

# MINUTES

## Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 17, 2019  
Location: Belle Isle Nature Center

**Meeting called to order at 9:08 a.m.**

A Quorum was established

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Sommer Woods

Bryan Barnhill

Brad Dick

### **PRESENT FOR BIPAC**

Chair Michele Hodges

Michael Curis

Bud Denker

Rev. Lonnie Peek

### **DNR STAFF PRESENT**

Ron Olson

Michael Terrell

Karis Floyd

Darlisa Rickman

Jacob Brown

Mia Moore

Kimberley Hicks

Scott Pratt

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Approval of Minutes for September 19, 2019:**

Moved by: Bud Denker

Seconded by: Michael Curis

**Motion to approve excused absence for Brian Barnhill, Sommer Woods, Brad Dick**

Moved by: Bud Denker

Seconded by: Rev. Lonnie Peek

## **General Updates**

### **Karis Floyd, DNR**

- Aquarium and Conservatory will receive a new boiler
- Pump house stabilization and assessment is in progress
- Phase 2 of mobility study – signage
- Flooding is receding in the canals in the park
- Athletic complex roof to be replaced (800,000)
- November 4<sup>th</sup> floor for the Pavilion restored, HVAC and windows replaced

**Bud Denker:** Was the portable coffer (new) dam ever used this year and what is the impact if we continue to have high water levels?

**Amanda Treadwell:** Not at this time as the water levels declined.

**Chief Ron Olson:** If the water levels get to a certain point none of the provisions will matter. The electrical, sewer and water will be the real issue which we will prepare for by spring.

**Bud Denker:** The culverts can't stop it?

**Chief Ron Olson:** The culvert will allow water to move through the system but if the water levels in the river exceed the design there is little control of the canal water levels.

**Michelle Hodges:** Isn't there an ability to have some control of the water levels in the Great Lakes?

**Chief Ron Olson:** We will look into that.

## **Park Updates**

### **Karis Floyd, DNR**

- Looking forward to hiring 2 new lead park rangers plus 2 park rangers.
- The water has receded in the park canals giving relief to flooding.
- Excited about the 2 new rangers currently working on the island.
- Will start winterizing seasonal restrooms in late October.
  - All bathrooms except for Shelter #7 and the Casino Bathrooms will be closed for the season.
  - Signage will be posted reflecting what bathrooms will be accessible.
- We are currently preparing for our winter and spring seasons.

## **DNR Law Enforcement and Michigan State Police Update**

Nothing new to report.

## **Infrastructure Updates**

**Amanda Treadwell (See attachment)**

## Outreach and Upcoming Events

### **Karis Floyd, DNR**

- Detroit Free Press Marathon race course passes through Belle Isle and Milliken State Parks. The Marathon will take place October 20 from 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

## Belle Isle Conservancy Update

### **Michelle Hodges**

- The Polish the Jewel Luncheon was held on October 10 with great success involving 350 attendees which will aid in funding the Splash Park and the veranda.
- Would like to thank the Natural Resources workshop.
- November 15, 2020 - Deeper Dive at the Aquarium 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- December 13, 2010 - Holiday Stroll at the Aquarium and Conservatory.
- Oudolf Garden update – An amended plan has been submitted and was approved for implementation. This adjusted due to the high water levels in the canal.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes each)

### **Michael Betzold**

Requested information is needed about the Grand Prix contract extension.

### **Peter Potoski**

Can see the benefit to the Grand Prix bringing more money to the island for improvements, but also supports the quiet nature of the natural park environment and feels a compromise can be reached.

### **Tom Janiszewski**

Will there will be foot trails on the island? **Amanda Treadwell** stated there would be.

### **Angela Lugo-Thomas**

The BIPAC should have at least 1-2 members who are regular park users with no ties or obligations to the Grand Prix/Penske organization.

I am a member of Belle Isle Concern, a grass roots citizen opposed to the running of the Grand Prix on Belle Ilse, a public park. What is the point of allowing public comments at these meeting when our concerns, comments and questions are rarely, if ever, answered or addressed?

Can you explain why the grass in almost every area of the Grand Prix occupation is dead/destroyed?

**Angela DiSante**

Against Grand Prix destroying the island every spring. Money may talk, but people matter.

**COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS**

**Bud Denker**

If the public would like to be aware of the initiatives taking place on the park, the website is BELLEISLEPARK.ORG.

**Rev. Lonnie Peek**

Would like to congratulate the park on the \$3.7 million federal grant for the flatwoods restoration and thank Amanda for her hard work.

**Michelle Hodges**

Wanted to address the fact that it is difficult to be asked to comment on theoretical situations or things that have yet to occur in regard to future contracts and partnerships. But when the time comes to address them the proper processes will be followed.

