



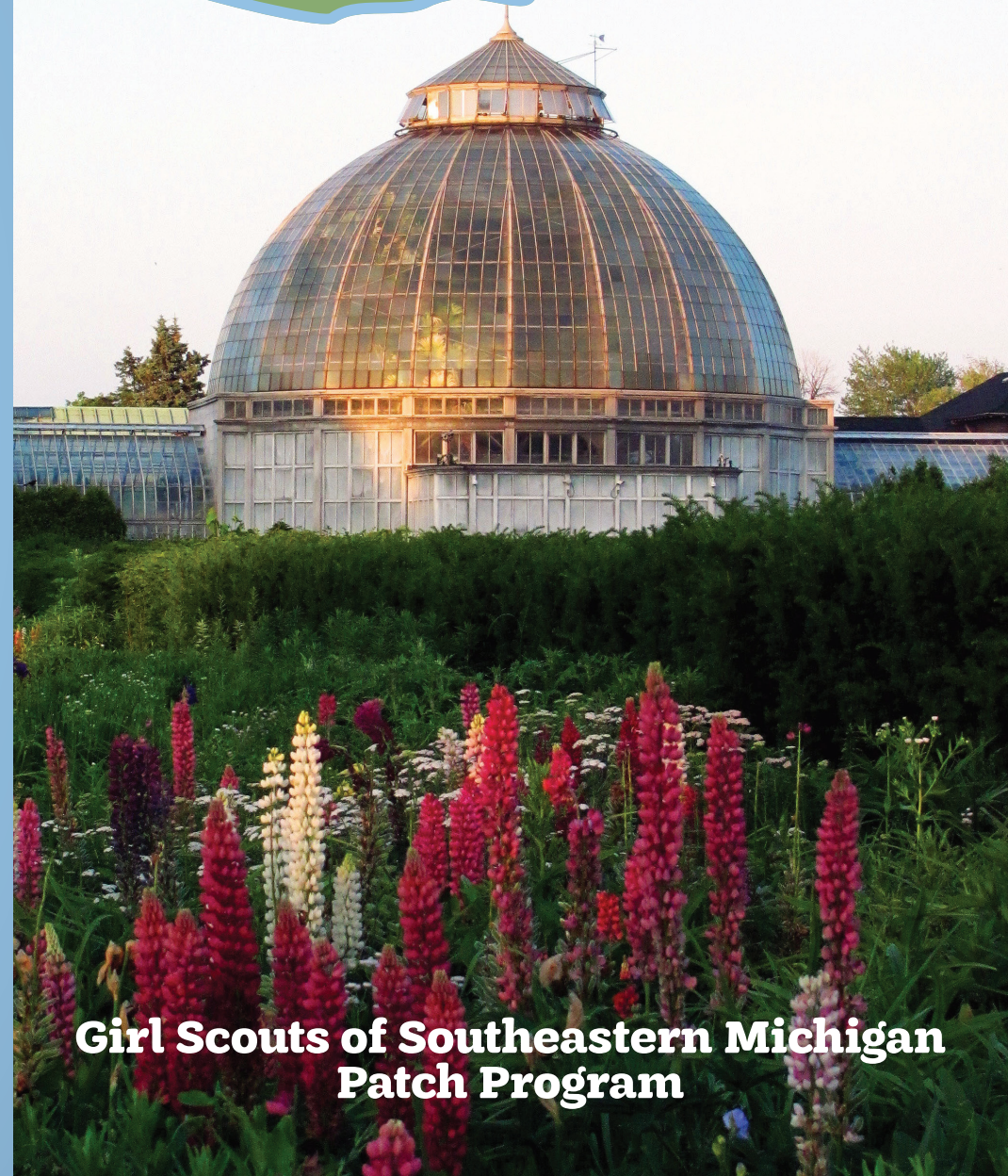
Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan

outdooreducation@gssem.org

Customer Care: 800-482-6734 Ext. 3



1333 Brewery Park Blvd
Suite 500
Detroit, MI 48207
gssem.org



**Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan
Patch Program**

Know Before You Go!

