

MINUTES

Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Location: Nature Center

Meeting called to order at 9:03 a.m.

A Quorum was established at 9:08 a.m.

EXCUSED ABSENCES

Brad Dick

Brian Barnhill

PRESENT FOR BIPAC

Chair Michele Hodges

Bud Denker

Michael Curis

Rev. Lonnie Peek

Sommer Woods

DNR-PRD STAFF PRESENT

Ron Olson, Chief

Karis Floyd

Jacob Brown

Mia Moore

Darlisa Rickman

Scott Pratt

Michael Terrell

Kimberley Hicks

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes for December 19th, 2019:

Moved by: Lonnie Peek

Seconded by: Bud Denker

Motion to approve excused absence for Brad Dick and Brian Barnhill

Moved by: Bud Denker

Seconded by: Rev. Lonnie Peek

General Updates

Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation Chief

Michigan residents will have to pay more for their Recreation Passport into state parks starting in March 2020. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced a price increase from \$11 to \$12 for Recreation Passports. Purchase of the passports ensure residents access to more than 103 state parks and recreation areas, 140 state forest campgrounds, hundreds of miles of state trails, historic sites and hundreds of boating access sites for an entire year. The new price begins on March 1. This is the first Recreation Passport price increase since January 2013. All other resident passport fees will remain the same, including those for motorcycles, mopeds and commercial vehicles. The price for non-resident passports has also increased from \$33 to \$34, effective January 1, 2020.

The change is due to a statutory provision to adjust the fee based upon the Consumer Price Index as determined by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. That statutory requirement was put into law when the Recreation Passport funding model was created in 2010 to ensure the funding source keeps pace with inflation.

Park Updates

Karis Floyd, DNR

- Preparing for the park janitor position interviews. Three will be hired with two of the three being assigned to the Casino and the Flynn Pavilion.
- The two newly hired lead park rangers are actively working. One is on the morning shift and one on the evening shift.
- Proposals are being sought for concessionaires to program and manage the Athletic Complex.
- An electric car recharging station will be donated to the park; anticipating operational by May. It will be free of charge and will accommodate about 16 parking spaces. More details will follow.
- The pumps have been running to lower water levels in the canals. The pumps are also scheduled to be rebuilt, also additional pumps are being purchased in anticipation of future needs. The culvert is currently being installed to complete the Lake Okonoka restoration project.

Bud Denker: The strand is closed now. Is that as a result of the installation of the weir system? Is the expectation that it will reduce the levels of the water?

Karis Floyd: Yes, the strand will be closed until the culvert is completed. The culvert is essentially to expand the fishing habitat, but we are having a coffer dam put in place to assist with diverting the high-water levels.

Mike Terrell: Lake Michigan and Lake Huron are five feet higher than they were two years ago. Flooding is expected this year, but we will do everything we can to manage the issue.

Ron Olson: In response to the flooding issues statewide we are convening on February 10, 2020 for a High Water Summit where we will meet with the Army Corps of Engineers, MDOT, EGLE, and a number of other state agencies, to assess what is being done and contingency plans for spring.

DNR Law Enforcement Update

Sgt. Jason Becker, DNR-LED/Sgt. Kevin Doyle, MSP

- There was an attempted jumper from the MacArthur Bridge that the DNR, DPD and EMS responded quickly to who was prevented from jumping.
- A park guest almost drove into the canal at Sunset Point. It was later determined that medical issues were the cause in the accident.

Infrastructure Updates

Amanda Treadwell (See attached update report)

Outreach and Upcoming Events

Darlisa Rickman, DNR

- Currently working on early weddings and photo permits.
- Shiver on the River event is scheduled for February 1 from 10 -3 p.m. at the Casino which is a free public event.
- Wedding Vendor Open House is planned for March 29 from 3 -5 p.m. at the Casino.
- April 1, bookings are open for 2021 events.
- In anticipation of the flooding in the park, precautions are being taken. Shelters and areas that were in the flood areas have been closed to prevent any inconvenience to park visitors and will be monitored.

