

# Michigan DNR Parks and Recreation

In partnership with the Belle Isle Conservancy

**Belle Isle Park Fiscal 2020**

**Annual Report**

- **Karis Floyd, Park Manager, Belle Isle Park**
- **Mike Terell, District Supervisor, Metro Detroit District**
- **Darlisa Terell, Event Manager, Belle Isle Park**
- **Amanda Treadwell, PLA Urban Field Planner**
- **Todd Szyska, Lt. Law Division DNR**
- **Damon Owens, Sgt, Law Division**
- **Michele Hodges, President, Belle Isle Conservancy**





# Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee



The Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee advises the state on implementation of improvements, master planning and public safety for Belle Isle Park.

- Formation outlined in lease
- Appointed by the Mayor, City Council and Governor
- 7 members (*Karis Floyd is the DNR liaisons and non-voting member*)
- Ten meetings held in 2020
- Public comment encouraged during meetings

## Meeting Attendees:

- Hear Updates and Opportunities related to Belle Isle including:
  - Infrastructure and Construction
  - Programming
  - Career/Volunteer Opportunities
  - Island/Venue Access

## Remaining 2021 Meetings (9:00 AM)

•May 20, 2021 •June 17, 2021 •July 22, 2021 **August 19, 2021 | 6 p.m.**  
•Sept. 23, 2021 •Oct. 21, 2021 •Nov. 18, 2021 •Dec. 16, 2021

Visit [belleislepark.org](http://belleislepark.org) for more information.



**Michele  
Hodges**  
CHAIR



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



**Brad Dick**



**Bryan  
Barnhill**



**Sommer  
Woods**



**Bud Denker**



**Michael Curis**



**Karis Floyd**



# DNR Responsibilities



## **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**

Public Safety

### **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 Additional Promotional Agent position available for hire
- 3 Janitor - 2 additional Janitor positions available to hire
- 2 Lead Rangers - 2 Full time Ranger positions available for hire

## Seasonal Staff

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

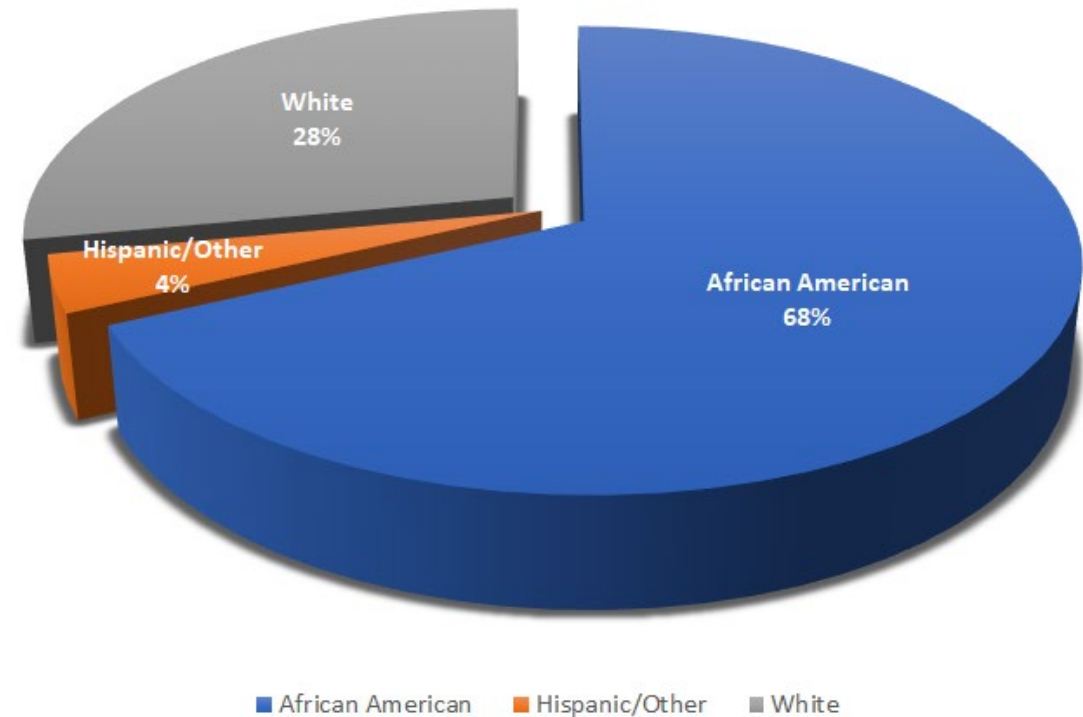
## Universal Employee Training

- Implicit Bias Training
- Discriminatory Harassment
- De-escalation Training
- DEIJ and Cultural Awareness Training
- MIOSHA
- Short Term Worker
- Covid – 19 Training