Belle Isle is the largest city-owned island park in the United States, and has a rich varied history. Let's learn a bit more before your visit!

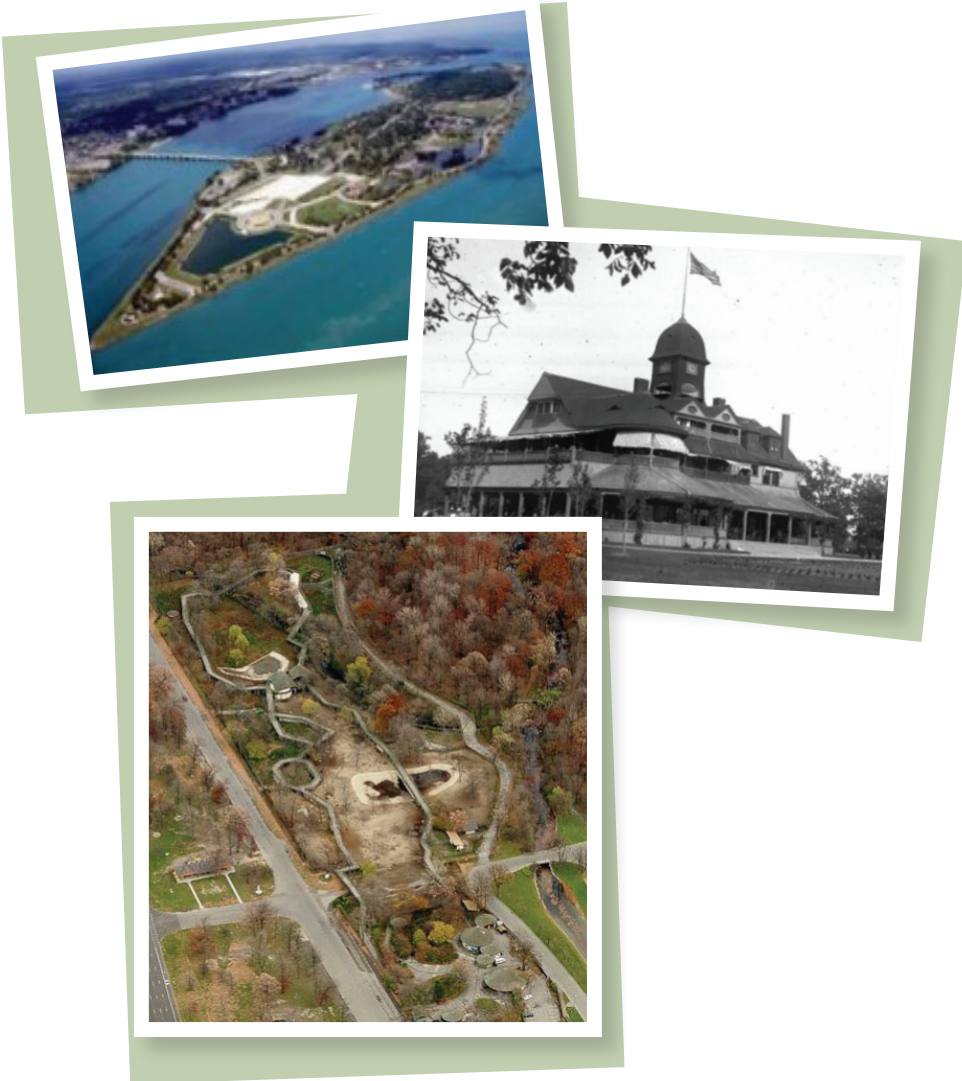
Resources:

www.historicdetroit.org

detroithistorical.org

www.belleisleconservancy.org

www.belleisleconservancy.org/historical-gallery-fun-facts



Take Action:

Make the most of your Belle Isle Adventure, and take a moment to do one of following in the space below:

Draw your favorite memory from the trip

Write a story about your trip to share with friends!

Write down any events coming up you want to attend

Write your favorite thing about the island.

Take Action:

Belle Isle wouldn't be the amazing place that it is without the help of many volunteers! From greeting you at the Aquarium or Conservatory, leading tours, teaching educational programs, to hosting clean ups. Belle Isle loves their volunteers!

