

MACARTHUR BRIDGE TO THE ISLAND (1923)

Opened Nov. 1, 1923 with a parade of thousands of Detroiters led by Detroit Police. Nearly ½ mile long, 35 ft. wide reinforced concrete, cantilever arch bridge on spandrel columns, with 19 spans of maximum 30 ft. height. Longest concrete deck arched bridge in Michigan. It was renamed for WWII General Douglas MacArthur in 1942.

2 FLORAL CLOCK (1990)

Created by Elbridge A. Scribner in 1893 at Waterworks Park. Henry Ford rescued and restored it in 1934 placing it at the entrance to Greenfield Village. In 1989, the clock in disrepair was returned to Detroit Water & Sewage Department and placed in storage. The workings were moved to Belle Isle in 1990.

3 JAMES SCOTT MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN AND LAGOON (1925)

Fountain circumference is 510 feet with a series of Vermont White Marble bowls, 109 water outlets in the shape of lions, turtles, Neptune figures and artistic horns, 16 bas-relief panels depict early Detroit life. In 1915, the western end of the island was expanded by 200 acres of fill from downtown Detroit building sites to provide a location for the fountain and lagoon. The architect for the fountain and lagoon was Cass Gilbert.

4 SUNSET POINT (2006)

Located on the western-most tip of Belle Isle offering a beautiful view of the downtown Detroit skyline. Ground breaking in 2006 with completion in 2009.

5 CASINO (1908)

Two-story Beaux-Arts style has ornate towers framing the building's four corners with encircling verandas designed to provide views of the Detroit River and Canada where patrons would be cooled by breezes Edward C. Van Leyen and Edward A. Schilling architects.

6 FLYNN MEMORIAL PAVILION (1949)

Horizontal design and native materials reinforce rustic aesthetic design by architect J. Robert F. Swanson in 1947 and completed in 1949 for use as a boat and skate rental facility. Named after William H. Flynn, former Deputy County Treasurer who bequeathed funds to erect a gathering place on the island

NANCY BROWN PEACE CARILLON TOWER (1940)

Nancy Brown was a Detroit News advice columnist writing the "Experience column" from 1919-1942. She led a citywide campaign to honor the Depression-era peace movement. Those who read her column contributed nickels and dimes to dedicate this tower to her with a dedication on July 17, 1940. It was silenced in the 1970s by vandals. Sound was restored to the carillon in 2005 with recorded bell concerts playing on the hour, quarter-hour and half-hour.

8 DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MARITIME MUSEUM (1960)

Dossin Great Lakes Museum, designed by architect William E. Kapp, showcases the story of the Great Lakes emphasizing Detroit's role in maritime history. Opened July 24, 1960, built with funds from Walter Dossin matched by the City of Detroit.

9 LEVI BARBOUR MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN (1936)

Created in 1936 by Cranbrook sculptor Marshall Fredericksion.

Located in the center of the Conservatory Garden, in honor of the civic leader, Levi Barbour, credited with the idea for Belle Isle Park and who played a role in the negotiations of its purchase from the Campau family.

ANNA SCRIPPS WHITCOMB CONSERVATORY (1904)

The Conservatory is divided into five sections: the Palm House with its 85-foot high dome, the Tropical House, the Showroom, the Cactus House and the Fernery. In 1955, the attraction was named after Mrs. Anna Scripps Whitcomb who bequeathed her 600-plant orchid collection to the City of Detroit. The Conservatory, designed by architect Albert Kahn, is divided. from the aquarium.

AQUARIUM (1904)

Albert Kahn Designed the Aquarium and Horticultural Building as one structure. Built from 1901-1904. Green opaline glass tiles were used in the aquarium ceiling to simulate an underwater cavern. It is also the oldest aquarium building in North America. The Beau-Arts stone entry incorporated a water theme and the emblem of the City of Detroit.

GREENHOUSES

15

17

First greenhouses were built on Belle Isle in the late 1880s. One was designed by Edward A. Schilling but no longer exists. The greenhouses were used to house and raise plants for Belle Isle and the city. Now they are used by an agriscience school and the conservatory. Located across Inselruhe from the Aquarium.

THE WHITE HOUSE (1864)

Built in 1864 as a "Grand Mansion" and working farm Alexandrine Campau and her second husband Richard Storrs Willin the early 1900s, it was the park manager's residence. It was the island administration building for many years, before moving to the renovated Internal Affairs building at the entrance to the park.

OLD HORSE STABLES/MAINTENANCE BUILDING (1894)

Designed by George D. Mason in 1894 as a horse stable for the 60 work horses used on the island. Starting in 1964, the city used it for island maintenance and storage.

