

# Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation

In partnership with the Belle Isle  
Conservancy

## Belle Isle Park Fiscal 2021 Annual Report

- **Scott Pratt**, Chief of Southern Field Operations
- **Mike Terrell**, Metro District Supervisor
- **Amanda Treadwell**, PLA Urban 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
- Ten virtual meetings held in 2021
- 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

## Remaining 2022 Meetings (9:00 AM)

- May 19, 2022 • June 16, 2022 • July 21, 2022 August 18, 2022 | 6 p.m.
- Sept. 22, 2022 • Oct. 20, 2022 • Nov. 17, 2022 • Dec. 15, 2022

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



**Michele Hodges**  
CHAIR



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



**Brad Dick**



**Mike Terrell**  
DNR Liaison



**Sommer Woods**



**Bud Denker**



**Michael Curis**



# 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
- 2 General Office Assistants
- 1 Promotional Agent
  - 1 Additional Promotional Agent position available for hire
- 1 Lead Janitor
- 2 Lead Rangers
- 2 Full time Ranger

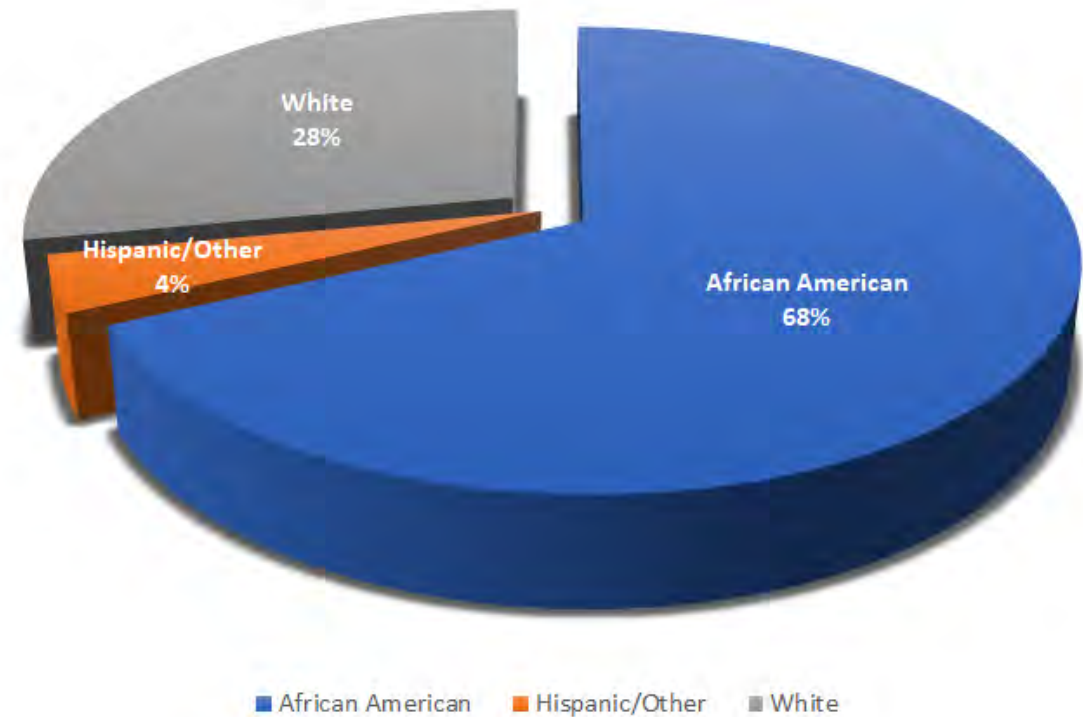
## Seasonal Staff

- 4 Seasonal Park Rangers
  - 3 Seasonal Ranger position available for hire
- 14 Short Term Workers
  - Need to hire 13 more (*Summer Help*)
- 2 General Office Assistant positions (interviews scheduled)