What do you think you could do to help Belle Isle on its journey to being the best it can be?! Brainstorm some ideas below.

One of Belle Isle's ongoing conservation efforts is the removal of an invasive tall grass species called, *Phragmites australis*.

It prefers wetland areas, and will quickly over take any natural species in an area, due to its advantageous root system. The current management includes chemicals, controlled burns, and disking, to help break up the soil, which prevents the grass from rooting again.

Learn about the steps you can take to prevent the spread of more invasive species to the island!

So now you have some ideas!

Contact BINC@dzs.org to see what you can accomplish!

Situated between US and Canada on the _____ River, Belle Isle is the largest city owned park in the United States. The famous urban park designer who designed Central Park, _____, came up with the design for the park in the _____. After claims that his plans were too elaborate, only some elements of his design remain.

The first four attractions on the island were the Belle Isle _____ (which was made of wood), the Belle Isle _____ (with only 2 animals!), the Belle Isle _____, and the Anna Scripps Whitcomb _____. While most of these still exist today, the original _____ (made of wood) was destroyed in the year _____. The new one opened in _____. Despite what many people think, it was never used for _____.

The zoo, which started with only a _____ park and a _____ den, came to have at least _____ animals. One of these, an elephant named "Sheba", was bought with 150,000 school children's lunch _____, during a fundraiser. When the zoo closed for the first time in _____, the _____ were left to roam on the island. At one point there were over _____ of them! The zoo closed down for the final time in _____, and a small herd of the remaining deer were moved to the Belle Isle _____.

The Detroit Boat House, is the 6th home of the Detroit _____ (DBC), and was built on Belle Isle in _____. The original DBC was founded in _____ and is one of the oldest continuously operating boat clubs in the United States! The most popular boating activity there, even to this day is _____. Check out there website for summer program options!

The James Scott Memorial Fountain was unveiled in _____. Due to his bad reputation throughout the city of Detroit, the beautiful fountain was not built until _____ years after James Scott's death. This white marble fountain boasts _____ water outlets, and in the summer, a _____ show at dusk!

Belle Isle became a Michigan State Park in February of _____, starting its 30 year improvement process. In the last few years, much has changed, and we hope to see the continued improvement of this beautiful, historical park.

Belle Isle Nature Center

From November to March, the Belle Isle Nature Center is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm, and from April to October 7 days a week, 10am to 5pm.

Notice the dots on the windows as you walk in, can you find out why they are like this?

Stop at the enclosure at the front. How many turtles can you spot?

Take a walk outside. Where does a bug go on vacation?
Find the Insect Hotel and write down what insects can live there.

Grab a pair of binoculars at the front desk and see how many birds you can see out the window!

