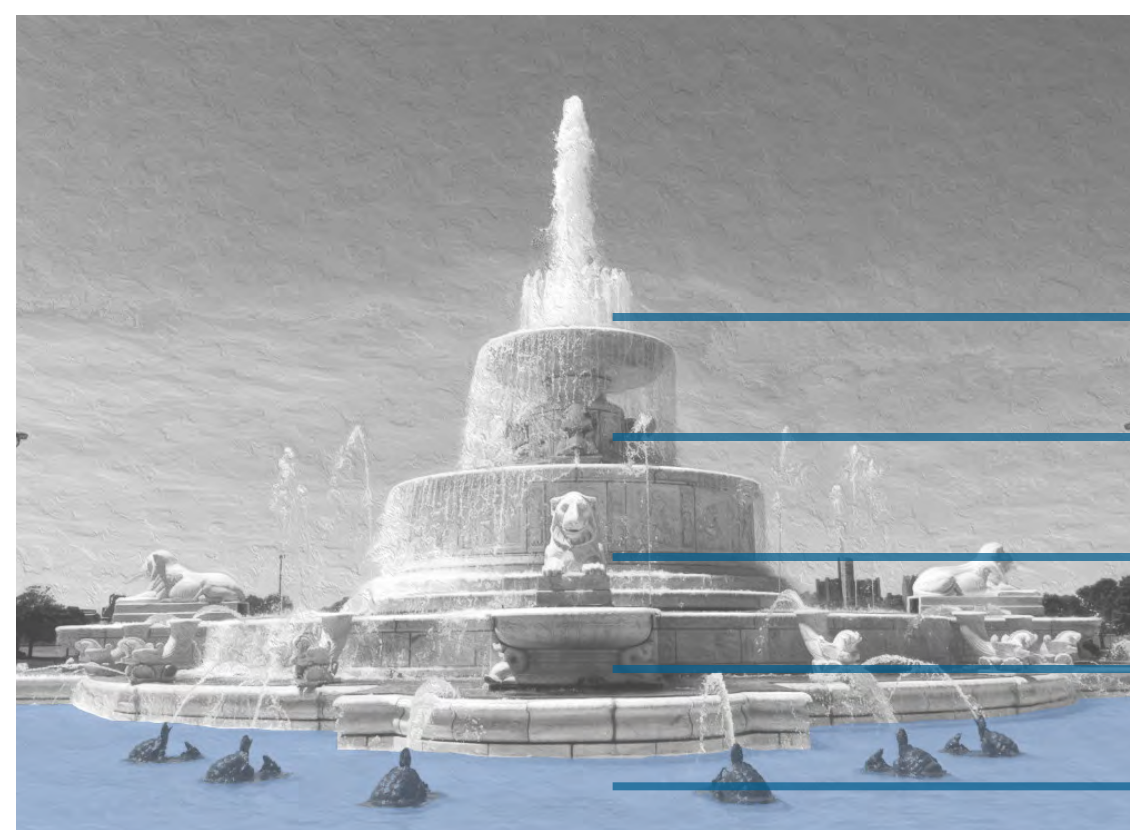


What is the Belle Isle Beachfront Revitalization Project ?



Project timeline and fundraising

The Belle Isle Beachfront Revitalization project is a multi-year initiative that will require funding for different phases of construction and for long-term maintenance. Planning and community engagement began in the summer of 2017.



- Phase 5 - Long-term Maintenance
- Phase 4 - Construction & Implementation
- Phase 3 - Fundraising
- Phase 2 - Project Design
- Phase 1 - Planning & Community Engagement



Belle Isle Beach Project Area



What's happening with the waterslides?

The former waterslide park at Belle Isle was enjoyed by visitors since the 1990s. Both the slides and the associated utilities do not function. When the gated park was operational, high annual maintenance costs and functional challenges resulted in frequent closures. This high profile location can be returned to accessible, public use. The existing concrete foundation can be adapted as an open patio and beachside amenity. To recapture the aspect of water play, a nearby area would be established for a splash pad and an associated dry play area. This planning effort is an exercise of responsible stewardship striving for the best use of resources for the community.