Michael Curis: If someone comes into the park and inquires about who they should use as a vendor you have a list of qualified people?

Darlisa Rickman: We have two lists for indoor venues and outdoor venues. Outside the park there is an approved vendor list for vendors who submit a request to the department to provide a service at the park. They pay a fee and they get added to the list provided they have insurance and all the necessary documentation. For the indoor facilities they don't have to have approved vendors.

Michael Curis: Does that list differentiate if the business is Detroit based, minority owned or female owned?

Darlisa Rickman: No, the list does not. People do have the option of choosing their own vendors they just have to have insurance and I write them a one-day vendor permit. In addition to the approved vendors list I probably write over 200 one day vendor permits.

Belle Isle Conservancy Update

Chair Michele Hodges

- It was the 50th year of the New Year's Eve Fun Run.
- January 17, the Red Wings will face the Pittsburgh Penguins to raise funds in support of the Arboriculture Society of Michigan Foundation in support of the Sawmill.
- January 19, there will be a lecture on creating pollinator gardens at the Nature Center at 2:00 p.m.
- Registration for the Run for The Trees Happy Little 5K sponsored by the DNR, Parks and Recreation Division is ongoing. For more information visit: <https://www.michigan.gov/dnrhappy littletrees>.
- February 1, Shiver on the River will take place from 10 -3 p.m. at the Casino.
- April 25, Spring Clean Up will take place.
- Koi Festival at the Aquarium will be in May.
- The Deeper Dive will take place at the Aquarium on June 19 which coincides with Juneteenth.
- 172,000 people visited the Aquarium in 2019, in addition over 2,400 students were involved in field trips and programs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (3 minutes each)

Patrick Livingston

Thank you to the Conservancy, DNR and Law Enforcement for helping to restore and maintain this park. Has some ideas for the concrete paddock that would help that area to be utilized year-round. Sponsorship from the DNR and the Conservancy to partner with other organizations in the community and engage the community to come up with ideas of what can be done with that space. Partners such as Pewabic Pottery, Kreskge Arts, Mocal, Cranbrook, CCS, Detroit Historical Society and artists to come up with designs and maybe present a prize at the end.

Response: Darlisa Rickman We do utilize the paddock year-round for walk/runs, corporate events and also for DPD training exercises. Because there is limited parking on the island that paddock is utilized for these larger scale events.

Kent Gallagher

Does not support a boat launch on Belle Isle. Would like to bring to light the impact of Chapoton Drain boat launch and subsequent reorganizing of the local boat ramps including the St. Clair Shores boat ramp closing.

Response: Ron Olson We have completed a study and an analysis of improved access to the Detroit River and we will be reviewing the recommendations at a future BIPAC meeting.

Michael Betzold Would like to know if the Grand Prix submitted a production plan for review for 2020. If it has not been submitted in advance of the Grand Prix taking place, then they are in violation of the contract.

Response: Ron Olson The Grand Prix did submit the required production plan last year and expect any updates soon.

Unknown Guest What is going to be done with the old zoo? It looks derelict.

Response: Michele Hodges We are looking into solutions for that area, but we have other venues that because of their older infrastructure and high usage we have to address first. We are open to proposals, but we don't have anything actively taking place at this time. That will be a great conversation to have with the master planning process.

Unknown Guest Would like to volunteer for efforts in the upkeep of the park. Noticed that Belle Isle tends to not be as clean as the other parks visited especially the beach bathrooms. And also would like to stay abreast of things taking place on the island.

Unknown Guest Would like to say thank you and that you all do a very good job.

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

Michael Curis Under meeting protocol the second point it says public comment is limited to 3 minutes for non-agenda items. That infers for agenda items you can have as long as you want. I think we need to get rid of non-agenda items.

