

Belle Isle Grand Prix Listening Session Summary Report

Of September 20, 2017

On September 20, 2017, the Department of Natural Resources held a listening session to solicit community input on the proposed renewal of the agreement to hold the Grand Prix on Belle Isle. The meeting was facilitated by Eric Walcott, of Michigan State University Extension.

Participants at the meeting were given the opportunity to make verbal comments, limited to 2 minutes per person, as well as submit written comments. Fifty-eight people made verbal statements at the listening session, 11 people submitted comments without speaking, and eight people who spoke submitted written comments.

Numerous email comments were received by the DNR and are posted as well.

Throughout the listening session, DNR staff took notes of key points that speakers made in their comments, posting them in public view at the listening session. Following the end of public comment, each participant had the opportunity to vote for three statements they prioritized. The attached “Key Points Belle Isle Grand Prix” follows:

Key Points Belle Isle (GP)

Comment statement summary with votes from attendees;

- Volunteer/Workers enjoy working event (1)
- Will lose national coverage if race leaves (12)
- Enjoys improvements and park “Gems”
- Supports hospitality business
- Would you put race course in other iconic areas?
- What will happen to wildlife?
- Keeps community thriving (1)
- Allows businesses to keep employees working longer (4)
- Already determined community does not want event (GP) on the park
- Requesting environmental study (3)
- Take race somewhere else (1)
- Who are you (DNR/BIC) working for?
- Supports Senior Power Days
- Positive things by DNR / not happy with time period of race
- Needs an environmental study (4)
- Enjoys working the event, would like to continue (cleanup)
- Consider moving race to another venue
- Notice park decline, there was no money for improvements until the GP arrived
- Can’t chase away good things
- Race will be approved (1)
- Take GP to court get a good lawyer
- Can’t use race for 11 weeks/Can reduce timeframe for load-in and load-out (1)
- Great opportunity to create a balance
- Reduce “setup and “take down” time (11)
- Environmental Study must be conducted prior to new contract
- Park was not in good shape prior to GP (1)
- Support given for BIC, GP and others wanting improvement
- Major concern is location
- Improvements are not because of GP alone
- Concerned about mission of DNR/BIC
- Island being used for private business
- Belle Isle is a public park, decisions don’t align w/park conservancy mission
- GP is a major event, wants GP to continue on the park (1)
- Good partner with DNR (1)
- Why would you put a race track in a public park?

- Race fans are declining
- Lights paid for by Rodger Gorges (bridge)
- Look at the load-in and load-out times, should be more realistic (1)
- GP should be charged higher fees for holding the event
- Special concessions should be made for public to view fountain
- City didn't have resources to maintain park
- Volunteers came back to park because of the GP (1)
- Convention came to the city because of changes on the park
- Wildlife habitat should be conserved/more appropriate location for GP
- Belle Isle is an inappropriate location for GP
- No environmental study has been conducted yet
- Race attracted "pop up" car events
- Supports GP race.(22)
- Wants daughter to be loyal supporter
- Enjoys well organized race
- Lives in the neighborhood/volunteers
- City resident – has fond memories
- Event should be more conducive to park's needs
- Noise from the race travels to nearby neighborhoods
- Volunteers receive credit for their chosen charities (good fellow, etc.)
- Hopes race continues (1)
- Why is racing a part of the cities "heartbeat"?
- Questions Penske's logistics ability (1)
- Use park for 1/3 of the best time to visit
- Why is the state spending time fighting the public?
- Why can't the contract be rewritten?
- With or without GP still a great park. (1)
- Small businesses putting back into the economy
- GP allows for change similar to other events that have occurred
- GP concerned about providing equitable access
- Willing to meet and discuss possible positive changes
- Challenges non-residents to view park. Concerns about concrete, etc. Wants park used for regular park uses
- Don't renew the contract (4)
- We should not appear desperate /not available for private use
- Bridge construction pending for next year. Concerned about traffic during GP
- Provide businesses should not be supportive
- Supports GP, has lots of childhood memories (some negative) until the GP
- Consider environmental factors

- GP is great, the setup and tear-down is unacceptable (1)
- Difficulty getting around park due to GP equipment
- In support of GP difficulties should be worked out
- Improvements are directly associated w/race (2)
- Other areas are neglected: DNR should focus on other areas
- Environment study requested for park and surrounding neighborhoods (20)
- Is eco-tourism a possibility for Belle Isle?(5)
- Penske should consider helping in ways that are less harmful to the people.
- Would like help for community (from GP)
- World class cities happen because of events such as the GP (12)
- Previous Master Plan to do what state is doing now(1)
- Island should support the people
- Park should be available for residents (3)
- No vendors allowed
- No after hour visitors (1)
- Event criteria should be established before determine what events are good for the park (3)
- GP not good for the park (19)
- Other option-State Fair (15)
- Why does the state need assistance caring for the island?(1)

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Norman P. Thomas <npt@sacredheartdetroit.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 10:54 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Belle Isle vs. Grand Prix

I wish to add my name to the many who oppose the Grand Prix on Belle Isle. To me, it is an act of arrogance to continue this travesty by Mr. Penske and all of the Grand Prix Boosters. I am glad that you are seeking the wisdom and feelings of people as to whether the Grand Prix contract should be renewed. There should be a Grand Prix here but not on Belle Isle. I cannot be at the Hearing on the 20th but wanted to let you know what my and many others' vote would be.

