

In Partnership with
the Belle Isle
Conservancy

Belle Isle Park Fiscal Year 2019 Annual Report

**Ron Olson, Chief
DNR Parks and Recreation Division**

**Karis Floyd, Park Manager
Belle Isle Park (DNR)**

**Michele Hodges, President
Belle Isle Conservancy**





Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee



- Formation outlined in lease
- Appointed by the Mayor, City Council and Governor
- 7 members
(Chief Ron Olson & Karis Floyd are the DNR liaisons and not-voting members)
- Ten meetings held in 2019
- 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



Karis Floyd



DNR Responsibilities



Volunteers during the river clean-up Diving for Detroit

- **Ownership**
City of Detroit
- **Management**
Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division

In Collaboration with:

MDOT

- Roads and bridges

DNR - Law Enforcement Division and Michigan State Police

- Plus collaboration with other law enforcement agencies

Great Lakes Water and Sewer

- Public water/sewer utilities



Park Staffing Levels

Full-time staff

- 1 Park Manager (*Also manages Milliken SP & Harbor*)
- 1 Park Supervisor
- 1 Accounting Assistant
- 2 General Office Assistants
- 1 Promotional Agent
- 1 Janitor
- 2 Lead Rangers
- 1 Additional Promotional Agent position available for hire
- 2 Full-time Ranger positions available for hire

Seasonal Staff

- 4 Seasonal Park Rangers
- 27 Short-Term Workers (*Summer Help*)
- 1 Seasonal Ranger position available for hire
- 3 Seasonal Janitors available for hire

Director of Volunteer Services position

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





Public Safety Partnership



Michigan Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers, Michigan State Police

- Working together to provide public safety for events
- Total contacts for 2019 = 25,716
- Assisting park visitors
- Assist to agencies = 120
- Citations = 232 (majority traffic violations)
- Warnings = 1,265 (majority traffic violations)

City police and U.S. Border Patrols assist with mutual aid.

(DNR Law Enforcement Officers during the Stuff a Truck holiday event)



Attendance at Island Attractions



Belle Isle Aquarium – Belle Isle Conservancy

- 2019 Visitors 174,000
- 2018 Visitors 166,501
- 2017 Visitors 194,749
- 2016 Visitors 162,331

Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory – DNR Parks and Recreation

- 2019 Visitors 118,000
- 2018 Visitors 451,000
- 2017 Visitors 305,036
- 2016 Visitors 250,430

Dossin Museum – Detroit Historical Society

- 2019 Visitors 30,000
- 2018 Visitors 50,051
- 2017 Visitors 50,915
- 2016 Visitors 46,459

Belle Isle Nature Center – Detroit Zoo

- 2019 Visitors 83,000
- 2018 Visitors 99,191
- 2017 Visitors 111,928
- 2016 Visitors 95,363



Belle Isle Nature Center Exterior



Dossin Museum Interior



Park Visitor Attendance



FY 2019 Attendance

- 4,089,672 park visitors
 - ❖ *Estimated numbers in the summer*

FY 2018 Attendance

- 4,102,545 park visitors

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



Stepping Stones Program Belle Isle Park



Goals:

- ❖ To offer urban youth fun-filled, educational, outdoor experiences in a Michigan state park
- ❖ Provide introductory educational outdoor skills experiences to build confidence
- ❖ Offer outdoor experiences in locations “close to home”
- ❖ Offer repeated visits to different park settings, some distant destinations, to build comfort level in the great outdoors
- ❖ Offer overnight experiences in Michigan state parks



Program Attendance for Belle Isle:

Youth: 2,785

Adults: 215

Total Audience served: 3,000





Fiscal Year 2019 Park Revenue



Events, Permits, Rentals, Concessions, Vendors & Donations

- \$1,006,000 was generated revenue
(Revenue is placed in subaccount to administer, maintain and improve the park)

Rental Breakdown

- 113 special events (weddings, meetings, bike events/triathlons, festivals, photo shoots and permits)
- 75 Casino rentals
- 59 Flynn rentals
- 90 weddings at the Conservatory
- 30 weddings at the Scott Fountain

Detroit Grand Prix Event

Total Grand Prixmiere fundraiser - \$747,000

- BIC Aquarium - \$660,000
- Scott Fountain Improvements - \$87,000

Total Grand Prix event fee - \$450,000





Athletic Complex & Shelter Rentals



10 Shelters Available for Rent

- 2019 rentals: 629
- Down from 814 in 2018 due to flooding issues on the park
- Reservations available through DNR's central reservation system up to 12 months in advance