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved by: Rev. Lonnie Peek

Seconded by: Bud Denker

Meeting Concluded: 10:05 a.m.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**November 21, 2019**

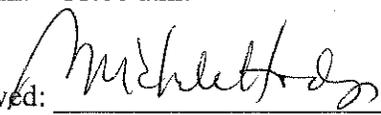
Belle Isle Nature Center

Belle Isle Park

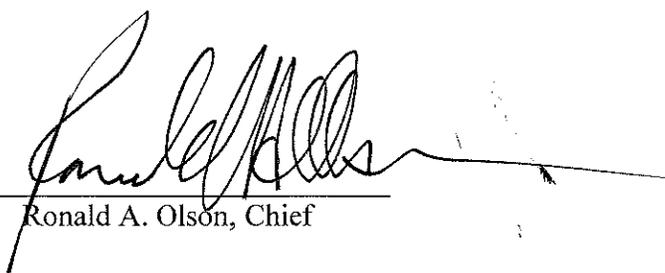
Detroit, MI 48207

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



Michele Hodges



Ronald A. Olson, Chief

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

11.21.19

# Performing Sewer Condition Assessments

Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
in partnership with the  
Detroit Water and Sewerage Department



**QUESTIONS?**  
call 313-267-8000



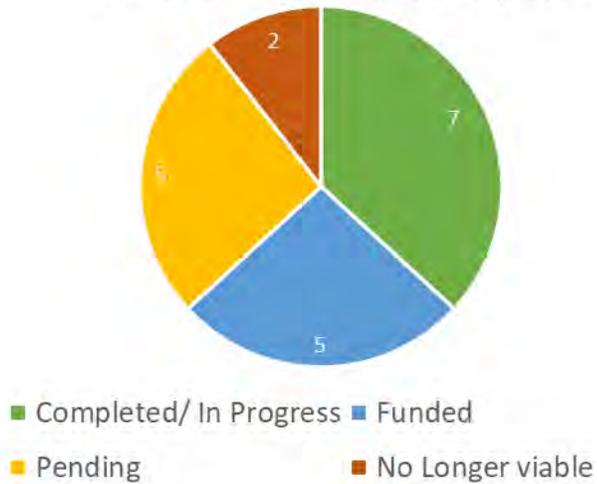
## Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update

October 17, 2019 Detroit, MI

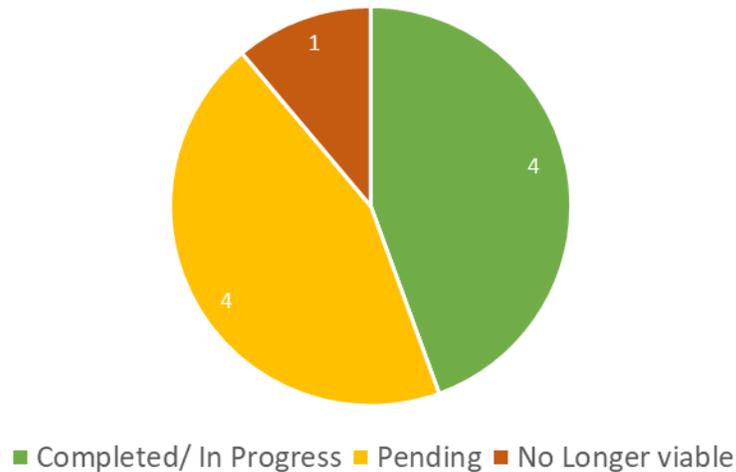


# Belle Isle Strategic Management Plan Infrastructure Investment Summary

Priority 1 Project Status, July 2019



Priority 2 Project Status, July 2019



Priority 3 Project Status, July 2019



- 100 % of Top Priority Projects (viable) have been addressed since 2018

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019



# Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Investment Summary

- More than \$45,303,450 has been invested in infrastructure from FY 2014 to FY2019
- Funding made up of public and private funds



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019



# Belle Isle Park Fiscal Year 2020 Capital Projects

- Total FY 2020 Budget  
\$1,700,000
  - State General Funds  
\$1,250,000
  - Belle Isle Park Revenue  
\$450,000
- Pump House and Shoreline Stabilization Assessment  
*\$200,000*
  - New Boiler to Service Belle Isle Aquarium and Conservatory  
*\$200,000*
  - Construction for Site Improvements of Park HQ  
*\$250,000*
  - Flynn Pavilion Improvements  
*\$125,000*
  - Roof Replacement for Athletic Shelter & Handball Roof Removal  
*\$825,000*
  - Belle Isle Park Master Plan, to be completed in coordination with traffic planning study  
*\$100,000*



