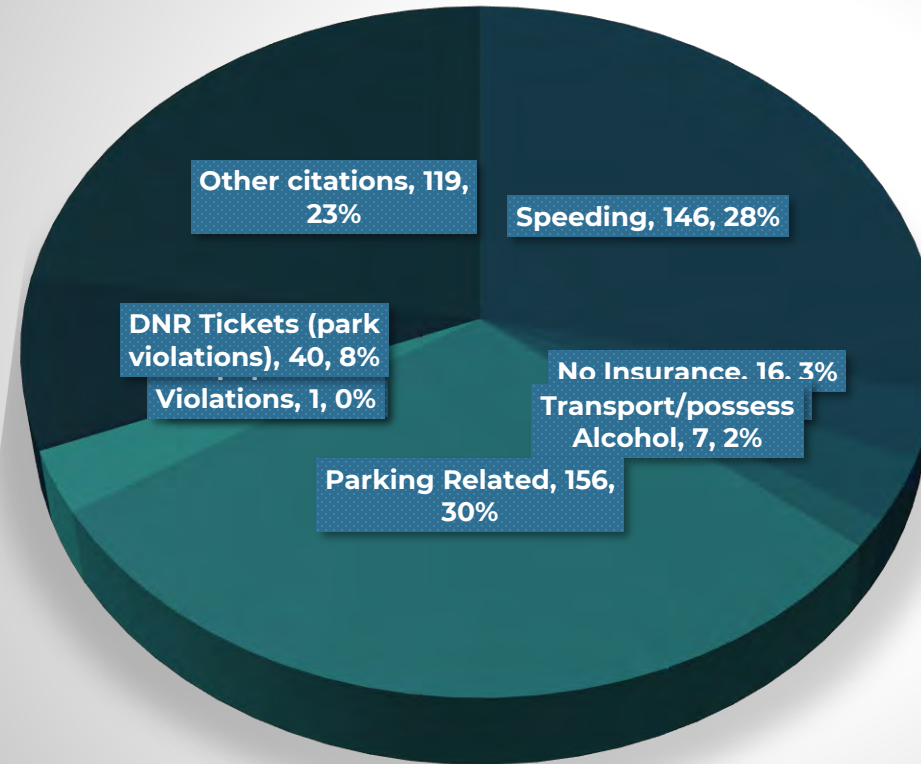




# DNR LED Enforcement - Citation Breakdown 2022



## DNR LED Citations January 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022



- Speeding
- No Insurance
- No License
- Transport/possess Alcohol
- Parking Related
- Seatbelt
- Equipment Violations
- DNR Tickets (park violations)
- Other citations





# 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 trash & infrastructure upgrades.







# DNR Conservation Officer Recruitment



## *Currently Recruiting:*

**DNR LED** is currently recruiting for MCOLES Pre-Certified officers.

\*Employed by a law enforcement agency and attended basic training as an employed candidate.

Trying to hire for 10 vacancy positions.





# Island – Wide Attraction Attendance

**\*\*2020 all attractions closed due to Covid-19\*\***



## **Belle Isle Aquarium – Belle Isle Conservancy**

- 2022 Visitors 148,703
- 2021 Visitors 70,747
- 2020 Visitors 22,605
- 2019 Visitors 174,000
- 2018 Visitors 166,501

## **Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory – DNR**

- 2022 Visitors 62,064 (closed Nov/Dec)
- 2021 Visitors 96,500
- 2020 Visitors 0
- 2019 Visitors 118,000
- 2018 Visitors 451,000

## **Dossin Museum – Detroit Historical Society**

- 2022 Visitors 23,661
- 2021 Visitors 25,507
- 2020 Visitors 0
- 2019 Visitors 30,000
- 2018 Visitors 50,051

## **Belle Isle Nature Center – Detroit Zoo**

- 2022 Visitors 20,577 (reopened 9/28/22)
- 2021 Visitors 4,833
- 2020 Visitors 0
- 2019 Visitors 83,000
- 2018 Visitors 99,191



