



CITY OF DETROIT  
OFFICE OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGER

COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER  
2 WOODWARD AVE., SUITE 1126  
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226  
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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Governor Richard D. Snyder  
State of Michigan

FROM: Kevyn D. Orr, Emergency Manager  
City of Detroit 

DATE: September 30, 2013

RE: PA 436 Approval of the Lease of Belle Isle Park  
Between the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan

The City of Detroit proposes to enter into the lease transaction described below.

The City of Detroit and the State of Michigan have been in discussions with respect to a Lease of Belle Isle Park, whereby the State of Michigan, by its Department of Natural Resources, would lease Belle Isle Park from the City to continue to enhance the management, operation and maintenance of the Park for the benefit of the City and the general public. The State will manage and operate Belle Isle Park as a state park, subject to the rules and regulations of the Department of Natural Resources regarding state parks.

There is no monetary rental consideration being paid by the State; *provided, however*, the provision of management, operation and maintenance services by the Department of Natural Resources during the term is the consideration being provided to the City for the Lease. These services will help improve the park and its amenities for the benefit of the public, and at the same time will save the City over \$6 million each fiscal year, and additional dollars in capital expenditures, that can be directed to other urgent needs of the City. The Department of Natural Resources will retain all revenue derived from the management of the Park in a separate sub-account, but may only use such revenue for the operation or improvement of the Park. The term of the lease is 30 years with two renewal periods that occur automatically unless either party gives notice to the other to the contrary at least one year prior to the expiration of the applicable term. A summary of the Lease is attached hereto, as well as a copy of the Lease itself.

Pursuant to Section 12(1)(r) of Public Act 436 of 2012, the Local Financial Stability and Choice Act, MCL § 141.1541, *et seq.*, the undersigned hereby approves the actions of the Emergency Manager of the City of Detroit to lease, assign or otherwise use or transfer the assets, liabilities, functions or responsibilities of the City of Detroit as described above and in the attached materials.

APPROVED:

Date

10/1/13

  
Richard D. Snyder  
Governor, State of Michigan

Attachments

KEVYN D. ORR, EMERGENCY MANAGER

LEASE

between

THE CITY OF DETROIT, as Lessor

and

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, as Lessee

(Belle Isle Park)

This Lease (Lease) is entered into as of the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013, by the City of Detroit (Lessor), a municipal corporation by its Recreation Department, whose address is 18100 Meyers, Detroit, MI 48235, and the State of Michigan (Lessee) by its Department of Natural Resources (DNR), whose address is Stevens T. Mason Building, P.O. Box 30257, Lansing, Michigan 48909, and its Department of Transportation (MDOT), whose address is 425 W. Ottawa St. P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909 (together, the "Parties").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Lessor is the owner of certain land and improvements located on Belle Isle in the City of Detroit that it operates as Belle Isle Park for the benefit of the public;

WHEREAS, the Lessor faces severe fiscal challenges and competing priorities that limit the resources available to support its management, operation, and maintenance of Belle Isle Park;

WHEREAS, Lessee manages, operates, and maintains a system of State parks pursuant to MCL 324.740101 *et seq.*, and is responsible for developing and maintaining a comprehensive plan for the development of outdoor recreation resources of the state pursuant to MCL 324.70301 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation will acquire jurisdiction of certain roads and bridges pursuant to MCL 247.660a as set forth in this Lease; and

WHEREAS, the Parties enter this Lease effective \_\_\_\_\_, 2013, (Effective Date) pursuant to which the Lessee assumes responsibility for the management, operation, and maintenance of the Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants, conditions, agreements, and undertakings contained herein, the Parties agree as follows:

## 1. LEASE PURPOSE

The purpose of this Lease is to continue and enhance the management, operation, and maintenance of the Park for the benefit of the public. The City hereby makes a grant of this Lease to the State and the State accepts the grant of this Lease, to manage and operate the Park as a State park, under authority of the Natural Resources and Environmental and Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.70301 and 324.74103. The City is transferring and MDOT is accepting jurisdiction of certain roads and bridges at the Park under the authority of MCL 247.660a.

## 2. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

2.1 Leased Premises. The Lessor hereby leases to the Lessee, and the Lessee leases from the Lessor, the land described in attached Exhibit A, excluding the roads and bridges identified in Exhibit B and the greenhouses identified in Exhibit D. (Leased Premises).

2.1.1 DNR. The land and waterways in the Park, excluding the roads and bridges identified in Exhibit B and the greenhouses identified in Exhibit D will be under the authority of DNR.

2.1.2 MDOT. The roads and bridges identified in attached Exhibit B (that are eligible for funding under 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.651 *et seq.* [Act 51]) are transferred from the Lessor to MDOT pursuant to MCL 247.660a in the Memorandum of Understanding attached as Exhibit C. Those roads and bridges shall be under the jurisdiction of MDOT for a period of time not to exceed the term of this Lease. Upon expiration or termination of this Lease, jurisdiction of the roads and bridges identified in attached Exhibit B shall be transferred from MDOT to Lessor.

2.1.3 Lessor. Lessor retains authority over the greenhouses identified in Exhibit D. Lessor is responsible for all operations, including utilities, maintenance and capital costs associated with the greenhouses as set forth in the Memorandum of Understanding attached as Exhibit D.

2.2 Rent Consideration. The Parties acknowledge that the value of the management, operation and maintenance services (Lessee Services) provided by the Lessee during any term of this Lease is fair and adequate consideration for this Lease. Lessee will not pay monetary consideration during the term of this Lease or any extension.

2.3 Operation as a State Park. During any term of this Lease, Lessee will operate, manage, and repair (collectively "Manage" or "Management") the Park, as a State park and incorporate traditional Belle Isle uses such as family reunions for the benefit of the public. The Lessee will manage the Park during the Lease term in a manner that is consistent with other State park operations and the Lessee's policies for State parks, including, but not limited to, the Parks and Recreation Beach Policy, which provides, among other things, for "No Beachguard" signs. Lessee, however, shall not be responsible for the maintenance and repair of any existing public utility systems in the Park. Lessee will manage the Park with its own staff, contractors, and other State agencies as Lessee determines appropriate. Further, Lessee is not obligated to assume any liability under, or to continue any of Lessor's contracts with individuals or private entities for Management of the Park. Lessee is not obligated to employ anyone employed by Lessor.

**2.3.1 Roads and Bridges.** For any period of time that this Lease and the Memorandum of Understanding are in effect, MDOT will maintain the roads and bridges identified in Exhibit B. MDOT is not obligated to assume any liability under, or to continue any of Lessor's contracts related to any of the roads or bridges. MDOT is not obligated to employ anyone employed by Lessor.

**2.3.2 Funding for Roads and Bridges.** For any period of time that the roads and bridges identified in Exhibit B are under MDOT's jurisdiction, MDOT will develop an asset management plan outlining short and long term strategies to maintain the roads and bridges in an acceptable condition. MDOT will use Michigan transportation funds and federal funds the City would have received under Act 51 for roads and bridges identified in Exhibit B as if jurisdiction had not been transferred to MDOT to maintain those roads and bridges.

**2.4 DNR Rules and Orders.** During the term and any extensions of this Lease, the use of the Leased Premises will be subject to the DNR State park laws, rules, regulations, the Director's land use orders and any other State law applicable to State park management. Additionally, Lessee may adopt the Lessor's rules and regulations that protect the natural resources and health and safety of the public.

**2.5 Recreation Passports.** The Lessee will institute the State's Recreation Passport access program requirements for vehicles as set forth in MCL 257.805; MCL 324.2001; MCL 324.74115; MCL 324.74116; MCL 324.74117; MCL 324.74120, and other applicable laws. The Recreation Passport fee requirements are waived for the Park until January 1, 2014, pursuant to MCL 324.74116(4)(c).

**2.6 Park Revenue.** During any term of this Lease, Lessee will collect, receive, and administer, subject to applicable law, all revenue generated or earned from Lessee's Management of the Park, including but not limited to revenue generated or earned from: grants; endowments; special events; private lease revenue; concessions; vendors and other contractors; revenue licenses; permit revenue; fees collected; and revenue generated or earned from sponsorships, advertising, and cooperative ventures (collectively "Park Revenue"). Park Revenue does not include Recreation Passport Revenue. Lessee may only use Park Revenue to Manage and improve the Park as set forth in this Lease, including expenditures for promotion and marketing of Park events and programs, and for any incurred legal expenses arising out of Lessee's fulfillment of its obligations under this Lease.

**2.7 Park Sub-Account.** Lessee will establish a sub-account in the Department of Natural Resources State Park Improvement account (Sub-Account) to administer Park Revenue referenced in paragraph 2.6.

**2.8 Revenue Paid to Lessor.** Lessor must remit to Lessee, for deposit in the Sub-Account, any payments paid to Lessor for events that occur at the Park after the Effective Date of the Lease, including payments Lessor has already received. Lessor must also remit to Lessee, for deposit in the Sub-Account any Park Revenue paid to Lessor after the end of the Transition Period.

2.9 Accounting and Audits. Lessee will provide Lessor an annual accounting of the Park Revenue. Lessor has the right to review and audit the Lessee's records related to Park Revenue annually.

2.10 Law Enforcement, Fire Protection, and EMS Services (Public Safety). Lessor and Lessee will cooperate, based on a security plan, to provide Public Safety services, for the benefit of visitors, volunteers, and employees in the Park, during the term of this Lease and any extensions. Lessor and Lessee agree to jointly complete a security plan consistent with the outline in Exhibit F that will designate roles for each entity and provide for enforcement of all laws, including local ordinances, within the Park.

2.11 Reports. Lessee representative and the chair of the Advisory Committee shall provide an annual report to the Mayor and to the City Council.

2.12 Advisory Committee. An advisory committee will be created to advise the Lessee on implementation of improvements, master planning and public safety for the Park. The Advisory Committee will consist of seven (7) members: three (3) appointed by the Governor, one (1) appointed by the City Council, two (2) appointed by the Mayor of the City, and one (1) jointly appointed by the Governor and the Mayor, who shall serve as the chair of the Advisory Committee. At least three (3) of the members shall be residents of the City of Detroit.

2.13 Non-Profit Entities. Lessee and Lessor will work cooperatively with the Belle Isle Conservancy or its successor.

2.14 Title to Leased Premises. Before expiration of the Transition Period, Lessor must furnish to Lessee a legible copy of the recorded instruments evidencing title in the Lessor to the Leased Premises, and copies of all other recorded and unrecorded documents limiting or restricting the use of, or affecting title, to the Leased Premises. Lessee accepts the Leased Premises subject to easements, encumbrances, and restrictions of record.

### 3. TRANSITION RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Transition Period. This Lease includes a ninety (90) calendar day transition period commencing on the Effective Date of this Lease (Transition Period). During the Transition Period, the Parties will work cooperatively to facilitate the transfer of the Management of the Park from the Lessor to the Lessee.

3.2 Assignments. Within thirty (30) Business Days of the Effective Date of this Lease, Lessor will take all actions needed to effectuate assignment to Lessee its interests in the following, subject to Lessee's acceptance:

3.2.1 Grants and Endowments. Within thirty (30) Business Days of the Effective Date of this Lease, Lessor must provide to Lessee copies of the grant and endowment agreements and all documents Lessor identifies as having grant or endowment imposed restrictions and

conditions. A list of those agreements will be added to this Lease as an exhibit at a later date. Lessee acknowledges that some or all portions of the Park may be subject to restrictions and conditions imposed by sources of grant funds and endowments used to acquire or make improvements to the Park, and that this Lease is subject to those restrictions and conditions. Before expiration of the Transition Period, Lessor will transfer to the Lessee all unexpended grant and endowment funds for deposit in the Park's Sub-Account.

**3.2.2 Leases, Licenses, Permits, and other Agreements between Lessor and Third Parties (Third Party Agreements).** Within thirty (30) Business Days of the Effective Date of this Lease, Lessor must provide Lessee with copies of all Third Party Agreements relating to the use or occupancy of the Park. Lessee will review the Third Party Agreements and, before expiration of the Transition Period, provide the Lessor with a list of the Third Party Agreements Lessee will assume. Lessor will promptly take all actions needed to effectuate the assignment of the Third Party Agreements to the Lessee.

**3.2.3 Vendor Contracts.** Within thirty (30) Business Days of the Effective Date of this Lease, Lessor must provide Lessee with copies of all contracts that Lessor has entered for goods or for maintenance or other operational services for the Park (Vendor Contracts). Lessee will review the Vendor Contracts and, before expiration of the Transition Period, provide the Lessor with a list of the Vendor Contracts Lessee decides to continue. Lessee is not obligated to assume any Vendor Contracts. The Lessee will solicit bids for services consistent with State's procurement practices. The Lessee will undertake outreach efforts such as pre-bid workshops designed to assist Detroit-based vendors in understanding and participating in the State's bidding process.

**3.2.4 Personal Property.** Within Ninety (90) calendar days of the Effective Date of this Lease, Lessor must provide Lessee with an inventory of personal property that will remain at the Park for its operation and maintenance to which the City may transfer title to Lessee without necessitating a vote of the people. Lessee will review the inventory and, before expiration of the Transition Period, provide the Lessor with a list of the inventory Lessee decides to keep. Lessor must facilitate transfer of title to personal property to the Lessee. Lessor must remove from the Park personal property not transferred to Lessee within ninety (90) calendar days after expiration of the Transition Period.

**3.3 Environmental Condition.** Within thirty (30) calendar days of the Effective Date of this Lease, Lessor must provide Lessee with copies of all of its records regarding the Park's environmental condition, including but not limited to: any environmental assessments or investigations, locations of any off-site fill placements, location of above and below ground tanks, any Due Care plans obligations and requirements; any information on releases of hazardous substances and any response activities taken or planned.

**3.4 Lessor's Park Staff.** Lessor will maintain and pay all expenses for its Park staff during the Transition Period and assign staff to work with Lessee in all manners necessary to facilitate Lessee's assumption of its obligations under this Lease.

**3.5 Lessee's Park Staff.** Lessee's hiring of employees to staff the Leased Premises will be consistent with the State's hiring standards and practices. The Lessee will develop and

Implement an outreach plan that will include working with local training agencies and schools to increase the potential of hiring qualified Detroit residents.

4. **TERM, OPTIONS TO TERMINATE, QUIET ENJOYMENT, AND SURRENDER OF POSSESSION**

4.1 **Term.** The initial term of this Lease is thirty (30) years from this Lease's Effective Date. The Lessor and the Lessee shall consult at least eighteen (18) months prior to the end of the initial thirty (30) year term to determine if it is mutually beneficial to extend the lease under the same terms and conditions, for a term of fifteen (15) years. The Lease shall be extended for the fifteen (15) year term unless the Lessee provides written notice to the Lessor of the Lessee's intent not to extend the term at least one (1) year before the initial term expires or the Lessor provides written notice to the Lessee of Lessor's intent not to extend the term at least one (1) year before the initial term expires. If the Lease is extended, the Lessor and the Lessee shall consult at least eighteen (18) months prior to the end of the first fifteen (15) year extension to determine if it is mutually beneficial to further extend the lease under the same terms and conditions for another fifteen (15) year term. The Lease shall be further extended, for another fifteen (15) year term unless the Lessee provides written notice to the Lessor of the Lessee's intent not to extend the term at least one (1) year before the first extension expires or the Lessor provides written notice to the Lessee of Lessor's intent not to extend the term at least one (1) year before the first extension expires.

4.2 **Grant Obligations.** From and after the expiration or termination of this Lease pursuant to paragraphs 4.1, 4.3, 4.4, or 4.5, the Lessor shall operate and maintain the Leased Premises in accordance with the same long term obligations and encumbrances imposed under the terms of any of the grants or contributions obtained by the Lessee to construct the improvements on the Leased Premises. Such obligations may extend past the expiration or termination of this Lease.

4.3 **Lessor's Option to Terminate for Cause.** In the event the Lessee materially breaches this Lease, the Lessor must provide Lessee notice of the breach and must provide a thirty (30) Business Day period to cure. If Lessee fails to timely cure, Lessor may, at its option terminate this Lease, and the Lessee will surrender possession of the Leased Premises including all improvements within ninety (90) Business Days of notice of termination.

4.4 **Lessee's Option to Terminate for Cause.** In the event the Lessor materially breaches this Lease, the Lessee must provide Lessor notice of the breach and must provide a thirty (30) Business Day period to cure. If Lessor fails to timely cure, Lessee may, at its option terminate this Lease, and the Lessor will take possession and operations of the Leased Premises including all improvements within ninety (90) Business Days of notice of termination. Upon termination of Lease, the Lessor shall be responsible for repayment of the outstanding balance of any bonds or debt incurred by the Lessee to finance improvements to the Leased Premises.

4.5 **Quiet Enjoyment.** The Lessee, upon performance of its obligations specified in this Lease, will peacefully and quietly have, hold, and enjoy the Leased Premises for the term of this Lease and any extensions.

4.6 **Surrender of Possession and Park Revenue.** Upon the termination or expiration of this Lease or any extension, the Lessee will promptly and peacefully yield, surrender, and deliver the Leased Premises to the Lessor. Lessee will also transfer any unexpended balance of Park Revenue then in the Sub-Account, to the Lessor.

4.7 **Enforcement of Obligations after Lease Expiration or Termination.** The Lessor and Lessee agree that the following obligations under the Lease are intended to survive and shall remain enforceable after the expiration or termination of the Lease:

- a. The Lessee's obligations in paragraphs 4.3, 4.4 and 4.6 to surrender possession of the Leased Premises and the unexpended balance of Park Revenue;
- b. The Lessor's obligations in paragraphs 4.2 and 6.2 to operate and maintain the Leased Premises in accordance with the obligations, encumbrances, terms and conditions imposed under grants or contributions used for improvements on the Leased Premises; and
- c. The Lessor's obligations in paragraph 4.4 to repay the outstanding balance of bonds or debt incurred by the Lessee to finance improvements to the Leased Premises.

## 5. CONDITION OF THE LEASED PREMISES

5.1 **No Representations.** The Lessee acknowledges that the Lessor has made no representations, express or implied, as to the condition of the Leased Premises, including but not limited to the state of repair, or any other representations not contained in this Lease. The Lessee at its sole cost may but is not obligated to perform a baseline environmental assessment in accordance with Part 201 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Act 451 of 1994, as amended:

5.2 **Hazardous Substances after Transition Period.** The Lessee covenants that in the event a release or the threat of a release of a hazardous substance by the Lessee occurs on, in or under the Leased Premises after the Transition Period, the Lessee will report, investigate and take response activity consistent with Federal, State and local laws and regulations including, without limitation, Part 201 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Act (NREPA), MCL 324.20101, *et seq.*

5.3 **Entry by Lessor.** The Lessor or Lessor's agent may enter restricted areas of the Leased Premises with forty-eight (48) hours advance notice to the Lessee except for immediate access needed due to emergency situations, in which event, notice must be given as soon as possible.

## 6. PARK MANAGEMENT

6.1 Park Maintenance and Repair. Lessee will maintain and repair the Park including the MacArthur Bridge, other bridges, roads, walkways, and waterways, as provided in paragraph 2.3. Lessee is not obligated to assume any liability under, or to continue any of Lessor's contracts with individuals, or private entities for maintenance or repair of the Park.

6.2 Park Improvements and Alterations. It is Lessee's intent to make improvements and alterations, to the Park consistent with the phased management approach set forth in Exhibit B, State park operations, and existing restrictions, including restrictions in grant agreements, historic designations, donation encumbrances, or other agreements. Lessee, in consultation with the Advisory Committee, will utilize the 2005 Belle Isle Master Plan as a planning guide to facilitate infrastructure improvements in the Park. Upon the termination of this Lease, unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the Parties, all improvements and alterations will remain on the Leased Premises, and will become the property of the Lessor. Lessor acknowledges that some or all Park improvements may be subject to restrictions and conditions imposed by sources of grant funds and endowments used to acquire or make the Park improvements, and that Lessor must accept Park improvements subject to those restrictions and conditions. The Lessee will use its best efforts to secure appropriated state funds, grant sources, and other funding sources that may become available to the Lessee in the future to finance the improvements made to the Leased Premises.

6.3 Leases. Lessee has exclusive authority over all aspects of current and future Park leases, including the leases Lessor assigns or transfers to Lessee pursuant to this Lease, subleases for land, and subleases for water access on or to the Park. Lessee's authority includes the authority to enter into leases, terminate, modify, assign, and administer leases. Lessor agrees to take all actions required to assign or transfer such leases to Lessee in accordance with this paragraph 6.3.

6.4 Contracts, Licenses, and Permits. Lessee has the exclusive rights to enter into contracts, and issue licenses and permits for the Park.

6.4.1 Special Events. Special events that are under existing agreements for 2013 and beyond will continue as planned; however, Lessee will collect and receive any fees or other revenue generated from any event that occurs after the Effective Date of this Lease.

6.5 Utilities. Except as provided in paragraph 6.5.1, after the Transition Period, Lessee will pay 100% of all use charges for public utilities services consumed in the Park, including but not limited to heating, cooling, illumination, power, water, sewer, and telecommunications (if any), restricted to the Lessee's Management and Improvement of the Park, that are incurred after the Transition Period. Additionally, Lessee will pay for those utility infrastructure improvements or maintenance charges that are necessitated by Lessee's improvement of the Park pursuant to this Lease that are incurred after the Transition Period.

6.5.1 Stormwater Fees. The Lessee will not pay fees associated with stormwater runoff and the Lessor shall remain responsible for payment of any such fees. The Lessee will

work collaboratively with the Lessor and other interested parties in the development an environmentally appropriate stormwater management system to prevent stormwater from entering the sanitary sewer system.

7. ASSIGNMENT AND SUBLETTING

7.1 Except as provided in paragraph 7.2 the Lessee must not assign this Lease or any rights hereunder, nor sublet the Leased Premises, or any part thereof, nor use, nor permit it to be used for any purposes inconsistent with this Lease without the prior written consent of the Lessor, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

7.2 Lessee may enter into other agreements, including but not limited to subleases, licenses, permits, and contracts for any part of the Leased Premises for recreation related purposes consistent with paragraph 2.3.

8. NOTICES

Any notice which either Party may or is required to give under this Lease must be in writing and sent by USPS, postage prepaid, by first class mail, addressed as follows:

a) Notice to the Lessee:

Chief, Parks and Recreation Division  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Stevens T. Mason Building  
P.O. Box 30257  
Lansing, MI 48909-7757

Director, Michigan Department of Transportation  
425 W. Ottawa St. P.O.  
Box 30050  
Lansing, MI 48909

b) Notice to the Lessor:

Detroit Recreation Department  
Attn: Department Director  
18100 Meyers  
Detroit, MI 48235

## 9. GENERAL PROVISIONS

9.1 Waiver. One or more waivers of the breach of any covenant or condition under this Lease, or failure by either party to give notice thereof, must not be construed as a waiver of a further breach of the same covenant or condition.

9.2 Representations. No agreement will be binding upon the Parties unless made in writing and signed by them. No representation except those written in this Lease, or any collateral agreement to the Lease will be binding upon the Parties unless they are in writing and approved by the Parties according to the amendment procedure in this Lease.

9.3 Remedies Not Exclusive. It is agreed that each of the rights, remedies and benefits provided by this Lease are cumulative, and are not exclusive of any other rights, remedies and benefits contained in this Lease, or of any other rights, remedies and benefits allowed by law.

9.4 Successors and Assigns. The covenants, conditions and agreements made and entered into by the Parties inure to the benefit of and are binding upon their respective successors, representatives and permitted assigns.

### 9.5 Statutory Requirements.

9.5.1 Both the Lessor and the Lessee will comply with the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act, 1976 PA 453, as amended, MCL 37.2101 *et seq.*, the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act, 1976 PA 220, as amended, MCL 37.1101 *et seq.*, and all other federal, state, and local fair employment practices and equal opportunity laws and covenant that they shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment, to be employed in the performance of this Lease, with respect to his or her hire, tenure, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment, or any matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of his or her race, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, or physical or mental disability that is unrelated to the individual's ability to perform the duties of a particular job or position. A breach of these requirements is a material breach of the Lease.

9.5.2 Unfair Labor Practices. The State may void this Lease, if the Lessor, or any of its contractors, subcontractors, manufacturers or suppliers appear in the register compiled pursuant to 1980 PA 278, as amended, MCL 423.321 *et seq.* (Employers Engaging in Unfair Labor Practices Act).

9.6 Business Day. Business day means any day other than a Saturday, Sunday, or State-recognized legal holiday from 8:00am through 5:00pm EST.

9.7 Appropriation of Funds. DNR's and MDOT's performance of obligations under this Lease is subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

9.8 Entire Agreement, Severability, and Required Approvals. All terms and conditions of this Lease are as set forth in this Lease. This Lease, with all enclosures and

attachments, as listed below, constitutes the entire agreement of the Parties with regard to this transaction. Should any provision of this Lease or any addendum thereto be found to be illegal or otherwise unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, such provision must be severed from the remainder of the Lease and all other terms and conditions of this Lease will continue in full force and effect. This Lease is not valid or authorized until approved by the Mayor of the City of Detroit, the Detroit City Council, and the Lessee.