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Diane Cheklich <dcc@cheklich.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 11:47 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Please do not renew the Grand Prix on Belle Isle

Dear Mr. Pratt,

I am a resident of Detroit and a frequent visitor to Belle Isle. I am an avid birder and I enjoy being in nature. Providing access to nature is the most important function of our state parks, and that should be the top priority for Belle Isle as well. For that reason I oppose the Grand Prix on Belle Isle. The race and its ever-expanding concrete infrastructure are destructive to the environment, they are an eyesore, and they monopolize the west end of the island for several months, preventing access to residents. I avoid going to Belle Isle from April through June because I can't stand to see the island like that.

I urge you not to renew the contract for the Grand Prix on Belle Isle. If someone were to suggest putting a car race at other state parks the idea would be dismissed out of hand, yet for some reason it's acceptable on Belle Isle. Why is that? Please move the race somewhere else. Give the people back our island so we can enjoy it as a true park for the entire year.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Diane Cheklich

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Madeleine Ringwald <madeleine.ringwald@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 5:42 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Grand Prix petition

Dear Mr. Pratt,

I oppose holding the Grand Prix on Belle Isle. I urge you to consider discontinuing the event being held on our park.

Madeleine Ringwald

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Timothy Schacht <drtim@speakeasy.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 1:30 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Location of Detroit Grand Prix

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the decision whether to renew the lease with the Detroit Grand Prix on Belle Isle. I oppose the lease renewal. I think the use of a state park for this purpose is inappropriate and harmful to the habitat of the park. My business is within ear-shot of the Grand Prix and the noise created by this event is disruptive. With open water surrounding the "race track" sound carries readily. Many of my veterinary patients are sent into inconsolable panic or require sedation for the week. I can only imagine the disruption suffered by animals living on the island. The park should be for dedicated-use recreation. Spectator events should be limited in both number and scope to those that do not impair enjoyment of the park for others. Conversely, many other sites within the city could be adapted for Grand Prix use that minimizes the negative impact of such an event. A site that allows for greater navigability (access to Belle Isle is limited to the MacArthur Bridge), better noise abatement (a dedicated track could be designed and landscaped to block noise from residential and commercial areas), increased utilization (a permanent track could be used for races throughout the year) and superior commercial exploitation (a racing district could attract businesses that provide a permanent local benefit) would enhance both the Grand Prix and the area hosting it. Please work with Grand Prix planners and sponsors to relocate the race to a more appropriate and responsible venue that would allow uncompromised park use and a superior race event experience. Please do not renew the lease for the Grand Prix on Belle Isle. Thank you.

Timothy Schacht, DVM
Jefferson Veterinary Center
11300 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, MI 48230
313 822-2555

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Fred McCoy <fredericmccoy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 12:41 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Belle Isle Grand Prix

Dear DNR:

Although I'm a car racing fan and a serious aficionado of automobiles in general, I'm deeply opposed to holding the Grand Prix on Belle Isle. I think the race is virtually the complete opposite of the park's intended purpose and the tranquil enjoyment of its beauty the taxpayers expected to receive.

Belle Isle is one of the most unique city parks in the world. Can we imagine Central Park or Golden Gate Park being closed for a month or more to stage an auto race? In any other city it wouldn't even be a question.

I hope the time has come to end this ill-conceived event, and that powerful business interests, no matter how much good they've done on other projects, will not supersede the public's benefit.

Thank you.

Frederic McCoy
Pleasant Ridge

Sent from my iPhone

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Jane Slaughter <janesla@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 7:56 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: No Grand Prix on Belle Isle

Please do not damage Belle Isle with the Grand Prix, which is the opposite of everything Belle Isle is. We need a place for peace and quiet, not pollution and noise.

Jane Slaughter
Detroit

Sent from my iPhone

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Joann Castle <joanncastle7@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 7:18 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Concerns About Belle Isle's Use as a Race Track

Dear Scott Pratt, MI DNR,

I am a lifelong Detroiter of 80 years. Currently, I live two miles from Belle Isle. It is a place our family has always respected as a natural habitat for wildlife. My great grandfather's occupation was masonry. He did stonework and I understand he worked on the Scott Fountain when it was being built. We've been in Detroit for a long time.

Our Belle Isle jewel island is a refuge in the center of the city, much like Central Park in New York. How is it that the DNR permits destructive road racing in this natural habitat for birds, plants and wildlife?

Except for Elmwood Cemetery, our city is pretty much cemented over. I thought when we voted to support the funds to make Belle Isle at State Park, that we were protecting it from destruction.

Please listen to Detroiters and what the natural island means to them and their children's future, not to the outsiders who come to make a profit on their road racing.

I support the PUBLIC REQUEST TO THE DNR for an independent third-party environmental impact study of the effects of the Detroit Grand Prix on the island habitat. Such a study must be done and its findings assessed before any new contract is awarded the Roger Penske organization and the Grand Prix.

Joann Castle, 300 Riverfront, Unit 22E, Detroit, MI 48226, email: joanncastle7@gmail.com

Parker, Renee (DNR)

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Joann Castle, 300 Riverfront, Unit 22E, Detroit, MI 48226, email: joanncastle7@gmail.com

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: David Martin <dmartin@lhallmedia.com>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 12:07 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Cc: 'Sandra Novacek'
Subject: RE: Public listening session regarding Detroit Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle

Scott:

It should be noted that there are also close to 500 signatures on our change.org petition to get the Grand Prix event off of the island.

<https://www.change.org/p/city-of-detroit-michigan-state-of-michigan-citizens-against-the-detroit-grand-prix-on-belle-isle>

David Martin
618 w. maplehurst
ferndale, mi 48220
ph: (248) 629-9030

From: Pratt, Scott (DNR) [mailto:PrattS@michigan.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 9:20 AM
To: David Martin
Subject: Re: Public listening session regarding Detroit Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle

Thanks for your input.