What is this project about?

The historic, half-mile long Belle Isle Beach is heavily used and deeply loved by visitors. The Belle Isle Conservancy with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the City of Detroit is looking to expand and improve recreational opportunities for park users regardless of their age our ability by revitalizing a beachfront experience that includes multiple recreational zones near the Bath House.

Currently the Bath House and former waterslide park divide the beach into east and west areas. This project proposes the functional integration of the beachfront by the activation of currently underutilized zones on both sides of the Bath House.

WEST: An approximately four-acre zone would include an engaging splash pad and companion playground that harmonizes with and draws inspiration from the unique character and heritage of Belle Isle.

EAST: The approximately one-acre east zone would include an accessible Bath House patio and a landscape setting on the foundation of the former waterslide park.

CONNECTIONS: Integrated pathways and additional accessible parking would increase connectivity with existing park trails and roads as well as future routes.

West Zone - Beach Park

1. Splash pad
2. Playground
3. Observation area with shade and seating
4. Landscape plantings and lighting
5. Barrier-free access
6. Increased parking
7. Trail connections

East Zone - Beach House Terrace

1. Multiuse beach patio
2. Vendor space
3. Picnic area with shade and seating
4. Landscape plantings and lighting
5. Barrier-free access



What do YOU think? What THEME should the new play areas have?



BRIDGE

Drawing inspiration from the MacArthur Bridge that connects the Belle Isle to Detroit and the many bridges that span the canals within Belle Isle, a bridge theme would use the concept of bridge as both a metaphor for "connection" and as a physical design element. The theme also would relate to benches, shade structures and other features of the Belle Isle Beach.

- bridge connects city and the island, past and present
- bridge connects cultures across time
- bridge connects urban forms and natural forms
- bridges connect different zones within the play spaces



GREAT LAKES WATER RESOURCES

Belle Isle has many lagoons, lakes, fields and pathways in a beautiful river setting. It provides a natural escape from the urban environment while still a vital part of the city of Detroit.

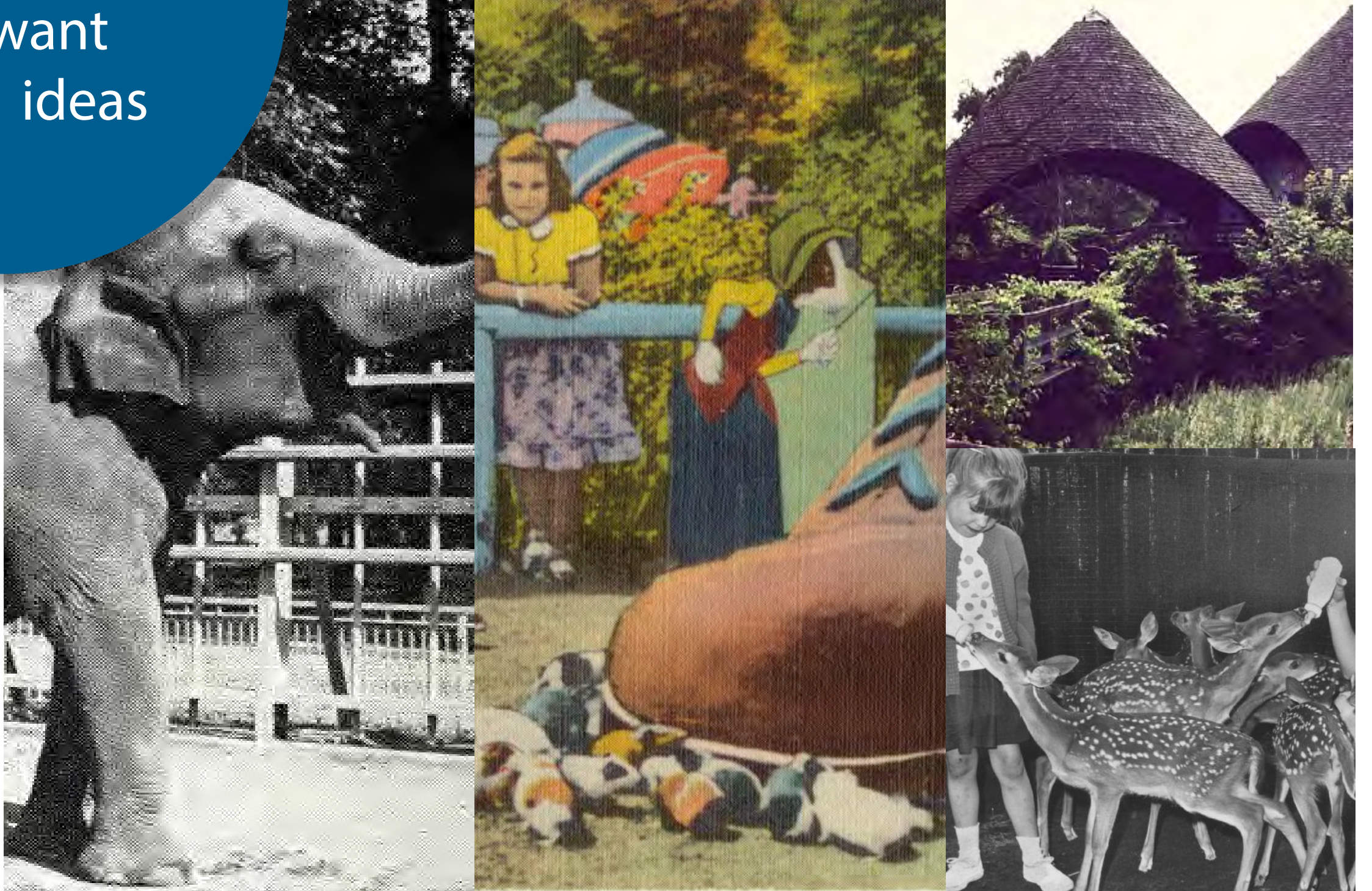
Great Lakes Water Resources would draw inspiration from the natural features of the island and its setting to help kids and adults immerse themselves within a water resource themed play area. The natural themed zone would create a "wild" but safe environment to explore.