9.9 Amendments. No amendment or extension of this Lease shall be effective and binding on the Parties unless it expressly makes reference to this Lease, is in writing and is signed and acknowledged by the duly authorized representatives of the Lessor and the Lessee, and approved by the Mayor of the City of Detroit and the Detroit City Council.

9.10 Memorandum of Lease. Upon final execution of this Lease, Lessee will record a Memorandum of Lease with the Wayne County Register of Deeds.

9.11 Governing Law. This Lease shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan.

9.12 Effective Date. This Lease is effective on the date it is approved by the Detroit City Council.

9.13 Counterparts. This Lease may be executed in any number of counterparts each of which shall be deemed an original agreement, but all of which together shall constitute but one Lease. Copies (whether facsimile, photostatic or otherwise) of signatures to this Lease will be deemed to be originals and may be relied on to the same extent as the originals.

9.14 List of Exhibits. The following Exhibits are attached to and made a part of this Lease:

- Exhibit A Legal Description
- Exhibit B Identification of Roads and Bridges
- Exhibit C Memorandum of Understanding between the City and MDOT
- Exhibit D Memorandum of Understanding between the City and DNR Regarding the Belle Isle Greenhouses
- Exhibit E Phased Management Approach of Belle Isle dated July 2012
- Exhibit F Security Plan Outline

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Lessor and the Lessee, by and through their duly authorized representatives, have executed this Lease as of the dates of their respective signatures:

SIGNATURE PAGES FOLLOW

THIS LEASE WAS CO-DRAFTED BY THE PARTIES.

LESSOR:

CITY OF DETROIT  
by The Emergency Manager of the City of Detroit

Witness:

Eunice Hayes

1st Witness:

Print name of witness

Shari J. Penn

2nd Witness

Print name of witness

Kevyn D. Orr 9/30/13

Print name: Kevyn D. Orr

Title: Emergency Manager

State of Michigan, County of Wayne

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this  30th  day of  September , by

Kevyn D. Orr , the  Emergency Manager   
Typed or printed name(s) of person(s) signing this document

for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the City of Detroit, a Michigan

Municipal Corporation.  D. Johnson & Son, Inc. , Notary Public in the County

of  Wayne , Acting in the County of  Wayne , State of Michigan.

My commission expires:  5/15/2018

THIS CONTRACT WAS APPROVED  
BY THE CITY COUNCIL ON

APPROVED BY THE LAW  
DEPARTMENT PURSUANT TO §6-406  
OF THE CHAPTER OF THE CITY OF  
DETROIT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Purchasing Director                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corporation Counsel                      Date

LESSEE:

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
Department of Natural Resources

Witnesses:

Lynda Kay Jones

1st Witness:  
Print name of witness

*Keith Creagh*

Print Name: Keith Creagh  
Title: Director

Michael Everett

2nd Witness:  
Print name of witness:

State of Michigan, County of Ingham

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 30<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2013, by

Lynda Kay Jones, the Notary for the State of  
Typed or printed name(s) of person(s) signing this document

Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Notary Public in the County  
of Clinton, Acting in the County of Ingham, State of Michigan.

My commission expires: 10/01/2013

LYNDA KAY JONES  
NOTARY PUBLIC - STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF CLINTON  
My Commission Expires Oct. 1, 2013  
Acting in the County of Ingham

LESSEE:

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
Department of Transportation

Witnesses:

[Signature]  
1st Witness: Gregory C. Johnson  
Print name of witness

[Signature]  
Print Name: KIRK T. STEUDLE  
Title: DIRECTOR

[Signature]  
2nd Witness:  
Print name of witness: Joseph A. Kratochvil, Jr.

State of Michigan, County of Ingham

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 30 day of September, 2013, by  
JANINA L. JASINSKI, the Notary for the State of  
Typed or printed name(s) of person(s) signing this document

Michigan Department of \_\_\_\_\_, Notary Public in the County  
of Oshtemo, Acting in the County of Charlevoix, State of Michigan.  
My commission expires: 2-24-15

**BANDRA L. JASINSKI**  
Notary Public, Oshtemo County, Michigan  
Acting in Charlevoix County  
My Commission Expires: 02/24/2015

EXHIBIT A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Plat of the Southern Add'n to the Village of Beldin, Wayne County, Mich., Bell Park, Rec'd in 1, P. 311 Plats, W.O.R.

A. Belkin - Harris & Stein Sub. of part of the SE 1/4 of Sec. 36, T. 1 S., R. 10 E., City of Detroit, Wayne Co., Mich. Rec'd in 70, P. 52 of Plats, W.O.R.

Bell Branch Sub. of the NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of Sec. 17, T. 1 S., R. 10 E., Redford Twp., Wayne Co., Mich. Rec'd in 59, P. 39 Plats, W.O.R.

Bell Creek Estates, part of the NE 1/4 of Section 14, T. 1 S., R. 9 E., Livonia Township, Wayne County, Michigan. Rec'd in 57, P. 33 Plats, W.O.R.

Birby V. Bell's Subdivision of part of Out Lot 7, Mullett Park, City of Detroit. Rec'd in 7, P. 89 Plats, W.O.R.

Bell Realty Co's Log Cabin Park Sub. being a subdivision of part of the West 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 4, T. 1 S., R. 10 E., Hartwood Twp., Wayne Co., Michigan. Rec'd in 41, P. 93 Plats, W.O.R.

Bell Ridge Subdivision of part of the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of Section 1, T. 1 S., R. 12 E., Oratio Twp., Wayne Co., Michigan. Rec'd in 40, P. 37 Plats, W.O.R.

Harry A. Bell Fernside Gardens Sub. of Lot 4 and part of Lot 8 of Plat of Lot 8 of the Shipyard Tract, City of Detroit, Wayne County Michigan. Rec'd in 41, P. 31 Plats, W.O.R.

Delaire's Subdivision of Lot H of the Sub. of the Joseph Vizer Estate of part of P. O. 825, City of River Rouge, Wayne Co., Mich. Rec'd in 46, P. 24 Plats, W.O.R.

Joseph Delaire's Lot H of the Subdivision of the Estate of Joseph Vizer, deceased. Rec'd in 46, P. 24 Plats, W.O.R.

Map of Belle Isle Park, Detroit, Mich. Rec'd in 80, P. 66 Plats, W.O.R.

Belle Isle Park View Sub. part of West half of P. O. 387 south of Jefferson Ave. Detroit, Wayne Co., Mich. Rec'd in 80, P. 66 Plats, W.O.R.

Belasnet's sub. of Lot I of the Sub. of the Estate of Yousaint Brouillard, Sr., on Tract. Sec. 19 and part of the East 1/2 of Tract. Sec. 18, T. 8 S., R. 11 E., Twp. of Ecorse, County of Wayne, State of Michigan. Rec'd in 43, P. 10 16 Plats, W.O.R.

Belmont Park Subdivision of S 1/2 of SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 9, T. 2 S., R. 10 E., Dearborn Township, Wayne County Mich. Rec'd in 50, P. 31 Plats, W.O.R.

Belmont Park Subdivision No. 1 of NE 1/4 of SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 9, T. 2 S., R. 10 E., Dearborn Township, Wayne County, Mich. Rec'd in 51, P. 30 Plats, W.O.R.

Belmont Park Subdivision No. 2 of NE 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Tract's Sec. 16, T. 2 S., R. 10 E., Dearborn Township, Wayne County, Mich. Rec'd in 52, P. 31 Plats, W.O.R.

Belt Line Subdivision of the Northerly part of P. O. 673, known as L. Chapelet Park, & the northerly part of P. O. 673, Hautreault, Wayne Co., Michigan. Rec'd in 12, P. 02 Plats, W.O.R.

Bendison's Sub. of the S. 6 acres of Lot 2, Mesure Est. on Tract. Sec. 1, T. 8 S., R. 11 E., and Tract. Sec. 26, T. 1 S., R. 11 E., Detroit, Wayne Co., Mich. Rec'd in 27, P. 66 Plats, W.O.R.

Bonham Manufacturing Co's Subdivision of Lots 12-3-4 & 5 and vested alley of H. L. Baker's Sub. of Lots 16, 17, 18, 19 and West half of 20 of the Sub. of the North half Section 28 and the Northeast Fraction of Section 29, T. 1 S., R. 18 E., Hartwood, Wayne County, Michigan. Rec'd in 20, P. 61 Plats, W.O.R.

Bontreau's Subdivision of Lot 4 of the Sub. of the St. Jean Farm, P. O. 26, Orceze Pointe, Wayne Co., Mich. Rec'd in 7, P. 69 Plats, W.O.R.

Bontreau's Sub. of the North 693 feet of that portion of P. O. 724 lying South of Jefferson Ave., Orceze Pointe, Wayne Co., Mich. Rec'd in 10, P. 63 Plats, W.O.R.

O. F. Bonnett's Boulevard Park Subdivision of part of the SE 1/4 of P. O. 20, P. 3 S., R. 11 E., Ecorse Twp., Wayne Co., Michigan. Rec'd in 46, P. 27 Plats, W.O.R.

O. F. Bonnett's Boulevard Park Sub. No. 1 of part of Lots 3, 4 and 5 of Debo's Sub. and Lots 6 and 9 and part of Lots 7 and 10 of George Clark Estate Sub. All in P. O. 20, T. 3 S., R. 11 E., City of Wyandotte, Wayne Co., Mich. Rec'd in 66, P. 67 Plats, W.O.R.

O. F. Bonnett's Detroit River View Sub. of part of the SW 1/4 of Sec. 10, T. 4 S., R. 11 E., Houghton Twp., Wayne Co., Mich. Rec'd in 40, P. 19 Plats, W.O.R.

EXHIBIT B

June 15, 2012

ROADWAY SEGMENTS proposed for Transfer from the City of Detroit to MDOIT, to become state trunkline:

Grand Boulevard/Douglas MacArthur Bridge, from the centerline of Jefferson Avenue south to the centerline of Sunset Drive/Riverbank Road, a distance of 0.56 miles.

Sunset Drive, from the centerline of Riverbank Road/Douglas MacArthur Bridge southwest to the centerline of Strand Street, a distance of 0.63 miles.

The Strand Street, from the centerline of Sunset Drive easterly to the centerline of Lakeside Street, a distance of 2.32 miles.

Lakeside Street, from the centerline of The Strand Street north to the centerline of Riverbank Road/Oakway Drive, a distance of 0.50 miles.

Riverbank Road from the centerline of Lakeside Street/Oakway Drive westerly to the centerline of Sunset Drive/Douglas MacArthur Bridge, a distance of 2.05 miles.

Central Way, from the centerline of Casino Way east to the centerline of Lakeside Street, a distance of 1.94 miles.

Shadowbrook Street, from the centerline of Central Way east to the centerline of Central Way, a distance of 0.15 miles.

Casino Way, from the centerline of The Strand Street north to the centerline of Sunset Drive, a distance of 0.42 miles.

Inselruhe Street, from the centerline of The Strand Street north to the centerline of Riverbank Road, a distance of 0.40 miles.

Vista Drive, from the centerline of Central Way north to the centerline of Riverbank Rd, a distance of 0.05 miles, and from the centerline of Loiter Way south to the centerline of The Strand Street, a distance of 0.36 miles.

Fountain Way, from the centerline of The Strand Street north to the centerline of Sunset Drive, a distance of 0.29 miles.

Fountain Way, from the centerline of Fountain Way east to the centerline of Casino Way, a

## EXHIBIT B

distance of 0.13 miles.

Pleasure Drive, from the centerline of Sunset Drive west to its terminus, a distance of 0.11 miles.

Muse Street, from the centerline of Lotter Way north to Central Way, a distance of 0.12 miles.

Lotter Way, from the centerline of Muse Street east to the centerline of Vista Drive, a distance of 0.81 miles.

Picnic Way, from the centerline of The Strand Street, north to the centerline of Lotter Way, a distance of 0.13 miles and from the centerline of Lotter Way north to the centerline of Riverbank Road, a distance of 0.35 miles.

Nashua Drive, from the centerline of The Strand Street north to its terminus, a distance of 0.14 miles.

Recreation Field Drive, from the centerline of Vista Drive west to its terminus, a distance of 0.06 miles.

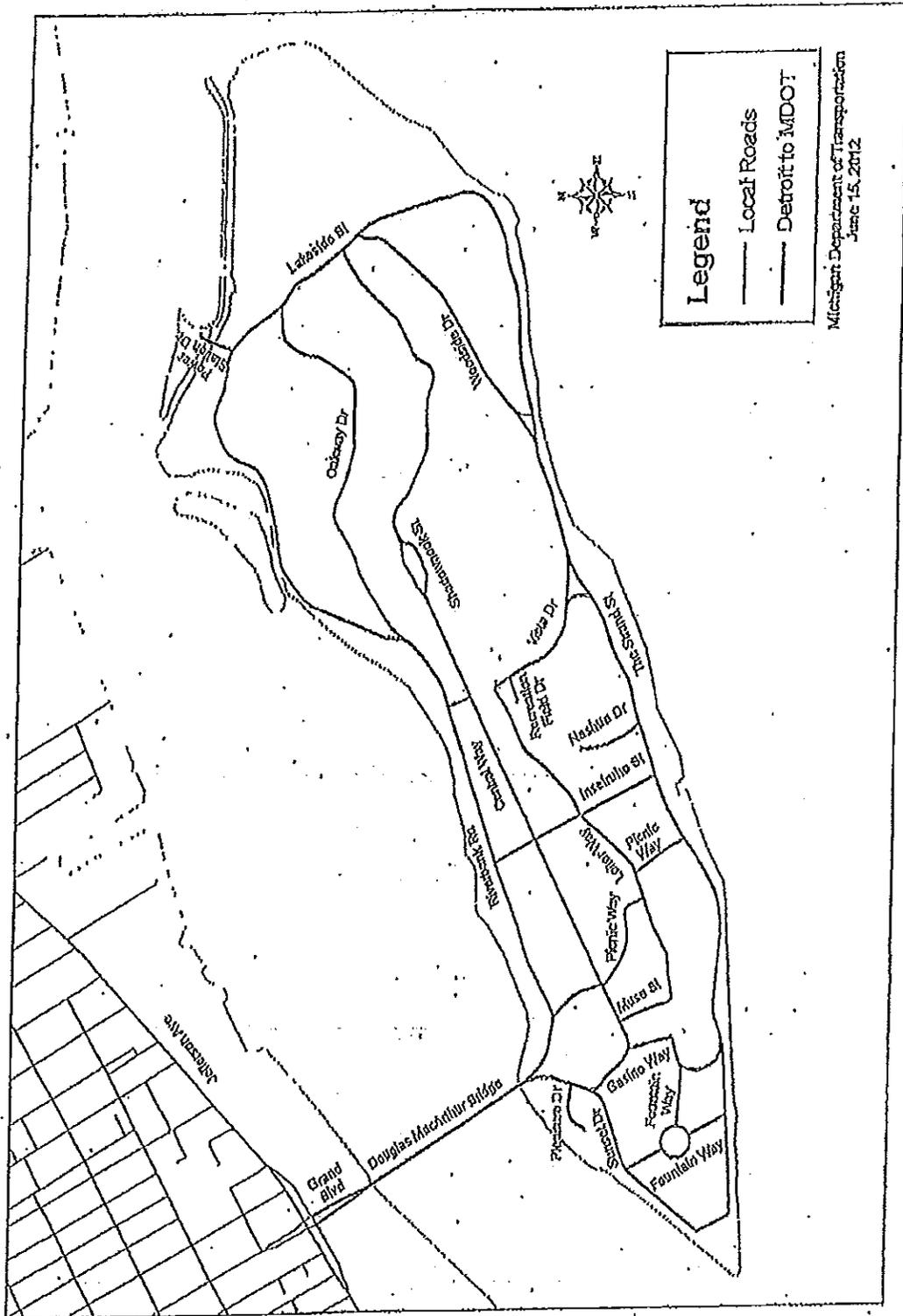
Woodside Drive, from the centerline of Lakeside Street west to the centerline of The Strand Street, a distance of 0.63 miles.

Oakway Drive, from the centerline of Riverbank Road east to the centerline of Riverbank Road, a distance of 0.86 miles.

Power Station Drive, from the centerline of Riverbank Road north to its terminus, a distance of 0.09 miles.

EXHIBIT B

Proposed Jurisdictional Transfer in Detroit



B-8

EXHIBIT C

MDOT NO. 2012-0000  
AGENDA: CAB

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN  
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
AND  
THE CITY OF DETROIT

## I. PURPOSE

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into this date of \_\_\_\_\_ between the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the City of Detroit (CITY) for the purpose of transferring jurisdiction of the road segments described in Attachment A, said road segments hereinafter referred to as the ROAD SEGMENTS. This Memorandum of Understanding will begin upon award and will remain in effect until the expiration of the Lease between the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan regarding Belle Isle Park, dated \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. BACKGROUND

The ROAD SEGMENTS are within the CITY boundaries. The ROAD SEGMENTS will function in the capacity of a State Trunkline. The ROAD SEGMENTS will provide access to the Belle Isle Park. MDOT is willing to accept jurisdictional control of the ROAD SEGMENTS from the CITY, and the CITY is willing to transfer jurisdiction of the ROAD SEGMENTS. This transfer of jurisdictional control of the ROAD SEGMENTS will make these roadways State Trunkline.

EXHIBIT C

III. AGREEMENT

Upon award and acceptance of this Memorandum of Understanding by both parties, the parties agree to the following:

A. MDOT:

1. Agrees to assume full jurisdiction for the ROAD SEGMENTS, thereby making this roadway State Trunkline,
2. Agrees to perform maintenance of the ROAD SEGMENTS, for which jurisdictional control has been transferred to MDOT by this Memorandum of Understanding.

B. The CITY:

1. Agrees to transfer jurisdictional control of the ROAD SEGMENTS to MDOT, and MDOT agrees to accept jurisdictional control of the road segments, thereby making this roadway State Trunkline,

C. Unless otherwise addressed by this Memorandum of Understanding, both parties agree that the transfer of jurisdictional control of the ROAD SEGMENTS, from the CITY to MDOT, will include the transfer of: utility, operational, and drainage permits, whether recorded or otherwise; all bridges, overpasses, signs, signals or other structures or traffic control devices; and any and all features and appurtenances now existing for highway purposes on and along the ROAD SEGMENTS.

IV. TERM

This Memorandum of Understanding shall take effect upon award and remain in effect until the expiration of the Lease between the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan regarding Belle Isle Park, dated \_\_\_\_\_.

V. MODIFICATION

This Memorandum of Understanding may be modified, in writing, upon mutual agreement by the parties. Any modification must be signed by the authorized representative of each agency or his/her designee.

EXHIBIT C

VI. SIGNATURE

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into upon signing by the duly authorized officials for the CITY and for MDOT.

CITY OF DETROIT

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Director  
Michigan Department of Transportation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

EXHIBIT D

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
FOR THE BELLE ISLE PARK GREENHOUSES  
(Per Article 2.1 of the Belle Isle Park Lease)

WHEREAS, the City of Detroit and the State of Michigan are entering into a long term lease agreement for the management of Belle Isle Park, and

WHEREAS, the City of Detroit has an existing and future need to retain the operation and maintenance of the greenhouses that exist on the Island.

NOW THEREFORE, as provided in Article 2.1 of the Belle Isle Park Lease, the greenhouses identified as area # 16, depicted on Page 28 of the Belle Isle Master Plan, entitled, "Existing Buildings, Monuments, Shelters and Comfort Stations" are excluded from the Leased Premises, and shall remain under the control, management and full responsibility of the City of Detroit.

The State of Michigan and the City agree that they will work cooperatively to mutually accommodate the City's operation and maintenance of the greenhouses and the State's operation and maintenance of Belle Isle Park.

  
STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY OF DETROIT

Date: 09/30/2013

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



• DRAFT •  
**Phased Management Approach of Belle Isle**  
 by the Department of Natural Resources  
 July 2012

Management Goals & Desired Outcomes

- Create a clean and safe environment
- Restore the expectation of the Belle Isle experience
- Unify stakeholders and supporters
- Preserve the rich history of the Island
- Enhance recreational opportunities
- Protect the natural resources
- Address immediate needs
- Implement sustainable contraction of infrastructure
- Establish a sustained model of resources for long-term management of the Island
- Expand youth employment opportunities in the fields of natural resources, environmental protection and agriculture

Aligning Action Items with Survey Results

In the summer and fall months of 2010, two separate surveys were carried out by the Belle Isle Conservancy which included park users (onsite) and remote individuals and organizational supporters (remote); 2,237 surveys were collected. The surveys identified the following:

<u>High Priority Improvement Responses</u>	<u>Onsite (# and % of respondents)</u>		<u>Remote (# and % of respondents)</u>	
Re-open the Aquarium	256	38%	1107	71%
Re-open the canals for canoeing/kayaking	184	27%	896	57%
Re-open the Boat Club for public use	185	27%	728	47%

<u>Not Enough Amenities Responses</u>	<u>Onsite</u>	<u>Remote</u>
Places to buy food	82%	66%
Drinking Fountains	74%	60%
Restrooms	59%	58%
Things to Do	52%	40%
Benches	51%	50%
Park Security	37%	61%
Waste Receptacles	50%	59%

<u>Common / Popular Park Activities Responses</u>	<u>Onsite</u>	<u>Remote</u>
Picnic	39.1%	68.1%
Exercise	31.1%	55.4%
Stroll/walk	29.0%	61.3%
Socialize	23.2%	45.3%

EXHIBIT E.

Nearly 30% of the survey respondents indicated they would like to receive information about getting involved and volunteering at Belle Isle. Aligning the Department's planning processes and action items with the survey responses is a critical aspect in order to maximize resources and unify the stakeholders and supporters of Belle Isle.

Initial Phase Planning Processes & Action Items -  
(One to two months after the agreement is signed)

Planning Processes:

- Coordinate with law enforcement (City, Coast Guard, Homeland Security, Border Patrol, State Police & Conservation Officers) on a security plan
- Meet with newly created Belle Isle Advisory Group, Belle Isle Conservancy and other vested stakeholder groups
- Meet with other state agencies (DEQ, DOC, DOT, etc) and DNR Divisions on current and potential projects / funding
- Evaluate all contracts, leases & concessions
- Continue updating previous Infrastructure assessment information to prioritize critical needs

Action Items:

- Extend Riverfront contracts for trash removal and mowing
- Establish a visible staffing and visitor services presence
- Clean up trash / debris and provide adequate receptacles
- Remove debris in public spaces and organize maintenance areas

Short Range Phase Planning Processes & Action Items -  
(Three to five months after the agreement is signed)

Planning Processes:

- Assess staffing levels and equipment needs for primary use season; develop annual operational budget
- Coordinate volunteer activities with newly created Belle Isle Advisory Group, Belle Isle Conservancy and other vested stakeholder groups
- Evaluate the locations and relationships between picnic shelters, restroom buildings, parking and drinking fountains
- Develop a comprehensive marketing and outreach plan
- Establish a sponsor / partner "adoption" program
- Coordinate with DDOT to re-establish a bus route to Belle Isle
- Establish recreational programming such as Metro Youth Fitness and expand other interpretive programs through the Nature Center

Action Items:

- Interview and hire permanent staff

## EXHIBIT E.

- Retrofit buildings like the Casino, Athletic Shelter / Refectory and Flynn Memorial Pavilion with energy efficiency updates (windows, insulation, photo sensors, timers, etc)
- Renovate and rehabilitate picnic shelters such as the Newsboy, Schiller, Pony Area and Fishing Pier as well as comfort stations such as Graystone, Woodside and at the Golf Course
- Establish a new endowment for long-term sustainable funding
- Establish a restricted fund to receive event and use permit revenues
- Create a gift guide for sponsors and donors
- Develop a reservation system for shelters and grounds for events during primary use season

Intermediate Phase Planning Processes & Action Items --  
(Six months to one year after the agreement is signed)

Planning Processes:

- Coordinate volunteer activities with Belle Isle Conservancy and other vested stakeholder groups
- Meet with the State Building Authority on a bond option for addressing major building and park improvements to be repaid once the Recreation Passport becomes effective
- Assess shoreline erosion and identify critical areas for soft shoreline stabilization
- Seek grants such as Coastal Zone Management, Great Lakes Fisheries Trust and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to conduct an hydrologic study of the lakes and canals to convert back to a naturalized system (remove pumps)
- Begin discussions with the Michigan College Foundation and Youth Connections on a natural resources institute program and youth employment

Action Items:

- Clean catch basins and provide curb cuts for increased drainage
- Construct and improve way-finding and overall signage
- Provide a contact station or informational kiosk at primary park entrance for immediate park and program information
- Meet with MDOT on the conversion of internal road segments through wooded wetlands into multi-use trails and a two-way traffic concept
- Enhance fishing opportunities at existing structures
- Coordinate invasive plant (i.e. phragmites) species volunteer days
- Repair and expand picnic tables for primary use season
- Implement mowing reductions and the "Grow not Mow" program to educate visitors, reduce operational costs, create habitat and combat Canadian geese

EXHIBIT F

**BELLE ISLE PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY PLAN OUTLINE**

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Law Enforcement Division (LED), the Michigan State Police (MSP) and the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division have collaborated with the Detroit Police Department to insure that a security plan is implemented in an effective community oriented manner to include:

- Effective Community Outreach
- Utilization of Community Oriented Policing Principles
- Utilization of Effective Environmental Design Security Measures

Lessor and Lessee will jointly develop a park safety and security plan that will incorporate the following elements:

- All parties will utilize the 90 day transition period (Section 3.1) to facilitate a smooth transfer of operational responsibilities from Lessor to Lessee
- The plan will be developed by the DNR LED and MSP with input from the Detroit Police Department
- The plan will shift the public safety and law enforcement responsibilities to the DNR LED and MSP which will allow for the eventual redeployment of up to 22 Detroit Police officers back to mainland responsibilities
- All duly authorized peace officers, regardless of entity affiliation, will retain the authority to enforce city and state laws in the park and will provide mutual aid in the event of law enforcement emergencies
- The plan will address Detroit's building and grounds needs on the island which may include:
  - Boat storage
  - Harbormaster needs
  - Dive team needs
  - Dog and horse training
  - Motorcycle unit training
  - Other needs that are mutually agreed upon
- The Detroit Police will share operational plans previously developed for park events and consult on future events with the DNR LED and MSP
- EMS and Fire service needs will be coordinated through Lessor's 911 emergency services system



Community Engagement Session at Belle Isle Park

## Appendix C: Community Input Summary

### C.1 Project Website

On the adjacent page is a snapshot of the project website at [www.mdnrmanagementplans/belle-isle-park](http://www.mdnrmanagementplans/belle-isle-park). The website was available for public viewing throughout the duration of the planning process and was updated with maps, survey results, and the draft plan. Members of the public could contact the planning team through the website contact form.