Athletic Complex Fields and Courts

(available for rental by Concessioner, Come Play Detroit in 2019)

- 32 fields and court rentals
- Host kickball, softball, soccer, flag football
- Host YMCA
- Metro Detroit Youth Day



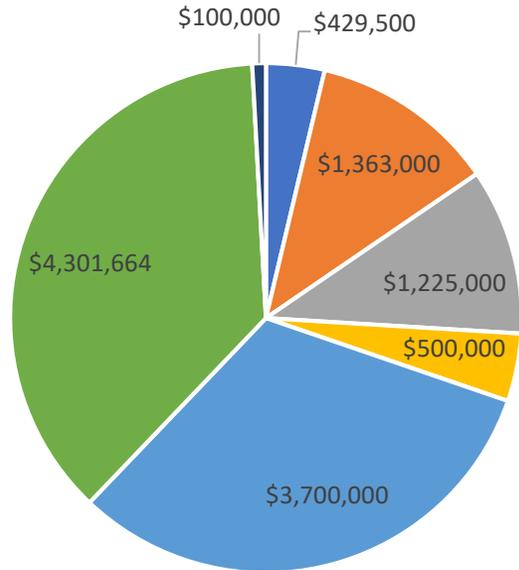
Belle Isle Shelter 12



FY 2019 Capital Improvements Funding Summary \$11,629,000



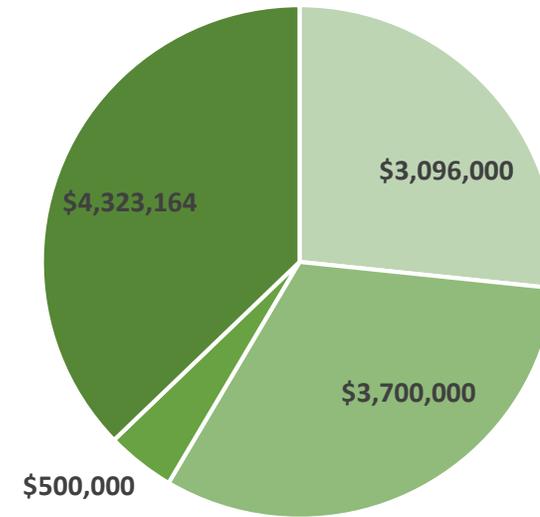
FY 2019 Infrastructure Investment



- Key Public Facing Infrastructure
- Historical Structures
- Utilities
- Operational Structures
- Habitat Restoration

- Roads, Parking & Sidewalks
- Recreational Structures

FY 2019 Funding Sources



- State
- Federal
- City, UTGO Bond
- Private



FY 2019 Capital Improvements Highlights



Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory Phase 1 Structural Repairs Complete

- Phase 1 Repairs - Completed
\$2,500,000
- Phase 2 Repairs – Engineering Underway
\$250,000
- Funded by the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and DNR Parks and Recreation

Athletic Shelter

- Roof and Veranda Repair and Replacement Plans \$100,000

Belle Isle Boat House Assessment

- Managed by Friends of Detroit Rowing
- DNR contributed \$175,000



The Dancer, created by the Detroit Design Center, to honor RCWJF's support to complete the Steel Trusses replacement



FY 2019 Capital Improvements Highlights



Park Headquarters relocated to newly renovated former Internal Affairs Building

- \$400,000 (FY 2019 Funding)

Utility Improvements

- Storm Water System assessments
\$180,000
- DTE Electric Utility Conversion
Privately Funded

Sawmill Roof Repair

- \$180,000 DNR-PRD
- \$179,000 DNR- FRD
- In partnership with BIC



New Park Headquarters



FY 2019 Capital Improvements Highlights



Ecological Restoration Improvements

- **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. Scheduled to be complete in Spring 2020**
\$6,000,000
- **Hydrologic restoration of Wet-Mesic Flatwoods Grant awarded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Scheduled to begin in Fall 2020**
\$3,700,000