Michele Hodges Maybe it's time to revisit all of our policies and think about how we manage the meetings. Meeting management aligns with the culture, the issues and the efforts of the organization. So maybe its time to rethink and look at how the meetings are handled so that they're serving the purpose that we want. We will make that a point to have that conversation. Martin Luther King Day is Monday and I hope you will all take time to celebrate his commitment to all of us.

Bud Denker Darlisa Rickman with the increase of the recreation passport why don't we think about another passport giveaway. The plans for Lennox Park will be presented to City Council next week.

Meeting Concluded: 10:36 a.m.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

February 20, 2020

Belle Isle Nature Center

Belle Isle Park

Detroit, MI 48207

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Approved: Michele Hodges
Michele Hodges

Ronald A. Olson
Ronald A. Olson, Chief

Date: 2/20/20

DRAFT



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update

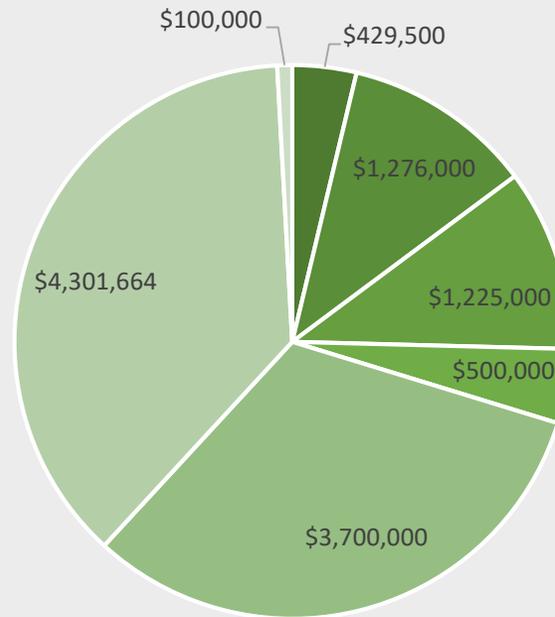
January 16, 2020 Detroit, MI



Belle Isle Park FY 2019 Infrastructure Investment Summary

- Key Public Facing Infrastructure
- Historical Structures
- Roads, Parking & Sidewalks
- Utilities
- Habitat Restoration
- Recreational Structures
- Operational Structures

FY 2019 Infrastructure Investment



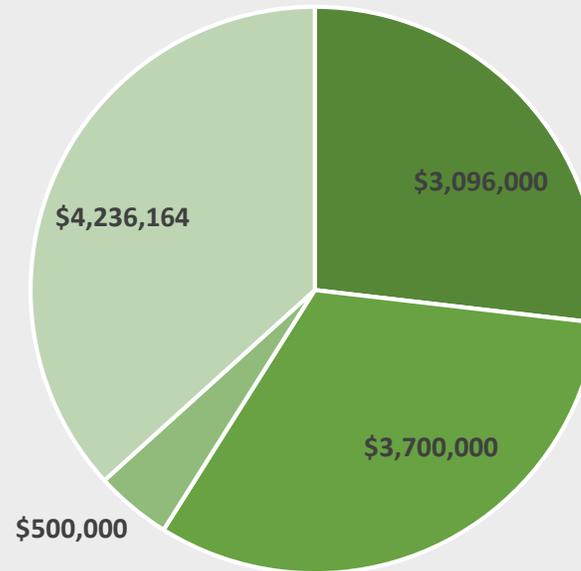
Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



Belle Isle Park FY 2019 Funding Sources

- State
- Federal
- City
- Private

FY 2019 Funding Sources





Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Investment FY 2014 – FY 2019

- **Total Infrastructure Investment:**
\$45,390,000
- **Total Investment (Improvement
and Operating Expenditures):**
\$ 75,800,000



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



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 - **COMPLETE**
- Construction for Site Improvements of Park HQ
\$250,000
- Flynn Pavilion Improvements
\$125,000
- Roof Replacement for Athletic Shelter & Handball Roof Removal
\$825,000 – **HANDBALL CT WORK SCHEDULED FOR SPRING 2020**
- Belle Isle Park Master Plan, to be completed in coordination with traffic planning study
\$150,000 – **REFINING SCOPE FOR EARLY 2020 ADVERTISEMENT**



Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration

- Installation of culvert underway.
- Traffic will be temporarily rerouted to Central.
- Contract will be complete (including Final Asphalt paving for strand and Woodside) Spring 2020.