**BELLE ISLE PARK STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**MORE ABOUT THE PARK**

Belle Isle Park (MDNR)

**MORE ABOUT THE PROJECT**

Presentations and Meetings

Maps

Documents

**MORE ABOUT MDNR MANAGEMENT PLANS**

Park Management Plans (MDNR)

Planning Process (MDNR)

Management Zones (MDNR)

**CONTACT US**

Comments and questions are always welcome!

\* indicates required field

Name:\*

Email:\*

Subject:\*

Message:\*

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Privacy - Terms

Submit



**About the Park**

Belle Isle is a 982-acre island park located in the Detroit River between the United States and Canada in the City of Detroit. The park is rich in culture, history and natural resources that have been enjoyed by residents and visitors to the city for generations. Purchased by the City of Detroit in 1879 and opened to the public in May 1880, Belle Isle Park became Michigan's 102<sup>nd</sup> State Park in 2014 as part of a lease agreement with the City of Detroit. The park provides a wide variety of educational and recreational opportunities, including attractions such as the Belle Isle Aquarium, Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, Belle Isle Nature Zoo, James Scott Fountain, and Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

The park is integral with the revitalized riverfront area, which encompasses the Detroit Riverwalk, William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor, the Outdoor Adventure Center, and the Renaissance Center.

**About the Plan**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) in association with the Belle Isle Conservancy is in the process of developing a Strategic Direction and Management Plan for Belle Isle Park. The plan will be used to define a long-range planning and management strategy that protects the resources of the site while addressing recreation and education needs and opportunities. Public and stakeholder input is a critical component of the planning process.

**Presentations and Meetings**

Public meetings were held on March 29th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm and from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Belle Isle Park's Flynn Pavilion. Thank you to those who participated!

At the beginning of the meeting, the DNR and the Belle Isle Conservancy gave a presentation about recent improvements to the island. View that presentation here: Belle Isle Park Presentation.

You can view the summaries of the input meetings below:

## Meetings March 29 on Belle Isle Park's strategic direction, management plan

Michigan Department of Natural Resources sent this bulletin at 03/15/2017 11:26 AM EDT



### Statewide DNR News

March 15, 2017

Contact [Debbie Jensen](#), 517-284-6105

#### DNR seeks input on Belle Isle Park's new strategic direction and management plan, will host public meetings March 29

##### *Online questionnaire available through April 7 for those who can't attend either meeting*

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Belle Isle Conservancy, invites the public to attend one of two public meetings to gather input on a new strategic direction and management plan for Belle Isle Park. The meetings will take place Wednesday, March 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. or 6 to 8 p.m. at Belle Isle Park's Flynn Pavilion, located near the intersection of Picnic Way and Loiter Way.



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 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.

The new strategic direction and management plan will define a long-range planning and management strategy that will assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division in meeting its responsibilities to protect and preserve Belle Isle Park's natural and cultural resources, and to provide access to land- and water-based public recreation and educational opportunities.

"Over the course of the last two years, the DNR and its partners have invested \$22.5 million in the park, which has addressed not only park improvements that the public can see themselves, but critical infrastructure as well," said Ron Olson, DNR Parks and Recreation Division chief. "We encourage the public to participate in the planning process, so that the DNR has an opportunity to gauge community opinion on the work that has been accomplished to date and to help set future priorities."

The public input meetings will begin with a short presentation on the planning process, projects completed to date and those in progress. It will be followed by individual and group exercises to gather input to inform the plan. Members of the public are invited to attend either one of the two-hour meetings.

[Those unable to attend either meeting may complete a short online questionnaire](https://goo.gl/jpDK1e), which will be available through April 7 at <https://goo.gl/jpDK1e>.

For more information about the March 29 meetings or the Belle Isle Park General Management Plan, contact DNR park management plan administrator Debbie Jensen at 517-284-6105 (TTY/TDD711 Michigan Relay Center for the hearing impaired) or via email at [JensenD1@michigan.gov](mailto:JensenD1@michigan.gov). Persons with disabilities who need accommodations for the meetings should contact Jensen at least five business days before the meetings.

Stay up to date on Belle Isle Park management plan development at <http://www.mdnrmanagementplans.org/belle-isle-park/>.

**/Editor's note:** An accompanying photo is available below for download. A suggested caption follows.

Belle Isle Park, located in the Detroit River near downtown Detroit, offers plenty of fun, outdoor recreation opportunities, including the giant slide, pictured here. To give the public an opportunity to learn about and comment on a new management plan, the Michigan DNR and the Belle Isle Conservancy will host two public input meetings March 29 /

[BIPslide.jpg](#)

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](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).



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Stakeholder Meeting Invitation



# You're invited!

## What

Belle Isle Park  
Strategic Direction and Management Plan  
Stakeholder Input Meeting



## When

Tuesday, March 28th  
Choice of two sessions:  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm or 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Please RSVP by March 23rd to:  
Plan Administrator Debbie Jensen  
JensenD1@michigan.gov  
517-284-6105



## Where

Belle Isle Park's Flynn Pavilion  
Located near the intersection of  
Picnic Way and Loiter Way

## About the plan

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) in association with the Belle Isle Conservancy is in the process of developing a Strategic Direction and Management Plan for Belle Isle Park. The plan will be used to define a long-range planning and management strategy that protects the resources of the site while addressing recreation and education needs and opportunities. Public and stakeholder input is a critical component of the planning process.



## About the meeting

The Belle Isle Park Management Plan team cordially invites you to attend a stakeholder input meeting! The team hopes to gather valuable insights from your organization and other key players. This session will include a brief presentation on the planning process as well as projects completed to date and those in progress, followed by individual and group exercises to gather input to inform the plan.

## Other input opportunities

If you are unable to attend one of the sessions, open public meetings will be held on March 29th from 2 - 4 pm and 6 - 8 pm at the Flynn Pavilion on Belle Isle. Alternatively, you may complete a short questionnaire at <https://goo.gl/JpDK1e>.

## Project website

[www.mdnrmanagementplans.org/belle-isle-park/](http://www.mdnrmanagementplans.org/belle-isle-park/)

## For more information and to RSVP, please contact:

Plan Administrator Debbie Jensen  
JensenD1@michigan.gov  
517-284-6105



## C.2 Stakeholder Input Workshop

### Summary of Stakeholder Workshop

In order to gather targeted input from governmental, non-profit, and business/tourism entities, the planning team invited a group of stakeholders to an input workshop. The workshop was held in two sessions on March 28th, 2017, from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm and from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. A total of 43 stakeholders participated in the two sessions. The participants were first given a status update on the park and a summary of recent improvement projects, followed by breaking into groups for a series of input exercises. As the stakeholders introduced themselves, they were invited to share an answer to the prompt “What matters most to me about Belle Isle Park is...” Those that recorded their answers and returned them to the planning team are included below.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO ME ABOUT BELLE ISLE PARK IS.....
The memories I've created with my mom and family. Belle Isle remaining accessible to the public. Improved and better promotion of the island. Amenities (beach, Aquarium, canals). Protecting environmental quality/natural ecosystem @ park. Park remaining natural space (non residential). Stormwater management via nature-based infrastructure. Greenway/non-motorized path connections at and to the park
Island is both safe and clean for all to use.
That it is a place of unity where people from all backgrounds can join and find respite in the island's natural and architectural beauty.
The Conservatory memories
I hope it stays a family park!
That native Detroiters feel welcomed and comfortable at the park
Creating safe places to play for all members of our community, hub for active community
Public access to-and participation in-this beautiful island's many amenities
Got fishing
Improved facilities (dedicated) for people who bike and walk. Welcoming and inclusive to all.
The positive momentum on Belle Isle seen over the last few years continues into the future
Getting kids on the island, welcoming to all residents
Inviting and accessible to all
It's a special place to create multi-generational family memories...picnics, visiting the Conservatory, business...great collaborative partner
Accessibility, recreation options, green spaces, family environment
People interacting with nature
Accessibility and methods of transportation onto and around the island
Public access and enjoyment, public enjoyment of diverse outdoor spaces and experiences, historic integrity
Belle Isle has been called a gem of Detroit, I believe we need to polish that gem for all to enjoy. Better facilities, infrastructure, and opportunities for all to enjoy, now is the time to start to improve the island and make it not only a park for Michigan residents, but a tourist destination as well.
Preserving the historic buildings
Historic buildings
Accessibility to public buildings, preserving cultural landscape
Equality-that everyone has access who benefits
That it remains safe for families. Continue investment in infrastructure; upgrade hard line communications on the island.
That it remains clean and accessible to all. Activities and attractions remain open. Remain a place for youth, families, and adults to experience aspects of nature. Remain a resource for the community
Becomes a great place to walk and bike, that is welcoming to all Detroiters (of all abilities) year round
Green space in the city, place to go

## Stakeholder Input Exercises

The results of the exercises are detailed below. This summary represents the combination of results from both the morning and afternoon stakeholder input sessions.

### Exercise 1: Say one word or phrase that describes Belle Isle right now.

When thinking about the current state of Belle Isle, the stakeholders had many positive associations. The groups keyed in on several significant features of the island: its historic architecture and role in Detroit’s story, its beautiful natural areas so rarely seen in the heart of urban development, and the sense that the island is improving with new investment into its infrastructure and key buildings. The words and phrases mentioned by three or more tables were:

EXERCISE 1	
ITEMS	TIMES MENTIONED
Work in progress / Better / Improving / Upward / Evolving	5
Historic	3
Natural areas / Nature / Garden	3
Nostalgic / Sentimental / Memories	3
Opportunity	3
Resurgence / Rebirth	3

### Exercise 2: Say one word or phrase you would like to describe Belle Isle in the future.

In the second exercise, stakeholders discussed Belle Isle’s potential. Several of the most frequently mentioned items shared a similar theme: access and availability of the park for all people. It was important to the stakeholders that the island is a place that is welcoming to all, that is inclusive, and that is accessible. They also felt that the island should feel very connected to the heart of Detroit and that it should be easy for pedestrians and bicycles to travel through it safely. Additionally, several groups envisioned Belle Isle’s future to be that of a well-known destination. Below are the items that were mentioned at three or more tables.

EXERCISE 2	
ITEMS	TIMES MENTIONED
Improved access / Accessible	6
Destination	4
Connection / Seamless connection to mainland	3
Inclusive / Equal	3
Multi-modal (Bike/pedestrian friendly/trolley/kayaks)	3
Robust environment/ ecological environments	3
Welcoming to all	3



**Exercise 3: What do you like most and least about Belle Isle?**

The third exercise combined two sentiments: what the stakeholders liked most and what they liked least about Belle Isle. Occasionally, the same item would be placed in both columns, as is the case with the Grand Prix. Aspects of the island that were the most liked related to the availability of public open space and nature close to the city as well as the many unique attractions and events accessible to users. What stakeholders liked the least related to the work yet to be done to improve the island, missing elements such as food options, the Grand Prix and its associated effects, and the perception that not everyone is welcome on the island. Since many unique items were mentioned, those that were mentioned at two or more tables are listed below.

EXERCISE 3			
LIKE MOST	TIMES MENTIONED	LIKE LEAST	TIMES MENTIONED
Size/scale/ open green space	3	Grand Prix / Impact on roads / timeline	5
Views/water	3	Closed zoo	4
A place for everyone	2	Signage / Lack of wayfinding	4
Aquarium	2	Closes too early	3
Cleaner / Cleanliness	2	Food desert	3
Conservatory	2	Boat Club distressed	2
Events	2	Deferred maintenance	2
Forestry	2	Perceptions of exclusivity / Is everyone welcome? Do they feel welcome?	2
Grand Prix	2		
History/ architecture	2		
Lots of activities	2		
Safety	2		
Trails / Nature trails	2		
Unique attractions/ activities	2		

**Exercise 4: What differences have you noticed about Belle Isle in the last three years?**

The planning team wished to know what differences the stakeholders have noticed since the beginning of the DNR's administration of the island. The most frequently mentioned items show that the groups have taken notice of the improvements, such as greater attention to maintenance, the repair and opening of previously closed restrooms, the availability of amenities such as non-motorized watercraft rental, and the availability of public transit. Interestingly, some groups thought the island has become more crowded in the last few years, and others notice fewer people and less activity. Below are items that were mentioned by two or more groups in this exercise.

EXERCISE 4	
ITEMS	TIMES MENTIONED
Cleaner, improved maintenance	6
Feels safer (perception)	4
Restrooms / Bathrooms are working / cleaner	4
Greater police presence	3
Kayak/canoe rentals	3
Accessibility by bus	2
Adequately stocked comfort station	2
Dead tree removal	2
Fewer people / less activity	2
Greater stakeholder engagement	2
More crowded / people are coming back	2
More public programming	2
Rec passport/entrance / fee for access	2

**Exercise 5: What improvements or changes would you like to see that would increase public use, enjoyment, and benefit from Belle Isle? (with voting)**

The last exercise was intended to decipher what the stakeholders envisioned for the future of the island. The stakeholders’ ideas reflect a desire to improve and restore what exists on the island, to create a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclers, and to improve communications on the island through event advertisement and improved signage. Ideas mentioned at the most tables included increasing food options on the island, creating a water taxi, and restoring the Belle Isle Boat House (formerly known as the Detroit Boat Club). This exercise generated many unique responses from the groups; only five ideas were mentioned at two or more tables. After generating ideas, each person voted on the top three ideas from their group. Items receiving four or more votes are shown below.

EXERCISE 5		
ITEMS	TIMES MENTIONED	VOTES
More concession, food and beverage opportunities / highlight local	4	8
Water taxi between island / Detroit	3	5
Boat club restoration and use	3	4
Internal/external communication (signage/daily events)	2	4
Dedicated bike and pedestrian infrastructure throughout the park	2	2
Reopening the Aquarium full time	1	5
Address facility infrastructure	1	4
Identifiable welcome center	1	4
Safe on-road biking	1	4

**Final Exercise: Collective Priorities**

As one person from each group presented the highest-voted items from their vision of Belle Isle, the planning team transferred those ideas into a separate exercise, combining similar ideas. As the stakeholders left the input session, they voted on the top three items from the collective priorities list, which included items not mentioned at their tables. Below are all of the collective priorities from both sessions combined into one list. The top collective priority was to add more concessions and food options on the island, and one group thought that those options could highlight local businesses. Protecting the natural resources on the island was the second highest-voted priority, followed by improving the signage system throughout the park. These items, along with the other input from the stakeholders, were considered as the planning team created an action plan for the park.

FINAL EXERCISE		
COLLECTIVE PRIORITIES	TIMES MENTIONED	VOTES
More concessions / food options (highlight local)	2	19
Protect natural resources (recycling, green initiative, wildlife)	1	12
Signage improvements (internal communications)	1	11
Facility infrastructure (buildings, restrooms)	1	9
Identifiable welcome center	1	9
Park amenities (benches, picnic tables)	1	8
Non-motorized infrastructure (safe for pedestrians/cyclists)	1	7
Public relations campaign	1	7
Employment opportunities for local residents	1	6
Technological advances (phone app for park directory, history)	1	5
Water taxi for Detroit	1	5
Re-open the Aquarium full time	1	4.5
Stock model boat basin for children’s fishing	1	3
Activate closed areas: zoo + golf course	1	2.5
Increase youth programming	1	2
External communications (daily event schedule)	1	0

PARTICIPANT LIST			
FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	REPRESENTING	TITLE
Khalil	Ligon	Alliance for the Great Lakes	SE Michigan Outreach Coordinator
Brenda	Price	Alliance for the Great Lakes	Volunteer and Education Director
Katy	Wyerman	Belle Isle Conservancy	
Amy	Greene	Belle Isle Nature Center	
Dawn	Bilobran	Belle Isle Conservancy	Board Member
Janice	Ellison	Belle Isle Conservancy	Belle Isle Conservancy Board Member
Danielle	Jackson	Belle Isle Conservancy	Event Manager
Genevieve	Nowak	Belle Isle Conservancy / DNR	Director Volunteer Services
Kamilah	Henderson	Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan	
Scharron	Rambus	City of Detroit (DDOT)	
Janese	Chapman	City of Detroit Historic Designation	
Justin	Jacobs	Come Play Detroit	Owner
Mike	McGuiness	Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence	Community Outreach Coordinator
Walter	Brown		
Lisa	Nuskowski	Detroit Bike Share	Executive Director
Michael	Montri	Detroit Grand Prix	General Manager
Todd	Scott	Detroit Greenways Coalition	
Dawayne	Jones	Detroit Police Athletic League	Athletic Program
Keith	Flournoy	Detroit Parks and Recreation	
David	Miller	Detroit Parks and Recreation	Director of Dept of Parks and Rec
Michele	Marine	Detroit River Conservancy	Director of Programs
Alease	Johnson	Dossin Great Lakes Museum	
Mark	Wallace	Detroit Riverfront Conservancy	President/CEO of Detroit Riverfront
Ben	Beaman	Ducks Unlimited	
Kyle	Burleson	Detroit / Wayne County Port Authority	Deputy Director
John	Loftus	Detroit / Wayne County Port Authority	
Christina	Doby	Erb Family Foundation	Program Officer
Richard	Benson	Lake St. Clair Walleye Association	President
Bill	Shreck	Michigan Department of Transportation	
Ryan	Cunningham	Michigan Historic Preservation Network	Volunteer
Nancy	Finegood	Michigan Historic Preservation Network	
Jennifer	Reinhardt	Michigan Historic Preservation Network	Detroit Preservationist Specialist

PARTICIPANT LIST, CONTINUED

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	REPRESENTING	TITLE
Nicolette	Carlone	Public Lighting Authority	
Tiffany	VanDetley	Riverside Kayak Connection	
Jeff	Griffith	The Youth Connection	
Lisa	Perez	US Forest Service	
James	Hines	US Coast Guard STA Belle Isle	
Justin	Stanley	US Coast Guard STA Belle Isle	
Alvina	Gipson	Western Michigan University, Metro Detroit	
Diana	Jacobson	YMCA	
Lynette	Simmons	YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit	VP of Mission Resources
Wyatt	Griffith		

ATTENDEES NOT PARTICIPATING

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	REPRESENTING	TITLE
Karis	Floyd	DNR-PRD	Unit Manager
Jacob	Brown	DNR-PRD	Unit Supervisor
Debbie	Jensen	DNR-PRD	Management Plan Administrator
Amanda	Hertl	DNR-PRD	Urban Area Planner
Andrea	LaFontaine	DNR Exec.	Special Advisor to Southeast Michigan
David	Malloch	DNR Law Enforcement	Captain
Scott	Pratt	DNR-PRD	Southern Field Operations Chief
Damon	Owens	DNR-PRD; LED	Sergeant
Michele	Hodges	Belle Isle Conservancy	President
Brittany	Sanders	Belle Isle Conservancy	Director of Community Engagement
Bill	Shreck	MDOT Executive Office	Intergovernmental Liaison

### C.3 Public Input Workshop

#### Summary of Public Input Workshop

The public was invited to share their thoughts on the future of Belle Isle in two sessions on March 29th, 2017, from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm and from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. The meeting format was nearly identical to the stakeholder meetings, with the exception of the participant introductions.

Over the two sessions, 99 attendees were recorded. Each attendee was given a blank index card and asked to record his/her name, zip code, how long they have been visiting or involved with the island, and the answer to the prompt “What matters most to me about Belle Isle Park is...” The participants shared the answer to this prompt within their tables as an introduction to their groups. The answers of those who returned their introduction cards to the planning team are listed at the end of this document.

Similarly to the stakeholder meeting, a status update on the park and a summary of recent improvement projects was presented by the DNR and the Belle Isle Conservancy, followed by a series of input exercises. The results of the exercises are detailed below. This summary represents the combination of results from both the afternoon and evening public input sessions.

#### Exercise 1: Say one word or phrase that describes Belle Isle right now.

When the public thinks about Belle Isle today, the island’s natural beauty, rich history, safe and family-friendly atmosphere, and recent improvements come to mind. The words and phrases that were mentioned at three or more tables are listed below.

EXERCISE 1	
ITEMS	TIMES MENTIONED
Natural setting / Nature	9
Clean	6
Safer	6
Beautiful	5
Evolving / Improving / Greatly Improved	5
Work in progress	5
Tranquil/Peaceful	4
Unique	4
Families / Family friendly	3
Historic	3
Provide wonderful views / scenic views	3

#### Exercise 2: Say one word or phrase you would like to describe Belle Isle in the future.

The public who attended the input sessions would like to be able to describe Belle Isle as a place that is first and foremost inclusive and accessible by all. They would like the island to be bike- and pedestrian-friendly, to have more food options and restaurants, and to host more winter events and activities. There were several groups that would like to see the Grand Prix discontinued and have motorsports prohibited on the island. Finally, the public would like the island to be a world-class facility. Below are items that were mentioned by three or more groups.

EXERCISE 2	
ITEMS	TIMES MENTIONED
Access by all / Accessible / Inclusive	8
Bike friendly / Cycling Trails	5
No Grand Prix	5
Pedestrian-friendly	5
Motorsports prohibited	4
Beautiful	3
Food/restaurants	3
Winter events	3
World class	3

#### Exercise 3: What do you like most and least about Belle Isle?

The public was asked to discuss what they liked the most and least about Belle Isle. The items that were most frequently mentioned included the unique attractions on Belle Isle such as the Conservatory, Aquarium, and James Scott Memorial Fountain; the natural beauty and scenic views; recreational amenities such as the beach, walking paths, bicycling paths, and non-motorized watercraft rentals; as well as the location of the park close to the urban center. The item that was liked the least by the public was the Grand Prix, which was mentioned at 13 tables over the two sessions. The public also dislikes the number of food options available, the hours of operation and closed facilities, and the auto-centric nature of the island’s circulation system.

EXERCISE 3

LIKE MOST	TIMES MENTIONED	LIKE LEAST	TIMES MENTIONED
Conservatory	10	Grand Prix	13
Nature	9	No food sites available	5
Aquarium	7	Hours of operation	4
Beach	6	Closed golf course	3
Walking paths / trails	6	Too auto-centric	3
Views	5		
Beauty of the island	3		
Bike ride	3		
Close by=accessible	3		
Kayak/canoe	3		
Scott Fountain	3		



Community Engagement Session at Belle Isle Park

**Exercise 4: What differences have you noticed about Belle Isle in the last three years?**

Over the last three years, the public has noticed several improvements in the park. Frequently mentioned items were the improved restrooms and overall higher level of maintenance, an increased number of visitors, a safer atmosphere, and attractions re-opening. Some have noticed that the police presence has increased, which to some is a positive aspect, while others see this as negative. Items mentioned at three or more tables are listed below.

EXERCISE 4

ITEMS	TIMES MENTIONED
Bathrooms improved / clean	7
More people / crowded / more activity	7
Much cleaner	7
Safer	7
Have removed dead and downed + tree maintenance improved	4
Improvements/restoration of facilities & buildings (bathrooms/shelters)	4
More families	4
Aquarium open and improved / better hours	3
Melting pot / more diversity	3
More police presence	3
New bridge lighting	3
No loud music!	3
Park safety/cleaner	3
Scott Fountain is running	3



Community Engagement Session at Belle Isle Park

### Exercise 5: What improvements or changes would you like to see that would increase your enjoyment of Belle Isle? (with voting)

Each group discussed what they would like to change on the island, and the results were wide-ranging. Over 130 items were mentioned by the groups that attended both sessions. The most frequently mentioned ideas included discontinuing the Grand Prix, creating a public boat launch to access the Detroit River, re-opening the golf course to the public, and renovating the Belle Isle Boat House (formerly known as the Detroit Boat Club). Items mentioned at two or more tables are listed below.