Scott A. Pratt, CPRP
Chief of Southern Field Operations
DNR - Parks & Recreation Division

On Sep 11, 2017, at 9:18 AM, David Martin <dmartin@lhallmedia.com> wrote:

Of the 16 Grand Prix events on the Verizon Indycar Circuit, 12 are conducted on permanent racetracks, 3 are "street races", and only one is run in a Nature Park. Environmental Assessment Studies are routinely conducted for events such as this, and it seems ludicrous to me that the one race conducted in a State Park, the Belle Isle Nature Park, has had no study requested or administered. We have asked Chief Ron Olson of the DNR about this repeatedly, by myself and others, and his response remains the same – the last contract signed with the City of Detroit did not require a Study. The fact that the chief Custodian for our Park does not see an ethical responsibility to conduct a study such as this is highly disturbing.

I have many other objections to the presence of this race on Belle Isle, including the length of time taken between set-up and final teardown, the concrete abutments that crowd bike and jogging paths rendering them hazardous to use, fencing and obstacles that prevent ready access to the riverfront and key features of the Park, the ten-acre concrete paddock permanently installed by the Fountain and Casino, and the general notion that a private group can be allowed to take over a public space such as this.

Before another contract is signed, I think an Environmental Assessment Study is in order. Chief Olson of the DNR should exercise "due diligence" and fulfill the responsibilities that he was hired to do. He is not a member of a racing organization. He is Chief Custodian of a natural resource.

Do the right thing.

David Martin

lighthouse all media design, LLC
618 w. maplehurst
ferndale, mi 48220
ph: (248) 629-9030
cell: (248) 561-5503

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Nancy Warnars <operationablenancyw@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 10:37 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Belle Isle is a park not a raceway.

Thank you.. I will be attending the meeting.

Nancy Warnars

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Kathe Stevens <kathestevens@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 10:16 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Grand Prix on Belle Isle

Dear S Pratt,

I hope to attend the public meeting on September 20 but in case I cannot, I thought I'd send my thoughts as invited in a recent [social media post](#).

First, I appreciate the work the State of Michigan has done to improve our jewel in the middle of the lovely Detroit River. I've been a Belle Isle fan since I moved to Detroit in 1971; I took my children there; I've organized work and church picnics in its shelters; I've enjoyed every part of the island, from birding on the eastern tip, to sunsets on the west, from the giant slide to the beach, and everything in between (especially on a bike). I've watched the care of the island disintegrate and then thrilled to see bathrooms opened, maintenance done, trash picked up, and speeders stopped!

So thank you ... and thank you to all the State of MI staff.

Belle Isle is no place for a race. It's an obstacle to pedestrians' enjoyment of the island, it's tragic to lay cement over grass, it's an infringement of Detroit citizens who have worked so hard for our city, to put up barricades and everything else that comes with the race.

Please move the Grand Prix elsewhere. It's morally and politically the right thing to do.

My very best,
Kathe Stevens
313-675-1553

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: rrentie <rrentie@att.net>
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2017 3:04 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Curbed: Belle Isle/DNR listening to public feedback for possible Grand Prix renewal

Curbed: Belle Isle/DNR listening to public feedback for possible Grand Prix renewal.
<http://google.com/newsstand/s/CBIw6Nmv-jU>
The race needs to be moved to another
Location. It doesn't belong on Belle Isle

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Luke Grange <luke.grange@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2017 12:03 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Grand Prix comments

Hi Scott:

As the organization trusted with the maintenance and accessibility of Belle Isle Park as a location for outdoor recreation for all, I urge the DNR to not renew the Grand Prix contract.

The amount of time the Grand Prix disrupts the island is a problem, and the race promoters haven't done enough to minimize that time.

I would be interested to see what vendors the Grand Prix uses for setup and takedown-- are they local companies? Is that money going back into the local economy which is being disrupted?

The DNR needs to prioritize the interests of the Park community, and not bow to corporate interests simply due to how things have been done in the past. This is the DNR's chance to do the right thing by the people who love this island. Please listen to the interests of the users of the Park the State of Michigan has entrusted you to run.

Sincerely,

Luke Grange

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Jim Manheim <texmeister2@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2017 11:04 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Belle Isle Grand Prix feedback

I would like to register my strong objections to any renewal of permits for the Grand Prix on Belle Isle, which disrupts use and ecosystems at a public park. I would support moving the race to City Airport, which is in an area in dire need of an economic boost, and which could easily accommodate it; that location would also provide the novelty factor that Belle Isle offers.

Thank you,
James M. Manheim

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Christine Pagac <capagac@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2017 8:06 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Grand Prix feedback

I own a home near Belle Isle -- so close I can hear the Grand Prix --and regularly use the park. Set up and take down is toooooo long at a time when the park is especially inviting. The concrete barricades in the biking lane are a recipe for serious injury -- this year, to make a path for pedestrians from sunset point, they blocked the bike lane, forcing riders into the single lane of traffic. I stopped riding there on crowded weekends because it simply was not safe.

Also, it is particularly galling to hear that the Grand Prix is giving a ton of money to the park and then to be asked by the Conservancy to donate to basic park maintenance (a collapsing shelter). What are my tax dollars being used for? And what are these supposed millions in Grand Prix money being invested in, other than improvements targeted for the Grand Prix? I don't attend the Grand Prix, but it does negatively impact me. I thought the investment was supposed to benefit everyone, and so to compensate voters and taxpayers like myself for the weeks we endure limited access to a park we own. If that's not true, then the State is not doing its job of looking out for the interests of ALL of its citizens, not just the wealthiest.

