

WELCOME TO **BELLE ISLE**



ABOUT **KEEP BELLE ISLE BEAUTIFUL**

Keep Belle Isle Beautiful (KBIB) is Belle Isle Park's first and only anti-litter campaign. Established in 2017, it was designed to create awareness about the impact of littering behavior in our park and waterways. Through a regular schedule of public cleanup events, KBIB supports park users in protecting precious natural resources leading to healthier, litter-free parks and waterways. KBIB strives to act locally, by removing litter at the source, while thinking globally, connecting the Detroit and the Great Lakes region to the worldwide concern of marine litter. Regular cleanups take place all season long. For more information, visit belleisleconservancy.org/cleanup.

MAP KEY / **ISLAND SITES**

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|---|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
|  | Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory |  | Flynn Pavilion |
|  | Athletic Complex |  | Kayak Launch |
|  | Belle Isle Aquarium |  | Lake Muskoday |
|  | Belle Isle Beach |  | Livingstone Memorial Lighthouse |
|  | Belle Isle Boat House |  | Old Zoo |
|  | Belle Isle Casino |  | Parking Area |
|  | Belle Isle Nature Center |  | Restrooms |
|  | Dossin Great Lakes Museum |  | Sunset Point |
| | |  | Scott Fountain |
| | |  | Wet-Mesic Flatwoods |



SHARE YOUR *VISIT!*

Post your images to social media
and be sure to tag us!
@belleisleconservancy  

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR ISLAND SITES!



Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory

The Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory is the oldest continually running conservatory in the United States. It contains a collection of rare and exotic plants from around the world, including palms, tropical plants, cacti, ferns and one of the country's largest orchid collections.



Athletic Complex

The Athletic Fieldhouse is a Victorian structure (1898) adorned with conical turrets, wood detail, and a tiled roof designed by architect Edward A. Schilling. It was originally used as a bicycle rental pavilion.



Belle Isle Aquarium

Albert Kahn designed the Aquarium and Conservatory as one structure. When it opened in 1904, guests were awed by the green opaline glass tiles that were used in the ceiling to simulate an underwater cavern, while a lily pond was added in 1936. When the Belle Isle Aquarium opened, it was the third largest aquarium in the world with salt water being shipped directly in from the ocean. Today, it is home to a unique collection of fish. With one of the largest collections of air breathing fish in the world, the Aquarium houses the only known collection of all seven species of gar in North America. Walking through the Aquarium, you will travel all over the globe exploring the Great Lakes and waters of the world.



Belle Isle Beach

The ½ mile-long swimming area is the only public beach in Detroit or along the Detroit River. The first bathhouse was built in 1894, burned in 1901, rebuilt in 1909 and demolished in the late 1960s.



Belle Isle Boat House

The Detroit Boat Club organized on February 18, 1839, is one of the oldest boat clubs in America, and one of the oldest social organizations in Michigan. Originally formed

for the purpose of establishing rowing on the Detroit River, the club eventually expanded to include other activities.



Belle Isle Casino

(1908) – This two-story Beaux-Arts style building has ornate towers framing its four corners with encircling verandas designed to provide views of the Detroit River and Canada where patrons would have been cooled by breezes. It was designed by Edward C. Van Leyen and Edward A. Schilling and opened in 1908. The Casino was never a gambling establishment but rather a key meeting point on the island.



Belle Isle Nature Center

The Belle Isle Nature Center is committed to increasing environmental awareness by providing educational programs to the community, students and teachers that address conservation, water quality & protection and preserving nature.



Dossin Great Lakes Museum

Located on Strand Drive on Belle Isle, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum is dedicated to showcasing the story of the Great Lakes, with a special emphasis on Detroit's role in regional and national maritime history. Exhibits tell more than 300 years of the region's rich maritime history, from the shipping fleets that rule the waterways to the varied roles that the Great Lakes and the Detroit River have played in our region's industrial and social history.



Flynn Pavilion

Completed in 1949, this building's rustic aesthetic complemented its surroundings and served as a boat and skate rental facility until it was renovated in 2004. It is now primarily used as a kayak launch and location for special events.



Lake Muskoday

Canals were dredged in the 1890s

to irrigate swampy marshes, envisioning a Venetian aesthetic loop filling into man-made lakes on each end, headed by a canoe shelter at the Detroit River mouth.



Livingstone Memorial Lighthouse

Designed by renowned Detroit architect Albert Kahn, the Livingstone Memorial Lighthouse is located at the northern head of Belle Isle, facing Lake St. Clair. The ornamentation of the monument was designed in 1930 by Hungarian sculptor Geza Maroti in the Art Deco style. The 58-foot-tall lighthouse was sculpted out of Georgia marble – the only such structure in North America.



Old Zoo

The Belle Isle Zoo opened in 1895 and was rechristened The Detroit Children's Zoo in 1947. It then became known as Safariland in the 1980s, where it added an "African" architectural theme that remained until its closure in 2002.



Scott Fountain

Rounding out at a circumference of 510 feet, this memorial fountain is adorned with a series of Vermont White Marble bowls, 109 water outlets in the shape of lions, turtles, Neptune figures, and artistic horns, and 16 bas-relief panels that depict early Detroit life. The basin was originally inlaid with Pewabic tiles surrounding the rim with individual tiles throughout the basin.



Sunset Point

Sunset Point is located on the westernmost tip of Belle Isle offering a beautiful view of the downtown Detroit skyline.



Wet-Mesic Flatwoods

Belle Isle is home to 200 acres of a rare ecosystem known as wet-mesic flatwoods. These forested wetlands still contain rare plant and wildlife species common hundreds of years ago throughout southeast Michigan after the glacial period.

JOIN US!

Saturday Public Cleanups

Bring the whole family to Keep Belle Isle Beautiful on the third Saturday of each month.

Recurring date: Third Saturday of each month, April through October.

Time: 9:30am – noon

Location/parking: Belle Isle Beach

Belle Isle Kayak Club

Make your adventure count! Bring your own kayak or SUP and join us as we 'paddle against plastic pollution' along the canals of Belle Isle. Some kayaks will be available onsite on a first come first serve basis.

Recurring date: Third Saturday of each month, April through October

Time: 9:30am – noon

Location: Shoreline entry from behind the Belle Isle Aquarium

Parking/check-in: Available in front of the Belle Isle Aquarium

'Second Fridays' Series

Families, friends, community groups and corporate teams looking to meet up at the Belle Isle Beach and help Keep Belle Isle Beautiful are welcome to join us on the second Friday of each month. Beach cleanups are on land only.

Recurring date: Second Friday of each month, July through October

Time: 9:30am – noon

Location/parking: Belle Isle Beach

For more information, visit
belleisleconservancy.org/cleanup