EXERCISE 5		
ITEMS	TIMES MENTIONED	VOTES
No Grand Prix	7	28
Boat launch / access	4	6
Open golf course for public use / Restore golf course	4	6
Assist Detroit Boat Club with improvements/renovations	3	9
Winter sports / activities (ice skating, cross country skiing, sledding)	3	6
Activities for kids / teens	3	4
Restore / Open Belle Isle Zoo	3	4
Food trucks (diverse) (small business) / on a permanent basis	2	8
Less time for setup/take down of Grand Prix	2	8
Remove or reduce effects of Grand Prix	2	7
Horseback riding / stables	2	4
Repair fishing pier at coast guard, make accessible	2	4
Clean/restore canals	2	3
More education opportunities / school programs	2	3
Expanded programming / more activities	2	2
Lifeguard at the beach	2	2
Restored band shell, music on the island	2	2
Public access to covered bridge / repair	2	1

### Final Exercise: Collective Priorities

As one person from each group presented the highest-voted items from their vision of Belle Isle, the planning team transferred those ideas into a separate exercise, combining similar items. As the attendees left the input session, they voted on their top three items from the collective priorities list. This afforded them the opportunity to vote on an item that was not mentioned at their table. Below are all of the collective priorities from both sessions, combined into one list. The three items that received the most votes all involve the Grand Prix, either discontinuing it or minimizing the impact of the event. Other top priorities included improving the canals, creating walking trails in the woods, and adding winter activities and events. This input will be considered by the planning team when creating a ten year action plan.

FINAL EXERCISE	
COLLECTIVE PRIORITIES	COMBINED VOTES
Remove/reduce effects of the Grand Prix	24
No Grand Prix (and eliminate association parking, etc)	20
Minimize Grand Prix impact (less time for set up and take down)	19
Clear connections between the streams and lakes (clean canals)	14
Walking trails in the woods	13
Winter sport activities (ice skating, cross country skiing, sledding)	11
Canoe/kayak rental, sail boards etc	10
Food trucks permanently and other affordable food options	10
Greater food options (general store, restaurant, bottled water, BBQ)	10
More free family programming (movies in the park, food truck rally)	8
Non-motorized trail (whole island)	8
Reduce police presence	8
Increase public relations	7
Kid activities	7
Repaved roads and bike lanes	7
Repurpose zoo and golf course	7
Better maintained gardens and canals	6
Large & small events (musical, etc.)	6
Preservation of natural resources	6
Add golf course	5

FINAL EXERCISE, CONTINUED	
COLLECTIVE PRIORITIES	COMBINED VOTES
Create unique waterfront access	5
Extended Aquarium hours	5
Restrooms open all the time	5
Boat club improvements	4
Emergency/safety station	3
Horseback riding and stables	3
More activities for kids and teens	3
Provide a free day	3
Restore the zoo	3
Improved communication regarding passes, permits, rules, etc	2
Intelligent enforcement	2
Kayak lockers	2
Repeal motorsports	2
Restaurants	2
Skate park	2
Cooling and warming centers	1
Boat launch between River Rouge and Detroit Boat Club	0
Public Wi-Fi	0
Sports leagues	0



Community Engagement Session at Belle Isle Park

**Introduction Card Answers**

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO ME ABOUT BELLE ISLE PARK IS.....
Love the diversity of the park, would love to start RC Boat Club and RC Car Club
Enjoying the peace and quiet on the island
Refuge, nature, water, peace & quiet
Preserving its beauty and access to the public.
Continuing improvements by DNR, enhancing the park's beauty and its benefits to our citizens
The beautiful scenery and open spaces
It's here for all of us!
Presently we park and watch the ships go by, learned to sail at the DYC, attend power squad at DYC
The history and future of this amazing gem in the middle of the Great Lake basin. The world's largest fresh water reservoir.

## WHAT MATTERS MOST TO ME ABOUT BELLE ISLE IS....., CONTINUED

Public access and place for kids

Easy access to safe bike training and running that has bathrooms and water stops.

Having a natural sanctuary to relax, read, and enjoy a peaceful experience

Work at the Aquarium for education. Family has been here off Elliot since 1927. Uncle (~93) has been ice skating here since 1930.

Keeping it for the residents of Detroit and visitors

Keeping it open for the residents of Detroit and others

Family, visits weekly, graduation party, weddings, engagement, tap and ballet recital on the fountain

Access, hiking, land sailing, kayaking

Access to everyone regardless of background. Conservatory.

Safe, clean, family-oriented all attractions

No Grand Prix. Set up and take down is way too long and is a nuisance for the public users. Would like to see ice skating in the winter.

The Conservatory

Conservatory and Aquarium

Not over commercializing it. Keep it more natural. Clean, road repairs.

Natural setting in the urban area in the Great Lakes basin.

It's natural beauty, all seasons for all people

Green space/park in the city. Reopen the golf course (not disc golf!)

A blend of country in a city setting

Knowing from personal experience how much family activity can exist and entertain. Preserving and restoring its heritage. And remove the kayak launch in the lagoon area near the NYC.

The Conservatory and garden, daffodil program, fountain

Clean, safe, attractions

Availability

Developing and maintaining Belle Isle as a world class recreation destination for families from throughout Michigan and the world.

A lot safer and cleaner

Great local venue to run/bike while experiencing the river but avoid downtown.

It is a place for families and recreation activities. It is in the middle of the two countries.

Termination of Grand Prix/non-renewal of contract with Penske group, and demolition/removal of over 10 acres of concrete paddock, slabs, lots, and reinvestment of grass, trees, parkland so that the area may once again be enjoyed by the public. The paving over of 10 acres has created massive blight on what used to be the prettiest part of the island.

Beautiful flower garden

Nature for Detroiters, kids & adults

I walk on Belle Isle weekly and often bring my family to different activities. My grandmother was the Director of the Belle Isle Zoo. I love nature and grew up in Puerto Rico so coming somewhere with water is important for me.

Preserving the flatwoods

A peaceful place to enjoy nature

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO ME ABOUT BELLE ISLE PARK IS....., CONTINUED

Public access and minimizing the impact and closures of the Grand Prix
I'd like to see an inclusive island that provides restoration to the community through unique attractions/events (restoring the canal, canoe rides, paddle boats, skate park, disability inclusive playgrounds, and preservation of natural resources).
water sports, historical moments
Great getaway, great views, golf
Belle Isle is a treasured community asset and congregation place. It should be available to the people of Detroit first and foremost, and the voices of black Detroiters should be prioritized at every step in this process. Since the DNR took over police patrols and check points have made my black neighbors feel unwelcome and criminalized. I myself have been stopped three times since the take over for such minor things as bicycle reflectors. I want to feel safe from police when using this public resource; I want my friends and neighbors to feel the same safety.
The cultural assets such as the Aquarium, Conservatory, fountain and sports facilities
The natural landscape which is rare and irreplaceable
Recreational access and investing in our current infrastructure, athletic complex, and golf course
Natural beauty
Natural landscape, sound of water, the peacefulness and swimming, picnics, recreation, skating, biking
Great lakes museum, Conservatory, nature center, Aquarium, biking
Grand Prix and the natural beauty!
An enjoyable piece of nature, so close to home-free.
My family has been hosting picnics for over 50 years here
Keeping Belle Isle safe and maintaining buildings and grounds
Keeping it in good shape, safe, people friendly and clean.
Activities and events, Aquarium and Conservatory
The peaceful nature setting with lots of activities to do
Please consider having a free day once a week. It would be psychologically symbolic and sociologically positive for Detroiters to help them understand that this is a state park but that you recognize its special history and the immense amount of financial and social support has had from its citizens/residents over many years. I also note that none of us talked about swimming and the beaches, probably because it was a very senior group!
The beauty and peace in the middle of the city.
Belle Isle to me is a respite and oasis in the city-something other cities don't have. We can be proud of it and help to keep its beauty intact.
That it "stays open to everyone." "Accommodating"
Teach entrepreneurial skills to children in sports, entertainment, science and technology. Establish a campus on the park. Stabilize community support and wellness, campus generates revenue, purpose and longevity. Secure educational, physical, and mental hope for Detroit children. Our school has been planning to start "summer training" on the park for a year.
Current member of Friends of the Detroit River, we partnered with Fish Habit and access improvements. Belle Isle is unique: natural setting, variety of activities, memories/history, February "shiver on the river" winter event
The canals and exploring the wildlife
Place to get away
What means the most to me is the longer-term black residents in the nearby neighborhoods have the same opportunity to benefit from improvements to the island. In my neighborhoods association, we hear many people feel unsafe coming here because of the police checkpoints and excessive policing since the state took over. I feel unsafe being constantly pulled over for no reason. I also strongly feel the island should stay accessible to low-income Detroiters, not just suburban white people. Finally, the Grand Prix creates noise pollution that affects all the surrounding neighborhoods, has a negative environmental impact on the island and makes it a less pleasant space to visit.

WHAT MATTERS MOST TO ME ABOUT BELLE ISLE IS...., CONTINUED

Restoring its natural beauty and eliminating racing of cars
Park near downtown-the river, canoeing, driving through the woods, the beach, golf, riding my bike around the island, wolverine200, roller skating/blading the Grand Prix track, tennis, watching the fireworks, visiting the Aquarium and Conservatory, submarine races, Dossin museum, Scott fountain, picnics after weekly golf, banquet at boat club.
Escape and open space, water, access, nature
Keeping it clean up and all facilities open to the public. Also keeping the senior power days going every year for the seniors
Nature- I love how peaceful it is!
New kayak ramp blocking flow-closing opening reducing flow to the beach, communication-Belle Isle app, One stop shop for events/info
Inclusivity and community engagement, recreational activities

C.4 Online Public Input Questionnaire

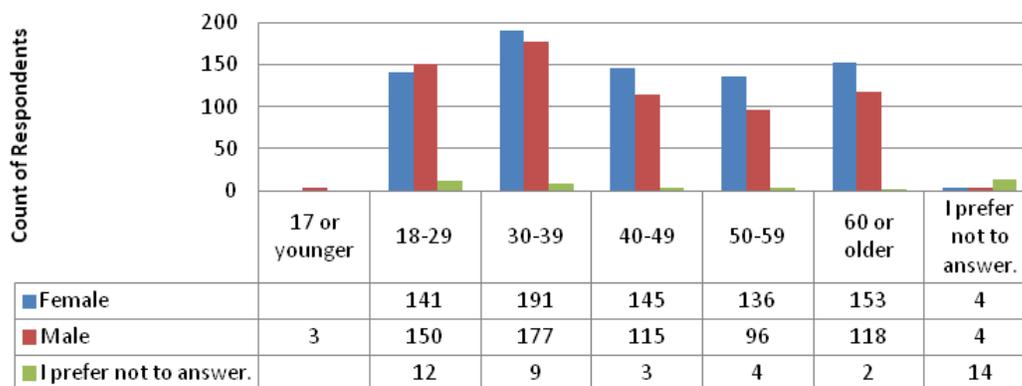
Summary of Public Input Questionnaire

The planning team created a brief online questionnaire to run concurrently with the public meetings to enable those that were not able to attend the public meetings in person to provide input. The questionnaire was designed to reflect the same types of input that was gathered at those meetings. The survey was open from March 15th until April 7th, and was advertised officially through a DNR press release, featured in newspaper articles, and shared on social media. The responses collected contained many diverse opinions, and this summary highlights the common themes.

Many people were interested in engaging with the input process; the survey garnered 1,536 responses. The majority of those interested had visited the park in the last 12 months (95%). The respondents were nearly evenly distributed in terms of gender and age, except there were only three respondents under the age of 17. The majority of respondents were from Detroit and the surrounding area as can be seen on the adjacent map.



Age and Gender of Respondents





### What do you like most about Belle Isle?

When asked what one thing they liked the most about Belle Isle, some of the most frequent responses mentioned the natural areas within the park. Respondents enjoyed having a large, public open space in close proximity to downtown Detroit. They mentioned the beautiful scenic views, especially of the Detroit River, and the peaceful and quiet feeling of the park. Respondents also frequently mentioned the variety of activities available in the park. This ranged from main attractions such as the Conservatory and Aquarium, the Scott Fountain, and events such as the Grand Prix to recreational amenities such as trails and the beach. Below is a word cloud of the most commonly mentioned words.



### What is the one thing you would most like to change about Belle Isle Park?

Although the desired changes to Belle Isle varied widely, there were many items that were mentioned frequently. One frequently mentioned item was the Grand Prix; many respondents would like to see the event discontinued entirely, while others would like to lessen the impact of the event on the island. Many did not like the large concrete parking area utilized for the race and would like to see it returned to a natural area. Other comments related to restoration of the park, whether of underutilized areas such as the closed zoo and golf course, historic buildings such as the Casino, or recreational amenities such as the canals. Others would like to see increased maintenance of the island, including the restrooms. Many respondents would like to see an increased number of open restrooms. Additional amenities that were requested include a public boat launch, additional benches and seating areas, and well-maintained nature trails. Others would like to see administrative changes such as consistent hours between main attractions.

### What improvements have you noticed in the last two years that contribute to your experience at Belle Isle Park?

In the last two years, the respondents to the survey have noticed many positive changes to the island. Respondents most frequently noticed that the island is cleaner, including the restrooms, and that it feels safer. They have noticed improvements to main attractions such as the Aquarium, Conservatory, and Scott Fountain, as well as the new playground. An overall increased level of maintenance and care has been noticed.

**What are your top three priorities for the future of Belle Isle Park?**

Many of the items mentioned as top priorities for the future of Belle Isle echo the answers given for desired changes to the island. These include discontinuing or reducing the impact of the Grand Prix, preserving and restoring existing facilities, restoring or redeveloping the old zoo site, and improving pedestrian and non-motorized infrastructure. Many respondents are most concerned with maintaining the park’s natural beauty and open space, which they see as its most important attribute. Cleanliness of facilities and overall safety were other frequently mentioned priorities. Some respondents would like to see more community events hosted on the island to bring in additional visitors, while others would like to limit the number of events in the park. A random sample of 30 of the 1,437 responses to this question follows, demonstrating the wide variety of people’s priorities for Belle Isle Park.

BELLE ISLE PARK - STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE				
WHAT ARE YOUR TOP THREE PRIORITIES FOR THE FUTURE OF BELLE ISLE PARK?				
NUMBER	RESPONSE DATE	FIRST PRIORITY	SECOND PRIORITY	THIRD PRIORITY
122	March 29, 2017 6:51 PM	End the car races; these disrupt Detroiters’ peaceful usage of the park for approximately 3 months of the year with set up and take down.	Keep the forest paths and the canal clear for passage of bikes, pedestrians, and small water craft	Keep bathrooms available and clean.
898	March 17, 2017 12:45 PM	Public boat ramp!	Rebuilt fishing pier	24 hour access
895	March 17, 2017 1:14 PM	Safety	Keep the east end raw	Cleanliness
1130	March 16, 2017 6:51 PM	Sort out political issues	Continue and grow funding	Prioritize communities’ needs/ ideas
320	March 25, 2017 1:29 PM	The grand prix should go somewhere else or occupy less time on the island	Reopen the zoo area even if not as a zoo	More high quality food trucks?
393	March 24, 2017 2:50 PM	More family-fun activities (water slides)	Cleanliness	Food and beverage services
1310	March 15, 2017 7:36 PM	Nature	Accessibility to and around by non car means	Cleanliness
1121	March 16, 2017 9:43 AM	Bike trails	Activity building	Year round facilities
824	March 18, 2017 11:47 PM	Develop water ways		
1320	March 15, 2017 7:17 PM	Showing more people how amazing the island is.	Taking more friends and family back to visit the Aquarium.	Just enjoying it like I did when I was a kid.
370	March 24, 2017 5:02 PM	Remain under Detroit ownership.	Continued Park Admission fee for Automotive entry for park maintenance.	Park Security, either local or state provided.
37	April 3, 2017 7:14 PM	Conservatory	Bike trails	Places to lock bicycle
384	March 24, 2017 4:18 PM	Clean	More landscaping and natural areas	Less traffic circling
1113	March 16, 2017 10:44 AM	Abandoned zoo demolition / refurbishment	I love the grand Prix, it would be great to have a few more races on the island.	I’d love to see less trash, and more forested areas.
619	March 21, 2017 1:33 PM	More community events	Hiking trails/bike paths	Recreation/classes

BELLE ISLE PARK - STRATEGIC DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN QUESTIONNAIRE, CONTINUED				
NUMBER	RESPONSE DATE	FIRST PRIORITY	SECOND PRIORITY	THIRD PRIORITY
853	March 18, 2017 12:05 PM	Less grass, more native plants!	no more grand prix on the island	continuing to expand education opportunities for youth and adults
1276	March 15, 2017 8:53 PM	Keep fixing up the bathrooms	More signs for the kayak launch at the beach! (Thank you, we really appreciate the cross walk to the beach for the kayak launch)	More paved parking areas.
36	April 3, 2017 7:53 PM	Park is no place for disruptive race, end GrandPrix. In meantime shorten 3 month set-up/ take-down. Also, don't allow private events in natural areas.	Improve and upgrade the natural trails. The ones that exist are in poor condition (too often flooded or the trails is in disrepair).	Expand the number of publicly accessible natural areas and wildlife restoration areas and add interpretative / environmental education elements
1202	March 16, 2017 1:14 AM	update Casino	update yacht club	would love tennis area/club
711	March 20, 2017 4:26 PM	Safety	Maintenance of buildings and outdoor areas, bathrooms	Family friendly events
174	March 28, 2017 3:07 PM	Restrooms. How can they be closed for the season in a year-round park?	Drainage	Don't mess it up with junk. I go to bird watch, boat watch, just relax and walk the dog
764	March 20, 2017 12:00 AM	Rejuvenate the former zoo area- Redevelop....e.g expanded 18 hole golf course.....	Continue renovations of buildings abd structures on the Island	Provide ferry service from downtown (hart plaza) to the Island! Would have great demand on weekends and raise more revenue for the island
987	March 16, 2017 6:24 PM	Get rid of the Grand Prix	Get rid of the Grand Prix race tracks	Get rid of the Grand Prix
633	March 21, 2017 4:11 AM	Maintain all historic buildings and structure	Safety	Cleanliness
1150	March 16, 2017 3:45 AM	Preserve the Natural Landscape	Protect the habitat	Grow the park programming (Big Green Gym)
32	April 4, 2017 1:33 AM	Maintaining availability	Upgrading the Aquarium	More family events on the island
848	March 18, 2017 2:08 AM	Improving opportunities for nature observation	Conservation of native plants and animals	Preservation of historic buildings
1268	March 15, 2017 9:14 PM	Amenities!!!! Restaurants, shops, things to do (rent ice skates, rent boats, etc.)	Amenities!!!! Restaurants, shops, things to do (rent ice skates, rent boats, etc.)	Amenities!!!! Restaurants, shops, things to do (rent ice skates, rent boats, etc.)
163	March 28, 2017 4:31 PM	Develop sidewalk/running path around the entire exterior of the park.	Restoring existing facilities	Decrease spacing of streetlights

Overall, the results of the public input questionnaire were similar to the results of the public input sessions hosted by the planning team. These results, along with those of the public and stakeholder input sessions, will be considered when creating the action plan for Belle Isle Park.



**Belle Isle Park - Strategic Direction and Management Plan Questionnaire**

The Present and Future of Belle Isle

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Parks & Recreation Division (PRD) in association with the Belle Isle Conservancy is in the process of developing a Strategic Direction and Management Plan for Belle Isle Park. This plan will be used to define a long-range planning and management strategy that protects the resources of the site while addressing recreation and education needs and opportunities. Public and stakeholder input is a critical component of the planning process. We invite you to complete this short questionnaire to give your thoughts on the present and future of Belle Isle Park.

Please note there is a 150 character limit on written answers.

**\* 1. Have you visited Belle Isle Park in the last 12 months?**

- Yes
- No

**\* 2. How many times per year do you visit Belle Isle Park?**

- Less than once per year
- 1-2 times per year
- 3-5 times per year
- 6-10 times per year
- 11 or more times per year

**3. What three words would you use to describe Belle Isle Park?**

1

2

3

**4. What is the one thing you like most about Belle Isle Park?**

**5. What is the one thing you would most like to change about Belle Isle Park?**

**6. What improvements have you noticed in the last two years that contribute to your experience at Belle Isle Park?**

**7. What are your top three priorities for the future of Belle Isle Park?**

First Priority

Second Priority

Third Priority

**8. Do you have any other comments about the park or the strategic direction and management plan?**



**Belle Isle Park - Strategic Direction and Management Plan Questionnaire**

**Tell Us About Yourself**

This section will help the planning team understand who uses the park.

**9. What is the ZIP code of your primary residence?**

**10. What is your age?**

- 17 or younger
- 18-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60 or older
- I prefer not to answer.

**11. What is your gender?**

- Male
- Female
- I prefer not to answer.

**12. Optional: If you would like to be kept informed about the Management Plan process, please leave your contact information below:**

Name

Email Address



**Belle Isle Park - Strategic Direction and Management Plan Questionnaire**

Thank you!

Thank you for participating in the Belle Isle Park Management Plan survey! Your input is appreciated. Visit <http://www.mdnrmanagementplans.org/belle-isle-park/> for more information!

## C.5 Public Input Meetings

### Summary of Public Input Meetings

The Public Input Meetings for Belle Isle Park were held in the afternoon and evening of February 1st, 2018, at the Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Adventure Center, 1801 Atwater Street, Detroit. The general public was notified about the meetings through a press release, internet postings, and email notifications. A total of 147 attendees were recorded on sign-in sheets at the two meetings.

Each meeting began with a brief introduction of planning team members. Introductions were followed by a short overview of the strategic management plan process for Belle Isle Park and the plan contents. After the presentation, attendees were asked to review the presentation boards that included excerpts of the draft Strategic Management Plan including the statements of significance, draft management zones, and summarized ten-year action goals.

Participants were presented with several optional methods to express their comments. These methods included “sticky notes” for affixing comments directly onto the presentation boards, flip charts for recording other comments, and a comment sheet with six questions pertaining to the draft Strategic Management Plan contents that could be filled in and left behind for the planning team. Four copies of the complete draft Strategic Management Plan were available to attendees during the meeting for review.

In addition, participants were given ten dots to prioritize their preferred action goals from the ten-year action goals. The action goals that received the most dots included:

- The creation of a trail plan to improve the trail system for non-motorized circulation in the park (45 dots)
- Rehabilitating the Belle Isle Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory (39 dots)
- Canal water management (33 dots)
- Assessing the impact of large events on the park’s visitors and infrastructure (33 dots)
- Pursue hiking trail connections around the Blue Heron lagoon (33 dots)
- Creating a multi-modal circulation and wayfinding plan (30 dots)
- Developing a plan to repurpose the former zoo site (27 dots)
- Improving all picnic shelters (26 dots)

Participants also placed dots on sticky note comments that were affixed to the action goals board. This communicated to the planning team that their top priority was not already listed in the action goals. Some comments received many dots; for example, comments relating to the removal of the concrete “paddock” area received 34 dots.

The press release also informed the general public of the project website, <http://mdnrmanagementplans.org/belle-isle-park>, where they could access the draft plan at their leisure and submit comments. This website was also highlighted



during the public presentation. Online commenting was available until February 12th, during which time fifty-four comments were received. The majority of the comments related to a desire to minimize the impact of the Grand Prix or remove it from the island. The following is a representative comment:

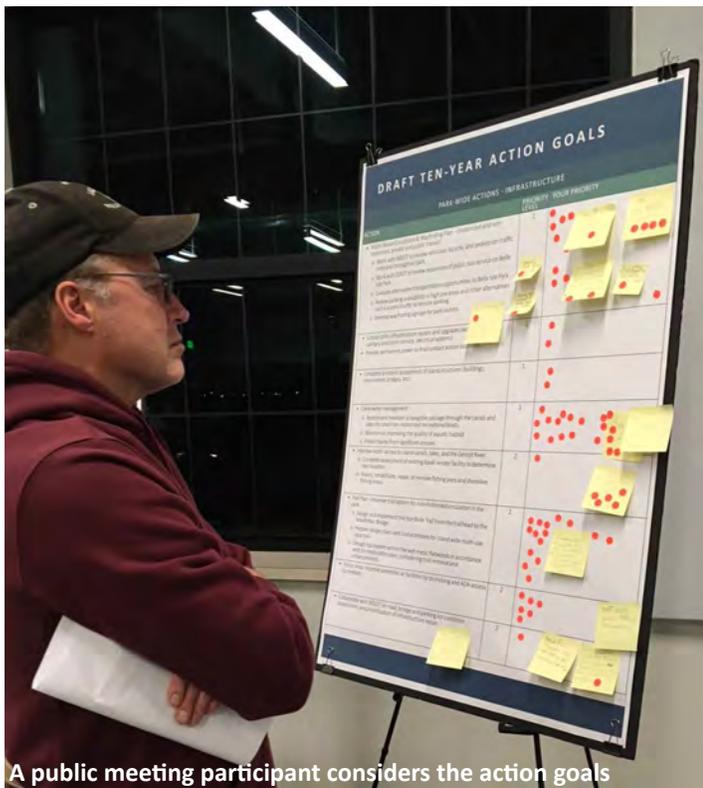
*I am writing to express my support to not renew the Grand Prix on Belle Isle. Belle Isle is a public park for the residences of the City. This is not a public use as it is not free and open to the public. It is only accessible for a select group of people, predominately not Detroit residents.*

*Use of the park is already limited by weather. The time of year means that a significant portion of Belle Isle is not accessible during the beautiful Spring months for several weeks.*

*Finally, the noise and improvements from Grand Prix go against the use of Belle Isle as an outdoor recreational haven in an urban environment. MDNR is making great strides to bring nature to the City on the East Riverfront. I urge you to replicate this effort on Belle Isle.*

Other comments included suggestions to preserve the natural areas of the island, a desire for improved walking and bicycle paths, expanded education opportunities, and ideas for improvements in various areas of the park. A packet containing 1,000 signatures in support of a boat launch on Belle Isle was handed to DNR staff at the meeting. This idea also received some opposition from meeting attendees concerned over additional paving.