Sincerely, Christine Pagac

Sent from my iPhone

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: sbernat1@gmail.com on behalf of Shandra BP-Weeks <shandra.bp@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 11:46 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Don't renew contract for Belle Isle grand prix

Hello,

I'm a resident of the Islandview neighborhood and a frequent visitor to Belle Isle, I strongly urge you not to renew the contract. Belle Isle is an amazing public space, for residents of Detroit, the suburbs and visitors from all over. It's a shame and an embarrassment that so much of this beautiful place is monopolized by a private event during peak outdoors time.

There are countless better uses of Belle Isle during the spring and summer that could benefit a wider segment of Detroit residents and help stimulate the tourism industry in the city. Art festivals, music festivals, theatre events, movie screenings, a carnival? You name it pretty much anything would serve more Detroiters, and be a more reasonable use of public space, than the Grand Prix.

Thanks,

Shandra Bernath-Plaisted
48214

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Ruthanne Johnston <rujohn125@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 2:37 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Belle isle Grande Prix comment...

I have been a frequent visitor to Belle Isle for years, I live close enough to take my dog on a "field trip" as we call it, to walk the park. I purchase a state park pass every year to support MI state parks because they are a great thing for us all and have watched the improvements to Belle isle over the last few years. I have also watched the set up for the Grand Prix, a few years ago it began in March. I find it amazing and upsetting that as the weather improves in spring, the whole end of the park is off limits as set up goes on and on for weeks and then tear down lasts a couple weeks. I was usually there on weekdays and never saw many people working to set up or tear down, seems to me it should/could be done much faster. A couple years ago when it rained the whole weekend, a car was stuck in the ruined grass and mud for at least a week if not longer. There is plenty of vacant land and opportunities in the city of Detroit for the Grand Prix, move it off Belle Isle! Maybe City Airport isn't such a bad idea! This is a park for the people and if the contract has to be renewed, please limit the set up and tear down to the bare minimum...Get it set up and torn down fast if it must be!
Ruthanne Johnston

Sent from my iPad

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Jeff Spakowski <jfspakowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 12:57 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Re: DNR Meeting for Belle Isle

Thank you for the quick reply.

Sincerely,
Jeff

On Fri, Sep 8, 2017 at 12:52 PM, Pratt, Scott (DNR) <PrattS@michigan.gov> wrote:
The meeting will start at 6 p.m. at the Belle Isle Nature Center, 176 Lakeside Drive, in Belle Isle Park. The public listening session will begin with a brief Grand Prix overview, followed by public comments and a look at next steps. Each speaker will have two minutes to present his or her comments. Written comments also will be accepted via email at pratts@michigan.gov through Sept. 22.

When you arrive to the meeting you can fill out a comment card.

Thanks for your interest.

Scott A. Pratt, CPRP
Chief of Southern Field Operations
DNR - Parks & Recreation Division

On Sep 8, 2017, at 12:46 PM, Jeff Spakowski <jfspakowski@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Morning Mr. Pratt,

What is the process for signing up to speak at the September 20th meeting regarding the Grand Prix?

Thank you,
Jeff Spakowski

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Van Antwerp, Ami (DNR)
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 12:50 PM
To: Olson, Ron (DNR); Pratt, Scott (DNR); Floyd, Karis (DNR); Terrell, Mike (DNR)
Subject: FW: Courtesy Copy: Public listening session Sept. 20 re: Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle

From: Michigan DNR [mailto:MIDNR@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov]
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 12:14 PM
To: Lapshan, Sarah (DNR); Pepin, John (DNR); Krueger, Cindy (DNR); Warner, Casey (DNR); Clara, Matthew (DNR); Whipple, Deb (DNR); Stojakovich, Tina (DNR); Ellsworth, Julie (DNR); Fults, Beth (DNR); Van Antwerp, Ami (DNR); Elkins, Natalie (DNR); Golder, Edward (DNR)
Subject: Courtesy Copy: Public listening session Sept. 20 re: Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle

This is a courtesy copy of an email bulletin sent by Sarah Lapshan.

This bulletin was sent to the following groups of people:

Subscribers of Media Only - Restricted who answered "Detroit Metro (Wayne Oakland Macomb Washtenaw Livingston St. Clair Monroe)" to "Please select the regions of Michigan that interest you most.", and were not sent "Public listening session Sept. 20 re: Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle". and were not sent "Public listening session Sept. 20 re: Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle" (75 recipients)

Opportunity to provide feedback at a meeting, or comment via email.

SHARE

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Statewide DNR News

Sept. 8, 2017

Contact: [Scott Pratt](#), 313-396-6870

DNR hosts Sept. 20 public listening session regarding Detroit Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will host a public listening session Wednesday, Sept. 20, to gather public feedback on the Detroit Grand Prix – a race that has been held periodically at Belle Isle Park since 1992, and every year since 2012. A new agreement, which would allow the island to be utilized for future Grand Prix events, currently is under consideration by the DNR.

The meeting will start at 6 p.m. at the Belle Isle Nature Center, 176 Lakeside Drive, in Belle Isle Park. The public listening session will begin with a brief Grand Prix overview, followed by public comments and a look at next steps. Each speaker will have two minutes to present his or her

comments. Written comments also will be accepted via email at pratts@michigan.gov through Sept. 22.

The current five-year Detroit Grand Prix agreement with the City of Detroit was in place and honored by the DNR when the department assumed management of the island in February 2014. The agreement is set to expire this year and the DNR is considering the potential renewal of that agreement with input from area residents, business owners, stakeholders and others interested in outdoor recreation opportunities and events on Belle Isle.

