

In February, 2014, PRD assumed management of Belle Isle under a 30 year lease and has just now finished the first operating season.

Picnicking was identified as the number 1 "common activity" from the 2010 Belle Isle Conservancy public survey. Currently, existing picnic shelters are located along the edge of the island's 200 acre wooded wetland complex, which not only impacts the expansion of that unique natural resource, but also located in an area with poor drainage. The picnic shelters in this area are beyond repair and in need of extensive renovation.

The removal and relocation of these picnicking facilities will provide a scenic setting, reduce mowing and maintenance and allow the adjacent wooded wetland to reclaim the mowed grass area in order to expand wildlife habitat.

The project site involves the relocation and renovation of primary picnic facilities including tables, grills and shelters in order to better serve park visitors. Supporting amenities already in place include a toilet building, roads and parking. The site is located along Woodside Drive in a scenic location along Lake Okonoka. The project will relocate and renovate the existing picnic facilities along the wooded wetland to the opposite side of Woodside Drive in a more scenic location along the lake. Specific scope items include: accessible (ADA) routes connecting parking to picnic shelters and Lake Okonoka, picnic nodes with ADA pads and grills, ADA parking improvements, picnic shelters and playground equipment. The project will enhance the existing picnicking, playground, and fishing recreation opportunities in this area.

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY FEATURES

D) The relocation and renovation of the picnic facilities will include 1) tables made of recycled composite wood material, 2) recycling bins for cans and bottles, 3) playground equipment made of recycled materials. and 4) restored drainage patterns in the area adjacent to the wooded wetland.

NATURAL RESOURCE BASED RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

The proposed revised scope above enhances natural resource based recreation opportunities by supporting fishing opportunities in Lake Okonoka and enhances the rare 200 acre wooded wetland by allowing this complex to to reclaim the former picnic location. This will enhance the interpretation of the wooded wetland along the park's trail system. The picnic facilities will also be strategically relocated to utilize scenic views for enhanced picnicking.