Bridge has been installed; asphalt has been poured

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



Fiscal Year 2019 Ongoing Projects

- **Additional Roof Drain required –
New completion date is mid-
January**
- **Framing is up, Dry wall and
painting scheduled for next
week.**



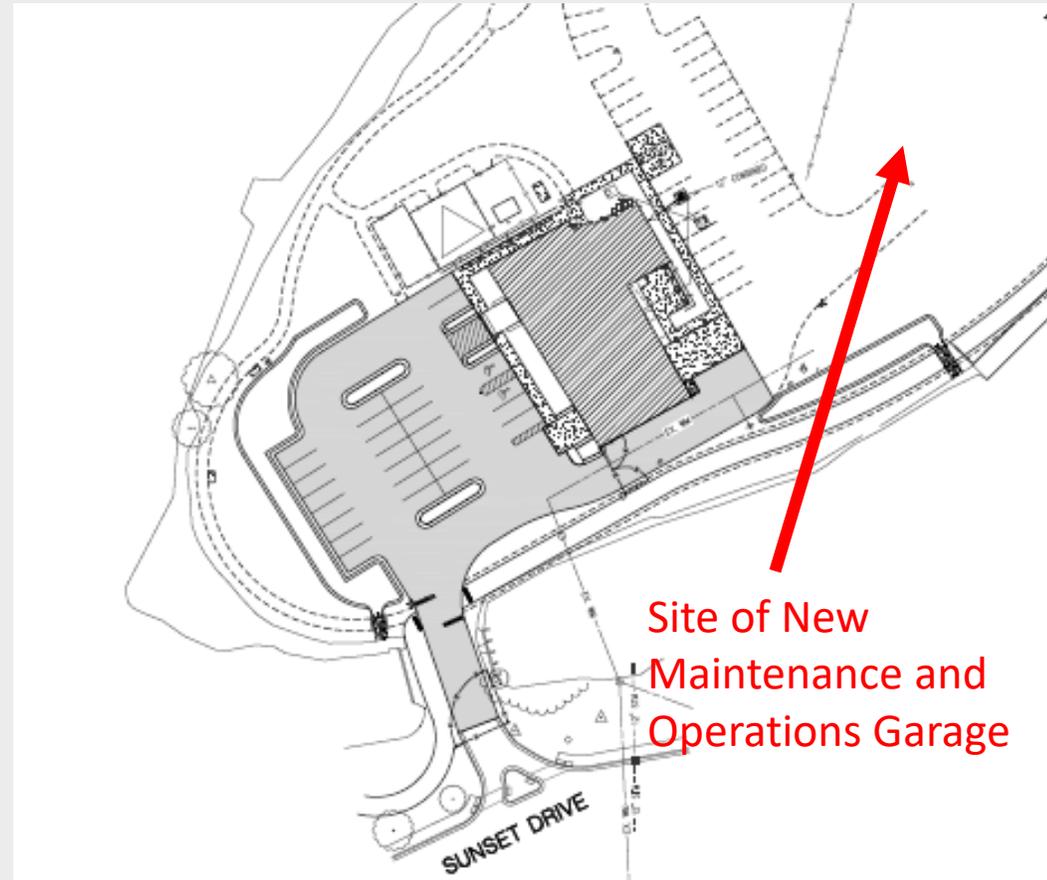
Garage improvements underway

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



FY 2020 Projects Belle Isle Park Headquarters

- **Maintenance and Operations Garage and Site Design has been awarded to WTA.**
- **Construction anticipated for FY 2021.**





Iron Belle Trailhead & Trail Development

- Looking to advertise project in a couple of weeks.
- Anticipated start date is spring 2020.
- DNR has reviewed proposed sculpture location with GSD.



