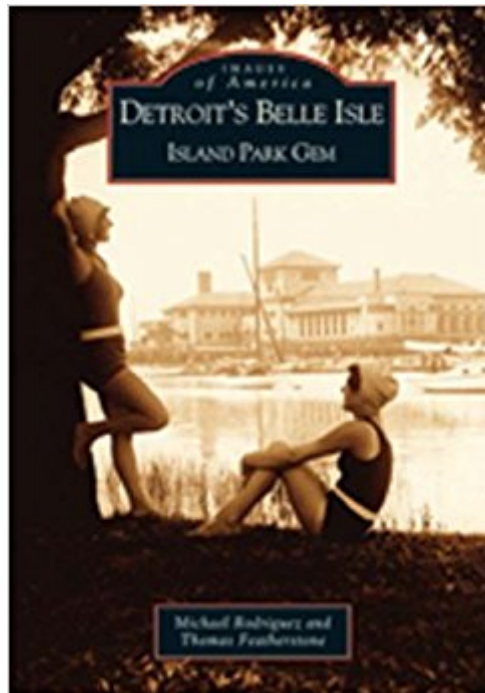




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Detroit's Belle Isle: Island Park Gem (MI) (Images Of America)



Synopsis

One of the most unique urban parks in the world, Belle Isle has long been a source of civic pride in Detroit. In 1879, just as its population, land area, and industry were flourishing, the city of Detroit purchased this 700-acre island for use as a park. Famed landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted was soon commissioned to transform the island into an idyllic retreat from the industrial city. This book uses remarkable images drawn from the Walter P. Reuther Library to document Belle Isle's distinctive history. Throughout the city's periods of accomplishment, economic flux, and social turmoil, Belle Isle is revealed as a romantic haven where Detroit's many cultures came together to relax, celebrate, and play.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Michael Rodriguez is a humanities librarian at Michigan State University. Thomas Featherstone is an audiovisual archivist at the Walter P. Reuther Library at Wayne State University in Detroit, and the co-author of another Arcadia title, *Labor in Detroit: Working in the Motor City*.

Took me back to my childhood. Born and raised in Detroit and Belle Isle was ALWAYS A MUST for family gatherings

This is an excellent book with plenty of photographs and interesting information. Now that the State of Michigan has taken it over I expect the island to get much better

I lived outside of Detroit from aged 0 to 10. I still have vague memories of Belle Isle. Such a lovely place. Thanks for a memory...

A very informative book about Belle Isle.

re: a former "gem"...This book is a wonderful reminder of things gone by for Detroit. I remember going to Belle Isle as a little girl and remember the professional diving boards at one of the inner lakes (although I don't remember the name). I remember seeing the J.T. Wing slowly rotting away as she was shored up on land. One Sunday we drove by her and she was just smoldering rubble. She had been the last commercially working, sailing vessel on the Great Lakes (without auxiliary power). What a sad way to end her life. Interestingly enough, I married a wonderful man years later who's brother had worked on her. This book brought back a lot of memories for me. I was glad to see that the Conservatory allows weddings now. My husband and I were married in the Orchard Room and were told that we were the very first couple to have done this by Mr. Peterson (if I remember his name correctly) who had been in charge of the horticultural area as well as the Conservatory. This was back in 1977. Boni T.

Received quickly as promised

For my husband.

I bought this for my dad for Father's Day and this is probably the 5th book in their line that I have bought. You can reread these 3-4 times and find something different each time. A wonderful pictorial of Belle Isle !!

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