

Tuesday 25 April 2006



Butterfly House at the Detroit Zoo | Dave Krieger

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## Development News

April 25, 2006

### Run/walk event to benefit expanding Belle Isle Nature Zoo



New attractions — including a deer exhibit opening today — have opened at the Belle Isle Nature Zoo, and proceeds from a run/walk planned for this weekend will help continue the zoo's transformation.

The Deer Encounter exhibit opens today, April 25, and allows for 13 fallow deer that once roamed the island to enjoy a new one-acre enclosure and barn. It is just one aspect of the Belle Isle Nature Zoo's update from

nature center to Michigan wildlife-based zoo. Previous improvements include restoring the 100-seat auditorium, new flooring, new attractions on things like Michigan turtles and bee behavior, and a children's educational programming center.

To help benefit the Nature Zoo, Detroit Synergy is hosting its first-ever 5K Run/Walk on Belle Isle on April 29. "We think this is a tremendous opportunity for people to support the Belle Isle Nature Zoo," says Mike Reed, the zoo's assistant curator.

Allison Fox, Detroit Synergy project leader, explains her motivation to organize the event. "I had the idea to do a run, and I wanted to do it on Belle Isle because I run there a lot because I live downtown. I chose the zoo [as the event's beneficiary] because it's a great organization and I wanted to highlight something under the radar." Both parties note the



timing of the renovations coinciding with the Run/Walk as a positive aspect of the event. Pre-registration and information are available at [www.detroit synergy.org](http://www.detroit synergy.org).

The same day, April 29, the Friends of Belle Isle are sponsoring an island clean-up. [Click here](#) for information on volunteering.

For more information about the Belle Isle Nature Zoo, [click here](#).

Sources: Allison Fox, Detroit Synergy; Patricia Mills, Detroit Zoological Society; Mike Reed, Belle Isle Nature Zoo

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