# Fiscal Year 2019 Ongoing Projects

- Garage Work underway
- Scheduled to be completed by Thanksgiving



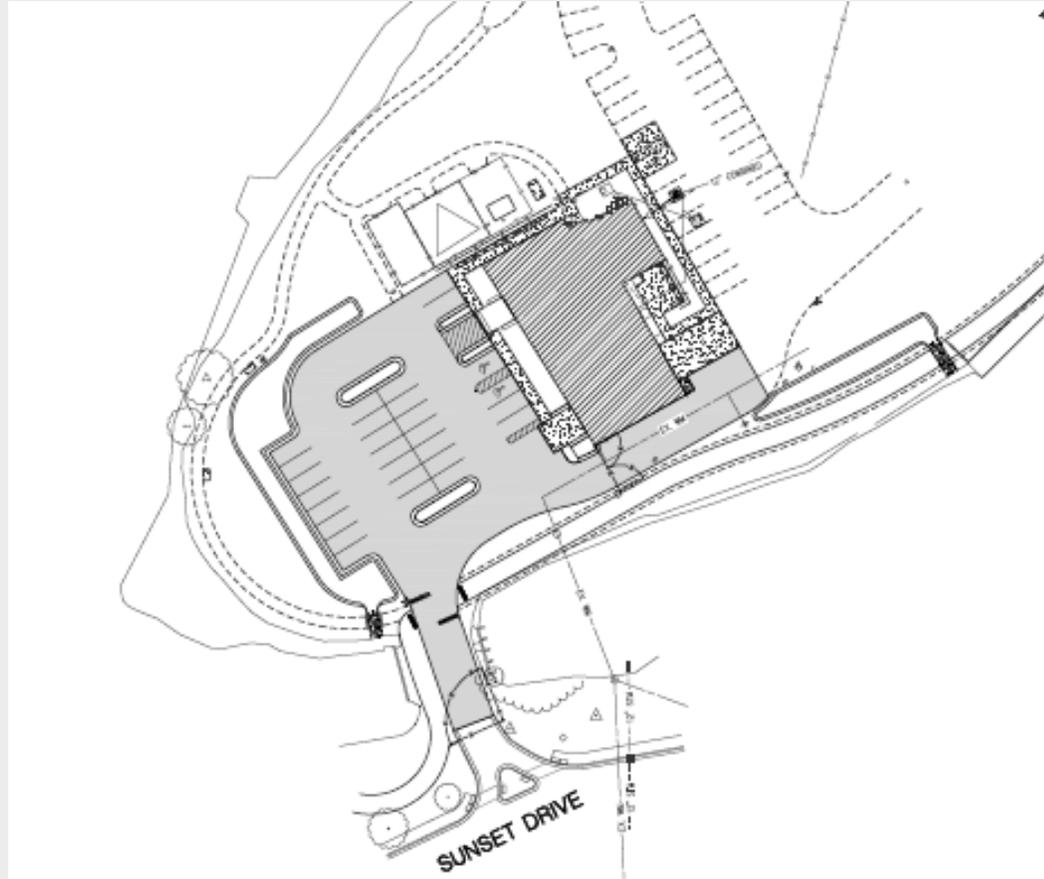
*Garage improvements underway*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**



## FY 2020 Projects Belle Isle Park Headquarters

- Site Plans at 50%
- Maintenance and Operations Garage and Site Design will be bid in FY 2020

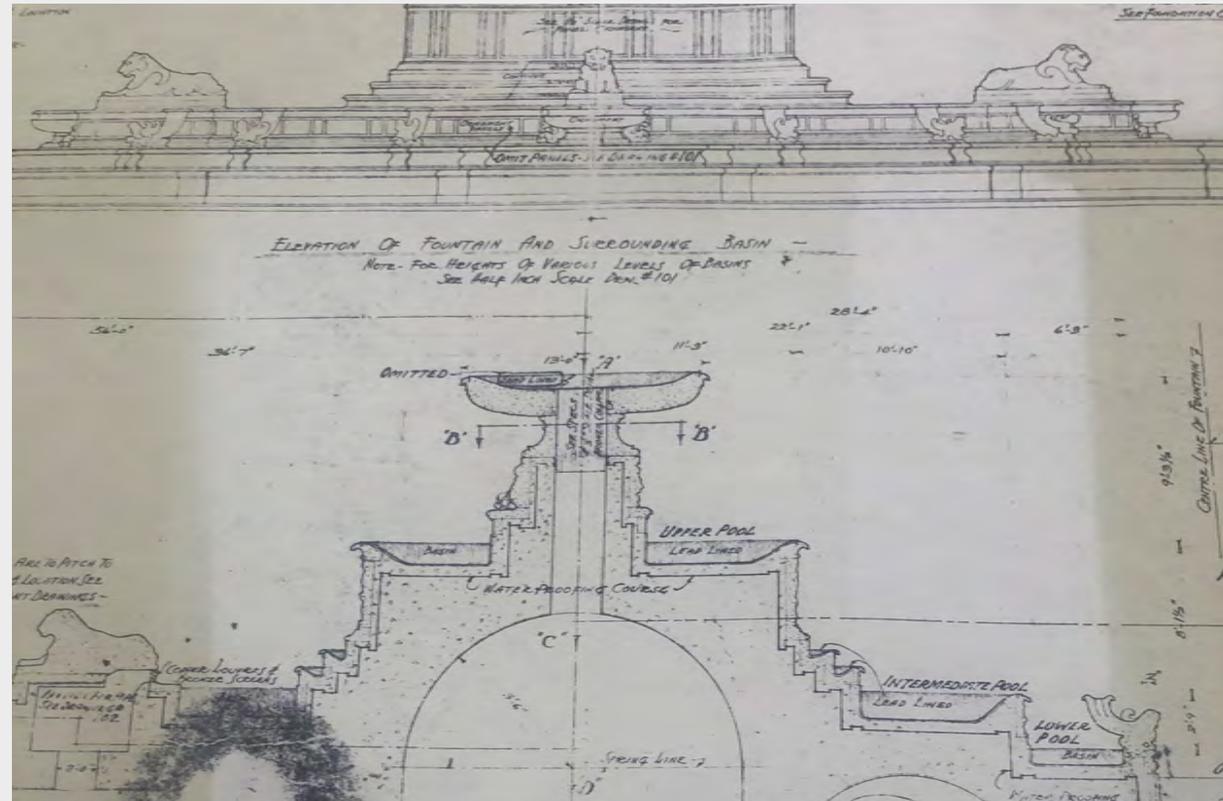


Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019



# James Scott Memorial Fountain

- DNR/BIC in process of purchasing original plan set of James Scott Memorial Fountain Plans and Construction photos.
- Engineers reviewing weir structural repairs.
- \$87,000 raised in 2019 to fund Scott Fountain Repairs





## Iron Belle Trailhead Development

- PRD Park, PRD Trails and Detroit Design Center met to plan Community Engagement
- Public Meeting will take place Tuesday, November 12th, followed by Stakeholder Meeting at Detroit Design Center Studio.