Belle Isle Park Habitat Restoration Projects

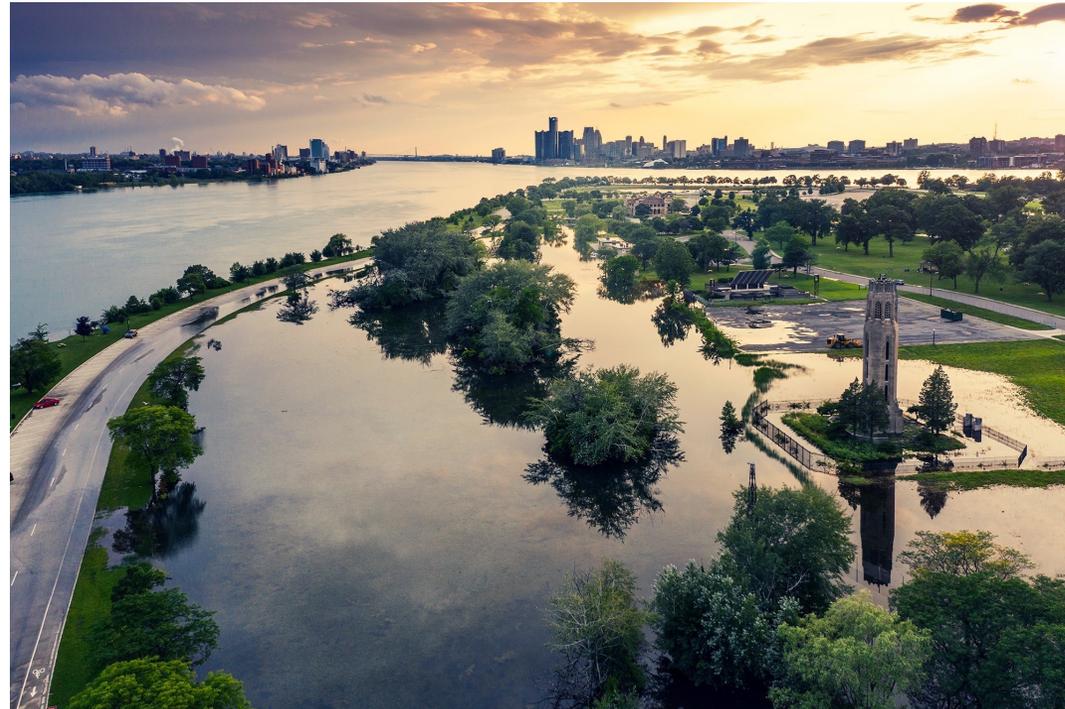


Oudolf Garden Detroit



Private Gifts

- Donations were received by the Friends of Oudolf Garden, Inc. to fund the construction plus a maintenance endowment for perpetual maintenance
- Garden Construction has been delayed due to the high river levels
- In partnership with the Belle Isle Conservancy



High Canal Levels have delayed the Piet Oudolf Garden



Belle Isle Park Planning Progress



Master Action Plan

- Consolidates Strategic Management Plan and other park studies





FY 2019 Belle Isle Conservancy



Highlights

- Assisting with the funding needs for the future restoration of the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory.
- With 172,000 visitors, the Belle Isle Aquarium reached record attendance since reopening in 2012. \$75,000 was invested in the aquarium and 11 new tank exhibits were opened.
- At the Beachfront, plans are underway to invest \$400,000 to transform the former waterslide site into an accessible patio area to include a spray park.
- 2,400 students, including every DPS and Hamtramck 5th grader, learned about Great Lakes fish and plant species through the Belle Isle Conservancy's field trip program.





FY 2019 Belle Isle Conservancy



Highlights

- 2,259 volunteers gave 16,886 hours of volunteer service, providing \$429,400 economic value
- 182 trained volunteers gave 9,251 hours as greeters, interpreters and docents at the Aquarium and Conservatory.
- 2,077 additional volunteers removed 4,491 pounds of litter from the land and waterways of Belle Isle in support of the 'Keep Belle Isle Beautiful' initiative.
- Over 4,000 attendees enjoyed the free community events the Koi Festival and Holiday Stroll.
- Successful fundraising events: Grand Prixmiere, Polish the Jewel and The Garden Party.





FY 2020 Capital Investment \$2,050,000



- The operating budget, including public safety, will be maintained at the same level as 2019
- The DNR will invest \$1,700,000 in capital projects for FY20
- \$300,000 in grant funded projects
- \$50,000 in partner investments

2020 Special Highlights

- Recreation Passport will increase \$1.00 effective March 1, 2020 to \$12.00 annually (non-state residents \$34.00).
- State law provides for the fee to increase based upon inflation (the Consumer Price Index, CPI).
- The Detroit Grand Prix has kindly donated \$6,000 worth of Recreation Passports planned to deploy by City Council districts – 75 per district.



High Water Issues Continue



- Great Lakes are at all-time high levels.
- Water levels for January 2020 are 5 inches above the highest monthly average which was in 1987.
- Levels projected to be potentially 12” higher than last summer.
- Plan underway to address electric and sewage junctions.





High Water Issues Continue





Thank you for coming.
Questions?