



Think BELLE ISLE GROUP

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
Integrated policy Exercise

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Background

- Founded in 19th century, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted
- Located in the heart of the city
- 2.5 miles long and 1,000 acres
- Receives 8 million visitors annually
- Prime spectator viewing and holiday attraction

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Unparalleled Location

- Within short distance to downtown Detroit, many restaurants and entertainment facilities
- Only park accessible to many Detroit residents
- Easily accessible to suburban residents
- Provides a view of both the Detroit and Canadian skylines

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Belle Isle is Unique

- Only island park in the region
- Houses Detroit's only wooded area and beach
- Largest park in Detroit

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Diversity of Users

- Located near Cluster 3, Central Business District, Grosse Pointe, and Canada
- Diversity of activities
 - Yacht Club
 - Athletic Facility
 - Nature Area
 - Artists Retreat
- Not stigmatized by failing Detroit neighborhoods

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Growth for Detroit Communities

- Demand for real estate surrounding the park will increase
- The city of Detroit owns many of the surrounding lots
- Recreational facilities will improve the health of residents

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Riverfront Location w/o the Riverfront Conflict

- Belle Isle is a protected riverfront area
- Most effective use for city Riverfront area is commercial and residential use
 - Examples include Washington, DC; Baltimore; Hoboken

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Financially Stable

- Belle Isle houses all the major park money-makers
 - Golf Course
 - Food and Drink Service
 - Boat Rentals
 - Water Sport Locker Rental
- Only proposal that is comparable in size to other HCMA parks

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One More Vacant Lot?

- Belle Isle is already a park
- Bigger return on investment
- Established infrastructure to accommodate traffic flow and public transit

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Belle Isle Revitalization

- Without HCMA funds, the park may deteriorate and fall into disuse
- Parking fee will ensure that the park has enough funds for maintenance
- Public transit users would not have to pay parking fee

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If you want to promote, protect, and revitalize Detroit and the Metro area...

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Belle Isle Group

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