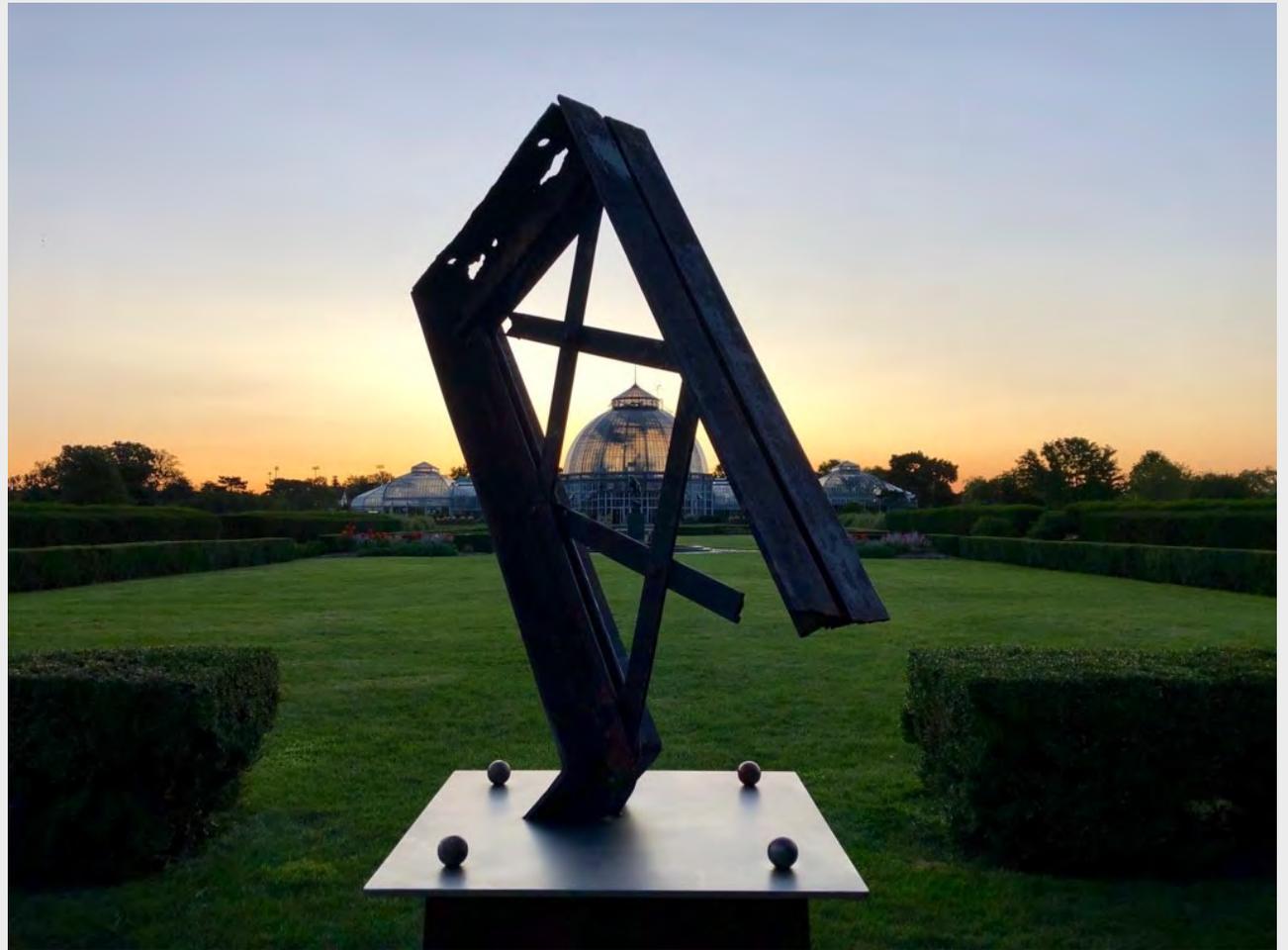
*Phase 2 of the Trailhead has been funded by Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**



## ASWC Structural Repairs

- Mock-up for upper dome glass replacement is Monday, October 28th.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019



# Comprehensive Planning for the Belle Isle Aquarium (BIA) and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory (ASWC)

- Geothermal boring tests mobilization has begun by contractor.
- 4-week testing period.



*Geothermal Test Well location, safety area*



# Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory Garden Entrance

**WTA contractor on site to perform  
survey site work for ADA  
Accessible design to ASWC  
Garden from West Gate**



*Survey Equipment on site*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**



# Fiscal Year 2019 Ongoing Projects

- Lake Okonoka Shelter and Playground Improvements – On Hold
- North Shoreline Fishing Improvements are Underway



*Concrete is poured for shoreline area*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**



## Detroit River Boating Access Study

- DNR and GSD reviewed recommendations of Report in October.
- Final report has been submitted to DNR.