## Director of Volunteer Services position

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

## Staff Breakdown







# Public Safety Partnership



## DNR Conservation Officers, Michigan State Police, and Detroit Police Dept.

- Working together to provide public safety for events
  - **Total Contacts for 2020**
    - 25,716
  - **Citations**
    - 232 (majority traffic violations)
  - **Complaints**
    - 336 (majority general criminal)
  - **Warnings**
    - 1265 (majority traffic violations)
  - **Arrests**
    - 68
  - **Warrant Arrests**
    - 217
  - **Assist to Agencies**
    - 120
- Assist with DPD on Jefferson issues and/or training days on the paddock
  - Per the lease/contract we allow DPD use of the paddock area



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



*(DNR Law Enforcement Officers recruiting on island)*



## Employee Training

\* Implicit Bias Training \*Discriminatory Harassment \*De-escalation Training \*DEIJ and Cultural Awareness Training \*MIOSHA \*Short Term Worker \*Covid – 19 Training \*





# Public Safety Breakdown



## Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officers

Fully empowered peace officers of the State of Michigan (MCOLES Certified) enforces all fish and game laws, boating laws, ORV laws, snowmobile laws, state land laws, and all other State laws. Also deputized through the United States Fish and Wildlife Agency to investigate federal fish and game laws within Michigan; statewide jurisdiction.

## Michigan State Police

Fully empowered peace officers of the State of Michigan (MCOLES certified) enforce all state laws, highway patrol, etc. Statewide jurisdiction.

## Michigan State Park Officer (Ranger)

Not police officers under Michigan statute (Not MCOLES Certified) enforces all state park regulations by authority of the Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Also manages the island wide trash & infrastructure upgrades.





## DNR & LED Save Lives



**\* DNR officer rescues man attempting suicide in Detroit River**

**\* DNR officer rescues man who jumped from MacArthur Bridge into Detroit River**

**\* 'There's hope for tomorrow,' DNR officer tells woman contemplating suicide on MacArthur Bridge**



**\* Rescue crews put their life on the line in the frigid water of the Detroit River to save a dog stranded on the ice. The daring and improbable rescue happened January 4 at Belle Isle State Park just north of Downtown Detroit.**







# Island – Wide Attraction Attendance

**\*\*2020 all attractions closed due to Covid-19\*\***



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

- 2020 Visitors 22,605
- 2019 Visitors 174,000
- 2018 Visitors 166,501
- 2017 Visitors 194,749
- 2016 Visitors 162,331

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

- 2020 Visitors 0
- 2019 Visitors 118,000
- 2018 Visitors 451,000
- 2017 Visitors 305,036
- 2016 Visitors 250,430

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

- 2020 Visitors 0
- 2019 Visitors 30,000
- 2018 Visitors 50,051
- 2017 Visitors 50,915
- 2016 Visitors 46,459

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

- 2020 Visitors 0
- 2019 Visitors 83,000
- 2018 Visitors 99,191
- 2017 Visitors 111,928
- 2016 Visitors 95,363



*Belle Isle Nature Center Exterior*



*Dossin Museum Interior*



*Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory*



*Belle Isle Aquarium*



# Park Visitor Attendance



## FY 2020 Attendance

4,984,399 visitors

## FY 2019 Attendance

4,061,221 park visitors

- ❖ *Counter was not operational for a period of the summer due to construction*

## 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



*Kite Festival at Belle Isle Park*





# FY 2014 – FY 2020 Investments



**FY 2014 – FY 2020 Accumulative Investment  
from Multiple Sources**

**\$85,337,170**

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

- Infrastructure Investment
- PRD Park Improvement Operating Expenditures
- PRD - Other Operating Expenditures
- DNR - Other Division Operating Expenditures
- In-Kind Volunteer Services