What is your favorite theme idea?
We want YOUR ideas



CULTURAL HISTORY of BELLE ISLE

This comprehensive theme draws upon the fascinating stories of Belle Isle's history including the earliest land uses, connections between nations, historic park features (such as the conservatory and zoo), and the river itself with a sweeping and diverse Native American, French, British, and Canadian heritage.



BELLE ISLE ZOO

The former zoo in Belle Isle is fondly remembered by many locals and represents an important part of Belle Isle's history. Zoo animals could inspire fountains in the spray pad or climbing elements in the playground.

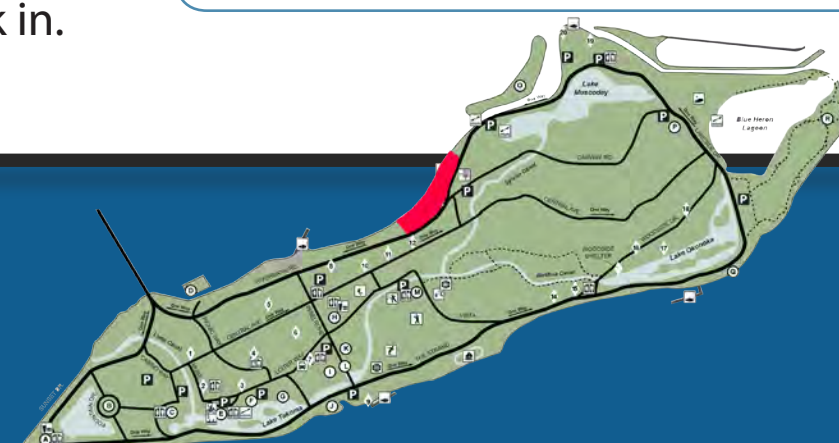


NAUTICAL HISTORY THEME

With it's setting in the middle of the Detroit River, Belle Isle has a rich history in boating ranging from great freighters to small individual leisure canoes and kayaks. For several hundred years, boats have played a great part of Belle Isle's history and still do today with Belle Isle's Yacht club and waterways to paddle a kayak in.