## Director of Volunteer Services position

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

Staff Breakdown







# DNR LED Enforcement - Efforts 2021



Michigan State Troopers based out of Metro South Post

## DNR LED 2021 Totals on Enforcement Efforts on Belle Isle

- **Total Contacts for 2021**
  - 30,533
  - Community engagement
- **Citations**
  - 487 (majority traffic violations (parking/speeding))
  - Out of 5m visitors
- **Complaints**
  - 299 (majority general criminal)
- **Warnings**
  - 3,042 (majority of warnings are traffic related)
  - Out of 5m visitors (.0008 %)
- **Arrests**
  - 152
- **Warrant Arrests**
  - 430
- **Assist to Agencies**
  - 85
- Assisting park visitors with areas of the parks
- Assist with DPD on Jefferson issues and/or training days on the paddock





# 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 Officer (Ranger)

Not police officers under Michigan Statute (Not MCOLES Certified) enforces all 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



## DNR LED RECRUIT SCHOOLS (RS) 2021-2022

- **RS 10A**

- Start date for prior certified was June 14, 2021
- Graduation was August 6, 2021, - 10 Graduates (9 Left)

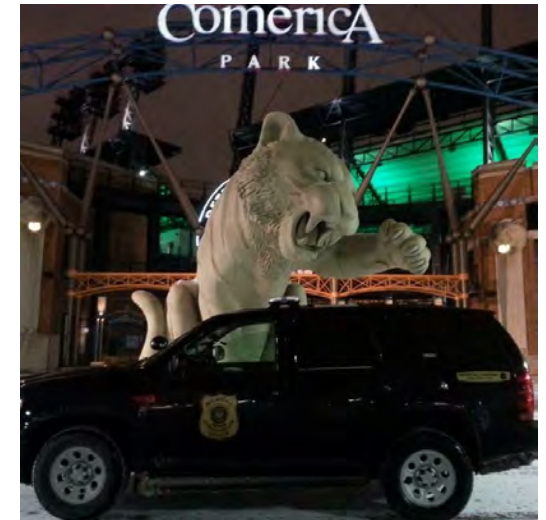
- **RS 10B**

- Start date for new officers was August 7, 2021
- Graduation was December 10, 2021, 19 Graduates (18 Left)

- **RS 11**

- Start Date – July 10, 2022
- Graduation Date is December 16, 2022, with 15 recruits scheduled to start.

*Total new officers 2021 was 27 - one out of RS10A was a City of Detroit native, and former DPD officer.*









# Island – Wide Attraction Attendance

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



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

- 2021 Visitors 70,747
- 2020 Visitors 22,605
- 2019 Visitors 174,000
- 2018 Visitors 166,501
- 2017 Visitors 194,749
- 2016 Visitors 162,331

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

- 2021 Visitors 96,500
- 2020 Visitors 0
- 2019 Visitors 118,000
- 2018 Visitors 451,000
- 2017 Visitors 305,036
- 2016 Visitors 250,430

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

- 2021 Visitors 25,507
- 2020 Visitors 0
- 2019 Visitors 30,000
- 2018 Visitors 50,051
- 2017 Visitors 50,915
- 2016 Visitors 46,459

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

- 2021 Visitors 4833
- 2020 Visitors 0
- 2019 Visitors 83,000
- 2018 Visitors 99,191
- 2017 Visitors 111,928
- 2016 Visitors 95,363



*Belle Isle Nature Center Exterior*



*Dossin Museum Interior*



*Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory*



*Belle Isle Aquarium*





# Park Visitor Attendance



## **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

## **FY 2016 Attendance**

4,100,000 park visitors



Kite Festival at Belle Isle Park





# FY 2021 Capital Improvement Highlights



## FY 2014 – FY 2021 Accumulative Investment from Multiple Sources

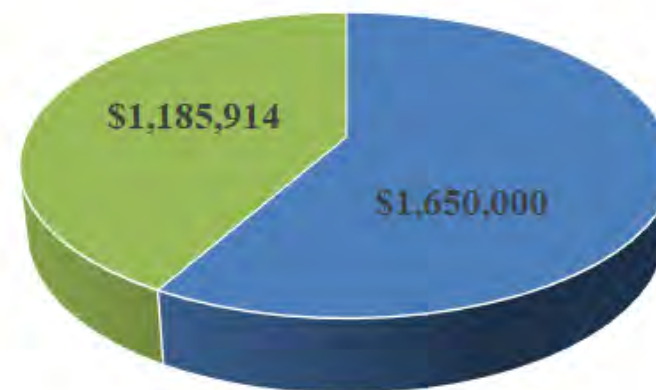
- **\$88,173,084**

*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 2021 Capital Improvements Funding