*Belle Isle Nature Center  
Exterior*



*Dossin Museum  
Interior*



*Anna Scripps Whitcomb  
Conservatory*



*Belle Isle  
Aquarium*





# Park Visitor Attendance



## **FY 2022 Attendance**

5,198,661 park visitors

## **FY 2021 Attendance**

5,200,000 park visitors

## **FY 2020 Attendance**

4,984,399 park visitors

## **FY 2019 Attendance**

4,061,221 park visitors

*Counter was not operational for a period of the summer due to construction*

## **FY 2018 Attendance**

4,102,545 park visitors

*Counter was not operational for a period of the summer due to construction*

## **FY 2017 Attendance**

4,200,000 park visitors



Kite Festival at Belle Isle Park



# FY 2014 – FY 2022 Investments

**FY 2014 – FY 2022**

**Accumulative  
Investment**

from Multiple Sources

**\$118,313,197**

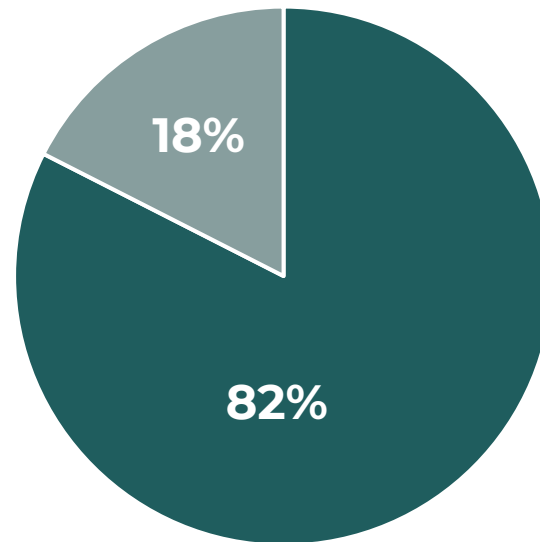
**The DNR and the Belle Isle Conservancy partner to leverage funding with many nonprofits and other government grant partners**

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

# FY 2014 – FY 2022 Investments

## FY 2022 Capital Improvements Funding

\$20,128,587



### Funding Source

■ State, \$16,452,247 ■ Private, \$3,491,339

# FY 2022 Capital Improvement Highlights

## Historic Structures

Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory



## Recreational Amenities

Eugene and Elaine C. Driker Trail



## Ecological Restoration

Wet Mesic Flatwoods





# FY 2022 Planning Highlights

## Belle Isle Multimodal Mobility Study



Designs vary  
Sign clutter  
Information not always up to date  
Incorrect placement

Belle Isle Park  
Priority #1  
Projects  
\$43,000,000



Belle Isle Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb	\$20,000,000
James Scott Memorial	*\$10,000,000
Belle Isle Boathouse	*\$5,000,000
Beach Revitalization	\$5,000,000
Hazardous Material Removal	*\$2,000,000
Belle Isle Former Zoo	*\$1,000,000

***Projects should be addressed in 0-3 years  
\*Projects with marked are recommended to begin within the year.***









# Youth Employment Programs on Belle Isle

## Healthy Kidz Program

- The DNR maintain natural resources such as state parks, state forests, and recreation areas. Youths are employed at different sites such the Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC), Tindal Activity Center, and Belle Isle.
- Assisted with the reopening of the Giant Slide in 2022.

## Mini DNR Natural Resource Academy

- For Belle Isle, ages 16-19 were given an opportunity to work with DNR staff to learn and understand various jobs in Natural Resources.





# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



Belle Isle Aquarium & Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory celebrate 118 years.



Belle Isle Aquarium welcomes Sir Ringo Woodward, a Giant Pacific Octopus.



Belle Isle Conservancy Adopts 5-Year Strategic Plan further emphasizing partnership, programming, enhanced advocacy efforts, and organizational capacity.



Belle Isle Conservancy expands its educational offerings with the Outdoor Aquatic Water Investigation Series.



Polish The Jewel Belle Isle Legacy Luncheon Celebrates Belle Isle Conservancy's commitment to education in and out of the classroom.  
Chair: Jenice Mitchell Ford | Keynote: Alycia Meriweather



Over 1,572 community volunteers supported the Keep Belle Isle Beautiful anti-littering initiative by removing 8,557 pounds of litter from Belle Isle's land and waterways during the cleanup season from April - October.



Belle Isle Conservancy expands programming in Partnership with Communities First, Amplify Outside, Yoganic Flow, Detroit River Coalition, and Detroit Parks Coalition.



Belle Isle Conservancy(Education Team) is awarded Verizon and NYC MediaLab Museum Initiative Grant to develop and offer new immersive educational content available to all educators on the Verizon Innovative Learning portal.







# 2023 HIGHLIGHTS



Spring Clean Up on Belle Isle hosted 875 volunteers who removed 3400 pounds of litter pollution at the source.

The Keep Belle Isle Beautiful anti-litter initiative hosts clean-ups every third Saturday and Second Friday from April to September.