Other ideas or inspirational stories?

Please write ideas or paste sticky notes in the space below.



What makes a Great play area on Belle Isle to YOU



What makes a great Splash Pad for YOUR family ?

Splash Pad Design Goals and Details

- Relates to the character and community of the park
- Open to a wide variety of people with different abilities, cultural backgrounds and age groups
- Low maintenance and operations requirements
- Environmentally friendly
- Accessible to all
- Vandal resistant materials
- Durable, climate compatible materials
- Design that maximizes safety
- Water conservation
- No standing water/ zero-depth play area
- Comply with safety standards for public play
- Provides caregivers a comfortable place to watch



Add your notes here!

Splash Pad Options

- Picnic area and benches for parents to sit and observe
- Soft surface
- Arches to run through
- A range of features for a range of ages.
- Geysers
- Water cannons
- Dump buckets
- Small water slides
- Nature themed water fountains
- Sand area with a foot shower and both loose and fixed sand toys
- Mini waterfalls to stand under
- Shade areas

Existing Playground on Belle Isle



What makes a great Playground for YOU ?

Principles of Playground Design

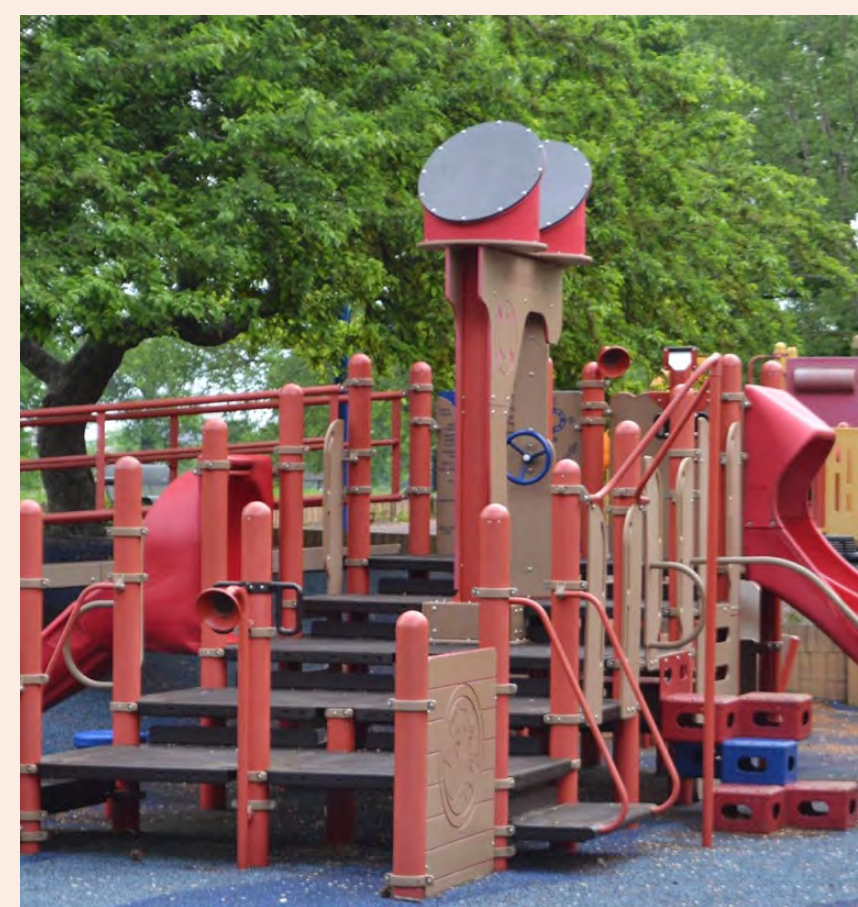
A GREAT playground...

- ...challenges and promotes children's growth.
- ...provides multiple types of play: active, sensory, creative, imaginative, social, restful/daydreaming
- ...creates a unique, authentic sense of place that represents the culture, location and spirit of community. It is not generic.
- ...encourages creativity and provides areas for exploration.
- ...has surprises to make it interesting.
- ...has great "flow" that encourages children to take different paths.
- ...considers the needs of children with different abilities, mentally and physically and provides opportunities for children with different abilities to interact together.
- ...Incorporates nature into the playground design as much as possible by adding gardens, trees, boulders, stumps and logs.
- ...provides elements to keep it clean and safe: drinking water, seating for adults, trash cans, storage sheds for equipment, and any necessary signage.