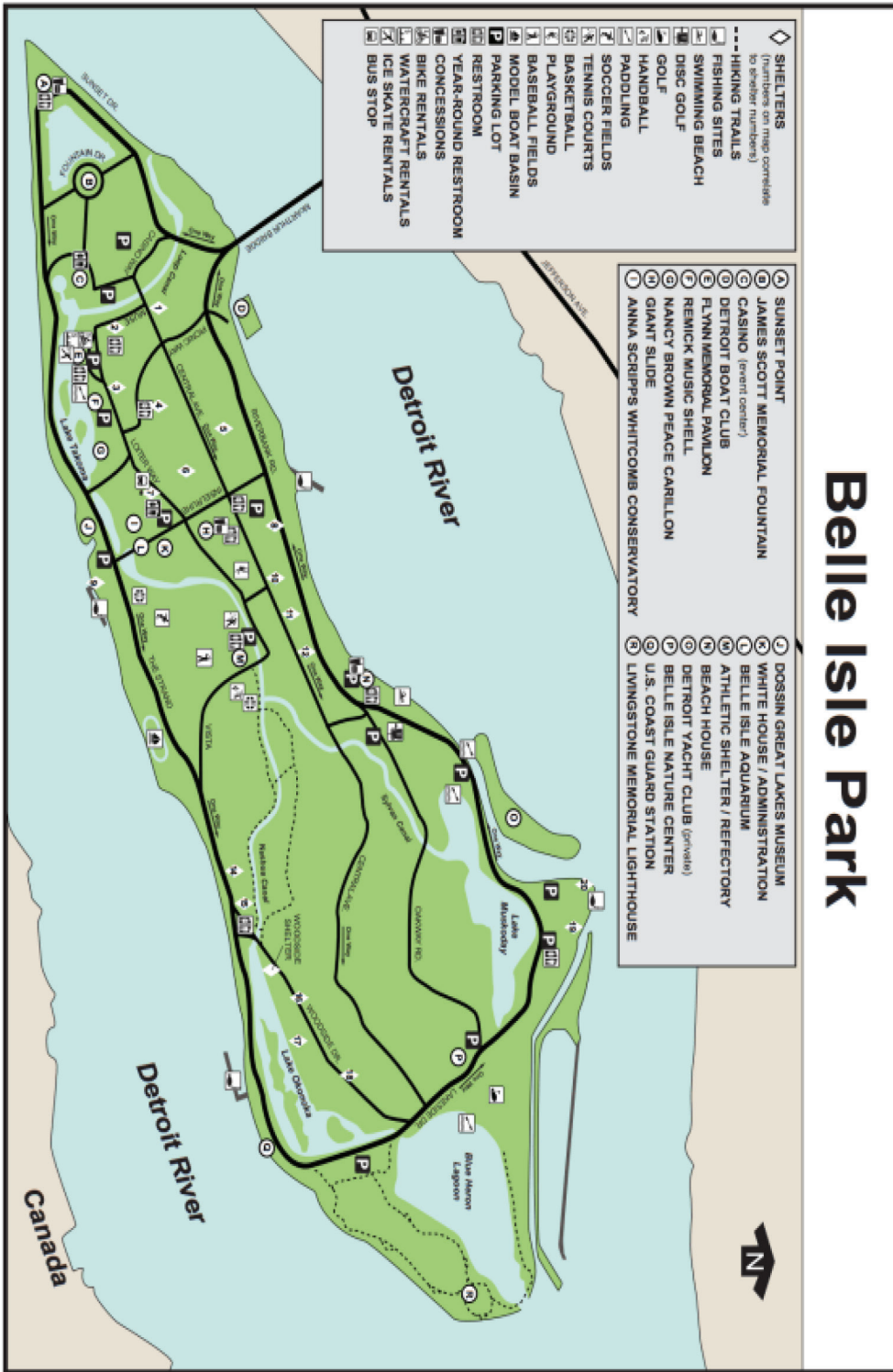
Attend at least **one** event while you're out visiting the Nature Center.

Deer Feeding: Everyday at 11am, 1pm, or 3pm, join a staff member for a walk out to the Deer enclosure for a chance to feed one of the Fallow Deer that once roamed the island.

Belle Isle Nature Walk: Select Fridays-Sundays throughout the year, join the Detroit Zoological Society for a group hike around the island. Check the Belle Isle Nature Center Website for more information and to register!

Badge Events: Throughout the year the Nature Center hosts FREE badge workshops for select Girl Scout Badges. Pre-registration is required and the programs last up to 2 hours. Check the website to find out when you can earn the Eco Learner, Eco Friend, Eco Camper, and Eco Trekker badges!

Community Events: Visit the Nature Center during any season for a variety of educational outdoor events. Check the website for updated information.



Belle Isle Nature Center

There are sixteen different animals housed throughout the Nature Center. Take a walk around and see if you can find them all!

Mammals

Invertebrates

Amphibians

Fish

Reptiles

Can you find it?

How many spots can you find from the list below? If you have time, take a tour around the island and count how many sights you can see!

- Sunset Point
- James Scott Memorial Fountain
- Casino
- Detroit Boat Club
- Flynn Memorial Pavilion
- Remick Music Shell
- Giant Slide
(Take a ride if its open!)
- White House
- Athletic Shelter/Refectory
- The Old Zoo
- Detroit Yacht Club
- U.S. Coast Guard Station
- Livingstone Memorial Lighthouse



Belle Isle Conservatory

The Belle Isle Conservatory is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10am to 5pm.