Belle Isle Koi Festival expands to a 2-day celebration of the Japanese heritage of the Aquarium's Koi collection and the Detroit/Toyota Sister City connection. May 6-7, 2023 | Noon- 4:00 PM Belle Isle Aquarium



Polish The Jewel Belle Isle Legacy Luncheon Chaired by Rochelle Riley. May 18, 2023 | 5:30 PM Belle Isle Aquarium Sarah Earley Gemstone Award Honoree: Joyce Hayes Giles

## Looking Ahead

- Education at Belle Isle Aquarium
- Association of Zoos and Aquariums Accreditation
- Belle Isle Conservancy Volunteer Opportunities
- World Ocean Day
- Community Fun Day
- Movies Under The Stars
- Wellness Programming Returns
  - Weekly Yoga with Yoganic Flow
  - Soundbaths with Amplify Outside and BLOOM Transformation Center







# 2012- 2022 IMPACT \$18,431,700 RAISED

## FUNDING SOURCES



## FUNDING IMPACT



### FOCUS AREA

### DETAILS

Capital Improvements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$2,246,150 invested in Belle Isle facility maintenance, upgrades, and restorations.</li> </ul>
Planning and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$731,700 invested in assessments, project designs, and strategic plans.</li> </ul>
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$4,590,000 to facilitate free public educational and recreational activities.</li> </ul>
Belle Isle Aquarium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>45 Tanks Restored (100 % of exhibit capacity)</li> <li>1,109,802 visitors from 2012-2022.</li> </ul>
STEM Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>19,044 people served on field trips, tours, education dock programming, and through professional development.</li> <li>More than \$50K invested in teacher professional development programs through Belle Isle Summer STEM Institute and other programs</li> </ul>
Environmental Initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since the launch of the Keep Belle Isle Beautiful in 2017, Belle Isle Conservancy has mobilized 7,268 volunteers and removed 27,849 lbs of plastic pollution and other littered items from Belle Isle Park and its waterways.</li> <li>Detroit River Coalition co-founded through the leadership and vision of Dir. of Environmental Initiatives &amp; Affairs</li> </ul>
Volunteer Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Since 2012, more than 10,000 volunteers donated 61,463.25 hours to Belle Isle Conservancy, valued at more than \$1,840,824.34.</li> </ul>





# Belle Isle Aquarium

calls attention to the connection of the Detroit River and the Great Lakes to the world's waterways and the importance of species survival.

Belle Isle Aquarium serves as a cultural institution and central hub for:

- Water Conservation
- Water Education
- Plastic Free Waters


Remains free and open to the public. (Friday-Sunday 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM)

45 Tanks Restored (100 % of exhibit capacity)

Belle Isle Aquarium Programming:

- Education (Guided & Virtual Tours, Field Trips, Outdoor Aquatic Science Investigation Series)
- Wellness (Weekly Community Yoga, Soundbaths)
- Stewardship (KBIB, Detroit River Coalition)
- Community (Freedom Arts Festival/Community Fun Day, Belle Isle Koi Festival)



 @belleisleaquarium







# Refuse/Recycling on the Island

## REFUSE/RECYCLING

13 bathrooms X 3 cleaning per day X 7 days a week = 273 times bathroom are cleaned in one week & 1,092 times a month.

206 Garbage Cans in Park X 2 dumps a day by staff X 7 days a week = 2,884 times a week we dump trash and 11,536 times a month

110 yards (11 – 10-yard dumpsters) of dumpsters X 3 times a week pick up = 330 yards of trash is picked up by Waste Management a week and 1320 yards a month

- 225 lbs. of trash a yard X 110 yards of dumpsters = 24,750 lbs.
- 24,750 lbs. X 3 times per week = 74,250 lbs. a week of trash and 297,000 lbs. a month

**297,000 lbs. a month of trash we remove off the island during our peak season**







# Park Capacity and Safety Management



## Temporary closures based on park capacity & safety

### Text Option:

Stay up to date at Belle Isle Park. Simply text 'Gem' to 80888 to sign up today! You will receive text messages for updates, events, closures, significant weather notices, etc.

### Park Car Counter:

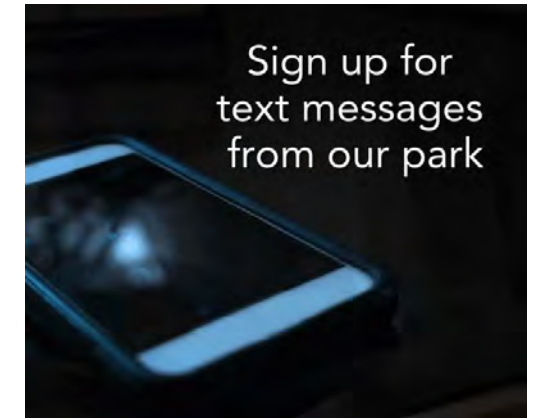
The car counter is located at front of bridge and can count incoming and outgoing cars, so we have up to date numbers to make our decision.

### Social Media:

We update the Belle Isle Facebook page when we have information that we need to share to the public: <https://www.facebook.com/MiBelleIsle/>

### Digital Marquee Board:

The marquee board out front of the park is updated with information about the park.





# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice



**The State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources is committed to providing a diverse, equitable and inclusive work and park environment.**

Griselda Trevino; PRD Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Coordinator

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