ATHLETIC FIELD AND FIELD HOUSE (1898)

The 36-acre athletic field has facilities for softball, baseball, football, soccer, rugby, tennis and track as well as handball/racquetball courts. It has also been used for large gatherings. In 1904, there were seven baseball diamonds.

U.S. COAST GUARD SECTOR DETROIT STATION

BELLE ISLE (1942)

Part of the 9th District Sector Detroit operating as a rescue station patrolling the Detroit River from the western edge of Lake St. Clair to Point Mouilee in Lake Erie. Originally the St. Clair Lifeboat Station

and the location of the Old Belle Isle Lighthouse from 1882–1941.

LIVINGSTONE MEMORIAL LIGHTHOUSE (1930)

A 47-foot art deco shaft of white Georgia marble surmounted by a bronze lantern room reaching a height of 80 feet designed by architect Albert Kahn. Dedicated to William Livingstone, (1844-1925) a prominent and popular Detroit resident and president of the Lake Carriers Association from 1902-1925.

BLUE HERON LAGOON (1930)

A 41-acre lake/wetland completed in 1930 when the island was expanded to the east. Direct access for fish from the Detroit River to the Lagoon was prohibited for many years but was restored in 2014 by The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Project which also restored a natural area on the banks and created a sturgeon spawning reef in the river waters just off the island.

BELLE ISLE GOLF COURSE PRACTICE (1922)

Outdoor facility with 35 stations of 300 yards in length operating from March through October. The short game area includes 4 practice bunkers, 4 chipping greens, and 2 huge putting greens. There is also a 5-hole short course. Fees apply.

BELLE ISLE NATURE Z00 (1977)

Opened as the Belle Isle Nature Center in 1977 and re-opened as the Belle Isle Nature Zoo in 2005. Has a variety of educational programs including the "Deer Encounter" with a small herd of the fallow deer that once roamed the island. Located at Lakeside Drive and Oakway Trail.

BELLE ISLE GOLF COURSE/DISC GOLF COURSE

First public golf course in the Detroit area opening in 1922 and designed by Ernie Way, a pro at the Detroit Golf Club. The 9-hole course closed in 2008, currently used for Disc Golf Tournaments. The covered bridge over a canal was a Depression-era Public Works Project. Detroit Disc Golf manages the course where the old golf course is located. The cost is \$4 per player, 12 and under free. Season passes available at the disc shack at entrance for \$25 per pass.

DETROIT YACHT CLUB (1922)

One of the oldest and largest yacht clubs in the world, founded in 1868. The current clubhouse, completed in 1922, was designed by architect George D. Mason with Mediterranean themes providing social and recreational boating activities to its members and their guests. leased from the City and has been the host of the Gold Cup hydroplane races in July.

23 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.

24 KIDS KINGDOM PLAYSCAPE (2003)

½-acre playground with swings, tunnels, unusual slides and other play equipment built in 2003 with the aid of the Junior League of Detroit, the City of Detroit and the Detroit Recreation Department. An earlier playscape was dedicated in 1978.

5 GIANT SLIDE (2004)

The first slide was installed in the 1960s and replaced with this larger one in 2004. Now operated by the DNR, open from wednesday to saturday during the summer.

26 POLICE STATION

The Richardsonian Romanesque fieldstone building with the look of a Norman farmhouse was designed by architects George D. Mason and Zachariah Rice is proposed as the future site of the Belle Isle Vistor center. The station was the first to have radio-equipped police car placed into service in the country and 1928 location of the first police radio broadcast.

NORTH FISHING PIER

DETROIT BOAT CLUBHOUSE (1902)

The first reinforced concrete structure to be built in the country designed by architect Alpheus W. Chittenden. The Detroit Boat Club (established 1839), now under the auspices of the non-profit Friends of Detroit Rowing, is Belle Isle's oldest tenant having moved to the island's shore in 1890.

HOURS OF OPERATIONS

Belle Isle Aquarium – Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Dossin Great Lakes Museum – Friday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

James Scott Memorial Fountain – 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily (summer)

Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory – 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday (year-round)

Belle Isle Nature Zoo - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday (year-round)

Driving Range -9 a.m. to dusk daily

Giant slide – Noon to 8:30 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday (summer)







GUIDED TOUR MAP

ABOUT BELLE ISLE

Rich with history and natural beauty, Belle Isle Park is a Detroit gem and Michigan's 102nd state park. The 982-acre island park features a nature zoo, conservatory, golf practice facility, maritime museum, an aquarium, picnic areas and more. The park includes three lakes, 150 acres of wooded area and spectacular views of the Detroit and Windsor skyline.