Total New Funding \$2,835,914



■ State ■ Private



# FY 2021 Capital Improvement Highlights



## Historic Structures



Athletic Shelter

## Recreational Amenities



Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Trail & Gateway

## Ecological Restoration



Wet Mesic Flatwoods





# FY 2021 Planning Highlights



## Zoo Visioning Exercise with MSU School of Planning, Design and Construction

- Students prepared and led a virtual workshop with park stakeholders.
- Student used input to inform design proposals for the old zoo area.
- MSU and DNR will solicit feedback on design proposals with public survey June 2022.



*MSU Student design class facilitated Belle Isle stakeholder workshop for input on desired programming to inspire student designs*





# FY 2021 Planning Highlights



## Master Action Plan: Traffic and Circulation Plan

- Funded by DNR-PRD, MDOT and the Belle Isle Conservancy with Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Grant Funds
- Project Budget is \$850,000
- Deliverables will provide recommendations for improved transportation access, circulation, wayfinding and visitor capacity management for the park
- Capacity and circulation studies to inform future development recommendations



*The project team will facilitate a robust community engagement to inform the study*



*Vehicle Congestion impacts visitor experience of park*





# How To Reserve an Event & Shelter



## For Shelter reservations:

Visit [www.midnrreservations.com](http://www.midnrreservations.com) or call 1-800-447-2757 to reserve a date.

- Shelter reservations can be made up to one year in advance.
- The shelters seat less than max capacity, so please plan accordingly.

## 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.







# 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

## 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.

## Employment & Engagement Coordinator

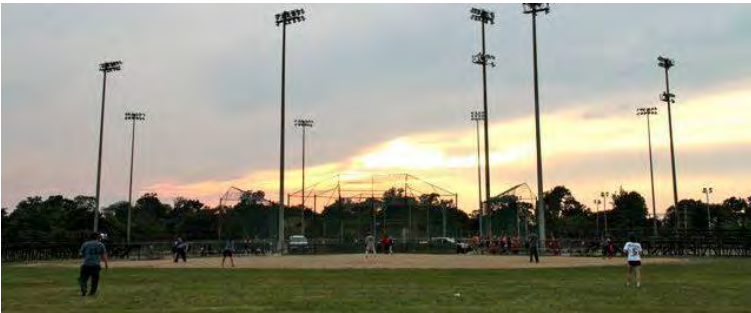
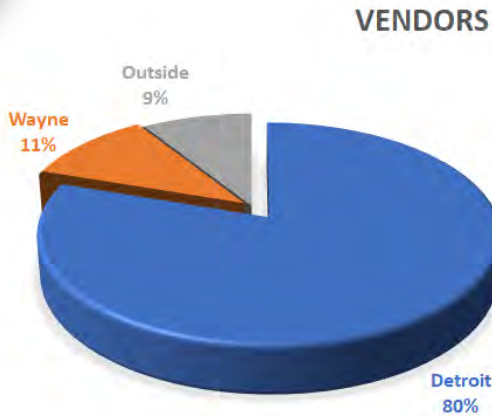
- Soon to be hired to continue our hiring pipeline with the City and Statewide.







# Vendor Process



## Apply for a one-day vendor permit

This one-day permit allows the applicant to provide services to people who have been issued an Event Permit. The applicant may not sell to the general public.

## Apply to become a pre-approved vendor

This long term (5 year) permit allows the applicant to provide services to people who have been issued an Event Permit. The applicant may not sell to the general public.

## Become a concessionaire

Concession contracts, by state law, are competitively bid out every seven years. Contracts are awarded based on a) business experience, b) financial stability, and c) the amount to be paid to the State.