# FY 2020 Investments \$8,264,680



## Capital improvements, grants, and partnership projects

- \$4,485,982

## Operational & Infrastructure Improvements

- \$1,673,557

## DNR – Other Division Operating Expenditures

- \$2,073,508

## Volunteer In Kind Contributions

- \$31,633



*Wet Mesic Flatwoods Restoration*



*New Railing and Concrete Walk at the North Shoreline Fishing Area*



*Combined Sewer System Inspection and cleaning*



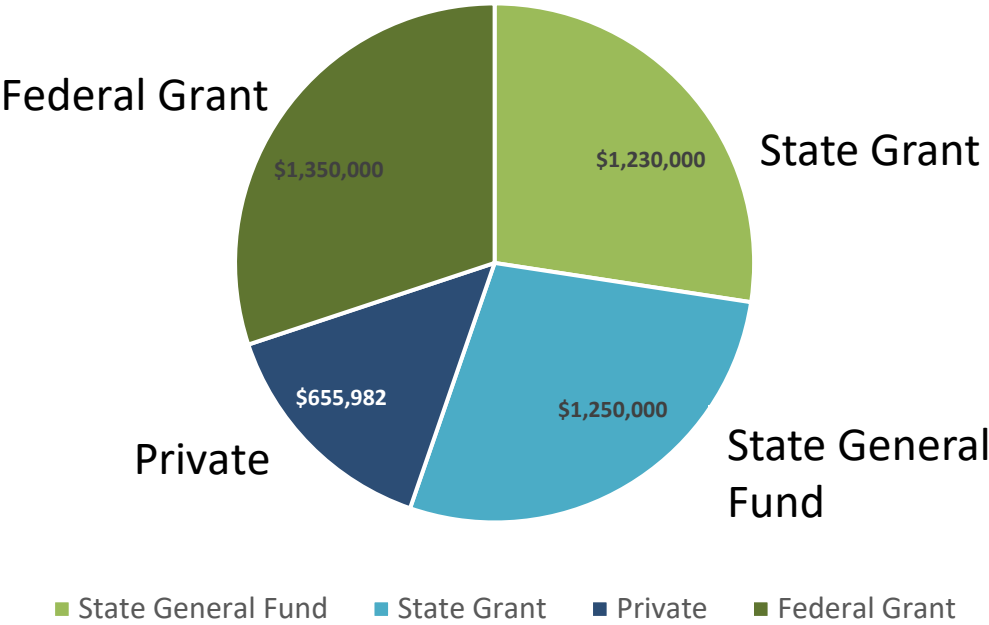
*Volunteers cleaning up the park*



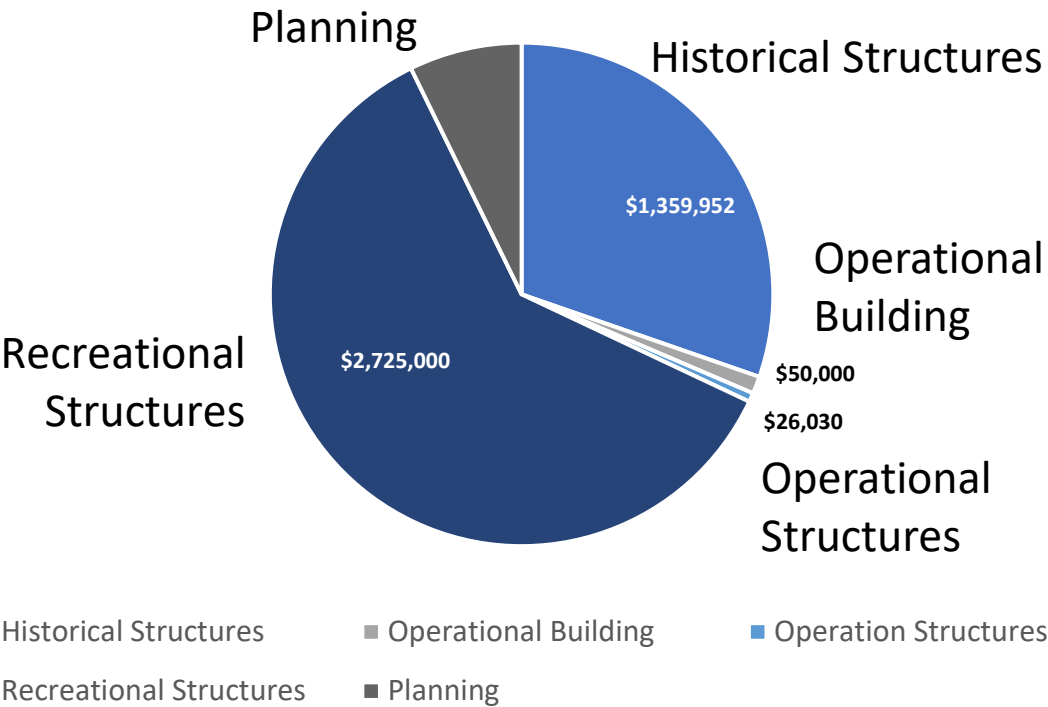
# FY 2020 Capital Improvements Funding

Summary \$4,485,982

Funding Sources



Investment Category