*Milliken State Park is a popular harbor on the Detroit River*

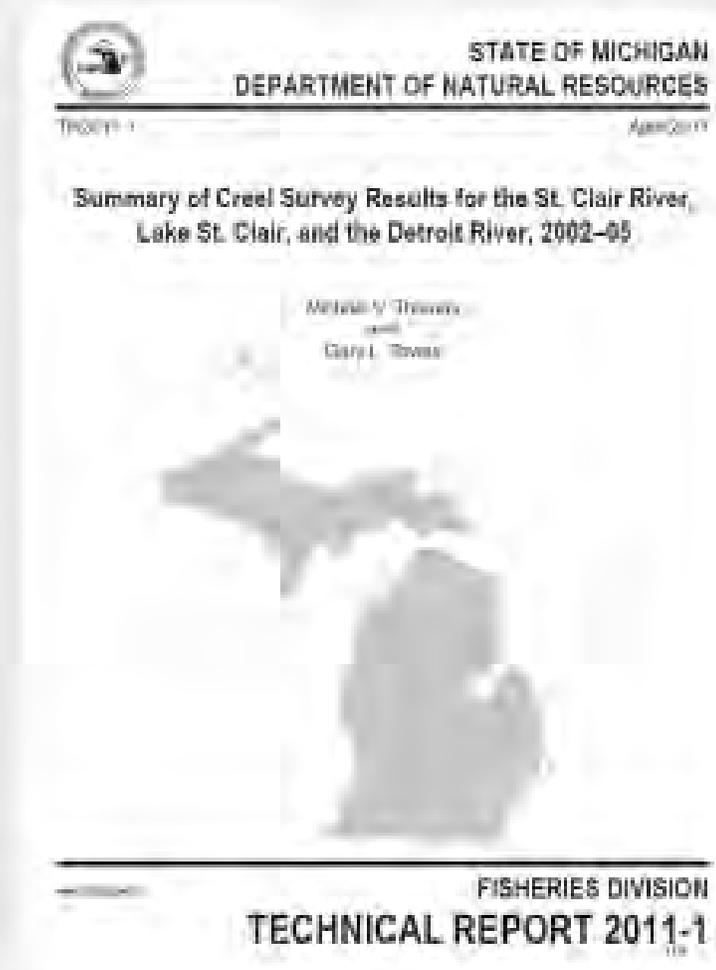
**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**





## Overview of Report Conclusions

- Current BAS facilities do not meet the local need.
- Additional access is desired by the public.
- 3 of the 83 Michigan counties around the study area account for over 20% of all registered boats in the state.
- DNR Fisheries projects that native fish population increases will spur increased fishing access.
- Report Findings predict boater attendance in Detroit River will continue to grow.





# Overview of Report Findings

- Belle Isle Park and Milliken State Park and Harbor not recommended as viable options.
- Recommended approaching the City of Detroit regarding redevelopment of St. Jean BAS.
- Riverside Park BAS should be considered only as supporting site due to small size.
- Future Investment at Grayhaven State Harbor would require coordination with city to improve access.

**Detroit River Boating Access Study**  
Site Analysis / Development Matrix

	Site 1 - Existing storage lot, Pleasure Drive	Site 2 - Existing open space, Lakeside Drive	Site 3 - Milliken State Park, Awater Street	Site 4 - Grayhaven State Marina, Port Street	Site 5 - Riverside Park, W. Grand Boulevard	Site 6 - St. Jean Launch, St. Jean Street	Site 7 - DeRay Park BAS, South Racine/Adrian Street
Site security and public safety concerns	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Proximity to existing MDNR facilities and support mechanisms	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red
Easy and direct vehicular access to proposed boating access site	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green
Available area for 100 - 125 vehicle/trailer parking spaces	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Green
Available area for convenient vehicle/trailer maneuvering	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Green
Favorable water depth and currents at proposed launch site	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Green
Requires improvements to neighboring roads and infrastructure	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
May require limits to size of boats being launched	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Available space for future development or expansion	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Red
Safe routes for pedestrian circulation	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow
Conflicts with existing seasonal events/activities	Red	Red	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green
Conflicts with year-round use	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
Potential cost of construction	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Yellow
Potential cost of maintenance and operations	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
Conflicts with existing traffic patterns	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Yellow
Negatively impacts public safety	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green

**Ratings Key :**

<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Favorable, minimal constraints
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span>	Marginal, some constraints
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Unfavorable, major constraints



## Immediate Improvements

- Adopt new operational policies for existing infrastructure within study area.
- Use existing infrastructure before recreational season begins to help reduce heavy demand in early spring.



*Milliken State Park is a popular harbor on the Detroit River.*



## Near-Term Improvements (2-5 years)

- Identify BAS suitable for increasing capacity.
- Invest in the expansion of existing sites.
- St. Jean identified as potential site with parking availability and security.
- DTE's Delray Site is a potential site for further investigation.



*St. Jean Boat Launch*



# DWSD Contract SAW Grant

- Inspection of sewer lines to be completed this week
- Last sewer line to be inspected in this scope of work is section under Detroit River.