Opened in _____ the Belle Isle Conservatory is the oldest, continuously operating conservatory in the United States. The Conservatory, and the Aquarium, were designed by Albert _____, and were originally connected. Covering _____ acres, it includes a lily pond, perennial gardens, and the 1 acre building, which has _____ distinct areas, each housing a different climate.

The Palm House dome is _____ feet high, to accommodate soaring palms and other tropical plants. The Show House, which was remodeled in _____, houses seasonal displays of blooming plants.

The Conservatory or Horticulture Building, as it used to be known, was built with a classic _____ frame at first. But after almost 50 years, it was replaced with a sterile aluminum frame in _____.

In 19 _____, Anna Scripps Whitcomb gave her collection of _____ orchids to the conservatory, giving the City of Detroit the largest municipally owned orchid collection in the country. It was renamed and dedicated to her later that same year.



Dossin Great Lakes Museum

Find the ship's horn exhibit. Try them out and write below what the different sound patterns represent.

Try your hand at some ships knots at the knot tying exhibit. Could you do this knot in a real situation?

Pick 4 different water vessels/ships you say in the museum and list what they are used for.

Learn more about it:

The Dossin's Great Lakes Museum opened on July 24, _____. It includes the _____, a championship hydroplane raced by the Dossin Family, the restored _____ from the S.S. City of Detroit III, and the massive _____ of the legendary *Edmund Fitzgerald*.

For a chance to be a ship captain, visit the S.S. William Clay Ford Pilots House

OR

Navigate your way into port with an interactive video game (Just below the Pilot House!)

Dossin Great Lakes Museum

The Museum is open to the public every Friday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm with free admission and free parking.

As you travel through the museum, see how many model ships you can count! Draw or describe your favorite in the space below.

Model Ship Tally:

My favorite ship is:

Take a seat and watch one of the 8-minute Educational Videos on your way into the Museum:

Changing River, Changing Shoreline

OR

Belle Isle: Detroit's Island Jewel



Belle Isle Conservatory

Take a walk through the Anna Scripps Conservatory and see if you can find any of these unique plants!

Palm House

- Australian Punk Tree
- Rattlesnake Plant
- Jungle Flame
- Prayer Plant
- Breadfruit
- Lobster Claw
- Banyan Tree

Cactus House

- Fairy Washboard
- Old Man Cactus
- Jellybean Plant
- Fried Pies
- Bunny Ears
- Prickly Pear
- Eve's Pin Cactus

Tropical House

- Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow
- Powderpuff
- Lacy Tree Philodendron
- Friendship Plant
- Picasso's Paintbrush
- Sour Orange

BONUS: Can you figure out what climate each of the five rooms is?

Show Room

The plants in the Show Room change every season! List your favorite plants that were there on your visit!

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Belle Isle Aquarium

The Aquarium is open to the public every Friday through Sunday from 10am to 4pm with free admission and free parking.

The Belle Isle Aquarium is the oldest municipal Aquarium in the United States. The aquarium opened for the first time on August 18, _____. When it opened it was the third _____ aquarium in the world and held _____ gallons of water! The aquarium was closed in _____, despite the public voicing their opposition. The aquarium didn't reopen until 2012.

Attend a Feeding!
11am: Moray Eel
2pm: Piranha

Complete 2 of the 3 different scavenger hunt sheets located at the start of the aquarium!

- Who Am I?** Learn about different species in the aquarium with this scavenger hunt.
- Take a Closer Look.** Learn about the effects of plastics in the ocean by answering the questions on this challenge.
- Selfie Challenge!** Find different fish throughout the aquarium and take some fun photos with them on this fun scavenger hunt!

Belle Isle Aquarium

As you walk around, see if you can answer these questions.

What Native Michigan species are housed in the aquarium?

The Belle Isle Aquarium has the only know full collection of what species of fish?

What are microplastics?

What is one way you can reduce your plastic pollution?

