



# Belle Isle Park Fiscal 2018 Annual Report

Ron Olson, Chief, Parks and Recreation Division

Karis Floyd, Park Manager, Belle Isle Park

Michele Hodges, President, Belle Isle Conservancy



# STRIVING GOALS



- Safe and clean park
- Customer-oriented thinking
- Growing partnerships and alliances
- Stewardship of Belle Isle resources
- Continuous improvement



*Volunteers on clean up duty*



# DNR Responsibilities



*Volunteers planting bulbs for Daffodils4Detroit*

- **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, & U.S. Border Patrol**

- Public Safety

### **City of Detroit DWSD**

- Public Water/Sewer Utilities



# Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee



- Formation outlined in lease
- Appointed by the Mayor, City Council and Governor
- 7 members  
*(Chief Ron Olson is the DNR liaison and not a voting member)*
- Ten meetings held in 2018
- Public comment encouraged during meetings
- Update public on planning projects in progress and improvements completed on Belle Isle Park



**Michele Hodges**  
CHAIR



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



**Brad Dick**



**Bryan Barnhill**



**Sommer Woods**



**Bud Denker**



**Michael Curis**



**Ron Olson**



# 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
- 3 Park Rangers

## Seasonal Staff

- 5 Seasonal Park Rangers
- 2 Seasonal Janitors
- 20 Short Term Workers *(Summer Help)*

## Director of Volunteer Services position

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



*DNR-PRD and Belle Isle Conservancy staff preparing to lead volunteers together*



# Connecting with the Community



*Public engagement meeting for Belle Isle Park Strategic Management Plan*

## Events

- Fourth Annual Harvest Festival
- Holiday Stroll
- Metro Detroit Youth Day
- Boo at the Belle Isle Nature Center
- Spring Clean Up
- Koi Festival
- Kitefest
- Belle Isle Soup
- Belle Isle Art Fair
- Food Truck Rally
- Police Radio Celebration
- Belle Isle Aquarium (BIA)/Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory (ASWC) Birthday Celebration

## Programs

- Stewardship Saturdays
- Stepping Stones Youth Program
- DNR Wildlife Programs
- Belle Isle Park Volunteer Program
- Outdoor Explorer Programs
- Docents at the Belle Isle Aquarium (BIA) & Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory (ASWC)

## Community Engagement

- 2 public meetings for Beach Revitalization Project
- 2 public meetings for Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration Project
- 2 public meetings Piet Oudolf Garden Proposal
- Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee meets monthly
- Public Review of Grand Prix Event



# Public Safety Partnership



## Michigan Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers, Michigan State Police and U.S. Border Patrol

- Working together to provide public safety for events
- Positive visitor feedback from 27,000 on public safety
- Assisting park visitors
- 92 tickets issued which were mostly traffic related and 1660 verbal warnings
- Conservation Officers and Michigan State Police on patrol 24 hours a day, 7 days a week



*DNR Law Enforcement Officers engaging with Metro Youth Day Participants*



# 2018 Detroit Summer Youth Employment Initiative Program



**155 kids participated in the Detroit Summer Youth Employment Program every year**

## **MDOT Summer Youth Program**

- Belle Isle Park cleanup and projects

## **Detroit Zoological Society, Belle Isle Nature Center**

- Litter pick up, brush removal, invasive species removal, painting benches

## **Detroit Youth Connection and Healthy Kidz**

- Working on various projects within the park that are geared towards Natural Resources within the DNR

## **The Detroit Police Department Cadets**

- Helping with Belle Isle Park cleanup at the playgrounds, waters edge and small repairs



*Detroit youth in the DNR Summer Youth Program*



# Youth Outreach & Opportunities



## DNR Stepping Stones

- 3000 youth participated
- 10 week program to engage youth in nature
- Fishing, archery, camping and water study programs are taught

## Belle Isle Conservancy

- 1,433 DPSCD "Cultural Passport" 5<sup>th</sup> grade students
- 300 Hamtramck 4th grade students
- Participated in field trips to the Belle Isle Aquarium (BIA) and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory (ASWC)

## Detroit Police Athletic League

- Summer program

## Riverside Kayak

- Summer program



*DNR-MSU Stepping Stones partnership*



*Belle Isle Conservancy field trip program for Detroit Public Schools and HPS students at the BIA and ASWC*