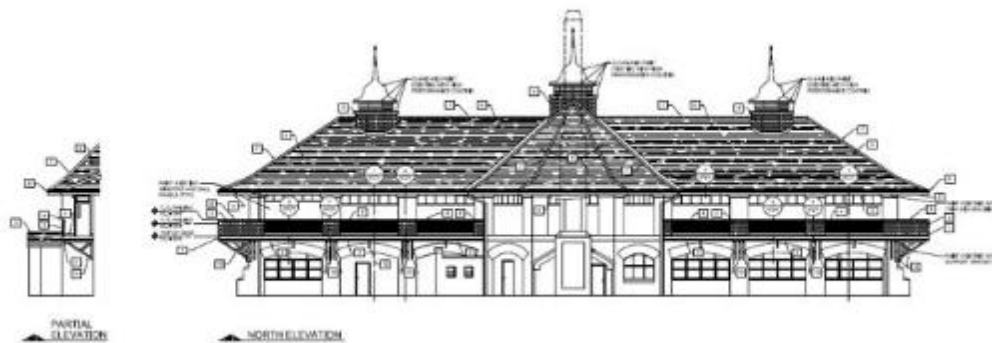


# FY 2020 Capital Improvement Highlights

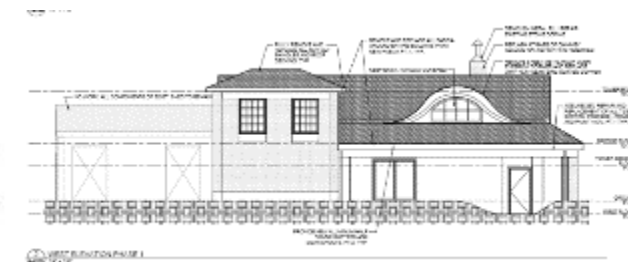


## 30 Projects Underway

- 9 Construction Projects
- 11 Engineering Projects
- 10 Partner Agency Projects



*Athletic Shelter Roof and Veranda Repairs*



*Historic Sawmill Roof Repairs*



# FY 2020 Capital Improvement



## Construction Project Highlights

*(9 Construction Projects Underway)*

- Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Trail
- Sawmill Roof and Structural Repairs
- Wet-Mesic Flatwoods Restoration
- Handball Court Structural Improvements
- Lake Okonoka New Shelters and Play Structures
- Newsboy Shelter Architectural Salvage



*Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Trail*



*Central Ave. Paving Project*



*Newsboy Shelter Architectural Salvage*



*New Lake Okonoka Shelters*



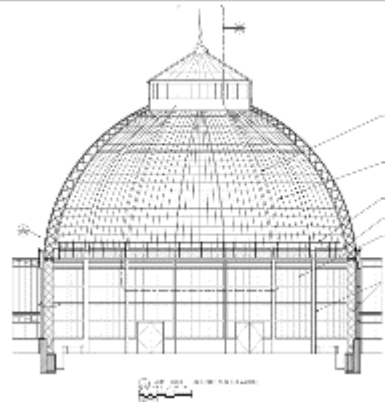


# FY 2020 Capital Improvement

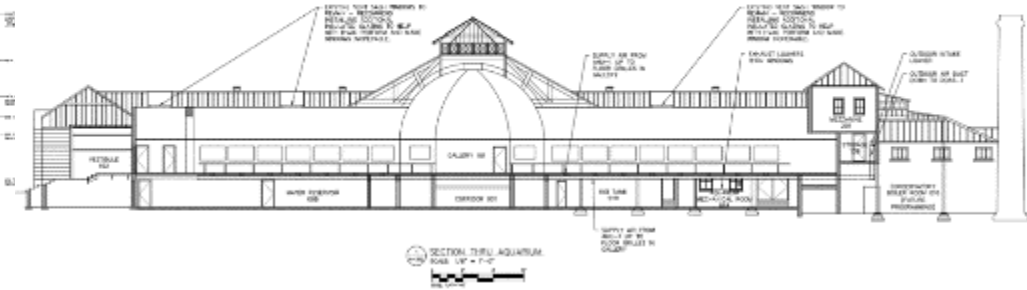


## Engineering Highlights (11 Engineering Projects Underway)

- Athletic Shelter
- Roof & Veranda Repair
- Handball Court Repair
- Scott Fountain Masonry Repairs
- Belle Isle Aquarium HVAC Design
- Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, Phase 2 Structural Repairs



*Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory Phase 2  
Engineering and Casino Skylight Replacement*



*Belle Isle Aquarium HVAC Design*



*Casino Skylight Repair*





# FY 2020 Capital Improvement



## Partner Agency Project Highlights (10 Partner Projects Underway)

- MDOT
- Oudolf Garden Detroit
- Friends of Detroit River
- DWSD
- DTE
- Verizon
- ATT



*Central Ave. Paving Project*



*Oudolf Garden Detroit*



*Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration*



*DTE Conversion*



# FY 2021 Planning Highlights



## Master Action Plan: Traffic and Circulation Plan

- Funded by DNR-PRD, MDOT and the Belle Isle Conservancy with Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation Grant Funds
- Project Budget is \$850,000
- Deliverables will provide recommendations for improved transportation access, circulation, wayfinding and visitor capacity management for the park
- Capacity and circulation studies to inform future development recommendations



*The project team will facilitate a robust community engagement to inform the study*



*Vehicle Congestion impacts visitor experience of park*





# FY 2020 Capital Improvements Local Contracts



## State Construction and Engineering contracts with Detroit based companies

- Headquarters or Branch in the City of Detroit

### 4 Local Engineering Firms - Eight Projects

- Quinn Evans (4)
- Hamilton Anderson
- SmithGroup (2)
- AE Com

### 1 Local Construction Company - Two Projects

- WCI (2)



*Handball Courts – deteriorated ceiling and roof trusses*



*New Playground at Lake Okonoka - To Be Completed for Summer 2021*





# How To Reserve an Event & Shelter



## For Shelter reservations:

Visit [www.midnrreservations.com](http://www.midnrreservations.com) or call 1-800-447-2757 to reserve a date.

- Shelter reservations can be made up to one year in advance.
- The shelters seat less than max capacity, so please plan accordingly.

## Rented tents/canopies and inflatables are only allowed with permits.

- You must use approved vendors to provide the service.
- Please contact the office for a list.
- Alcohol is prohibited without a permit
- Permits are needed for certain events, caterers and vendors.





# Special Hosted Programs on Belle Isle



## Heathy Kidz program fall 2020

- The DNR maintain natural resources such as state parks, state forests, and recreation areas. Youths are employed at different sites such the Outdoor Adventure Center (OAC), Tindal Activity Center, and Belle Isle
  - The Department of Natural Resources and Healthy Kidz, Inc. have partnered to offer the youths summer employment from June – September
  - For Belle Isle, 9 youths, ages 16-19 were given an opportunity to work with DNR staff to learn and understand various jobs in Natural Resources.
  - It is our desire that those chosen in the Healthy Kidz program seek summer work opportunities with the park
  - Various projects might involve cutting down trees and clearing brush, landscaping, and painting. The DNR youth goes on various field trips as well. Field trips consists of kayaking, fishing, high ropes course, and archery.

## COVID Memorial - Drive Thru

- On an island of parkland in the Detroit River called Belle Isle, the city stationed billboard-sized photos of those lost to COVID.