These items, along with other input from the public, were considered as the planning team finalized the Strategic Management Plan.



A public meeting participant considers the action goals

Public meeting participants



Family friendly gathering at Belle Isle Park

## Appendix D: Past Survey Results

### D.1 2010 Survey Results

In the summer and fall months of 2010, the Belle Isle Conservancy and the Project for Public Spaces, conducted a survey that included park users (on-site) as well as off-site respondents and organizational supporters (remote); 2,237 surveys were collected. The surveys identified the following:

HIGH PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT RESPONSES	ON-SITE (# AND % OF RESPONDENTS)		REMOTE (# AND % OF RESPONDENTS)	
Re-open the Aquarium	256	38%	1107	71%
Re-open the canals for canoeing/kayaking	184	27%	896	57%
Re-open the Boat Club for public use	185	27%	728	47%

NOT ENOUGH AMENITIES RESPONSES	ON-SITE	REMOTE
Places to buy food	82%	66%
Drinking Fountains	74%	60%
Restrooms	59%	58%
Things To Do	52%	40%
Benches	51%	50%
Park Security	37%	61%
Waste Receptacles	50%	59%

COMMON/POPULAR PARK ACTIVITIES RESPONSES	ON-SITE	REMOTE
Picnic	39.1%	68.1%
Exercise	31.1%	55.4%
Stroll/walk	29.0%	61.3%
Socialize	23.2%	45.3%

Nearly 30% of the survey respondents indicated they would like to receive information about getting involved and volunteering at Belle Isle Park. Using the survey results, the DNR coordinated its planning processes and action items to maximize resources and unify the stakeholders and supporters of Belle Isle Park.

### D.2 2016 Survey Results

Following the 2014 season, the BIPAC conducted a strategic goal setting process to help define their expectations for Belle Isle Park. One action step was to obtain a statistically valid assessment of the public's perception of Belle Isle Park since the DNR commenced operation in February, 2014.

The survey was designed to gain an understanding, among different cohorts, of their perceptions of Belle Isle, its importance and value. Questions were established that could be repeated in the future to measure progress regarding the level of awareness surrounding the park's features and

potential improvements. MORPACE Marketing, Research and Consultants was commissioned to complete the survey. The survey was based upon a statistically significant random sample of residents from Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties and from the City of Detroit. A multiple-pronged methodology was used that included interviews with stakeholders associated with Belle Isle Conservancy, surveys from the general population of the three counties, and in-person intercept interviews conducted on the island itself.

The results of the survey are being used to guide investments and to ensure that the park operation is aligned with the public expectations. The following is the summary of the results:

- There was a higher level of awareness of Belle Isle, and a tendency to go to the park more often, among Detroiters versus people who live outside the city.
- Overwhelmingly, respondents thought of Belle Isle as a place to bring food/picnic rather than a location to purchase food.
- The park has more of a perception of being dirty and noisy among people who have not visited it within the past year.
- People who visited the park in the last year, and individuals who had not, had very similar views on the appropriate uses for Belle Isle. Especially popular items included family outings/celebrations, viewing scenery, walking and biking.
- Detroiters who have visited the park within the past year were significantly more inclined to feel that the \$11 state park passport was a good value compared to residents who have not visited in the past 12 months.
- Fresh air/open spaces and scenic drive/cruise were favorite reasons to actually come to Belle Isle among people who had been there in the past year, but visiting a museum and gardens were very high on the list among non-recent visitors.
- Visiting Belle Isle seems to be considered a social activity, with an overwhelming percentage of the respondents indicating that they go or will go with at least one other person.
- Scott Fountain/Statue and the Belle Isle Aquarium were easily the most visited sites and they were the favorites as well. In general, visitors were aware of the park's less viewed attractions like the Casino area and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.
- Whether a visitor within the past year or not, the vast majority of individuals spent at least one hour in the park with more than 50%, of each group, being on the island for three or more hours.
- People who have been to the park within the past year clearly felt welcome (Top 2 Box score of 81%) and were satisfied with their experience/visit (Top 2 Box result of 89%).
- Among all respondents, helpfulness of the park's staff, improving its cleanliness and the restrooms were unmet

needs and would be the clearest paths to improving overall satisfaction and expanding the visitor base.

- Among Detroiters who have visited Belle Isle in the past year, two unmet needs stood out: The quality of the park's signage and the quality of the restrooms.
- Within the group of respondents who have not been to the park in the past year, improved restrooms, cleanliness, safety and security and the helpfulness of the park's staff were their chief unmet needs. Improvements in these areas could motivate some of them to visit and then, when they do, increase their potential satisfaction with the park.
- Among Conservancy list respondents, the unmet needs that, if improved, could lead to higher satisfaction at Belle Isle were the helpfulness of the park's staff and better restrooms.
- Among respondents who were metro residents, one area stood out as an unmet need: The restrooms.
- Among participants who had not visited the park in the last year, there was no extravagant reason why this was the case. They simply noted that they did not have the opportunity/were too busy, that it was too far to drive, etc.
- When asked about park improvement ideas via an open-end question, no single concept obtained more than 17% of the responses. Being cleaner/trash pickup, bathroom improvements, more security (all issues that showed up on the unmet needs charts) and more activities/concerts were mentioned the most.
- Individual Detroit residents who have not visited Belle Isle in the past year were more enthusiastic about music events, organized activities and boating activities than were Detroiters who have been to the park within the past year.
- People would like to obtain information about Belle Isle through many different means with none being dominant. The most common were the Internet, newspapers/magazines, social media, the Belle Isle Conservancy website and emails/on a listserv.



Lily Pond at the Conservatory



Entrance to the Belle Isle Aquarium

## Appendix E: Past Plan Summary

Three comprehensive planning studies were completed in 2016 and were used to inform this planning effort. Extracts from the Executive Summaries of the Biederman Redevelopment Ventures Plan for Belle Isle, Albert Kahn Belle Isle Aquarium and Conservatory Recommendations, and James Scott Memorial Water Fountain & Rehabilitation Master Plan are provided below for information. These plans were referenced as appropriate to formulate the actions proposed for implementation in this Strategic Management Plan. In addition, a list of all of the known major planning documents relating to Belle Isle Park, dating back to its inception, are included at the end of this section.

### E.1 Biederman Redevelopment Ventures

#### (BRV) Executive Summary (2016)

Belle Isle is the City of Detroit's most important park, and it has started to rebound after many challenging years with limited resources, thanks to the stewardship of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), with support from the Belle Isle Conservancy (BIC).

The DNR and the BIC have begun the process of stabilizing the island's infrastructure, fortifying the island's operations, and addressing some festering problems on the island. To raise Belle Isle to new heights, the DNR and the BIC must continue to aim high in their collective ambitions. Belle Isle has the potential to be the best urban park of its size in the world.

Together, the DNR and the BIC should strive for nothing less in their efforts to improve and maintain Belle Isle.

#### Vision for Belle Isle

The first section of this strategic plan will lay out a vision for a world-class Belle Isle, zone-by-zone, based on community listening sessions, interviews with stakeholders, careful observation, research, and professional experience. This vision is not a traditional master plan. Instead, it is a guide for individual capital renovation and operational improvement projects that should be planned in detail, designed, and executed by the DNR, BIC, and stakeholders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Additionally, programming and amenities should be planned and executed in partnership with community organizations from throughout metropolitan Detroit and Michigan. All of these groups must collaborate to ensure that Belle Isle continues to uphold and improve its strong appeal to local and worldwide visitors, through regular and engaging programs. The capital improvements made to Belle Isle's buildings and landscape will drastically improve the future of Belle Isle's appearance, feel, and number of visitors.

#### Financial Analysis of Belle Isle Improvements

The second section of this strategic plan will explore how Belle Isle can be financially strong. First, this section will lay out a possible expense budget for an improved park. Then, it will explore how this expense budget could be paid for by a

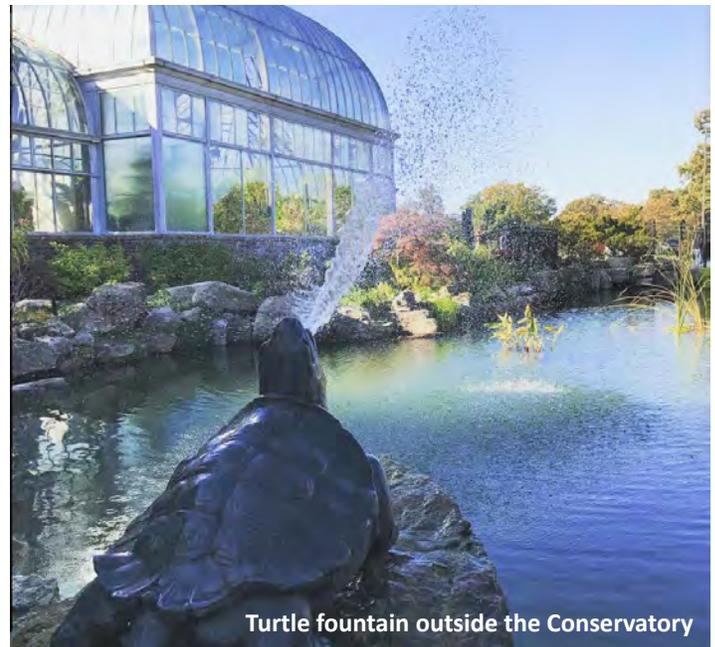
combination of appropriations from the State of Michigan and earned revenue from events, sponsorships, food and beverage operations, and philanthropic contributions. This expense budget is approximate and we understand that it might not be executed on the island in exactly the way that we describe. However, we feel that the approximate level of required expense is correct and serves as a useful target for creating goals for annual operating revenues.

After exploring the operating expense and revenue picture on Belle Isle, the second section will explore the approximate costs of making major capital improvements throughout the island. The first part of this sub-section will lay out zone-by-zone early estimates of the cost to make the capital improvements described in section one. These estimates are a combination of information gleaned from previous studies, projections made using ratios for comparable project costs, and the results of a capital cost-estimate study being pursued in parallel by the DNR. These estimates are preliminary and should be sharpened as the capital projects unfold. While they are preliminary, we believe these estimates are approximately correct and can be used as a starting point for developing a capital campaign for the island. Estimates are provided only for project zones where we believe the DNR and BIC should lead fundraising and project development. In other zones, shown without capital improvement cost estimates, a vendor or other type of partner should lead the fundraising and project development.

Following the estimate of capital cost improvements by zone, the second part of this sub-section will lay out the order with which we feel that capital improvements on the island should be pursued. This section includes the factors we based this list on and a description of our rationale for each prioritization. While we feel this prioritized list reflects the results of community listening sessions, interviews with stakeholders, careful observation, research, and professional experience, we understand that members of the BIC and DNR teams might prioritize differently and we expect this list to change. Regardless of the order, we think it is important that the two parties negotiate and agree upon a list of capital improvement project priorities.

### **Organizational & Governance Model for Belle Isle**

The third section of this document will explore the model for a strong, cooperative partnership between the DNR and the BIC to lead Belle Isle. This section will lay out possible organizational options that could guide the relationship between the DNR and the BIC, before describing what we believe to be the optimal solution. After summarizing the optimal solution, this section will provide greater detail on the roles and responsibilities of the DNR and the BIC in the



Turtle fountain outside the Conservatory

partnership and will provide rationale for how we arrived at this conclusion.

### **Putting the Partnership in Motion**

The fourth section of this document will describe the next steps for the DNR and BIC as they seek to form a strong, functional partnership and improve the island to world-class standards. This section will lay out in detail the terms of an MOU that could define the relationship between the DNR and BIC and outlines next steps for each organization. Finally, this section answers questions that have come up from various parties during the course of this project.

## **E.2 A Vision for Restoration**

### **Belle Isle Aquarium & Conservatory Strategic Recommendations (Albert Kahn Associates 2016)**

#### **Introduction**

The design team was charged by the Belle Isle Conservancy (BIC) to develop strategic recommendations for the rehabilitation and revitalization of the Belle Isle Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory. These two historic buildings, designed by famed Detroit architect Albert Kahn, are opposites in their display content, but combined they provide some of the greatest visual experiences found on Belle Isle. The Aquarium with its fish displays show constant movement of life, color and underwater culture while the majestic plants of the Conservatory draw the eye upwards or downwards with palm trees that soar high above and ferns and wild orchids that line the curving walkways. The grandeur of these buildings is accentuated by the robust formality of the

Conservatory Gardens which connects interior to exterior. The vision is to develop spaces that lead people on an exploration of aquatic and plant life.

## Project Site Context

The project site is located within Belle Isle’s Cultural Campus and is bound by Inselruhe Avenue to the east, The Strand to the south, Picnic Way on the west and Loiter Way to the north. This area contains the Belle Isle Aquarium, Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and Gardens, a covered picnic pavilion/bus stop, surface parking lot and small lagoon for an overall size of 13.5 acres. Adjacent buildings are the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, City of Detroit Greenhouses, the White House, Nancy Brown Peace Carillon as well as open green spaces. Located nearby are other island attractions like the Flynn Pavilion, Belle Isle Casino and James Scott Memorial Fountain.

## Vision

Create a campus which reinforces the connection of the Belle Isle Aquarium and Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory while reintroducing visitors to these historic buildings and the educational benefits they contain.



Education at Belle Isle Aquarium

## Vision for Belle Isle Aquarium

The Aquarium opened in 1904 and has been providing generations of visitors with a glimpse into the aquatic ecosystem of the Great Lakes. Over the years it has gone through several renovations leaving each generation with a specific “snap shot in time” of the building and its content. Although the intention is to maintain the historic architectural character, significant updates to the fish displays and use of existing spaces, will be required to make the Aquarium an attraction that will draw visitors. A simple restoration and general maintenance will not generate enough interest to increase visits and will only create a historical curiosity for a select group of people.

The design team envisions a new state of the art aquatic display highlighting the fish of the Michigan Great Lakes Region as well as great lake regions around the world. The small existing individual tanks will be upgraded and potentially combined to create larger habitats that will each have a unique theme. The central pagoda and linear walls that divide the space will be removed, allowing a free flow of circulation between exhibits. The lower level will focus on office support, education and will contain classroom, lab space and offices. A large 4D theatre will provide memorable and educational interactive experiences for young and old alike.

## Vision for Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and Gardens

Opening on the same day as the Aquarium, The Conservatory is one of the most striking buildings on Belle Isle, drawing visitors in with its neo-classical glass façade, then impressing them with the robust plant collection within. In 1955, the Conservatory was named after Anna Scripps Whitcomb, who donated her prized orchid collection. Staff and volunteers work tirelessly to maintain the remaining orchid collection as well as other collections: the palm tree, fern, tropical plant, flower and cacti collections.

The structure covers approximately 13,375 square feet with an eighty-five foot high central glass dome. Although still structurally sound, the steel frame and glass panels are in need of repair. The strategic plan calls for the repair and replacement of the steel frame, and installation of new energy efficient double glazed panels for all vertical windows. The display rooms will be updated with new environmental controls for heating and ventilation. The planting beds will benefit from irrigation, water temperature controls, and hydronic soil heating. Extensive landscape renovations to the formal gardens and along the lagoon’s edge will revamp the Conservatory’s “front yard”, and create an enhanced visitor experience connecting the interior with the exterior.

**Goals**

- Rehabilitate the Conservatory, Aquarium and garden grounds.
- Establish the highest professional standards for aquatic life, husbandry practices, and plant care to achieve AZA certification.
- Enhance day to day operations to support the facilities.
- Maintain zero cost admission for the public.
- Enhance user experience.
- Connect the Aquarium, Conservatory, and museum at a pedestrian scale.
- Develop revenue sources to support operations.
- Support educational programming (research and tour visits).
- Create an to sustain the vision.
- Right size staffing to support operations.
- Maintain the highest standards in meeting the wellbeing, biological, and physiological needs of the live collections.
- Set the stage for a capital campaign.
- Utilize and repurpose existing buildings adjacent to the campus for support and revenue services.

**Purpose of the Planning Exercise**

The body of this report:

- Inventories the existing building conditions.
- Identifies immediate recommendations to stabilize assets.
- Proposes new program to enhance the user experience
- Establishes an operational model to right size staff and expenses based on market analysis and organizational structure.

The Strategic Recommendations are prioritized to provide a framework for successful marketing and fundraising campaigns.



## Using Strategic Recommendations for Planning Purposes

This report is a tool to assist the BIC in selecting the appropriate recommendation based on available funding and timing to achieve the desired project goals. A hierarchy has been established in the listing of the recommendations to support and guide the development.

This framework provides for flexible implementation of various projects over time.

It should be noted that Early Required recommendations should take priority with regards next steps.

The Strategic Recommendation Matrix is a tool to assist the BIC in developing fundraising targets and phasing opportunities. This matrix includes Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) opinion of costs for each recommendation.

The operational model is also a flexible tool that is currently based on the following:

- Stabilized attendance at 268,000 people per year
- 12.25 FTE for the BIC staff and 10.5 FTE for DNR staff

Revenue streams and operation expenses will change over time. For example, until the staffing number of 22.75 FTE are realized, the total operational expense will be less than the established baseline number.



Volunteering at Belle Isle Park

## E.3 James Scott Memorial Water Fountain & Rehabilitation Master Plan

**Executive Summary (Hamilton Anderson Associates, 2016)**

### Scott Fountain & The Great Lawn

The Scott Fountain, Belle Isle's most recognizable landmark, is located at the west end of the island. Construction of Scott Fountain began in 1914 and was finished in 1925. Additional construction of lagoon seawalls extended through 1934 as part of the part of a Federal Emergency Relief Administration. The fountain has since enhanced Belle Isle's attractiveness and stature, and the fountain continues to be a popular gathering spot on the island.

The fountain plaza is enhanced with site amenities and landscaping, uniting the fountain and cascade spaces, making it a more welcoming site for the public and special occasions. To acknowledge the importance and value of the fountain and cascades, the plan adjusts automobile access directly adjacent to the fountain. Cars can park in adjacent parking lots. Accessible pathways connect the fountain and basin areas to the promenade and picnic areas. Landscaping includes seasonal flowers and shrubbery complementing the elegance of the white marble landmark. Elements inconsistent with the formal activity such as the wide pavement, chain link fencing and barricades are removed or relocated.

### Proposed Site Plan

A graphic site plan is included which illustrates the recommendations described below.

### Architectural and Site Recommendations

#### One to Three Years

1. Install ADA accessible route to fountain.
2. Grind and tuck point all fountain mortar joints.
3. Repair rhytons, fish, relief panels and cherub.
4. Clean and seal all marble surfaces on main fountain, upper and lower cascades and marble stairs.
5. Modify existing rail at top and bottom of lower cascade to prevent falls.
6. Repair and repaint the existing steel railings and guardrails in short term.
7. Repair lead flashing throughout the fountain.
8. Repair expansion joints at outer basin, and upper and lower cascades.

#### Three to Five Years

9. Consider making control room available for tours.
10. Install controls to support internet.

11. Install cabling to support new control devices.
12. Clean Scott Statue.
13. Replace railings and guardrails with more appropriately designed fixtures.
14. Enhance pedestrian connections to central promenade.
15. Remove parking on lagoon side of fountain circle. Replace with pedestrian scaled amenities.
16. Reconfigure remaining parking.
17. Reduce drive width leading to fountain circle.
18. Enhance landscaping around fountain and basin and unify space.
19. Add amenities such as benches, bike racks and lighting.

### Five to Ten Years

20. Replace paving around fountain.

## Mechanical and Electrical Recommendations

### One to Three Years

1. Replace the piping, valves, and components serving the fountain. The pipe material shall be stainless steel or PVC.
2. Replace the existing 24" isolation valve and control lever.
3. Remove the basket strainer from the transfer pipe.
4. Replace three existing vertical split case pumps.
5. Upgrade the control system to allow the fountain to operate automatically in lieu of manually.
6. Replace the existing heating and ventilating system for the pump room.
7. Upgrade the incoming electrical service equipment (to be completed by DTE). This is a low priority item, as the equipment appears to be in working condition. This will be completed by DTE as a part of the take-over of the PLD equipment and is expected to be a no cost item to the project. Anticipated schedule for this recommendation is near-term (1-3 years).
8. Upgrade electrical distribution equipment. New equipment should be NEMA 4X rated due to the humidity in the space. Our recommendation would be equipment in Polycarbonate housings, but stainless steel is also an option. Anticipated schedule for this recommendation near-term (1-3 years). We assume this would happen at the same time as recommendation #1.
9. Upgrade branch circuit wiring and conduits. Replace outdated wiring and corroded conduit infrastructure. Our recommendation would be to use PVC conduit throughout due to the humidity and chemicals used in the space. Anticipated schedule for this recommendation is near-term (1-3 years). We assume this would happen at the same time as recommendation #1.



James Scott Memorial Fountain

### Three to Five Years

10. Upgrade lighting in the pump room. Replace existing systems with NEMA 4x rated LED fixtures. Anticipated schedule for this recommendation is mid-term (3-5 years).
11. Upgrade in-fountain lighting. LED in either static white or color changing could be utilized in a similar or re-imagined configuration, offering greater flexibility for shows or special events. Commercial grade, submersible fixtures would be utilized in a configuration recommended by a lighting designer. Anticipated schedule for this recommendation is mid-term (3-5 years), but should be considered to be done to coincide with other fountain repairs.

### Five to Ten Years

12. Option – Add lighting in Cascades. Lighting was not an original feature of the fountain, but was added in the 1980's. Similar lighting could be added to the cascades during renovation if desired, to make these features a part of the lighting show. Anticipated schedule for this recommendation is long-term (5+ years), but should be considered as a part of the in-fountain lighting upgrades, or done to coincide with other fountain repairs.
13. Re-create and re-install perimeter lighting. Utilizing the original plans, commissioning the reproduction of the (16) "Bronze Candelabra" fixtures would restore some missing original details to the perimeter. Utilizing an LED source with modern controls in the globe, would allow the lighting to be controlled and dimmed by a new fountain lighting control system for integration in any evening shows.

### Costs

To realize the vision of a fully restored Scott Fountain, up to \$5.5 million in long-term investment will be needed to revitalize the Fountain's engineering, architecture and site.

BELLE ISLE PARK PAST PLANS				
TITLE	DATE	PREPARED BY	PREPARED FOR	SUMMARY
Frederick Law Olmsted initial site plans	1883	Frederick Law Olmsted	City of Detroit	Original site plan drawings done by Frederick Law Olmsted.
A Catalogue on the Flora of Detroit	1902	O.A. Farwell	Commissioners of Parks and Boulevards	Catalogue of plant species collected from Belle Isle along with some areas surrounding the Park.
1972 HCMA Proposed Master Plan	1972	Huron Clinton Metroparks Association		New master plan to re-energize and the park, which included a tollgate and management by HCMA
1976 Proposed Master Plan	1976	Kiley, Tyndall, Walker	Friends of Belle Isle	Comprehensive revitalization plan that included a proposal to remove automobiles from the island
Belle Isle Canal Rehabilitation	1993	JJR Inc	City of Detroit	The investigation includes scientific analyses of water quality, aquatic and terrestrial resources, hydrology, land use, visual aesthetics, and concepts for management recommendations.
Restoration Study for Belle Isle Aquarium and Belle Isle Conservatory	1995	Albert Kahn Associates	Detroit Recreation Department	Inspection and record of the condition of the Belle Isle Conservatory and Aquarium buildings, including recommendations for repair or replacement.
Canal Renovations Project Belle Isle Park	1996	JJR Inc, Tucker Young Jackson Tull Inc	City of Detroit	Plans depicting the necessary canal renovations.
Detroit Boat Club Proposed Site Plan	1997	Hamilton Anderson Associates	Detroit Recreation Department	Plans for the proposed Detroit Boat Club.
Belle Isle Lake and Canal Long-Term Management Program	1999	JJR Inc	City of Detroit	This document reviews the water levels necessary to maintain the canal and what procedures are in place to do this.
Belle Isle Lakes and Canals Aquatic Weed Control Program	2000	Smith Group JJR	City of Detroit	Record of applications of aquatic herbicide (SONAR) to Belle Isle surface waters and post-treatment observations and recommendations for aquatic weed control.
Tree Survey and Plant Lists for the Woods of Belle Isle Park	2002	King MacGregor Environmental Inc		Baseline information about the flora of the woodland in the northeastern part of Belle Isle.
Draft Aquatic Restoration Report and Environmental Assessment	2002	City of Detroit	USACE	Comprehensive, long-term management strategy to improve water quality, recreational activities, and restore the aesthetic character of the island's internal aquatic resource.
Belle Isle Master Plan	2005	Hamilton Anderson Associates	Detroit Recreation Department	Comprehensive master plan for renovating Belle Isle proposing site-specific improvements including environmental enhancement, historic preservation, circulation and programming are addressed.
Belle Isle Physical Needs Assessment	2005	Community Development Solutions LLC	Detroit Recreation Department	Assessment of 54 facilities on Belle Isle, including data on the structures , defective conditions, specific repair needs, and a detailed cost estimate for each item.