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

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory ADA Garden Entrance

- DNR and BIC Garden Committee have reviewed schematic design options.

Favored designs forwarded to SHPO for review, feedback has been provided and will be incorporated into next phase of design.

Cost Estimates for favored design options will be provide in January for review.



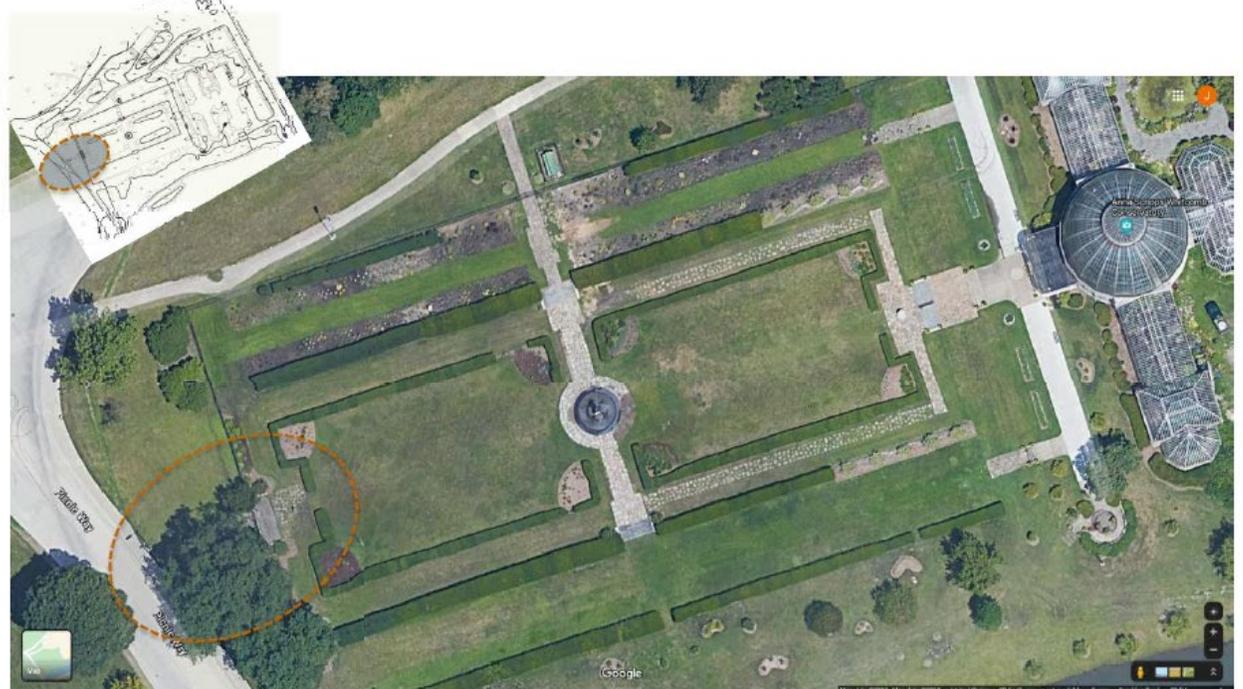
Project Site

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory ADA Garden Entrance

THE SITE



WTA ARCHITECTS



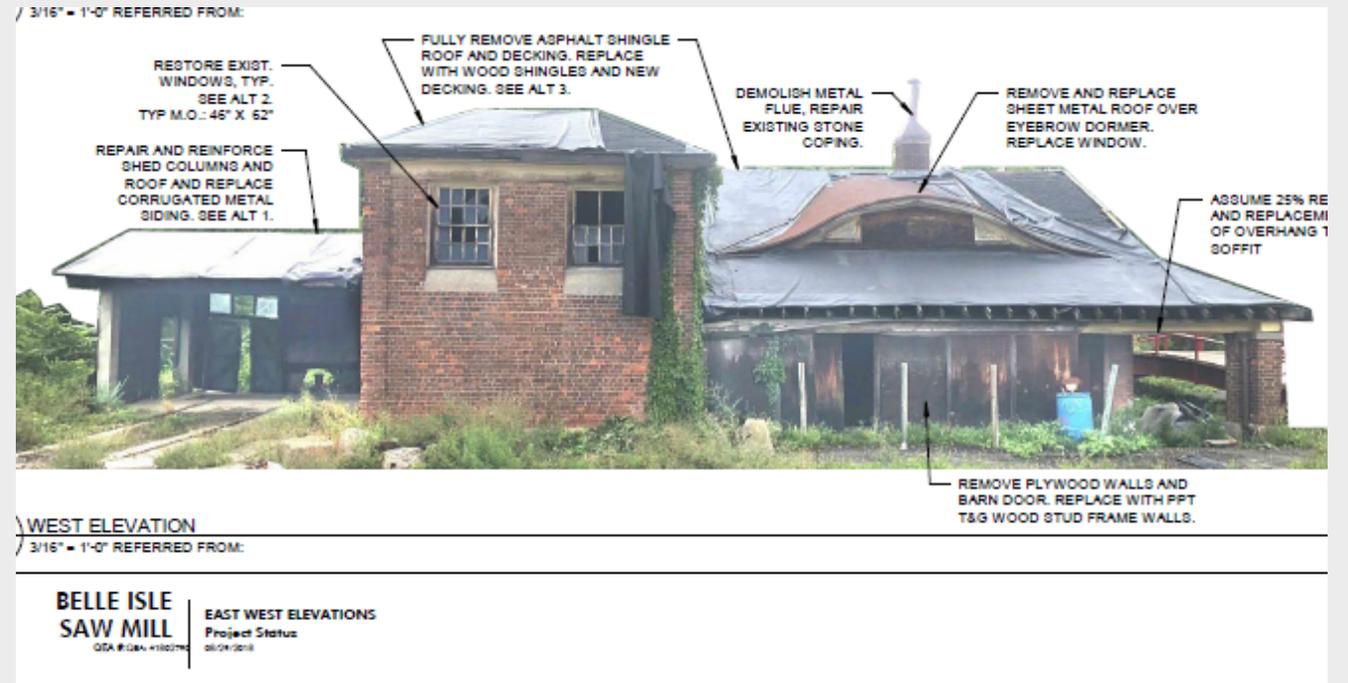
Project Site

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



Sawmill Roof Replacement

- DNR/BIC MOA has been executed for additional DNR-FRD Funding.
- Kick-off meeting with Quinn Evans will be scheduled once funding is transferred to BIC.





DTE Detroit Electric Conversion

- DTE installation of conduit are underway and they are wrapping up transformer installation.
- DNR will meet with DTE team next week to coordinate construction schedules.



DTE Conversion is underway

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



Belle Isle Aquarium Geothermal Feasibility Study

- **Consultant will prepare report to review options for climate control system to review alternatives.**
- **Issues with rock have been identified at 275'**



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



Stormwater Asset Management Plan Executive Summary

- DNR, GSD, GLWA and GSD will review scope of work for phase 2.