*SAW Grant Assessment is underway*

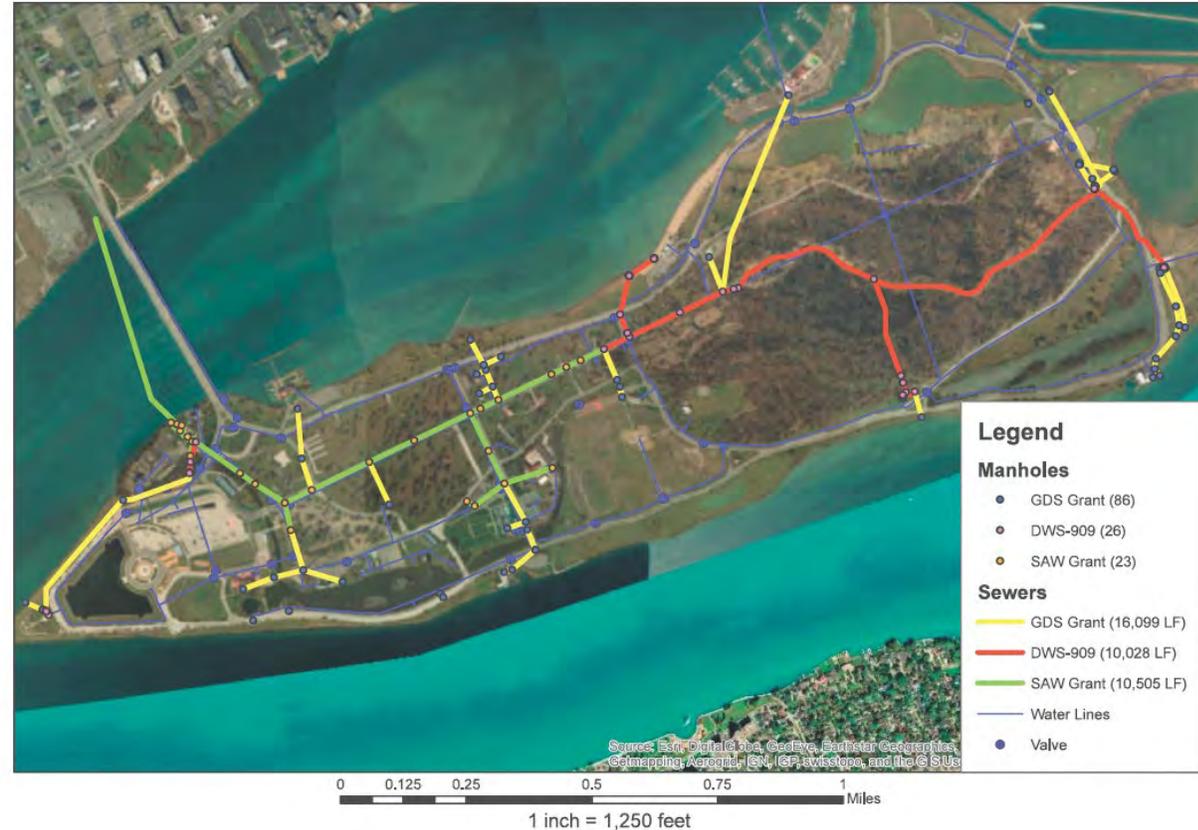
**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**



# DWSD Contract SAW Grant

- AE Com will complete Inventory, Mapping, Assessment and Asset Management Plan.