Add your notes here!

The new playground will be a companion to the splash pad and will complement the existing Belle Isle playgrounds shown below.



Choose YOUR favorite park Style & Features!

Activity level? Surfaces? Materials? Colors? Shape? Form?



How could we improve the Belle Isle Beachfront for YOU ?



The Belle Isle Beachfront Revitalization project will enhance connections across the entire beach area and create new ways for the way people experience the beach.

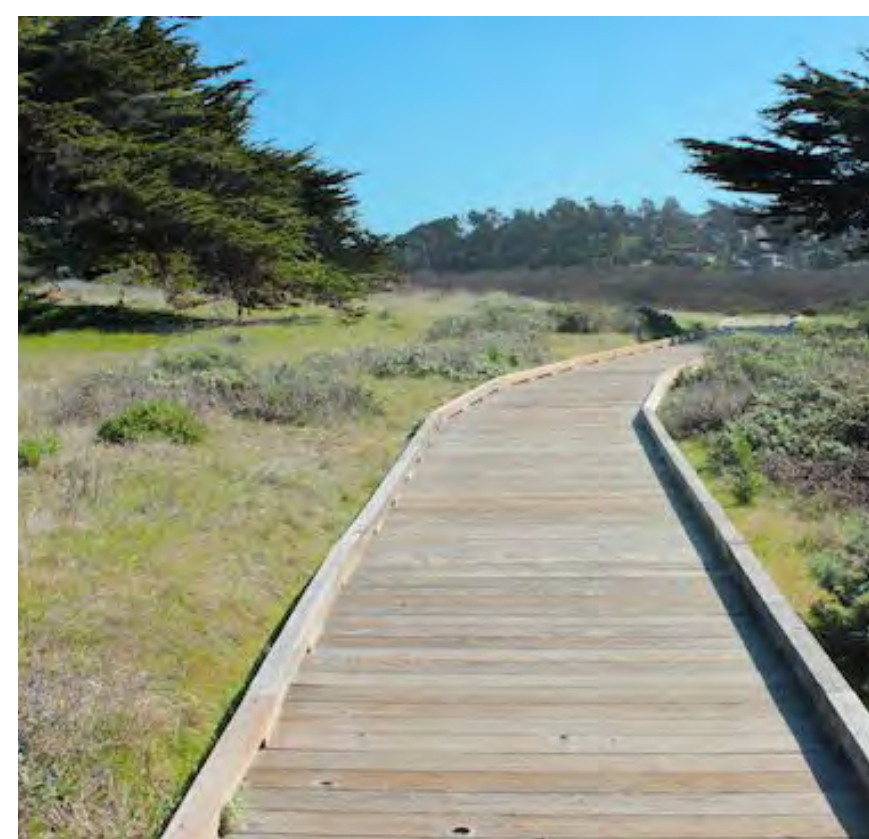
A new, multi-use patio will take the place of the former waterslide park next to the Bath House.

Visitors will appreciate proximity to shade, concessions, restrooms, and parking. This focal point will enable panoramic views over the water. Making use of the sturdy concrete foundation and other existing features, the accessible terrace can provide waterfront access and views without crossing sand or water on the way.

What amenities or services would you enjoy at the Belle Isle Beach?

Here are a few ideas:

- Trail connections to the rest of the Belle Isle
- Increased waterfront accessibility
- Benches and seating areas
- Shade structures or pavilions
- Picnic areas
- Event rental space on or near the beach
- Food truck or concessions
- Equipment rentals
- Sandy shoreline
- Shade trees
- Naturalized shoreline
- Views to the city
- Views to other beach and play areas



What do you like most? What would you add?



What are YOUR ideas?

Post your sticky notes or write your comments here!



A large, empty rectangular area enclosed by a dashed blue border, intended for users to post sticky notes or write comments.