"Public input is a critical step in evaluating the renewal of the agreement with the Grand Prix to use Belle Isle as an event venue, and we want to ensure that everyone's opinions and ideas are heard," said Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation Division chief.

Following the Sept. 20 meeting and the Sept. 22 comment deadline, the DNR will review feedback regarding the proposed five-year agreement. If the discussion moves forward and a proposed agreement is drafted, it will be made available for public review. The DNR also would offer an additional public forum to provide an opportunity for public feedback on the terms of the proposed agreement, prior to a decision to enter into an agreement being made by the DNR Parks and Recreation chief.

Belle Isle Park, a 982-acre island park located in the Detroit River near downtown Detroit, is rich with natural beauty and historical and cultural resources. The park – managed as Michigan's 102nd state park – is home to the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, the Belle Isle Aquarium, a golf course, the James Scott Memorial Fountain and many more attractions popular with all ages and interests. The park offers a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, bicycling, kayaking and picnicking, as well as community events including the Detroit Ford Fireworks, Senior Power Days, an annual spring cleanup, the Detroit YMCA's Detroit Swims program and fitness walks and other programs

For more information about the Sept. 20 meeting, contact Scott Pratt, DNR chief of Southern Michigan Field Operations, at 313-396-6870 or pratts@michigan.gov.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.



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Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Carol Rhoades <carolrhoades@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 12:22 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Belle Isle Grand Prix race To Mr. Pratt DNR

I believe it's time to pull the plug on the Detroit Grand Prix race on Belle Isle State Park. Before the bankruptcy, the city could not afford to maintain the island so the offer to "improve" the island might have made sense back in the 1990's. Now since 2014 the State of Michigan has taken over and made Belle Isle a State Park, the time has come to allow the island to be used as it was intended by Frederick Law Olmsted- a nature and recreational park to be used by all people year round. The race sets up starting April 15th then doesn't leave the park until the end of June. Those are the best times to enjoy the park and it is blocked off on the west end by the cement barricades, fences, grandstands and trucks. There are permanent pedestrian bridge structures also defacing the landscape built for the race. There are permanent cut-outs on the curb across from the Boat Club on the northern part of the island for parking on the lawns for the Grand Prix "VIP's". These permanent infrastructure changes serve no other purpose than blight the rest of the year. An immense area of 10 acres of park land near the Scott Fountain was covered with acres of cement for the race. It is a terrible eyesore and blight on the landscape. The race must be moved to a more permanent home, not on Belle Isle. The contract should not be renewed for the Grand Prix race on Belle Isle.
Carol Rhoades- 42 year Detroit resident

The current five-year Detroit Grand Prix agreement with the City of Detroit was in place and honored by the DNR when the department assumed management of the island in February 2014. The agreement is set to expire this year and the DNR is considering the potential renewal of that agreement with input from area residents, business owners, stakeholders and others interested in outdoor recreation opportunities and events on Belle Isle.

"Public input is a critical step in evaluating the renewal of the agreement with the Grand Prix to use Belle Isle as an event venue, and we want to ensure that everyone's opinions and ideas are heard," said Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation Division chief.

Following the Sept. 20 meeting and the Sept. 22 comment deadline, the DNR will review feedback regarding the proposed five-year agreement. If the discussion moves forward and a proposed agreement is drafted, it will be made available for public review. The DNR also would offer an additional public forum to provide an opportunity for public feedback on the terms of the proposed agreement, prior to a decision to enter into an agreement being made by the DNR Parks and Recreation chief.

Belle Isle Park, a 982-acre island park located in the Detroit River near downtown Detroit, is rich with natural beauty and historical and cultural resources. The park – managed as Michigan's 102nd state park – is home to the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, the Belle Isle Aquarium, a golf course, the James Scott Memorial Fountain and many more attractions popular with all ages and interests. The park offers a variety of outdoor activities, including hiking, bicycling, kayaking and picnicking, as well as community events including the Detroit Ford Fireworks, Senior Power Days, an annual spring cleanup, the Detroit YMCA's Detroit Swims program and fitness walks and other programs

For more information about the Sept. 20 meeting, contact Scott Pratt, DNR chief of Southern Michigan Field Operations, at 313-396-6870 or pratts@michigan.gov.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr.



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This email was sent to ronolson_1@yahoo.com using GovDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: Michigan Department of Natural Resources · Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan St., PO Box 30028 Lansing MI 48909 · 1-800-439-1420

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Ron Olson <ronolson_1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 12:18 PM
To: Michael Montri; 'bud. denker@penskecorp. com'; hodgesm@belleisleconservancy. org
Hodges; Rickman, Darlisa (DNR); Floyd, Karis (DNR); Terrell, Mike (DNR); Brown, Jacob (DNR); Hertl, Amanda (DNR); Pratt, Scott (DNR); Summer Ritner
Subject: Fwd: Public listening session Sept. 20 re: Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Michigan DNR" <MIDNR@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov>
Date: September 8, 2017 at 10:05:19 AM MDT
To: ronolson_1@yahoo.com
Subject: Public listening session Sept. 20 re: Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle
Reply-To: MIDNR@govsubscriptions.michigan.gov

Opportunity to provide feedback at a meeting, or comment via email.

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Statewide DNR News

Sept. 8, 2017

Contact: [Scott Pratt](#), 313-396-6870

DNR hosts Sept. 20 public listening session regarding Detroit Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources will host a public listening session Wednesday, Sept. 20, to gather public feedback on the Detroit Grand Prix – a race that has been held periodically at Belle Isle Park since 1992, and every year since 2012. A new agreement, which would allow the island to be utilized for future Grand Prix events, currently is under consideration by the DNR.