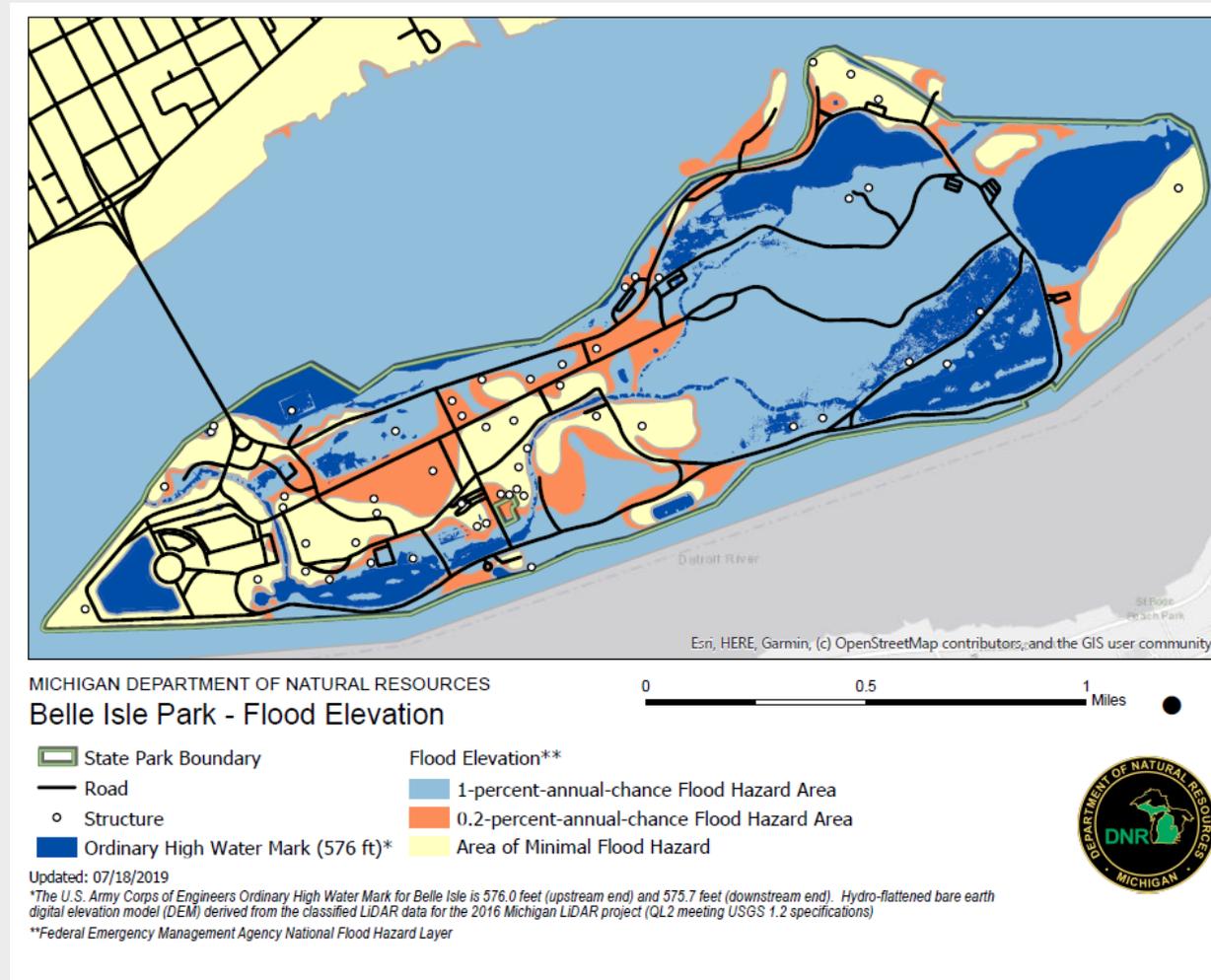


Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



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, January 2020



Oudolf Garden

- Contractor is process of raising monument for new site design.