## Belle Isle Freedom March

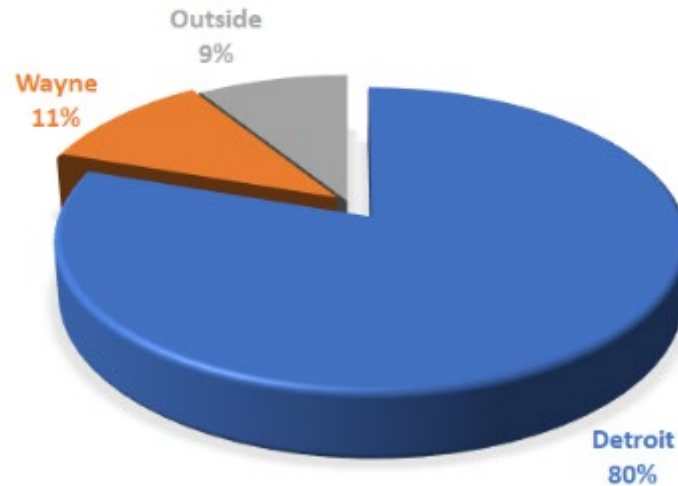
- Aimed at recreating the Selma March from 1965 during the Civil Rights movement.





# Vendor/Concessionaire Process

VENDORS



## Minority

### Contractual/Business Seminar

Due to the pandemic, it was postponed last year. We will reschedule this Spring 2021

#### Option 1: Apply for a one-day vendor permit

This one-day permit allows the applicant to provide services to people who have been issued an Event Permit. The applicant may not sell to the general public.

Contact Event Coordinator, Darlisa Rickman at 313-821-9844 or [RickmanD@michigan.gov](mailto:RickmanD@michigan.gov) to obtain application number.

#### Option 2: Apply to become a pre-approved vendor

This long term (5 year) permit allows the applicant to provide services to people who have been issued an Event Permit. The applicant may not sell to the general public.

Contact Event Coordinator, Darlisa Rickman at 313-821-9844 or [RickmanD@michigan.gov](mailto:RickmanD@michigan.gov) to obtain application number PR4764.

#### Option 3: Become a concessionaire

Concession contracts, by state law, are competitively bid out every seven years. Contracts are awarded based on a) business experience, b) financial stability, and c) the amount to be paid to the State. The Department currently has the following five concession contracts in place:

Athletic Complex, Contract expires November 30, 2027

*Food Trucks and Vending, Contract expires November 30, 2024*

*To apply to become a food truck vendor under this contract, you must contact StrEATS of Belle Isle at (313) 971-8852 or [streetsofbelleisle@gmail.com](mailto:streetsofbelleisle@gmail.com) for an application.*

*Applications are approved based on the applicant's ability to meet the concession contract obligations.*

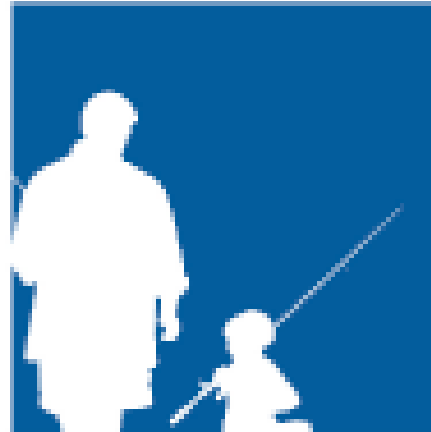
Golf Course, Contract expires November 30, 2024

Porta-Potty and Handwash Rentals, Contract expires November 20, 2021

Watercraft and Bicycle Rentals, Contract expires November 30, 2021

To be placed on a bidder list and be notified of upcoming bid lettings, please contact Concession and Lease Manager, Lori Ruff at (989) 275-5151; [RuffL@michigan.gov](mailto:RuffL@michigan.gov); or visit [www.michigan.gov/StateParkConcessions](http://www.michigan.gov/StateParkConcessions).





BELLE ISLE  

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CONSERVANCY  

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# Belle Isle Conservation Efforts

## Keep Belle Isle Beautiful Anti Littering Initiative

Educates about the impact of litter on our local, regional, and global water systems. KBIB encourages park users to adopt an anti-litter lifestyle to protect Belle Isle Park and emphasize its unique position in the planet's waterway system.

## Environmental Protection Agency Grant Recipient

Organized a coalition to lead trash removal efforts along the Detroit River with support from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Trash Free Waters Grant program.

## Natural Resources Committee Virtual Roundtable

Update and discussion of all thing's nature happening during the pandemic among environmental stewards of Belle Isle.

## Belle Isle Registered to ParkRx America Network

National initiative for doctor prescribed park visits to support mental and physical health in our communities.



