

TAKE ACTION TO RECLAIM BELLE ISLE!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Director Daniel Eichinger at 517.284.6367 or DNR-director@michigan.gov. Ask him to **terminate the Grand Prix contract after 2021 and** not allow a two-year extension.

If you live in Detroit, contact City Council President Brenda Jones at 313.224.1245 or Bjones_mb@detroitmi.gov and remind her **the city still owns Belle Isle and should exercise stricter oversight** of the Grand Prix.

If you can, come to Belle Isle at 9 a.m. on the 3rd Thursday of each month to attend the monthly meeting of the Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee and **make a public comment** of up to 3 minutes about your thoughts on the Grand Prix. Meetings through 2019 are at the Belle Isle Nature Center.

Call a local talk show, post your thoughts online, and tell your local city, state, and federal officials **you want Belle Isle returned to a park that can be used by the public year-round**.

Visit our Facebook page, **Belle Isle—Park Not Racetrack**, Email us at belleisleconcern@gmail.com, follow us on Twitter and visit our website for other ways to get involved to support our effort to move the Grand Prix off Belle Isle.

Belle Isle Concern is a group of citizens who oppose the running of the Grand Prix on Belle Isle Park. We believe Belle Isle is a public park, not a racetrack or venue for exploitation, restricted access, and commercialization by private interests. It is important for the quality of life of the natural world and citizens for rest and relaxation and must be protected for future generations.

www.belleisleconcern.com

BELLE ISLE GRAND PRIX - MYTHS AND FACTS

MYTH: *The race lasts only a weekend and has no impact on the park.*

FACT: The Grand Prix contract allows **60 days for set-up and take-down**—longer than any comparable car race in the world. In 2017 environmental groups asked for an independent environmental impact study. The DNR approved a new contract without doing any study. Belle Isle is an important stopover for many types of migratory birds. **No environmental assessment of the race's impact on island habitat, wildlife, and historic structures has ever been done.**

MYTH: *The event benefits Belle Isle.*

FACT: Regular park users overwhelmingly oppose the race. The Grand Prix pays only \$450,000 to the DNR each year. In 2018, the DNR estimated lost revenue from facilities rentals during the race occupation at \$142,300. That included **no measure of the loss in health and recreation benefits for park users**. Penske's claimed investment of \$13 million in the island includes \$4.5 million that MDOT spent on paving the racetrack. "Improvements" are exclusively on the west end of the island and support the staging of the race.

MYTH: *It's a huge boost to the local economy and tourism.*

FACT: **Claims of multimillion-dollar impacts are completely fictitious** and come from a sports PR firm Penske hired. And rather than attracting visitors, it's just as likely people watching the national telecast ask: Why visit a place that turns its best public park into a billionaire's private racetrack?

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