## Appendix C



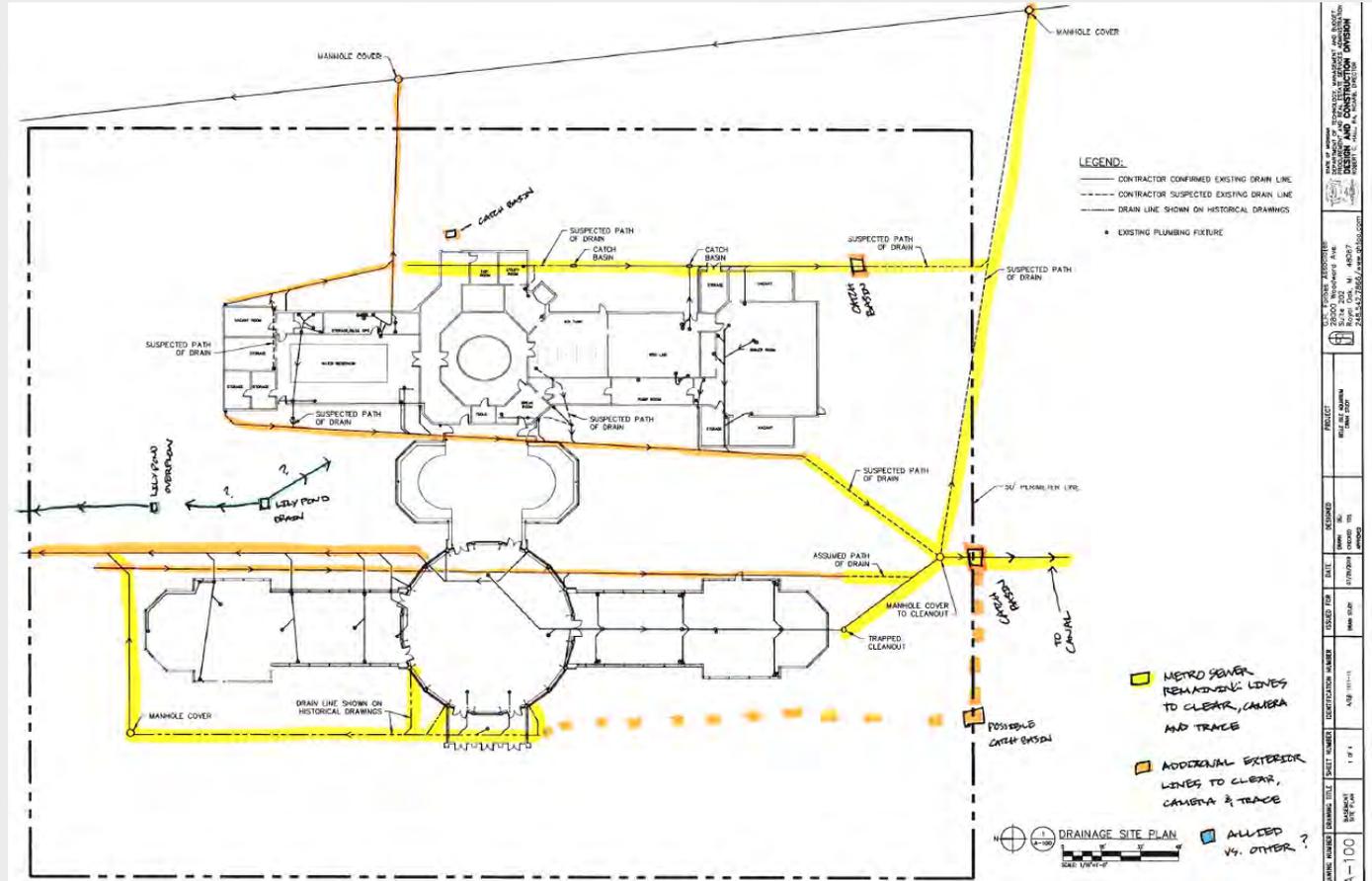
SAW Grant Assessment is underway

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**



# DWSD Contract UTGO Bond

- Task 1 – Asset Inventory
- Task 2 – GPS Survey
- Task 3 – Condition Assessment
- Task 4 – Sewer and Water System Modeling



DNR and GSD reviewing scope of work for UTGO Bonds with DWSD

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019



# DWSD Contract UTGO Bond

- **Task 5 –**
  - **Define Level of Service goals, Create probable costs for rehabilitation or replacement of the highest risk assets.**
  - **These estimates will then be used to augment the 5 and 20-year Capital Improvement Plans developed during the Stormwater AMP**



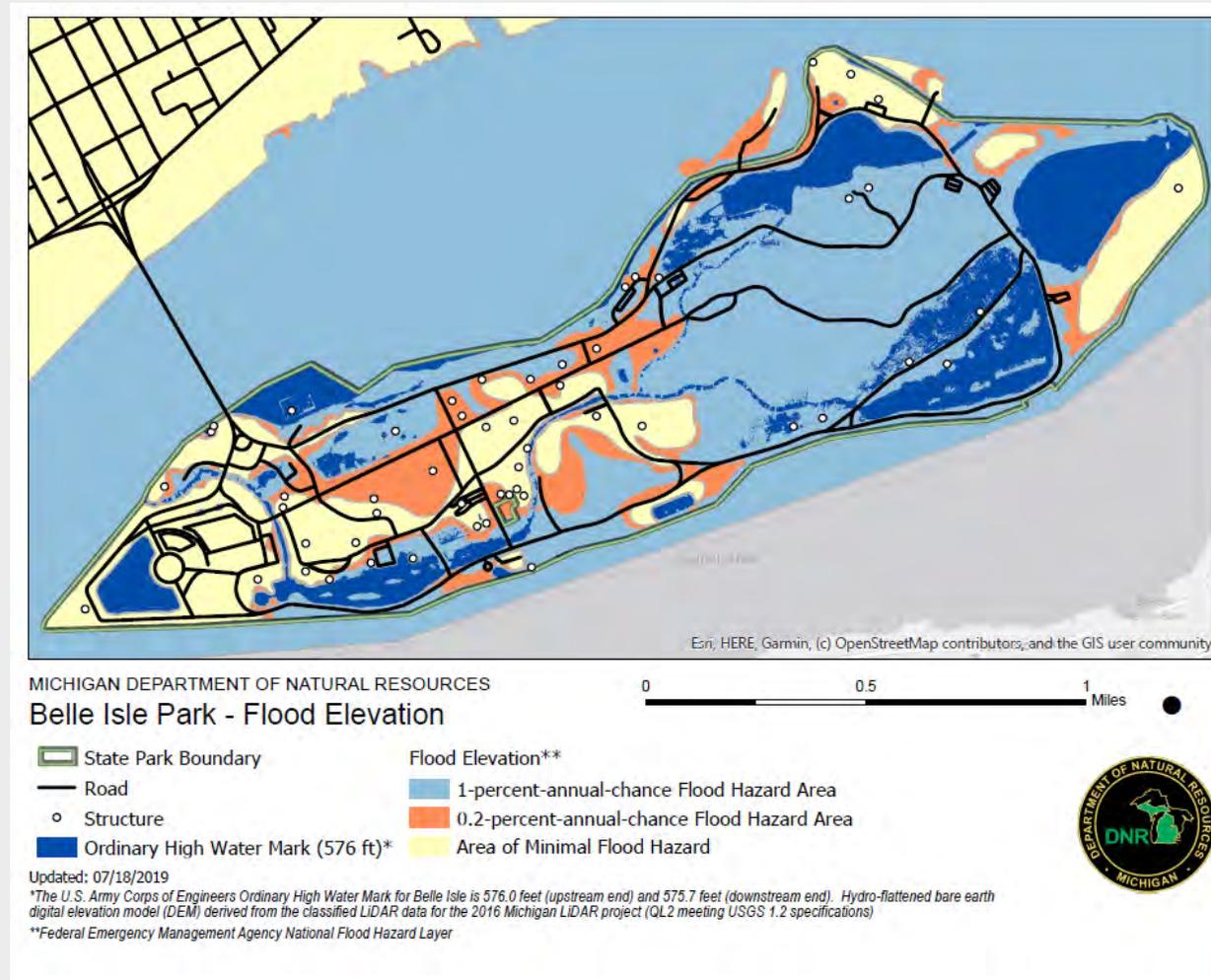
*Shelter 20 Parking Lot Catch Basin*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**



