



SEARCH detnews.com [input] [Go]

detnews SITE INDEX

- Homepage
- Search
- CyberSurveys
- Horoscope
- Lottery
- Michigan's Best
- Weather
- Staff

FORUMS

- News Talk
- Autos Talk
- Big 10 Talk
- High Schools
- Lions Talk
- Pistons Talk
- Wings Talk
- Tech Talk
- Tiger Talk
- Weight-loss

NEWS

- Autos
- Insider
- Drive
- Joyrides
- Business
- Careers
- Money & Life
- Census
- Columnists
- Commuting
- Detroit History
- Editorials
- Metro / State
- Livingston
- Macomb
- Oakland
- Wayne
- Nation / World
- Obituaries
- Death Notices
- Politics / Govt.
- Real Estate
- Religion
- Schools
- Special Reports
- Technology

SPORTS

- Sports Insider
- Lions/NFL
- Red Wings/NHL
- Pistons/NBA
- Shock/WNBA
- Tigers/Baseball

Thursday, November 20, 2003

Two projects expected to enhance Belle Isle

State, federal funds will be used to clean lagoon, create a spawning reef

By Darren A. Nichols / *The Detroit News*

DETROIT -- Two projects that are expected to enhance the natural habitat at Belle Isle will be announced by Recreation Department officials today.

One, to clean out the Blue Heron Lagoon, and another, to create a sturgeon spawning reef in the waters near the island, will be announced during a 1 p.m. press conference at the Belle Isle casino.

Both projects will total about \$850,000 that will primarily be covered by state and federal funding. The city's recreation department also will provide some matching funds.

Alicia Minter, manager of Belle Isle for the city's recreation department, said both projects will enhance Belle Isle and provide educational opportunities for the nearly 8 million annual visitors.

The plans are also in line with a master study which called for \$180 million in improvements on the island, Minter said.

"Both of those pieces are great," Minter said. "It shows the commitment of the city to preserve the natural habitat and resources that are on the island. It just improves the jewel of Detroit, Belle Isle Park."

The Blue Heron Lagoon is a 9-acre area on the northeastern end of Belle Isle. The project will ensure the protection of aquatic plant species such as Prairie Ladies Tresses, Pumpkin Ash and Sullivant's Milkweed. Eventually the plan is to create a deep water fish habitat in the lagoon, city officials said.

The sturgeon project will help provide badly needed spawning grounds for the lake sturgeon, the largest fish in the Great Lakes. Habitat where the fish can reproduce has been steadily reduced for decades.

Mary Waterstone, president of the Friends of Belle Isle, said she supports the projects.

"I don't think it will hurt the island. It will enhance Belle Isle," Waterstone said. "What people will be seeing is something that was naturally there. We need to do everything we can do to preserve Belle Isle and natural species."

The Blue Heron Lagoon project is being funded by a \$250,000 grant from the Michigan Coastal Management Program for ecological restoration. The recreation department will contribute another \$100,000.

The sturgeon project will cost about \$500,000. The Michigan Coastal Management program will provide \$309,262 in funding and \$110,000 from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust.

You can reach Darren A. Nichols at (313) 222-2396 or

[Previous Story](#) [Next Story](#)

[Latest Metro/State r](#)

Marketplace Detr

- [Browse the Class](#)
- [New & Used Cars](#)
- [Employment](#)
- [Homes or Aptarm](#)
- [Shop Online](#)

Home Delivery Ce

- [Start home delive](#)
- [Renew subscrip](#)
- [Customer service](#)



Metro/State

- [Metro/State index](#)
- [Thursday, November](#)

- ▶MSU
- ▶U-M
- More Colleges
- Golf Guide
- High Schools
- Motor Sports
- Outdoors
- More Sports
- Scoreboards

dnichols@detnews.com.

[▶ Previous Story](#) [▶ Next Story](#)

ENTERTAINMENT

- Entertainment
- ▶Casino Guide
- ▶Movie Finder
- ▶Restaurants
- ▶TV Listings
- Crossword

GREAT LAKES ESCAPES

- Home
- ▶Destinations
- ▶Hunt & Fish
- ▶On the Water
- ▶Recreation

HOMESTYLE

- Homestyle home
- ▶Decorating
- ▶Eats & Drinks
- ▶Recipe Box
- ▶Gardening
- ▶Health
- ▶Home Improvement
- ▶Home Life
- ▶Home Tech
- ▶Wine Report

PHOTOS

- Sports
- Red Wings
- Lions
- Autos
- Joyrides
- News
- History

2003

- Arrests in propor with Arab populatio
- Macomb reworks rules
- In Turkeyville, ev is Thanksgiving
- FBI arrests man v escaped from Michig prison in 1982
- Police arrest 31 n alleged drug ring
- **Two projects exp enhance Belle Isle**
- Brits like our cou right; our leaders are another matter
- Battle lines harde to run schools
- Slaying avenged lawyer says
- Couple makes 2,5 jaunt in a 1913 Ramk
- MSU pair races sl dogs
- Sounds repel birc baffle bird lovers
- Pure water is coordinator's goal
- Trial set for man i ambush plot
- Youth orchestra r to Muskegon
- Actor spends ope night in jail
- Lansing attorney beyond briefs to ficti
- Michigan Briefs
- Vessel passages Detroit

Around Michigar

- Residents ask wh watching air quality -- from the Port Hur Times Herald
- Cement plant's m upsets neighborhoo -- from the Port Hur Times Herald
- Sentencing For B Throwing Teenager * -- from WZZM 13 Gra Rapids
- Dress the Dolls fc Christmas -- from WZZM 13 Gra Rapids
- Man accused of tl -- from E.L. church -- from the Lansing & Journal
- Teen pleads not g using drugs before c

-- from the Lansing **S**
Journal

● [Downtown parkin](#)
[loosened](#)

-- from the Battle Cre
Enquirer

● [School bond for](#)
[Pennfield endorsed](#)

-- from the Battle Cre
Enquirer

Copyright © 200
The Detroit New
Use of this site indicat
agreement to the [Te](#)
[Service](#) (updated 12/1!