BELLE ISLE PARK PAST PLANS, CONTINUED				
TITLE	DATE	PREPARED BY	PREPARED FOR	SUMMARY
Belle Isle Bird Surveys	2005	Allen T. Chartier	DTE Energy	A record of 2005 bird surveys summarized by season, and an annotated species list for the island summarizing all bird sightings from 2005 as well as historical records.
Final Facility Review for Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory	2010	BEI Associates	Detroit Building Authority	Evaluation of the condition and operations of lighting, heating and ventilation systems that serve the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory complex.
Floristic Quality Assessment	2013	Gerould Wilhelm & Conservation Design Forum	BIC	Floristic inventory and quality assessment of the Belle Isle Forest site.
Ecological Management Plan	2013	Cardno JFNew & Conservation Design Forum	BIC	Guiding document for the management of the forest from 2014 through 2018.
Nancy Brown Carillon Rehabilitation Master Plan (RMP)	2014	Quinn Evans Associates	BIC, City of Detroit's Historic Designation Board, Detroit Recreation Department	Guidance in restoring the Nancy Brown Peace Carillon and ensuring its continued integrity and function for the future, including written construction documents to address critical repairs.
Tree Inventory Summary Report	2014	Davey Resource Group	DNR	Inventory and assessment of the trees located in Belle Isle Park, including species composition, tree condition and maintenance recommendations.
Belle Isle Aquarium and Conservatory Strategic Recommendations	2016	Albert Kahn Associates	BIC	Strategic recommendations for the rehabilitation and revitalization of the Belle Isle Aquarium and the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory.
Belle Isle Trail Master Plan	2016	Smith Group JJR	DNR	Master plan for future trail development on Belle Isle, including a 6-mile paved multi-use trail, a trailhead for the Iron Belle Trail and a trail system through the 200-acre woodland.
Draft Belle Isle Comprehensive Hydrologic Assessment	2016	Smith Group JJR	Friends of the Detroit River, DNR, NOAA	Report on the current hydrology on Belle Isle specific to the +/- 200 acre wet-mesic flatwoods forest (flatwoods). This project builds upon the Phase 1 work in 2013.
Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration Project	2016	WadeTrim, SOMAT Engineering	Friends of the Detroit River, DNR, MDOT	Bridge and culvert engineering study to improve aquatic habitat.
Natural Resource Stewardship Plan	2016	Glenn Palmgren, PRD	DNR- PRD	Identifies a set of natural resource conservation targets for the park and a series of strategies and specific tasks to address threats to these conservation targets.
James Scott Memorial Water Fountain & Rehabilitation Plan	2016	Hamilton Anderson Associates	BIC	Analysis of the history, current conditions, and systems and recommendations for rehabilitation.
Strategic Plan for Belle Isle	2016	Biederman Redevelopment Ventures	DNR & BIC	This plan presents a vision for Belle Isle Park.



## Appendix F: 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

The 5-year Capital Improvement Plan budget is based on the improvement needs as outlined in Chapter 7 of the Belle Isle Management Plan. Park improvements are prioritized to address the Health, Safety and Welfare of park users and park staff working on Belle Isle. The priority projects throughout the park address the stabilization of buildings and utility infrastructure currently used by the public first and then stabilization of non-utilized buildings secondly. The 30 most important projects determined at this time have been put at the top of Belle Isle's total project list amounting to \$300 million worth of deferred maintenance. The proposed budget for the next five years is based on the current general funding provided by the state legislature, \$1,250,000 per fiscal year. It is possible that future funding or the condition of infrastructure might warrant revisions to the proposed 5 year capital plan. The capital priorities for park infrastructure improvements will be reviewed annually before the start of each fiscal year to ensure funding is used to best address island needs.



Kids Row playscape at Belle Isle Park

5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN				
FY 2018 PROPOSED PROJECTS				
IMPROVEMENT CATEGORY	PARK LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	FUNDING REQUEST	PROGRAM REVIEW NOTES
Historical Structures	Internal Affairs/ Radio Station Building	Engineering & Construction-Improvements to building as required to address structural, mechanical, site needs and ADA accessibility	\$700,000	Structural stabilization needs were addressed and a new roof was installed with FY 2017 Funds. Improvements to this building will allow DNR and LED staff offices and the customer service center to relocate here. The structural engineering report has identified that the current offices in the White House is detrimental to that structure. Propose to also fund with \$75,000 in Operations Funds and \$200,000 from BI revenue. Health, Safety, Welfare -Near future/coming (2), Overall Park Priority: 2
Historical Structures	Casino	Engineering & Construction-building Critical Stabilization, Roof repairs, Drainage clean out around building (QE)	\$100,000	Quinn Evan's 2015 building assessment noted that several critical repairs must be made to stop deterioration of these buildings. Additional repairs to the roof and exterior masonry have been discovered during current construction. Health, Safety, Welfare-Near future/coming (2), Overall Park Priority: 2
Historical Structures	*BIA & ASWC	Engineering & Construction-HVAC system upgrade, Ventilation and Control System improvements, glass replacement and structural repairs for the BIA and ASWC (GHF)	\$200,000	Engineering has been completed with FY2017 funds to address structural repairs in both of the Conservatory and Aquarium. This project would repair structural deficiencies and required ventilation for in the ASWC. Health, Safety, Welfare-eminant failure now (1), Overall Park Priority: 4
Recreational Structures	Shoreline Fishing Improvements	Engineering & Construction-Improvements to the Northside Shoreline Fishing Area will include replacement of the railing system and improving ADA accessibility to the site	\$250,000	Currently the Shoreline Fishing Area is not ADA accessible, nor are the rails safe or provide ADA access for fishing. A MNRTF Grant has been applied for Engineering and Construction, if Grant is not awarded, Capital Outlay must fund project. Health, Safety, Welfare-Near future/coming (2), require per MOU with GLFT
<b>FY 2018 Capital Outlay Total \$1,250,000</b>				

# 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

FY 2019 PROPOSED PROJECTS				
IMPROVEMENT CATEGORY	PARK LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	FUNDING REQUEST	PROGRAM REVIEW NOTES
Historical Structures	Casino	Construction- Upgrades, repairs and/ or replacement of elevator controls and parts as needed will be completed based on the assessment completed in 2017	\$100,000	The Casino Building is regularly used by the public and the existing elevator does not provide consistent service for ADA accessibility to the second floor as needed. Repairs and/ or replacement will be funded by FY 2018 budget. Health, Safety, Welfare-near future failure/coming (2), Overall Park Priority: 2
Historical Structures	*BIA & ASWC	Engineering & Construction-HVAC system Upgrade, Ventilation and Control System, Glass Replacement and Structural Engineering for the BIA and ASWC (GHF)	\$200,000	Engineering has been completed with FY 2017 funds to address structural repairs in both of the Conservatory and Aquarium. This project would repair structural deficiencies and required ventilation for new HVAC system in the ASWC and continue with engineering for proposed HVAC system. Health, Safety, Welfare-Eminent failure now (1), Overall Park Priority: 4
Historical Structures	Athletic Shelter	Engineering & Construction-Renovate Athletic Shelter Roof; replace shingles, repair decking, and weather proof building as required	\$525,000	The integrity of the roof has not been addressed in some time and the current roof is past it's useful life. Health, Safety, Welfare-Eminent failure now (1), Overall Park Priority: 5
Historical Structures	White House	Construction- Complete Foundation Replacement and Structural Repairs to the White House	\$425,000	Engineering for improvements were completed by Quinn Evans with FY 2017 funds. Health, Safety, Welfare-near future (2), Overall Park Priority: 6
<b>FY 2019 Capital Outlay TOTAL</b>				
<b>\$1,250,000</b>				

FY 2020 PROPOSED PROJECTS				
IMPROVEMENT CATEGORY	PARK LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	FUNDING REQUEST	PROGRAM REVIEW NOTES
Historical Structures	Flynn Pavilion	Engineering & Construction- Roof and building stabilization repairs	\$100,000	Complete additional repairs to windows, roof and masonry as outlined in the needs report completed by Quinn Evans in 2015 . Health, Safety, Welfare- Eminent failure now (2), Overall Park Priority: 3
Historical Structures	Scott Fountain	Engineering- Structural assessment of fountain, weir wall and basin walls and adjacent sidewalks	\$50,000	Structural reports for the fountain and the basin need to be completed for a comprehensive list of needed repairs to both areas of the Scott Fountain. Repairs to be funded through capital campaign. Health, Safety, Welfare- near future (2), Overall Park Priority: 7
Historical Structures	Oakway Pavilion	Engineering & Construction- Improvements to Concession and restroom building and adjacent parking lot and pedestrian connection to beach.	\$600,000	Repairs to be will provide additional restrooms for the public and a vendor location in the building. Parking improvements schedule planned to align with future beach area deck and splash park improvements plans proposed by BIC. Health, Safety, Welfare- Important (3), Building- Overall Park Priority: 14
Historical Structures	Beach House, Bath House Shelter, Oxbow Restrooms, Bear Pit, Stone Shelter, Woodside Shelter, Kids Row Building and comfort station and Shelter #12.	Engineering & Construction - Physical assessments of comfort buildings and shelters to be completed and critical repairs prioritized.	\$100,000	Health, Safety, Welfare- near future (2), Overall Park Priority:. Health, Safety, Welfare Important (3), Overall Park Priority:17 (Bear Pit) & 19 (Shelter #19)
Roads/Sidewalks	Park Wide	Engineering - Wayfinding Signage Design and Implementation	\$75,000	Improved signage to assist wayfinding is high on the list of visitor requested improvements to the park. Improved signage to be a comprehensive system that enhances the aesthetic of the park while providing clear direction for visitors to facilities throughout the park and replaces street, facility and location maps in poor condition. Health, Safety, Welfare- Important (3), Overall Park Priority: 9
Utilities	Park Wide	Engineering & Construction- Water Main Line Repairs	\$175,000	Health, Safety, Welfare- Important (3), Overall Park Priority: 11
Utilities	Park Wide	Engineering & Construction- Stormwater	\$150,000	Health, Safety, Welfare- Important (3), Overall Park Priority: 12
<b>FY 2020 Capital Outlay TOTAL \$1,250,000</b>				

# 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

FY 2021 PROPOSED PROJECTS				
IMPROVEMENT CATEGORY	PARK LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	FUNDING REQUEST	PROGRAM REVIEW NOTES
Historical Building	Casino	Engineering & Construction- A/C Replacement	\$325,000	The current A/C unit is past its useful life and needs to be replaced. Health, Safety, Welfare- Near future (2), Overall Park Priority: 2
Recreational Structures	Outdoor Gathering Area/Beach	Engineering & Construction- Beach House, Oxbow Restrooms, Bear Pit, Stone Shelter and Shelter #12. Priorities to be determined by 2020 Assessment	\$350,000	Overall Park Priority:. Health, Safety, Welfare Important (3), Overall Park Priority:17 ( Bear Pit) & 19 (Shelter #19)
Recreational Structures	South Fishing Pier	Engineering - Physical Assessment of pier structure and surface decking replacement and ADA access improvements are required.	\$75,000	An engineering assessment of the fishing pier was completed in 2015. The height of the pier and the depth of surrounding waters do not provide optimal fishing opportunities, however the pier is a popular attraction. Currently the pier is closed due to the poor condition of the decking and needs to be replaced. Health, Safety, Welfare- Important (3), Overall Park Priority: 20
Recreational Structures	Athletic Complex	Engineering-Develop Athletic Complex Programming and Infrastructure Improvement plan to address building Improvements, field and court Improvements and additional facilities within complex.	\$100,000	Develop Complex Programming and Infrastructure Improvement plan to address field and court Improvements and additional facilities within complex to increase community programming. Design- Develop Athletic Complex Programming and infrastructure improvement Plan. Complex wide plan to address building stabilization and improvements that will provide for additional programming and revenue generation. Physical building improvements will need - HVAC replacement, fire suppression, roof improvements, drain maintenance and repair, ADA access improvements and field and court improvements and replacements. Health, Safety, Welfare- Near future (3), Overall Park Priority: 22
Roads/Sidewalks	Park Wide	Engineering- Trail Design	\$100,000	The Southern Terminus of the Iron Belle Trail is scheduled to be constructed in FY 2018. Following construction of the trailhead will be engineering and construction of the Iron Belle Trail from the trailhead on the East end of the park to the MacArthur Bridge. Health, Safety, Welfare- Desired (4), Overall Park Priority: 21
Recreational Structures	Park Wide	Engineering & Construction- Canal System Improvements, Repairing canal pumps, modifying outlet structure, dredging canals (JJR).	\$200,000	Improvements to park canals will compliment ADA accessible launches installed in 2016 and the proposed launches in Nashua Canal in FY 2018. Health, Safety, Welfare- Important (3), Overall Park Priority: 18
Utilities	Park Wide	Engineering & Construction- Water Main Line Repairs	\$100,000	Health, Safety, Welfare- Important (3), Overall Park Priority: 11
<b>FY 2021 Capital Outlay TOTAL</b>				
<b>\$1,250,000</b>				

FY 2022 PROPOSED PROJECTS				
IMPROVEMENT CATEGORY	PARK LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	FUNDING REQUEST	PROGRAM REVIEW NOTES
Historical Structures	Shelter #8 Repairs	Engineering & Construction - Maintenance improvements to the roof, fascia, repainting surfaces and restroom improvements are to be completed.	\$325,000	Continuing to improve the condition of shelter and restroom facilities in the park is a priority for park visitors. Health, Safety, Welfare- Important (3)
Recreational Structures	Shelters 19 & 20	Engineering & Construction- Replacement of two shelters	\$400,000	Shelters 19 & 20 are in poor condition and will be replaced with two 100-person shelters. Health, Safety, Welfare- Desired (4)
Utilities	Park Wide	Engineering & Construction- Water Main Line Repairs	\$300,000	Health, Safety, Welfare- Important (3), Overall Park Priority: 11
Utilities	Park Wide	Engineering & Maintenance/ Construction- Stormwater repairs to existing system and improvements to system to separate stormwater apart from the existing system that treats stormwater in the Belle Isle sewage treatment facility.	\$225,000	Continue to address the deficiencies and system-wide improvements determined to be priorities in the technical assessment report, completed in FY 2017, as outlined in the five year implementation plan. Health, Safety, Welfare- Important (3), Overall Park Priority: 12
<b>FY 2022 Capital Outlay TOTAL</b>				
<b>\$1,250,000</b>				
<b>Total FY 2018-FY 2022</b>				
<b>\$6,250,000</b>				

# 5-YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

PRIORITY PROJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR BELLE ISLE CONSERVANCY AND PARTNER FUNDED INVESTMENT				
IMPROVEMENT CATEGORY	PARK LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	REVENUE GENERATING	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Major Development	1) BIA_ASWC Facility Improvements	Engineering & Construction-	Yes	Estimated project costs- \$50, 000, 000
Recreational Structure	4) Splash Park	Engineering & Construction- Removal of Water slide and construction of new Splash Park at the Beach House		*BIC Fundraising goal in 2020 is \$2, 000, 000
Historic Structure	2) James Scott Fountain	Engineering & Construction- Improvements to fountain structure as outlined in the Hamilton Anderson Assessment that acknowledge the historic significance of the existing landscape and meet SHPO's approval.		Architectural, mechanical, and electrical improvements to the fountain as well as a comprehensive structural assessment of the fountain and basin infrastructure complete.
Historic Structure	3) Newsboy Shelter	Engineering & Construction- Restoration of Shelter Iconic Historic Shelter	Yes	Restoration of the Newsboy Shelter to meet Secretary of Interior Standards for Historic Restoration. *BIC Fundraising goal is \$650,000

TIER 2 PROJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR BELLE ISLE CONSERVANCY AND PARTNER FUNDED INVESTMENT				
Major Development	5) White House and Stables Master Plan & Development	Engineering & Construction-	Yes	
Major Development	6) Athletic Complex	Engineering & Construction-	Yes	
Major Development	7) Remick Band shell and Nancy Brown Peace Carillon Master Plan and Development			
Roads/Sidewalks	8) Island wide Park Trail development			

TIER 3 PROJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR BELLE ISLE CONSERVANCY AND PARTNER FUNDED INVESTMENT				
Historic Structure	9) Police Station Headquarters; Welcome Center	Engineering & Construction-	Yes	
Major Development	10) Zoo Redevelopment	Engineering & Construction-	Yes	
Historic Structure	11) Kids Row	Engineering & Construction-		

\*BIA- Belle Isle Aquarium

\*ASCW- Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory



Bus Stop Pavilion at Belle Isle Park

## Appendix G: 10 - Year Operational Budget

Belle Isle day to day operational staff consists of a Park Manager, Park Supervisor, Lead Ranger, seven seasonal ranger staff, two seasonal janitorial staff, an accounting assistant, a general office assistant, an events promoter and 38 seasonal state workers.

Day to day operations include providing safe, clean facilities for visitors, repairs, maintenance and upkeep of building and grounds, providing customer service to over 4 million visitors annually, working with partners and community volunteers to accomplish goals and providing programming and events.

The current budget for Belle Isle is roughly \$3.4 million. In 2019 the park plans to add an events promoter and two rangers. The following year, 2020, another ranger will be added to the staff. Also included in the plan a need to add funding for projects outside the normal scope of the annual operations dollars.

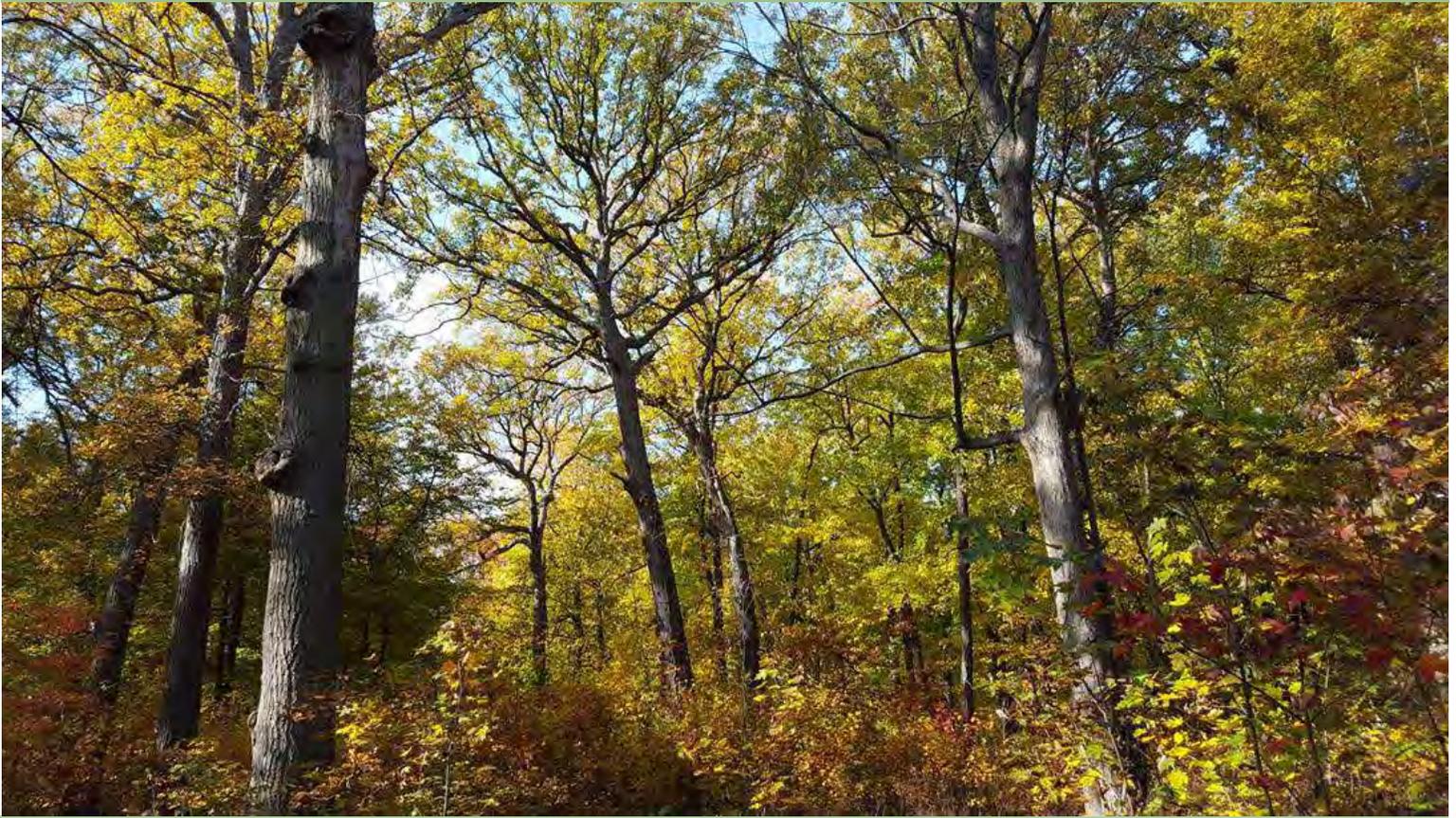
The following is a summary of planned expenditures for Belle Isle Park:



Bicycling at Belle Isle Park

10 YEAR OPERATIONAL BUDGET											
NUMBER OF YEARS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
EXPENSE TYPE	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027
Salary & Benefits	\$1,441,066	\$1,594,698	\$1,746,592	\$1,846,524	\$1,883,454	\$1,921,123	\$1,959,546	\$1,998,737	\$2,038,711	\$2,079,485	\$2,121,075
Vehicle Transportation	\$40,000	\$40,800	\$41,616	\$42,448	\$43,297	\$44,163	\$45,046	\$45,947	\$46,866	\$47,804	\$48,760
Travel	\$3,900	\$3,978	\$4,058	\$4,139	\$4,221	\$4,306	\$4,392	\$4,480	\$4,569	\$4,661	\$4,754
Contracted Services, Supplies & Materials	\$1,866,950	\$1,904,289	\$2,058,375	\$2,120,542	\$2,120,953	\$2,203,372	\$2,207,440	\$2,251,588	\$2,296,620	\$2,342,553	\$2,389,404
Total Budget	\$3,351,916	\$3,543,765	\$3,850,640	\$4,013,653	\$4,051,926	\$4,172,964	\$4,216,424	\$4,300,752	\$4,386,767	\$4,474,503	\$4,563,993
Salary Increase (Percentage %)		1.03	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02
Other Expenses (Percentage %)		1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02
Additional Employees											
Events-2019			\$120,000								
2 FTE - Ranger- 2019			\$0								
Ranger- 2020				\$65,000							
8 part time staff (STW) related to contracts			\$0								
Projects											
Garage Doors, windows, drywall		\$25,000*									
Sidewalk repairs		\$21,000*	\$21,000	\$21,000							
Bandstand electrical			\$19,000*								
Sunset Point Roof		\$12,000*									
Old Boys Station painting, drywall				\$11,000*							
Central Drive roadwork- 2 roads					\$40,000						
Fishing pier improvements- north & south			\$30,000								
Flynn building windows			\$25,000								
Fence repair			\$40,000								

\* denotes already included in budget



Appendix H:

# Natural Resource Stewardship Plan

# Natural Resource Stewardship Plan

## Belle Isle Park



November 27, 2017

Prepared by Glenn R. Palmgren, Ecologist

Reviewed and approved by  
Jacob Brown, Unit Supervisor  
Karis Floyd, Unit Manager

Ray Fahlsing, Stewardship Unit Manager  
Mike Terrell, District Supervisor  
Scott Pratt, Southern Field Operations Chief  
Amanda Hertl, Urban Area Planner

Additional review

Debbie Jensen, Park Management Plan Administrator

Parks & Recreation Division  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
PO Box 30257  
Lansing MI 48909-7757



**From:** Brown, Jacob (DNR)  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 13, 2017 10:13 AM  
**To:** Palmgren, Glenn (DNR)  
**Subject:** RE: Belle Isle Stewardship Plan for approval

Hey Glenn,

I approve it...