Keep Belle Isle Beautiful



EPA Grant Awardee



Natural Resources Committee  
Virtual Roundtable



Park Rx





# Belle Isle Conservancy 2020



## Staff Highlights

- BIC Team Successes
- PTJ Pivot
- BIC Education Team
- Pivot to virtual field trips and tour program
- Partnerships with Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, DPSCD
- Launch of Education Station
- Director of Education recognized by National Science Teacher Assn.
- Volunteers & Island Cleanups
  - 455 dedicated volunteers responsibly removed over 4K lbs. of trash on Belle Isle
  - Virtual Volunteer Engagement (not pictured)

## Re-Launched Community Engagement Committee

- Shani J Penn, Chair | David Bell, Co-Chair

## Launched Programming Committee

- Sean Moran, Chair

## Quarterly Island Stakeholder Meetings

- Hosted monthly by Belle Isle Conservancy







# Belle Isle Conservancy Capital Investments



## Belle Isle Aquarium

- Tank upgrades & new exhibits (**\$250k**)
  - Alcove Updates
  - Axolotl exhibit
  - Tank monitoring system
- Facility improvements (**\$150k**)
  - Electrical upgrades
  - Foyer Restoration
  - Signage Update
  - New donation box

## Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

- Finalized planning and design for flagstone step renovation (**\$35k**)
- Thresholds, lobby sanding, new desk (**\$25k**)

## Fiduciary Role

- Sawmill Restoration Project
- Oudolf Garden Detroit





# Funding Support BIC



## Grants

- \*William Davidson Foundation \* Ralph C. Wilson Jr., Foundation
- \*Environmental Protection Agency \*Erb Family Foundation
- \*General Motors Foundation \*Community Foundation of SE Michigan
- \*DTE Energy Foundation \*Wheeler Family Foundation

## Events

- Grand Prixmiere | June 2020 (Event cancelled)
- The Garden Party on Belle Isle| Sep. 2020
- Produced virtual tour of the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory
- Polish the Jewel | October 2020
- Hosted successful virtual luncheon with co-host, Sommer Woods

## Contributions

- Tip the Scales
- Giving Society launched with 60 inaugural members
- Major Gifts:
- Belle Isle Aquarium
- Belle Isle Conservancy Endowment Gift

## PPP Forgivable Loan

- Operations support



Grants

Events



Contributions



PPP Forgivable Loan

IMPACT: FUND DEVELOPMENT







# Belle Isle Conservancy New & Collaborations



## City of Detroit-CRIO Partnership

## Great Lakes Now

Facebook Watch Parties produced in partnership with Detroit Public television and WDET, covering the issues, events, and developments that make up the character and culture of the Great Lakes Region, including Belle Isle.

## Detroit River Coalition

Binational environmental collective reducing litter pollution in the Detroit River and celebrating its natural and cultural significance throughout the Great Lakes Region.

## Detroit Parks Coalition

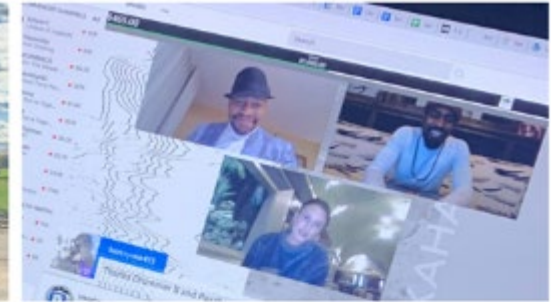
Alliance of Detroit's region-serving parks working with the City and others on park experiences that further community health, well-being, and belonging.

## Drummer B x Paxahau x BIC

Fueled by Paxahau, Detroit Techno artist Drummer B. recorded and released his recent A.O.A. (Age of Aquarius) project at the Belle Isle Aquarium, raising funds for the facility.



Detroit River Coalition



Drummer B | A.O.A Livestream



Detroit Parks Coalition



Great Lakes Now

PARTNERSHIPS









# Refuse/Recycling & Traffic on the Island

## REFUSE/RECYCLING

13 bathrooms X 3 cleanings per day X 7 days a week = 273 times  
bathrooms are cleaned in one week, or **1,092 times a month**.

206 Garbage cans in park X 2 dumps a day by staff X 7 days a week  
= 2,884 times a week we dump trash, or **11,536 times a month**

110 yards (11 – 10-yard dumpsters) of dumpsters X 3 times a week  
pick up = 330 yards of trash is picked up by Waste Management a  
week, or **1,320 yards a month**

- 225 lbs. of trash a yard X 110 yards of dumpsters = 24,750 lbs.
- 24,750 lbs. X 3 times per week = 74,250 lbs. a week of trash, or **297,000 lbs. a month**

**297,000 lbs. a month of trash we remove off the island during our peak season**

## TRAFFIC

Traffic backups, park closures, safety, etc., are issues that we deal with daily, BUT we are making improvements year after year.