The meeting will start at 6 p.m. at the Belle Isle Nature Center, 176 Lakeside Drive, in Belle Isle Park. The public listening session will begin with a brief Grand Prix overview, followed by public comments and a look at next steps. Each speaker will have two minutes to present his or her comments. Written comments also will be accepted via email at pratts@michigan.gov through Sept. 22.

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: jkferg357 <jkferg357@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 8:03 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Grand prix race on the isle

I've visited the area since 1952 my the year of birth. I'm sure there are older stories but this one is mine. The Belle Isle has seen better days but a come back has started. Families back enjoying the Isle for what it should be used for. If parents wanted to put kids to sleep (back in the day)on a hot summers night. Pile them in the car take a ride around Belle Isle and pressdo bingo sleep we were. The race is great for area hands down. The PROBLEM seems to be with CLEAN UP and REMOVAL of the WALLS and partitions, stanchions and the likes. Maybe just maybe the [state, county and city] can setup a small fund from donations. These funds can pay some of locals who have not found work after the winter season. Just a thought. If the three can continue contracting the race. I'm sure they can get the island back into shape fast than previous years.

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: wolf.m.gary@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, September 09, 2017 12:18 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Belle isle race

Please keep the race at belle isle. I live downtown and love having it every year

Thanks

Gary Wolf
71 Adelaide
Detroit

Sent from my iPhone

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Tim Iles <metroplex001@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 1:25 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Belle Isle Grand Prix

Scott

I thank you for taking public input on this matter. I know this is a world class event that brings lots of positive attention and investment into Belle Isle and the City of Detroit. So I respect that aspect of this but as a resident who uses Belle Isle frequently I feel if this arrangement continues the promoters should only be allowed at most 1-2 weeks of setup and tear down. As I understand it that's what most other cities need and I don't see why this is any different. Allowing them to take over a large portion of Belle Isle for almost 2 months of the short summer season is excessive.

I would also like to see that giant cement paddock removed or at least do something to hide it with some plants at the very least.

I can hear the races from my house and I feel one weekend of the noise is tolerable. But taking over that much of the island for almost 2 months is too much of a disruption.

Thank you again

Tim Iles

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Quentin Sheets <qsheets@oakland.edu>
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2017 3:47 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Detroit Grand Prix - Belle Isle (public comment)

Mr. Pratt,

As I will be unable to attend the public meeting on 20 September regarding the Detroit Grand Prix agreement renewal for Belle Isle:

1. Consider an accelerated set-up/tear-down schedule for the event.
2. Possibility of having event moved to earlier in the IndyCar season.

I do like the event being on Belle Isle with the scenery as opposed to the City Airport or on city streets downtown.

V/r,
Quentin Sheets

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Steve Innes <innesst@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, September 09, 2017 12:19 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Grand Prix Belle Isle

As a resident of Detroit, I fully support having the Detroit Grand Prix on Belle Isle. Please continue this important event that benefits the citizens of Detroit and the surrounding community.

Perhaps they could do more outreach or have discounted tickets for residents to increase the diversity of the attendees.

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: John OBrien <jobndnd@ameritech.net>
Sent: Saturday, September 09, 2017 7:15 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)

grand prix would still benefit from Belle Isle by using the undeveloped site at the isle's entrance.
improving an undeveloped site and freeing the isle for recreation

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Steve Mallires <realsteve01@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 9:12 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Detroit Grand Prix location

Hi,
Weighing in on the location of the Detroit Grand Prix.
I would like to see the race stay on Belle Isle. The location with backstretch along the Detroit river and the Detroit skyline as a backdrop makes this an impressive location and lends credibility to the motor city. The cost of moving the race, and considering the investments made to improve the Belle Isle facility, doesn't make sense just to appease a few. A tremendous amount of work, investment and sacrifice (volunteered) has helped revitalize Detroit and an event like the Prix that brings economic benefits and notoriety is a worthwhile cause to endure a little bit of inconvenience for a few weeks.

Steve Mallires

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Peters, Cynthia (DTMB)
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 9:45 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Detroit Grand Prix

Mr. Pratt –

As I recall some significant track improvements made a few years ago. Although the race event itself routinely loses money, the benefit to the local economy should not be ignored.

As a race fan, it is my considered opinion that the race should remain on the Indy Car schedule.

Thank you for requesting feedback.

Cindy Peters

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Linda <2lasvegas@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2017 1:11 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: One vote to continue :)

Hello,

Cannot be there but I love the Grand Prix and don't see how a day of driving cars on the already made road hurts the island.

I think it attracts people to see the island.

Linda

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Phil <ps547@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 10:38 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Grand Prix

I support negotiating five-year agreement on the Grand Prix. It would help to shorten set up, take down times wherever possible.

Philip Schloop
ps547@sbcglobal.net
Sent from my iPhone

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Mallory Flanders <malloryflanders@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 11:59 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Belle Isle Enthusiast-Event Opinion

To whom it may concern,

I frequent Belle Isle every weekend. Although I have never been to The Grand Prix, I know it is a great event. It is not my intention to cancel the event, but I would like to express my utmost disappointment with the length of event teardown. Why does it take 1.5 months to teardown the event? It restricts access and enjoyment of the park. If park income is the issue - during the time it takes to tear down the park could host other public events charging money or charging visitors for park access. I understand the Grand Prix is a world class event, but in my experience I have never even seen work crews taking the event down. Most races can complete event teardown in a matter of 48 hours. Upon contract renewal I would like to see event set up and teardown minimized. Thank you for the opportunity to express my concern.