**From:** Floyd, Karis (DNR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 3:07 PM  
**To:** Palmgren, Glenn (DNR); Fahlsing, Ray (DNR); Terrell, Mike (DNR); Pratt, Scott (DNR); amhertl@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Belle Isle Stewardship Plan for approval

I approve

**From:** Fahlsing, Ray (DNR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 10, 2017 3:56 PM  
**To:** Palmgren, Glenn (DNR)  
**Subject:** RE: Belle Isle Stewardship Plan for approval

I approve the Belle Isle Park, Stewardship Plan.

Ray

**From:** Terrell, Mike (DNR)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 3, 2017 4:17 PM  
**To:** Palmgren, Glenn (DNR); Floyd, Karis (DNR); Fahlsing, Ray (DNR); Pratt, Scott (DNR); amhertl@gmail.com  
**Subject:** RE: Belle Isle Stewardship Plan for approval

Approved

*Michael A. Terrell*  
 Metro District Supervisor  
 Department of Natural Resources  
 Parks and Recreation Division  
 1801 Atwater St.  
 Detroit, Mi 48207

Office: 313-396-6865  
 Fax: 313-567-0160  
 Cell: 248-521-0562  
[terrellm1@michigan.gov](mailto:terrellm1@michigan.gov)

**From:** Pratt, Scott (DNR)  
**Sent:** Monday, October 9, 2017 9:23 AM  
**To:** Palmgren, Glenn (DNR)  
**Subject:** Re: Belle Isle Stewardship Plan for approval

I approve

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

**From:** Hertl, Amanda (DNR)  
**Sent:** Monday, November 27, 2017 3:25 PM  
**To:** Palmgren, Glenn (DNR)  
**Subject:** RE: Belle Isle Stewardship Plan for approval

Approved.

Thank you Glenn!

*Be part of the engine that drives Pure Michigan- check yes! Learn more about the Recreation Passport at: [www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport)*

Amanda T. Hertl, Landscape Architect  
Urban Field Planner Southern Michigan  
DNR Parks & Recreation Division  
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## Scope

The scope of this plan is stewardship of natural resources within Belle Isle Park. This plan does not cover the important work of cultural resource stewardship at Belle Isle, or management of the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory, formal gardens, and island-wide landscape grounds and landscape trees. This plan also does not address natural resources within the Detroit River offshore of the island because that is outside the jurisdiction of the park. The Scott Fountain lagoon (basin) is not included. Nuisance animal control for primarily recreation, aesthetic or human health reasons is also out of scope. The timeframe for this plan is for the five-year period 2017–2022.

## Overview

Belle Isle Park is a 985-acre urban park with natural features of statewide or greater significance. While many people understand and focus on the exceptional recreational, historical, and ethnological values of this park, the natural features are often overlooked or undervalued. This park contains the following exceptional natural features recognized by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI):

- 1 exemplary natural community, the 200-acre wet-mesic flatwoods forest
- 12 species (12 occurrences) of endangered, threatened, or special concern plants. Many of these have not been observed on the island since the early 1900s.
- 25 species (31 occurrences) of endangered, threatened, or special concern animals. The majority of the animals are mussels or fish documented in waters of the Detroit River just offshore of the island.

Belle Isle, known as Hog Island prior to 1845, was privately owned until the City of Detroit purchased it in 1879. The prior owners farmed and grazed the land, and later operated a summer resort. After the city purchased the island, they hired famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted to design the park in 1881, but he resigned a few years later and his design was never fully implemented. Additional historical background on the island park can be found in Pearson's Belle Isle Park Forest Stewardship Plan (Appendix F).

DNR, Parks & Recreation Division has used the MNFI information along with other plans, project documents, previous plant and animal surveys, and information from many natural resource stakeholders to develop a set of conservation targets for the park. These are the natural features that will be the focus of stewardship (protection, management, or restoration) for the duration of this plan:

- Wet-mesic flatwoods forest
- Canals and Lakes Okonoka, Muskoday, and Takoma
- Blue Heron Lagoon
- Prairie and other open upland habitats near Blue Heron Lagoon
- Detroit River shoreline

Each of these conservation targets contains individual species or other elements that will receive special consideration when developing management and protection actions.

Four broad threats have been identified to the integrity of the above conservation targets. These include invasive species; altered disturbance regimes: hydrology, fire, herbivory (mowing); lack of knowledge; and fragmentation.

The focus of natural resource stewardship is to reduce or eliminate threats to the resources we are trying to protect. To this end, a series of strategies and specific tasks have been identified for 2017–2022 to address each of the threats. These tasks range from invasive species control to forming and maintaining partnerships, to researching and documenting specific topics.

Implementation of these tasks will require many people, including DNR Parks & Recreation Division staff in park operations, stewardship, and planning, and collaboration with the Belle Isle Conservancy's Island Stewardship Environmental Conservation Committee (ISECC), plus many other stakeholders and volunteers. A lead person has been identified in the plan to be responsible for each task, but there are few tasks in this plan that can be completed by one person alone; they will need to call upon others both inside and outside DNR to assist.

In 2014–2016, significant progress was made on natural resource stewardship at Belle Isle Park. DNR's partnerships with the Belle Isle Conservancy, Friends of the Detroit River, and many other groups have formed and strengthened. A comprehensive invasive plant inventory was completed for the island. Data from that survey were incorporated into PRD's geographic information system (GIS) and provided a baseline for creation of invasive plant maps (attached to this plan). Control of many of those invasive plants such as phragmites, Japanese knotweed, honeysuckle, buckthorn, and garlic mustard has been intense and produced significant results, through the efforts of volunteers and contracted work funded by both federal grants and DNR. The focus for 2017–2022 is to continue these effective strategies and build upon them by gaining more knowledge, making more progress, and continually refining our methods to effectively protect, maintain, and restore the natural resources of Belle Isle.

## Background and Relationship to Other Plans

The Belle Isle Conservancy, Ms. Melvadean Pearson, and many other individuals have laid the groundwork for natural resource stewardship at Belle Isle Park. Ms. Pearson's March 2012 Belle Isle Park Forest Stewardship Plan (Appendix F) provides a very good starting point and a wealth of background information including land use history. In addition, the Belle Isle Conservancy contracted Cardno JFNew to complete an Ecological Management Plan for the Belle Isle Forest, dated November 13, 2013 (Appendix G). This plan provides further insight into the composition and quality of the forest and provides many sound recommendations for management action. However, DNR does not accept these plans in their entirety or directly as our plan for management of the Belle Isle forest. This DNR plan incorporates many of the

management actions that both plans recommend, including all of the activities Cardno JFNew identified in their implementation schedule Table 1 to occur in 2014 and 2015.

The purpose of this Stewardship Plan is to define the 2017–2022 management approach and priorities DNR is establishing for natural resource stewardship of Belle Isle Park. As more information and input are gathered, management will be adapted.

A series of “focus areas” have been established for the Belle Isle flatwoods forest. Focus areas are specific locations (about 3 to 35 acres each) where stewardship work is ongoing at the park, and are used as a point of reference on maps. The abbreviation “FA” throughout this plan refers to focus areas shown on Map 2. The focus areas in the forest closely mimic the management units identified by Cardno JFNew in their plan.

## Conservation Targets & Goals

What are we trying to conserve at this park?

The following natural resources are designated as targets for conservation and protection at Belle Isle Park.

- **Wet-mesic flatwoods<sup>1</sup>**

The 200-acre forest at Belle Isle is the largest and one of the last remaining examples of a wet-mesic flatwoods forest in Michigan. For a description of this forest type, see the MNFI natural community description and abstract for wet-mesic flatwoods:

<http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/communities/community.cfm?id=19009> and Appendix E.

Also see Section 1.2 of the Cardno JFNew Ecological Management Plan and descriptions embedded throughout Pearson's Forest Stewardship Plan for descriptions of the vegetation and context of the Belle Isle forest. The forest provides important habitat for many animals, especially migratory and resident songbirds and amphibians, although no endangered, threatened, or special concern animal species are currently known to reside in this forest. The value of the forest as stopover habitat for migratory birds is noteworthy.

Associated wet-mesic flatwoods species to receive special management attention:

- **Shumard's oak<sup>1</sup>** (*Quercus shumardii*, a state special concern tree) – found throughout the forest
- **Pumpkin ash<sup>1</sup>** (*Fraxinus profunda*, a state threatened tree) – found throughout the forest, population impacted heavily by emerald ash borer
- **Virginia bugle weed** (*Lycopus virginicus*, a state threatened plant) – found in 2013 by the Cardno JFNew/Conservation Design Forum floristic quality assessment surveys in FAs C, D, and J. Not yet in MNFI's database.
- **Wahoo (burning bush)** (*Euonymus atropurpurea*, a state special concern shrub) – found in 2015 or earlier by Suzanne Campbell in the flatwoods. Not yet in MNFI's database.
- **Other rare plants<sup>1</sup>** – several other species of rare plants were documented as occurring on Belle Isle around 1880–1910 according to MNFI's database, but have not been documented since that time. They may or may not be present in the forest or edges, but should be protected and documented if found. These plants include woodland lettuce (*Lactuca floridana*), Virginia snakeroot (*Aristolochia serpentaria*), field chickweed (*Cerastium velutinum*), tinted spurge (*Euphorbia commutata*), wild bean (*Phaseolus polystachios*), trailing wild bean (*Strophostyles helvula*), blue-eyed-grass (*Sisyrinchium hastile*), and smooth carrion-flower (*Smilax herbacea*).
- **White trout-lily** (*Erythronium albidum*) – uncommon and local wildflower in southern Michigan, but abundant in this forest and provides a notable display in early spring.
- **STEWARDSHIP GOAL:** Restore and maintain the integrity of the wet-mesic flatwoods natural community and constituent plant and animal species.

- **Canals and Lakes Okonoka, Muskoday, and Takoma**

The canals and lakes on Belle Isle have significant historical/cultural and recreational value, as well as providing habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms. These canals and lakes were artificially created between about 1893 and 1910, and function as one oddly-shaped reservoir perched (usually) above the level of the Detroit River, separated from it at three

points. There is a pump system at the east end of Lake Muskoday, a stoplog structure at the east end of Lake Okonoka, and a stoplog/gate structure where the Loop Canal discharges into the Detroit River near the service area north of Scott Fountain. Water levels can be regulated in the canals and all three lakes by adjusting the stoplogs as needed and running the pumps to add or remove water.

DNR Fisheries Division has surveyed fish populations in the lakes and canals, and has stocked catfish in these waterways to add to the fish community. Fisheries Division and Parks & Recreation Division will continue to work together to improve recreational fishing at the park.

Associated species known from the canals and lakes on Belle Isle:

- **Wild rice**<sup>1</sup> (*Zizania aquatica* var. *aquatica*, a state threatened plant) – 1892 record from somewhere on Belle Isle, possibly associated with lakes or waterways that existed at that time
- **Campeloma spire snail**<sup>1</sup> (*Cincinnatia cincinnatiensis*, a state special concern snail) – undated historic record in MNFI database, mapped by MNFI in Lake Okonoka
- **STEWARDSHIP GOAL:** Restore and maintain a navigable passage through the canals and lakes for small recreational boats, while maintaining or improving the quality of the aquatic habitat, herpetofauna habitat, and protecting banks from significant erosion. Bring Lake Okonoka back online with the Detroit River and Blue Heron Lagoon, while maintaining functioning water controls for the remaining lakes and canals. Work in partnership with Fisheries Division to maintain and improve recreational fishing opportunities.

- **Blue Heron Lagoon**

The land around Blue Heron Lagoon did not exist at the time the island was acquired by the city. This area was built up out of the Detroit River with fill dirt, most of which is assumed to have come from the construction of basements and foundations for buildings within the city. Blue Heron Lagoon was until recently part of the perched inland canal and lake system on the island, but was reconnected to the Detroit River in 2013. This project, lead by the Friends of the Detroit River, helped address beneficial use impairments to the fish and wildlife associated with the Detroit River Area of Concern. During that project, targeted aquatic and shoreline habitat was also created. This lagoon provides important fish habitat and recreational fishing opportunity. The lagoon provides significant habitat for migrating and wintering waterfowl, especially diving ducks.

Associated rare species known from Blue Heron Lagoon:

- **Purple wartyback**<sup>1</sup> (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*, a state threatened mussel) – known from Blue Heron Lagoon and along the Detroit River shoreline in many locations
- **Rainbow**<sup>1</sup> (*Villosa iris*, a state special concern mussel) – known from Blue Heron Lagoon and along the Detroit River shoreline in many locations
- **Eastern pondmussel**<sup>1</sup> (*Ligumia nasuta*, a state endangered mussel) – undated historical record in MNFI database, mapped by MNFI in Blue Heron Lagoon
- **Campeloma spire snail**<sup>1</sup> (*Cincinnatia cincinnatiensis*, a state special concern snail) – undated historic record in MNFI database, mapped by MNFI in Blue Heron Lagoon
- **STEWARDSHIP GOAL:** Maintain existing aquatic and shoreline habitat.

- **Prairie and other open upland habitats near Blue Heron Lagoon**

A small area of prairie (native grasses and forbs) is known from the north side of Blue Heron Lagoon (portions of FA L). The prevailing speculation is that many of these plants grew from the seedbank of the fill that was imported to this part of the park, as this site is located entirely on fill. Planting of native species also occurred in this area. This is not a true remnant native prairie but still may harbor local Detroit genotype plants worthy of protection.

In addition, reptile nesting habitat was created on a peninsula near the inlet of the Blue Heron Lagoon and a small planting of native prairie species was installed near the new foot bridge during the 2013 restoration/reconnection project.

The large open grassy area south of Blue Heron Lagoon (FA K) has been known to support nesting grassland-dependent birds such as savanna sparrow and bobolink in recent years. Originally created from fill, the area supported a Nike missile site during the cold war. More recently fill from the Grand Prix "paddock" was spoiled here.

Associated rare species known from the upland habitats near Blue Heron Lagoon:

- ◊ **Eastern fox snake**<sup>1</sup> (*Pantherophis gloydi*, a state threatened snake) – documented from the parking lot area south of Blue Heron Lagoon, but presumed to occur elsewhere on the island as well
- ◊ **Sullivant's milkweed**<sup>1</sup> (*Asclepias sullivantii*, a state threatened plant) – documented from the prairie north of Blue Heron Lagoon
- ◊ **Blanding's turtle** (*Emydoidea blandingii*, a state special concern turtle) – found in recent surveys on the island. Not yet in MNFI's database.
- ◊ **Common tern**<sup>1</sup> (*Sterna hirundo*, a state threatened bird) – has nested on the dike at the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department water intake recently in response to a Detroit Zoo and USFWS project to enhance the habitat and protect nests from predators. This is not part of the Belle Isle Park leased area.
- ◊ **Forster's tern**<sup>1</sup> (*Sterna forsteri*, a state threatened bird) – has nested in the same area as common terns (see above). This is not part of the Belle Isle Park leased area.
- ◊ **Eastern massasauga** (*Sistrurus catenatus*, a federal candidate and state special concern snake) – this rattlesnake likely once occurred on Belle Isle but was eradicated from the island, possibly by the hogs that were historically present prior to the land becoming a park. When the snake occurred here one of its primary habitats would have been wet prairies and other grassy openings.
- ◊ **STEWARDSHIP GOAL:** Maintain the existing area of open prairie north of the lagoon (in FA L) and expand the boundaries of that opening by reducing woody plants around the perimeter and out to the limestone path. Maintain the existing reptile nesting habitat on the peninsula and the native prairie plantings near the foot bridge. Maintain as much unmowed grass south of Blue Heron Lagoon as possible (FA K, or modified as necessary to meet operational needs) from early spring through mid-July for nesting grassland birds.

- **Detroit River shoreline**

The river shoreline around the entire island is currently a mix of rip-rap or other "hard" shoreline and some "soft" or more natural shoreline areas. Recent debris removal and shoreline naturalization work was completed by the Alliance for the Great Lakes near the north fishing pier. Both hard and soft shorelines provide important habitat for various wetland, upland, and aquatic plants and animals. Note that many listed and rare aquatic species, especially mussels, are known from the Detroit River offshore of Belle Isle, but

these aquatic areas are outside the jurisdiction of the park, and are therefore not addressed by this plan.

Associated species known from the Detroit River shoreline (note that both species are also listed under other conservation targets above):

- **Eastern fox snake**<sup>1</sup> (*Pantherophis gloydi*, a state threatened snake) – documented from the parking lot area south of Blue Heron Lagoon, but presumed to occur elsewhere on the island as well. This species is known to utilize rip-rap shorelines at other locations and likely does so at Belle Isle too. Removal of rip-rap for shoreline naturalization or other reasons should be weighed against the benefit of rip-rap to Eastern fox snake.
- **Wild rice**<sup>1</sup> (*Zizania aquatica* var. *aquatica*, a state threatened plant) – 1892 record from somewhere on Belle Isle, possibly associated with the river shoreline
- **STEWARDSHIP GOAL:** Protect the river shoreline from significant erosion, while maintaining or improving the quality of the shoreline and adjacent aquatic habitat.

See the MNFI Inventory report for the Belle Isle flatwoods for a more detailed description of the wet-mesic flatwoods conservation target.

Additional information about the rare plant and animal conservation targets is available from the MNFI community and special plant and animal abstracts. These can be found on MNFI's website at <http://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/>.

<sup>1</sup> Element Occurrence tracked by Michigan Natural Features Inventory

## Threats

What problems are threatening the Conservation Targets and need to be addressed?

### 1. Non-native invasive species

Non-native invasive species threaten the ecological integrity of all conservation targets at the park. Invasive species reduce biological diversity and alter ecological systems. Glossy and common buckthorn, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, privet, phragmites, purple loosestrife, Japanese knotweed, and several other invasive plants are known to occur in the forest and elsewhere on the island. Any new construction (including trail construction) would have the potential to increase this threat by providing a disturbed pathway for these species to establish. Emerald ash borer, an invasive insect species, has already had a major impact on the forest by eliminating most of the mature ash, formerly a large component of the forest canopy. Oak wilt was also confirmed in the forest in 2016 and has been aggressively treated. Gypsy moth also has potential to impact the forest. Invasive earthworms have been found in the forest, impacting the leaf litter decomposition process and organic matter in the soil. Invasive species should never be deliberately planted at the park, and efforts will be made to remove these species throughout the park, especially in targeted areas.

### 2. Alteration of hydrology

The existing and abandoned road and trail systems are impacting the surface hydrology of the forest. The Sylvan and Nashua canals and their associated berms likely alter the hydrology of the forest as well. Human-created shallow surface drains are also visible in the forest, and have altered the natural hydrology. A detailed hydrologic study is required to determine the physical and ecological extent of these impacts. However, it is known that seasonal surface water ponding and flow patterns are very important to the maintenance of ecological function of the wet-mesic flatwoods natural community.

Elsewhere on the island, surface and storm drainage systems are not functioning well in many areas, leading to frequent flooding. Discharge of storm water currently goes to both the combined sewer system and directly to the canals, lakes, and the Detroit River. This has the potential to transmit pollutants and debris unfiltered into the aquatic systems (in the case of separate stormwater drains), or to overwhelm the combined sewer system.

### 3. Lack of knowledge about the natural resources

Many park visitors are unaware of the significance of the Belle Isle forest and its associated unique flora and fauna inhabitants. By understanding the significance of the resource, visitors would be more likely to support the protection and restoration of these natural features. Park staff must also be made aware of the resources island-wide in order to protect them. All state parks, including Belle Isle, require a balance of protecting natural resources while providing appropriate recreational use.

### 4. Fragmentation of the forest

The forest on Belle Isle is clearly fragmented by roads (Central and Oakway), trails, and the Nashua and Sylvan canals. The degree to which this fragmentation impacts the forest hydrology will be assessed during the hydrology study that is currently underway. In general, forested landscapes with significant breaks in canopy cover or excessive human disturbance in the interior will be less likely to support "forest-interior" species, or species

known to be sensitive to human disturbance. Currently the farthest any wildlife can get from human disturbance is about 450 feet from the nearest trail or road in the middle of FAs A, C, and E. The vast majority of the forest is currently within 200 feet of a road or trail.

#### **5. Lack of fire**

The historic importance of fire in the wet-mesic flatwoods community is poorly understood. Additional investigation and monitoring of the response of the forest to management will be required to determine whether lack of fire is truly a significant threat to this forest. However, fire can be used to help maintain the planted prairie habitats as resources allow.

#### **6. Mowing, or lack of mowing**

While mowing turfgrass is essential to maintain recreational use and aesthetics of much of the developed portion of the park, excessive mowing where it is unnecessary can reduce wildlife nesting habitat or stimulate shoreline erosion. On the other hand, in areas being maintained as open grassland, lack of mowing for an extended period can result in growth of shrubs and trees and eventual loss of grassland habitat. Mowing can have both positive and negative impacts to native plants and animals.

#### **7. Grazing**

Belle Isle has a long history of grazing. Livestock grazed on the island at the time it was first settled by Europeans. The island's previous name "Hog Island" indicates the prevalence of pigs at that time. This legacy of livestock grazing likely had a significant impact on the island's vegetation. More recently, a high density of fallow deer on the island suppressed palatable vegetation and encouraged non-palatable species to increase. The fallow deer were removed several years ago and vegetation has since rebounded, with significant understory shrub growth in the forest (also likely stimulated by loss of overstory ash trees to emerald ash borer). White-tailed deer occur on the island now, but in very low numbers. Grazing by native animals is a natural process in every ecosystem, but the amount of grazing over the past 200 years and the animals present on the island have likely had a significant influence on how the natural environment looks and functions today.

#### **8. Legacy loss of species and loss of genetic diversity**

Many species of plants and animals that were documented to occur on Belle Isle over the past 200 years have been lost, for many reasons. Most of the other 7 threats above have historically contributed to this loss and continue to do so. Besides species, the conservation of biological diversity also requires that conservation occur at the ecosystem and genetic levels. Protection of species alone does not conserve biological diversity. The introduction of non-local genetic varieties (genotypes) of native species threatens the genetic diversity of native species because the new genotypes can cross-breed with the native, local genotype individuals and begin to "swamp out" (overwhelm) the local population. In the long term this causes a loss of genetic diversity within that species. Conservation of biological diversity requires the conservation of local genotypes of plants and animals.

## Strategies

What are the general stewardship strategies or approaches that we can use at this park to reach our goals?

### 1. Restore and maintain native wet-mesic flatwoods forest cover

Until the final hydrological assessment and flatwoods design plan is complete, the short-term strategy is to maintain forest cover where it exists now as much as possible. Planting of additional trees may be recommended as part of the flatwoods design plan to restore forest cover where it has been lost through recent die-off of ash or oak (especially in FAs D, F, and I). (Addresses threat #1).

### 2. Control invasive species

Control oak wilt in all detected locations. Control such plant species as glossy and common buckthorn, oriental bittersweet, honeysuckle, multiflora rose, garlic mustard, Japanese knotweed, phragmites, purple loosestrife, reed canary grass, and others in specific areas where they pose the most significant threat to the conservation targets through a combination of mechanical, chemical, and possibly biological treatments. Newly detected invasive species with small populations will be the highest priority; species with the greatest potential to harm the conservation targets will be the highest priority among those. Next priority will be species that are already more widespread and established at the park, but have the greatest potential to damage or destroy the integrity of the forest or another conservation target. Within each species, small outlier populations and those with the greatest potential to spread into uninvaded areas are most important, followed by working inward towards the larger populations. Control species in high use and high visibility areas wherever possible. (Addresses threat #1).

Given the above strategy, the most critical "early detection" invasive species currently known to occur on the island are Japanese knotweed, garlic mustard, swallow-wort, and flowering rush. The most critical "established" invasive species known to occur on the island are oak wilt, glossy buckthorn, Asian bittersweet, and phragmites.

### 3. Complete a hydrologic study

Complete a hydrologic study to assess existing impacts to forest hydrology and potential strategies to abate those threats. (Addresses threat #2).

### 4. Educate staff and park visitors

Ensure staff is aware of the significance of all conservation targets (especially the forest) and associated rare species. Make sure staff is aware of the potential for introduction of invasive insects through transport of firewood. Work through the Belle Isle Conservancy, DNR's Marketing and Outreach Division and Wildlife Division, and Belle Isle Nature Zoo to educate park visitors about the significant natural features on the island and the associated threats that impact them. (Addresses threats #1 and #3).

### 5. Create and implement a trail plan

Determine an appropriate trail network for the island, considering the positive and negative stewardship implications of all trails. On the positive side, trails and trailheads can be designed and used to help inspire park visitors to appreciate the natural features on the island. At the same time, trails have the potential to damage the resource and must be

designed in a manner that limits their impact to forest hydrology, fragmentation, and invasive species spread. (Addresses threats #3 and #4).

**6. Use prescribed burning to maintain grasslands**

Plan and conduct prescribed burns to maintain the prairie north of Blue Heron Lagoon, and possibly other grassland areas as appropriate, following established DNR policies and procedures. (Addresses threat #5).