- Closure plan that involves CO's, MSP, DPD & Park Ranger staff is implemented when the park is at capacity
- DPD is called due to Jefferson traffic and they have been great partners assisting us





# Belle Isle Park Safe Capacity Management

**Senior park person on duty will coordinate with CO's or MSP and determine traffic FLOW and the DNR senior park person will make a call on safety to initiate the close procedure.**

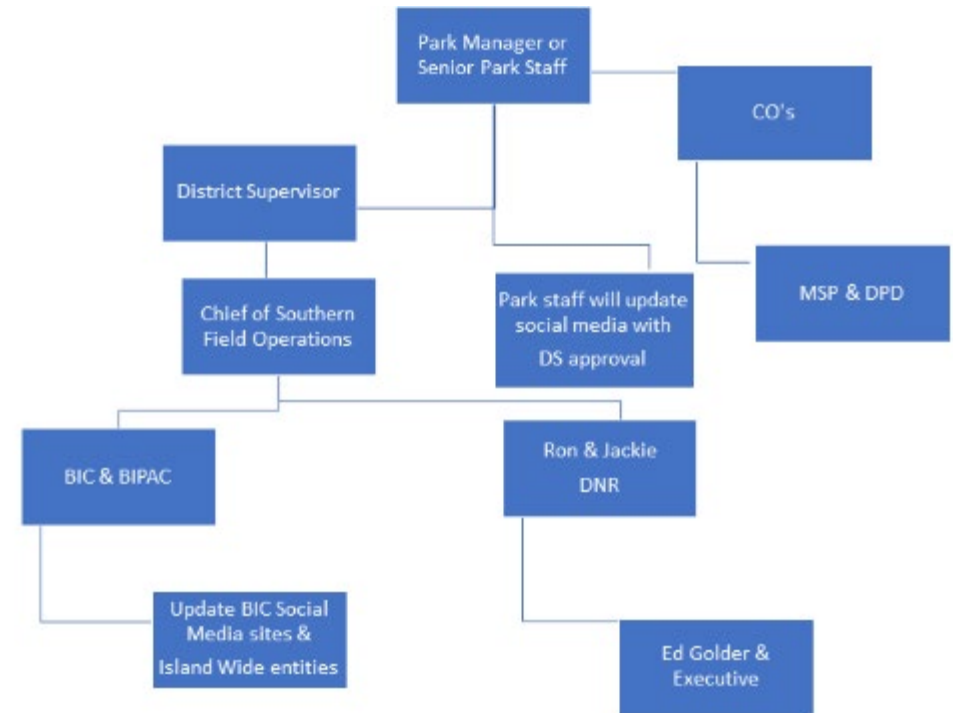
- DNR Staff person will look at these factors before making the call to close park: public roads being restricted due to traffic double parking causing backup issues for emergency vehicles gaining access to areas due to congestion parking spaces have reached capacity and public safety/LED feels safety is of major concern.

## **Senior Park person will notify**

- CO's, MSP & Detroit Police of the closure, and will get assistants with the barricades at the bus loop and at Jefferson—but the DNR staff will take the lead.

**Belle Isle staff (Rangers/STWs) will be radioed to assist in closure of the park and will be stationed at the barricades to turn cars around and head them back out towards Jefferson.**

- These staff will be making sure that the weddings, DYC events, staff will still have access to the park.
- Staff will use digital sign at Jefferson and sandwich style boards at the bus loop and Jefferson entrance letting visitors know that park is closed due to capacity, if they have an event or staff, please talk to the DNR staff.
- Once traffic has subsided, roadways cleared, and safety is not an issue, the senior park person will notify Supervisors, LED and begin the process of reopening the roadway.







# Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice



**The State of Michigan is committed to providing a diverse, equitable and inclusive work environment.**

- Alexis Hermiz  
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Officer  
[hermiza@michigan.gov](mailto:hermiza@michigan.gov)
- Griselda Trevino  
Equity, Inclusion, Diversity Coordinator  
[trevinog2@michigan.gov](mailto:trevinog2@michigan.gov)