Respectfully,
Mallory Flanders

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: larry roberts <aparoberts@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2017 1:11 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR); Larry Roberts; Stephanie Gray Chang; Karriem Holman
Subject: Comments on Grand Prix renewal, suggestions

(We will be unable to attend the September 20 meeting on this issue, so I am submitting my comments below. Hopefully they will be considered as if we were there. Thanks.)

While in the Army in Europe some years ago, my wife and I attended many Formula One races and enjoyed everyone. Now we have the ability to attend the Detroit Grand Prix and again we are pleased with the races we have seen. But currently there is some negative views being expressed about continuing the race Belle Isle. Admitting my bias, given all factors that I am aware of, I would continue the race on Belle Isle, with some modifications to the agreement and manner in which the race is conducted.

The facts are that the Belle Isle Grand Prix (GP after) is a very positive picture of Detroit and SE Michigan for the world to see. No doubt lots of money is invested in running the race, but also I don't doubt lots of money flows from the attendees and viewers of the race to the immediate community, and we all agree that Detroit can use all the positive attention we can get. The organization of the race and other events associated with it has been well done (although I personally do not see the sports car aspect or even racing concept that the "jumping trucks" provide. That feature would be better held with the monster truck events somewhere else). The track, the jumbo TV screens, the three grandstands open to the general public, and the great attention given racegoers by the many volunteers make the race weekend special.

What is not so great, in my opinion, is the apparent growth of more and more concrete, tarmac and gravel paths over-through-around the many green patches on the south end of the island. The race lasts but three days, less than 1% of the year, yet its footprint stares at us all year round. Someone is surely wise enough to figure out how to change the image of that HUGE concrete patch in front of the casino, and how to NOT construct more and more concrete on what is green Belle Isle turf.

Also needing attention is what can be done about minimizing the setup and takedown times. Other race venues are able to do those tasks in much less time.

A reasonable limit should be set on the number of vendors setting up their sales spots...to the point where it appears the vendors use more space than the race track itself. To have to wend one's way through these areas is aggravating as it is set up now.

More prerace days communication with the general public (not the media which is hungry to feature all the facets of the entire race process) as to why the race came to be, why it is good for the city, and why it should continue, allowing for all sides to be heard and addressed, is absolutely necessary. Many do not appreciate racing no matter where it is held, but Detroit has this race and should explain why.

The city council should also hold hearings on this even though the DNR has control of the operations there. DNR has shown that it is open to hearing different viewpoints and it and the public should make the city council aware of this issue in all its forms.

I guess my bias for race viewing supports my saying that the race should continue where it is...but with some changes, limitations, and more understanding.

Larry Roberts
1431 Seminole

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Jim Kiely <kielycooper@msn.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 1:21 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Belle Isle Race

Dear Mr. Pratt,

I strongly support renewing the contract for the Indy Car Race at Belle Island.

This give Detroit wonderful national exposure and an influx of Race personnel and attenders (like me).

Jim Kiely
Muskegon Michigan

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Kimberly Delks <kimmyraed@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 10:23 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: No More Grand Prix on Belle Isle Pk!!

Dear PrattS,

I oppose holding the Grand Prix on Belle Isle Park, ever again! This park is peaceful and full of nature. It should never be used as the "rich mans" playground! Take it back downtown, or elsewhere, just not here. No environmental or structural studies have been done to determine if any serious or long-lasting damage has or is occurring on the Isle, because of this race. Why is that!?

No more Grand Prix on Belle Isle Park!!

Sincerely,

Kimberly Delks-Life long Detroiter
313-408-9522

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Jo <jobee0077@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, September 15, 2017 1:50 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Please please please do Not renew grand prix contract

Please please please do Not renew grand prix contract unless they can reduce the setup time to 2 weeks.

The take over of the island for months is awful! And ugly.

I volunteer with the dnr to remove invasive plant species. Renewing the contract seems to be hypocritical of the dnr's philosophy and goals.

Joanna Becker
Box 1047
Royal oak
48068



Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: charles goodine <chuck11940@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 10:33 AM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Grand Prix on Belle Isle

While the race is a great event for Detroit it does not belong on the island. As a public park it should not be allowed to be monopolized for such a long period as a corporation's money making event.

The race needs to find a new home.

Charles Goodine
Center Line MI

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Josh Berkow <jaberkow@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 1:46 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR); olsonr@michign.gov
Subject: Public Comment on Detroit Grand Prix Contract Renewal

Mr. Pratt, Mr. Olson,

I am writing in response to your request for comment on the Detroit Grand Prix agreement which is up for renewal. I am a resident, property owner, and small business owner in the City of Detroit. My family and I regularly use Belle Isle park for recreation.

As the Parks division, it is not your job to secure revenue for the Grand Prix or ensure its profitability. Should you decide to renew the agreement for the Detroit Grand Prix, you should include that the setup and take down period be no longer than three weeks. You should include liquidated damages for non-compliance, and contract termination failure to meet the requirement over multiple years. These are reasonable contract provisions that your lawyers can find in many temporary access agreements.

Do your job and negotiate a deal that preserves access to the park for all the other users of the park. Three weeks is enough time. If the Penske organization is unwilling to devote enough logistical planning and money to the project, then perhaps you should find another vendor willing to operate the race with less impact on the other park users.

Regards,

Josh Berkow

Parker, Renee (DNR)

From: Tony D <tdaguanno@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 17, 2017 10:27 PM
To: Pratt, Scott (DNR)
Subject: Grand Prix on BI

To Whom,

Please remove the Grand Prix from Belle Isle. Our beloved island park was established for the purpose of relaxation, rejuvenation, and social events for the local citizens. It's now a state park and should be treated as such. To hand it over to a big business to do what they will for the first two months of good park-visiting weather every year is a crying shame. On top of tying up half the park for so many weeks, this event that appeals to very few Detroiters takes a big ecological toll. Additionally, the many acres of concrete slab near the fountain is a blight on the natural greenery and should be removed at Penske's expense.