# Park Visitor Attendance



## 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

## FY 2015 Attendance

- 3,600,000 park visitors



*Kite Festival at Belle Isle Park*



# Island – Wide Attraction Attendance



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

- 2018 Visitors 166,501
- 2017 Visitors 194,749
- 2016 Visitors 162,331

## **Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory – DNR Parks and Recreation**

- 2018 Visitors 451,000
- 2017 Visitors 305,036
- 2016 Visitors 250,430

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

- 2018 Visitors 50,051
- 2017 Visitors 50,915
- 2016 Visitors 46,459

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

- 2018 Visitors 99,191
- 2017 Visitors 111,928
- 2016 Visitors 95,363



*Large community events at the Casino*



*Youth programming at the Belle Isle Nature Center*



# Fiscal Year 2018 Park Revenue



## Events, Permits, Rentals & Donations

- \$977,725 was generated revenue
  - ❖ Revenue is placed in a sub-account to administer, maintain and improve the park

## Rental Breakdown

- 546 Special events (*Weddings, meetings, bike events/triathlons, photo shoots, permits*)
- 110 Casino Rentals
- 54 Flynn Rentals
- 202 Conservatory Rentals
- 70 Scott Fountain Rentals

## Detroit Grand Prix Event

- DNR hosted two public listening sessions for community input, in addition to Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee meetings.
- The final agreement reduces the race's total time spent on Belle Isle for set-up, the race weekend and take-down from 84 days in its previous contract to 60 days in 2019 and 59 days in 2020.
- Race provides employment, volunteer and educational opportunities.
- Grand Prix investment in Belle Isle of over \$13.5 million since 2007.



Harvest Festival



# Athletic Complex & Shelter Rentals



## 20 Shelters Available for Rent

- 2018 Rentals 814
  - ❖ *Down from 945 in 2017 due to construction improvement projects at the shelters*
  - ❖ *Reservations available through DNR's central reservation system up to 12 months in advance*

## Athletic Complex Fields and Courts *(available for rent by Concessioner, Come Play Detroit)*

- 32 fields and courts rentals
- Host kickball, softball, soccer, flag football
- Host YMCA, LGBTQ soccer league
- Cass Tech tennis
- Metro Detroit Youth Day



*Metro Detroit Youth Day*



# Fiscal Year 2018 Total Investment



## Total Maintenance, Operations & Capital Improvements \$12,836,832

**DNR Investment**  
\$4,726,625

**Utility Improvements**  
\$60,000

**Planning**  
\$200,000

**MDOT**  
\$3,400,000

**MSP/CO Expenditures**  
\$1,059,207

## Recreation Improvements \$391,000

**Improvements & Building Infrastructure – *(In partnership with the Belle Isle Conservancy)***  
\$3,000,000





# FY 2014- 2018 Investments



## 2014 – 2018 Accumulative Investment from Multiple Sources **\$55,197,995**

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

- **Capital improvements, grants, and partnership projects**
  - ❖ \$31,471,286
- **Operational & Infrastructure Improvements**
  - ❖ \$18,669,239
- **Volunteer In Kind Contributions**
  - ❖ \$1,430,470
- **Private Donations**
  - ❖ \$1,105,000
- **Total Park Revenue**
  - ❖ \$2,522,000



*Lake Okonoka habitat improvement project*



# FY 2018 Capital Improvements



## Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory & Belle Isle Aquarium

- \$1 Million Ralph C. Wilson Foundation donation
- Structural analysis of BIA and ASWC
- Engineering for ASWC ventilation and computerized, climate control system
- ASWC Dome structural truss engineering & glazing repairs in ASWC
- North half of ASWC gardens replanted with design referencing historic species
- Planned and partially funded with the Belle Isle Conservancy total project cost \$2.5 million



*Steel trusses requiring replacement at ASWC*

## MDOT

- McArthur Bridge surface maintenance repairs

## DTE/ Detroit Public Lighting

- Belle Isle Park lighting conversion project

## Utility Improvements

- Storm Water System assessment
- Storm Drain repair
- Water Main line valve repairs



*Replacement of utility lines for new bridge on Lakeside Drive for Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration Project*