**7. Optimize mowing regimes in areas that support native plants and wildlife**

Stewardship and park operations staff need to work together to optimize mowing patterns and schedules in areas that support native vegetation (such as shorelines and native grassland plantings) and in areas of non-native vegetation that support native wildlife. Mowing can also be used to reduce the spread of invasive plants. (Addresses threat #6).

**8. Use local-genotype native plants wherever possible for planting projects**

For tree, shrub, and herb (grass and flower) planting, use local-genotype varieties of native species whenever possible to maintain the genetic diversity of the species at the park. Very rare or listed plant species (Federal or state endangered, threatened, or special concern species) should NOT be planted unless the seed source is from the island or very nearby. For other native species, local seed sources should be used wherever feasible. The more uncommon or local the species, the more important local seed source consideration should be. (Addresses threat #8).

## Objectives and Task List

What are the specific measurable objectives and associated tasks to be completed at Belle Isle Park in 2017–2022?

The lead responsibility for each task is indicated after the task number:

PS=Park Supervisor (Brown)	UM=Unit Manager (Floyd)
RS=Ecological Restoration Specialist (Clancy)	DS=District Supervisor (Terrell)
E=Ecologist (Palmgren)	UP=Urban Planner (Hertl)
VS=Volunteer Steward (Malvitz-Draper)	SA=Stewardship Analyst (Ihnken)
F=Forest Resources Division staff	FH=PRD Forest Health Analyst (Frei)

The tasks are not listed in any particular order except where specifically noted. All are considered important and should be implemented as fully as possible as time and resources allow.

The Ecological Restoration Specialist will be responsible for coordinating this overall task list to ensure all tasks are completed. Other individuals will take the lead on specific tasks as indicated below. Stewardship Unit staff will be available to provide technical guidance on all tasks as needed.

- OBJECTIVE A.** Work cooperatively with the Belle Isle Conservancy and other partners to accomplish the specific objectives and tasks in this plan. Maintain and enhance the strong volunteer stewardship ethic that has taken hold at Belle Isle.
- TASK A.1. VS Maintain open, regular communication with Belle Isle Conservancy (BIC) and other partners.
  - TASK A.2. UP Serve as the DNR's primary project manager for the Lake Okonoka project construction and the Flatwoods Hydrology Restoration project.
  - TASK A.3. E Serve as the DNR's natural resource lead for the Lake Okonoka project construction and the Flatwoods Hydrology Restoration project.
  - TASK A.4. VS Serve as the primary DNR contact for volunteer natural resource stewardship at Belle Isle.
  - TASK A.5. VS Coordinate all volunteer stewardship efforts to ensure they are focused on accomplishing the tasks outlined in this plan and comply with all DNR & PRD policies.
  - TASK A.6. VS Publicly advertise and recognize volunteer stewardship efforts.
  - TASK A.7. VS Lead regular volunteer stewardship workdays to accomplish the objectives in this plan.
- OBJECTIVE B.** Update the inventory of invasive species on the island.
- TASK B.1. SA Produce/update invasive species maps based on available mapping data as needed/requested.

- TASK B.2. VS Continue to train new volunteers on mapping techniques as appropriate.
- TASK B.3. VS Encourage volunteers to map new invasive species locations and check existing mapped points. Prioritize searching for any new locations of the early-detection species listed under Objective C below, or any species not mentioned in this plan (new to the island).
- TASK B.4. E Ensure all invasive species control contracts include inventory/mapping updates.
- OBJECTIVE C. Control "early-detection" invasive plants with only a few known occurrences on the island, with an objective of complete eradication of these species as soon as possible. Species are prioritized below, but all species listed under this objective are high priority for 2017–2022.
- TASK C.1. RS Provide detailed direction on invasive plant control/treatment technique and herbicide use to ensure effective control and adherence to relevant state (DNR, DEQ, MDARD) policies and procedures and Aquatic Nuisance Control and NPDES permit requirements.
- TASK C.2. SA Create a list of invasive plants known to occur on each of the leased or non-DNR-administered areas of the island for the Restoration Specialist to use when contacting them.
- TASK C.3. RS Treat all known Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*) populations on the island. All were treated in 2015 and 2016.
- TASK C.4. RS Treat all known flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) populations on the island. All were treated in 2015 and 2016.
- TASK C.5. VS Treat all known garlic mustard (*Alliaria periolata*) populations on the island. All were treated in 2015 and 2016.
- TASK C.6. RS Treat all known jetbead (*Rhodotypos scandens*) populations on the island. One in FA H was treated in 2015 and 2016.
- TASK C.7. RS Treat all known wild parsnip (*Pastinaca sativa*) populations on the island. As of 2017 one small population is known and has not yet been treated.
- TASK C.8. RS Treat all known Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) on the island. One patch in FA H was searched for and not found in 2015.
- TASK C.9. RS Treat any new autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*) that may be discovered in the park. (One former patch near the Casino was found to be dead in 2016).
- TASK C.10. RS Treat the two known populations of Chinese silvergrass (*Miscanthus sinensis*) at the driving range.
- TASK C.11. VS Treat the three known dame's rocket (*Hesperis matronalis*) populations.
- TASK C.12. RS Treat the one known crown vetch (*Coronilla varia*) patch along Central east of Picnic.
- TASK C.13. RS Treat all known Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) on the island. All were either treated or not found in 2015 and 2016.

- TASK C.14. RS Check the two known false indigo (*Amorpha fruticosa*) populations on the NE end of the island and treat if still existing. Both were treated in 2015 and 2016. Survey for additional populations.
- OBJECTIVE D. Control well-established invasive plants, prioritizing isolated occurrences first, then working towards larger populations in high quality areas, then larger populations in lower quality areas. Species are prioritized below, and work areas within each species are further prioritized.
- TASK D.1. RS Provide detailed direction on invasive plant control/treatment technique and herbicide use to ensure effective control and adherence to relevant state (DNR, DEQ, MDARD) policies and procedures and Aquatic Nuisance and NPDES permit requirements.
- TASK D.2. VS/RS Treat both glossy and common buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula* and *R. cathartica*) in the following priority order.
- D.2.1. FAs B and C
  - D.2.2. FAs I and E
  - D.2.3. FA A
  - D.2.4. FAs H, J, and G
  - D.2.5. Remainder of woods – populations <1,000 square feet (size 1 and 2)
  - D.2.6. BIPW0566 – old zoo
  - D.2.7. Remainder of woods – larger populations
  - D.2.8. All other populations <1,000 square feet (size 1 and 2) in the park, except on the islands in Lakes Takoma and Okonoka
  - D.2.9. All other larger populations in the park, except on the islands in Lakes Takoma and Okonoka
  - D.2.10. Last priority is the islands in Lakes Okonoka and Takoma
- TASK D.3. RS Treat all known populations of phragmites (*Phragmites australis*) on the island.
- D.3.1. Dead stands/stems may be cut or mowed as needed for aesthetics, but cutting is not needed for effective control. Phragmites should not be mowed anywhere in the park between May 15 and October 30, to ensure that chemical treatments in late summer/early fall can be effective.
  - D.3.2. Contact the Detroit Water & Sewer Department, Great Lakes Water Authority, and DEQ to determine whether the phragmites can be treated at the water intake in 2017 and beyond. Treat it if permission can be obtained.
- TASK D.4. VS/RS Treat isolated and high priority populations of Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculata*) in the following priority order:
- D.4.1. FAs B and C. Treated in 2015 and 2016.
  - D.4.2. FA H and Nature Center area (3 small mapped points). Treated in 2015 and 2016.

- D.4.3. FA G east side, 3 small points along disc golf maintenance road. Treated in 2015 and 2016.
- D.4.4. Isolated points on the west end of the island: BIPW0790, BIPW0981, and BIPW1132. Treated in 2015 and 2016.
- D.4.5. 4 points in the old zoo – treat while still small after 2015 clearing
- D.4.6. FA J
- D.4.7. Western parts of FAs E and G
- D.4.8. Other populations as resources allow, including any stems that occur in proximity to honeysuckle or buckthorn in conjunction with those treatments.
- TASK D.5. VS Treat Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) in the following priority order:
  - D.5.1. Any new populations found in the forest or other focus areas
  - D.5.2. BIPW1039 (in SE corner of zoo)
  - D.5.3. BIPW1125 (at driving range/golf course)
  - D.5.4. BIPW0962 (at conservatory)
  - D.5.5. BIPW0965 (at music shell)
  - D.5.6. All remaining populations are on the islands in Lake Takoma, which should be treated beginning in 2019 unless additional resources become available sooner
- TASK D.6. VS Treat non-native honeysuckle (*Lonicera* spp.) in priority areas. Treat all stems, including seedlings, within each area. The following is the ecological priority order for control in 2017–2022, with the understanding that some volunteer/youth groups (based on size, age, and timeframe) may be better suited to areas lower on the list.
  - D.6.1. FA B: the narrow strip of area south of Nashua Canal
  - D.6.2. FA A: along and within 100 feet of Nashua Trail
  - D.6.3. FA B: along and within 100 feet of Nashua Canal (north side of canal)
  - D.6.4. FA C (few points)
  - D.6.5. FA H (few points)
  - D.6.6. FAs E and G: east half of each (sparse)
  - D.6.7. FA I (few points)
  - D.6.8. BIPW0566 – old zoo
  - D.6.9. FA B: interior area, within Nashua Trail loop (north of canal)
  - D.6.10. FA A: remainder of area
  - D.6.11. FA B: between Nashua Trail and old Tanglewood roadbed
  - D.6.12. FA E: along Sylvan Canal (follow-up and finish previous work)
  - D.6.13. FA J: work from west to east across area
  - D.6.14. FAs E and G: west half of each area
  - D.6.15. FA D: follow-up and finish
  - D.6.16. FA F
  - D.6.17. Any other populations throughout the island if opportunities and resources arise, but only if all of the above are either complete or not feasible for the type of resource available. (Tanglewood

- roadbed should not be a priority unless it is determined that the options for fill and roadbed removal fell through).
- TASK D.7. VS Treat populations of privet (*Ligustrum vulgare*) in the following priority order:
- D.7.1. All populations <1,000 square feet (size 1 and 2) within the woods
  - D.7.2. BIPW0759 – old zoo
  - D.7.3. Other populations island-wide as resources allow, including any stems that occur in proximity to honeysuckle or buckthorn in conjunction with those treatments.
- TASK D.8. VS/RS Treat known isolated populations of tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) in the following priority order:
- D.8.1. BIPW0685 (at the corner of FAs C, B, and J)
  - D.8.2. BIPW0575 (in FA A)
  - D.8.3. BIPW0642 and BIPW0616 (west of FA D)
  - D.8.4. BIPW0651 (in FA E)
  - D.8.5. BIPW0599 (fence along old golf course and Riverbank Rd)
  - D.8.6. Populations in the old zoo
  - D.8.7. Other populations as resources allow, including any stems that occur in proximity to honeysuckle or buckthorn in conjunction with those treatments.
- TASK D.9. RS Treat all known populations of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) that are not being clearly impacted by Galerucella beetles.
- TASK D.10. RS Treat populations of narrow-leaf and hybrid cat-tail (*Typha angustifolia* and *T. xglauca*) in the following priority order:
- D.10.1. 4 mapped points on the west half of the island
  - D.10.2. 4 mapped points on Lake Muskoday
  - D.10.3. 6 mapped points around Blue Heron Lagoon and near lighthouse parking lot
  - D.10.4. All points in FA H and FA I (wetland near Nature Zoo)
  - D.10.5. Other populations in FA E, FA G, and elsewhere as resources allow.
- TASK D.11. VS Treat populations of multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) in the following priority order:
- D.11.1. FAs B, C, E, G (isolated), H, and J
  - D.11.2. FAs A and G (larger patches)
  - D.11.3. Other populations as resources allow, including any stems that occur in proximity to honeysuckle or buckthorn in conjunction with those treatments.
- TASK D.12. RS/VS Treat known periwinkle (*Vinca minor*) populations in the following priority order:
- D.12.1. FA I – 1 point
  - D.12.2. FA J – 5 points along Central
  - D.12.3. FA B – 2 points in NE corner near old Tanglewood roadbed
  - D.12.4. FA G – 2 points along Oakway

- D.12.5. Other sites throughout the park as resources allow.
- TASK D.13. RS Treat reed canary grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) populations as resources allow. Focus efforts on small, isolated populations where control might be more likely to be effective, then work towards larger populations in/near the woods if funding is available and a suitable treatment technique can be found that minimizes non-target damage. Tree plantings should be considered in future years where appropriate as a long-term strategy for minimizing reed canary grass spread, as this species does not survive well in shaded conditions.
- TASK D.14. VS Treat Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*) within the forest (3 mapped points). Other seedlings or non-landscape Norway maples may be treated if resources allow, but are not a priority in 2017–2022. Do not treat live landscape Norway maples in developed areas of the park.
- TASK D.15. RS Treat Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) populations within the woods and roads/trails that cross the woods, and at the NE end of Blue Heron Lagoon and the prairie. Canada thistle is abundant throughout Belle Isle, but at this time we will necessarily focus available resources on these three areas.
- TASK D.16. VS Treat spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*) at the NE end of Blue Heron Lagoon in the area created and planted in 2013. Knapweed is abundant throughout Belle Isle, but at this time we will necessarily focus resources on a very limited area.
- TASK D.17. VS Treat sweet-clover (*Melilotus* spp.) at the NE end of Blue Heron Lagoon in the area created and planted in 2013. Sweet-clover is abundant throughout Belle Isle, but at this time we will necessarily focus resources on a very limited area.
- OBJECTIVE E. Treat, detect, and monitor oak wilt.
- TASK E.1. FH Follow-up and monitor the effectiveness of all prior oak wilt treatments
- TASK E.2. VS Train volunteers to recognize oak wilt and report it
- TASK E.3. FH Ensure new detection/mapping is done annually when the disease is detectable
- OBJECTIVE F. Refine the mowing strategy at the park to promote stewardship of important grassland areas and shorelines.
- TASK F.1. UM/PS Delay mowing until mid-July in FA K (the open area south of Blue Heron Lagoon) to allow for grassland bird nesting.
- TASK F.2. E Through consultation with partner groups, determine specific locations of past shoreline habitat projects at Belle Isle that need to be protected from disturbance (stabilization, “soft-shoreline” installations, plantings, etc.).
- TASK F.3. PS/E Locate and mark on the ground important shoreline areas that should be left un-mowed, while balancing the need for recreational shoreline access (bank fishing, etc.).

- TASK F.4. PS/RS Mow selected grassland areas to control invasive plants, such as the small planted area NE of Blue Heron Lagoon. Determine specific areas and timing in discussion with the Restoration Specialist.
- OBJECTIVE G. Ensure park staff and visitors are educated about stewardship issues at the park annually.
- TASK G.1. PS/UM Include Belle Isle stewardship information (conservation targets, identification info for invasive plants, etc.) in seasonal orientation. Also continue the hot coal campaign to protect landscape trees.
- TASK G.2. E/VS Work with the Belle Isle Conservancy, the Belle Isle Nature Zoo, and Friends of the Detroit River to educate the public about invasive species on the island and control efforts.
- OBJECTIVE H. Clean up all litter within the forest.
- TASK H.1. VS Include litter pick-up in forest as part of the annual spring clean-up event
- TASK H.2. VS Pick up and haul out all litter visible from Nashua Trail and within/along Nashua Canal.
- TASK H.3. VS Pick up and haul out all litter visible from Central and Oakway, and within/along Sylvan Canal.
- TASK H.4. VS Pick up and haul out all litter around the perimeter of the forest (Woodside, Strand, and golf course edge).
- TASK H.5. VS Pick up and haul out all litter in the interior of the woods (away from the roads/perimeter).
- TASK H.6. PS Pick up and haul out all litter within the forest that volunteers cannot handle (too large, hard to retrieve in canals, etc.)
- OBJECTIVE I. Ensure hazard trees are properly identified and appropriately limbed or removed in the vicinity of conservation targets (especially the forest).
- TASK I.1. PS **To prevent the spread of oak wilt, do not cut or prune oak trees during the growing season** (March 1 through November 1). If oak trees must be pruned or are wounded, spray the wound with clear shellac to create a barrier. Watch for tree wounding in high-use areas and seal wounds as soon as possible.
- TASK I.2. PS/FH Ensure individuals conducting hazard tree identification and removal are appropriately trained. Hazard trees need to have targets to be considered hazards.
- TASK I.3. PS Identify and remove all hazard trees from along Nashua Trail.
- TASK I.4. PS Identify and remove all hazard trees from along Central, Oakway, and near picnic/parking areas near the woods.
- OBJECTIVE J. Remove excessive dead brush, limbs, and fallen logs as described below. Haul any material to the designated woody material chipping area.

- TASK J.1. VS/RS Refrain from creating any new piles of brush and limbs during woody invasive plant removal efforts. Haul all material to the designated area during or immediately following all invasive tree/shrub removal efforts.
- TASK J.2. RS Cut and remove fallen trees from Nashua and Sylvan Canals to a sufficient width to allow passage of canoes and kayaks. Leave some fallen trees along banks as appropriate for aquatic habitat and bank stabilization.
- TASK J.3. VS Pick up and haul away any human-created piles of brush/limbs or aesthetically unappealing natural concentrations of brush/limbs within 50 feet of the Nashua Trail.
- TASK J.4. VS Pick up and haul away any human-created piles of brush/limbs within 50 feet of Central and Oakway
- TASK J.5. VS Pick up and haul away any human-created piles of brush/limbs within 50 feet of the remaining woods edge (Woodside, Strand, and golf course border)
- TASK J.6. RS If significant brush piles are found or created, GPS map all piles using the Stewardship Unit protocol and determine whether they should be hauled away, burned, or left in place.
- OBJECTIVE K. Investigate the need for prescribed burning, and prepare for and conduct burns as needed.
  - TASK K.1. E Determine where prescribed burns may be ecologically beneficial. Research burn histories of wet-mesic flatwoods forests and gather additional expert opinion. Evaluate the grassland areas annually.
  - TASK K.2. E Prepare and submit Forest Treatment Proposal (FTP) in August if burning will be needed in the following Fiscal Year.
  - TASK K.3. E/F Write burn plans
  - TASK K.4. F Conduct prescribed burn(s)
- OBJECTIVE L. Research and restore the surface hydrology of the island, with a special emphasis on the forest.
  - TASK L.1. UP/E Lead the flatwoods restoration/design project.
  - TASK L.2. UP/E Begin implementation of the flatwoods restoration project once design is complete and funding is secured.
  - TASK L.3. UP Lead the stormwater asset management planning project.
  - TASK L.4. UP/UM Repair stormwater infrastructure as resources allow.
- OBJECTIVE M. Monitor the effectiveness of emerald ash borer biological controls, and treat a limited number of ash trees to reduce mortality as resources allow.
  - TASK M.1. FH Work with US Forest Service and/or other partners to monitor the effectiveness of past bio-control releases.
  - TASK M.2. FH Treat a limited number of high-priority landscape ash trees with insecticide to prevent or slow their infestation.

- OBJECTIVE N. Compile existing flora and fauna data for Belle Isle and continue to gather new data on presence/absence and locations.
- TASK N.1. E Locate and compile as much existing data as possible on plants, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, and other species. Include presence/absence (species lists) and locational information as available.
- TASK N.2. VS Encourage volunteer birders to collect bird survey data in all seasons by reporting checklists and counts to eBird using the "Belle Isle" hotspot. Encourage reporting of rare species locations to the Ecologist (Glenn Palmgren) for transmittal to MNFI and for use in monitoring the impacts of management activities on those species in the future.
- TASK N.3. VS Encourage volunteer botanists to survey for the previously-documented rare plants at Belle Isle and report both presence and absence (looked and didn't find) data. Document all rare plant populations with GPS waypoints and/or tracks, and complete and submit MNFI rare plant forms for species that have not been recently updated in MNFI's database.
- TASK N.4. VS Encourage the continuation of annual frog and toad survey by volunteers at established points throughout the island.
- TASK N.5. SA If resources are available, initiate a study of eastern fox snake occupancy and use of Belle Isle to determine specific use areas and patterns/timing of movement around the island.
- OBJECTIVE O. Continue to evaluate the current and former park road system, in cooperation with MDOT, for opportunities to reduce fragmentation of the forest and disruption of hydrology throughout the island.
- TASK O.1. UP Investigate the feasibility of road closure/abandonment in the woods to reduce fragmentation.
- TASK O.2. RS/UP/E Work with the Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Authority or other entities to remove the old fill material from the Tanglewood roadbed. Determine how much of this roadbed (if any) should be converted to trail or completely obliterated and removed.
- OBJECTIVE P. Maintain the existing prairie north of Blue Heron Lagoon (FA L) and reduce encroachment of woody plants within and surrounding it.
- TASK P.1. E Compile historical documents related to past inventory, management, and planting at this site, including perimeter bounds of the site.
- TASK P.2. VS/RS Control invasive plants at this site as opportunity arises, focusing on known small or manageable populations first, and with the understanding that this site is lower priority than the forest. Buckthorn and white poplar are likely the most important tree/shrub threats to this site at this time.
- OBJECTIVE Q. Maintain the habitat created by the 2013 Blue Heron Lagoon project.

- TASK Q.1. VS Control invasive plants along the Blue Heron Lagoon shoreline, especially within the created reptile nesting area on the peninsula and the small planted area north of the foot bridge.
- OBJECTIVE R. Complete a trail plan for the park, to include a stewardship emphasis on protection of extant natural features and minimizing fragmentation of the forest, while providing appropriate trail-based recreation and access.
  - TASK R.1. UP Complete a trail plan designating the approved locations, uses, and appropriate construction/surface for trails throughout the park.
  - TASK R.2. PS Ensure all new trail development and maintenance of existing trails conforms with the trail plan.
- OBJECTIVE S. Reduce pollution of aquatic ecosystems at the park and Detroit River by reducing direct stormwater outflows into the combined sewer system and river.
  - TASK S.1. UP Complete a stormwater system assessment and asset management plan.
  - TASK S.2. UP Investigate options for reducing stormwater inputs to the combined sewer system.
  - TASK S.3. UP Investigate options for bio-swales, retention areas, or other mechanisms for improving the quality of stormwater (reducing sediment and contaminant load) before it is discharged into the lakes, canals, and Detroit River.
- OBJECTIVE T. Complete the Lake Okonoka restoration project to reconnect the lake to the Detroit River and Blue Heron Lagoon.
  - TASK T.1. E/UP Participate on the project team with Friends of the Detroit River to complete construction of this project in 2017 and 2018.
- OBJECTIVE U. Submit a Work Item Proposal for all infrastructure development projects and all projects that involve earth disturbance. Work Item Proposals allow the natural resource impacts of a proposed project to be assessed and rejected, modified or mitigated as appropriate.
  - TASK U.1. PS Submit WIPs for all development projects and those that involve earth disturbance.

## Monitoring and Follow-Up

How will we monitor progress and adapt our actions?

### 1. Document stewardship activities that occur in the field

A Stewardship Treatment Record (R3142) must be completed for every stewardship action that occurs in the field. A Pesticide Treatment Record (R3148) must be attached whenever pesticide of any kind is used. Always attach a map to the Stewardship Treatment Record with sufficient detail to document exactly where the work was completed. Contact Alicia Ihnken in the Stewardship Unit to have a custom map created for a project if it would be helpful to complete or document the work. (Volunteers should work through the volunteer steward to request maps).

Stewardship Treatment Records (and associated pesticide records if applicable) must be submitted to Alicia Ihnken in the Stewardship Unit within 2 weeks of completing the work. Volunteers and partner groups will submit records to the volunteer steward (Malvitz-Draper), who will compile and forward to Ihnken.

Invasive mapping GIS data (points and polygons) shall be updated every time an invasive plant treatment occurs, and every time a new invasive plant location is discovered that is not already included in the GIS.

### 2. Document the completion of each task in this plan annually

The Ecological Restoration Specialist should keep an annual log (electronic or paper) to record the date of completion of each task listed in this plan.

### 3. Check stewardship and park records and data in January 2023 to determine whether tasks were completed

Revisit this plan and review all objectives to determine whether they were met. Unless further specified below, information contained in Stewardship Treatment Records and park files should be sufficient to determine whether an objective was met.

### 4. Revise this plan in winter 2022-2023 based on progress and new data

The Ecologist, Ecological Restoration Specialist, Volunteer Steward, Stewardship Unit Manager, Belle Isle Park Supervisor, Belle Isle Unit Manager, District Supervisor, Urban Planner, and other DNR staff (as appropriate) should meet or communicate via email to revise this plan. Input should be gathered from the Belle Isle Conservancy, Friends of the Detroit River, and other groups as appropriate. Review the Conservation Targets, Threats, Strategies, and specific Objectives and Tasks and revise as needed.

### 5. Collect follow-up photographic monitoring data and establish new points as needed

New photo-monitoring points were established in 2015, primarily to monitor the Friends of the Detroit River grant-funded invasive plant control work. The Ecologist or Ecological Restoration Specialist will establish new locations for photo-monitoring points as needed, based on the objectives outlined in this plan. Volunteers will be trained on the DNR photo-monitoring protocol by the volunteer steward as needed and will be the primary means of collecting follow-up photographs.

### 6. Compile plant and animal lists to fill out Appendix C