## Current and Active Vendors on Island:

- HYPE Athletic Complex
- Porta-Potty and Handwash Rentals
- Watercraft and Bicycle Rentals
- Detroit Jet Ski
- StrEATS of Belle Isle
- Golf Course Driving Range
- Aquarium
- Oudolf Garden Horticulturist
- Belle Isle Boat Club
- Detroit Rotary (Gardens in front of Police Station)

## Food Trucks and Vending

- *To apply to become a food truck vendor under this contract, you must contact StrEATS of Belle Isle at (313) 971-8852 or [streetsofbelleisle@gmail.com](mailto:streetsofbelleisle@gmail.com) for an application.*

**CELEBRATING 10 YEARS**



**BELLE ISLE**  

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**CONSERVANCY**  

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**2012 – 2022**

**\$14 MILLION IMPACT OVER 10 YEARS**



**\$14+ Million in Overall Impact:**  
**Capital improvements, planning, design, studies, assessments, programs, events, operating Belle Isle Aquarium (with no admission fee), and so much more!**

Over 20,000 students reached through DPSCD Cultural Passport and other educational programming.

Belle Isle Aquarium has housed over 130 species of Aquatic Creatures, including 19 critically endangered or endangered, and 2 species are functionally extinct in the wild

More than 1,000,000 visitors welcomed to the Belle Isle Aquarium

More than 8 Tons (16623 pounds specifically) of trash collected from Belle Isle's land and waterways through Keep Belle Isle Beautiful since 2017

More than \$50K invested in teacher professional development programs through Belle Isle Summer STEM Institute and other programs

More than 10,508 Volunteers have dedicated over 84,013 hours of time, valued at \$1,965,000.

Detroit River Coalition co-founded through the leadership and vision of Belle Isle Conservancy team member

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Scan the QR Code to complete the 2022 Feedback Form

For more information, visit [belleisleconservancy.org](https://belleisleconservancy.org)

**JOIN OUR DIGITAL COMMUNITY**

Scan the QR Code to subscribe to our email list.

For more information, visit [belleisleconservancy.org](https://belleisleconservancy.org)





## 2021 HIGHLIGHTS



- ★ \$1.2M of investments made at the Belle Isle Aquarium to modernize life support infrastructure, preserve the integrity of the historic facility, and upgrade tank exhibits
- ★ Belle Isle Aquarium welcomed over 65,000 visitors between July-December 2021, after a 16-month pandemic closure, to experience freshwater species from around the world.
- ★ Through Belle Isle Conservancy's partnership with the DPSCD Cultural Passport Program, over 1,100 2nd-5th grade students visited the Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory as a classroom experience to learn about aquatic and plant species that live in our Great Lakes ecosystem.
- ★ Over 1,200 community volunteers supported the Keep Belle Isle Beautiful anti-littering initiative by removing 8,491 pounds of litter from Belle Isle's land and waterways during the cleanup season from April - October.
- ★ 880 members joined or renewed their memberships to the Belle Isle Conservancy Giving Society by generously committing over \$200,000 in 2021 to support Belle Isle Conservancy's mission.
- ★ \$50K of donations from the PwC Grand Prixmiere presented by Chevrolet were invested to install and operate a floating dock near the Belle Isle Aquarium, supporting the Conservancy's educational programming by providing guided access to marine species in Belle Isle's Lake Tacoma.

## 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



- ★ Spring CleanUp on Belle Isle hosted 750 volunteers who removed over 3000 pounds of litter as part of binational initiative and Detroit River Coalition launches Art + Earth exhibition on humans and the environment.
- ★ Koi Festival returns to celebrate the Japanese heritage of the Aquarium's Koi collection and celebrate the Detroit/Toyota Sister City connection
- ★ Belle Isle Aquarium initiates relationship with MSU College of Veterinary Science
- ★ Detroit Parks Coalition launch strengthens member park capacity for service.

### Looking Ahead

- Strategic Planning
- Communications
- Community Engagement
- Education
- Endowment & Giving Society
- AZA Accreditation
- Polish The Jewel









# 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 or visit <https://igfn.us/form/GnZOtg> 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.

### Shuttle Service on Island 2022:

Looking at for 2022 a shuttle service to make stops at Conservatory/Aquarium, Kids Row Playground, Beach from the Paddock parking lot.







# 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.**

Alexis Hermiz; Department Diversity, Equity,  
Inclusion and Justice Officer  
[hermiza@michigan.gov](mailto:hermiza@michigan.gov)

Griselda Trevino; PRD Diversity, Equity,  
Inclusion, and Justice Coordinator  
[TrevinoG2@michigan.gov](mailto:TrevinoG2@michigan.gov)