# Water Control Assessments

- Assessment will be completed next year to review the condition and capacity of the existing pumps and recommendations for controlling increased water volumes.
- Shoreline condition assessment of river and internal canals and lakes and stabilization plan for shorelines.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019



## Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration

- **Culvert Construction** scheduled mid-November – December 2019.
- **FODR will work with USACE and EGLE to permit additional fill around Lake Okonoka and Nashua Canal stop log structure.**
- **Final Asphalt paving for strand and Woodside** scheduled for Spring 2020.



*Bridge has been installed; asphalt has been poured*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**



## DTE Detroit Electric Conversion

- DTE installation of conduit are underway
- Transformer installation will begin this fall.
- DTE will begin work on the West end of park this fall.



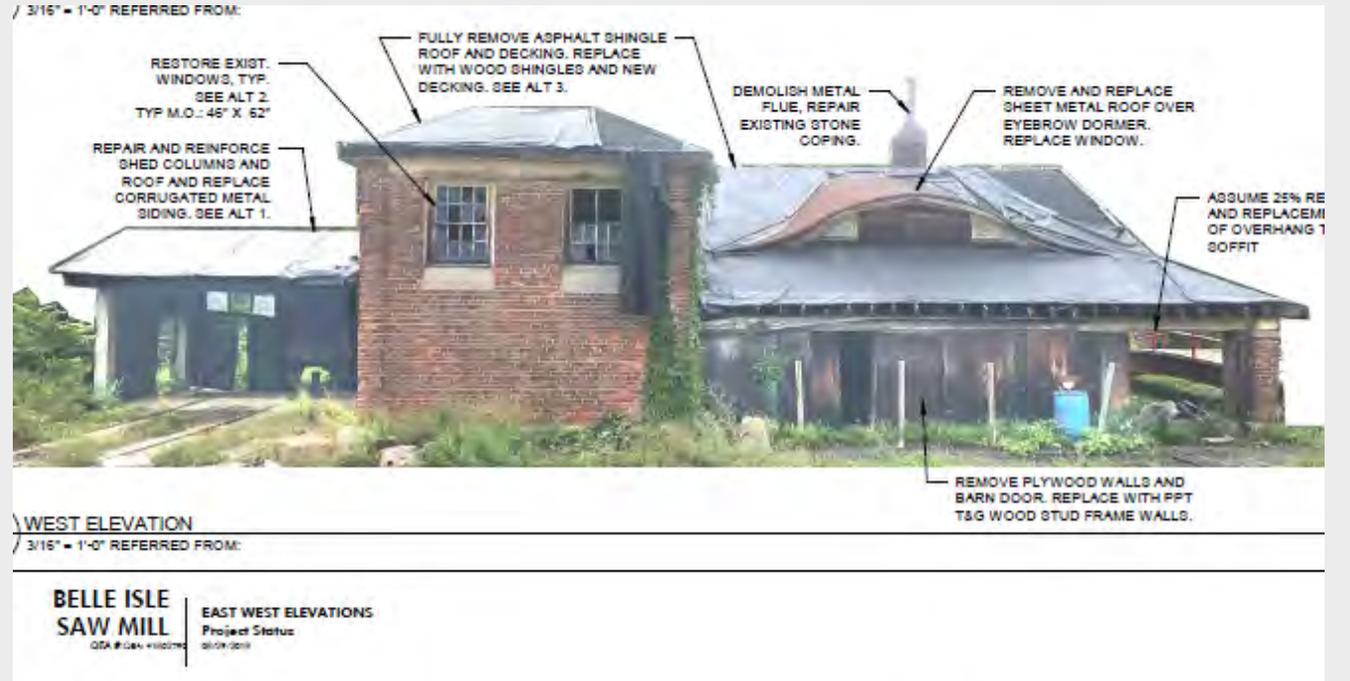
*DTE Conversion is underway*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**



# Sawmill Roof Replacement

- Project to be bid out fall 2019 pending DNR update of MOA with BIC to transfer funding.





# Beach Area Improvements

- BIC will sign Contract with FH Martin to complete former waterslide removals.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019



# Beach Area Improvements

- BIC presented schematic plans at the annual BIC Polish the Jewel Event.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019



# Fiscal Year 2019 Boat House Assessment

- **Vision and Goals workshop  
Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.**



**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019**



## Fiscal Year 2019 Athletic Field Handball Courts

- Contractor is reviewing approved bulletin item for scheduling work.
- 8% of FY 2020 budget is allocated to complete the handball court removal.



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, October 2019