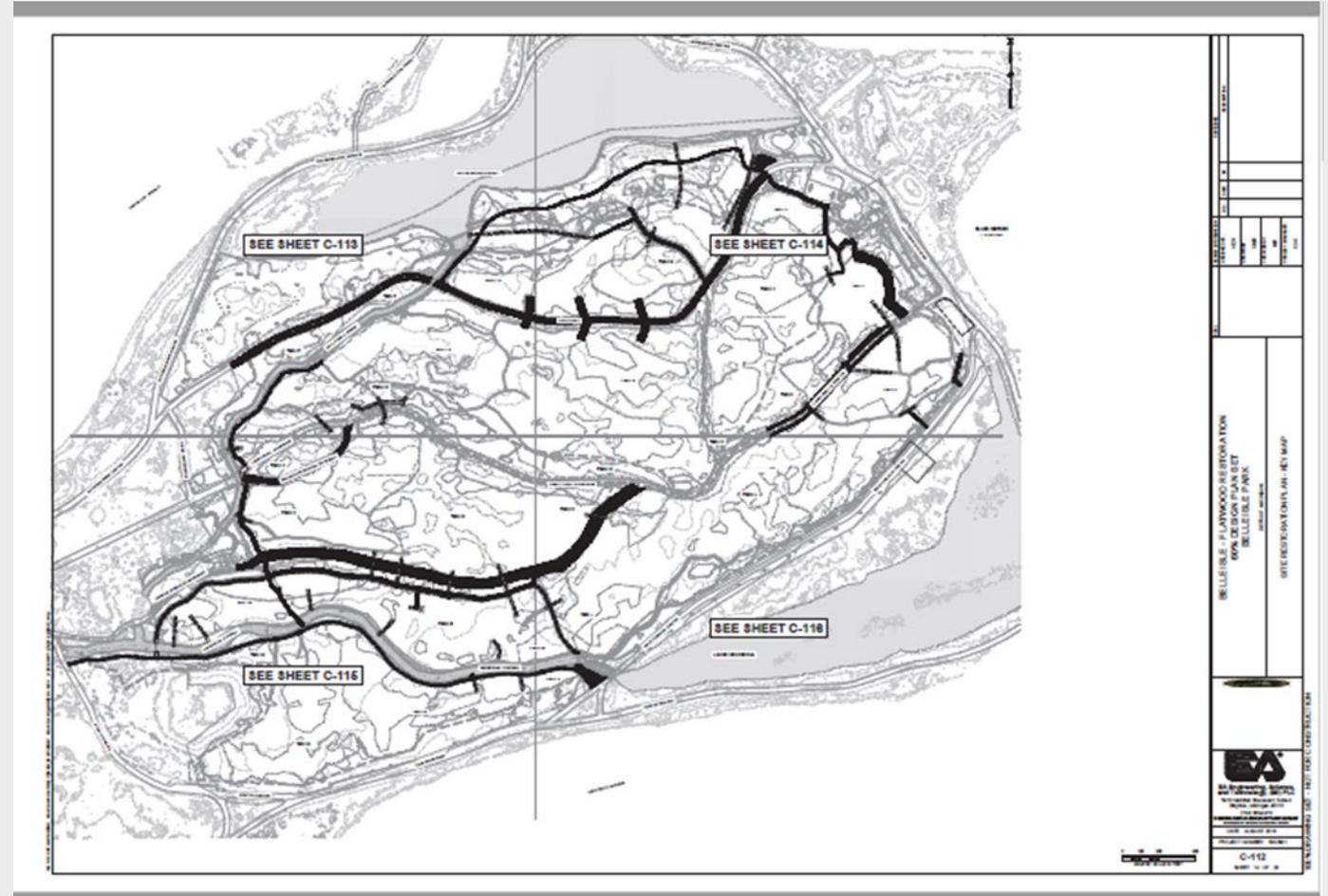


Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020



Fiscal Year 2020 Ongoing Projects

- Lake Okonoka Shelter and Playground Improvements – On Hold
- ADA Kayak Launch Access will be bid out.
- Wet-mesic Flatwoods Restoration grant funding has been awarded to DNR.
- Master Plan for Belle Isle Park will be kicked off in 2020. There will be a large transportation component



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, January 2020