



99 Pleasure Drive
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www.belleisleconservancy.org



Dear Friend and Supporter of Belle Isle,

The MacArthur Bridge to Belle Isle is more than a passage – it is a portal; a moment of transition. From the bustle of Detroit to a space of calm. From daily routines to a place where nature, history and community invite reflection and appreciation for the bigger things that make life worth living. Crossing it is an invitation to take a deep breath.



In my first year as the President & CEO of the Belle Isle Conservancy, I have been using that moment as a space in my day to take a deep breath and to give thanks. This year has been one of tremendous growth – not just for our organization, but for the way we steward our beloved park. And your support has made that possible. You've helped us preserve historic landmarks, protect natural spaces, welcome millions of visitors with open arms, and shape the future of Belle Isle.



Because of your support, we accomplished so much this year:

- Building on the Belle Isle Multimodal Mobility Study, we debuted initial designs for the **Belle Isle Commons** and launched a community engagement period to keep improving the design concepts during a Detroit Month of Design designated public event.
- As the operators of the Belle Isle Aquarium, **we expanded our hours by a full day**, and are now open Thursday through Sunday.
- With the official public opening of the 6-mile pedestrian/bike trail circling the island, we increased our connection to Detroit's network of amazing public spaces.
- Through our incredible volunteers, we supported a huge community engagement effort, speaking to **over 11 thousand residents** across the summer about their future priorities for the island and the excitement was palpable!
- Our preservation and restoration efforts continue with the Belle Isle Casino, Aquarium, and Scott Fountain projects all underway.



I continue to be grateful for all the hard work of our team, volunteers and partners across this last year. But even as we head into a slightly slower time on the island, this is not a time to rest. As we approach 2026, a pivotal year when federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act comes to a close, our role becomes even more vital. Future restoration and capital projects will depend on the strength of our coalition across state and local governments, our partners in philanthropy, and your continued generosity.



Your contribution today ensures this critical work as the stewards of Belle Isle continues and the island thrives as a place of belonging, beauty and inspiration for generations to come.

If it has been a minute since you last came out to appreciate Belle Isle, I invite you to join the 5.5 million who cross the MacArthur Bridge each year. And when you do, take a deep breath and feel the impact of your gift in every moment of your visit.

With gratitude,

Meagan Elliott
President & CEO



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HOSTING GUESTS & VISITORS ON THE ISLAND

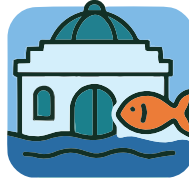


5.5 MILLION

ANNUAL VISITORS TO
BELLE ISLE STATE PARK

235,496

ANNUAL VISITORS TO
BELLE ISLE AQUARIUM



10,000

VOLUNTEER HOURS



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF THE ISLAND

11,000+

PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH THE
BELLE ISLE STRATEGIC
IMPROVEMENT PLAN SURVEY



900

PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH
THE BELLE ISLE COMMONS
DESIGN CONCEPTS



29

IN PERSON
ENGAGEMENT
EVENTS



INVESTING IN LEARNING ON THE ISLAND



41

TOURS



964

PARTICIPANTS



29

BELLE ISLE PARK
CLEAN-UPS THIS YEAR

CARING FOR
THE ISLAND



8,543 lbs

TRASH COLLECTED DURING CLEAN-UPS

THAT EQUALS 3
COMPACT CARS!



WANT TO GET MORE INVOLVED?

BECOME A BELLE ISLE PARK VOLUNTEER

Belle Isle Park volunteers donate their time and talent to support the park in various capacities. If you are interested in volunteer opportunities at Belle Isle you can scan the QR code or visit us online at belleisleconservancy.org to submit a volunteer application.



JOIN THE STEWARDSHIP CIRCLE

The Belle Isle Stewardship Circle is an esteemed community of donors that support the Belle Isle Conservancy's mission to protect, preserve, restore, and enhance Belle Isle park with a generous unrestricted gift to the annual fund.

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER

Scan the QR code to sign up for monthly updates from Belle Isle Conservancy in your email box.



VISIT THE VIRTUAL BELLE ISLE GIFT SHOP

Love Belle Isle? Wear it, gift it, share it, and shop with purpose this season! Every purchase from the Belle Isle Shop supports the park you love.