The inconveniences, ugliness, and damage to our park far outweighs any monetary gains. It's time for this intrusion to be taken elsewhere.

This town is well known throughout the world as a comeback city with a bright future WITHOUT the tiny bit of global cred it gets from this rich man's sport. Time for the G-P to G-O!

Thank you,

)

Tony Daguanno
Lifetime metro-D resident (32 years in the city)

Date: September 18, 2017
From: Dr. Terry Blackhawk
To Ron Olson and Keith Creagh, Michigan DNR

I write in strenuous opposition to the continuation of auto racing on Belle Isle, and I urge the DNR to return our beloved park to its pre-Grand Prix status. The natural beauty and rich historic character of Belle Isle deserve protection, not exploitation.

As a resident of Detroit's riverfront community, a birdwatcher and a poet, I am one of tens of thousands who find delight and spiritual refreshment in the peace and serenity of the island. It has soothed me in times of trouble and offered endless opportunities for recreation—that is chances to “re-create” my spirit. In this, I benefit from a dream that dates back to the 19th Century. As most of us know, Belle Isle exists thanks to the visionary landscape architect, environmentalist, and abolitionist Frederick Law Olmsted. With their harmonious landscapes, sinuous paths, lagoons, stands of majestic trees, and open meadows, Olmsted's Belle Isle, Central Park, and many other urban oases provided refuge from the pollution, crowdedness, noise, and stress of city life. Olmsted's parks were a dream of democracy, offering "healthful recreation for the poor and the rich, the young and the old, the vicious and the virtuous" alike.

Olmsted was a fierce defender of his work and resisted any tampering to his designs, which he rightly considered to be works of art. I hope we can invoke his spirit now, in this current debate, and recognize that self-aggrandizing depredations by the rich and powerful will always be with us and will always require resistance. In this, I encourage the commission to follow the lead of New York preservationists who, in 1892, organized to against a 70-foot wide race track on the west side of Central Park. Thousands met, signed petitions, and organized dissent against this travesty. I hope the parallels are not lost on you.

Every year, during racing season, my heart drops at the sight of the concrete barricades, fencing, and endless corporate logos that constitute a “welcome” to the park during racing season. Nor are these visual atrocities quickly removed. The Penske people take their sweet time taking them down, thus ruining up to 120 days of each spring season. The lack of an environmental impact study and the presence of Mr. Penske's private security on the site further add insult to this so-called ‘public-private’ partnership. Mr. Penske does not need to desecrate the crown jewel of Detroit any longer. Please help to make sure that the 2018 Grand Prix will be the last.

Van Antwerp, Ami (DNR)

To: Parker, Renee (DNR)
Subject: RE: post on the Grand Prix input web page thx

From: Olson, Ron (DNR)
Sent: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 3:52 PM
To: Parker, Renee (DNR)
Subject: post on the Grand Prix input web page thx

From: Belle Isle <belleisleconcern@gmail.com>
Date: 10/8/17 8:20 AM (GMT-05:00)
To: gunnlou@aol.com, "Tracy, Christopher E." <CTracy@honigman.com>, Ccrumbaugh.nrc@gmail.com, maryjoanpitcher@gmail.com, wildernessbob@comcast.net, jfh2@comcast.net, julie@traversetrails.org, macmeridian@comcast.net, bailey@landtrust.org, aconklin@mrpaonline.org, grahamz@umich.edu, jeff.gray@noaa.gov, footemr@comcast.net, adaptski@gmail.com, ckhoover@att.net
Subject: Belle Isle Grand Prix

On Sept. 20, a coalition of environmental and citizen groups and representatives submitted the request (below) to the DNR. We have yet to receive a reply, but parks chief Ron Olson has previously said no environmental impact study is needed or will be done. We also believe that the race violates nearly every objective stated in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and therefore threatens the requests made to the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This is an urgent matter, since the DNR will be submitting a proposed new contract for the Belle Isle Grand Prix this month. As a member of the State Parks Advisory Committee, you should be informed of the growing concern on this issue.

PUBLIC REQUEST TO THE DNR Sept. 20, 2017 Because of our deep concern for the environment and integrity of Belle Isle as a public park, we believe the Michigan Department of Natural Resources should commission an independent third-party environmental impact study of the effects of the Detroit Grand Prix on the island habitat. Since the public has a high stake in good stewardship and protection of the park environment, such a study must be done and its findings assessed before any new contract is awarded the Roger Penske organization and the Grand Prix.

Endorsers include:

The Michigan chapter and Southeast Michigan chapter, Sierra Club The Michigan chapter and Detroit chapter, National Audubon Freshwater Future Michigan Historic Preservation Network Great Lakes Bioneers of Detroit Belle Isle Concern Stephanie Chang, state representative Brenda Jones, Detroit City Council president Mac Farr, community leader Diane Bukowski and Voice of Detroit Tom Henderson, Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (Windsor)

Prof. Tiya Miles, University of Michigan

Brenda Jones, Detroit City Council president Terry Blackhawk, Inside Out Literary Arts Project

Harriet Saperstein, urban consultant

Rev. Bill Wylie-Kellerman, Detroiters Against Emergency Management LuAnn Kozma, Michigan environmental activist, Charlevoix Rashid Tlaib, former state representative, community activist Alice Marczewski, DVW Timothy Schacht, DVM Rebecca Minardi, Michigan State University Helen Gentry—and many other longtime park users

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