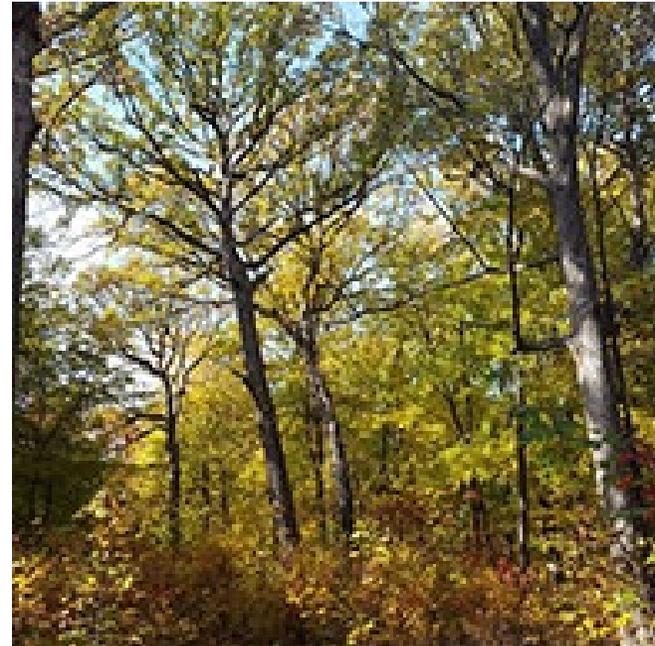


# FY 2018 Capital Improvements

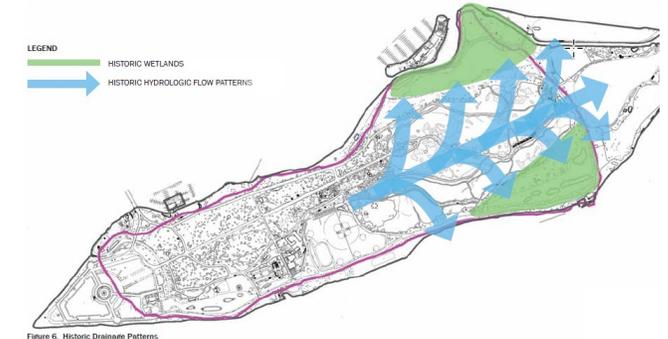


## Ecological Restoration Improvements

- \$5m Lake Okonoka project spearheaded by the Friends of the Detroit River
  - ❖ Funds for the project came through federal funding via the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative—administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Engineering of hydrologic restoration of Wet-Mesic Flatwoods
- Completion of the Oak Wilt management in Wet-Mesic Flatwoods, funded through a state invasive species grant of \$200,000
- Fiduciary assistance from the Belle Isle Conservancy



*Wet-mesic flatwoods*



*Historic hydrologic flow through wet-mesic flatwoods*



# 2018 Recreational Improvements



## North shoreline fishing improvements

\$300,000

## Lake Okonoka Playground surfacing

\$36,000

## Athletic Complex Improvements handball courts

\$55,000

## Iron Belle Trailhead Development at Livingstone Lighthouse

\$572,292



*New ADA accessible shoreline fishing rails*



*Picnic shelter improvements*



# Oudolf Garden Detroit



## Private Gifts

- Agreement with the Garden Club of Michigan for Nancy Brown Peace Memorial Carillon site garden design by Piet Oudolf - design complete
- In partnership with the Belle Isle Conservancy



*Piet Oudolf Garden, Maximilian Park, Germany*



*Piet Oudolf at the Nancy Brown Peace Carillon site*



# Belle Isle Park Strategic Management Plan



## Highlights

- Strategic Management direction established for the next ten years, developed in partnership with the Belle Isle Conservancy
- \$20,000,000 anticipated funding over next ten years
- Action items were identified for next 5 years
- Management Zones mapped
- Public meetings were held
- Belle Isle Conservancy Board endorsed
- Strategic Management Plan was completed June 2018





# FY 2018 Belle Isle Conservancy



## Highlights

- \$1m invested in restoring and operating the Belle Isle Aquarium
- \$400,000 invested in Scott's Fountain from the Grand Prixmiere
- Assessed Bath House and beach revitalization in partnership with the Michigan DNR
- \$125,000 in electrical work and tank improvements at the Belle Isle Aquarium
- Volunteer contributions totaled \$439,827; help remove 2,412 lbs. of litter from canals, lakes and lagoons
- 17,814 hours of volunteer time donated to Belle Isle Park from various groups like Ford, General Motors and DTE
- Belle Isle Park received support from 2,146 volunteers in 2018
- Successful events to mention: Grand Prixmiere, Polish the Jewel, Deeper Dive, Koi Festival, Kitefest, Spring Clean Up, Holiday Stroll, etc.





# FY 2019 Capital Investment



- The operating budget, including public safety, will be maintained at the same level as 2018
- The DNR will invest \$1,465,000 in capital projects for FY19
- \$1,950,000 in grant funded projects
- \$1,105,000 in partner investments



*New ADA accessible side at the Scott Fountain*



*Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory*



Thank You

